

### THE OLDEST HOUSE IN U. S.

Down in old Santa Fe, the capital of New Mexico, the oldest seat of civil and religious government on American soil, there exist many remains of buildings erected by the old Spanish conquerors of the country. One of these, the adobe Palace, has been used as the "Executive" Mansion since the first Governor and Captain General Juan de Oterin, occupied it in 1680; while the cathedral, built in 1761, is now rapidly crumbling away and will soon be replaced by a modern stone building.

Another interesting ecclesiastical edifice is the church of San Miguel, erected in the sixteenth century, but destroyed during the Pueblo Revolution of 1680, and rebuilt in 1710. Close to this structure stands a house generally recognized as the oldest in the United States. It was built before the Spanish conquest, and it is traditionally reported that Coronado lodged in it in 1540.

### An Odd Lake

There is in Ireland a very odd lake that petrifies any wood that may be submerged in it. That is, the waters of lake are full of that mysterious stonelike substance which enters the porous cells of wood and hardens almost like flint when the water in which it was dissolved evaporates.

Some years ago a member of a long established cutlery firm of England, recalling that in history he had read that the Irish made arrow and spear heads from a hard woody stone secured from the bed of Lough Neagh, determined to make experiments with wood from this lake in the different stages of petrification. The result was that an exceptionally good razor hone was placed on the market and the firm became famous for its product. People think that they are using some peculiar kind of stone, but the fact is that this hone is nothing but a piece of hard wood petrified by being submerged in this lake for a few weeks.

### About Old Hippocrates

It is generally understood that scientific medicine began with Hippocrates. A. C. 460. This great man carried out a system of severe induction from observed facts, and abhorred mere theories which had no basis in actual experience. He was always conscientious in the practice of his profession, and valued the success of his art more than silver and gold. The great principle of his practice was trust in nature. He had great skill in diagnosis, and was extremely cautious in all that he did. He originated the celebrated maxim, "Life is short and art is long." For more than twenty centuries Hippocrates was the great authority among medical men the world over.

### How Old Are the Big Trees

An age as great as 5,000 years has sometimes been ascribed to the giant trees of California. The latest figures seem to indicate that such estimate is very much exaggerated. One investigator, who counted with great care the rings of a tree felled in 1853, and which was fully twenty four or twenty five feet in diameter, so that its stump served as a dancing pavilion, estimates that the rings numbered 1,147, and that the number would represent the age of the tree in years. This authority gravely doubts whether any of the existing trees approach the age of 2,000 years.

### Doctor the Best Pie Maker

Dr. Silas E. McDonald is Oak Park's star pumpkin pie maker. His recipe was the prize position of the Baptist Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church's cook book.

He said his mother made good pumpkin pie, but his wife's was better, and he followed her plan. Here it is:

"To one quart of properly stewed pumpkin, pressed thru colander, add enough good rich milk to moisten it, a teaspoonful of salt, one half cup of molasses, one tablespoonful of ginger and one teaspoonful of nutmeg. Bake in moderate oven."

### Preparative Indian Students

Recent investigations of graduates of the Carlisle Indian School show that of the women graduates 141 are housewives, 104 are teachers, 10 are nurses, 10 are stenographers, 10 are clerks, 10 are seamstresses, 10 are milliners, 10 are dressmakers, 10 are bookbinders, 10 are typewriters, 10 are stenographers, 10 are clerks, 10 are seamstresses, 10 are milliners, 10 are dressmakers, 10 are bookbinders, 10 are typewriters.

### How Many in Japan

In Tokyo, Japan, there are 538 poor men's hotels. The lodger is allotted space with a superficial area of three feet by six, the price being about two cents, while a resting place six by nine feet is considered a luxury at about six cents. In some places of Japan, where the land is less valuable, lodging is to be had at the poor man's inn at the rate of one cent a night. Each guest is furnished with a clean woolen blanket.

### Right Kind of Equality

A visitor to Barnard College (for young women) asked a member of the senior class if many of the students were working their way through the institution. "One of the nice things about this college is that we do not ask," was the smiling reply. "The idea," continued the senior in explanation, "is to have all the girls on an equality, so that none of the workers may feel themselves at a disadvantage."

Nothing jolts a smart man so hard as being beaten at his own game.

### LONG LOST CHARTER

After being lost for over 600 years a mutilated charter of Edward III, given to the burgesses of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1323, has been restored to that corporation by the corporation of Preston. The charter had been in possession of the Preston Corporation for many years, but British Museum experts have proved that it belongs to Newcastle under Lyme. Preston borrowed the charter for its guidance between 1342 and 1382, and forgot to restore it, thus forcing Newcastle under Lyme to apply for a copy.

### An Elephant Here

How an intelligent elephant saved a thousand lives is told in a dispatch from Calcutta. Near the town of Soron, on the Ganges, thousands of Hindu pilgrims were encamped on the river banks preparing to bathe, in celebration of a religious festival, when there was a sudden rise in the volume of water, and 300 of the pilgrims were carried away and drowned. An elephant, belonging to a certain Jang Bahadur, swam out to the distressed pilgrims repeatedly, with ropes attached to its trapings. The people clung to the ropes, and thus were landed safely on high ground. It is said by eyewitnesses that the intelligent animal seemed to appreciate the danger threatening the poor people.

### Skating Without Ice

Skating rinks, where ice skates are used, without ice, is a new departure in Germany. The floor of the rink is coated with a composition made of various chemicals, including alum, soda and boric acid, mixed with a small quantity of oil to reduce friction. The stuff is melted and poured on the floor and when it hardens it has practically all the qualities of real ice, without the disadvantages of melting, refreezing, or the surface becoming too much cut up. It can be refinished by going over it with a jet of steam, which melts it slightly, giving a new and smooth surface.

### Indignant Missouri Wedding Reporter

We have often insisted that you write a short account of the wedding that you have. The reporter can't be everywhere at once. We missed the wedding of a prominent couple, not long ago by the preacher sticking the wedding fee in his pocket and hiking for home and not even calling up the office and telling us. Any of the papers in the city would be glad to publish wedding news. You believe in progress of your town. Then help your town papers to get the news. You live off the public and so do the papers. Come on with these wedding notices.

### Monument as Winning Post

There are monuments in all sorts of out of the way places, but one that is really unique is that erected in New South Wales, a stream known the world over for the rowing events that have taken place upon it.

This monument, which is in memory of the world famous rower Scobie, is also unique from the fact that it has been used as the winning post for any of the races for the world's championship, and is still used as such for local events.

### Loys Make Mechanical Toys

A novel exhibition has been thrown open in Berlin. It consists of a large collection of toys entirely made of children and brought together for the benefit of the Red Cross Society. Some of the ingenious toys are of the boys' and girls' own invention, while others were constructed under the supervision of teachers in public and private schools. The ideas of the German boys seem to run to modern mechanics, especially automobiles and aeroplanes. There are forty five specimens.

### Keep Sweet

Keep sweet tempered. Hold yourself in check. If you allow yourself to get nervously wrought up over little annoyances, or irritated at the actions or remarks of others, you will be sure to do and say that which will be out of place and cause you many regrets. Words shot from the bowstring of a tense spirit fly swiftly and may pierce deeply. When you are talking with an angry person, use self control and remember that a soft answer turneth away wrath.

### Boys Study Cooking

Fifteen English boys have entered on a course of teaching in cooking at the Westminster Technical Institute, London. They are all about fifteen or sixteen years old. For three years they will be trained in the principles of culinary science, with practical work in cooking; then they will be sent as assistants to the chefs of the large restaurants, hotels and private houses of London.

### Clock 300 Years Old

Three hundred years old and still keeping perfect time, is the record of a "grandfather" clock owned by A. R. Simpson of Saginaw, Mich. The old timepiece has been in the Simpson family for the last five generations, each owner passing it down with the word that the clock must be cared for and kept running. A few weeks ago, one of the cords broke, which necessitated slight repairs, the first that have been made in many years.

Among the exhibits at the twenty-fifth show of the London and Provincial Ornithological Society, held in the Lambeth baths, was a pure white canary. Both its parents were ordinary colored Yorkshires.

### CHILDREN'S MANNERS

The bad manners of American children are notorious. Obviously, it is not the children who can be held to account for this. Certainly the responsibility must rest with American parents.

Our children are bad mannered mainly because we in authority order them to set them such striking examples of bad manners.

Yet, we are not as people ill-mannered. Strangers visiting our land have borne witness repeatedly to courtesy received and kindness observed. We are thought to be rather genial, frank people; the very vastness of our country lending us, it is supposed, a certain generosity and self reliance, and the democracy of its form of government giving every man that sense of self respect which is one of the foundations of good manners.

It cannot then be said—speaking very generally, of course—that we are wont to behave ourselves with discourtesy toward others. So it is not usually from his observation of our treatment of others that the child has his lessons in bad manners; he has them, rather from a source more likely to impress him; he has them from the bad manners we practice towards him.

To others he sees us kind and very courteous, with a special courtesy. He notices that we are markedly polite to visitors, noticeably considerate of guests or casual strangers. His mind making its logical deductions, reasons that manners and courtesies are things to be put on and off; to be assumed at need, or neglected at will, and since it is others who reap the benefit of them, and not himself, he acquires logically enough, a distaste for them, and looks upon them as a fiction more or less and insincerity.

To discard or scorn them himself is, then a kind of virtue in his eyes; and to have nothing to do with them is warrant of his own downrightiness. This, more often than not, is the real basis of bad manners in our children. If the child were reared in with the same gentleness and courtesy with which he finds us speaking to strangers and visitors, he would like good manners without doubt and would imitate them.

If the home was as well ordered and as courteously conducted for its inmates as it is on these occasions when guests are present, we would have no problem of Tommy's or Jenny's bad manners to wrestle with.—Mother's Magazine.

### Husband as a Doormat

Is the American husband a doormat? That highly interesting question is raised by "An Englishman" in a letter to the Philadelphia Ledger, says that newspaper. There is no doubt as to his reputation for chivalric devotion, devoted or undevoted, towards the Ledger. Women rules in the American home to an extent unknown elsewhere. It is not comfort of "the master" that is considered, but the convenience of "the mistress." The domestic clock is set to her engagements. Her supremacy in this respect is invariably a matter of surprise to foreign observers of our manners and customs.

Perhaps the feature of our relation between husband and wife which they are least able to understand is the arrangement by which the one simply accumulates money for the other to spend. In other words the American wife seems to these critics to be more careful of her privileges than of her duties. Europe has so often seen her living away from home for months or years at a time traveling, studying, educating her children, or when not, while the patient breadwinner keeps his nose to the grindstone to supply her with the means. No other husband in the world would stand for that.

Eve in the play pretends the devil to the doormat, as "An Englishman" points out. Are there many American women who would agree with her? How far do they differ essentially from other women, who like to feel that the man is the stronger? Or, perhaps, it would be better to say, who like to let man feel he is the stronger. Quite possibly the American wife is somewhat too fond of the pomp and circumstance of power. She uses the murre and chain where a kindly word would suffice. Men are delightfully easy to manage, largely because they never really understand women, and the unknown is inevitably full of terror. That is all the more reason why women should refrain from cruelty. Even a doormat may be worn out if you wipe your feet on it too often.

### Longest Flight of Birds

A scientist says that perhaps the largest straight-away flight made by birds in their migrations is accomplished by some of the shore and water birds that nest in the islands of Behring Sea and spend the winter at Hawaii and Fanning Island, 2,000 miles away. Inasmuch as some of these birds live entirely on shore and are probably unable to rest on the surface of the water. It follows that they must accomplish the whole distance at a single flight. Although there are no land marks for them on their journey over a waste of water, they make their way to their destination with the precision of a rifle shot.

### Duck Immunity to Snake Poison

Experiments by M. Billard and Maclean recorded in the "Comptes Rendus" of the Biological Society of Paris show that the common duck exhibits a remarkable indifference to the venom of the viper. They also find that the owl is similarly immune. Two of these, badly bitten on the feet, did not seem much worse. M. Billard also finds that the domestic cat has also complete immunity as regards the viper.

### How to Choose Eggs

Put the hand under the egg and hold up to the light the end which is not covered. It should be transparent. If tiny spots are detected, the egg is not freshly laid, but may be good for all ordinary purposes except boiling soft. If there is a large spot near the shell, the egg should not be used in any account.

### THE PRESIDENT'S FLAG

Not one person in a thousand knows the President's flag. As president of the United States he has none, but as commander in chief of the army and navy his presence is noticed by distinct standards. The army flag is red and bears in the center the official coat of arms of the United States. Bearing the same coat of arms and somewhat similar, save its color, blue, is the navy flag. The navy flag is displayed whenever the president is aboard a naval vessel at a navy yard or under the navy's escort.

### The Hospitable Habit

The family with the hospitable habit both enjoys more guests and enjoys them more than the family which has to go through a separate preparation for the advent of every one. Its spirit is more mellow; its judgments are more charitable; its frugal attentions when it has any, are less fanatical; its moral perspective is more trustworthy; its attitude toward untried things more worldly wise; its sense of humor keener and more constant; its contempt for trifles more spontaneous. The stranger within its gates fares better here than anywhere else outside of his own home, for it absorbs him into itself, for the time being, almost as an integral part; he yields to it unbidden the best he has to give, and it gives him its best in return.

### The President's Military Map

There is in the office of the White House a map twenty feet long and eight feet high, which indicates, at a glance, the military information needed by the commander in chief of the army and navy. This map represents the entire world. Different colors show at once the possessions of twelve great powers. Submarine cables, railways, steamship lines, mail routes are all distinctly traceable.

The naval and military forces of the various nations are indicated by miniature flags. Those representing the United States bear the names of commanders and are readily shifted as the forces move from place to place.

The cavalry, artillery and infantry are represented by flags of their respective colors—yellow, red and white—giving the number of the regiment and the letter of the troop, battery or company. Even the smallest hospital corps is marked by a tiny red cross. Ships of every class are shown by red, white and blue flags bearing the name of each and the number of her guns.

### The Cedars of Lebanon

Very carefully enclosed and guarded are the 200 remaining cedars of Lebanon, those famous trees that once clothed all the sides of the Syrian mountain. So tall and beautiful were they in comparison with the trees of Palestine that the Hebrew writers celebrated them with extraordinary praise, and from the earliest times their soft white wood was the glory of Jewish architecture. They were used in Solomon's Temple, and in its successor, and also in the church that Constantine built at Jerusalem.

The surviving trees are called by the Arabs the "trees of God," and under their wide spreading branches the clergy of the Greek church occasionally celebrate mass. Several of the trees in the grove are over 1,500 years old, and have a height of 100 feet and a circumference of fifty. In appearance they more resemble the aged larch or the majestic oak than the cedar that is known in America.

### Walnuts from France

The best walnuts in the world—at least they have that reputation—are those grown around Grenoble, France, and a singular fact about them is that at least three quarters of the entire production are transported across the ocean to be eaten in New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago and other large American cities. The oleaginous oil of southeastern France appears to be particularly favorable to the walnut. On the rising land at the base of the French Alps the nut trees often form a veritable cultivated forest. The finest variety, the "moyette," has a light colored shell and a hard, flat base, on which it readily stands upright.

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