

WHY WINE FIRST TO HOST.

In America a Mere Formality, but in Italy a Real Necessity.

The wine was opened dextrously by the waiter, who before serving the guests poured a few drops into the host's glass.

"Why did this waiter give you a little wine before helping the rest of us?" asked a man of curious mind.

"Oh," said the host, "that's always done."

"I know it's always done. That does not answer my question, though. Here, waiter," the man persisted, "you tell me why when you open a bottle of wine you pour a few drops into the host's glass before serving the guests."

The waiter smiled and answered: "It's a matter of form, sir; an old custom, a politeness. Its origin lies in the fact that after the removal of the cork there might be left in the neck of the bottle a little dust or a few specks of cork. The first drops poured out would in that event contain the dust or the cork, and thus the guest were served first might get this refuse; hence the host is given the first drops."

"As a matter of fact, if you know how to open wine you have no difficulty in keeping the bottle's neck clean. The custom, therefore, is a formality in America. In Italy, though, it is a real necessity, for over there they pour a little oil in the necks of their bottles of wine before corking on the ground that this makes the wine air tight. No doubt it does, but it also in some cases gives to the first glass from the bottle a decidedly oily flavor. Therefore the first glass the host gallantly takes."—Philadelphia Record.

HE WON THE AUDIENCE.

The Way Fred Douglass Got the Best of Captain Rynders.

The inexhaustible sense of humor in Frederick Douglass kept him clear of any sense of gloom, as was never better seen than on the once famous occasion when the notorious Isiah Rynders of New York, at the head of a mob, had interrupted an anti-slavery meeting, captured the platform, placed himself in the chair and bidden the meeting proceed. Douglass was speaking and, nothing loath, made his speech only keener and keener for the interference, weaving around the would-be chairman's head a wreath of delicate sarcasm which carried the audience with it, while the diller wits of the burly despot could hardly follow him. Knowing only in a general way that he was being dissected, Rynders at last exclaimed, "What you abolitionists want to do is to cut all our throats!" "Oh, no," replied Douglass in his most dulcet tones; "we would only cut your hair." And, bending over the shaggy and frowny head of the Bowery tyrant, he gave a suggestive motion as of scissors to his thumb and forefinger with a professional politeness that instantly brought down the house, friend and foe, while Rynders quitted the chair in wrath and the meeting dissolved itself amid general laughter. It was a more cheerful conclusion perhaps than that stormier one—not unknown in reformatory conventions—with which Shakespeare so often ends his scenes, "Exit fighting."—Thomas Wentworth Higginson in Atlantic.

Which Is the Larger Income?

Here is an interesting problem in mathematics: Two clerks are engaged, one at a salary which begins at the rate of \$100 a year, with a yearly rise of \$20, and the other at a salary commencing at the same rate, but with a half yearly rise of \$5. In each case payments are made half yearly. Which of them has the larger income? Who is not tempted to say the former? Yet the latter is the correct answer, for in the first year the first clerk receives \$100, but the second clerk receives \$50 and \$55, which amounts to \$105 in the year. The first clerk in the second year gets, to be sure, \$120, but No. 2 gets \$60 for the first half year and \$65 for the second, or \$125 in all.

Gen in England in the Old Days.

Before intoxicating liquor was made dear by taxes and its sale was regulated by licenses the use of it in England was astonishingly common. Not only were there in London 6,000 or 7,000 regular dramshops, but cheap gin was given by masters to their work people instead of wages, sold by barbers and tobacconists, hawked about the streets on barrows by men and women, openly exposed for sale on every market stall, forced on the maid-servants and other purchasers at the chandler's shop, until, as one contemporary writer puts it, "one-half of the town seems set up to furnish poison to the other half."

In the Nursery.

"Mamma, why do landladies object to children?" "Mother—I'm sure I don't know. But go and see what baby is crying about and tell Johnny to stop throwing things at people in the street and make George and Kate cease fighting and tell Dick if he doesn't stop blowing that tin trumpet I'll take it away from him.—Tit-Bits.

Their Celebrations.

Hicks—Going to celebrate your wedding, are you? Wicks—Yes. Hicks—Well, I guess I'll celebrate my wouldn't wedding. It was just five years ago that that girl from Chicago said she wouldn't marry me.—Somerville (Mass.) Journal.

Properly Diagnosed.

Lushman—I'm troubled with headaches in the morning. It may be an account of my eyes. Perhaps I need stronger glasses. Dr. Strude—No; I think you merely need weaker glasses and fewer at night.—Exchange.

The Mischievous Magpie.

Here is an anecdote illustrative of the magpie's love of mischief and of sport: There was a field wherein clothes were often hung out to dry on posts which were let down into deep wooden sockets buried in the ground and were carried away and put under cover when they were not in use. A gravel path ran round the field, and a tame magpie, which had the run of it, was observed to walk repeatedly and demurely from the path to a particular point in the field, conveying each time a stone in her bill and then returning without it. A magpie seldom continues at any one amusement for any length of time, but this amusement went on so long that the curiosity of the owner was aroused. There must be something unusually novel or pleasant about it. He went to the spot and found that a large toad had fallen into one of the wooden sockets and that the magpie was amusing herself by deliberately stoning it! As each shot told, and the toad gave a little hop of distress in the hole deep below, which the magpie capped by a big hop of satisfaction and an irresistible "craack" of delight above.—R. Rosworth Smith in Nineteenth Century.

The Goose and Griddle.

There existed in London long before the great fire in St. Paul's churchyard a very popular music house called the Miter. Here concerts were held, and the music at these performances had at least the merit of volume and joyousness. But the great fire laid the building in ruins and banished the music. When the place was rebuilt, the new tenant, wishing to ridicule the character of the former business, chose as his sign a goose stroking the bars of a griddle with her foot and wrote below, "The Swan and Harp." At the Goose and Griddle, Sir Christopher Wren presided over the St. Paul's lodge of Freemasons for over eighteen years, and he presented to the lodge the trowel and mallet with which he laid the first stone of the cathedral. The goose is still preserved with her unmusical "harp" in Guildhall.—Julian King Colford in St. Nicholas.

Colombian Natives.

In Colombia the huts of the poor are of logs, with bamboo plaited sides and mud filled chinks. The windows have wooden shutters, but no glass. Sleeping places are bamboo benches with hide thrown over them, or hammocks woven by the women. Gods of various shapes and sizes do duty for dishes, spoons and knives. Chairs and benches are hollowed logs of wood. But the peons like their living easily and enjoy life well. They delight in music and dancing, and women as well as men are smokers. Cockfighting is a favorite amusement.

Wooden Shoes.

Wooden shoes in France are produced to the extent of about 4,000,000 pairs yearly. They are made in Alsace and Barriers by machinery and in Lorraine by hand. In the last named province 1,700 persons are engaged in this manufacture, and the yearly product is more than half a million pairs. The best are made of maple. In the provinces nearly every lady possesses a pair of the finer sabots for wearing out in damp weather. These have monograms and other designs carved on the vamps, and they are kept on the foot by ornamental leather pieces over the instep. The manufacture of these pieces of leather is a regular business in France.

How She Got New Clothes.

The lawyers at Iowa were swapping yarns the other day during a recess in the district court. A lawyer whose wife is marked for her good dressing told how he had come to be such a good provider. Soon after he was married his wife met a girlhood friend. The friend said to her that she wasn't as well dressed as she used to be before marriage. "Oh, you are mistaken," said the wife. "I am wearing the same clothes I did then."—Kansas City Journal.

Suitable Text.

"Dr. Thirdly is certainly an up to date clergyman," said Fodskick. "So?" said Keedleek. "Yes, sir. One of his parishioners was killed by the explosion of his automobile, and the doctor took for the text of his funeral sermon the Biblical account of Elijah going to heaven in a chariot of fire."—Smart Set.

A Traitor.

Ethel (aged six)—Oh, gracious! She's just a horrid person. She's forever wishing she was a boy. Minnie (also six)—Well, I'm sure I wish I was too. Ethel—Of course, but she wishes it out loud so the boys can hear her.—Philadelphia Press.

Inebriety.

Inebriety is called a disease, but is a disease of the will. As with the hysteric, the inebriate said, "I cannot;" it looked like "I will not;" it is "I cannot will." Its successful treatment involves the problem of how to rehabilitate a human will.—Exchange.

Left the Worry to the Doctor.

"How about that little bill?" asked the doctor. "Why, doctor," was the reply, "only a little while before you sent it in you told me not to let anything worry me, and I haven't!"—Chicago Post.

Force without Intelligence.

Force without intelligence is like a locomotive without a track or an engine.—Schoolmaster.

A GRASSHOPPER RACE.

Mackay Won It Because the Professor Got the Wrong Bottle.

John W. Mackay was an early riser, a hard worker and, although exceedingly hospitable, was himself abstemious and could seldom be induced to play cards for money, and then for only nominal stakes. The only game that seemed to attract him was the "grasshopper races" with which the gaming superintendents on the Comstock beguiled a portion of the noon hour while waiting for luncheon at the Savage company boarding house. Boys caught grasshoppers and sold them to the players at 25 to 50 cents each. Each player paid a fixed stake, ranging from \$1 to \$20, into the pool, and the man whose hopper made the longest jump captured the pool. On the day before Christmas it was agreed to celebrate that holiday with a pool the stakes in which were to be \$100 for each player. The terms were "play or pay," and at the instance of a German professor who was a superintendent of a leading mine that holiday with a pool the stakes in which were to be \$100 for each player. The terms were "play or pay," and at the instance of a German professor who was a superintendent of a leading mine that holiday with a pool the stakes in which were to be \$100 for each player.

Noses.

One of the most brilliant essays on anatomy is the one which classes noses not by origin, but by mentality. The aquiline nose, for example, is the sign of goodness, amiability and weakness. By that nose Louis XVI. was led to the guillotine. Let us have commiseration for the nose that is very slightly prominent. It is the muzzle of a sheep and belongs to people who are easily deceived. Distrust the nose with the medium part elongated. That elongation marks the extent of desires and the insatiability of appetites. Look out also for the ferret nose, with its sharp point, always on the scent for secrets. It is the nose of the inquisitor. The devil-may-care nose is slightly turned up at the end. It denotes a character without firmness. But when you see a nose that rises from the depths of the orbits and stands out in bold relief take off your hat. You are in the presence of the nose of a thinker.—Toronto Mail.

Brain Work and Longevity.

In a lecture on longevity delivered before the Royal College of Physicians Sir Hermann Weber, himself an octogenarian, gave official support to the doctrine that brain work does not kill, but rather the reverse. A few of his instances were Sophocles, Plato, Galen, Cleora, Moltke, Bismarck, Mommsen and Gladstone, to whom we might add Hobbes, Carlyle, Spencer and Kelvin. The facts are that brain work increases the supply of blood to the nerve cells and promotes their nutrition and health. Mosso, an Italian, laid a man on a delicately balanced table and showed that the head end sank whenever the subject did a mental sum or any other brain work. The increased weight of his head was due to the life giving blood. The truth is that brain work, as such, never killed anybody.—London Chronicle.

Pence and Bones.

A writer in a London newspaper says: "The other day I heard an Englishman defending our system of coinage on the ground that we are the only nation on earth who can say that the system is home of our bone. For there are 240 bones in the body and 240 pence in the pound; there are 120 bones in the head and trunk and 120 in the limbs and 120 pence in half a sovereign; each limb contains 30 bones, and a half crown contains 30 pence; in the spinal column there are 24 bones and in a florin 24 pence, and as we have 12 ribs on each side, so we have 12 pence in every shilling. See how the proportions of the skeleton of our commerce conform to nature's teaching. No wonder it is vigorous."

The Candle Nut.

The candle nut is a native of the Pacific islands, and the name is derived from the fact that the kernels are so full of oil that when dried they are stuck on reeds and used as candles. The people of Hawaii, after having roasted these nuts and removed the shells, reduce the kernels to a paste, which is flavored with pepper and salt and is said to be a most appetizing dish. The husk of the nut and the gum which exudes from the tree have medicinal values, while the burned shell of the kukui is used to make an indelible ink with which tattooing is done.

Figuring It Out.

"Did the old lady give you anything when you took her trunk upstairs without knocking the lid off?" inquired the first porter. "No, but she thanked me kindly." "Well, kind words will never die," returned the first porter. "Neither will they buy groceries."—Cleveland Leader.

Disposing of Papa.

"I always contend, sir," said the girl's father meaningly, "that young men should be in bed before 10:30 each night." "Yes," replied the young man who was calling on the girl. "I hope you set that good example yourself, sir."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Unusual.

Old Chum—What made you decide to marry her? Newly Married—Because during our long acquaintance she never once sent me a sofa pillow.—Detroit Free Press.

The Sophisticated Wife.

Mr. Newrich (in city)—Mariar, pass them beans. Mrs. Newrich—Don't be absurd. Frank. Them's salted ammons.—Pennsylvania Punch Bowl.

Tears in Bad Taste.

"That young vixen told me she wept over my column." "You ought to feel flattered." "Idiot! It's a funny column!"—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

Poisons.

Snake poison would kill the strongest man if the smallest possible drop of it were injected into his veins or laid on a cut finger or chapped lip. But the smallest child might drink a teaspoonful—probably a glassful—without suffering the least injury. The same is true of most of the poisons savages inject into their arrows, and you can suck the dangerous wound with impunity.

Newton's Blue.

It is well known that under the action of gravity the water composing such a thin shell as a soap bubble tends to run down on all sides, so that the walls of the bubble grow thin at the top and thicken toward the bottom. After a time the bubble becomes so thin at the top that further flow of water from this point can hardly take place, and finally the bubble bursts. But before this last stage is reached a degree of thinness in the walls of the bubble is attained which causes it to glow with brilliant iridescent colors. Newton noticed that on top of the thin bubble illuminated by white sky light a black spot is formed. With increase of thickness downward from this point on all sides, a red band next appears; then a blue one; then again red and blue, red and blue, and so on, the colors showing more extremes of red and purple in the higher orders. This blue band which first expands outward from the black spot at the top and descends slowly with the subsidence of the water Newton called the "blue of the first order," and, although somewhat dingy, he judged it to be of the same tint as the blue of the sky.—T. J. See in Atlantic.

Inquisitive Birds.

Of the birds undoubtedly the blue jays have the most inquisitiveness. And they are the most noisy in expressing it, although crows will hold a close second place, if not fully the equal. How the jays screeched and whistled and called—a confusion of all the sounds of jaydom—near my home! More than a dozen darted into a small evergreen tree on the lawn. People came from several houses in the vicinity, all curious to know what was the matter with the birds. It seemed to be a "want to know" on both sides. The jays had discovered a cat walking meekly along by the fence in the low shrubbery near and under the spruce tree. There was no nest in the vicinity, and, so far as could be ascertained, the cat had not attacked the jays. But what a pandemonium of jay jargon over one meek looking, quiet cat! The jays outdid themselves and called out nearly all the occupants of the many houses on that street.—St. Nicholas.

To Restore Leather Bindings.

To restore the leather bindings of books wash them first very lightly and carefully with clean warm water in which a tiny piece of soda has been dissolved, in order to free the leather from grease; then wash with clear water to remove the soda, and dry. Dissolve a bit of gum arabic the size of a small bean in a teaspoonful of water and beat it up with a teaspoonful of the white of an egg. With a bit of sponge go lightly over the leather with this glair and let it dry. Should the glair froth up on the leather, as it is very likely to do if there is much hot work on the book, dab it until it subsides with the palm of the hand or with the sponge squeezed as dry as possible.

Her Husband's Male Friends.

One of the most complicated duties of a wife is the shuffling off of her husband's male friends, says the Ladies' Field. Fifty per cent can go at once, for half a man's bachelor associates are, according to his wife, not fit for polite society, either because they have no manners or because they wear the wrong sort of collars. Ten per cent she may genuinely dislike, or possibly they may not take to her. Some of the rest are on the borderland of toleration, but most of them have a knack of dropping off by slow degrees. Possibly this is the inward and spiritual meaning of the farrowed bachelors' dinner, though they never realize it at the time.

The Lion Didn't Roar.

It is related that Pinnow, the faithful servant and personal valet of Prince Bismarck, once trod on his master's gouty foot. Instead of swearing at him or even declaring he was a clumsy fool, Bismarck, noticing that Pinnow himself was frightened, said: "Consider yourself honored. No other person, my dear Pinnow, not even the kaiser himself, would have been suffered to tread on my corns."

Something Was.

Rivers was smoking a cheap cigar. "Seems to me," said Brooks, "I smell something like cloth burning." But Rivers was game. He touched the lighted end of his cigar to his shirt sleeve. "No wonder," he said, exhibiting the burned spot.—Chicago Tribune.

A Strict Grammarian.

"You think a great deal of your husband, don't you?" said the visiting relative. "You have the wrong proposition," answered Mr. Meekton's wife, with the cold tones of the superior woman. "I think for him."—Washington Star.

More to the Point.

Hicks—I suppose you heard that our house was robbed? Wicks—Yes. I understand that the thieves ransacked the place simply beggared description. Hicks—Not only that, but it very nearly beggared me.—Exchange.

As Wasps Do.

Jinks—I'll never get into an argument with him again. He's entirely too bitter. Winks—Is he really? Jinks—Oh, a regular wasp. Winks—I see. He always carries his point.—Catholic Standard.

Stepped Gambling.

Blunt—I hear Blones has stopped gambling. Front—That's true. I bet him \$100 this morning that he couldn't stop, and he took me up.—Yonkers Herald.

COMMISSIONER'S STATEMENT OF THE FINANCES OF JEFFERSON COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 1903

Table showing Amount Outstanding for 1903 by Districts and Collectors. Columns include Districts, Collectors, County, Bond, State, Dog, and Poor.

Amount Outstanding for 1897, 1901 and 1902

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