

THE GINGERCAKE MAN.

The Gingercake man was a lump of brown dough. A great rolling pin was run over him, to flatten him out, and he lay there so flat...

Then into the oven they put him to bake. Until he was hard and could stand and not break...

THE SOUTHBURY ROBBERY.

It was the week of the Southbury Jewel case, gentlemen, I'll be back in a few minutes.

In something less than half an hour he returned. "I am afraid I must wish you good night," he said.

Now Mrs. Beddington had some exceptionally fine diamonds, of which she was particularly proud. But they were also a source of considerable anxiety to her, inasmuch as she lived in constant fear of having them stolen.

"For my part, I feel pretty sure that the whole thing is simply a delusion due to nightmare or some such cause. The thought of the fellow was preying on her mind, and when she woke up suddenly she fancied she saw him.

"I can't tell you what a feeling it gave me when I saw him there," she said with a little shudder. "It seemed to send the cold creeps all down my back, and though there were several other people in the carriage I was so frightened that I was half-minded to call the guard; only I recollected that I couldn't prove anything against the man."

The Countess of Woodmansterne was the first to discover her loss. She at once raised the alarm, and it transpired that a number of other ladies had suffered in the same way.

"Indeed, but I am absolutely certain he was nothing of the kind," replied Mrs. Beddington, with conviction. "And if you had been there, Cyrus, and had taken note of his appearance and his behavior, you must have formed the same conclusion as I did."

Of course the unfortunate victims were much upset by the theft, which they felt to be the more aggravating because of Mrs. Beddington's belief that she had been shadowed by a thief had only been taken seriously, instead of being lightly dismissed as the creation of her own nervous fancy.

"You may think it very silly of me," she went on, with a hysterical laugh. "but I have a presentiment that I haven't seen the last of that man, either. And, Cyrus, I do hope you won't sit up very late in the smoking room to-night, for I shall be quite in a fever—I know I shall—until you come up stairs to keep me company."

But several of those ladies whose treasures had escaped took their jewelry, when they were not wearing it, to the manager, who locked it away for them in his safe. One of the Dowagers Lady Titonhohe, on the evening of the second day after the robbery, wanting her diamonds to wear at that night's ball, she went down to the office for her jewel case.

"It's a pity she will give up to these nervous fancies," he said. "She is always imagining that people are after her diamonds. I sometimes almost wish that the diamonds might be stolen and done with—though they are worth £10,000."

"You have made a mistake," she exclaimed. "This is not my jewel case. It is exactly of the same make and appearance as mine, and my key happens to open it, but it is somebody else's."

"Oh! if you please, sir," she exclaimed. "Mrs. Beddington wants you to go up to her at once."

"Of course she took the jewelry herself when she slammed the door and went off early to bed. And then, when she had safely packed the bag into her

Jewel case she sends for her husband, and he has the cool cheek to bring it down and lodge it, for safe custody, in the manager's safe—just where no one would ever think of looking for it. No doubt he foresaw the possibility of his luggage being searched, and so hit upon that audacious method of at once concealing and securing his booty.

"It was certainly a master stroke on the part of our friend Cyrus," concluded the officer, with sneaking admiration, "and, but for this unforeseen mistake in the matter of the jewel cases, would probably have enabled the worthy couple to get safe away with their spoils. But as it is—however, I'll be able to tell you more about that after the next assizes."—London Truth.

A Tonsorial General. Otto von Gottberg, the German journalist, went to Venezuela when the asphalt troubles were interesting. One day he made arrangements to go to the castle to talk to President Castro.

Let us be thankful that we have not got to send the sea to school and teach it to think. The sense of restfulness it gives us, as we contemplate it, comes as a good deal, I suspect, from our feeling that here is one powerful and active creature that we have not got to train. It will take care of itself, and we can take care of ourselves and not bother about it.

Some popular errors concerning volcanoes are pointed out in an amusing and authoritative article by Gaston Bonnier, of the Institute of France, in Harper's Weekly. The eruption of a volcano is an occasion for the reiteration of fundamental errors concerning volcanic phenomena.

Many letters have come to the officers of the army in charge of the relief work, calling attention to mistakes they made personally, or errors of their servants, who packed treasured garments and pieces of finery in the boxes of gifts.

The growing importance of the gulf ports for the shipment of western produce is gathered from a statement recently issued by the Department of Commerce. For the ten months ending with April Galveston, New Orleans and Mobile exported \$39,000,000 worth of breadstuffs, against \$23,000,000 worth for all the Chesapeake ports, including Baltimore, and \$27,000,000 worth for New York.

After several useless attempts to bring over from China the enemies of the purple scale, the aim was finally accomplished by taking small trees infested with the scale, shipping them from California to China, where the scale on the trees were attacked by the parasites, then re-shipping them back to California, bringing both the scale and the parasites on the trees in a living condition.

Str. Wilfred Lawson rejoiced over the fact that 150 of the new members of the British House of Commons are total abstainers.

HYSTERIA IN RELIEF-GIVING.

Remarkable and Bizarre Collection of Gifts Recently Opened in the Relief Store Deposits at San Francisco—Opera Hats and Cloaks, Diamond Ornaments, Patent Leather Shoes and Children's Finery in Quantities—Some Givers Who Made Mistakes—Pets Not Forgotten.

(Special Correspondence of the Evening Post.)

San Francisco.—An overhauling of the gifts of the charitable to the stricken people of San Francisco that has just been made in the Durant School demonstrates that sudden impulses of generosity are often hysterical. In some cases it would seem that these impulses had caused almost temporary insanity; especially in the case of the young woman of Peoria, Ill., who sent the refugees an ermine-trimmed opera cloak in which she left a diamond subburst.

Many of the boxes that have recently been opened show that the senders were either folk who did not stop at reason, or that they delegated the sending of the gifts to ignorant, if not half-witted, servants. More crush opera hats than will be worn in San Francisco for many months to come have recently been opened.

At first the army officers in charge of the distribution of clothing opened only the cases that had been sent by clothing stores and manufacturers. There were also liberal contributions of shoes from retail and wholesale houses. As these were easily handled, and showed excellent judgment in selection, they were disposed of first.

The same may be said of several tons of women's clothing. Much of it would be only suitable for wear either at the opera, a ball, or some similar entertainment. Some of the gowns that were evidently sent by wealthy women are of Paris importation, and have been very little worn.

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Individual donations of food run to an even farther extreme. Several boxes contained cans of truffles, caviar, and pate de fois gras. All sorts of potted meats were sent, but much of this has been distributed to the sick, and this has been distributed in the hospitals.

Among the Alps there are several post offices at a height of 6,000 or 7,000 feet. One letter box, from which the postman makes four collections daily, is nearly 10,000 feet above the sea level.

Bridge, it would appear, is not quite so modern a game as has been supposed. A writer in the London Saturday Review mentions a letter he has received in which it is stated that the game was played as far back as the seventies by the Greek colony in Manchester.

GOOD ROADS



Money in Good Roads.

In his report describing the wonders of the achievement of the American farmer the Secretary of Agriculture does not fail to speak a word of hearty commendation for the attempts that have been made, in a few localities, to improve the condition of the roads.

The first thought of thousands of mothers was undoubtedly of the infant refugees, for there is a vast amount of mysterious little garments that the officers in charge of distribution have been puzzling over. Women were called into straighten the matter out, but the supply of baby clothing is far greater than the demand at present.

A coating of sand on a clay road is a good thing, but the more this sand inclines to gravel the better. Good gravel would be far superior. The exact amount of sand to use will generally have to be determined by experiment in each locality.

Even the refugee dogs have not been forgotten, and some very ornate dog collars have been fished out of the store rooms in the overhauling process. In the Hamilton Square School, where the food supplies were sent, several boxes of dog biscuits have been opened.

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For some time past extensive experiments have been conducted in Europe, and more especially in France, in an endeavor to ascertain the most practical and economical method of preventing dust being raised from streets and roadways.

The use of tar or oil upon the roads of the United States, except in a very few localities, would not be possible, most of the highways being soft "dirt" roads. To be of any practical benefit the road to which the oil of tar is applied must be well built, smooth, and hard.

A number of the local dramatic critics, to gain practical experience, are occupying the stage at the principal theater in Tokio. Large audiences watch their histrionic efforts.

Household Matters.

Sachet For Linen Closet. Dainty little sachet bags for the linen closet or bureau drawer can be quickly made by taking a Japanese napkin or any crinkly paper, wrapping it round a small roll of batting permeated with sweet basil, lavender, orris root or any scent desired, then tying it up at the ends with ribbons, leaving the fluffy ends sticking out.

To Clean Brass. Rub the surface of the metal with rotten-stone and sweet oil, then rub this off with a piece of cotton flannel, and polish with a soft leather. A solution of oxalic acid rubbed over tarnished brass soon removes the tarnish, rendering the metal bright. The acid must be washed off with water, and the brass rubbed with whiting and a soft leather.

Moisten two cups of granulated sugar with enough milk to dissolve it; add a quarter of a teaspoonful of cream of tartar, and put into a sauce pan. Set where the contents will simmer gently. Stir all the time, until a little dropped into cold water is about as stiff as putty.

Washing Light and Dark Gingham. A young mother says she gets more genuine help reading the woman's page in this excellent paper than most any other source, and she now asks me to send a safe recipe for washing her little girl's gingham dresses. She has three little girls. She asks how to keep dresses from fading, as she has not been very fortunate so far.

When foods are to be cooked by the aid of boiling water, yet not in direct contact with the liquids, we call the process steaming. A steamer has two sections; the lower pan or kettle holds the water, while the bottom of the upper portion is perforated, the steam passing through these perforations and cooking the food.

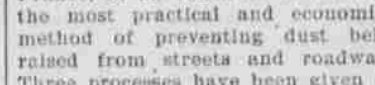
Stuffed Summer Squash—Boil in lightly salted water until tender. Cut off the top and scoop out the inside. Mix with well seasoned and buttered crumbs, chopped onion and grated cheese. Fill the shell, sprinkle the top with buttered crumbs and bake until brown.

Snowballs—Boil rice in salted water till very tender. Wet small cups, and while the rice is still hot pack it in cups till half filled. Set in a cold place for about three hours. Just before dinner scoop out the centre of each and fill with brightly colored jelly or a piece of any kind of preserves. Turn out the molds around the base, taking care to let none of the custard fall on the top of the snowballs, or serve simply with cream and sugar.

Plank Chop—Have the chops cut very thick; broil on one side and arrange crosswise, overlapping each other on the board. Heat a can of macedoine, season with salt, pepper and butter. Arrange these in the form of butterfly wings each side of the chops. Place around a border of mashed potatoes pressed through a star tube. Send at once to the table.

Abattoir for Horses. It is reported that the consumption of horse meat in Neurenburg, where a few years ago it was quite insignificant, has now increased so greatly that the facilities for horse slaughtering at the municipal abattoir have become insufficient, and the city council has been obliged to consider the construction of a new abattoir for horses, the cost of which is estimated at \$42,000.

Good Things to Eat



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