

Superstitions About Eggs.

The ancient Finns believe that a mystic bird laid an egg on the lap of Valmalon, who was to hatch it in his bosom. But he let it fall and it broke, the lower portion of the shell forming the earth, the upper the sky, the liquid white became the moon, and the yolk the sun, while the little fragments of broken shell were transformed into stars. English and Irish mothers tell their children to push their spoons through the bottoms of egg shells after finishing their meal, "or else the witches will make boats of them." In France a similar custom prevails, but the reason assigned is that the magicians formerly used egg shells in concocting their diabolical witcheries.

There are in foreign lands, American missionaries, their wives and assistants to the following number: Presbyterians, 1817; Baptists, 1860; Congregationalists, 2980; Methodists, 3733.

Separate W-O-B-L-S-F-A-I-R and use the letters to spell as many words as you can by using the letters as many times as you like, either back wards or forwards, but not use the same letter in making any one word more times than it appears in "World's Fair."

It is said recently five small English words can be spelled correct by the ten letters contained in "World's Fair." Example: Wail, wail, wail, etc. If you are good at word-making you can secure a free trip to the World's Fair and return, as the Scott Seed Company will pay all expenses, including R. R. fare, hotel bills, admissions to the Columbian Exposition, and \$50 in cash for incidental expenses, to the first person able to make twenty words from the letters contained in "World's Fair," as above. They will also give a free trip to the World's Fair and return with \$50 in cash for incidental expenses to the first person sending a list of twenty words to the Scott Seed Company. The first person sending a list of twenty words will be given \$50 in cash, towards paying expenses to the World's Fair, to the first sending forty words will be given \$25 in cash, and the first sending fifty words will be given \$10 in cash, and the first sending sixty words will be given \$5 in cash. Only one prize will be awarded to each person. Write your name on list of words (numbered) and enclose the same (postpaid) with five U. S. postage stamps for a large package of our Choice English Cottage Garden Flower Seeds.

This combination includes the latest and most popular English flowers of endless varieties same as will be contained in the elaborate exhibit of English flowers at the World's Fair. This "World's Fair" contest will be carefully and conscientiously conducted solely for the purpose of introducing our business in the U. S. You will receive the biggest value in flower seeds ever offered, and if you are able to make a good list of words and answer promptly you will have a first-class opportunity to secure a free trip to the World's Fair and return.

We are spending a large amount of money to start our trade in the U. S. and want your trial order. You will be more than gratified with the result. Send today, and address the Scott Seed Company, Toronto, Canada.

Forty-four guns are fired for a national salute, one for each state.

Read the Pittsburgh Leader. The family newspaper of Western Pennsylvania. Subscription, daily, \$6 per annum by mail; Sunday edition, \$2.50 by mail.

There are oak trees in existence 1,000 years old.

Hood's is the Best. The Judgment of Long Experience.



Mr. Grant W. Barnes, Richmond, N. Y., Jan. 11, 1893. "Myself and my wife have had several bottles of Hood's Sarsaparilla with gratifying results. For years I have had kidney trouble, and also heart difficulty. I was unable to sleep on my left side for years. Hood's Sarsaparilla has done me a great deal of good. I am free from kidney trouble, and can sleep on either side now, thanks to Hood's Sarsaparilla. My wife has had a chronic sore throat for more than 20 years. It always troubled her more or less, but for the last 6 months since taking Hood's Sarsaparilla, she has not had a sore throat except once when she took a slight cold. We cheerfully recommend Hood's Sarsaparilla as a good reliable medicine for the blood and to build up the system; I consider it the best medicine in use." GRANT W. BARNES. GET HOOD'S.

Hood's Pills are the best after-dinner pills, assist digestion, cure headache. Try a box. 25 cents.

P. N. 17 '93

TOWER'S FISH BRAND WATERPROOF COAT. This Trade Mark is on the best. In the World! Illustrated Catalogue Free. A. J. TOWER, BOSTON, MASS.

RADFIELD'S FEMALE REGULATOR has proven an infallible specific for all derangements peculiar to the female sex, such as chronic womb and ovarian disease. It taken in time it regulates the system, promotes healthy action of all functions of the generative organs, young ladies at the age of puberty, and older ones at the menopause, will find it a healing, soothing tonic. The highest recommendations from prominent physicians and those who have tried it. Write for book "The Women's" mailed free. Sold by all druggists. RADFIELD'S REGULATOR CO., Proprietors, Atlanta, Ga.

CLERKS FOR UNCLE SAM.

TWENTY-THREE THOUSAND OF THEM IN WASHINGTON.

The Most Desirable Clerkships—First Feminine Employe of the Government—Dread of Being Watched.

A WRITER in the New York Advertiser says that there are 23,000 Government employes in Washington. Clerkships in the Department of State are considered the most desirable. To begin with, the incumbents are never discharged without being provided with a consularship or some other place. Their employment carries a certain amount of social position with it. The most conspicuous of the young swells in Washington are employes of the "Foreign Office," as they like to call it. Beaux being greatly in demand here, they have more invitations than they can accept. With small salaries and no prospects, they would be regarded as "detriments" in other cities, but here they are at the top of the swim. Good manners and the fact of wearing pantaloons constitute satisfactory claims to recognition in local society. They get their dinners at their people's houses, see all the plays that are going without paying a cent, and enjoy excellent opportunities for marrying the rich girls who fairly swarm at the Capital. They are not even expected to send a bouquet in acknowledgment of the entertainment they receive.

The work of a clerk in the Department of State implies no little responsibility. A wrong word in his transcript of a diplomatic paper might place this Government in a false position. The business he transacts is mostly of a secret nature. He may know long in advance whom the President has chosen for a Cabinet office, or what war ships are about to be sent to threaten the cities of a foreign Nation. If he tells anybody, and his information gets out, his indiscretion may upset a policy and disarrange a complete series of moves which Uncle Sam is trying to carry out. Happily, betrayals of secrets by Government clerks have been very rare.

Though one-half of the applicants for places in the Department are women, only one person of the gentler sex is appointed for every seven men. There is a prejudice against female clerks on several accounts. Nevertheless some officials have discovered that they can often get a woman for \$900 a year who is more capable than a \$1200 man. Before the war the employment of women as clerks by the Government was almost unknown, though they sometimes got copying to do at home. The first woman regularly employed was put on the rolls of the Navy Department thirty-five years ago. She was a young widow. It was a grave question what should be done with her, and it was thought best to isolate her, as if she were contagious. An attic room was given her, and she received and returned her copying by a messenger. Today there are 1000 women in the Treasury alone. They and others in other Departments are efficient as accountants, correspondents, linguists, draughtsmen, typesetters, etc.

In 1861 the coined money belonging to the Government gave out and Congress authorized the issue of legal tender notes payable in gold. These were the original "greenbacks." They came in sheets from the banknote companies, with blank spaces for the signatures of the Treasurer and Register. It was necessary to cut them apart with scissors and trim the edges, no machine having as yet been invented for that purpose. General Spinner suggested that women should be employed temporarily to cut and count the notes. A number of them were hired, and after they had cut \$60,000,000 worth of paper Congress authorized another issue, at the same time making the employment of the women permanent. Some of these women are still at work in the Treasury, where their sex is intrusted up to the present time with the counting of the money. From this starting point, women gradually made their way into the other Departments.

A great many young men secure places in the Department merely for the purpose of supporting themselves while they are studying in the great schools of law and medicine here. Matters are so arranged at these institutions that a clerk who stops work at 4 p. m. can get dinner and be on hand for the evening lectures, which begin at 6. After being graduated, the young physician may practice and yet stay in office, becoming what is known as a "sundown doctor." The medical schools of the Georgetown College and Columbia University are of the highest rank. In the Army Medical Museum the finest medical library in the world is accessible. Justices of the United States Supreme Court and great medical officers of the Government are members of the faculties of these and other learned establishments in Washington.

If a clerk is absent on account of illness over sixty days in any year, he or she must pay a substitute. The Civil Service Commission provides all the substitutes that are wanted. It is provided that the clerks shall give to the substitute a certain proportion of the pay, usually amounting to about fifty-six per cent. By thus hiring a substitute a clerk might retain his place in the service of the Government for ten years, though himself blind, paralyzed and confined to his bed. In all cases of sickness a clerk's certificate is required.

The clerks are perpetually haunted by a dread lest they are watched by detectives of the Secret Service. That sort of thing is sometimes done, but only rarely and on request of a superior officer who suspects that something is wrong. If a man who occupies a responsible position gets to drinking and "playing the races" it may be thought worth while to have him shadowed for a time, with a view to finding out what his habits are. If a Government employe is suspected his boarding-house keeper, water-woman and tradesman are apt to suffer, and they do not hesitate to ad-

dress complaints to the Department. If such appeals come in so frequently as to be annoying an investigation follows. Oddly enough, the clerk who misbehaves in such ways is usually not a new man, but an old hand who feels sure of his place.

SELECT SIFTINGS.

Cotton was first exported in 1785. Baltimore, Md., in 1816, introduced gas.

In 1890 372,914 persons died in this country. The magic lantern was the invention of Roger Bacon in 1260.

Spaniards never use tobacco pipes, and it is impossible to procure one in a native tobacco shop.

The emerald was one of the favorite and probably the best known of precious stones possessed by the ancients.

In a store at Athens, Ga., stands an old-fashioned clock which was made in Liverpool. It hasn't missed a tick for forty years.

The finest turquoise in America, valued at \$400, was found in New Mexico. It is somewhat like a pecan nut in size and shape.

The waters of the Atlantic Ocean are a sort of whirlpool on a gigantic scale, the central point of which is a short distance to the southwest of the Azores.

Whenever a strict Mohammedan pronounces the name of the prophet, he piously kisses his thumb-nails, presses them to his forehead, and says, "The prophet of God, to whom be all glory."

In 1794 the first turrapike road was made, sixty-two miles long, between Lancaster, Penn., and Philadelphia, so called because it was required to be so hard that a pike could not be driven through it.

In rural England the blossoming twigs of willow, which our children call "pussy-willows," are often used in churches on Palm Sunday, as the only available branches which have yet begun to show proofs of returning life.

There are hundred of wild hogs in the Okefenokee swamp, in Georgia. They do not go in droves, but are generally separated from each other. They are the property of some farmers near the swamp, but it is an unusual thing for them to be claimed by their owners.

The memory of a dog is generally good, and an exemplification of this is here given. A dog in Bethlehem, Penn., is friendly with everybody but a one Simon Slade. Its dislike for him has existed two years, and was caused by Simon cutting off the animal's tail. Whenever it sees him it barks at him.

The oldest church existing in the United States is situated near Smithville, Va. It was built in the reign of Charles I., between the years 1639 and 1633, the brick, lime and timber being imported from England. The timber is English oak, and was framed in England. It is a brick structure, erected in the most substantial manner. The mortar has become so hardened that it will strike fire in collision with steel.

The floating dock and the typewriter are among the many important inventions that were hit upon by men who have made no attempt to patent their ideas. A photographer conceived the idea of the floating dock before the device was perfected and put to practical use, and a naval officer thought out a practical typewriter, but was persuaded by friends to abandon his invention as a thing nobody could be induced to use.

The Italian Princess Vicovaro, daughter of Lorillard Spencer, of New York, not long ago received a letter at her villa near Lucerne, Switzerland, saying that if \$3000 were not deposited in a certain place by a fixed time her villa would be blown up. She handed the letter to the police, who, by pretending to comply with the demand, caught the writer, a young man, who admitted he was driven to the attempt by his intense desire to come to this country and see the Fair at Chicago.

Animals That Could Live in Fire.

The Icelanders declare that they have a small quadruped about the size of a rabbit which habitually makes its home in the crater of Hecla, sporting and rearing its young in the molten lava. When Cyprus was the centre of the copper industry it is asserted that a four-footed animal with wings lived in the hottest furnaces among the fire, and, furthermore, that it would die instantly upon being removed from its natural element, the flames. The salamander of old was also a creature which did not dread the fire. Some say that it could eat fire and spit flames; others that its breath would ignite all combustibles. Pliny says: "This animal is so intensely cold as to extinguish fire by its contact, in the same way that ice doth."

Aristotle believed that some creatures were capable of supporting life even though confined to the devouring element. He says: "In Cyprus, when the manufacturers of chaletis (limes) burn it many days in the fire, a winged creature, something larger than a great fly, is seen emerging from the stone and leaping and walking about in the fire. These creatures perish immediately upon being removed from the furnace."—St. Louis Republic.

Too Practical.

"There is but one step from the sublime to the ridiculous." A short time ago, at a penny reading in a small country town, a young gentleman was reciting, much to his own satisfaction, if not to that of his audience, Macaulay's well-known "Battle of Ivry." With great military fervor he was thundering out the lines:

A thousand spears are sticking deep, A thousand spears in rest; A thousand knights are pressing close Behind—

when a voice from the back seats was heard to shout: "O'ld Ivry, gov'nor. Why, that's only one spur apiece for them 'ere knights!"—Tit-Bits.

THE FIRST WHISTLE.

When the Steamboat-Scecher Was First Heard on the Mississippi.

"I see they have finally settled the discussion as to who was the first man to use a steamboat whistle on the river," said Captain Jerre Eastman, of Cairo, at the Laclede last night. "It was a mighty interesting discussion, too, and the thing was in doubt for some time, but it is all settled now, and Captain J. Stut Neal was the man. As Captain Neal explains it himself, the story is something to this effect: He was the engineer and part owner of the Revine (spell that with an 'i' mind you), and she was the first vessel to use a whistle. They got it from Anderson Fulton, in Louisville, where the boat was built. That was in 1843.

"You see, they were making a trip with Government supplies to Fort Tousem, on the Red River, in 1844. They had had the whistle then, for while they were making the trip, Polk was inaugurated President and old Cap'n Neal—he wasn't old then—was the only Democrat on the boat, and I tell you he made the Injuns jump when he set that old whistle to tooting. In those days the whistle was placed a-top of the boilers and the engineer could amuse himself to his heart's content if he wanted to. Old Cap'n Neal was a steamboatman born. He was the first man on the river to use the life-preserver, and sent Cap'n W. H. Fulton all the way to Philadelphia to get a supply of them for the Revine. On the trip that I tell you about the Revine towed a keel boat all the way from Pittsburg via New Orleans to Fort Tousem, on the Red River. That was before the annexation of Texas, and at that time Fort Tousem was the boundary line between the United States and Texas, and I tell you that was a feat for steamboating in those days."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

SPRING TIME

The Best Season of the Year to Treat Chronic Catarrh.

Notwithstanding that a great number of people have been cured of chronic catarrh by taking Pe-ru-na during the past cold season, yet it cannot be denied that the cold, wet, stormy winter has retarded many cures, and in some cases actually prevented a cure. But, after unusual delay, spring time has come at last, and now is the time for all catarrh sufferers to begin a systematic course of treatment for this disease. The greatest difficulty in the way of treating chronic catarrh is that the patient is so liable to catch cold during the treatment, and thus delay a cure. This liability at this season of the year, in a great measure, removed, and no one should neglect the opportunity to begin treatment. Send for free catarrh book.

As a spring medicine Pe-ru-na is a never-failing remedy. It cleanses the blood through digestion, and gives tone to the whole system by increasing the nutritive value of the food. "Spring fever," as it is sometimes called, which produces a tired-out, sleepy feeling, and inability to do much mental or physical work, is the result of a sluggish digestion, and no blood medicine will be of any use whatever unless it is able to rectify the impaired digestion. The great popularity that Pe-ru-na has is due to the fact that in all such cases it at once corrects digestive derangements and enriches the blood by purifying this very important source of that vital fluid. Send for free book on spring medicines and spring diseases. Address, The Pe-ru-na Drug Manufacturing Company, Columbus, Ohio.

Liverpool has the largest local debt of any town in England.

A wonderful stomach corrector—Beecham's Pills. Beecham's—no others. 25 cents a box.

The first daguerotype prints made in the United States were taken in 1839.

Hatch's Universal Cough Syrup is positively unequalled. Try it. 25 cents at druggists.

The largest horse car line in the world is in Argentina—50 miles.

ROYAL BAKING POWDER. Pure grape cream of tartar forms the acid principle of the Royal exclusively. The Royal imparts that peculiar sweetness, flavor and delicacy noticed in the finest cake, biscuit, rolls, etc., which expert pastry cooks declare is unobtainable by the use of any other leavening agent. Absolutely Pure.

Bear in Mind That "The Gods Help Those Who Help Themselves." Self Help Should Teach You to Use SAPOLIO

THE KIND THAT CURES. E. A. WOLLABER, Boston, N. Y. Torturing Eczema, INDIGESTION AND LOSS OF APPETITE CURED. DANAS'S SARSAPARILLA. Unlike the Dutch Process No Alkalies or Other Chemicals are used in the preparation of W. BAKER & CO'S Breakfast Cocoa.

JUMBO, the Alexandria Improved Cream Separator, capacity 5000 to 4000 pounds per hour. Also new model HAND SEPARATOR for the sale of which AGENTS are WANTED in every section. MEND YOUR OWN HARNESS WITH THOMSON'S SLOTTED CLINCH RIVETS.

SHILOH'S CURE. Cures Consumption, Coughs, Croup, Sore Throat. Sold by all Druggists on a Guarantee.

OPIMUM Morphine Habit Cured in 10 Days. Sold by druggists or sent by mail.



KNOWLEDGE

Brings comfort and improvement and tends to personal enjoyment when rightly used. The many who live better than others and enjoy life more, with less expenditure, by more promptly adapting the world's best products to the needs of physical being, will attest the value to health of the pure liquid laxative principles embraced in the remedy, Syrup of Figs.

Its excellence is due to its presenting in the form most acceptable and pleasant to the taste, the refreshing and truly beneficial properties of a perfect laxative; effectually cleansing the system, dispelling colds, headaches and fevers and permanently curing constipation. It has given satisfaction to millions and met with the approval of the medical profession, because it acts on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels without weakening them and it is perfectly free from every objectionable substance.

Syrup of Figs is for sale by all druggists in 50c and \$1 bottles, but it is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only, whose name is printed on every package, also the name, Syrup of Figs, and being well informed, you will not accept any substitute if offered.

Garfield Tea. Cures Constipation, Restores Complexion, Gives Healthy Appearance. Cures Sick Headache. We offer you ready made medicine for Coughs, Bronchitis and other diseases of the Throat and Lungs. Like other so called Patent Medicines, it is well advertised, and having merit it has attained a wide sale under the name of Piso's Cure for Consumption.

"August Flower"

"I have been afflicted with biliousness and constipation for fifteen years and first one and then another preparation was suggested to me and tried, but to no purpose. A friend recommended August Flower and words cannot describe the admiration in which I hold it. It has given me a new lease of life, which before was a burden. Its good qualities and wonderful merits should be made known to everyone suffering with dyspepsia and biliousness." JESSE BARKER, Printer, Humboldt, Kas. @

50 CENTS MAILED. Golden Novelty Co., 373 Broadway, New York. Do Not Be Deceived. With Pastes, Enamels and Paints which stain the hands, injure the iron and burn red.

RISING SUN STOVE POLISH. Do Not Be Deceived. With Pastes, Enamels and Paints which stain the hands, injure the iron and burn red.

PENSION JOHN W. MORRIS. Successfully Prosecutes Claims. Late Principal Examiner U. S. Pension Bureau.

It is now a "Nostrum," though at first it was compounded after a prescription by a regular physician, with no idea that it would ever go on the market as a proprietary medicine. But after compounding that prescription over a thousand times in one year, we named it "Piso's Cure for Consumption," and began advertising it in a small way. A medicine known all over the world is the result.

F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, O., Gentlemen:— I have suffered from catarrh for about five years and have tried several remedies without relief until I commenced to use Hall's Catarrh Cure last February. I must say that it is a SUCCESS, the dropping in my throat disappeared entirely after the first bottle. It increased my appetite, so that I now weigh eight pounds more than my customary weight. I have recommended it to others and all who used it have been greatly relieved and speak highly of it. One of them was in my store yesterday and expressed his wish to peddle it this winter. Will you please let me know the lowest terms you could furnish it for, as I would like to keep it in stock. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain, Yours respectfully,

R. C. HAUSWEDELL, Lake City, Minn. SOLD BY DRUGGISTS, 75c.

What Is Home Without HOME TACKS? HOME NAILS? Several sizes to suit, in a compartment box, handy when you need nails for a loose board, shingle, or Fence Picket, broken furniture, rickety door, to hang your hat and coat on, etc., etc. Always find the right tack at the right time. FOR SALE EVERYWHERE. Made Solely by the ATLAS TACK CORPORATION, BOSTON.