

Wichita Daily Eagle

SOUTHERN BELIEFS.

QUEER SUPERSTITIONS THAT PREVAIL AMONG NEGROES.

Signs for Everything—The Ball of Feathers in a Pillow—The Crossbone Custom that is Practiced in the City of New Orleans—A Difficult Task.

Webster defines superstition as a "belief in omens and prognostics," and further, "omen, a sign, a presage, prognostic, foreboding, token, etc." Of all these definitions the only one used and understood by that most superstitious of all races, the African, is "sign." A sign of trouble, of sickness, of joy, of sorrow, of visitors, of accident, a "sign," a "sign," a "sign."

These and hundreds of similar sayings and superstitions are as familiar to southerners as the blue skies and fragrant blossoms of their sunny clime. In the extreme south, more especially in Louisiana, and in New Orleans worst of all, where French, Spanish, Italian and African—all races peculiarly susceptible to occult influences—predominate, superstition runs riot.

Perhaps the most peculiar of the many methods adopted to work upon the superstitious negroes was the insertion by apparently supernatural means of balls of feathers into pillows and beds.

A peculiar odor was exhaled, and when lightly struck an almost impalpable powder arose. An inquisitive Jack of the family cut one of the queer objects in halves, and we found therein such an assortment as Shakespeare puts into his witches' cauldron, as they brewed in darkness and tempest:

File of a flinty snake, Eye of newt and leg of frog, Wood of bat and tongue of dog, Lizard's leg, and violet's wing.

ALL SAINTS' DAY. Certainly there were all sorts of horrible, unnamable objects. The soft, whitish powder that arose in high clouds when the balls were touched was undoubtedly some subtle, insidious poison, the secret of its composition perhaps handed down from the alchemy of the ancient Egyptians, and its constant inhalation during sleep was to cause a slow, lingering and eventually fatal illness, which could be cured, to beset the unfortunate victim selected.

The creole negroes of New Orleans have a gruesome fashion of invoking a consumption of their wishes that I believe is entirely indigenous to the soil of that quaint cosmopolitan semi-foreign city. Among the numerous fetes, days, high days and holidays that are scattered so liberally among the too sober pathway of the twelve months of the year none is more beautifully observed by the New Orleansians than the first of November. This is by legal statute a state holiday in the Catholic and Episcopal church calendars. All saints' day, but in Louisiana, and particularly in the Crescent City, it is a day for the remembrance of the dead.

That tomb is, indeed, neglected and its occupant forgotten that does not bear a memento. From the simple crucifix shell, or perhaps only a little mass of white, glistening sand, with a paper rose stuck in its midst, to the elaborate, expensive floral tribute that crowns the lofty marble of the rich man's resting place, not one is left without decoration. A general pilgrimage to the many cemeteries in and around the city takes place, and its observance is universal to a surprising degree.

It is on that day the old cradle superstition tells you to pursue the following method if you want to have your wish, the dearest desire of your heart, fulfilled.

PERHAPS THIS IS BEST. You must purchase beforehand a handkerchief, and it must not be used, but kept clean and white for this occasion.

On the eventful morning you must also have home as early as possible, and as quietly, and not a word or a sound must escape your lips from the time you close the door behind you until you return. You must go to a cemetery, enter the main gate, walk from there to the opposite wall, on the main avenue, and somewhere on its length you must pick up a piece of dirt, the dirt in one corner of the new handkerchief, naturally expressing your most heartfelt wish.

Leave the cemetery by the same gate you entered, and make your way to a second, enter this and pursue the same course, tying a bit of dirt from the main walk into a second corner of the handkerchief with a second wish. Visit a third cemetery, and tie a third bit of dirt into a third corner of that blessed handkerchief, with a third and last wish. Return home, roll the handkerchief into a compact little ball, and toss it upon the top of an armchair, or upon the cornice of a high window, or perhaps on the tester of the bed. Any high place that is likely to be undisturbed, save by spiders, will answer.

Then, and not until then, must you speak. The charm is broken if a single audible sound occurs during this rite. When it is remembered that you are most likely to meet your dearest friend and foe among the crowds that pass to and from the cemeteries, attending their own and viewing others' decorations, it will be seen that it is not an easy matter to keep absolutely quiet; but those wishes will come true before twelve moons have shed their rays upon you, and many and forensome are the tales told by the old creole negroes of the "granted wishes" that in many cases proved to be indeed "scourges that sting."—St. Louis Republic.

A Suggestion. Frank—You won't be at the masquerade ball? Jack—(all thin and with a head of upright hair)—No. Can't decide on a character costume.

Frank—Powder your hair and go as a whitewash brush.—Pittsburg Bulletin.

The delicate type of bad complexion is usually nothing more nor less than an expansion of the formula, "You're a fool!" wrapped, however, in fair words and snappy phrases.

Where soft or hard coal is burned in an open grate a dampened newspaper pinned over the front makes a serviceable blower, but never use a dry paper.

Wichita Wholesale & Manufacturing Houses.

The houses given below are representative ones in their line, and thoroughly reliable. They are furnished thus for ready reference for the South generally, as well as for city and suburban buyers. Dealers and inquirers should correspond direct with names given.

GLOBE IRON WORKS, MANUFACTURERS OF Steam Engines, Boilers and Pumps, and Dealers in Brass Goods, Rubber and Hemp Packing, Steam Fittings, Etc.

ROSS BROTHERS, FLOUR DEPOT, Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Field Gardens and Flower Seed.

The Stewart Iron Works, MANUFACTURERS OF IRON FENCING, Architectural, Wrought and Cast Iron Work for Buildings.

TO ART DEALERS AND ARTISTS, Artists Materials, Pictures, Mountings and Frames Wholesale and Retail.

THOMAS SHAW, Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Pianos and Organs.

HETTINGER BROS., PHYSICIANS—SUPPLIES, And Surgical Instruments, Send for our Illustrated Catalogue.

Trimbler Bros. & Threlkeld, Wholesale HARDWARE, Special attention to mail orders.

L. M. COX, Manufacturing Confectioner, And jobber in Figs, Dates, Cigars, Foreign and Domestic Nuts, Cider, Paper Bags, Paper Boxes, Candy Jars, Trays, Etc.

THE C. E. POTTS DRUG CO., (Formerly Charles E. Potts & Co., Cincinnati, O.) WHOLESALE DRUGGISTS.

WHOLESALE SOAP WORKS IN THE WEST, ESTABLISHED 1857. The Wichita Soap Manufacturing Company.

LEWIS B. SOLOMON, Wholesale Cigars, BOARD OF TRADE BUILDING, WICHITA, KANSAS.

BAKER, RAFFERTY & CO., COR. MARKET AND FIRST STS., WICHITA, KAN.

ANCIENT FLOATING MONSTERS, Vessels Built by Egyptians That Would rival Modern Steamers.

LABOR IN THE PYRAMIDS, The pyramids were erected between 2,000 and 3,000 years before the Christian era.

HEMARECK'S INSEPARABLE COMPANIONS, Hismareck's inseparable companions are two large Danish hounds.

THE PICK—Do you mean that you will never be mine? That all my labor is in vain?

DEVOTION, Mrs. Wilgus—I learn that your daughter has decided to enter a convent and devote herself to the Lord.

THE MOUSE TRAP, Four little mice, a little trap, Mouse loaded cheese—snap!

SENTIMENT VERSUS REALITY, Romantic Old Sentimental—And married now, you say? Deary me, but how the time does fly!

HE WAS A DIPLOMAT, They stood before the Fra Angelico in the National gallery, which is crowded with rank after rank of angels and saints.

CHILDREN CRY FOR PITCHER'S CASTORIA, Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

HOW GEN. BUTLER FREED A MAN, Gen. Butler's gift for springing out and taking advantage of every technicality.

W. T. BISHOP & SONS, WICHITA, KANSAS. Send Us a Trial Order or Call and See Us.

FINLAY ROSS, FURNITURE, CARPETS, ETC, The Largest Establishment in the State.

GETTO-MCLUNG BOOT AND SHOE CO., MANUFACTURERS AND WHOLESALE DEALERS IN BOOTS & SHOES.

THE JOHNSTON & LARIMER DRY GOODS CO., Wholesale Dry Goods, Notions and Furnishing Goods.

CORNER & FARNUM, ROYAL SPICE MILLS, A new process dry compressed yeast cake.

MCCOMB BROS., SADDLES & SADDLERY HARDWARE, Correspondence Solicited.

BURR FURNITURE CO., Wholesale and Retail FURNITURE.

SHAFER & MAHANEY, Coal, Gravel, Roofing, Roofing and Building Materials.

E. VAIL & CO., WATCHES, JEWELRY, CLOCKS AND SILVERWARE.

WICHITA WHOLESALE GROCERY CO., Wholesale Grocers, OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE 213 TO 225 SOUTH MARKET STREET.

Wichita Trunk Factory, H. HOSSFELD, Proprietor, Manufacturer of Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Trunks, Valises, Satchels, Shawl and Trunk Straps, Pocket Books, Willow Ware, Etc.

LEHMANN-HIGGINSON GROCER CO., Wholesale Grocers, 203 AND 205 N. WATER STREET.

YOUNG FOLKS COLUMN.

INSTRUCTIVE AND ENTERTAINING READING FOR GIRLS AND BOYS.

The City of Turin as it Was and as it is—A Brief Account of its More Important Buildings, Cathedrals and its Chief Manufactories.

Turin, formerly a fortified city, and the capital of Piedmont, in northern Italy, is situated on the river Po. At the beginning of this century the French destroyed and leveled its ramparts, converting them into public promenades.



THE CITY OF TURIN.

Among the numerous churches of Turin the principal are the Cathedral of San Giovanni, dating from the Seventh century, also the church of San Filippo, one of the most beautiful in Turin.

A Week of Work, Emily Poulsen tells in Kindergarten how to do it.

On Monday we will wash our clothes, and hang them up to dry.

On Tuesday we will iron them, and mend each hole we see.

On Wednesday we will make our bread, and sometimes, too, a cake.

On Thursday we'll receive our friends, and time for reading tasks.

On Friday we will sweep and dust as nicely as we can.

On Saturday, for Sunday's rest, we'll cook and wash and plan.

On Sunday we will learn at church how to be good, and then on Monday cheerfully begin our week of work again.

The Pick—Do you mean that you will never be mine? That all my labor is in vain?

The Porphyry—Yes, all is ore between us.—Drake's Magazine.

Youth and Age, Ambitious Youth—Don't you wish you were Finemind, the great author?

Devotion, Mrs. Wilgus—I learn that your daughter has decided to enter a convent and devote herself to the Lord.

Hismareck's inseparable companions are two large Danish hounds.

Little Bo-peep, There was a little shepherd, his pen, a magic wand, with a little comb.

Sentiment Versus Reality, Romantic Old Sentimental—And married now, you say? Deary me, but how the time does fly!

He Was a Diplomat, They stood before the Fra Angelico in the National gallery, which is crowded with rank after rank of angels and saints.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria, Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

RUSSIA SALVE, RUSSIA SALVE, RUSSIA SALVE, RUSSIA SALVE, RUSSIA SALVE.

Talking Parrots, Talking parrots are far less plentiful than they were—why, it is hard to say.

The error probably arose from the fact that some birds with divided tongues can talk a little, but this is an exception.

A Too Literal Acceptance, "Philosophic advice may all be very well, but some men have wound up in jail who followed it."

Had Medicinal Value, Beautiful Young Lady (of history country)—These stockings strike me as being rather long.

GOLD MEDAL, PARIS, 1875, W. BAKER & CO'S Breakfast Cocoa.

No Chemicals, are used in its preparation. It has more than three times the strength of Cocoa mixed with Starch, Arrowroot or Sugar.

W. BAKER & CO., Dorchester, Mass.



Some Difference, She—Why don't you get married? Can't you afford it?

SCOTT'S EMULSION, Of Pure Cod Liver Oil and Hypophosphites of Lime and Soda.

CONSUMPTION, SCROFULA, BRONCHITIS, COUGHS AND COLDS, AND ALL FORMS OF WASTING DISEASES.

WORTH A GUINEA A BOX, BEECHAM'S PAINLESS PILLS EFFECTUAL.

For BILIOUS & NERVOUS DISORDERS, Such as Wind and Pain in the Stomach, Fullness and Swelling after Meals.

For Sick Headache, Weak Stomach, Impaired Digestion, Constipation, Disordered Liver, etc.

Prepared only by THOMAS BEECHAM, 11, WATERLOO PLACE, LONDON, W.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria, Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.