

QUEER INDIAN BELIEFS.

The Bella Coola Believe There Are Five Worlds and Are Worshipers of the Sun.

There is an odd feature in the theology of the small Indian tribe of the Bella Coola which inhabit British Columbia in about latitude 52. They believe that there are five worlds, one above the other, and the middle one is our own world, the earth. Above it are two heavens, and under it are two underworlds. In the upper heaven is the supreme deity, who is a woman, and she doesn't meddle much with the affairs in the second world below her. The zenith is the center of the lower heaven, and here is the house of the gods in which live the sun and the rest of the deities.

Our own earth is believed to be an island swimming in the ocean. The first underworld from the earth is inhabited by ghosts, who can return, when they wish, to heaven, from which place they may be sent down to our earth. If then they misbehave again they are cast into the lower of the underworlds, and from this bourn no ghostly traveler returns.

The Bella Coola are sun worshippers, for Senex, the sun, the master of the house of gods, who is called the father and the sacred one, is the only deity to whom the tribe pray. Each family of the Bella Coola has its own traditions and its own form of the current traditions, so that in the mythology of the tribe there are countless contradictions. When any one not a member of a clan tries to tell a tradition which does not belong to his clan it is like a white man trying to tell another's joke—he is considered as appropriating the property right which does not belong to him.

SMOKELESS POWDER.

It Came Through Experimenting For High Explosives.

The idea is very general that smokeless powder is being practically smokeless achieves its greatest end, but as a matter of fact its smokeless feature is incidental and was an accident.

When the idea of modern long range guns was conceived it was at once apparent that the old black powder lacked explosive force, and thousands of experiments were made with various chemicals to procure a powder of high explosive properties, and this was at last accomplished.

When the new powder was tried, much to the surprise of every one it was found that practically no smoke followed the explosion, though this could of course have been predicted had the question ever arisen. The volume of smoke from black powder is due mainly to the quantity of charcoal in the powder, an ingredient not found in the smokeless explosive.

Smokeless powder, though a great boon to the sportsman, is of questionable value on the battlefield, so far as its smokelessness is concerned. The smoke clouds of old days were frequently most advantageously used to cloak movements of troops and batteries and really interfered with the enemy much more than with the troops creating the smoke.—Exchange.

Saved by Fireflies.

The gigantic tropical fireflies which swarm in the forests and canebrakes of most of the low lying West Indian islands once proved the salvation of the city of Santo Domingo. A body of buccaneers, headed by the notorious Thomas Cavendish, had laid all their plans for a descent upon the place, intending to massacre the inhabitants and carry away all the treasure they conveniently could, and had actually put off their boats for that purpose. As they approached the land, however, rowing with muffled oars, they were greatly surprised to see an infinite number of moving lights in the woods which fringed the bayou up which they had to proceed, and, concluding that the Spaniards knew of their approach, they put about and regained their ship without attempting to land.

The Wonderful Banana.

Some people believe that the banana was the original forbidden fruit of the garden of Eden. In any case it is one of the curiosities of the vegetable kingdom, being not a tree, a palm, a bush, a shrub, a vegetable or a herb, but a herbaceous plant with the status of a tree. Although it sometimes attains a height of thirty feet, there is no woody fiber in any part of its structure, and the bunches growing on the dwarf banana plant are often heavier than the stalk which supports them. No other plant gives such a quantity of food to the acre as the banana. It yields 44 times more by weight than the potato and 133 times more than wheat. Moreover, no insect will attack it, and it is always immune from diseases of any kind.

Convinced.

"Do you think a college education helps a man in business?" "Sure. I've had two college boys here workin' for me durin' the past year, and I was afraid to discharge either one of 'em for fear they'd find fault with my grammar when I done it."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Following Orders.

Charlie—What have you been doing to your face, dear boy? Percy—I tried to shave myself this morning. Charlie—What on earth for? Percy—The doctor told me that I ought to take more exercise.—Illustrated Bits.

At Cross Purposes.

Scott—Half the people in the world don't know what the other half are doing. Mott—No; that is because the other half are doing them. — Boston Transcript.

KANGAROO MEAT.

The Native Youngsters of New Guinea Had a Good Reason For Refusing to Eat It.

In certain parts of New Guinea the wallaby, a species of kangaroo, are very plentiful, and the traveler in search of sport finds the pursuit of them an exciting occupation. Wallaby steak is a refreshing change from canned meats, and the natives are only too glad to have the remnants of the carcass. A writer in an English magazine tells an amusing incident connected with the animal.

He had been ashore in one of the sparsely populated regions of the coast and secured four wallaby, an ample supply for the whole party, native guides and servants included. But he found that, although wallaby is regarded as such a delicacy that no trouble is considered too great to obtain it, none of the native boys in the party would touch it.

This was a mystery until one of them explained that they had been trained in childhood in the belief that if they ate wallaby before reaching a certain age it would stop their growth.

These boys all belonged to the part of the country where wallaby are few, and one can imagine the crafty old folks seated round the festive pot and winking at one another as the young people declined the succulent dainty.

LACEMAKING.

An Old Legend That Tells of the Origin of the Art.

Lacemaking is by no means so old an industry as most persons suppose. There is no proof that it existed previous to the fifteenth century, and the oldest known painting in which it appears is a portrait of a lady in the academy at Venice painted by Caspaccio, who died about 1523. The legend concerning the origin of the art is as follows:

A young fisherman of the Adriatic was betrothed to a young and beautiful girl of one of the islands of the lago. Industrious as she was beautiful, the girl made a new net for her lover, who took it with him on board his boat. The first time he cast it into the sea he dragged therefrom an exquisite petrified wrack grass, which he hastened to present to his fiancée; but, war breaking out, the fisherman was pressed into the service of the Venetian navy. The poor girl wept at the departure of her lover and contemplated his last gift to her. While absorbed in following the intricate tracery of the wrack grass she began to twist and plait the threads weighted with small beads which hung around her net. Little by little she wrought an imitation of the petrification, and thus was created the bobbin lace.

Too Realistic.

During a performance of "Captain Lapalisse" at a Valencia theater some years ago an incident occurred which for lifelike effect left nothing to be desired. During the said play some of the actors mingle with the spectators in order to co-operate from the body of the house. No sooner had Miralles, the actor, taken his seat in the stalls than a daring pickpocket robbed him of his gold watch. Miralles seized the man by his coat collar and called out in a deep bass voice: "Police! Help! Thieves!" The audience, taking this little episode to be part of the performance, roared with laughter. Even the policemen joined in without stirring hand or foot.

"This is no farce" cried the actor in tones of despair. "The fellow has got my watch!"

The voice sounded so natural that the audience broke into loud applause at "such excellent fooling." Meanwhile the thief managed to break away from his captor and escaped.

A Judicial Expert.

The native with a stogie met the native with a pipe.

"Howdy, Zeb?" quoth the stogie native. "Hear 'bout th' fuss down to th' courthouse?" "Nope," drawled the man with the pipe. "What was it about?" "Why, Jim Simpson has been suin' Abner Hawley for alienatin' th' affections of his wife, an' Judge Musgrove told th' jury to bring in a verdict of 6 cents damages, 'cause he thought that was all the damage was worth to Jim. An' Jim's wife got mad an' threw a chair at th' judge, an' he had her arrested an' put in th' cooler." "But didn't th' judge go a leetle too far when he fixed her value so low?" "Not at all, not at all! You see, he was her first husband."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Singer and Orator.

"If I had my way," Dr. Macnamara once confessed to an interviewer, "I should be singing in 'Carmen' instead of making speeches from the treasury bench, but unfortunately the British public thinks a great deal more of a man who can make a bad speech than a man who can sing a good song."—Westminster Gazette.

To Reform Him.

Minister—You say you are going to marry a man to reform him. That is noble. May I ask who it is? Miss Beauty—It's young Mr. Bondclipper. Minister—Indeed! I did not know he had any bad habits. Miss Beauty—Yes; his friends say that he is becoming quite miserly.

Anticipation.

"Doesn't it make you the least bit envious to see what elegant furniture Mrs. Evely is putting into her house next door?"

"Not a bit. My husband says it will be sold by the sheriff within six months—and I'll be there to buy it."—Chicago Tribune.

JAPANESE ENGLISH.

A Sample Circular Composed by a Native Tradesman With an Observation on the Servant Problem.

There comes from a correspondent in Japan this example of circulars in English that Japanese tradesmen sometimes compose:

"Dear Sir—I have the honour to write a letter for you that I have now established the meat market and its branch to deliver the meat as one of the branch of my slaughter house, as which I have many cattle, their pastures, their markets, milk houses, and a slaughter house, etc., and I will have a fresh meat with the most cheapest price from my slaughter house than other butchery and especially make you many reduction for every day purchaser for month. I beg you can soon make me your order without your servant's commission, 'as you know your servant is always making money by your meat.' I will make you the pass-book for the creditor only.

"P. S.—If you handed bad meat from your servant while you are making purchases the meat from my market every day, you will soon let it exchange by the servant without any hesitation. Please make me your order, and if you can make me order by letter I will have the postage reduction from the count of meat with kind regards. Your truly.—Boston Transcript.

THE DELUGE.

Queer Old Australian Tradition About the Flood.

The aboriginal blacks of Australia have a queer tradition about the flood. They say that at one time there was no water on the earth at all except in the body of an immense frog, where men and women could not get at it. There was a great council on the subject, and it was found out that if the frog could be made to laugh the waters would run out of his mouth and the drought be ended.

So several animals were made to dance and caper before the frog to induce him to laugh, but he did not even smile, and so the waters remained in his body. Then some one happened to think of the queer contortions into which the eel could twist itself, and it was straightway brought before the frog, and when the frog saw the wriggling he laughed so loud that the whole earth trembled, and the waters poured out of his mouth in a great flood, in which many people were drowned.

The black people were saved from drowning by the pelican. This thoughtful bird made a big canoe and went with it among all the islands that appeared here and there above the surface of the water and gathered in the black people and saved them.

Curiosities of Superstition.

When Egypt was in the height of her power, when she was most highly civilized and delighted in being called the mistress of the land and sea, her people worshipped a black bull. There was some discrimination, however, even in this form of worship. In order to be an object of mad adoration it was necessary that the bull calf be born with a circular white spot in the exact center of his forehead, and the advent of such a creature in any herd was the signal of wild demonstrations from the Mediterranean to the border of the Lybian desert. Even as late as the time of Cleopatra, star eyed goddess, glorious sorceress of the Nile, such animals were shod with gold and had their horns tipped with the same metal. Herodotus tells of a man who died with grief because he sold a cow that soon after became the mother of a black bull calf marked with the sacred white circle in his forehead.

Lead Pencil Experiments.

An English statistician was asked how many words could be written with an English lead pencil, and, being determined to answer it, he bought a lead pencil and Scott's "Ivanhoe" and proceeded to copy the latter word by word. He wrote 95,908 words and then was obliged to stop, for the pencil had become so short that he could not use it. A German statistician who heard of this experiment was dissatisfied with it because all the lead in the pencil was not used on the work, and therefore he bought a pencil and started to copy a long German novel. When the pencil was so short that he could not handle it with his fingers he attached a holder to it, and it is said that he wrote with this one pencil 400,000 words. Possibly, however, his pencil was longer or the lead in it was of a more durable quality.

When Silence is Deadly.

Silence is commonly the slow poison used by those who mean to murder love. There is nothing violent about it. No shock is given. Hope is not abruptly strangled, but merely dreams of evil and fights with gradually stifling shadows. When the last convulsions come they are not terrific. The frame has been weakened for dissolution. Love dies like natural decay. It seems the kindest way of doing a cruel thing.—George Meredith.

Rubbing It In.

The Bride—That nasty Mrs. Jones, next door, said I'd better try these biscuits on the dog before I gave 'em to you. The Groom—Hasn't she got a mean disposition! Why, I thought she was fond of dogs!—Cleveland Leader.

Often the Case.

Sillicus—What do you suppose caused him to go to the bad? Cynicus—Trying to be a good fellow.—Philadelphia Record.

The fool's ear was made for the knave's tongue.—Ramaswami's "Indian Fables."



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Black Eye For Blackstone. "Your honor," said Moman Pruett, the criminal lawyer, "since reports and modern law are not sufficient to convince you, let me read this section from Blackstone, the father of the common law, an undoubted authority. He supports my contention precisely."

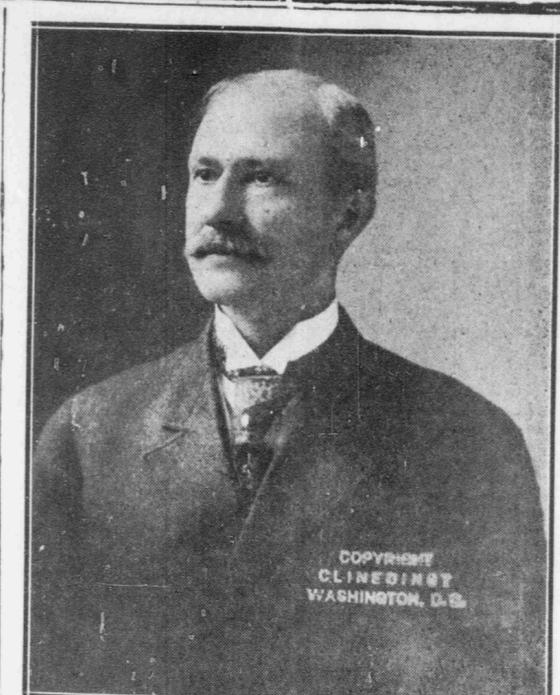
"You had as well sit down, Mr. Pruett. I have decided the point against you," replied the court. "You need not cite more cases. I have overruled your demurrer and do not care to hear you read the section."

"I know you have, your honor. I know you have," sarcastically said the redoubtable lawyer. "I know it, but I just wanted to show the court what a fool Blackstone was."—Kansas City Times.

First Use of the Word "Kerosene." The word "kerosene" seems to have been first used in the United States patent No. 12,612 of March 27, 1855, granted to Abraham Gesner of Williamsburg, N. Y., and assigned to the North American Kerosene Gaslight company. In the preamble to his specification Gesner states that he has "invented and discovered a new and useful manufacture or composition of matter, being a new liquid hydrocarbon which I denominate 'kerosene.'"

So far as we are aware and so far as the patent office examiners are aware, this is the first instance in which the word kerosene was suggested as a trademark or a name for what was then generally called "rock oil."—Scientific American.

Ceremonious and Deadly Dull. The first executive mansion was in Philadelphia, a three story brick building with small paneled windows and a heavy brass knocker on the door. Formal state dinners took place on Thursdays at 4 o'clock, with from ten to twenty guests. Friday evenings Mrs. Washington held her drawing rooms. Plum cake, tea and coffee were served at 9 o'clock, after which Mrs. Washington rose and dismissed her guests, as though they were little children too long lingering at a party. "The general," was the naive formula, "always retires at 9, and I usually precede him." The whole affair was stupidly ceremonious and deadly dull.—Scrap Book.



HON. RICHARD ACHILLIES PALLINGER

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There are 5,499 Negroes employed here in Washington by the Government alone, and these 5,499 Negroes draw salaries aggregating \$3,044,404. These more than three millions of dollars are spent right here in Washington, but scattered among the hundreds of tradesmen. Is this amount of money worth bidding for? It certainly is, and not even the largest stores in this city would refuse to get the big end of it did they but realize how much money the Negroes are really spending.

Now The Bee is the only Negro publication in this city. It stands without a rival or competitor, and covers the field like a few of the merchants in this city will patronize the advertising columns of The Bee, presenting the attractive bargains they may have, these Negroes—these 5,499 Negroes who draw annually from the Government over three millions of dollars—will assume that by patronizing a publication edited and operated by one of their race that such firms desire and deserve their patronage. And such firms will receive the bulk of these over three millions of dollars received and spent by the Negroes of Washington.

What clothing stores, what furniture stores, what dry goods stores and what other lines of business will now make an effort to draw to themselves these over three millions of dollars spent by Washington Negroes by advertising in The Bee?

Place your advertising in The Bee and watch these 5,499 appreciative Negroes spend their over three millions of dollars with you. Now is the time to advertise in The Bee, the newspaper that goes into every Negro home in Washington, D. C. Washington, D. C. what advertising pays you, not what it costs.

MORE MONEY—RACE PROGRESS.

If colored people groom themselves daintily, destroy perspiration odors, remove grease shine from the face, and use our new discoveries for improving the skin and dressing the hair, they will be better received in the business world, make more money, and advance faster.

The Chemical Wonder Company of New York is the best business friend colored people have. It improves their bodies as Dr. Booker Washington improves their minds. That Company manufacturers nine Chemical Wonders, which will make colored people as attractive as individual peculiarities will permit. Colored men in New York who use these Wonders hold better situations in banks, clubs and business houses, and women have better positions, marry better, get along better.

- (1) Complexion Wonder Cream will light up any colored face (black or brown) every time it is used. To prove this on one trial, we send demonstration sample for 10 cents. Regular, 50 cents postpaid.
- (2) Magneto-Metallic Comb, called Wonder Comb. Can be heated before using, to help straighten and dress the hair. Costs 50 cents, and will last a lifetime.
- (3) Wonder Uncurl. When this pomade dressing is in the hair the kinks can be uncurled and the hair becomes flexible. When heated into the scalp and through the hair with a Wonder Comb, any stiff, knotty hair will dress well. 50 cents postpaid.
- (4) Wonder Hair Grow fertilizes the scalp and makes hair grow long, just as fertilizers in the soil make cornstalks grow. 50 cents postpaid.
- (5) Odor Wonder Powder instantly destroys perspiration odor. People who neglect such chemical cleansing are obnoxious. 50 cents postpaid.
- (6) Odor Wonder Liquid. This fine toilet water surrounds the body with delicate perfume. When used with used with Odor Wonder Powder the conditions of the body become perfect. If you can spare 50 cents extra, order this luxury. 50 cents postpaid.
- (7) Wonder Foot Powder keeps the feet dainty. 50 cents, postpaid.
- (8) Wonder Wash. A shampoo to clean from dandruff and insure the health of the hair and scalp. 50 cents postpaid.
- (9) Shell Pink Creme will give light brown girls beautiful pink cheeks without made-up appearance. 50 cents postpaid. We guarantee all these Wonders as represented. We give advice free about hair, skin and scalp. Will send book an attractiveness free. We will prove we are true business friends of colored people. We require one agent for every locality and guarantee you against loss. Only \$25 capital required. Always write to M. E. Bergus & Co., 2 Rector Street, New York. We market all the Chemical Wonder Company preparations.