

The Ways of Boston.

The crooked streets of Boston are said to follow the old paths along which the early settlers of the place drove their cows to and from their pasture on the common. However true this may be, it is certain that many of the main streets of the old city proper mark geographic features, formerly of importance, but now almost entirely forgotten.

Living, Yet Dead.

In a German law journal may be found a curious account of a woman who, though actually living, is legally dead. Some years ago she disappeared from her home, and after three years had elapsed the court formally pronounced her dead and turned over her property to her next of kin.

The Russian Bride.

A Russian bride has a very much more trying time on her wedding day than has her American sister, for she must fast until after the ceremony is over and that after enduring the trials of a "farewell party" the day before.

A Million For Advice.

Sometimes repressing a client pays a lawyer well. There is a persistent story, which probably will never be printed as to names and details, that a famous trust magnate paid a lawyer a million dollars in cash for simply saying to him: "Don't fight. If you insist on fighting I will take your case. But if you fight remember all your books will be opened and all your methods disclosed."

A Cautious Answer.

A writer on New England and New England people some years ago said that the caution of the New Englander in giving an answer to a direct question was illustrated to him one day when he asked an eastern friend whose family were not noted for very active habits, "Was not your father's death very sudden?"

Heroic Measures.

"I'm after a servant girl," said Hauskeep; "one with a good, big appetite preferred." "That's rather an unusual request," began the employment agent.

The Lamp of a Man's Life.

Dr. Holmes said the lamp of a man's life has three wicks—brain, blood and breath—and to turn down any one of them makes the other two go out. The wick of a man will survive and even disregard so long as his head, heart and lungs are unharmed but long been one of the wonders of war history.

Heartstrings Particularly.

Whatever music there may be in the instrument called man cannot be brought out fully and entirely until a woman takes it in charge and plays upon the strings of it.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Unfortunately the Only Way.

"Of course you wouldn't marry a title?" "Not if there was any other way of getting one," answered the severely practical girl.—Chicago Post.

Modern Version.

Rich Heiress—Are you sure you love me? Hard Up—Love you? Why, I worship the very ground you inherit.

Delhi, the Gem Market.

Delhi remains the center of all Indian art industries. The most skillful jewelers and gem cutters, painters, carvers, embroiderers and craftsmen whose creations could tempt the purse or minister to the luxury of the prince and lesser Moguls have gathered there for centuries, and trade habits are but slowly broken.

Necklaces, girdles and a queen's ornaments are drawn from battered boxes, scraps of paper, cotton cloth or old flannel. Nothing seems quite as incongruous in this land of the misfit and the incongruous as the way in which the jewels of a rajah are produced from old biscuit tins, pickle bottles and marmalade jars.

Superstition of the Unlucky Thirteen. When King Arthur founded the famous round table he requested Merlin, the enchanter, to arrange the seats. Merlin arranged one set of seats to represent the apostles. Twelve were for the faithful adherents of Jesus Christ and the thirteenth for the traitor Judas.

Watch a Horse's Ears When Driving. Whether you drive a single horse or a team the principles are the same, but in driving a pair see to it that each horse does his share of the work and no more.

Gypsies and Death. The custom of placing the property of the dead in their graves has always been followed by the true Romany gypsies. It is due to some old tradition of ill luck attending the possession of an article whose former owner is gone, and much valuable property is buried in this belief.

First Test of the Air Pump. The first public test of the air pump was in 1654 by its inventor, Otto von Guericke, in the presence of Emperor Ferdinand of Germany. Guericke applied the carefully ground edges of metallic hemispheres, two feet in diameter, to each other.

An Exaggerated Report. The family doctor had been summoned hastily, and he climbed the torment stairs with a grave face. A woman was awaiting him in the doorway of a flat.

Boy Soldiers in South America. In Venezuela, Colombia and other South American countries it is no uncommon thing to see boys of ten or twelve years of age or even younger carrying rifles and marching to battle with the armies which fight in the civil wars of those lands.

As a Natural Result. Mrs. Secondtime (peevishly)—My first husband used to let me have my own way in everything. Mr. S.—And what were the consequences?

His Opinion. Yes, he's a confirmed bachelor. He thinks there is safety in numbers. "Safety in numbers?" "Yes, he says two run a good deal of risk when they become one."—New York Times.

A Takes Off. Harry (looking at his whitened coat sleeve)—That isn't much of a compliment to Charlie's complexion. Esther—I should say not. It's a regular take off.—Boston Transcript.

The First Post Houses.

The first posts are said to have originated in the regular couriers established by Cyrus about 550 B. C., who erected post houses throughout the kingdom of Persia. Augustus was the first to introduce this institution among the Romans, 31 B. C., and he was imitated by Charlemagne about 800 A. D.

In England in the reign of Edward IV. (1481) riders on post horses went stages of the distance of twenty miles from each other in order to procure the king the earliest intelligence of the events that had arisen with the Scots. A proclamation was issued by Charles I. in 1631 that, "whereas at this time there hath been no certain intercourse between the kingdoms of England and Scotland, the king now commands his postmaster of England for foreign parts to settle a running post or two between Edinburgh and London to go thither and come back again in six days."

Helter Skelter.

"Helter skelter" has been suggestively defined as a jingling expression, vaguely imitating the hurried clatter of feet rapidly and irregularly moved. Most dictionaries, however, led astray probably by the ordinary orthography, have missed the true etymology of this phrase. It should be "helter kelter."

Understood His Art. Baron von Steuben was the drillmaster of the Continental army at Valley Forge. At first the men in the ranks did not know the manual exercise; many of the officers knew little or nothing of maneuvering.

Burial by Degrees. The few old ex-slaves now left in the West Indies have many curious customs, but the most curious is that of burying themselves on the installment plan. When they comb their hair they are careful not to pull more hairs from the head than they can help.

A Nickname For Barrett. Lawrence Barrett, the tragedian, was subject to dyspepsia, and when he was suffering from that disorder he was cold and distant toward his company. One irreverent fellow always refused, however, to be suppressed. He said one day: "Just look at Cassius. He looks as solemn and righteous as if he'd swallowed the sword of justice. Let's call him the Scabbard." And the Scabbard he was—out of his hearing—for the rest of that season.

An Insultation. "What I want," said the coy maid of more or less uncertain years, "is a hat that will suit my complexion." "Oh," exclaimed the milliner, with sudden inspiration. "I have a hand painted hat in the window that I'm sure will be just what you want."—Chattanooga News.

Disappointed. He—I hear that your engagement is broken. Femina—Yes; he acted horribly. He—But I thought that you broke it? Femina—So I did, but he made absolutely no fuss about it.—Yale Record.

The Usual Thing. "I would like to know," asked the parent who had a son in need of some further education, "what is the course at your college?" "The usual half mile course of cinders and all that sort of thing, you know," absent mindedly replied the president of the great institution.—Exchange.

The Lucky Party. A gentleman was complimenting a pretty young lady in the presence of his wife. "It's lucky I did not meet Miss Hopkins before I married you, my dear." "Well, yes; it is extremely—for her," was the rejoinder.

The Ruling Passion. Son—Pa, every now and then I see something in the papers about the "ruling passion." What is it, anyway? Pa (after a cautious glance around the apartment)—It's a disease your ma is badly afflicted with, my son.

Not to Blame. The Elderly Lady—They say his wife has money. The Younger—Well, that isn't his fault. They've only been married a short time. Every time a man comes across a lot of old clothes in the house he searches the pockets, though he never finds anything.

His Stupid Mistake.

A well known Londoner was planning an entertainment on an elaborate scale to be given to various friends in the neighborhood of his country seat. Unfortunately his nearest neighbor, a close relative, is highly ungenial to himself and his intimates, and he racked his brains to devise a scheme by which he might avoid the necessity of inviting the undesirable cousin to be among his guests.

"I have it!" he announced to his wife at breakfast on the morning of the event. "I'll send him some tickets for the play tonight in town. Of course he'll be delighted, as he seldom has an opportunity of going to the theater."

The tickets were accordingly sent, and the host with an easy conscience proceeded to enjoy the company of his friends. But his satisfaction was of short duration. At the height of the festivities in walked the objectionable neighbor. "Such a stupid mistake you made!" he announced as he approached his cousin. As soon as I heard about your party I knew that you must have sent me the tickets for the wrong night; so I got them changed for tomorrow evening and came right over here as soon as I could.—Harper's Weekly.

When Vaughan Washed Windows.

Sir Francis Burnand was at one time with the Oblates of St. Charles at Bayswater when Manning was superior and Vaughan was novice master. For a jest which had made his fellow novices laugh at a solemn moment Father Vaughan, as he then was, condemned Sir Francis to clean a case window and volunteered to show him how to do it. Thereupon he stepped out to the liberal window sill, his cassock fluttering in the friendly wind, which, moreover, shut the window. The hump was then turned, and the dinner bell ringing, the refractory novice went to the library to get a book.

How Fast a Horse's Feet Move. Did you ever think, says a horseman, how fast a horse in a 2:20 gait moves his feet? When a horse is trotting a 2:20 gait his feet move a little faster than a mile in 1:10. As his body is moving at 2:20 and as each of his feet when in contact with the ground is stationary and then is picked up and moved forward to take the next step the foot must move as much faster than the body as to make the step, which is over twice as fast. Now, the action is: The foot is at rest upon the ground and is raised some one or two feet high, then forced forward nearly the full length of the leg, then lowered to the ground and is at rest for nearly two-thirds of the time that the next step is being taken. The time, nearly two-thirds, I think, is too long, but it is from one-half to two-thirds of the next step.

Differences in Woods. Timber is classed as hard or soft, and the main point of difference between the trees that produce these classes is that the soft wood tree has "needle leaves," slim, narrow and almost uniform in breadth, while the hard wood trees have broad leaves of various shapes. Again, some soft wood trees carry cones, such trees being termed conifers. Resin, too, is more characteristic of soft than of hard wood. To the class of soft woods belong the pines, spruces and firs, and the most common examples of these are yellow pine, white fir, pitch pine and spruce or red fir. In the commoner hard woods are oak, beech, mahogany, ash, walnut, plane, elm, birch and ebony.

Colors That Last Longest. As twilight approaches a garden filled with brilliant flowers the red flowers will first lose their gorgeous color as the light diminishes, and then the grass and leaves will appear grayish. The last flowers to part with their distinctive color—white flowers being left out of the account—will be the blue or violet ones. This fact is useful to such insects as, in order to avoid their enemies, visit wild flowers in the twilight.

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