

# Saint Mary's Beacon

## Superstitions About Hands.

"Please, Uncle Jack, what is this for?" asked Peter, picking up an odd looking little ornament of pink coral, shaped very much like three tiny fingers.

"Oh, that," said Uncle Jack, turning the little trifle over and smiling, "is what superstitious people in Naples wear to ward off the evil influences of anyone they suspect of witchcraft. Sometimes, if you happen to live or be visiting in Naples, you would see people do this, put the thumb in the middle of their hand, fold their second and third finger over it, and with the first and fourth fingers held straight like horns, point towards anyone they believed possessed of an evil eye. It is one of the many ancient signs of the hand."

"What signs?" said Peter, who dearly loved to ask questions. "Why, don't you know," replied his uncle, taking Peter's hand in his, "that nearly every gesture you make with your hands has come down from the most ancient of times? For instance, when you shook hands with Mrs. Brown, who just went out, you followed one of the oldest of customs, that began in the days when men shook hands to prove that they meant no harm to each other and carried no weapons. When you lean out of your carriage window and kiss your hand to your mother on the doorstep, you are following an old habit of the Persian sun worshippers, who first laid their hands on their mouths, and then lifted them toward the sun.

"Nowadays, in England, those who are presented to the Queen kiss her hand, which is a token of reverence and submission as old as the days of the Trojan war, when King Priam kissed Achilles' hand, as he asked for the body of his brave dead son Hector. Julius Caesar, the great conqueror, never permitted the common folk to kiss his hand, but in his presence they kissed their own hands. In Morocco no one in the presence of the Emperor mentions the number five, because it represents the hand that holds the scepter and power. The Turks call the hand an emblem of the Creator. The 14 knuckles represent the beads of their rosary, and the five fingers their five great rules for religious life.

"Among the early Christians the thumb, first and second finger were thought to signify God, His Son and the Holy Ghost, and that is why those three fingers are held up when priests in the Catholic Church give what is called an episcopal blessing. Long ago in marriages the ring was in turn slipped over the thumb, first and second fingers, and finally left on the third, to show that the man gave his allegiance, first to the Holy Trinity, and lastly to his wife. It was then that people believed the third finger was possessed of unusual virtue, because a rich, pure vein of blood ran from its bottom knuckle to the heart. It was made the ring finger for that reason, and in times of plague doctors mixed their drugs with it, thinking it the only finger free from taint.

"In these later days it has been found out that there is no vein running, as was believed, but it remains the marriage finger by custom. Perhaps one of the strangest superstitions about hands is that a century ago it was believed that the hand of a man who had been hung would cure warts if touched by an afflicted person, and that the hand of a man dead on the gallows would open the strongest lock if merely touched to the key hole, moving the bolts without a sound, and housebreakers were supposed to carry such a hand among their tools." And here Uncle Jack hurried out of the room, leaving Peter still gazing at his own hand, brown little hand that never before had seemed so interesting in his own eyes.—*Republic.*

**A QUEER DEATH COINCIDENCE.**—John Drew Fisher, the actor, who died in Brooklyn, N. Y., was another example of how coincident fatality may pursue a family. He was the fifth of the Fishers who died at 7 a. m. on Sunday morning, his mother, brother and two sisters all having died on that fateful day at exactly the same hour in the morning.

"I would rather trust that medicine than any doctor I know of," says Mrs. Hattie Mason of Chilton, Carter Co., Mo., in speaking of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. For sale by Wm. F. Greenwell & Son, Leonardtown, Md.

**"WHAT A COUNTRY!"**—Comedian William F. Hoey once encountered a distinctly ingenious Britisher. The comedian formed his acquaintance during one of the Lucania's incoming voyages, and the two breakfasted in New York together.

"I guess I'll turn out to see Harry after breakfast," said the guest. "Harry?" queried the comedian softly. "Yes, my brother," explained the Englishman. "I've two here. Harry lives in San Francisco and Charlie in Chicago."

"But you'll be back for dinner?" facetiously quizzed Hoey. The Britisher took him seriously. "Sure, for dinner if not for lunch," he answered. And, accompanied by the actor, now thoroughly alive to the humor of the incident, he found himself a few minutes later in the line of ticket buyers in the Grand Central depot.

"An excursion ticket to San Francisco, stopping at Chicago station on return," he ordered. The ticket agent put about a quarter of a mile of pasteboard under his stamp; pounding it for a minute or more, thrust it before the explorer and expectantly awaited payment.

"When does the train go?" asked the Englishman. "In 10 minutes," was the answer. "How much is it?"

"One hundred and thirty-eight dollars and fifty cents." "What?" the Englishman gasped. "How far is it?" "Three thousand miles." "Old Hoss" was right behind to catch the falling form, and, as he guided the fast fainting Englishman back to the cab, where he snuggled helplessly in a corner, the single exclamation escaped, "What a country?"—*New York Times.*

**THE WORK OF DUST.**—Dust has a very large share in nearly all the phenomena of the earth's atmosphere. It is what makes the clear sky appear blue, and when we look up into the sky we see the dust in the atmosphere illuminated by the sun. There is nothing else before us that can permit the light to reach the eye. Light goes invisible, straight through all gases, whatever their chemical composition. The dust catches it, and reflects it in every direction, and so causes the whole atmosphere to appear clear in the same way that it makes the sunbeam visible in the darkened room. Without dust there would be no blue firmament. The sky would be as dark as or darker than we see it in the finest moonless nights. The glowing disk of the sun would stand immediately upon this dark background, and the same sharp contrast would prevail upon the illuminated surface of the earth—blinding light where the sun's rays fall and deep black shadows where they do not.

Only the light of the moon and the stars, which would remain visible in the daytime, would be able to temper this contrast in a slight degree. The illumination of the earth's surface would be like that we see with the telescope on the lunar landscapes, for the moon has no atmospheric envelope that can hold floating dust. We then owe to dust the even moderately tempered daylight, adapted now to our eyes, and it is that which contributes much to the beauty of our landscape scenery.—*Dr. P. Leonard in Popular Science Monthly.*

**NEVER**—Never answer questions, in general company, that have been asked of others.

**NEVER**, when traveling abroad, be overboastful of your own country.

**NEVER** lend an article you have borrowed unless you have permission.

**NEVER** exhibit anger, impatience, or excitement, when an accident happens.

**NEVER** pass between two persons who are talking together, without an apology.

**NEVER** enter a room noisily.

**NEVER** fail to close a door after you if you found it closed, and never slam it.

**NEVER** forget, that, if you are faithful in a few things, you may be ruler over many.

**IMPEDED HIS UTTERANCE.**—Eastern Visitor: Why did not the Mayor read the riot act during the last disturbance here? It always has a wonderful effect upon a raging mob.

**Quick Drop Dan:** Wal, he did. But it didn't have much effect on the boys. He didn't read plain!

**Eastern Visitor:** Why not? **Quick Drop Dan:** He had a rope round his neck.—*Puck.*

**Ayer's Sarsaparilla** is the quickest cure for all blood diseases. Its effects are always beneficial.

## NEWS IN BRIEF.

From the Baltimore Sun.

Wednesday, October 10, 1894.

Over \$500,000 worth of potatoes were brought from Scotland to the United States in nine months ended June last.

The friends of Colonel W. C. P. Breckinridge are urging him for the United States Senate from Kentucky.

William Whitburst, colored, has been arrested in Norfolk, charged with stealing a coffin in which a colored woman had been interred.

From evidence given so far it is believed to be the purpose of republican protectionists to make the present campaign one of slander and misrepresentation against the democrats.

Five men perished in Lake Fiddler colliery, near Shamokin, Pa., yesterday. One of the victims was Irvin Buffington, who, in disobedience of orders, lighted a naked lamp, setting the mine on fire.

Engineers are surveying a canal route between Pocomoke river and Sinepungent bay, in Worcester county, which will be a link in the interior water-way from Chesapeake bay to Delaware bay.

Acting Postmaster-General Jones has issued an order discontinuing the practice at all postoffices of placing postage due stamps on advertised mail matter before collecting the required fee.

Thursday, October 11, 1894.

The democrats of Wyoming have every prospect of electing the Legislature which will choose two United States Senators.

Senator Gray, of Delaware, says the democrats will elect a Legislature in his State next month, and a member of the House of Representatives.

Eight persons were crushed to death in their beds and several others injured by the fall of a seven-story building in New York during the storm early yesterday morning.

The funeral of ex-Gov. Andrew G. Curtin took place yesterday at Bellefonte, Pa. Governor Pattison was one of the honorary pall-bearers.

The Colored Catholic Congress sent to the Catholic hierarchy, assembled in Philadelphia, a protest against race discrimination in churches, convents, hospitals and schools.

Mrs. Catharine Neale, widow of the late William H. Neale and aunt of Gen. Stonewall Jackson, died in Parkersburg, W. Va., Tuesday night, aged seventy-eight. When a lad young Jackson lived for some time there with his uncle.

Lewis Johnson, colored, of Rockville, Md., was run over by a Baltimore and Ohio freight train in Eckington, D. C. last night. His body was completely severed, except shreds of flesh connecting the upper and lower parts, yet he retained his senses until he died and gave an account of the accident.

**HARD UP FOR AN EXCUSE.**—Mr. Henlow had advertised for a clerk, and, being a kind-hearted man, dismissed the surplus applicants as gently as possible.

"My lad," he said to the last one, "you're too young for the position."

"Too young!" echoed the unfortunate. "Why, I'm a grandfather."

"Well, if I were to hire you it would be an encouragement to men to become grandfathers at your age, and I'm dead against anything of the sort."

Human life is held too cheaply when the individual who needs a tonic for his system, seeks to cover his wants by purchasing every new mixture that is recommended to him. Remember that Ayer's Sarsaparilla has a well-earned reputation of fifty year's standing.

**WROTE AN ESSAY ON PANTS.**—A boy in the Wichita schools is responsible for the following essay on pants:

"Pants are made for men and not men for pants. Pants are like molasses—they are thinner in hot weather and thicker in cold. The man in the moon changes his pants during the eclipse. Don't go to the pantry for pants; you might be mistaken."

"There has been much discussion as to whether pants is singular or plural. Seems to us when men wear pants they are plural, and when they don't wear pants it is singular."

"Men go on a tear in pants and it is all right; but when the pants go on a tear it is all wrong."—*Union Printer.*

**AN HONEST QUAKER.**—A sheriff was once asked to execute a writ against a Quaker. On arriving at his house he saw the Quaker's wife, who, in reply to the inquiry whether her husband was at home, said he was, at the same time, requesting him to be seated and her husband would speedily see him. The officer waited patiently for some time, when the fair Quakeress coming into the room, he reminded her of her promise that he might see her husband. "Nay, friend, I promised that he would see thee. He has seen thee. He did not like thy looks. Therefore, he avoided thee and hath departed from the house by another path."—*Post-Dispatch.*

**FOR THE LITERATURE.**—Proverbs are the literature of reason or the statements of absolute truth without qualification. Like the sacred books of each nation, they are the sanctuary of its institutions.—*Emerson.*

**IN A CHEAP RESTAURANT.**—Grump: Do you call this steak fit for a Christian to eat? Waiter: We hain't anxious about de religion of our customers, boss!—*Truth.*

**AYER'S Sarsaparilla**  
THE ONLY  
ADMITTED  
READ RULE XV.

Articles that are in any way dangerous or offensive, also patent medicines, nostrums, and empirical preparations, whose ingredients are concealed, will not be admitted to the Exposition.

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**For Furniture, Stoves, Fall and Winter Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes, Underwear, Notions, &c.,**

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**Prices Lower Than Ever Before.**

We are the **Safe House** with low prices for **HORNER'S Famous Yellow-Labeled, Genuine Oil Grain Shoes** for men, boys and misses. We make a specialty of this line. Try them.

We are selling bargains in Kanawah Pumps and Leitbrandt Stoves and fixtures.

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Three gentlemanly clerks to wait upon you, who will convince you that it is to your advantage to buy of

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Dec 1-41 LEONARDTOWN.

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Manufacturers of CAKES, CRACKERS and CANDIES by steam.

I beg leave to inform my friends and patrons that I have permanently associated myself with the above firm and respectfully ask for a share of your patronage. Thanking you for past favors, I am yours very respectfully,  
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**\$2.00 A Year.** Representatives wanted in every city, town, and village. We want ladies and gentlemen, who can give satisfactory references, and we will pay well for their services. Address  
SUBSCRIPTION DEPT., 611 Washington Street, Boston, Nov 23, '93—41"

**MATTHEW J. POPE, Blacksmith and Wheelwright,** Leonardtown, Md. Special attention given to horseshoeing. I can always be found at my shop and will do all work in my line at shortest notice and as cheap as can be done in the county. Thankful for past patronage, I respectfully ask a continuance. Jun 318-41"

**FOR SALE.** Farm on Patuxent River (late McCollum property) of 129 acres, containing about 4,000 full bearing fruit trees. Good tobacco land; two barns; handsome dwelling house; convenient to steamboat wharf; immediate entry. Apply to  
March 5-41 A. M. Drum Cliffs.

**FOR THE LEGISLATURE.** Please announce Mr. MORGAN RALEY as a candidate for the next House of Delegates. He will be warmly supported by the  
7th District.

**FOR SALE.** A farm of 431-2 acres, 36 arable and the balance in timber, situated near Oakley, 7th district, on Canoe Creek. A new dwelling in good order. Convenient to churches, wharves, stores and school. Apply to  
ROBERT F. LONG, Oakley, St. Mary's county, or J. F. MORGAN, Attorney, Leonardtown, Md. Aug 11 -41

**FOR SHERIFF.** Messrs. Editors you will please announce JEFF J. REARDON, Jr., as a suitable candidate for the Sheriffship and say that he will receive the undivided support of the Democrats throughout the county and particularly from the Sixth, Eighth and Second Districts.  
March 23, 94—p

**LUMBER.**  
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414 LIGHT STREET WHARF, BALTIMORE, MD.  
We offer you, delivered to Wharf or Depot in Baltimore:  
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All orders quickly and neatly attended to.  
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**UNDERTAKING**  
Messrs. H. B. Cawood and A. C. Welch have dissolved co-partnership. Mr. CAWOOD will continue the business at Chaptico and will furnish  
**CASKETS** that are elsewhere sold for \$50 and \$75 at \$30. Proportionately low prices for **COFFINS** H. B. CAWOOD, Chaptico, Md.  
Feb 2, 93-41  
**NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS.**  
Until further notice for the purpose of receiving taxes I will be at Jarboesville, the 1st Monday of each month.  
St. Inigo's, the first Tuesday of each month.  
Valley Lee, the 1st Saturday of each month.  
All who are owing back taxes to me must settle at once. W. W. CECIL, Collector.  
Dec 22 92-41

**Saint Mary's Beacon.**  
Don't give the latest foreign news. It does not claim to circulate all over the earth, but it does give all the **St. Mary's News.**  
and wherever there is a St. Mary's family there you will find the **St. Mary's Beacon**

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