

A FACE.

Three score years and ten immortal soul had wrought Upon a mortal face With implements too delicate for human eye...

MARY.

The truant officer was young and new to her position, so she looked with interest down the unfamiliar street and up at the dingy houses. Out of the second-story windows of the cottage flapped the clean white pillow slips and sheets and the feather mattresses "to air," while the mistresses of the houses sat on their doorsteps in the warm spring sun and gossiping with their neighbors...

"You hear dat?" She was talking for the benefit of the neighbors now. "She no go back till she get ready, you hear dat, 'gain'?" she repeated in a rising voice. "I got no more time 't talk 't you, now. You go 'way from here." And she turned her back on the young woman.

HOW INVENTIONS WERE STOLEN.

Precautions Taken Before Days of Patents to Preserve Trade Secrets. Before patents were granted for inventions, the inventor had but one way to secure a return from his invention. That was to keep it secret. Secret inventions were the most valuable possessions of many families and guilds. But in proportion to their value, they tempted the cupidity of competitors. The secret of making Venetian glass was greatly prized and was most jealously guarded. A Venetian named Paoli, who possessed the secret, left Venice and wandered northward, practising his art. He was stabled in Normandy with a dagger marked "Traitor"—a measure taken to preserve the secret.

POPULAR SCIENCE & INVENTION

There is a star—Mardela—so far removed from the earth that if the distance to the sun is represented as being one inch, the distance to this star would be 32 miles. The quantity of sulphuric acid in mine water varies according to the district and condition of the mine. Some mine water has been found to contain only a few grains, while the water in other workings often contains over 100 grains a gallon. Aluminum is now compounded with magnesium to form magnalium, a new alloy, which is almost unaffected by damp air, water, gaseous ammonia, carbonic acid and most organic acids. It can be cast in the liquid condition, like pure aluminum, and the castings can be machined, acquiring a smooth, mirror-like surface.

WEATHER SIGNS.

For the purpose of separating the true from the untrue weather sayings, the United States government officials have recently made a comprehensive investigation of English weather lore, and have published the traditions which may be of truthful guidance to an American. They have raked over the whole language and separated the wheat from the chaff. In addition they have printed laws which they themselves have enacted to govern their predictions. The work has been done under the supervision of Edward B. Garriott, professor of meteorology, and Willis L. Moore, chief of the United States weather bureau. The following proverbs, for example, are given to show how one may predict a change in weather by the action of the atmosphere on various things: When walls are unusually damp rain is expected. Horses sweating in the stable is a sign of rain. Doors and windows are hard to shut in damp weather. Flies sting and are more troublesome than usual when the humidity increases before rain. Sailors note the tightening of the cordage on ships as a sign of coming rain. Sensitive plants contract their leaves and blossoms when the humidity increases. A piece of seaweed hung up will become damp previous to rain. A lump of hemp acts as a good hygrometer and prognosticates rain when it is damp. Tobacco becomes moist preceding rain. When rheumatic people complain of more than ordinary pains it will probably rain. When the locks turn damp in the scapulous surely it will rain.—American Indians. If corns, wounds and sores itch or ache more than usual rain is likely to fall shortly. When matting on the floor is shrinking dry weather may be expected. When matting expands expect wet weather. Ropes shorten with an increase of humidity. Three foggy or misty mornings indicate rain. Quarries of stone and slate indicate rain by a moist exudation from the stones. Salt increases in weight before rain. A farmer's wife says when her cheese salt is soft it will rain; when getting dry fair weather may be expected. If metal plates and dishes sweat it is a sign of bad weather.—Pliny. Three foggy or misty morning indicate rain.—Oregon. A rising fog indicates fair weather; if the fog settles down expect rain. Fog from seaward, fair weather; fog from land, rain.—New England. Hoarfrost indicates rain. Heavy frosts bring heavy rain; no frosts, no rain.—California. The larger the halo about the moon the nearer the rain clouds and the sooner the rain may be expected. When the perfume of flowers is unusually perceptible rain may be expected. When the mountain moss is dry and brittle expect clear weather. Sunflower raising its head indicates rain. Rainbow in morning, shepherds take warning; Rainbow at night, shepherds' delight; Rainbow at night, sailors' delight; Rainbow in morning, sailors' warning. Rainbow in morning shows that shower is west of us, and that we will probably get it. Rainbow in the evening shows that shower is east of us and is passing off. Snakes expose themselves on the approach of rain. In dry weather, when creeks and springs that have gone dry, become moist, or, as we say, begin to sweat, it indicates approaching rain. Many springs that have gone dry will give a good flow of water just before rain.—J. E. Walker, Kansas. Drains, ditches and dung-hills are more offensive before rain. Floors saturated with oil become very damp just before rain. Guitar strings shorten before rain. Human hair (red) curls and kinks at the approach of a storm, and straightens after the storm. Lamp wicks crackle, candles burn dim, soot falls down, smoke descends, walls and pavements are damp, and disagreeable odors arise from ditches and gutters before rain. Pipes for smoking tobacco become indicative of the state of the air. When the scent is longer retained than usual and seems denser and more powerful it often forebodes a storm. Soap covered moisture indicates bad weather. It has well been known that animals are able to foretell storm or fair weather with an instinct practically unknown to man. Many sayings are based on the actions of beasts, birds, fish and insects, and here are a few which the Washington weather prophets regard as true: Dogs making holes in the ground, eating grass in the morning or refusing meat are said to indicate rain.—Colonel Dunwoody. All shepherds agree in saying that before a storm comes sheep become frisky, leap and butt or "box" each other.—Folklore Journal. When horses and cattle stretch out their necks and sniff the air it will rain. Horses as well as other domestic animals foretell the coming of rain by starting more than ordinary and appearing in other respects restless and uneasy. Hogs crying and running uneasily up and down with hay or litter in their mouths foreshadow a storm to be near at hand.—Thomas Willisford. Kine, when they assemble at one end of a field with their tails to windward often indicate rain or wind. When birds of long flight hang about home expect a storm. Migratory birds fly south from cold and north from warm weather. When a severe cyclone is near they become puzzled and fly in circles, dart into the air, and can easily be decoyed.—North Carolina. When birds cease to sing rain and thunder will probably occur. Birds and fowls oiling feathers indicate rain. If fowls roll in the dust or sand rain is near at hand. Bats flying late in the evening indicate fair weather. Bats who squeak flying tell of rain tomorrow. If cocks crow late and early, clapping their wings occasionally, rain is expected. If the cock goes crowing to bed, he'll certainly rise with a wajery head. Chickens, when they pick up small stones and pebbles and are more noisy than usual, afford, according to Aratus, a sign of rain. When chimney swallows circle and call, they speak of rain. When cranes make a great noise or scream, expect rain. One crow flying alone is a sign of foul weather, but if crows fly in pairs expect fine weather. If the geese gang out to sea, good weather there will surely be. If crows made much noise and fly round and round, expect rain. Wild geese flying past large bodies of water indicate a change of weather. Guinea fowls squall more than usual before rain. Clamorous as a parrot against rain.—Shakespeare. Parrots whistling indicate rain. Gulls will soar aloft, and, circling around, utter shrill cries before a storm. When the peacock loudly bawls, soon we'll have both rain and squalls. When herons fly up and down, as if in doubt where to rest, expect rain. Martins fly low before and during rain. When fish bite readily and swim near the surface, rain may be expected. Fishes in general, both in salt and fresh waters, are observed to sport and bite more eagerly before rain than at any other time. Blackfish in schools indicate an approaching gale. Air bubbles over clam beds indicate rain. When pike lie on the bed of a stream quietly expect rain or wind. Trout jump and herring schools move rapidly before rain. The appearance of a great number of fish on the west coast of the Gulf of Mexico indicates bad weather and easterly winds. A bee was never caught in a shower. When bees to distance wing their flight, Days are warm and skies are bright; But when their flight ends near at home, Stormy weather is sure to come. When ants are situated on low grounds their migration may be taken as indication of approaching heavy rains. Expect stormy weather when ants travel in lines, and fair weather when they scatter. Ants are very busy, gnats bite, crickets are lively, spiders come out of their nests and flies gather in houses just before rain. If spiders are indolent, rain generally soon follows. Their activity during rain is proof of its short duration. When flies congregate in swarms, rain follows soon. When flies bite greedily, expect rain. Spiders strengthening their webs indicates rain. If garden spiders forsake their cobwebs, rain is at hand. Plants are also better weather prophets than men. In the following various ways they show their wisdom. The odor of flowers is more apparent just before a shower (when the air is moist) than at any other time. Cottonwood and quaking asp trees turn up their leaves before rain. When the leaves of the sugar maple tree are turned upside down expect rain. The convolvulus folds up its petals at the annual approach of rain. Before rain the leaves of the lime, sycamore, plane and poplar trees show a great deal more of their under surface when trembling in the wind. Clover leaves turned up so as to show light under side indicate approaching rain. Corn fodder dry and crisp indicates fair weather, but damp and limp, rain. It is very sensitive to hygrometric changes. When the pink-eyed pimpernel closes in the daytime it is a sign of rain. Milkweed closing at night indicates rain. Mushrooms and toadstools are numerous before rain. The pitcher plant opens its mouth before rain. —New York Tribune

BUSINESS CARDS.

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