

### PRESIDENTIAL FADS.

Our National Executives Have All Had Their Hobbies.

Every president since the time of Washington has had some particular pet amusement.

As every one knows, George Washington was a great sportsman. His greatest pleasure was in following the hounds, mounted on a tiptoed hunter. He was an athlete in his youth and his love of outdoor life continued to the day of his death. When he was president, his chief diversion was horseback riding. He was fond of dancing, too, and regularly attended the assemblies in the long room in the City Tavern at Alexandria, says the Washington Post.

Thomas Jefferson sought relief from the cares of state in his love for music. He was a clever performer on the violin and whistled away many hours sawing away on his beloved fiddle. He had a taste for mechanical inventions, too, and some of his happiest moments were those spent in trying to evolve some labor-saving device.

President Tyler had a deep and abiding love for the good American game of poker. Surrounded by a few chums, he spent many pleasant evenings drawing to bobtail flushes, filling against four aces and hoisting the full houses, bluffing on deuces, lucking ante. The stakes were invariably small, but history says that he was a bad loser.

Andrew Jackson was passionately fond of cockfighting, and when he left the Hermitage to run the nation at Washington he brought with him two of his finest fighting cocks. These he matched against the gamest roosters in the surrounding country, but the Tennessee article made but a feeble showing against the Virginia breed. President Jackson brought on several other pairs, but his birds invariably met defeat, and in this respect he said that his administration was a lamentable failure.

President W. H. Harrison was not much of an epicure, but he had a great fancy for doing the marketing for the family. Every morning he would trudge to the market place with a basket on his arm and return an hour later carrying 40 or 50 pounds of produce.

General Grant was fond of fast driving, and he had some notable trotters in his stables during his two terms. In the evening he would play Boston with some of his army chums. He cared little for riding and was rarely seen on horseback in Washington. —Atlanta Constitution.

### LATEST IN MONEY SWEATING

How a \$20 Goldpiece Was Doctored by the Unscrupulous.

One of the most puzzled men in town is a Montgomery street restaurant keeper, who recently took in a \$20 goldpiece which filled all the ordinary requirements of genuineness so far as the superficial test could reveal the true facts. But a few days ago a banker stepped into his place and saw the \$20 piece which the restaurant man had received only a short time before. The banker had a queer look in his eyes as he took the coin and rapped it sharply with his knife, and the restaurant keeper had a stranger expression as he saw his supposed \$20 piece break into two pieces.

"How is this?" he demanded.

The banker answered: "It is the same old game. I had one of those pieces myself, and since then I have tested goldpieces of the \$20 denomination very carefully. If that had been genuine, my test would not have broken it."

Then the restaurant keeper and the banker carefully examined it together. The outside of the goldpiece was all right, seemingly, when the disassembled parts were placed together. The milling seemed to be up to the standard. The weight was correct, but the inside of the piece was half filled with a composition which was not the customary gold and alloy. Still closer examination revealed that the gold had been sawed through with exquisite care and skill just inside of the milling. Then the milling had been removed and from the interior of the piece some of the gold had been extracted and the baser composition was made to take the place of the more precious metal. Then, with equal deftness and skill, the milling had been replaced and soldered in some way and the trick was done. —San Francisco Call.

### A Contrary Flag.

If ever there was anything in the world that went by contraries, it is the Chinese flag. It will be recalled that it is one of the gayest of national standards. The body of the banner is of a pale yellow. In the upper left hand corner is a small red sun, and looking at it is a fierce Chinese dragon. About 1,000 years ago, so the story runs, the Chinese made war upon the Japanese. They prepared for a great invasion. As a prophecy of victory they adopted a standard which is that of the present time. They took the sun of Japan and made it very small. This they put in front of the dragon's mouth to express the idea that the Chinese dragon would devour the Japanese. It happened, however, that the Chinese fleet, conveying an army of 100,000 men, was wrecked on its way to Japan by a great storm, and all but three of the 100,000 perished. The result of the last war has not been any more convincing than the first affair that the Chinese flag has been correctly conceived. —Pittsburg Dispatch.

### Blood and Dogs.

In Arkansas a man's social standing is gauged by the dogs he keeps. I remember hearing several planters at a little way station in that state discuss a new arrival among them, who, of course, was not present.

"No," said one old fellow, "I hain't met up with him yet, and I don't want to nuther. I don't like the looks of his dogs nohow. Fine blooded dogs always go with fine blooded folks. Never knew it to fail. He's a scrub." —Chicago Times-Herald.

### Famous Kickers.

A writer who knows what he is talking about says in an exchange:

Most of us are familiar with the way in which a horse or mule kicks, but few of us know how a camel expresses his anger. The camel doesn't seem to be out of temper. He lazily chews his cud, with his eyes half closed, and those not familiar with his ways might fancy that he is half asleep. But directly he draws a hind leg up under him, and then, as soon as the object of his wrath is in range, he sends his hoof straight back like a shot. I have seen a heavy man sent whirling several yards in a dense crowd by the kick of a camel.

An emu can kick as hard as a horse. I have seen men kicked so hard by this vicious bird that their legs were broken. If I had my choice of being kicked by a horse or an emu, I think I would take the horse. The emu stands on one leg and with the other strikes a quick and most paralyzing blow. I never would have believed that a bird had such power had I not had ocular evidence of it during this trip. After two or three of our men had suffered from the terrible kicks of these birds we did not venture near them, but, after running our horses till we got close enough, would bring them down with our rifles. We did not approach them till we knew they were dead.

We killed them for their feathers, although they are not so valuable as those of the ostrich. We also hunted for the eggs, which are to be found in the sand, but in doing this we took care not to collide with the emu. The eggs are more in demand than the feathers. They are very beautiful and are so tough that it is difficult to break them. Professional curio makers drill a hole in each end, take the inside out and then the shell is carved and mounted in silver.

### The Drama, Past and Present.

Lamentation over the inferiority of the present to the past has been going on probably ever since there was a past sufficiently remote to be halloed by distance, and critics of a certain class have always failed to realize that what they really regret is youth, not the conditions under which youth was passed. The deterioration of the stage has been for ages the constant topic of comment, which, considering the steady improvement in plays as plays, is as ludicrously unvarying as it is willfully inaccurate. The Pall Mall Gazette has dug out of one of its first numbers a criticism, written in 1865 by George Henry Lewes, and it calls attention to the curious likeness which his words present to what one not infrequently hears today.

"The present condition of the drama," wrote Mr. Lewes in the time which has come to be called "the good old days," "is deplored by all lovers of the art." And he went on in an amusingly familiar strain to say: "It is the more irritating because never were theaters so flourishing. A variety of concurrent causes, which need not here be enumerated, has reduced the stage to its present pitiable condition. We have many theaters nightly crowded by an eager but uncritical public and no one theater in which a critical public can hope to enjoy a tolerable performance. Yet there is a smaller public choice in its tastes and large enough to support a theater, which would eagerly welcome a fine actor or a well written drama." Surely it is to laugh. —New York Times.

### Scene Painting as an Art.

It is a dangerous experiment now for even a barnstorming, melodramatic troupe to carry inadequate and ugly scenery. While a writer in Le Figaro complains that "a subscriber of the Comedie Francaise would be ashamed to applaud a scene" an American audience is always prompt and hearty with recognition of a good stage picture and on occasions even calls out the painter. In all important productions the name of the painter of each scene is printed in the programme, and half a dozen names have thus become familiar to the general public. The very decent compensation for good scene painting and the fascinating problems that endear success should commend it most highly to the interests of the best artists. The painter with a tendency to landscape can find congenial employment for his highest flights of fancy and his most intimate psychologies of nature. The impressionist is particularly needed to carry out the revolution now waging on the stage against the old grayness and dull severity of the bituminous school. —Scribner's.

### The Best Mahogany.

The best mahogany comes from Liverpool. The Liverpool timber merchants have long controlled the mahogany trade, and they get most of the best logs from the West Indies and latterly even from Mexico. Much mahogany is brought to New York directly from the mahogany ports, especially those of Mexico, but for especially choice logs New York importers still look to Liverpool. Indeed English timber merchants own a good deal of the mahogany now lying at the Lewis street inspection yards. Some of it has lain there nearly ten years, subject to damage by the elements, while the British owners wait for better prices. —New York Sun.

### Smart Pupil.

Teacher—Can you tell me in what year Caesar invaded Britain?  
Pupil—Yes'm.  
Teacher—What year was it?  
Pupil—You can't expect me to answer two questions in succession. That question belongs to the next in the class. —Boston Transcript.

It is often said that Newcastle is the most drunken town for its size in England, but it does not follow that it is so. At any rate, the amount of crime does not support the oft repeated assertion—the libel, as many think, on the fair fame of the city.

Only 2 per cent of the Siberian run-aways escape with their lives.

### A Common Danger.

If you have ever had a cold which you permitted to "wear away" it may interest you to know that it was a dangerous proceeding. Every cold and cough which is neglected paves the way for consumption, bronchitis, asthma or catarrh. Otto's Cure, the famous German throat and lung remedy, will cure any cough or cold and save you from consumption. Call on H. Alex. Stoke and get a sample bottle free. Large size 25c. and 50c.

### The Work of Honeybees.

To secure a pound of honey, which is equivalent to something like 5,000 cells, would take a bee several years. In fine weather the bee makes calls upon 50 to 80 flowers in a day's outing. During this time it collects what is equivalent to a grain of nectar, which is a thin sirup and has to be evaporated to make honey. The bee, after working all day, spends the greater part of the night fanning the nectar with its wings to evaporate the surplus water. In this way it shortens its life by wearing out its wings. Langstroth says that a bee at the height of the working season lives about three working weeks and then dies. Bees frequently perish on the way home because their wings are so shattered and enfeebled that they refuse to support the body. If a disabled bee reaches the hive alive, it spends the remainder of its days as nurse, house-keeper and in general utility work. A good and fertile queen bee keeps the hive full of bees during the season. When the honey flow stops, she ceases laying at once; then the workers kill all of the drones and manifest other symptoms of a consuming desire for retrenchment. —New York Ledger.

### The Juvenile Witness.

The late Mr. Isaac Butt, Q. C., M. P., was fond of relating two answers which he himself heard given to the late Chief Justice Lefroy, lord chief justice of Ireland, by children. In the first instance a little boy, whose testimony was of importance in a case of riot between Protestants and Catholics, was asked what would happen to him if he did not tell the truth. "When I die, sir," was the reply, "I should go where the Catholics go." On a similar question being put to an intelligent little girl, she replied, after a pause, "I suppose I should not get my expenses." —Westminster Gazette.

It is not widely known that Queen Victoria rules over more Mohammedans than the sultan of Turkey, over more Jews than there are in Palestine and over more negroes than any other sovereign who is not a native of their country.

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