

**ENGLISH TITLES.**

**Why Inferior Honors Are Sometimes Refused by Commoners.**

Although it costs money to be made a peer, no sum can actually buy a British title, as may be done in some European countries. Honors of this description are in the giving of the king, or, rather, his majesty bestows them on persons at the recommendation of the prime minister, who really has the final say in the matter. Titles are conferred either directly or indirectly—directly when no third person recommends a candidate for royal recognition and indirectly when a third person brings a candidate's name forward, he having good and valid grounds for doing so. The former method, however, is the one which is usually adopted. It is the duty of the prime minister to distinguish a name celebrated in politics, science, art or literature and to decide whether the merits of any given prominent person deserve recognition at the hands of the king.

If, in the opinion of the prime minister, such a given person deserves elevation to titled rank, before the minister takes any steps in the matter the favored individual is apprised of the prime minister's intentions by a personal letter, in which is conveyed the degree or title it is proposed to confer on him, subject to his approval. In four out of five cases the approval is given. The fifth person, who may have been offered a knighthood or perchance a baronetcy, refuses because his refusal may increase his chances of obtaining at a later day a higher title still—a peerage. Armed with the person's approval, the prime minister now takes the next step—that is, obtaining his majesty's sanction which is rarely refused.

It is seldom that a plain "Mr." blossoms straightforward into a "lord" unless the circumstances are very unusual, such as the reason why a peerage was conferred on Mr. Morley or honors conferred on successful generals in the field, as in the case of Wolseley, Roberts and Kitchener. As a general rule a plain "Mr." is transformed into "Sir"—that is, knight or baronet—and one who is already a "Sir" and has done some signal recognition finds his reward in his ultimate service to the state entitling him to royal elevation to the peerage.—Chicago News.

**WOMEN OF PARAGUAY.**

**Patient and Good Natured, Barefooted and White Robed.**

Paraguay is rich in local color. The picturesque character of the native population, with their quaint Indian features and habits of everyday life, is interesting to anybody fond of observing strange phases of human life. By nature these people are patient and gentle, seldom complaining, chattering and laughing from sunrise to sunset and taking small thought of what the morrow may have in store for them.

It is hard to imagine how Lopez could have drilled them into fighting material of strength enough to keep in check the combined forces of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay for five long, weary years, and it speaks volumes for the incomparable energy of the man that he was able to sustain his position for

so protracted a time.

Clothing is very much of a superfluity in Paraguay, says the Boston Transcript. The attire of the women is a cotton chemise with a long sheet-like shawl, or manta, passed over the head and around the body in Moorish fashion. The dress of the men is equally simple, consisting only of cotton shirt and trousers. Both sexes are guiltless of foot covering. At times an almost uncanny feeling rises when a group of these white robed, dark haired maidens pass suddenly with the silent tread of unshod feet.

Of a morning in the market places the women folk flock to sell their wares, carrying on their heads the baskets containing the few cents' worth of native produce they have been able to gather together for disposal in the towns. The soft Guarani language, the common tongue of the Paraguayans, adds further charm to the scene.

**Recording Millionths of a Second.**

According to one of the government scientists, in experiments with high power explosives used in guns a chronoscope has been employed which registered the velocity of the projectile at sixteen successive points before it left the bore. It was possible with this apparatus to register time to the millionth of a second.

In former experiments, where the velocity did not exceed 1,500 or 1,600 feet a second, the projectile recorded its time by knocking down a series of steel triggers projecting into the bore. But with velocities of 2,500 feet and more to the second the trigger instead of dropping frequently plowed a groove in the projectile, and another device was necessary.

**Fireworks That Talk.**

Fireworks which not only please the eye, but are capable of producing patriotic cries, was the subject of a special communication read before the French Academy of Sciences. The inventors of the system have been working on it for three years, and they now claim that by the arrangement of different explosives they are able to produce both vowels and consonants. They claim to have a railroad cartridge which cries "Stop!" and a 14th of July set piece which cries "Vive la Republique!"—Popular Mechanics.

**British Athletics.**

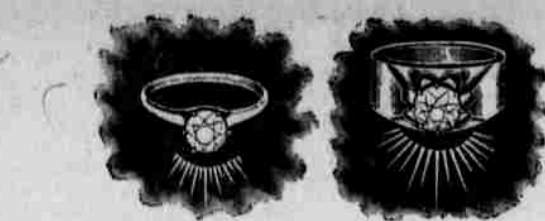
It has always been our boast that we are essentially a nation of athletes, and as yet we have no overwhelming reason for revising this boast. But—and the "but" is of no ordinary dimensions—our pride has been dashed. We must walk very humbly awhile and set ourselves earnestly to discover why we have been outstripped by America and so find a remedy.—London Journal.

**Dew.**

Teacher—How do you account for the phenomenon of dew? Boy—Well, you see, the earth revolves on its axis every twenty-four hours, and in consequence of this tremendous pace it perspires freely.—London Tit-Bits.

**Mean.**

Burton—Mean man, isn't he? Robinson—Mean? He's capable of going into a barber's shop for a shave and then getting his hair cut just to keep other people waiting.



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It does not seem quite just to call these beautiful shaped garments

**Rain Coats**

The name is used so indiscriminately in connection with flimsy, ill-fitting coats that it doesn't at all describe the smart rain-proof dressy overcoat which we are selling this fall.

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**WOOL-PLATED CLOTHES**

A counterfeit gold-plated dollar looks good—for a little while.

But when the gold wears off the fraud shows through.

Same way about wool-plated clothing.

A good deal of clothing is made of shoddy material—wool on the outside, cotton on the inside.

That's wool-plating—but you don't want it.

It looks all right in the store—takes an expert to tell the difference between it and the better kind.

But if you get a wool-plated—or an imitation wool-suit or overcoat, you'll know the difference all right, but then it's too late.

Better be sure than sorry.

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