

Fishing For Sea Fowl.
Catching gulls and other sea fowl by a baited hook and line is a barbarous practice which is sometimes resorted to by sailors. The same method was employed in former times for catching herons. A long line of silk, with a strand of wire twisted in, was fixed to a stone at one end and to hooks at the other. The bait was then put out in shallow water, where the birds seek their food, either in a stream or at the edge of a pond. When the heron pounced the bait the hooks lodged in his gullet, and the strand of wire in the line prevented it from being bitten through.

Unpardonable.
"In what family were you last employed?" asked Mrs. Fields-James.
"In the family of Mrs. Boscommon," replied the applicant for a position of governess.
"May I ask why you left her?"
"Her superficiality and lack of general information rendered my position unendurable. She was unaware of the distinction between an anachronism and an anomaly."—Chicago Tribune.

The Mute's Placid State.
"Is that your name?" asked the man who was going fishing.
"Yes, sir," said the colored man who was sitting on a log by the road.
"Does he kick?"
"Deed, mistah, he ain't got no cause to kick. He's gittin' his own way right along. I'm de one dat's havin' de worry an' de diff'ulty."—Exchange.

All She Wanted.
"She's a lovely girl and so simple in her tastes. I told her that I hadn't much of an income yet, but that I hoped I could provide for her every want."
"And what did she say?"
"She said that would be all she could ask."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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MARVELS OF MEMORY

SOME REMARKABLE INSTANCES OF THE POWER OF RECOLLECTION.

An Englishman Whose Wonderful Gift of Retention Brought Dismay to Voltaire—A Reporter Who Did Not Have to Take Notes.

Extraordinary memories have attracted the attention of men in all ages, and in these days a man with a retentive memory is considered to be more or less gifted.

Some good instances of remarkable memories are to be gathered from the records of Greece and Rome. Themistocles, a famous Greek general, is said to have known every citizen in Athens. No doubt Otto, the Roman emperor, owed much of his success to a remarkable memory. He learned the name of every soldier and officer in his army, and this, among other things, rendered him so popular that he was at length acclaimed emperor.

Hortensius, the Roman orator, is said to have been able, after sitting a whole day at a public sale, to give an account from memory of all things sold, with the prices and names of the purchasers.

Coming to later times, the following anecdote affords an instance of wonderful powers of memory: An Englishman went to Frederick the Great of Prussia for the express purpose of giving him an exhibition of his powers of recollection. Frederick sent for Voltaire, who was then residing at the Prussian court. At the king's request Voltaire read a long poem which he had just composed. The Englishman was present and was in such a position that he could hear every word of the poem, though he was concealed from Voltaire's notice. After the reading of the poem Frederick observed to the author that the production could not be an original one, as there was a foreign gentleman present who could recite every word of it. Voltaire listened in amazement to the stranger as he repeated, word for word, the poem which he had been at so much pains in composing, and, giving way to a momentary outbreak of passion, he tore the manuscript in pieces. He was then informed how the Englishman had become acquainted with his poem, and his anger being appeased he was willing to do penance by copying down the work from the second repetition of the stranger, who was able to go through it as before.

There lived in the sixteenth century at Padua a law student who had trained his memory to such a high degree of perfection that he could recite 35,000 words after once hearing them read. Jedediah Buxton, an illiterate person of the eighteenth century, used to put his memory to a curious use. On one occasion he mentioned the quantity of ale he had drunk free of cost since he was twelve years old and the names of the gentlemen who had given it to him. The whole amounted to 5,116 pints.

As again showing that retentive gifts were not found in the educated alone, there is a notable instance of "Blind Janie," who lived some years ago in Stirling. He was a poor, uneducated man and totally blind, yet he could actually repeat after a few minutes' consideration any verse required from any part of the Bible, even the obscurest and least important.

An instance of a wager being won by a feat of memory was that of a person who repeated an entire newspaper, advertisements as well, after a single reading.

The power of retaining events has sometimes been manifested in a marked degree. A laboring man named McCartney, at fifty-four years of age, claimed that he could recollect the events of every day for forty years. A test was made by a well known public man who had kept a written record for forty-five years. The man's statement was fully corroborated—indeed, so accurate was his recollection that he could recall without apparent effort the state of the weather on any given day during those forty years.

Another instance of a wager being won by a feat of recollection was that of Mr. Futter, who several years ago was a well known title collector in Norfolk. He wagered that he could recollect every word of a sermon that was to be preached and afterward write it out verbatim. He was not seen to take notes and at the close of the sermon retired to a room and wrote out the sermon. On comparison with the manuscript, which the preacher had been asked to bring for the purpose, it was found to vary in one instance only, where a synonym had been used, but in that Mr. Futter was proved to be correct, for the clergyman had a distinct recollection of substituting one word for the other in his delivery.

When reporting was forbidden in the houses of parliament and any one seen to make notes was immediately ejected from the public press. It was discovered that one Woodfall used to be present in the gallery during the speeches and, sitting with his head between his hands, actually committed the speeches to memory. They were afterward published.

Lord Macaulay had a marvelous facility for remembering what he read. He once declared that if by accident all the copies of Milton's "Paradise Lost" were destroyed he would be able to write out the whole of this long poem without a single error. In fact, he once performed the marvelous feat of repeating the whole poem, making only one omission.

Charles Dickens, after once walking down a street, could remember the names of all the shopkeepers and their businesses.—London Spare Moments.

Telegraph posts along a railway are arranged thirty to the mile.

YELLOWSTONE PARK.

She Meets With Nature's Surprises There at Every Turn.

Probably no area of equal extent contains so great a number of natural objects capable of arousing wonder, enthusiasm and awe as are found crowded together in the park. Its many scenic features of restful charm, found alongside areas of never ending activity, with weird, grotesque surroundings, surprise one at every turn. Yellowstone lake, the largest sheet of water in America at so high an elevation, with its incalculable shore line and 140 square miles of surface dotted with forested islands, presents to lovers of nature a series of picturesque landscapes unequalled upon any other inland waters. The far famed falls of the Yellowstone, with their unique and marvelous rock setting, and the Grand canyon, with its majestic outlines and brilliant coloring, are worthy of all the praise bestowed upon them and merit a separate descriptive article. More than a score of waterfalls and cascades, some of them of exquisite grace and beauty, pour the waters from the uplands to the lowlands. Many of them well deserve a visit, but their fame is obscured by the real marvels of the Yellowstone. Again, the fossil forests, so seldom visited, tell a most interesting story of a buried plant world, of explosive eruptions of mud volcanoes and the gradual piling up of erupted lavas and ashes. All these, enticing as they seem, appear insignificant when compared with the hydrothermal phenomena displayed in geysers, boiling springs, hot lakes, solfataras and numerous fumaroles, which have gained for the park the appellation of the wonderland of America. Unquestionably it is this hot water treatment which the region has undergone that has developed most of the objects of interest and made the park famous the world over. Even the lake owes much of its attractiveness to its hot springs and point pots, and the Grand canyon would lack its brilliancy of coloring and its sculptured buttressed walls but for the long continued action of hot as well as cold water.—Arnold Hague in Scribner's.

A TOBACCO LEGEND.
The story of the way in which man obtained the weed.
An ethnologist tells an interesting story as to how tobacco was first obtained by man, according to the traditions of the Menominee Indians: "One day the god here, Manabozo, was on a journey, when he perceived a delightful odor. It seemed to come from a crevice in the cliffs high up on a mountain side. On going closer he found a cavern which was occupied by a giant. In fact, the giant was the tenant of the mountain, and from the mouth of the cave a passage led down into the very center of the hill, where there was a large chamber. Around the chamber were stacked great quantities of bags filled with curious dried leaves. From the leaves proceeded the delicious fragrance.

"These leaves were tobacco. Once a year, the giant explained, all of the spirits came to the mountain for the purpose of smoking this exquisite weed. But it was not possible to give any of it away," said the ethnologist. "Nevertheless Manabozo watched for an opportunity and, snatching up one of the bags, fled, closely pursued by the giant. The thief leaped from peak to peak, but the giant followed so fast as to finally overtake him. So Manabozo turned upon him and, upbraiding him for his stinginess, transformed him into a grasshopper.

"That is the reason why the grasshopper is always chewing tobacco, Manabozo took the bagful of leaves and distributed them among his friends, the ancestors of the Indians of today. Since then they have had the use and enjoyment of the plant."

How Bacon Settled Him.
A story that is told of Leonard Bacon, who was one of the best known theologians in New England in the latter half of the nineteenth century, illustrates the absurdity of a popular kind of argument. Dr. Bacon was attending a conference in one of the New England cities, and some assertions he made in his address were vehemently objected to by a member of the opposition.

"Why," he expostulated, "I never heard of such a thing in all my life!"
"Mr. Moderator," rejoined Bacon calmly, "I cannot allow my opponent's ignorance, however vast, to offset my knowledge, however small."—Harper's Weekly.

A Queer Custom.
Between the mountains of India and Persia is a powerful tribe among whom an extraordinary custom prevails. Women's rights have apparently received full recognition, for the ladies of the tribe can choose their own husbands. All a single woman has to do when she wishes to change her state is to send a servant to pin a handkerchief to the hat of a man on whom her fancy lights, and he is obliged to marry her unless he can show that he is too poor to purchase her at the price her father requires.

Easy Explanation.
"How do you account for the fact," asked the doctor, "as shown by actual investigation, that thirty-two out of every hundred criminals in the country are left handed?"
"That's easily accounted for," said the professor. "The other sixty-eight are right handed."—Chicago Tribune.

Bearing the Expense.
"Does your husband keep any horses?"
"Yes," answered young Mrs. Torbins. "He keeps a number of them. But other people own them and manage the races."—Washington Star.

Bloodless.
"I see Jennie Gayleigh is to undergo another operation."
"Dear me! Appendicitis again?"
"No. She's going to have her husband amputated."—Town Topics.

MYSTICAL NUMBER NINE.

It Is a Trinity of Trinities and Is Indicative of Perfection.

Nine is a trinity of trinities and indicates perfection or completion. There are nine earths, nine heavens, nine gods, nine muses, nine worthies, nine crosses, nine points of the law, nine rivers of hell, nine orders of angels and nine circles of rank in Chinese society. Milton, in "Paradise Lost," says: "The gates of hell are thrice threefold—three folds are brass, three folds iron and three folds adamantine rock. They had nine folds, nine plates and nine linings." When the angels were cast out of heaven "nine days they fell."

A cent has nine lives. There are nine crowns in heraldry. Possession is nine points of the law. The whip for punishing evil doers had nine tails, the superstition being that a flogging by a trinity of trinities would be sacred and more efficacious. In order to see the fables, mortals are directed to put nine grains of wheat on a four leaf clover. The hydra had nine heads. Leaves were formerly granted for 999 years. Even now they run for ninety-nine years, the dual of a trinity of trinities. To see nine magpies is most unlucky, as the old Scotch rhyme goes:
One's a sorrow, two's a mirth,
Three's a wedding, four's a birth,
Five's a christening, six a death,
Seven's a heaven, eight is hell,
And nine's the devil his own self.

If a servant finds nine green peas in a pea pod she may lay it on the lintel of the kitchen floor, and the first man that enters is to be her cavalier. When the loving cup goes round it is the custom to drink a three times three toast to the one most highly honored or tenderly loved. As the weird sisters in "Macbeth" danced round the cauldron they sang, "Dance to thine and thrice to mine and thrice again to make up nine," and then declared "the charms would up." The nine of diamonds was considered the curse of Scotland.

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Things which are so heavy on a woman's conscience they cause it to sag don't leave an impression on a man's.

CONDENSED MILK.

Its Discovery Was Brought About by a Woman's Experiments.

"How and when was condensed milk discovered?" said a milk dealer. "Well, that is an easy question, known to all readers of the article.
"It chanced that in 1854 the journey from New Orleans to New York was a considerable trip. A certain lady—Mrs. Albert Cashinger—had a sick baby, and on account of that condensed milk was discovered.

"Mrs. Cashinger's baby was so ill that she realized that it would be necessary to make a trip to New York to receive expert medical attention if she hoped to save the child's life. But to travel that long distance the child had to have milk. Milk wouldn't keep fresh more than a few hours. So there she was, kept back from making the trip merely because she could not supply the child with fresh milk.

"In her despair she began to experiment to see if she could not preserve milk the same as she did jelly or anything else. She tried several different methods and finally hit upon a plan which seemed to give satisfaction. So she preserved several big jars of the stuff, put it upon a sailing vessel and made the trip. The child fed upon the milk and was nourished.

"In New York several men learned of her discovery. They tried to make some of the condensed milk in the manner that she had told them, but failed. They followed her to New Orleans, and there she unwittingly unfolded her valuable secret. On the island of Galveston these men started a small factory, and there the first salable condensed milk was made.
"The woman died poor. The manufacturers made a fortune. Now condensed milk is sold in every part of the world."—Louisville Herald.

CHAMPAGNE MAKING.

The Methods That Are Used in Producing the Wine.

It is to the invention of the champagne cork that the world owes champagne, according to Court Purveyor J. Fromm of Frankfurt, Germany.

This wine is said to have been made successfully by the butler of a monastery near Epinay, in France, in 1643. Until the early part of the nineteenth century sparkling wines were made only in the French province of Champagne.

Next to the wine, carbonic acid forms the most important part of champagne. The picking of the grapes used requires great care to prevent discoloration. The grapes should not contain too much acid and coloring matter, but considerable sugar.

In order that the grapes should not become warm, thereby fermenting prematurely, picking is done in the early morning hours. The grapes are then placed in the press at once and the juice squeezed out very gently. After twelve to twenty-four hours it is run into vats, where its impurities are removed. After the first violent fermentation is over the young wine is put in cool cellars, into barrels of from 125 to 150 gallons. Toward the end of December the young wine is drawn off in order to separate it completely from the yeast.

The wine is then mixed with wines of other years and kinds. It is then bottled and the progress of fermentation carefully watched, the bottles being opened to "disgorge" the albumen, yeast and other products of fermentation which it is necessary to get rid of. It is then sweetened and stored in cellars to mature for the market.

One Kind of Soft Answer.
It lacked but five minutes of the time for the train to start from the downtown station, and the suburbanites were hurrying into it when a man in the garb of a mechanic sat down by the side of a finely dressed passenger in one of the rear car, took a paper from his pocket and began to read.

"Plenty of empty seats in here yet, aren't there?" growled the man in fine raiment, moving along grudgingly.
"Yes, sir," pleasantly replied the newcomer, "but it will be crowded pretty soon, and I thought I'd pick out a gentleman for a seat mate while I had a chance."
"Humph!" granted the other man, uncertain whether to feel complimented or insulted, but realizing the hopelessness of trying to make any fitting rejoinder.—Youth's Companion.

A Matter of Business.
The ladies of the club were closely grouped about the speaker of the afternoon, a remarkably successful woman, in whom commercial and literary ability were admirably balanced.

"Tell us in a few words how to be successful," said one of the ladies insistently.
"To be successful," said the successful one, "all we women have to do is to make as much of a business of our own business as we do of the things that are none of our business."

Comforting.
"George, dear," she said, with a blush, "do you know that Mr. Simpson asked me last night to be his wife?"
"Well, I like his impudence! The idea of proposing to an engaged young lady! What did you say to him?"
"I told him that I was very sorry indeed, but he was too late."—Tit-Bits.

A Leading Question.
Parent—Has that man asked you to marry him, Julia?
Daughter—Not in so many words, but it has amounted to that. Last night he asked me if my dad was as well off as they say he is.—Boston Transcript.

Learn how to listen and you will profit even from those who talk badly.—Plutarch.

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