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Pawning a Bank Book.

The pawning of the wedding ring has become a pathetic commonplace to those who are familiar with police court and coroner's court stories...

Robinson Crusoe, Economist.

When the reputation of punning is under discussion it is well to bear in mind that the very name of the jest confuses to a degree of atrocity.

To "Pound" Words.

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Sir Humphrey Davy.

Sir Humphrey Davy married a widow as peculiar as himself. His pet avocation was a lack of time. He was always in a hurry.

Ancient Cups.

The cups of the Assyrians closely resembled our saucers. Every nobleman and gentleman had his own cup and cup bearer.

Two Different Matters.

"I cannot understand, sir, why you permit your daughter to sue me for breach of promise. You remember that you were bitterly opposed to our engagement because I wasn't good enough for her and would disgrace the family."

Selecting Judges.

Dr. Franklin thought that judges ought to be appointed by lawyers, for, added the shrewd man, in Scotland, where this practice prevails, they always select the ablest member of the profession in order to get rid of him and share his practice among themselves.

A Potlatch.

Two thieves were breaking into a door when the master of the house, hearing them, looked out of the window and said: "Friends, come a little later. We are not yet in bed."—Humor of Spain.

Dangerous Aphorism.

Bachelor—Talk is cheap. Benedicent—For goodness sake, don't advertise it as a bargain while my wife is around.—Brooklyn Life.

A Plea For Soup.

A learned doctor, pleading for soup on every dinner table, says: "A person comes to dinner weary and hungry and needs first something to stimulate the secretions of the stomach. The first course, hot soup, does this by its action upon the nerves which control the blood vessels. Taking the soup slowly is an aid to digestion, and if not a favorite dish fish or oysters can be substituted, serving the same purpose. The joint or roast can then be taken with benefit to the system, and the game, vegetables and sweets should follow in their order, not necessarily in courses for the plain family dinner, however."

SONG OF OLD DAYS.

Here's a song for the days, the heroic old days When the west tried the mettle of reno uce men. Ergo the sun of progression had melted the haze Of the mystery hiding the land from our loon.

A Patient Seer.

Alexander Innes Shann in his "A Melody of Memories" writes of an old Scotchman who he knew in his boyhood. "He used to drive cattle in a flowing, flowered dressing gown, which had been passed on to him, and he only shaved his gray beard at long intervals."

Etiquette of the Savages.

"Even among the savages of French Africa, who eat human flesh, there are differences," said Paul Puetz, a young Italian traveler. "Some while ago, when exploring in that country, I learned a good bit about the ways of the various tribes. In a majority of them cannibalism is indulged only when the bodies are those of prisoners taken in battle. It is all right to eat persons who belong to hostile clans, but it would be a gross violation of tradition and the custom of the land to feast upon the friends or even upon members of the same tribe. The delicacy of sentiment, however, is not universal, and in one tribe in particular, where I noted the absence of any old persons, I learned that it was the proper thing to add the aged inhabitants to the local food supply. This caused the population to the young and hardy, for at the first signs of decrepitude the boiling pot was called into requisition."—Washington Post.

Hard Lines For Bachelors.

"Korea's the wrong place for bachelors," said a traveler. "Bachelors in Korea are considered as children and have only children's privileges. You, a Korean bachelor, get thirsty. You enter a rest house and call for palm wine. The pretty little amber colored waitress says: "Married?" "No," says you. "Hereas, then," says she. And out you go unshaken. "You don't like to vote, but they won't let you if you are not married. "You apply for a job somewhere. "How many children have you?" is the first question you're asked. "And as soon as you say you're unmarried they laugh in your face to think that you should presume to apply for work anywhere."

Where Babies Swim.

"I spend my winters in Samoa," said a traveler. "It is always summer there. There the babies swim. Can you imagine a quainter, a more charming sight than a host of babies, none over two years old, laughing and crowing and swimming like fish in pools of clear sea water? You will see this sight in Samoa. Samoan women believe sea baths benefit babies, and in that equable climate they bathe their little ones daily the year around. The youngsters soon learn to swim. They can swim before they can walk. And to see these pretty brown babies swimming in the sea is well worth a 5,000 mile trip to Samoa."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Extravagant Shoes.

During the reigns of William Rufus, Henry I. and Stephen all sorts of extravagant shoes were worn. The toes were sometimes long and pointed and sometimes made to curl like a ram's horn. Occasionally they were twisted in different directions, as though the feet were deformed. The clergy were tested and threatened, but the fashion continued in spite of the maledictions. Several persons were excommunicated for wearing pointed shoes, but they took the risk.

Handing Facts.

The lady witness had become quite picturesque in her testimony, and the attorney had called her down in a way that had made her mad all over. "Confine yourself to facts if you please, madam," he said in conclusion. "Very well," she replied tartly. "You are no gentleman. How does that strike you?"—London Tit-Bits.

Something He Had Forgotten.

Small Boy—Mister, kin you change a ten dollar bill? Mister—No, sonny. "That belongs strictly to my wife's share of the domestic duties. I might have been able to change one long ago, but I'm clean out of practice now."

An Awful Stub.

"And you call this chair ugly? Why, it isn't any older than I am!" "Well, ma'am, that may be, but it's antique, all right."—Houston Post.

Exaggerated.

A publisher advertised: "The Wives of Henry VIII." Third thousand. Surely there is some exaggeration here.—Funch.

THE PORTIERES.

How to Border Them in Persian or Turkish Rug Effects. A handsome portiere or set of curtains may be made by ornamenting some rich material, such as upholstery's satin or damask, with a deep border of "railli" work. For instance, the portiere is of very pale blue satin the bordering would be effective made of some harmonious contrast. Very pale yellow or white would do, for it is intended only as a background for the subtle work, which stands out like the pile of a Turkish rug, says the Manchester Union. First scan the border freely on to the material and press it perfectly flat.

HAIR HEALTH.

A Good Plan Is to Change the Mode of Dressing Occasionally. The art of dressing where it applies to the hair is great; the number who understand how to dress the hair to its best advantage in every way is small. Leaving the style out of the question entirely, nothing is worse than always dressing the hair in the one way. This makes it thin in places, while the constant wearing of any kind of comb in any particular part will assist in the same direction. It is a good plan to occasionally change the mode of dressing the hair for a day or two and to make the style as different from the ordinary as possible.

Japan's Pipe Bell.

There is a bell in Tokyo, Japan, which is made from tobacco pipes. So says the legend inscribed around the outside in four languages, English, French, German and Japanese. The English version runs as follows: "This bell, cast in the city of Tokyo, Japan, Dec. 10, 1892, by Tadao Sen, is made from the metal of tobacco pipes of more than a thousand men, once slaves, now free men." The story is that in 1892 a woman missionary from America urged a man on tobacco smoking and persuaded over a thousand men to forswear the habit. They therefore had no further use for their metal pipes, which were melted down and cast in the form of a bell. The metal resembles bronze, and the bell has a pleasant musical ring.

Curious Welsh Superstition.

Small glasslike, irregular circles of some crystalline mineral are occasionally found in the mountains of Wales, and concerning these the Welsh people have some curious superstitions. Some believe that they are formed in the body of a snake as soon as he reaches the age of 100 years, while others declare that they are formed "of froth and venom" when two large male snakes meet. Camden, the great English historian and antiquarian, says: "It is usual for snakes to approach on St. John's eve and by joining heads together and hissing to form a kind of bubble, which passes through the snake and immediately hardens till it resembles a glass ring. Whoever finds one of these rings will ever after prosper."

Rude Baron Steuben.

Baron Steuben was known as the rudest, roughest, most uncivil and discourteous officer in the Revolutionary army. He spoke English to some extent—that is, he knew most of the words and expressions and had other words enough to string them together—but when a little excited he would burst forth into a most extraordinary mixture of German, French and English and in this polyglot composition would abuse everybody in hearing.

Fixed.

"Why don't you go to work?" demanded the housekeeper. "Well, yer see," began the gray haired old man, "I got a wife and three children to support."

Cause For Fear.

Second to duelist, who on confronting his adversary has suddenly grown pale and is only just prevented from striking, the cause, you know, your opponent is going to fire in the air. Duellist—That's just what makes me afraid. He's such a notoriously bad shot.

Always Broke.

Shadbolt—Your finances are at a low ebb again, are they? Digwags—Ebb? No; that would indicate that they're sometimes at the flow, which they never are. My finances are at their normal and unvarying level.—Chicago Tribune.

DRESS HINTS.

Never dress older than you are. Dress younger. Velvet has become crushed may be restored by placing the linen side over a basin of hot water. Make bloomers of the same material as the dress for schoolgirls. Make quite full, with elastic at the knees and waist. To dry damp feathers throw a handful of salt on the fire and hold the feathers over, shaking them vigorously. Don't put them so near the fire that they will burn. If a new wash dress is mussed, but not soiled enough to go into the tub, wash a little thin cold starch, squeeze a rag lightly in this, brush the wrong side of the dress first with the starch rag, then with your bare hand, and iron as you go along. It will look like new.

A Hint About Garlishing Dishes.

The garlishing of a dish has a good deal to do with its appetizing appearance, but there is one hint which it would be well for all cooks to bear in mind—The dish should look as if it had been fingered. The idea is to represent to a nice taste and takes away more than any added prettiness could compensate for. What can be put to the dish in question that may look as if one thing or another if the result has the appearance of having been handled much.

Bath Bags.

Bath bags are rather an expensive luxury if bought at the store. They may be made at home, however, at small cost. Bags of cheesecloth are the best. These should be made about three or four inches square and filled with the following mixture (not too much should be put into each bag): Two and a half pounds of oatmeal, one-half pound of almond meal, one-half pound of powdered orris root and one-quarter pound of castile soap which has first been scraped to a fine powder.

Velvet and Velveteen.

Imitations of velvet are now so cleverly made that it is sometimes hard to distinguish between the real and velveteen. When the two qualities are placed side by side there is an unmistakable difference, for the rich, glossy, silk-like surface of real velvet shimmers beside the dull velveteen that absorbs all the light. The back threads in velvet are silk, while in velveteen they are cotton.

The Congressional Library.

In its fine building the library of congress should be safe against destruction for many centuries. Fire has cost the world many of its greatest collections. It ruined the ancient Alexandrian library of the Ptolemies when the Christians sacked the temple of Serapis in the year 275. It cost the world thousands of ancient manuscripts that were stored in Constantinople when the Crusaders captured the city. Twice the library of congress has suffered by fire—first at the destruction of the capitol by the British in 1814 and again in 1851. In its present housing it is protected by every possible safeguard and directed in its development by the most expert of custodians. And with a sense of pride in which all Americans must share the nation has given to its foremost legislators and artists the opportunity to enrich its walls with their works. It is a monument to American thought and learning, which must grow in value and significance with each year.—New York Courier.

Too Curious.

One well known New York woman has discovered, like some others of her sex, that it does not pay to be too curious. One of the old family retainers is a Scotchman named William, who does not believe in glossing over the truth for the sake of sparing his listener's feelings. The woman in question, although possessed of considerable charms of manner, is not a beauty and knows it. Her husband, recently deceased, was a remarkably handsome man and his wife was one of his sincerest admirers. One day when she was looking at her husband's picture on the mantel in the sitting room William was fussing around the grate, and in a moment of impulse she asked: "William, what do you think made such a handsome man as Colonel S. marry such a plain woman as me?" William looked from the portrait to the speaker, meditated a second and answered: "Must have been heaven's will, ma'am."

The African Drum.

The African drum appears in varied and often picturesque forms. The natives make drums out of shells, free trunks or earthenware, covered with the skin of some wild animal or sometimes with India rubber. Of the original calabash drums there is probably only one specimen in Europe. Some of the drums are highly ornamented either by painting or carving. One specimen, indeed, has puzzled travelers, for there is depicted on it unmistakably a cross and also a head of European type. A drum found in upper Liberia has a unique peculiarity in the way of a "sympathetic cord," formed by means of a small tube ingeniously inserted in the side of the instrument, which causes, when the drum is beaten, a vibration resembling that of the reed pipe.—Southern Workman.

Conscientious.

Young Wife—What's the trouble? Why do you sit on the edge of the chair? Husband—Well, dear, you know are buying it on the installment plan and that's all I feel entitled to.—Life.

Too Late.

She—I hear you have just got married. Is it too late to congratulate you? He—Oh, much too late. I was married three weeks ago.—Illustrated Bits.

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