

MEXICAN DRAWN WORK.

The Women Who Make It According to Peon Contract.

The woman who makes drawn work on a Mexican estate is not an independent worker to whom comes the money for all the work her deft hands accomplish. She is a woman whose father or brother or uncle or mother is in debt to the "great don."

Once a year the Mexicans for whom the women do this work, somewhat as the sweatshop toilers of Chicago and New York drive their needles for a master, meet in solemn conference and determine what the prices shall be.

THE FLAMINGO AT HOME.

Observation Has Proved That Both Male and Female Incubate.

Apparently two factors enter into the flamingoes' type of architecture—they must build where there is mud and at the same time erect a structure high enough to protect its contents from any normal rise in the water due to tides or rainfall.

After watching a nesting colony of flamingoes in the Bahamas for "nearly an hour" at a distance of 150 yards Sir Henry Blake stated that the females sat upon the nests, while the males stood up together, evidently near by. My dissections, however, showed that both sexes incubate, while continued observation from the tent revealed the presence of only one bird of the pair in the rookery at the same time.

Morning and evening, then, there was much activity in the rookery. Single birds or files of as many as fifty were almost constantly arriving and departing, coming from and radiating to every point of the compass.

Got the Pauls Mixed.

Paul du Chailu, the one time African explorer, performed a good Samaritan act one night in assisting along a street a very intoxicated stranger.

Looked Honest Anyway.

A member of the Kansas City board of trade called a newsboy in front of the Exchange building the other afternoon to buy a paper and then discovered that he had no small change with which to pay for it.

Rich in Expectations.

"They're comparatively rich, aren't they?" "Well, I wouldn't say 'comparatively,' but 'relatively.' They have a rich uncle of whom they expect great things."—Philadelphia Ledger.

One Advantage.

Rimer—Do you really prefer to have long poems sent in to you rather than short ones? Editor—Yes. When they're long, you see, I don't have to think up any other excuse for rejecting them.—Exchange.

He that falls into sin is a man; that grieves at it is a saint; that boasteth of it is a devil.—Fuller.

THE SELFISH COUPLE.

Husbands and Wives Who Refuse to Mingle in Society.

Selfishness is the bane of all life. It cannot enter into life—individual, family or social—without cursing it. Therefore if any married pair find themselves inclined to confine themselves to one another's society, indisposed to go abroad and mingle with the life around them, disturbed and irritated by the collection of friends in their own dwelling or in any way moved to regard their social duties as disagreeable, let them be alarmed at once.

It is a bad symptom—an essentially morbid symptom. They should institute means at once for removing this feeling, and they can only remove it by persistently going into society, persistently gathering it into their own dwelling and persistently endeavoring to learn to love and feel an interest in all with whom they meet.

The heart enlarges quickly with the practice of hospitality. The sympathies run and take root from point to point, each root throwing up leaves and bearing flowers and fruit like strawberry vines if they are only allowed to do so.

It is only sympathies and strawberries that are cultivated in hills which do otherwise. The human face is a thing which should be able to bring the heart into blossom with a moment's shining, and will be such with you if you will meet it properly.

The penalties of family isolation will not, unhappily, fall entirely upon yourselves. They will be visited with double force upon your children. Children reared in the home with few or no associations will grow up either boorish or sensitively timid.

It is a cruel wrong to children to rear them without bringing them into continued contact with polite social life. The ordeal through which children thus reared are obliged to pass in gaining the ease and assurance which will make them at home elsewhere than under the paternal roof is one of the severest, while those who are constantly accustomed to a social life from their youth are educated in all its forms and graces without knowing it.

Great multitudes of men and women all over the country are now living secluded from social contact simply from their sensitive consciousness of ignorance of the forms of graceful intercourse.

They feel that they cannot break through their reserve. There is, doubtless, much that is morbid in this feeling, and yet it is mainly natural. From all this mortification and this deprivation every soul might have been saved by education in a home where social life was properly lived. It is cruel to deny to children the opportunity not only to become accustomed from their first consciousness to the forms of society, but to enjoy its influence upon their developing life.

Society is food to children. Contact with other minds is the means by which they are educated, and the difference in families of children will show at once to the accustomed eye the different social character of their parents. But I have no space to follow this subject further, and I leave it with you, with the earnest wish that you will consider it and profit by the suggestions I have given you.—Timothy Tibbitt's Letters in Boston Globe.

Polliteness Pays.

Virtue is not to be measured by ostentatious giving. There is frequently more real love for humanity in the soul of the man who removes the banana skin from the pavement than in the heart of the donor of the memorial window in the church. Polliteness, like all other faults and virtues, may become habitual. It is surprising how many small acts of kindness, how many little deeds of helpfulness, one may do in the course of a day when there are inclination to be kind and a lookout kept for the opportunity. One may set out with this intention in the morning, and the footing up at night—not to others, but to one's own secret conscience—will be cheering and encouraging.

Whales on Their Holidays.

Professor Goldlob has been telling the Christian Academy of Science the results of his investigations into the migrations of whales. These creatures hang about the coast of Norway and Finland until the spring is well advanced, and then they go away on their travels. Some go to the Azores, others to Bermuda and the Antilles, and they cover these enormous distances in an incredibly short time. Some of them bring back harpoons which bear the names of ships and other evidences of where these migrants have been for their summer holidays.

Classified.

"Uncle Bill," said little Reginald, "did it hurt you when the men caught you with the dredge and grappling hooks?"

"Why, I don't understand you," said Uncle William.

"Well, that's the way the natural history book says they get 'em."

"Get what?" "Sponges. When pa said you was coming ma said: 'What? That old sponge coming here again?'"

Not Always Popular.

Gracey—Why is it that Edythe is so unpopular in society? She's very careful to speak nothing but the truth about people. Gladys—And that's just what makes her unpopular.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Opportunity sooner or later comes to all who work and wish.—Stanley.

LIFE INSURANCE.

Get Fully Acquainted With the Terms of Your Policy.

"What the average purchaser of life insurance doesn't know about the thing he is purchasing would fill a good sized book printed with very narrow margins," says an insurance expert.

"For instance, I talked not long since with a man who fancied he was insured for \$10,000 on the fifteen year endowment plan. That is, he thought he had to make payments for fifteen years—which was true—and that at the end of that time he could get \$10,000 in cash or take a part in cash and a part in paid up insurance, which, as it turned out, was not true. The rate he was paying was so very low for what he said he was getting that I asked to see his policy, and when I looked at it I found, just as he might have found on a brief examination, that while he was insured for life, with only fifteen yearly payments, he could not get the \$10,000 or any part of it for a good many years more. No insurance company in the world will permit the fooling of a patron like this if it can help it, and yet to attribute such a mistaken idea to fraudulent misrepresentation on the part of an unworthy agent would not always be fair. Many men who take insurance, and especially those who do not decide to go in until they have looked at it a long time, go in finally with a rush. They don't give the agent time to tell them what they are getting, and often don't find out for years afterward. Another thing that many insured persons do not know is that a rebate on the first payment, arranged between the insured and the agent, sometimes renders the whole transaction invalid."—Philadelphia Record.

Strong Diet.

Veterinary—So your new bull pup is sick? What seems to be the matter with him? Owner—A little of everything, I guess. While we were away this afternoon he chewed up and swallowed the dictionary.—Detroit Free Press.

The Small Children.

"I wonder what it is," said the family man, "that makes landlords and janitors dislike to have small children in flats." "The small children, I guess," replied the savage bachelor.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Let Her Pass.

The mistletoe above the door. Expectant swains were viewing. A maid passed through, but she was more than thirty. Nothin' doing!—Philadelphia Press.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

Why the Festival is Celebrated on Dec. 25.

There are no definite allusions in the writings of any of the disciples of Christ as to the date of his birth, nor has there ever been produced proof of any character as to the exact period in the year when Christ was born. There are, very true, occasional references to the event in the Scriptures, indicating that the Nativity occurred in the winter season.

The institution of the anniversary dates back to the second century of Christendom, and it has been since uniformly celebrated by nearly all branches of the Christian church with appropriate rejoicings and ceremonies. The frequent and somewhat heated controversies, however, relative to the date of Christ's birth early in the fourth century led Pope Julius I. to order a thorough investigation of the subject by the learned theologians and historians of that period, which resulted in an agreement upon Dec. 25, and that decision seemed to have so settled all disputes that that date was universally accepted except by the Greek church. While this date was never changed, the reckoning of it is made according to the Gregorian calendar, which was adopted in the latter part of the sixteenth century, and upon which computations of time in nearly all civilized nations have since rested.—American Queen.

Cosmic Horror.

The two infinities of Kant did not chill or hurt him, but his fearlessness is shared by few. Only for a short instant, at best, will most persons consent to look open eyed at any clear image of fate or of infinity. Scarcely a friend of mine will look steadily at the clear midnight sky for a minute in silence. The freezing of the heart follows; the appalling shudder at the dread contemplation of infinity, which may be called cosmic horror, is more than can be endured. If those stars are absolutely and positively infinite then there is no up or down, and they knew no beginning, will have no ending. With any such staring gorgon of fatalism the surcharged attention is shaken, and the chemistry of common life seizes upon the liquid crystals with avid hunger.—George M. Gould, M. D., in Atlantic.

A Scotch Parson's Clever Reply.

When musical instruments were first used in the services of the Scottish churches many strict Sabbatarian objects to the frivolous proceedings. One of these persons, on meeting the minister some time after leaving the "kirk" because of the introduction of a harmonium, said with a sneer, "Well, and how is your fanner getting on?" (A fanner was a winnowing machine resembling the bellows of an organ in its working.) "Oh, splendidly," answered the reverend gentleman. "It's just keeping the good corn and blowing the chaff away."—Spare Moments.

If you wish to please people you must begin by understanding them.—Reade.

No Judge at All.

"Isn't that young man fond of music?" exclaimed the young woman. "I don't know," answered Miss Cayenne. "Judging by the way he will stand up and listen to himself sing by the hour, I should say he isn't."—Chicago Journal.

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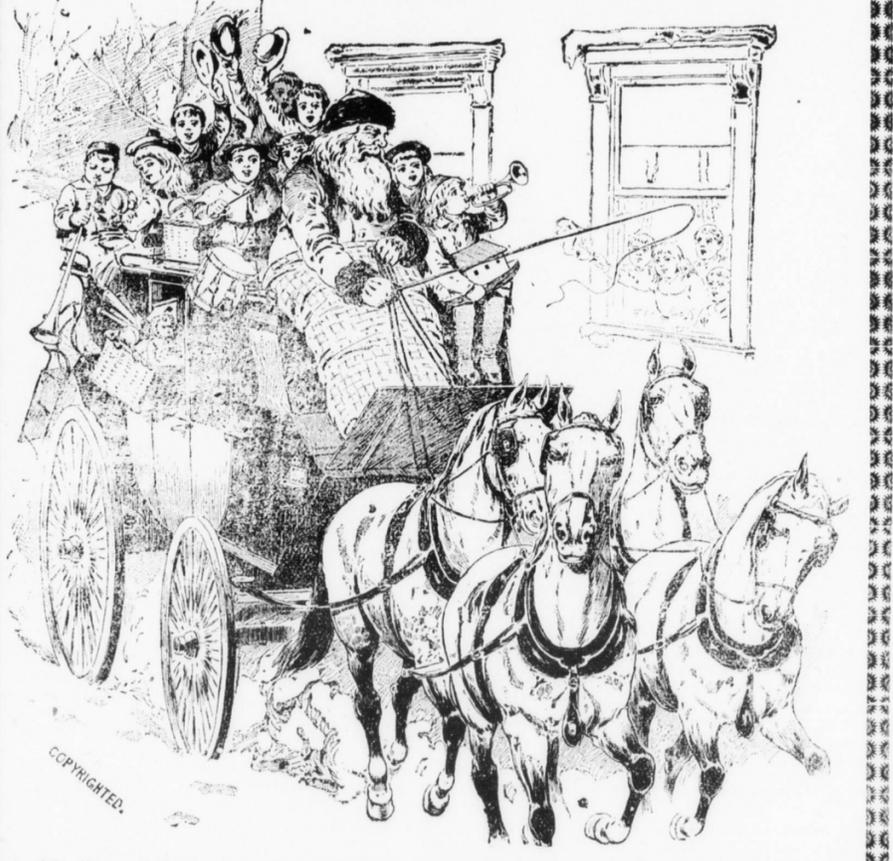


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