

COMMON SALT IN FACT AND FABLE

THING OF BOTH GOOD AND EVIL GENIUS.

In Former Times Salt Was Used as Money—Safeguards Employed by Knowing Ones Against Its Bad Effects—Used in One Place as a Pledge of Friendship.

From the Boston Herald.

Salt was declared by Pythagoras to be the emblem of justice; for as it preserves all things and prevents corruption, so justice preserves whatever it serves all things and prevents corruption. He, therefore, directed that a salt-cellar should be placed upon the table at every meal, in order to remind men of this emblematic virtue of salt.

Cosmas, the Egyptian geographer, stated that salt currency was in use in Africa in the sixth century; and Marco Polo wrote that salt was a common medium of exchange among certain Asiatic people in the thirteenth century. In Tibet pieces of salt shaped in a mold and weighing about half a pound each served as small exchange, eighty such pieces having a value equal to about \$1.

There is an old proverb that "many packs of salt must be eaten together to bring friendship to perfection."

SOLD SLAVES FOR SALT.

So highly did the Thracians of old prize salt that they bartered slaves in exchange for it.

Felix Dubois, in his "Timbuctoo and the Mysterious," comments on the variety of salt in the interior of the Sudan, and says it is the most valuable commodity of that region, the true gold of the Sahel.

In speaking of a lack of piquancy or pointedness in a dull sermon or address the French people say, "There was no salt in that."

The covenant of salt is the most sacred possible among the Jews.

Compacts between eastern tribes are confirmed by salt, and the most solemn pledges ratified by it.

The idea that the spilling of salt produces evil consequences is supposed to have originated in the tradition that Judas overturned a salt-cellar at the Paschal supper, as portrayed in Leonardo da Vinci's painting.

In early times any one having the misfortune to spill salt was supposed to incur the anger of all good spirits, and to be rendered susceptible to the malevolent influences of demons.

It was customary among the Greeks to present salt to the gods as a thank offering at the beginning of every meal.

There is a Norwegian belief that if one spills salt he will shed as many tears as may suffice to dissolve the quantity of salt he has lost.

TO AVERT ILL LUCK.

In one part of Pennsylvania in order to avert ill luck after salt has been spilled, one should not only toss a pinch of the spilled salt over the left shoulder, but should also erect under a table and come out on the opposite side.

The following lines are found in a British publication of the last century:

We'll tell you the reason
Why spilling of Salt
Is considered such a Fault,
Because it doth overthrow reason.

The antique old rhyme
'Twas of Friendship a sign,
So served it to us in decorum,
And thought love decayed
Let the salt cellar tumble before them.

The tossing of spilled particles of salt over one's left shoulder is not deemed sufficient in New England to avert the governance of "friendship's ties" the spilled salt must also be thrown upon the stove.

ITS USES AS A CHARM.

The peasants of the Hartz mountain region in Germany believe that three grains of salt in a milk net will keep witches away from the milk.

Salt was in high repute in olden times in Scotland as a charm, and the salt box was the first charmed to be removed to a new dwelling. In 1789, when Robert Burns was about to occupy a new house at Eldershall, he was escorted thither along the banks of the river Nith by a procession of relatives, and among them was borne a bowl of salt resting on the family Bible.

A mother seeks to protect her daughter from evil glances in Bohemia by

ORDEAL BY BAMBOO RODS.

An Extraordinary Indian Ceremony for Thief Catching.

From the Madras Weekly Mail.

The following extraordinary narrative of facts as they occurred, and which were witnessed by a number of persons, and can be testified to by the members of three households occupying a large house in Bentinck street, Calcutta, are so remarkable that it is worth the while of any scientist to test them personally, as they can be easily done on the occasion of any domestic quarrel in a house. It may be added that every servant in Calcutta is a lively believer in its efficacy, and if a thief, at once confesses. A Brahmin is the worker of these marvels. He is well known in Calcutta, and does not profess to work out his method of thief detection for money, but leaves it to those who employ him to reward him if they think fit. It is said that this is readily done, and that he makes a good thing out of it. A cook in the service of a family in the last night intrusted his nephew with a large sum of money to keep in deposit. The nephew alleged that he placed the money in an earthen pot, which he buried. The location of the exact spot was confided to a friend. Shortly after this the cook was informed by his nephew that the pot and money had disappeared. With the nephew's consent the Brahmin was summoned to discover the thief, and the following is a bare narration of the extraordinary procedure he adopted, and usually adopts, in all such cases. Accompanied by an aid, he comes to the house, provided with two bamboo rods, about sixteen feet long and an inch and a half in diameter. He also has with him a number of fresh peepul leaves, a cocoanut, some rice and some vermillion and cowries; a fresh earthen dish has to be provided by the person who summons him as well as a stool.

All the servants in the house are summoned, they are made to stand in a half circle and their names are written on each leaf, and these leaves with one painted with the vermillion are placed on the stool. Two other rods are then made to hold the bamboo rods, one in each hand, opposite each other, with their elbows far behind their hips, so that they can have little or no influence in turning or bending the rods. Next comes the strange part of the proceedings. At the Brahmin's call of each name the bamboo rods in the first instance rise together and form a semi-circle above; they then bend and forming a semi-circle below, gradually come together except in the case of the thief. In this instance the nephew confessed to the theft, and a number of his relatives who had come from up-country to witness the ordeal made restitution.

That's Easy.

"I can tell you," said he, "how much water runs over Niagara. Falls to a quart."

"How much?" asked she.

"Two pints,"—The Sketch.

More Fatal.

Dick—Did you hear about poor Kirby? He has the fever, and his friends have got up all night.

Nick—That's too bad. Typhoid?

Dick—No; Klondike.—The Sketch.

Don't Blame the Chimney

for being black. It isn't its fault if the lamp is always smoking and flickering. It's the oil. Stop using inferior oil and use our

Headlight Water White Oil

If you wish to learn what real lamp oil is. Won't smoke or smell. Gives greatest light at smallest cost than any other oil. Your dealer has it.

ATLANTIC REFINING CO.

LONDON OF TODAY IN PLAIN ENGLISH

FEATURES OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST HISTORY.

The Majesty of the Law—An Army of Policemen and Guards to Protect One—Controlling the Street Traffic. The Liquor Business and the Drinking Habit—Parks and Museums at Hand, but No Sunday Amusements Except Churchgoing.

For Huxford Harper, in the Sun.

In London one is continually impressed with the majesty of the law, and the longer one remains the stronger this impression grows. No city in the world is more perfectly governed or with more willingness on the part of its inhabitants. They respect their government and are proud of their institutions. There is universal love for Queen Victoria and a desire that she may long continue to reign. She has been in the broadest sense a constitutional monarch. While she is said to be the broadest politician in Europe, she is exceedingly careful to have that same regard for England's institutions which is the constitution which she exacts from her subjects irrespective of rank. It is safe to predict that no sovereign ever again will rule Great Britain in any different spirit. In no other country except the United States do the people themselves possess power. They freely elect their houses of commons of 670 members to represent them, and when that great hereditary body, the 500 peers, who compose the house of lords, decide adversely upon any question of great public interest, such as the dissolution of parliament, they are at once dissolved and the voters have an opportunity to endorse or reject their decision. While here, as everywhere, there are countless wrongs which ought to be righted, yet in many respects the English government offers an example by which all nations might profit.

GOVERNMENT.

Imagine London with its population of 6,000,000, and increasing at the rate of 70,000 per annum under the municipal government as prevails in our large American cities! There are 7,000 miles of streets here and all kept in a condition of the most praiseworthy cleanliness. The metropolitan police district covers an area of nearly 700 square miles and is patrolled by 15,000 policemen. There seems to be one at every lamp post and his power is autocratic. By raising one finger he can stop an entire line of traffic and not a vehicle will move until he gives the signal. A careful estimate made several years ago placed the number of vehicles entering simply what is called the city, or business district, every 24 hours at \$2,500. With all this enormous traffic, there is never a collision, never a locking of wheels and rarely an accident.

The laws are absolute which govern this vast array of wagons, carts, omnibuses, carriages, hansoms, etc., that move along as orderly as a funeral procession. The rule is to turn to the left, and the driver, no matter how great his hurry, should not cross the street without being watched. The pedestrian has never to look in but one direction as he crosses each half of the street, and may stop in the middle with perfect safety. In almost every block in the center of the street, a red place where he may stand until he sees and is overtaken. There is no fast driving. The hansoms and carriages may pass the bus, and the latter may pass a loaded wagon, if there seems to be plenty of room, but they may not pass each other, unless one has stopped. Even in the most crowded streets, there is never any straggling or swerving. The policeman manages all with the motion of a finger, because back of him is the law, which in this matter at least is no respecter of persons. A short time ago one of the great lords of England was arrested and fined 100 pounds for fast driving in his own carriage, both policeman and magistrate remaining wholly unmoved by his voluble explanation of who and what he was.

GUARDS.

In addition to this vast body of metropolitan police there appear to be as many as 15,000 guards. Every public building, every park, every square, is frequently by night-seers swarmed with them, all in uniform. It seems sometimes as if this were part of an effort, everywhere apparent, to provide employment for as many people as possible. One may move without the consciousness of being watched. At first so much espionage is very irritating, but in time one learns to look with favor upon it because of the sense of security it affords. In no other city is there such a feeling of safety, because of the official protection on every hand. Sometimes these guards are cross and peevish and sometimes hopelessly stupid, but occasionally one proves to be delightfully entertaining with a thorough knowledge of the history of England, her institutions, customs, ideas, etc. When you tell him you are an American, which doubtless is unnecessary, he invariably says: "America is a great country" and usually adds that he has a brother or cousin there who is a policeman in New York or Chicago. But it is a mistake to think that he would like to be there, also, for most of the men who can make a living in England are satisfied to stay there. The loyalty and patriotism of the people are very marked.

DRINK EVILS.

I have seen women drunk on the streets too many times to count, several times dead drunk in the middle of the day, one lying in the gutter in the blazing sun, and a blot from a fashionable thoroughfare, one sitting on the bench at the very door of Westminster Abbey. These women are bringing children into the world, drunkards from birth, who must inevitably be paupers and criminals. In the last census, two years ago, London was reported about 107,000 paupers. The number is

RECREATION FACILITIES.

The visitor who remains in London long enough to study conditions will be favorably impressed with the opportunities for recreation which are afforded the people without money and without price. There are 3,000 acres of public parks, beautiful with trees, lakes and flowers. In addition there

are the royal parks, handsome grounds around the royal homes, partially opened to the public, and many little nooks and corners besides, which are utilized as "breathing spots." A number of the royal gardens have been provided with seats for public convenience. The British Museum is open to the public free six days in the week and contains the finest collection in the world, representing millions of dollars and includes researches, simply walk through the different rooms without stopping, requires seven hours. The South Kensington Museum demands still longer time and its treasures are beyond description. It is free three days and there is the small charge of sixpence on other days. The National Art and Portrait Gallery, which will repay weeks of study, is free five out of seven days. Hampton Court, Kew Gardens, Kensington Palace, Guildhall, Tower, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey, St. Paul's Cathedral, Windsor Palace, all free. Simply to name the other galleries, museums and palaces of great interest which may be seen without charge would be impossible.

THEATRES.

The best theatres, however, are expensive; stalls, corresponding to our orchestra, not less than "ten and six," about \$2.50; dress circle, our first balcony, "seven and six," about \$1.85; pit seats, top gallery, cents. In many cases it is necessary to pay sixpence (12 cents) for a programme and the same class theatres which are less expensive any many music halls, etc., with prices to suit the purse. Many of the parks furnish music. All are enclosed with high iron fences and the gates are shut at 10 o'clock. None of the theatres and very few of the galleries and museums are open on Sunday, a few on Sunday afternoons, but nothing is provided on Sunday nights for the millions of people, except to go to church. There are 800 Episcopal or churches of England churches in London and 600 of the Non-conformist of other denominations.

The traveler cannot fail to be deeply impressed with the immense size, which confront him on every side. They seem to be intended for time and eternity. Some which were erected seven or eight hundred years ago are in use today. Those which are three or four centuries old are too common to attract notice. The ones which have been built during the last half century will be as good as new when 2500 comes rolling along. The stone is not white to begin with, and a few years of London's soot and fog render it almost black, so the city everywhere has a venerable, but gloomy and forbidding appearance. Its bridges, churches, palaces and public buildings that air of tremendous power and perpetuity. It is no wonder the Englishman is filled with amazement when he views some of our government buildings in Washington, and wonders how our Executive Mansion. The ruler of no other civilized nation is housed so badly as ours in the United States.

STRONG BUT UGLY.

Architecturally the buildings here are inexpressibly ugly. Notwithstanding the great value of land, in some places \$350 a square foot, they seldom rise to a height more than four or five stories. The Bank of England, for instance, is situated on land worth this price, is only one story high and covers nearly five acres. This gives them a flat appearance which is relieved, however, in some cases, by lofty and massive Corinthian pillars. The private houses are especially unattractive to outside appearance, but do not compare with our best American residences but within, what a wealth of pictures, sculpture, tapestries and artistic furnishings! We have nothing like it in our country and cannot have for centuries. Why does it not lay its hand on the liquor traffic and restrict it as it does impose are shown to the letter and there is no effort to evade them, but the magnitude of the business here and the amount of intemperance are appalling. The saloons are closed only a few hours during the midnight and daylight hours, are wide open on Sunday except during the hours of church service. Not only the government but the church itself derives an immense revenue from the liquor business, and it is said that high taxes in both are directly connected with it. In glaring signs over the doors of the wine shops are the words: "Purveyors to His Royal Highness" and the various names of the Royal family given. On many of the church doors are notices tacked up telling when and where the excise board will meet to grant licenses for serving intoxicating liquors. They are saloons everywhere and all of them crowded day and night.

SHADOWS.

These advantages which have been described are the high lights of London, but there are many and heavy shadows. The question which continually intrudes itself, when one observes the power and majesty of the city, is: Why does it not lay its hand on the liquor traffic and restrict it as it does impose are shown to the letter and there is no effort to evade them, but the magnitude of the business here and the amount of intemperance are appalling. The saloons are closed only a few hours during the midnight and daylight hours, are wide open on Sunday except during the hours of church service. Not only the government but the church itself derives an immense revenue from the liquor business, and it is said that high taxes in both are directly connected with it. In glaring signs over the doors of the wine shops are the words: "Purveyors to His Royal Highness" and the various names of the Royal family given. On many of the church doors are notices tacked up telling when and where the excise board will meet to grant licenses for serving intoxicating liquors. They are saloons everywhere and all of them crowded day and night.

TEXAS LYNCH LAW.

Some Explanation of Its Working by a Texan Abroad.

From the Syracuse Standard.

Some ten or more years ago, says a man from Texas, we had occasion in our town to send one of our prominent citizens to England to look after some business of a private character in which he with half a dozen more of us was interested. He was a bit raw, as you might say in the east, but for our purpose he answered admirably and we shoved him to the front and

JONAS LONG'S SONS.

IMPORTANT! BIG SALE OF HOUSEHOLD UTENSILS IN OUR BASEMENT ALL THIS WEEK.

Dress Goods and Silks:

A VERY IMPORTANT SALE of Dress Goods and Silks begins here this Monday morning and lasts throughout the week. Never have we been able to show so many exclusive styles and patterns as now—and the woman who would be original in dress will come here to buy. We aim to give you every attention whether you merely observe for pleasure or purchase to save. And if our years of experience can be of service to you in making selections, we shall be pleased.

Black Dress Goods.

- Styles come and go, but there's no change to the pretty and becoming black. But there is a difference in blacks, and so it is that you get the very best here. For instance:
- 25c yd For very good quality of Fine Twill Serge, full 36 inches wide, and extra good dye. Not a yard in the lot woven to sell less than 35c.
 - 59c yd For full 45-inch Serge, subjected to steam pressure and warranted not to shrink. Would be good value if offered at 75c.
 - 65c yd To \$1.50 for the most exquisite line of Black Crepons ever brought to Scranton. Goods that are positively worth a third more in value.
 - 90c yd For the best grade of steam shrunk Cheviot, very heavy weight, full 50 inches in width and bought by us to sell at \$1.25 a yard.
 - 59c yd For an exclusively good quality of Black Brilliantine, rich in color and of elegant lustre. Not a yard ought to be sold under 75c.
 - 35c yd For your choice of two thousand yards of 40-inch Black Fancies in very neat small figured designs. Not a yard worth less than 50c.
 - 90c yd To \$2.00 for a choice assortment of Cheviots, Henriettes, Zebe-lines, Broadcloths and Venetian Cloths, 54 inches wide. Prices are very, very low.
 - \$1 yd For a beautiful quality of Venetian Cloth, heavy in weight, of very fine twill, 56 inches in width and positively worth \$1.25 a yard.

Very Nobby Silks.

- There are miles and miles of these fancy and pretty things here for you to see—an assortment that has no peer anywhere.
- 39c yd For full 21-inch China Silks, in a beautiful range of all the leading colorings. Worth up to 50c.
 - 69c yd For a superb quality of Taffeta Silk in all of the new season's shadings. 19 inches wide and worth 85c.
 - 75c yd To \$1.75 for a handsome line of Black and Colored Corded Silks, rich and elegant in lustre and finish.
 - 48c yd For a magnificent line of Colored Satins in every desired shade—all the very newest and worth 65c.
 - 69c yd For very choice assortment of Waist Silks in stripes and checks. All colors and worth fully 85c.
 - \$1.10 yd For your choice of our fine Band Silks in complete range of styles and colors. Ought to be \$1.25.

Colored Dress Goods.

- The popularity of Plaids make Colored Dress Goods an important feature of this season's stock. These special prices are of interest.
- 45c yd For 38-inch Zebe-line Plaids—nice quality and full line of colorings. Sold in other stores at 50c and 59c.
 - 50c yd For 38-inch all wool Camel's Hair Suitings in three shades of grey and brown. Would be cheap at 69c.
 - 65c yd For your choice of a magnificent line of all wool Granite Cloths, full 45 inches wide, five shades of blue, also in castor, brown, heliotrope, garnet, green, cardinal and grey. These goods have never been offered under 75c and are worth more than that.

Jonas Long's Sons

rapidly growing larger, while it is said the increase of insanity is almost beyond belief, yet the traffic which produces both is sanctioned by church and state. There seems to be absolutely no hope if women also are to become drunkards, and yet, with the changed social conditions, this seems inevitable. If the liquor traffic is to continue unchecked.

The tobacco habit also is infinitely stronger and more prevalent here than in the United States, although that may not seem possible. One meets hundreds of men smoking on the streets here where he meets one there, and always a pipe. Cigars are seldom seen and cigarettes not often. Nine men out of ten smoke while walking on the streets with a lady, and do not remove the pipe even in conversation. It is impossible to get away from the odor of tobacco. On top of the buses, where everybody rides in hot weather, all of the men, including the driver, smokes every minute. We went into a crowd one day to view a parade, but had to come away before it passed because every man was smoking a strong black pipe. The women here do not seem to mind it, but take a few whiffs themselves occasionally. It is said that in the "stium quarters" it is not an uncommon sight to see them smoking on the streets. At a dinner of the distinguished women writers of London, given a week or two ago, most of them lighted their cigarettes after the feast. In the "smart set," composed of the nobility, smoking among the high born dames is not an exception. I am told that most of the women's clubs here have their smoking room. How far behind, or in advance, are the women of America in this new departure?

One Cent

A Word

SITUATIONS WANTED ARE INSERTED FREE.

let him loose among the effete inhabitants of Britain. I don't know what he didn't do or say over there, for we could only get information by hearsay, but an American, who met him one night at a club, told us of a conversation which he had heard on that occasion. There was a general talk on the subject of the wild and woolly manners of the southwest and the Texas idea of justice.

"We couldn't have anything like that don't you know, in this country," said an Englishman.

"No, I reckon not," responded the Texan; "it takes a special trainin' that you folks won't ketch up to fer a good many years yet, I reckon."

"I should hope not," laughed the Englishman.

"Taint your fault, though," concluded the Texan; "you can't expect to have all the best things over here, you know."

"It's a good thing, I know," admitted the Englishman, "but yet I think the system is most defective. Judge Lynch is not always in the right."

"I don't know about that," said the Texan, shaking his head doubtfully.

"Now," said the Englishman, conclusively, "are you prepared to say that justice is always promptly administered in this manner?"

The Texan hesitated a moment and showed unmistakable signs of failing to uphold his case.

"I reckon you're half right, colonel," he said. "Sometimes the rope breaks or a gun misses fire the first time, but you oughtn't to hold that ag'n us, fer we never let the case git away."

An Exception.

No song is sweeter as "Home, sweet Home."

That is, provided that the person who is singing it is not a diplomat.

—Washington Star.

\$100 Reward, \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting in the nature of his work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they will refund the money for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

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Hall's Family Pills are the best.