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THE CORN-COB PIPE.

How It Is Made in a Large Factory at Washington, Mo.

The cobs are delivered at the factory and are dumped under cover. They are then sorted, and the good ones counted and paid for. The desirable size is one and five-eight inches in diameter, farmers being supplied with iron rings of that size through which to try cobs.

Those rejected are invariably left by the farmer, not being worth carrying away, and are used in the factory furnaces for fuel. The good cobs are then sawed by small circular saws to the right length for turning, one big cob making two pipes. The boring follows. The piece of cob is placed in a cup that holds it tightly, and an inch auger connected with a rapidly revolving shaft is brought down through the cob's center for a specified distance. This is done wonderfully fast by boys who have become proficient from practice. With one hand they jam the cob in the cup, bring down the auger with a movement of the lever by the other hand, and in a twinkling it is over. Almost as fast as they can be counted the sawed pieces of cob are bored.

The turners next take the pieces. There are two shapes to the pipes, the "pear" and the "straight." They first swell in the center and are rounded at the bottom; the others are only smoothed, the natural contour of the cob being left unchanged. The turners are experts. They have no patterns but are guided by their eye and the condition of the cob. The piece already bored is placed on a spindle, the other end having a spring bearing that gives the pressure to hold it steady. With a turning tool the cob is cut down to the firm body and the shape given, exactly as in wood turning. The fastest turner in the factory can do 3,000 pieces in a day of ten hours, but the average for the six men engaged in this particular part of the work is 2,500. They are paid $1 per thousand.

The next step involves the patent looked upon as throwing the law's protection around the company's interests. The fillers, so-called, carry it out. They are boys, who fix the bored and turned pieces of cobs on spindles similar to those used by the turner, grab a handful of plaster of paris and clutch the revolving embryo pipe. A jar of water sits over their hand, so fixed that a tiny stream flows down and moistens the plaster. One grab, presto! all the irregularities of the cob are filled with plaster.

The pieces are then dried, sandpapered and shellacked. All is by machinery, and when the shellac is dry the pipes are ready for packing. The amount of paper or shellac used is trifling. One barrel of plaster will fill 30,000 pipes, and one gallon of shellac will cover them. The stems are of Arkansas cane and come already cut. Of the factory's capacity, Mr. Weirich said it was intended to make 350 gross of pipes a week, and the shop would run through the year if a sufficient supply of cobs could be had. There was never any accumulation of stock, as the cobs usually came in by the single load and were worked up very fast.

For filling the interstices of the cob the company looks upon the plaster of paris as the best thing possible. Many cobs do not have to be filled at all, being large enough to turn down smooth. One early preparation tried was of corn-starch and gamboge, but this was not satisfactory. Nothing is done to the inside of the pipes, the cob being left in a natural condition. The new patent filling has chalk, pumice stone and sulphate of potassium among its ingredients.—*Washington (Mo.) Letter.*

THE NORTHERN DIVER.

Habits and Vocal Qualities of the Loon and His Mate.

The loon is not a singer, but his calls and shouting exhibit so great a variety of vocal qualities that we must consider him a member of Nature's orchestra.

In the summer of 1887 I spent a few weeks on the borders of Trout Lake, St. Lawrence County, N. Y. This beautiful little island-dotted lake, some three miles long, has been inhabited for years by three or four pair of loons. They lay their eggs and rear their young, and there I found a good opportunity to study them. On one occasion a small party of us discovered a nest. When we were yet a good way off the wary sitter slid from sight into the water, darted along beneath our boat, and was far into the lake before she came to the surface. The nest, simply a little cavity in dry muck, was on the ruins of an old muskrat house, not more than eight or ten inches above the water. There were two very dark eggs in it—never more than two are found in the nest of the loon—nearly as large as those of a goose.

The time of sitting, as I was informed, is four weeks. Wilson says of the loons that "they light upon their nests;" but a careful observer, who had several times seen the female make her way from the water to her nest, told me that they shove themselves to it on their breasts, very much as they push themselves in the water. I was also informed that the young are never fed upon the nest, but are taken to the water on the back of the mother, where they remain and are fed for a time, and then are launched upon the waves for life. At this age one can row up to them and take them in the hand, which they delight in giving hard nips with their long and limber bills; but when a month old they seem as wild and cunning as their parents.—*Simon Pease Cheney, in Century.*

—England used to enjoy a monopoly in furnishing beer to Central America, but at present nearly all the beer used there is imported from the United States, American beer being lighter than English beer and therefore acceptable to Central Americans.

—Twenty-one apples picked by a New Holland, Pa., farmer, completely filled a half-bushel measure. The smallest weighed exactly one pound, and the largest one pound and five ounces. The entire lot tipped the scales at twenty-four pounds.

FORCE OF CHARACTER.

Its Essential Elements of Force, Expression and Accomplishment.

There are two essential elements of force of character seldom possessed by pretenders—self-control and a spirit of fairness. No man can be really strong who has not learned to control himself. He can not master others, except in a brutal or dishonest way, until he has first mastered, not merely learned to conceal his own temper. In fact the bully or any other pretender rarely ever attains permanently a position in life which belongs to real merit. He is oftener seen in subordinate positions, and is recognized by his propensity to give instead of take directions; to complain when in some exigency more is required of him than usual; to criticise when he can not shirk, and to impose in various other ways upon those around him. Nor can his influence be of a lasting kind unless he is disposed to be fair and honest in dealing with antagonists. He may have these qualities, and yet be without force of character, for having all else he is possessed of two of the primary elements that make up the leader or ruler of men. Contrary to general belief, then, the man of real force is never a bully, is never passionate, though he may be, and generally is aggressive, as occasion require, give exhibitions of temper that is, nevertheless, kept in perfect control. Force of character brings with it self-reliance and imperturbable manner. Just as the really courageous man remains cool in the presence of danger, the self-reliant man keeps his temper under provocation because he feels confidence in himself. The coward grows excited and loud-mouthed to conceal his real feelings. The arbitrary man, accustomed to force his views upon others, loses confidence in and control of himself when he fails to make his usual impression. It is at such a moment that real force of character begins to tell; it is then that the self-contained and self-respecting man dictates his terms and asserts his power. But it is then also that he must exercise that forbearance which comes of honest purpose and a spirit of fairness if he must retain his ascendancy, for reason must approve the terms of peace, else there will be repeated revolts. The consideration of what is the true and what is the misleading signal of force of character is of advantage not only in enabling one to put a just estimate upon men, but because all of us conscientiously or unconscientiously adopt types which we seek to imitate, and it behooves us not to make the mistake of following a bully instead of a brave man, of looking up to the overbearing instead of those who are just, self-reliant, persistent and whose force of character is shown not by the way in which they trample upon other people, and ignore their rights and opinions, but by their manner of obtaining ascendancy through the constant exercises of justice, reason, firmness and self-control.—*Baltimore Sun.*

CHURCH ETIQUETTE.

Some Valuable Hints for an Appropriate and Decorous Demeanor.

No gentleman will interrupt a clergyman in the midst of his discourse to ask for the text.

A Christian gentleman will not assault the choir-master until after the benediction.

The morning paper should be left at home, and never, under any circumstances, be taken to church to be read while the collection is being taken.

Do not glare at the stranger in your pew who has made the mistake of reading from your favorite hymn book.

Conceal your contempt for the person who puts a meager dime in the collection plate.

Should the church be insufficiently heated put your handkerchief in your mouth. The chattering teeth of a congregation is apt to razzle-dazzle the rector.

Do not dissent from your clergyman's views of things by snorting or indulging in a stentorian "bosh."

"Do not draw funny pictures on the fly leaves of your neighbor's prayer book.

Don't walk up the center aisle on your heels just because your shoes squeak. Let them squeak.

Leave business behind you. Don't insist upon closing up a wheat deal with a business acquaintance who has the pew behind you then and there. If a subscription card is left in your pew don't write a promise to pay fifteen dollars a month for twenty years on it over your enemy's name.

Do not seek to be revenged up a fellow worshipper by kicking his beaver in front of you all the way up the aisle, and to keep fellow-members out of temptation do not place your own silk hat in the aisle where it may be kicked.

Avoid practical jokes. If your pew happens to be near the gas nut do not turn off the gas, no matter how facetious you may be.

Worshipers in the gallery should taboo dropping beads or marbles on the heads of old gentlemen without hair.

In singing do not blow on the head of the person who sits in front of you. It may expose him to pneumonia.

It is not proper to put pool checks, buttons or poker chips in the plate.

Be composed if you hear a fire engine going by the church door. Walk out quietly and without excitement. Under no circumstances rush down the aisle yelling fire.—*N. Y. Evening Sun.*

No Use in Waiting.

"Can I see Mr. Haggerty?" inquired a caller at the jail. "Before he was arrested he owed me a little bill that he promised he would pay at this date, and he has always been a man of his word."

"You can see him if you will wait a few minutes," said the turnkey. "His attorney is with him now."

The tailor shook his head and sighed deeply.

"There is no use in my waiting," he said.—*Chicago Tribune.*

—The Persian name for Americans is Yango Doon-yu, which means a dweller of the new world.

EULET MELONE'S WOOING.

The Heart-Rending Tragedy of Two Promising Young Lives.

"Is it not lovely?"

With lips slightly parted, her chest heaving with gentle excitement, and her eyes luminous with the dreamy exultation of a deeply-poetic nature, Glycerine McCurdy, in the first flush of her radiant young womanhood, leaned forward and drank in the glorious beauty of the landscape. Her companion was a young man with a broad, intellectual forehead, a cultivated eyeglass and a pair of the most esthetic legs that ever wobbled. Persons who have gazed in speechless admiration at those legs—but we digress.

At their feet, bathed in the hazy splendor of an Indian summer afternoon, broke the murmuring wavelets of the romantic Calumet, whose blue expanse reflected in its placid bosom the golden sky overhead and the rich autumnal tints of the arboreal vegetation that fringed its shores.

"Lovely!" echoed the young man, in reply to the exclamation of his fair companion. "It is beautiful beyond description!"

With his soul in his eyes the ecstatic youth was looking at the rapt face beside him, and not at the landscape.

"Glycerine," he said, and his voice vibrated with emotion, "are there not times when the soul, freed from its fleshy thraldom—hold still, for Heaven's sake!"

With a powerful sweep of his arm he struck to the earth a native mosquito, and stood over it with clenched fist and flashing eyes.

"It is dead," he panted.

"Eulet Melone," said the maiden, with ashen lips, "I thank you. You have saved my life!"

"Don't mention it, my darling!" he exclaimed.

A vivid blush overspread the face of the lovely young girl.

"Forgive me, Glycerine," murmured Eulet, "for my presumption in thus addressing you, but I can keep silent no longer."

He bent over her and his breath fanned her glowing cheek as he went on impetuously:

"Glycerine McCurdy, together we have fished for ring perch from the breakwater, forded Dorborn street after a shower at the risk of our lives, braved the atmosphere of Bridgeport, read Browning till we have experienced a goneness that nothing but fried oysters would assuage, and together we have wandered on those classic banks, until I have felt that life would be a beastly sham, a cold fraud, without you. Glycerine, I——"

"Do not say it, Mr. Melone!" said the young lady, with averted face.

"Not say it?" he demanded hotly. "After the soul communion we have had for years, the encouragement you have given me, not to speak of the bullion and caramels you have—but let that pass. Why may I not express the motions of my soul, Glycerin McCurdy?"

"Because"— and there was a desparing wail in her voice as she moved away from him and drew a long, shuddering breath—"because, Eulet Melone, I can never marry a man that eats onions."—*Chicago Tribune.*

EFFECTS OF COFFEE.

A Useful Preventive Against Infectious and Epidemic Diseases.

Coffee owes its stimulating and refreshing qualities to caffeine. It also contains gum and sugar, fat, acids, casein and wood fiber. Like tea, it powerfully increases the respiration; but, unlike it, does not affect its depth. By its use the rate of the pulse is increased and the action of the skin diminished. It lessens the amount of blood sent to the organs of the body, distends the veins and contracts the capillaries, thus preventing waste of tissue. It is a mental stimulus of a high order, and one that is liable to great abuse. Carried to excess, it produces abnormal wakefulness, indigestion, acidity, heart-burn, tremors, debility, irritability of temper, trembling, irregular pulse, a kind of intoxication ending in delirium and great injury to the spinal functions. Unfortunately, there are many coffee tipplers who depend upon it as a drunkard upon his dram. On the other hand, coffee is of sovereign efficacy in tiding over the nervous system in emergencies. Coffee is also, in its place, an excellent medicine. In typhoid fever its action is frequently prompt and decisive. It is indicated in the early stages before local complications arise. Coffee dispels stupor and lethargy, is an antidote for many kinds of poison, and is valuable in spasmodic asthma, whooping cough, cholera infantum, and Asiatic cholera. It is also excellent as a preventive against infectious and epidemic diseases. In districts rife with malaria and fever, the drinking of hot coffee before passing into the open air has enabled persons living in such places to escape contagion.—*Boston Journal of Commerce.*

Matrimonial Confidences.

They had just had their first quarrel. The violence of the storm had spent itself, but the calm that followed was ominous

"Mr. Corkins," said the wife at last, with cold, biting sarcasm, "you have often complimented me on the beauty of my teeth. Take a look at them, if you please. Here they are!"

And she took them out and placed them on the table.

"Madam," replied Mr. Corkins, without betraying any surprise, "you have frequently spoken of my glorious dark eyes. Here is one of them. Oblige me by looking at it, madam."

And he took out a glass eye and laid it beside the teeth.—*Chicago Tribune.*

—Whenever a coin that is much worn by use is presented at the United States sub-treasury in New York, it is at once stamped with the letter "L" and returned to the owner. This is to indicate that it is light, and means that the coin has lost too much in weight by abrasion or otherwise to pass for its face value. The stamp is put on it for the protection of those who have no means of their own for detecting the loss in weight.

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