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A LITTLE NONSENSE.

Dead Johnny's Sister After All His Christmas Presents.

Missionaries to faroff lands, and especially those who have labored among people whose principal article of diet is rice, are apt to refer to their lukewarm converts as "rice Christians," because the converts so termed care much more for the material than the spiritual food that the missionaries dispense. Something of the same spirit animates Christians, young and old, in this corner of the world, particularly at holiday time, and among the younger element when Christmas trees and gifts are in order. The story told recently by a Sunday school teacher is an illustration.

A couple of weeks before Christmas one of the small boys in this teacher's class contracted pneumonia and died. He was much beloved, and his death was felt by his classmates and the workers in the school. His name was on the list for a handsome gift at Christmas, and the superintendent of the school decided that it would be a graceful thing, and the boy's family would doubtless appreciate the act, if the gift set apart for the boy were sent to his home, to be given to a younger brother or disposed of as his parents thought fit. When the gift distribution was in progress, a sister of the little fellow, also an attendant at the school, was asked to take his gift home. She received it in silence and stood around with an expectant air. At last the teacher remarked: "What is it you are waiting for, Lucy? You have received your gifts and Johnny's also." "Yes'm, I know; but doesn't Johnny get a box of candy too?" Johnny's sister got the candy. — Brooklyn Eagle.

Too Much Faith.

"So the glasses don't help your eyes at all?"
"Not a bit. And the fellow that sold 'em to me told me they surely would."
"And you believed him?"
"Of course I believed him. What do you think I'd better do about the matter?"
"Oh, there ain't anything to do about the glasses you've got, but before you buy any more you'd better take the faith cure." — Chicago Post.

The Way to a Woman's Heart.



First Tramp—Why, 'ow did she come to give you so much as a shillin'?

Second Tramp—She arst me 'ow old I wuz, and I told her I wuz old enough to be her grandfarver.

Alluring.

"Charley, dear," said young Mrs. Torkins, "I wish you would let me go where the bookmakers are."
"Into the betting ring?"
"Yes, I saw it from a distance. The way those people are hustling and jamming one another makes me think that there must be some splendid bargains there." — Washington Star.

Tree ornaments at Keiper's.

ALL OVER THE HOUSE.

Something About Rugs, Which Have Displaced Carpets.

Rugs have largely displaced carpets in American homes of recent years.

The modern hygienic housewife insists upon having movable floor coverings because they can be kept so much cleaner.

For people who rent, too, rugs are found in the long run to be cheaper, because with a change of residence they can be more easily fitted than a carpet to the new floors.

There are a few facts which the woman who buys rugs for her house needs to know. Persian rugs lead all the rest in artistic design as well as coloring. Ten dollars is what a square foot of the best Persian rug is worth, and it took a single weaver twenty-three days to complete that portion.

The Turkish rugs from Siwas are made of wool and are woven in almost every hamlet and home. Every poor family has as a part of their house furnishings rugs which are very valuable, but which they will not part with except in time of the direst need.

The Smyrna rugs are comparatively inferior in quality. Their name is derived from the mart to which they are brought for sale. They are made in the interior from the Angora goat's coarse hair.

Yuruk rugs are made by a band of nomads in the mountains of Anatolia. These are rugs of firm, even texture woven from the wool of the fine flocks of sheep.

A Nut Pudding.

A rich and delicious dessert and one easily served, which is a great consideration, is a nut pudding. To make it beat separately the yolks and whites of six eggs. To the yolks add one and a half cups of granulated sugar, and to the whites, beaten to the stiffest possible froth, add three cups of finely chopped or pounded nuts. Hazelnuts, pecans or almonds are equally good. Mix all together lightly and stir in one teaspoonful of vanilla. Then, last of all, sift in one teaspoonful of baking powder well mixed in one tablespoonful of flour.

This is to be baked quickly in jelly cake tins and when ready to serve is to be put together like layer cake with whipped cream. A pint of this thoroughly chilled and seasoned with flavoring or brandy will be sufficient to put between layers and over the top and sides.

Fruit For Rheumatism.

The use of fruit diminishes acidity and antagonizes rheumatism. The acids in fruits undergo changes which diminish the acidity of the blood and aid in the elimination of rheumatic acid.

The most digestible fruits are ripe grapes, peaches, strawberries, apricots, oranges, very ripe pears, figs, dates, baked apples and stewed fruits.

A dietary consisting wholly of fruits is a valuable means of overcoming biliousness.

Such a dietary may be maintained for one or two days a week.

A modified fruit dietary is highly beneficial.

The most laxative fruits are apples, figs, prunes and peaches. — Family Doctor.

Preparing Glue For Ready Use.

To any quantity of glue use common whisky instead of water. Put both together in a bottle, cork it tight and set it by for three or four days, when it will be fit for use without the application of heat. Glue thus prepared will keep for years and is at all times fit for use, except in very cold weather, when it should be set in warm water before using. To obviate the difficulty of the stopper getting tight by the glue drying in the mouth of the vessel use a tin vessel with the cover fitting tight on the outside to prevent the escape of spirit by evaporation. A strong solution of isinglass made in the same manner is an excellent cement for leather.

Lemonade.

If you have never tried making lemonade with boiling water, you have missed a valuable household hint. Try it now by squeezing the juice from three large lemons into an earthenware bowl. Add two tablespoonfuls of granulated sugar and the grated rind of one lemon, turn in four cupfuls of boiling water and cover closely. When cool, place it in the icebox to chill.

For Tea.

Sardine toast is an excellent relish for luncheon or tea. Cut oblongs of good toasting bread from which all crust is removed, brown and spread with butter, to which minced parsley and a few drops of lemon juice have been added. The sardines are carefully drained, and the loose pieces of skin are wiped off before they are spread on the toast and served.

CIGARS AND BOXES.

Cedar Now So Scarce That Other Woods Are Used For Cheap Weeds.

"Cedar boxes are not used as extensively now as they used to be," said a well known tobacco man, "and the reason for this is clear enough when we come to think of it. Cedar is not as plentiful now as it once was. Time was when all the cigars shipped from Cuba to this country and cigars of home manufacture were packed in cedar boxes. But this is not the case now.

"Cedar, of course, is the best wood in the world for this purpose. It gives a pleasant odor and even a good flavor to the cigar and keeps out the various insects and worms that are inclined to burrow into tobacco. Insects will have nothing to do with cedar. The wood is too strong. For this reason boxes made of material of this kind have been of vast value to the cigar manufacturers. I do not mean that cedar is not used at all now, for as a matter of fact cedar is extensively used. All cigars of the finer and more costly grade made in this country and elsewhere are packed in cedar boxes. This is one of the requirements of the trade.

"But when it comes to the cheaper grades cheaper material is used. It may look like cedar, but it isn't. It is an imitation. It serves the purpose. The wood does not detract at all from the brand of cigars packed in this way. They would be no better if packed in boxes gold lined and highly spiced and perfumed. They would smell sweeter; that's all. Stained poplar and other light woods of sufficient fineness of grain, and even stained oak, are sometimes used for the purpose. But the cedar box is not nearly so numerous now as in the halcyon days, and the time may come when this kind of boxes will not be known at all in the tobacco trade, and yet one is inclined to pray that it may not be so." — New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Irish Solitude.

When shooting landlords were more of an occupation in Ireland than it is now, thanks to laws more favorable to tenants, a certain lord of the soil, who had cleared out half a countryside, fell under the ban of the Carders or of the redoubtable Rory of the Hills, and two men were selected to carry out the sentence of death. It was the doomed man's custom to drive from his rent office in a neighboring town to his home at a certain hour on a certain day of the week, and secure in the bracken behind a stone wall which skirted the roadway the executioners lay in wait for their intended victim.

The hour came and passed, but no car bearing the landlord hove in view. Another hour slipped by, and still no landlord. It was now late in the afternoon, the shadows of night were creeping over the moorland, and the two watchers had grown hungry and uneasy. Then there was a rattle of wheels over the broken stones on the roadway, and the men grasped their blunderbusses and peered out. But it was only a farmer driving from the market. This disappointment was too much for the men, and one of them exclaimed:

"Begorra, Mick, he's not comin'."
"Faix, then, Pat, I'm thinkin' that way meself. I hope nothin' happened to him."

Hopeless Case.

The laziest man in Scotland is said to have been the Galashiels joiner who after repeated dismissals from his employment by his master was at length forcibly laid in his coffin by his shopmates and carried off for burial by way of a joke. On the way they met a farmer, who asked if the man was dead.

"No," was the reply, "but we intend to bury him. He is that lazy he should not be allowed to live."

At the farmer's request they took off the lid, when the farmer asked the lazy one if he thought he could eat two or three boiled potatoes.

"Are they peeled?" inquired the man.

"No," replied the farmer.

"Ah, weel, just let the funeral gang on." — London Answers.

Counsel to Smokers.

From the Royal academy of Belgium comes the following advice to smokers:

"Do not use moist tobacco, since nicotine then escapes with the vapor and is not decomposed.
"Do not smoke either while fasting or a short time before meals.
"When smoking cigars or cigarettes, always use an amber, meerschau, horn or cherry holder.
"Nicotine vaporizes at 250 degrees, and that portion of it which is not decomposed in the center is attracted toward the tip and accumulates there. It is therefore prudent to throw away the last quarter of a cigar.
"Do not smoke a pipe which has a short stem."

INFANTS' MITTENS.

These Coverings For Little Hands Made In Marvelous Variety.

"They seem like a simple enough little thing," said a man acquainted with the trade in infants' mittens, "but as a matter of fact they are made in simply hundreds of varieties.

"There are mittens to suit every purse, every season in which they are worn and every taste or fancy."

"Wool is the material of which the greater number are made, and white is the almost universally worn color by the very young."

"There are mittens made of silk and wool, costing a little more than the all woolen mittens. In these we begin to get colors, as pink and blue, though you would find, for that matter, some nice red mittens among the tiny ones of all wool. Next come mittens of all silk, commonly all white. Then there are mittens of mercerized silk, these in gray and in brown as well as in white. The Angora mittens are among the most costly made. They are made all white and also in grays and browns. And there are mittens about as costly as the Angora that are of goat's hair or alpaca on the outside and lined with Angora."

"Infants' mittens, as they are generally considered, include mittens for children up to three years. For these older children especially there are little mittens of suede, fleece lined and silk lined, and suede mittens with fur tops."

"Indeed, there's really almost no end to the variety of infants' mittens, but there is almost no end to the demand for them, for wherever there is a winter there are infants' mittens, things of the most universal, widespread, common use. Every infant has one pair of mittens anyway. There are many infants that have more than one pair in a season. There are plenty of mothers who buy for an infant a dozen pairs of mittens in a year. Sometimes they buy a dozen pairs at once.

"Thus of infants' mittens altogether there are sold great numbers; in this country alone, in fact, millions of pairs annually." — New York Sun.

The Mistress.

Count Fersen, Marie Antoinette's devoted servant, tells a pretty story which shows the charm words can add to deeds. It was when the royal family of France had been turned back at Varennes in their vain effort to escape—turned back toward Paris, where the mob even then was clamoring for their lives. They stopped to rest at the house of Mme. de Lagny, a royalist, who did all she could for their comfort. Madame waited at table herself, serving the king and queen with swift and silent zeal.

The poor queen in the midst of her despair noticed what had been done for her and hers. "Where is the mistress of the house?" said she. "I should like to see her and to thank her."

"I was the mistress of the house," responded Mme. de Lagny simply, "until your majesty entered it."
Surely the word which beautified the service!

The Burro Bird of Colorado.

Many writers have broken into song regarding the flop eared burro and his alto voice. Dear reader, did you ever hear a bird belonging to the burro family carol during the silent watches of the night? Perhaps you have, and again you might have missed hearing the burro bird playing catch-as-catch-can with the echoes. In a moment of forgetfulness on hearing the song of the burro bird you may be tempted to commit murder, but don't do it. Let him first sing his wild, passionate song, and then if you desire to kill him do so. The burro bird inhabits the wild mountainous suburbs of Denver the year round. — Denver Times.

Roman Mortar.

It was probably known to nearly every Roman citizen how the mortar which cemented the stones of their buildings was made—just as it is now known to the majority of people that the principal ingredient of English mortar is street scrapings. But, the knowledge being general, nobody wrote it down, and in time, as the Romans shifted their building upon slaves and foreigners, the recipe of their mortar was lost. So far it has not been discovered, though the secret of it would be immensely valuable, for the cement outlasts the very stones which it joins.

Curious Korean Custom.

A very curious custom in Seoul, Korea, is the law which makes it obligatory for every man to retire to his home when the huge bronze bell of the city has proclaimed it to be the hour of sunset and the time for closing the gates. No man is allowed in the streets after that hour under pain of flogging, but the women are allowed to go about and visit their friends.

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Mrs. Brownley-Boogs—Mary, the salad was particularly delicious tonight. What did you use in it?
Mary—I used them new kind o' yaller cabbage that Mr. John sent home, mum.
Mrs. B. B. (faintly)—Heavens, those were chrysanthemums! — Chicago News.

Candy and nuts at Keiper's.

Really Very Simple.

"Teacher says that 'boom' can't be compared," said the little one. "Can it?" asked her mother. "Why, of course," was the reply. "Positive, boom; comparative, boomer; superlative, boomerang."
"Correct," said her father promptly. — Chicago Post.

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