

PIE FOR BREAKFAST.

Once Considered as Much a Virtue as Early Rising.

I am aware that, according to the latest edition of the revised statutes, eating pie at breakfast is now a penitentiary offense, punishable by hard labor on the farm for a period not exceeding eighty-five years.

But nowadays merely to talk of so much fried stuff, pork and eggs and potatoes and pancakes and so much sweet stuff, molasses, fruit preserves, coffee cup a puddle of sugar, pie and all that, sends us who hear it to the kitchen cupboard, where the cooking soda is, first aid to the indigestive.

We haven't before us a whole long morning with a mail and glut, splitting rails or breaking up new ground with a balky team—a morning so long that it becomes a young eternity about 10:30 o'clock, when the front of the body below the waist begins again to chafe and grind on the backbone in spite of all the fats and sweeps that can be put in between at breakfast to act as fender.—Everybody's Magazine.

FIRST CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

Sheets of Horn Protected the Pages From Soiled Fingers.

The earliest English book for children was "The Babes' Book, or a Lyttl Report of How Young People Should Behave." The horn books existed in Elizabeth's reign. The writing was covered with a sheet of horn in order to protect the lettering from contact with dirty fingers.

The chap book contained most of the familiar nursery rhymes and stories which have appertained to nursery lore for generations. They exhibit very crude woodcuts, often daubed with inappropriate color, and the commonest paper as a rule was used.

They served to perpetuate such familiar ditties as "Sing a Song of Sixpence," which dates from the sixteenth century; "Three Blind Mice," in use, with music, in 1609; "The Frog and the Mouse," in existence in 1580, and "Girls and Boys Come Out to Play," which was sung by the villagers in the time of Charles II. "Little Jack Horner" we know is older than the seventeenth century, and last, but not least, "Lucy Locket," the tune from which originated "Yankee Doodle."

A few of what were called "bottle-door books" had been handed down to us. They were three leaved cards which were folded up into oblong pocket shaped volumes. These taught reading and numerals in the dame schools in town and country. The little gilt books, as they were called, adorned on the outside with gilt Dutch paper colored flowers, were much prized gift books of that period.

Presenting Arms to a Cat.

About the middle of the last century a very high English official died in a fortress at a place that is one of the centers of Brahmanic orthodoxy, and at the moment when the news of his death reached the sepoy guard at the main gate a black cat rushed out of it. The guard presented arms to the cat as a salute to the flying spirit of the powerful Englishman, and the coincidence took so firm a hold of the locality that up to a few years ago neither exhortation or orders could prevent a Hindoo sentry at that gate from presenting arms to any cat that passed out at night.—Bombay Times.

Her Proof.

"Why," asked the judge, "do you think your husband is dead? You say you haven't heard from him for more than a year. Do you consider that reasonable proof that he has passed out of existence?"

"Yes, your honor. If he was still alive he'd be asking me to send him money."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Her Mild Complaint.

Patient Parent—George, what do you think I found in my bed last night? George—What was it, mamma? Patient Parent—A railroad train and a fire engine.—Harper's Bazar.

Sure.

Mrs. Church—Are your children being brought up to help themselves? Mrs. Gotham—Oh, yes; I never lack the cooky jar!—Yonkers Statesman.

JAPANESE ENGLISH.

A Sample Circular Composed by a Native Tradesman.

There comes from a correspondent in Japan this example of circulars in English that Japanese tradesmen sometimes compose:

"Dear Sir—I have the honour to write a letter for you that I have now established the meat market and its branch to deliver the meat as one of the branch of my slaughter house, as which I have many cattle, their pastures, their markets, milk houses, and a slaughter house, etc., and I will have a fresh meat with the most cheapest price from my slaughter house than other butchery and especially make you many reduction for every day purchaser for month. I beg you can soon make me your order without your servant's commission, as you know your servant is always making money by your meat." I will make you the pass-book for the creditor only.

"P. S.—If you handed bad meat from your servant while you are making purchases the meat from my market every day, you will soon to let it exchange by the servant without any hesitation. Please make me your order, and if you can make me order by letter I will have the postage reduction from the count of meat with kind regards. Your truly."—Boston Transcript.

THE DELUGE.

Queer Old Australian Tradition About the Flood.

The aboriginal blacks of Australia have a queer tradition about the flood. They say that at one time there was no water on the earth at all except in the body of an immense frog, where men and women could not get at it. There was a great council on the subject, and it was found out that if the frog could be made to laugh the waters would run out of his mouth and the drought be ended.

So several animals were made to dance and caper before the frog to induce him to laugh, but he did not even smile, and so the waters remained in his body. Then some one happened to think of the queer contortions into which the eel could twist itself, and it was straightway brought before the frog, and when the frog saw the wriggling he laughed so loud that the whole earth trembled, and the waters poured out of his mouth in a great flood, in which many people were drowned.

The black people were saved from drowning by the pelican. This thoughtful bird made a big canoe and went with it among all the islands that appeared here and there above the surface of the water and gathered in the black people and saved them.

Curiosities of Superstition.

When Egypt was in the height of her power, when she was most highly civilized and delighted in being called the mistress of the land and sea, her people worshiped a black bull. There was some discrimination, however, even in this form of worship. In order to be an object of mad adoration it was necessary that the bull calf be born with a circular white spot in the exact center of his forehead, and the advent of such a creature in any herd was the signal of wild demonstrations from the Lybian desert. Even as late as the time of Cleopatra, star eyed goddess, glorious sorceress of the Nile, such animals were shod with gold and had their horns tipped with the same metal. Herodotus tells of a man who died with grief because he sold a cow that soon after became the mother of a black bull calf marked with the sacred white circle in his forehead.

Lead Pencil Experiments.

An English statistician was asked how many words could be written with an English lead pencil, and being determined to answer it, he bought a lead pencil and Scott's "Ivanhoe" and proceeded to copy the latter word by word. He wrote 95,698 words and then was obliged to stop, for the pencil had become so short that he could not use it. A German statistician who heard of this experiment was dissatisfied with it because all the lead in the pencil was not used on the work, and therefore he bought a pencil and started to copy a long German novel. When the pencil was so short that he could not handle it with his fingers he attached a holder to it, and it is said that he wrote with this one pencil 400,000 words. Possibly, however, his pencil was longer or the lead in it was of a more durable quality.

When Silence Is Deadly.

Silence is commonly the slow poison used by those who mean to murder love. There is nothing violent about it. No shock is given. Hope is not abruptly strangled, but merely dreams of evil and fights with gradually stifling shadows. When the last convulsions come they are not terrific. The frame has been weakened for dissolution. Love dies like natural decay. It seems the kindest way of doing a cruel thing.—George Meredith.

Rubbing It In.

The Bride—That nasty Mrs. Jones, next door, said I'd better try these biscuits on the dog before I gave 'em to you. The Groom—Hasn't she got a mean disposition! Why, I thought she was fond of dogs!—Cleveland Leader.

Often the Case.

Sillicus—What do you suppose caused him to go to the bad? Cynicus—Trying to be a good fellow.—Philadelphia Record.

The fool's ear was made for the knave's tongue.—Ramaswami's "Indian Fables."

When John Brown Wouldn't.

Pol-Manear is a favorite cast near Balmoral castle and was always held as the special preserve of John Brown, who was the personal attendant of the late Queen Victoria. John was an enthusiastic and inveterate fisher, and often the royal larder was indebted to his prowess for its supplies of spring salmon when the rods of the other fishermen failed to bring them to the bank. It is authentically reported among anglers on Desdite that when the queen wanted John he was immediately at her call except when angling, and at such times she would not disturb him. The tacit understanding between them is said to have arisen in the following fashion: Her majesty one day sent an imperative message to the river side desiring John to immediately wait upon her.

"Tell her majesty," replied John in his usual doric, "that I am rinsin' a salmon and I canna come."

The messenger came back to him in hot haste, saying that the queen desired to see him the very minute.

"Well, tell her majesty this time that I am rinsin' a salmon and I winna come." And that settled it.

Albatross and Magpie.

Birds play a great part in good and bad auguries at sea. The albatross is regarded as a harbinger of good fortune and has been immortalized as such by Coleridge in "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," whereas the magpie is a bad omen.

A friend of Sir Walter Scott, traveling by coach to London, entered into a conversation with a respectable looking seaman, who remarked: "I wish we may have luck in our journey. There's a magpie."

"And why should that be unlucky?" "I can't tell you that, but all the world agrees one magpie bodes ill luck. Two are not so bad, but three are the evil one himself. I never saw three magpies but twice, and once I nearly lost my vessel, and afterward I fell from my horse and was hurt."

Many seamen still believe in water spirits or sprites. In Bohemia the fishermen are afraid to assist a drowning man for fear of giving offense to the water sprite.

Berthollet and Robespierre.

It is said that the celebrated savant Berthollet in the most dangerous times of the republic sustained his fearless love of truth. Some days prior to the ninth Thermidor a sandy deposit was found in a barrel of brandy intended for the army. The contractors, suspected of poisoning, were immediately arrested, and the scaffold was already prepared. Berthollet, however, examined the brandy and reported it free from all adulteration.

"You dare maintain," said Robespierre to him, "that that brandy does not contain poison?" As his reply Berthollet drank off a glass, saying, "I never drank so much before."

"You have plenty of courage!" exclaimed Robespierre. "I had more when I signed my report," replied the chemist, and here the matter terminated.

Fiddling and Skating.

The celebrated violinist Joachim during a winter residence in northern Germany was in the habit of watching the skaters on a fine piece of water beneath his windows until one day it occurred to him to try the exercise himself. As he had never yet donned a pair of skates he put himself into the hands of a man who provided skates and instruction in the art on the brink of the water and was soon equipped and started on the ice, the master leading his pupil.

Finding no difficulty in keeping his balance under these circumstances, Joachim felt sure he could go alone, desired his leader to leave him and the next minute was sprawling on the ice on his back.

"Alas!" said the teacher triumphant as he raised his prostrate pupil. "You see it is not quite so easy as playing a fiddle!"

The Bridal Wreath.

The bridal wreath is usually formed of myrtle branches in Germany. It is made of orange blossoms in France as well as in the United States. In Italy and the French cantons of Switzerland it is of white roses. In Spain the flowers of which it is composed are red roses and pinks. In the islands of Greece vine leaves serve the purpose and in Bohemia rosemary is employed. In German Switzerland a crown of artificial flowers takes the place of the wreath.

Not the Usual Kind.

"What a fool exercise fencing must be for women!" "Why so? I always understood it was fine." "Here Maude Binks is taking lessons, and she told me yesterday she was learning how to feint."—Baltimore American.

Where Authority Ends.

"Rogers is a born lender of men. Thousands of them would follow him into the jaws of death." "Yes, but he can't make his two-year-old boy so much as sit in a chair."—Harper's Bazar.

A Long Minute.

"I'll be ready in a minute," she said to her husband. "You needn't hurry now," he called up some time later, "I find that I shall have to shave again."—Detroit Free Press.

No, indeed.

"You Americans say we 'ave no 'umor," said the loyal Britisher, "but I'll 'ave you understand, sir, that Henglish jokes are not to be laughed at!"

An Italian Superstition.

There is an Italian superstition that whenever a king belonging to the house of Savoy dies a huge eagle is to be seen crossing the Alps over the valley of Aosta in the direction of Savoy, and the conviction prevails among the inhabitants of Aosta that this eagle guides the soul of the dead sovereign to join those of his ancestors in Savoy. When King Charles Albert died at Lisbon, King Victor Emmanuel died at Rome and King Humbert was assassinated at Monza in 1900 the eagle was seen winging its way across the Alps. All other eagles crossing the Alps don't seem to count for much.

Ancient Ropes.

Ropes made of various kinds of fiber and leather are of very ancient date. Ropes of palm have been found in Egypt in the tombs of Beni-Hassan (about 3000 B. C.), and on the walls of these tombs is also shown the process of preparing hemp. In a tomb at Thebes of the time of Thothmes III. (about 1600 B. C.) is a group representing the process of twisting thongs of leather and the method of cutting leather into thongs.

We're All Alike.

"The Chinese worship ancestors." "How queer! By the way, have you heard the latest? Marjorie is engaged to a real live duke."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The rarest of flowers is candor.—Racine.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY.

Table listing various professionals including Attorneys, Dentists, Auctioneers, and Insurance agents.

Receipts and Expenditures of Centre County.

(Continued from page 7.)

Table showing Election Expenses for 1909 by Districts, listing various districts and their respective expenses.

Table showing Assets and Liabilities for G. G. Fink, Treasurer, in Account with Sheep Funds Arising from Dog Tax for 1909.

G. G. Fink, Treasurer, in Account with Sheep Funds Arising from Dog Tax for 1909.

Table showing Receipts and Expenditures for G. G. Fink, Treasurer, in Account with Sheep Funds Arising from Dog Tax for 1909.

We, the Commissioners of Centre County, do hereby certify to the best of our knowledge and belief, that the foregoing report is a true and correct statement of the receipts and expenditures of said county for the year 1909, and desire that the same be published.

JACOB WOODRING, H. E. ZIMMERMAN, JOHN L. DUNLAP, Commissioners.

We, the undersigned Auditors of Centre County, having carefully examined the accounts of the County Commissioners, Sheriff, Treasurer and Prothonotary of said County, do certify that the foregoing is a true and correct statement of receipts and expenditures, and of their respective accounts for the year 1909.

H. B. PONTIUS, R. D. MUSSER, C. U. HOFFER, Auditors.

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