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## A VALUABLE WEED.

The Teasel That is Used to Raise the Nap on Cloth.

Our readers who never saw a teasel (spelled also teazel and teazel and even tassel) can imagine a fir cone or "swamp cuttail," set all over with little stiff hooks. It is the bur or tassel or flower head or thistle top of the plant dipsacus, and so identified is it with cloth dressing that this use of it gave it its botanical name, Dipsacus fullonum, or fuller's teasel.

However familiar to people who live in lands where the teasel is extensively grown the fact may be that the prickly heads of that plant are universally used to raise the nap on cloth, a multitude of persons in his country probably never heard of it and will be astonished to learn in what enormous quantities the plant is raised.

In France alone several thousand acres of land are exclusively devoted to the cultivation of the teasel. French manufacturers use many thousand dollars' worth of the prickly heads and export thousands of tons of them, valued at perhaps millions of dollars. Hundreds of tons are produced in Austria, England, Belgium, Poland and the Crimea.

The prickles of the teasel have a small knob at the end, and this, mounted on an elastic stem and set with great precision on the central spindle, affords a little brush, such, it is said, as the utmost mechanical skill has never been able to rival, at all events at the same price.—New York Herald.

## A LOST MINE.

The Tragic Legend That is Associated With Bald Mountain.

The legend of a lost mine has given to Bald mountain, in Placer county, Colo., a fascinating interest for prospectors. Tradition is that early in the fifties of the last century three men disappeared from an immigrant party going over the old Gap trail. Search for them was without avail, and they were finally reported dead by the searchers.

Where or how they wintered no one knows, but the following spring, ragged, shoeless and demoralized, they fled into Michigan Bluff. Their blankets were converted into sacks, and with them they brought gold dust to the amount of \$10,000 or \$15,000.

Spending but a single night within the confines of civilization and giving no information as to the location of their large claim, they were followed on their return trip, and a few weeks later their murdered bodies were found in one of the dreary canyons that scar the face of the desolate peak.

Since then many a man has sought this lost mine, but apparently its immunity is as certain as that of the treasure of Captain Kidd.—Philadelphia North American.

## Pensive Butlers.

The fashion of building houses with the entrance doors practically on a level with the street gives the observing stroller on Fifth avenue some humorous glimpses of butlers on duty. In the house of one of the most fashionable families in town the butler can be seen standing behind the bronze grill and glass doors staring disconsolately out at the passing throng for most of the afternoon, while across the street from this house the same kind of an entranceway often discloses a glimpse of a functionary of the same class seated in a poetical attitude by a circular marble table, his head supported by his hand. Outside of a hospital they are probably the saddest looking men in New York.—New York Press.

## The Gordian Knot.

When one of Uncle Sam's sailor's, a man named Gordon, formerly serving on one of our vessels in a West Indian squadron, was taken to the Naval hospital in Washington he described with gressive vividness to his companions there his adventure with a shark off one of the islands in the West Indies.

"I had jest fell over the bulwarks," said the able seaman, "when along comes a big shark an' grabs me by the leg."  
"What did ye do then, matey?" asked one of the patients.  
"I never disputes none with sharks," said the sailor. "I let him have the leg."—Harper's Weekly.

## A Composer's Compliment.

Wagner once said he would prefer to go to Vienna to hear the waltzes of Strauss to hearing Italian opera. On a birthday of Mme. Strauss some years ago she had as guests many celebrated musicians. She passed around a fan on which the different composers and players were writing their names and excerpts from compositions of their own. When it reached Brahms he penned the first measure of the "Blue Danube" waltz and signed beneath, "Not, I regret to say, by your devoted friend Johannes Brahms."

## An Opinion.

"Say, paw," said little Rollo, "why do they call George Washington the father of his country?"

"I dunno, son, unless it was because his country kept him hustling to keep it out of trouble and then came to look at him as a sort of old fogey whose advice didn't amount to much anyhow."—Washington Star.

## What He Wanted.

"Be careful, young man. You know the old saying, 'Marry in haste and repent at leisure.'"  
"That's why I'm rushing things. What I want is leisure."—Exchange.

When fortune falls us the supposed friends of our prosperous days vanish.—Plautus.

## Witchcraft.

"The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries," said John Fiske, "were the flourishing ages of the witchcraft delusion. Witchcraft in the early ages was considered one of the greatest of crimes, as much so as murder, robbery or any other serious offense against the law, and the belief in it was shared by the whole human race until the latter part of the seventeenth century."

"In England in 1664 two women were tried before Sir Matthew Hale charged with bewitching several girls and a baby, and they were put to death, for at that time the evidence seemed perfectly rational. In 1615 in Genoa 500 people were burned to death on the charge of witchcraft. It was the proud boast of a noted executioner in northern Italy at this time that in fifteen years he had assisted in burning 900 persons charged with sorcery. In Scotland between 1560 and 1660 8,000 people were put to death, an average of 200 a year. The last execution for witchcraft in England took place in 1712, in Scotland in 1722, in Germany in 1749 and in Spain in 1781."

## Crime and the Telephone.

From the beginning to the end of a transaction in crime the telephone comes into use, serving both sides with equal fidelity, says a writer in Appleton's Magazine. The thief uses it to determine which house he may safely rob. The man next door sees the burglar and calls up the police. The police arrive, catch the burglar and telephone for the Black Maria to take him to jail. The thief telephones a lawyer to defend him. The lawyer telephones for the bondsman to bail out his client, and the banker telephones the sheriff that the bondsman's check is good. When the day of trial comes the clerk of the court, being a kind gentleman, telephones to the burglar's lawyer; the sheriff telephones witnesses to be present. When the burglar is convicted and sentenced the sheriff uses long distance to tell the warden of the penitentiary when his prisoner will be delivered. After that the telephone line is kept hot by influential politicians petitioning the governor for a pardon.

## An Embarrassing Moment.

The author of "Collections and Recollections" relates a personal experience of having said a "thing one would rather have left unsaid." Even after the lapse of twenty years, he adds, the recollection of the sensations of the moment turns him hot with chagrin.

A remarkably pompous clergyman, a diocesan inspector of schools, once showed me a theme on a Scriptural subject written by a girl who was trying to pass from the rank of a pupil teacher to the rank of schoolmistress. The theme was full of absurd mistakes, over which the inspector laughed uproariously.

"Well, what do you think of that?" he inquired when I handed back the paper.

"Oh," said I in perfectly good faith, "the mistakes are bad enough, but the writing is far worse. It really is a disgrace."

"The writing? What, my writing?" said the inspector. "I copied the theme out myself."

## The Bread and Pipe Baker.

The lecturer at the cooking school sometimes enlivened her remarks with an anecdote.

"The eighteenth century baker," she said, "was a pipe cleaner as well, just as the barber a little earlier was a surgeon. Everybody in those days smoked clay pipes, provided, the same as cups or spoons, by the coffee houses. Well, each morning a waiter carried his master's stock of pipes—some hundred perhaps—to the nearest bakery. The baker would boil them out, then dip them in liquid lime, then bake them dry. They came out of the oven as sweet and white as new."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

## A Popular Dye.

A small boy was one day sent for a pennyworth of indigo dye. He stopped to play marbles on the way and quite forgot what he was sent for. As he was determined to get it, he went into the chemist's shop and said to the assistant:

"What have people been dyeing with lately, please?"  
"Induena," was the answer.  
"Ah! That must be it," said the boy. "Please give me a penn'orth!"—London Illustrated Bits.

## Saves Trouble.

"Why don't you come in occasionally between drinks," demanded the wife, "and see the play?"  
"I don't need to," replied the bibulous husband. "The bartender is familiar with the plot, imitates the actors and also knows a lot of gossip about their personal and family affairs."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

## Enlightened.

"We all make blunders. I thought once I was a square peg when I was really a round one."

"How did you find out your mistake?"  
"I got into a hole."—Boston Transcript.

## The Drummer.

"I sometimes think," remarked the regular patron, "that the snare drummer should be the best musician in the theater orchestra."  
"He usually is," said the drummer.—Chicago Tribune.

## Nothing.

Jenkins declares that where he was in Switzerland the mercury often dropped to zero at night.  
"That's nothing."  
"What's nothing?"  
"Zero."

## The First Electric Lights.

John Hollingshead was the first man to use electric light in London. In 1878 he installed six arc lamps at the old Gaiety theater and started the Strand. The price of gas shares fell immediately. The cost of the lamps was \$200 a week, and he ran them for nine months. An attempt to plant one inside the theater at the foot of the grand staircase was a failure. The women objected to the fierceness of the light. One of them, for instance, "pretended to be very anxious that the secret of her soft complexion should not be discovered." Professor Erasmus Wilson said of electric light at that time, "With regard to the electric light, much has been said for and against it, but I think I may say, without fear of contradiction, that when the Paris exhibition closes the electric light will close with it, and very little more will be heard about it." Mr. Hollingshead, by the way, had fitted up the Gaiety as early as 1869 with an electric searchlight, which flashed the length of the Strand. But he soon withdrew that for fear of scaring the horses.

## To Find Your Affinity.

Your affinity is your mate, but unless you know the six types of happy married folks on Olympus, up to date, you may miss yours. Jupiter, king of heaven, ruler of men, house and business, must marry Juno, the queenly woman, plump, domestic, wise as Minerva, yet loving as Venus. Venus should mate with Apollo; but being fond of all men and usually pretty, a Venus woman marries any one, often several times. Marry and be petted and adored she must or die. Minerva, on the contrary, can be happy only with a Vulcan, a man her counterpart, wise, lofty, patient, a reformer, teacher and philosopher. Both have contempt for frivolity and meanness and vice. Most all of the elderly single women in the world, especially those descendants from Puritan or Calvinistic stock, are single just because they are the Minerva type and too wise to marry any one but Vulcans. And Vulcan men, being the best of their sex, are scarce.—Nautilus.

## Not What It Was For.

When Miss Julia Bryant, daughter of William Cullen Bryant, was a little child an aged lady, who was for a time a neighbor of the poet and his family, had been shown into the parlor of the house, where she was making her first call. She found the small Julia seated on the floor with an illustrated volume of Milton in her lap. Although she knew, of course, that it must be the artist, not the author, in whom at that early age the child was interested, she asked genially by way of beginning an acquaintance:

"Reading poetry already, little girl?"  
Julia looked up and regarded her gravely. Then she explained, with an air of politely correcting inexcusable ignorance:

"People don't read poetry. Papas write poetry, and mammas sing poetry, and little girls learn to say poetry, but nobody reads poetry. That isn't what it's for."

## Then He Landed.

"Beauty is a woman's most important attribute," said a New York beauty doctor. "She who increases beauty is woman's greatest benefactor. Husbands, brothers, even fathers—in their inmost hearts beauty is the thing they desire most to see in their feminine relations. Only the other day a gray, fat old gentleman entered a newspaper office and said:

"Are you the managing editor?"  
"Yes," was the reply.  
"I suppose that on you, then," said the visitor, "rests the responsibility for this morning's reference to my daughter Patty as Fatty. Take that!"

## An Ungallant Rascal.

"I suppose," said the angular spinster, "that you never had a romance?"  
"Dat's where youse is wrong," replied the unlaundersed hobo. "I wunst had a sweetheart wot wuz a dead ringer fer youse."  
"And did she die?" asked the angular spinster as she helped him to another hunk of pie.

"No, ma'am," answered the hobo. "When leap year come round she asked me t' marry her—an' I run away from home."—Chicago News.

## Dead Heat.

A schoolmaster who is in the habit of selecting extracts from his morning newspaper for dictation exercise read the other day a passage in which occurred the term "dead heat."  
"Jones," said he, addressing an inattentive pupil, "what do you mean by 'dead heat?'"  
"Please, sir," the youngster replied, "it's the heat of the place bad people go to when they're dead."—London Schoolmaster.

## Giving Advice.

Professor—What is the matter with Mr. —?  
Learner—He is seriously afflicted with a paroxysmal inflammation of the vermiform appendix.  
Voice From the Rear Seat—Aw, cut it out!

## Caustic.

"Does your representative in congress entertain much?"  
"No," answered the caustic constituent, "he doesn't entertain; he only amuses."—Washington Star.

## His Definition.

"Pa, what is an 'interior decorator?'"  
"I'm not quite sure, Wilfred, but I think it's a cook."—New York Times.

Every individual is a marvel of unknown and unrealized possibilities.—Jordan.

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