"BLACK YOUR BOOTS !"

POLISHING THE UNDERSTANDING A THOUSAND YEARS AGO.

The Mixture Used in Pliny's Day-Ingredi ents of Modern Blacking-The Time When the Old-Fashioned Boot-Black Disappeared.

[Cincinnati Enquirer.] It appears to have been customary to imbue shoes with an oily mixture of some kind before the time of Pliny, that is to say, before the commencement of the Christian era. In the fifteenth book of his "Natural History" the great Roman book-maker states that Cato recommended the dregs of the olive, after the expression of the oil, to be used for annointing bridle reins, leather thongs and shoes to render them supple. The same author, in the thirty-fifth book of this same series of his, describes a mixture which appears to be the very foundation of our modern blacking. This mixture he defines as a compound of lampblack, gum and vin-egar, which could be used for cleaning shoes, and for ink to write with as well. and he makes much of the double utility of the invention. That very compound, with the addition of oil and molasses would make the blacking we use cowa-

davs. That such a mixture was in use in Pliny's day is shown by the discovery, among the old Roman remains in Eng-land, of leather which had been covered with blacking, and some fragments of which still preserved a dull poish. The first blacking was doubtless rubbed on the leather with the fingers or a cloth, for, at the time it originated, the stiff brush of the present day was unknown. Brushes made of vegetable fiber and hair are mentioned by Homer, but from the designs which have come down to us, these could not have been used for polishing.

The stiff bristle brush was invented several centuries ago, but it was not fit for a polishing tool, either. It was only in the present century that the blacking brush was brought into use. In 1801 a whalebone fiber blacking brush was patented, but it seems to have been a fail Split quill brushes have also been tried and found wanting. This about in 1842.

Modern blacking seems to have been originally composed chiefly of tallow, wax and probably lamp black, and was, therefore, somewhat similar to harness blacking. It was a European invention, and was first used in France and Italy. A Mr. Richard Martin got hold of the recipe for it while on his travels, and when he returned to England he made a partnerskip for its manufacture with a Mr. Charles Day, in 1801. This firm has since acquired world wide celebrity, under the title of Day & Martin. Another important blacking manufactory was afterward established by Mr. Robert Warren. Another was subsequently founded by Mr. Everett, who commenced business in King's Head court, Helborn. All the parties -connected in establishing these

three firms acquired large fortunes. Each maker had, of course, proportions and methods of mixing peculiar to himself; but the chief materials, namely, a black coloring matter and certain substances which acquire a gloss by friction, were the same in most cases. In England they generally consist of bone black, sugar or molasses, sperm oil, sulphuric acid, and strong vinegar. The bone black, in the state of a very thin powder, and the sperm oil, are first thoroughly incorporated; the sugar or molasses, mixed with a small proportion of vinegar, is now added, and well stirred into the mass; strong sulphuric acid 'is then gradually poured in the vessel. The mixture is then diluted with an additional quantity of vinegar. Paste blacking is now made in precisely the same way as liquid blacking, except that the last portion of vine gar is not added. It can be understood from these ingredients how a boy who re-cently undertook to eat three boxes of blacking on a wager, could die in terrible convulsions. Baron Liebig states that in Germany blacking is made in the follow-ing manner: Powdered bone-black is mixed with half its weight of molasses and one-eighth of its weight of olive oil, to which are afterward added one-eighth of its weight of muriate acid and onefourth its weight of strong sulphuric acid. The whole is then mixed up with water to a sort of unctuous paste. In the days of Sim Tappertit, London and all other great cities were dirty and paved, and bootblacks were badly abundant as they are at the present day. They haunted the corners of the busiest streets of London and Paris, and some few, like Mr. Tappertit, were installed in shops and little booths. They hailed the pedestrians with, "Shoeblack, Your Honor!" "Black your shoes, sir," and never had change any more than they have it to day. They used an oleaginous and lusterless blacking, smearing it on with their hands and rubbing it smooth with a brush or rough cloth. In the polishing shops old shoes were sometimes loaned the customer to wear while his good ones were being blacked. A curious old police court case in London concerns the arrest of a man for running off in a pair of the bootblack's shoes, which were better than his own, It is an odd fact that when the patent improved blackings were introduced the old-fashioned public bootblack who used to mix his blacking up for himself each day disappeared. Every one took to having his boots blacked at home, now that the tools and polish were so handy, and for a score of years the public boot-black was unknown. Then he began to crop up again and grow toward the army he forms to day. In Paris most of the public bootblacks are old women, and in Germany they are young ones. There are no bootblacks in Spain, for the men there wear patent leather shoes entirely. The manufacture of these shoes is a vast industry in France, whence the Spanish market is surrolled market is supplied.

Acclimating Game in America. [Demorest's Monthly.]

Some of our rich sporting men are trying to naturalize foreign game birds and, animals in this country. Masseni quait and English pheasints have been tried, but our winters groved too severe for them. At Jobs wh, N. J., Mr. Pierre Lorillard and other gentlemen claim they have successfully acclimated the English have successfully acclimated the English partridge and the French red-legged par-tridge. Mr. Lorillard has also brought east large flocks of prairie chickens from the west. These ought to do well, for they were very common in New Jersey over 100 years ago. This fine bird is soon to be acclimated if possible in England and on the continent. Thousands of our quail are being sent abroad to see if they will not thrize in the old world. will not thrive in the old world.

Among those that are interested in in-troducing English game in America are Mr. Garrett iteach, pheasants and part ridges, on Long island; Mr. Richard Muser, pheasant and partridges, in New York state; Dr. Al. Watts, of Boston Mr. Rutherford Stuyvesant, pheasants and partridges, on his large preserve at Allamuchy, Warren county, N. J., Mr. A. E. Godeffroy and Mr. E. Plock, hares, rabbits, pheasants and partridges, in Or-ange county, N. Y.; Mr. B. W. Pickard, English roe deer and partridges, in the Adirondack region; Mr. H. R. Sterling, partridges and pheasants, in northern New Jersey, and the sporting club on Fisher's island, Long Island sound, part ridges and pheasants. Among those that are interested in inridges and pheasants.

It is curious to note that as our country becomes settled, additional efforts are making to preserve and multiply game birds and animale. Sporting ciubs are organized for the purpose of buying up shooting grounds, so as to check the dep redations of the pet hunter. We have a great deal of land in this country, some swampy and the rest hilly and broken, that can be put to no better use than being turned inte preserves for the protection of game.

> The Zhob Valley. [Cor. London Times.]

Do not imagine a green, fertile valley, but a sandy, desolate-looking plain, tree less, and bare, about twenty to thirty miles across, running east and west, with high, stony barren hills to the worth and south. On the south side there are a num per of mud villages, all close to the hills, and a good deal of cultivation, the ap pearance of which, without experi ence of India, you would not in in the least understand. It is simply this-the sandy-looking soil is divided into small plots with little banks of earth bout a foot high, which are not notice ible at a distance. At the proper time of ear seed is sown, and each of these little dots flooded in rotation by spening and closing small dams from one to the other. water being supplied by made channels at convenient distances and levels, these channels themselves receiving water. either by diverting any river into them or by damming up small hill streams till the necessary quantity and level of water is secured.

This system prevails in the valley of the Indus, through the arid regions of Scinde and elsewhere. The result is that what for eight or nine mouths in the year looks a complete desert, in three or four months becomes beautifully green and fertile and bears crops sometimes from ten to fourteen feet high, which ripen rapidly in the hot sun and are soon cut down, when the whole ground again assumes the aspect of a desert. The time at which cultivation takes place depends, as in Scinde. on the rising of the Indus through the melting of snow in the hills, or upon the rainfail, or, in hilly regions, where there are perennial streams, upon the best sea-son of ripening the crops. In Scinde the rainfal is almost nil, as all depends on the river rising.

The "San Francisco Alphabet." [Exchange.]

At the late meeting of the California State Teachers' association A. L. Bancroft delivered a lecture on a proposed new alphabet. The Sacramento Union says: "Previous to the address charts were distributed showing the proposed "San Francisco alphabet for revised English spelling, 1884.' This shows a scheme of thirteen vowels, four dipthongs, and twenty four consonants. The sys-tem may be summed up practically in the statement that it is 'shorthand' written in a long way. The characters, apart from the ordinary alphabet, resemble ordinary letters now in use generally. Mr. Ban-croft explained the chart at length, and claimed for the 'San Francisco alphabet' a variety of advantages."

POLITICAL ORATORS. STATESMEN WHO WERE NOTED AS POWERFUL STUMP SPEAKERS.

The Tendency in the Senate to Read Essays-What Carpenter Said of Written Speech-The Three Most

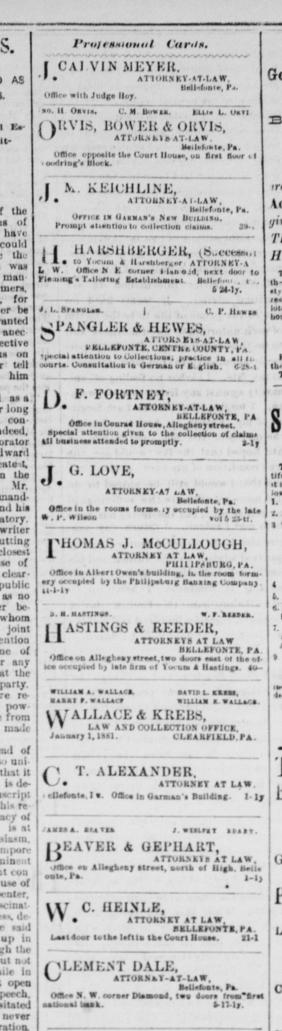
Voluble Senators.

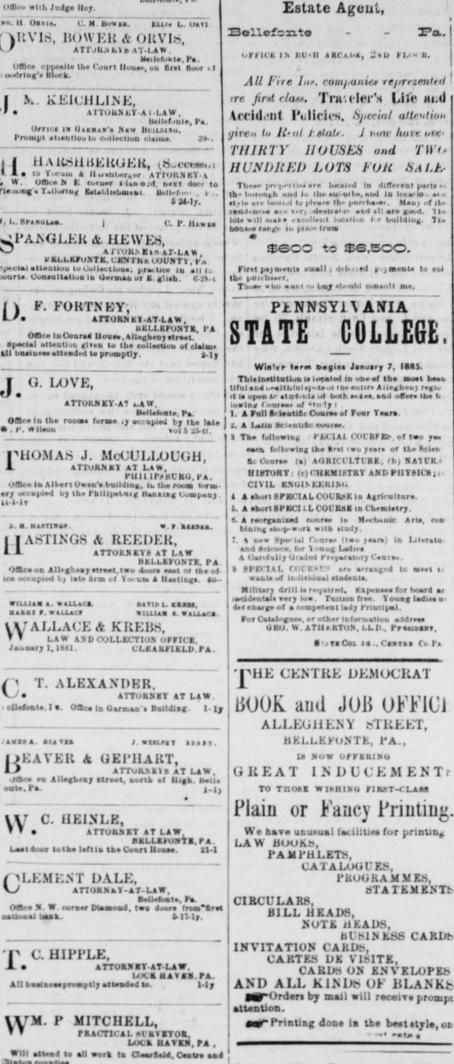
New York Sun.] There are fears that the oratory of the stump may belong to the attractions of the past. Either committee would have gone far down into its bank account could It have secured a stump orator like the late Senator Nye. This gitted man was a tower of strength to hepublican managers. He would briffg in the farmers, through min and knee-deep mud, for many miles, and the ball could never be found big enough to hold all who wanted to hear him. His humor, sarcasm, anecdote, pathos, and scorching invective found their great field and stimulus on the stump, and men could never tell whether they had been listening to him for minutes or hours. President Lincoln was regarded as a

stump speaker of remarkable power long before he came into men's minds in con nection with the presidency. Indeed, many regard him as the greatest orator the country has produced, Mr. Edward Mcl'herson being one of these. Greatest, they mean, if the supreme test be in the power of influencing the hearer. Mr. Lincoln, unlike many men of command-ing influence on the stump, found his power and limited to the birth of the stump. power not limited to this kind of oratory. it was said of him by an eminent writer that his remarkable faculty of putting things, his intellect, capable of the closest and most subile analysis, and the use of language so as to put his ideas in the clearest and simplest form, gave to his public efforts a weight and induence such as no public man of this country hal ever be-fore attained. Mr. Douglas, with whom Mr. Lincoln carried on a series of joint public debates that attracted the attention of the country, was regarded as one of the very best stump orators of his or any time. Cen. Carbeld as an orator at the hustings ranked with the first in his party. Mr. Cookling and Mr. Blaine are regarded as possessing extraordinary pow-ers of this kind, entirely separate from other qualities of mind that have made them distinguished.

The tendency to read essays, instend of delivering speeches, has become so uni-versal in both branches of congress that it is rare that a speech of any length is delivered without the complete manuscript being before the speaker. While this resuits in greater grace of style, accuracy of expression, and better diction, it is at the cost of the energy, fire, enthusiasm, and hot emotions that the extempore speech stimulates. The men most emineat for their power of oratory in recent con gresses, however, have spurned the use of manuscript. The late Senator Carpenter, whom many regarded as the most fascinating speaker of recent years in congress, de spised a written speech. He once said that he might as well shut himself up in an iron cage, and try to talk through the bars. He believed in preparation, but not in prescription. Mr. Conkling while in the senate, never laid his manuscript open on his desk. He never read a speech, and, like Mr. Carpenter, never hesitated for a word. Yet both these orators never spoke without thorough preparation. Mr. Edmunds seldom makes long speeches, rarely exceeding fifteen minutes. He speaks always extemporaneously, and never revises the stenographers' notes or proof slips. John Sherman does not write his speeches; neither does Gen. Logan nor Senator Hoar.

The three most voluble senators, Beck, Morgan and Plumb, neither write nor spe fally prepare their speeches, excepting to gather the facts. None of these





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A Successful Editor. [Philadelphia Call.]

A St. Louis editor, who started without a cent forty years ago, is now worth \$100,000. His fortune is all owing to his own energy, industry and fragality, and the fact that an uncle recently left him \$99,999.99.

Incomprehensible,

[Baron Nestrol.] I can understand why people attend a ball, but why anybody should give a ball is assonthing entirely beyond my compre-bession hension.

Boston Globe: Who can tell why bad taste in dress and manpers and all the walks of life is severely frowned upon, while in language it is ignored?

The Current: Among the toys of the season has been a buil frog made of caoutchouc. (South American for kerchug!)

NEELPEONTR. PA

Coal as a Tonic. [London Sportsman.]

Apparently, however, coal contains much of which we yet know nothing For instance, a chemist in Munich has, is stated, succeeded in obtaining from dis tilled coal a white crystalline powder which, as far as regards its action on the human system, cannot be distinguished from quinine, except that it assimilate even more readily with the stomach. Its efficiency in reducing fever heat is represented as quite remarkable. When people have to take small coal as a tonic and eat coke as a "pick-me-up" it is time to reflect what a wonderful party old Dame Nature is.

A "Free! Strip.

[Chicago Times.] A little strip of sidewalk about five feet wide in front of the United States courthouse in Boston is constantly the refuge of the street peddlers of bouquets who wish to evade the payment of the license fee which the city ordinances require. As the strip is the property of the United States, they can here bid defiance to the police, but it not infrequently happens that their eagerness to sell lures them out, and then, if caught, they are brought to court and fined court and fined.

> To Be Looked at Broadly. [Boston Budget.]

Any public document, no matter how brilliant and logical the writer of it may be, can be pieked to pieces if it is meas-ured by a six-inch rule. It should be looked at broadly, and if its general tendency and drift are correct minor faults should be overlooked. If a speech o. document intended for the general public was written with the precision of a law paper, no one would listen to it or read it except members of the legal fraternity.

> Josh Billings Aging. [Inter Ocean.]

Josh Billings, who has abandoned housekeeping and removed to the Windsor hotel, New York, is now about 65 years old, and begins to feel the burden of ife, irrespective of its probabilities. He has been lecturing twenty four seasons, and has furnished a New York weekly a half or quarter column miscellaneous contribution every week for the last nineteen years.

## Lost Power.

An actual and careful test shows that 55 per cent of the power exerted in driv. ing the propeller of an occan steamship is bet, or rather it as yet unaccounted for.

possession of oratorical powers, though each is singular in one respect. Mr. Plumb is the most rapid speaker who has been in the senate for many years. He and Senator Beck are the only men who even taxed Mr. Murphys power as a stenog rapher to the fullest, and many think Mr. Murphy is the most rapid stenographer in the world. Mr. Plumb's words are emitted with terrific speed. He sometimes utters as many as 250 in a minute. Mr. Beck, while scarcely less rapid, speaks less clearly than Mr. Flumb, so that his words sound just as the posts of a Virginia fence look to a man sitting at the window of a lightning express. Mr. Morgan's speech is rapid, flows as continuously as a running brook, with much the same pleasantly bubbling sound. He never prepares or revises his speeches They appear in The Record precisely as he delivers them, and yet Mr. Murphy says that he never yet has found in them an error of grammar or of diction, and t. at as specimens of pure, classic English they are unexcelled by the speeches of any senator. Mr. Bayard does not read his speeches, but with these exceptions almost all the others do. It did cause his Indiana friends some astonishment when Mr. Voorhees first unrolled his manuscript, but the custom is now confirmed with him. Mr. Pendleton, too, whose oratory used to be a delight to his Ohio friends. now reads his speeches. In the lobg debates upon the tariff bill in the house, both last winter and the ses-

sion preceding, with hardly an exception the speeches were read from manuscript. Speaker Carlisle, two years ago, Judge Kelly, and Mr. Bandall were the only members of prominence who did not read their speeches.

The habit has had one effect that is inevitable; it gives the speech reader very alim audiences generally. The essays are rea' in a monotonous and almost inaudi-ble tone, and the cases where a speech that ble tone, and the cases where any of the is read is accompanied by any of the is read is accompanied by any of the by the accepted standard of oratory, hardly a member of congress who reads his speeches can be ranked as an orator.

The Pace and the Speed.

[Chicago Herald.] M. Marcy, experimenting and studying the march of French soldiers, discovered that low heels has a favorable influence on the pace which a person walks and that the rythm of the step has an impor-tant influence on the speed. The rythm was studied by means of an electric bell, actuated by a pendulum of variable length to enable the subject to keep an exact time, and the distance tray. [Chicago Herald.]

variable length to enable the subject to keep an exact time, and the distance trav-eled was recorded on the odograph by electric signals sent along the line every fifty meters traversed. It was then found that the length of the step increased little until sixty-five steps per minute are taken; it then increases until seventy-five, and after ward decreases as a higher rythm is reached. The speed of travel increases with the acceleration of the rythm up to eighty-five steps per minute, and de-creases at higher rythms.

The Christian Union: It is no more good journalism to print everything than good art to paint everything.

Itching Piles-Symptons and Cure. three, however, makes any claim to the Office opposite Lock Haven National Bank 20-13 The symptoms are moisture, like perspiration, intense itching, increased by WILLIAM McCULLOUGH, scratching, very distressing, particular-ATTORNEY-AT-LAW, CLEARFIELD, PA. All business promptly attended to. 1-ly ly at night, seems as if pin-worms were crawling in and about the rectum; the private parts are sometimes affected, If allowed to continue very serious re-H. K. HOY, M. D., sultsfollow. "SWAYNE'SOINTMENT" High street [12-1y] BELLEFONTE, PA. is a pleasant, sure cure. Also for Tetter. DR. JAS. H. DOBBINS, M. D., PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON. Office Allegheny St., over Zeigler's Drug Store, BELLEFONTE, PA. 845 DR. J. W. RHONE, Dentist, can be found at his office and residence on Nerth ide of High street three doors East of Allegheny, Bellefonte, Pa. 16-1y F. P. BLAIR, JEWELER, WATCHES, CLOCKS, JWELRY, &c. All work neatly executed. On Allegheny street, ander Brockerhoff House. 4-11 Business Cards. GEM BARBER SHOP, Under First National Ba BELLEFONT nal Bank R. A. Beck, [may 3 83] Propr. CENTRE COUNTY BANKING JOS. KLECKNER - Prop'r Receive Deposits And Allow Inte "st. Discount -otes: B-y and Sell Gov.Securities, JANKS A. BRAVES, President. J. D. SHEGERT, Cashier. 4-17 R. C. RUMES, Pres't. FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BELLEFONTE, Allegheny Street, Bellefonte, Pa. 4-17 Allegheny Street, Bellefonte, Pa. 4-17 Allegheny Street, Bellefonte, Pa. 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 4-17 HARDWARE! WILSON, McFARLANE & CO. DEALERS IN

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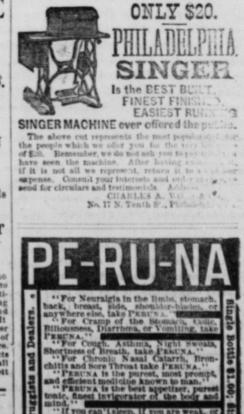
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