

CREMATION'S ODD PHASE

WAY IN WHICH PEOPLE DISPOSE OF THE ASHES OF THEIR DEAD.

One Widow Credited With Eating the Ashes of Her Husband — Many Ashes Scattered to the Winds—Bodies From Abroad to Be Cremated.

A good many queer things have happened in connection with cremation, but perhaps the strangest of them all was the case of Mrs. Matilda Francefort, relates the New York Sun. Matilda ate her husband, which sounds cannibalistic, but isn't.

In 1896 Mr. Francefort left his sphere of usefulness in Brooklyn and his soul, it is to be hoped, soared to a better world. As for his body, they took it to Fresh Pond and cremated it. Then his widow went after the ashes and took them carefully home with her. All widows do not. Some don't even buy a niche for them at the crematory or pay storage for them in the cellar.

But Mrs. Francefort was different. She got the ashes of the late Mr. F. and carried them home in a japanned tin box, like a tea canister or a spice box. Perhaps that was what suggested to the sorrowing widow the disposition she should next make of them.

At any rate she decided to eat them. There was much to be said in favor of this plan. It was economical. She would save the expense of an urn and a niche and a monument by being all that herself. Then, too, she and the dear cremated had lived together for thirty-one years and she was lonesome without him. She was informed that the ashes would enter permanently into her system, and it seemed to be a clear case of eating your cake and having it too. Anybody could see that under the circumstances it was the only way of keeping the family together.

Having decided to eat her husband the next question was the manner in which he should be served. Mrs. Francefort went over his qualities with a sorrowful heart. He had been a witty man, there was always a spicy flavor in his conversation. Mrs. Francefort made a note: "Spice."

Then she defied anybody to say that he had not been the salt of the earth. Another note: "Salt." Still she had to admit that he had a bit of a temper. Note number three: "Pepper." But then, he was always sweet to her. Final note: "Sugar." Clearly, Mr. Francefort's post-mortem speciality should be in the condiment line. Mrs. F. determined to make a seasoning.

So she put a pinch of him in her coffee at breakfast and sprinkled him lightly over the boiled shad. At luncheon he went into the tea, and contributed distinction to the lamb stew. At dinner—well, at dinner the supply of Mr. Francefort's ashes went down in more ways than one. And whatever the gentleman may have done in life, there is one thing sure, he never disagreed with his widow when he was dead, though a little of him did perhaps go a long way.

People who take to cremation seem to have a fondness for having their ashes scattered to the winds. There was the first man who was cremated in this country. That is to say, the first in recent times. Toward the end of the eighteenth century a Southerner by the name of Lawrence left a request to be cremated. His sons built a furnace especially and the first cremation—not Indian—took place on American soil.

But in 1876 Baron von Palm was cremated in Dr. Lemoyne's private crematory at Washington, Penn., and his ashes were scattered upon the Hudson River. Then there was Ernest Rosin, who, in 1897, stood on the Eads bridge over the Mississippi and poured his father's ashes into the stream below. In both cases the dead men had asked to be thus thrown adrift. It is said that Joaquin Miller has made a similar request.

Another case of the same kind was that of William Petersen Appleby, an officer in the Mexican and the Civil wars. His body was cremated at Fresh Pond in 1898 and the widow took the ashes to her home in Hempstead. Her husband had asked her to scatter them abroad on the first windy day after his cremation. She waited until a gale was blowing, and then in the presence of some of her husband's friends held the ashes out by handfuls and let the wind blow them away.

At Bromberg, Germany, in 1897, the ashes of one Robert Arons were sold at public auction for \$3.75. The purchaser was not a member of the dead man's family. The records stop short there, and one is left guessing who wanted the ashes badly enough to pay \$3.75 for them. It would seem, too, that there must have been more than one bidder, for \$3.75 would hardly have been offered as a starter.

The remains of Abbie Sage Richardson, the writer, who died in Italy, were brought to this country to be cremated. They were incinerated at Fresh Pond. Her brother died from the shock and was cremated on the following day.

Kate Field's body was also brought home to be burned. She died in the Sandwich Islands and was buried there. It was a long time before her friends got the money together to bring the remains to this country, but it was finally done, and they were cremated at San Francisco. Mrs. Whitline, to whose efforts the carrying out of Miss Field's wishes were due, brought the ashes from San Francisco to Boston in a handbag filled with flowers. The ashes were finally buried at Mount Auburn beside the grave of Miss Field's mother.

Emma Abbott, the singer, was cremated at the Washington Crematory. An interesting item about this case is the costliness of the gown in which the body was burned. It was an imported gown of silver and gold brocade, and the papers of that date placed its cost

at \$5000. That may have been a trifle high, but the gown was certainly worth a great deal.

A peculiar case was that of J. Z. Davis and his wife. Davis was a California millionaire. The wife died first. She was cremated, and her husband put her ashes in a box twice the usual size, because he intended to have his own mingled with his wife's when he should die in his turn.

When he did die it was in Philadelphia, and the undertaker's first orders were to embalm the body. He had no sooner embalmed it than he received orders by telegraph to cremate it. So he cremated it. Then he was instructed to send on the ashes, but this he declined to do until his bill for embalming and cremating had been settled.

In the meantime trouble over the dead man's will had broken out in California, and nobody was paying bills just then. So a peculiar state of affairs came to pass. The urn with the wife's ashes—which rattled lonesomely around in their ample receptacle—was produced as evidence in court, while the husband's ashes were held in Philadelphia as security for the undertaker's bill.

Propos of California cremations, there was that of Durrant, the young murderer. The crematories in San Francisco were so squeamish that they refused to burn the body, and the father had to take it to Pasadena. The medical men of the State had been keenly interested in the young man, and were anxious to have the brain for examination. The family was determined they should not get it. So the father did not let the coffin out of his sight until he saw it placed in the retort of the Pasadena crematory.

Pet animals have sometimes been cremated, but the prize instance of this kind was when a rich London woman had a pet Yorkshire terrier, named Monkey, cremated, and the ashes placed in a \$3000 urn.

Branch 90 of the Cigarmakers' International Union is at the Labor Lyceum in East Fourth street. On the top of a desk there is, or was not long ago, a novel exhibit. It was a collection of fifteen cans and one urn, containing the ashes of sixteen members of the union. In a vault alongside of the bowling alley in the Arlon clubhouse there is a similar collection of the ashes of dead Arlonites.

Helen Bertram, one of the Bostonians, was credited with carrying her husband's ashes in a chamois bag suspended from a gold chain around her neck. As the ashes from a full grown body weigh from three to five pounds it is doubtful if the singer carried more than a small sample of her husband with her in that way. It is by no means uncommon, though, for surviving widows to carry the ashes of the departed with them whenever they travel.

Blood Oranges From Italy.

It was reported in Germany some time ago that a great portion of the blood oranges which are imported from Italy are colored artificially. To test this assertion two well-known German chemists made many experiments in coloring oranges. The experiments consisted in injecting the red coloring matter into ordinary oranges. The result was that through all experiments not one injection succeeded in coloring the whole orange proportionately. When the coloring material was injected through the skin of the fruit, the pigment failed to diffuse and limited itself to the point where it was introduced. When the coloring was injected into the poles of the orange only the white fibre which is in the axis of the orange, was colored, and sometimes the coloring found its way between the parts of the orange. On the strength of these experiments the chemists make the assertion that the artificial coloring of blood oranges is impossible after picking. It is equally impossible to color the oranges on the tree by injecting the coloring into its roots, for it would injure the tree, and the effect of the coloring material would be lost before it reached the fruit.

Dominated by Hystero-genic Germ.

The standard joke about the Frenchman who got "extenuating circumstances" in his trial for the murder of his parents on the pathetic plea that he was an orphan, says the Westminster Gazette, is not so far removed from the truth as might be imagined, according to the story told in the Paris letter of the Daily Chronicle. A man was tried for parricide, and the medical expert declared that the prisoner, instead of being punished, was to be pitied. He was dominated by hystero-genic germs and anti-peristaltic symptoms, and the idea of "suppressing his father for the benefit of his family" was a thing that grew and had to be completed. We quite agree that many crimes arise from physical and mental defects reacting on each other, but it is hard on the unfortunates who are "suppressed." The case reminds one of the system in "Erewhon," where moral offences are treated as physical complaints.

Clergymen Collect Their Own Due.

An extraordinary survival from the primitive tradition of the clergy openly collecting their own "dues" in kind from the people may now be seen in full swing in the rural districts of Upper Savoy, in Switzerland. Every year about the middle of October, clergymen, attended by youths bearing sacks and baskets, go from village to village, receiving the contributions of their parishioners. No sort of consumable commodity comes amiss, though money is most favored, and every evening the sack or basket goes back heavily loaded. These contributions are a popular test of respectability, and many a housewife has been known to borrow the whole amount of her offering to the parochial incumbent.

The Best Way.
"You must ask your father, my dear, if you can have a new dress."
"But do you think that is wise, mamma?"
"Why not?"
"I thought I would order it first."
Cold Days in Boston.
Sue Brette—I understand now why you said that Boston girl was so cold.
Foot Lighter—Why so?
"When I passed your parlor door I noticed your lips were frozen to hers."

DEERING AT PARIS IN 1900.
The Famous Chicago Harvester Company Received More and Greater Honors Than Ever Before. It is an American Exhibitor in the History of Expositions.

America may well feel proud of the interest which her citizens took in the Paris Exposition and the elaborate exhibits which were prepared with consummate skill and displayed in a manner not excelled by any other country. Those of Harvesting Machinery in particular were most complete and interesting. The Deering Harvester Company, of Chicago, America's foremost manufacturer of this line of goods, was accorded the position of honor, having contributed more to the advancement of the art of harvesting than any other manufacturer, living or dead, and with a greater array of important inventions to its credit than any other company in the world.

Visitors to the Exposition were prompt to accord the Deering exhibits supreme honors, and it only remained for official mandate to ratify the popular verdict, which was done in a manner substantial as it was well-merited. Each one of the seven Deering exhibits secured the highest award in its class. In addition to four high decorations, the Deering Harvester Company received twenty-five awards, of twenty-five in all, as follows: Decoration of Officer of the Legion of Honor, Decoration of Chevalier of the Legion of Honor, Two Decorations of Officer of Merite Agricole, a Special Certificate of Honor, The Grand Prize, Six Gold Medals, Six Silver Medals and Eleven Bronze Medals, including Deering Collaborator Medals.

The Decoration of Legion of Honor was instituted by Napoleon Bonaparte when First Consul in 1802, and is only conferred in recognition of distinguished military or civil achievements. It is the highest distinction in the gift of the French Republic. The Decoration of Merite Agricole is an honor of but slightly less importance, which is conferred upon those who have contributed greatly to the advancement of agriculture.

An Official Certificate of Honor was awarded the Deering Retrospective Exhibit, which showed the improvements in harvesting machinery during the past century, and excited the highest praise of the French Government Officials who had entrusted to the Deering Harvester Company the preparation of the most important exhibit. By special request this exhibit has been presented to the National Museum of Arts and Sciences at Paris, where it has become a permanent feature of that world-famed institution.

The Deering Twine Exhibit and Corn Harvester Exhibit, both of which received the highest awards, have by request of the French Government been presented to the National Agricultural College of France. There was no field trial, either official or otherwise, in connection with the Paris Exposition, but the most important foreign contest of the past season was held under the auspices of the Russian Expert Commission at the Governmental Farm of Tomsk, Siberia, August 14th to 19th. All the leading American and European machines participated, and were subjected to the most difficult tests by the Government Agriculturist. The Expert Commission awarded the Deering Harvester Company the Grand Silver Medal of the Minister of Agriculture and Domain, which was the highest award.

The Deering Harvester Works are the largest of their kind in the world, covering eighty-five acres and employing 9000 people. They are equipped with modern automatic machines, many of which perform the labor of from five to fifteen hands. This Company is also the largest manufacturer of Binder Twine in the world, having been first to produce single-strand binder twine, such as is in general use today, making over a third of the product of the entire world. The output of its factory for a single day would tie a band around the earth at the equator, with several thousand miles to spare. The annual production would fill a freight train twenty miles long. Made into a mat two feet wide, it would reach across the American Continent from ocean to ocean.

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This Company exhibited at the Paris Exposition an Automobile Mower, which attracted much attention, and exhibitions were given with one of these machines in the vicinity of Paris throughout the season.

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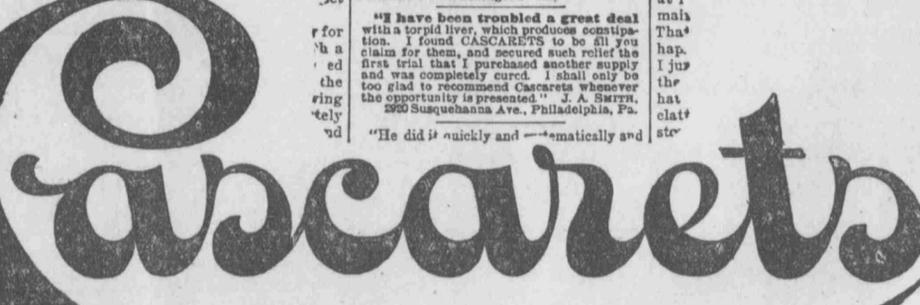


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