

## A PERPETUAL CLOCK.

The Way Its Curious Mechanism Disappeared in China.

In the eighteenth century an ingenious jeweler named James Cox of Shoe lane, London, constructed a clock which was rendered perpetual by a cleverly contrived attachment which utilized the rise and fall of the barometer to supply the necessary energy.

The movement of the mercury actuated a cogwheel in such a manner that whether the mercury rose or fell the wheel always revolved in the same direction and kept the weights that supplied the movement of the clock always wound up. The barometer bulb dipped into a mercury cistern. The cistern hung attached to the extremities of two rockers, to the left end of one and the right end of the other.

The bulb was similarly attached to the other extremities of the rockers, which are thus moved every time there is a change in the amount of mercury in bulb and cistern respectively. The rockers actuated a vertical ratchet, and the teeth were so arranged that the wheel they controlled could only move in one direction, whether the ratchet ascended or descended.

The clock itself was an ordinary one, but of very strong and superior workmanship and was jeweled with diamonds at every bearing, the whole being inclosed in a glass case, which, while it excluded dust, displayed the entire mechanism. The fate of Cox's clock was brought to light in a work called "Travels of China," published in 1804 and written by John Barrow.

In this book it is stated that in the list of presents carried by "the late Dutch ambassador" were "two grand pieces of machinery that were part of the curious museum of Cox." One of these apparently was this perpetual clock, and it was taken by the Dutch embassy to China, where in the journey from Canton to Peking both the instruments suffered some slight damage. Efforts were made to repair them at Peking, but on leaving the capital it was discovered that the Chinese prime minister, He Tchangtung, had substituted two other clocks of very inferior workmanship and had reserved Cox's mechanism for himself.—London Times.

## All There.

A philanthropic citizen of a small city, moved by sympathy for his unfortunate townspeople, who were suffering from want during an exceedingly cold winter, arranged a public entertainment in their behalf. No admission fee was charged, but it was announced that a collection would be taken. The evening came, and the hall was well filled. The entertainment, consisting of recitations, music and amateur sleight of hand performances, was generously applauded, and with much satisfaction the philanthropic citizen, assisted by the performers, proceeded to take up the contributions.

They amounted to 5s. 6d.

"Well," he said to the audience after he had counted the money, "this collection, as you understand, is for the benefit of the poor—and they seem to be all here."—London Tit-Bits.

## Watch the Sky.

The different colors of the sky are caused by certain rays of light being more or less strongly reflected or absorbed, according to the amount of moisture contained in the atmosphere. Such colors do, therefore, portend to some extent the kind of weather that may naturally be expected to follow. For instance, a red sunset indicates a fine day to follow, because the air when dry refracts more red or heat making rays and as dry air is not perfectly transparent they are again reflected in the horizon. A coppery or yellow sunset generally foretells rain. The following has been advocated as a fairly successful way of prognosticating: Fix your eye on the smallest cloud you can see; if it decreases and disappears, the weather will be good; if it increases in size, rain may be looked for.

Improving the Opportunity.

The small boy was ready to start on a long promised week's visit to his grandfather's in the country. There was an exasperating delay in the appearance of the carriage to take them to the station. The young man worked off his impatience in various annoying ways for half an hour. Then suddenly he was seen to kneel beside a chair in the corner and bury his face in his hands. After a few minutes his mother said:

"Well, Kenneth, what are you doing?"

"Just getting my prayers said up for while I'm going to be out at grandpa's. There's nothing to do here, and I spect to be pretty busy while I'm there."

## DROWSINESS.

As a Rule It Indicates Something Wrong in Habits or Health.

Sleepiness is a normal and healthy condition when it occurs at the usual bedtime and when not extreme and overpowering, but it is not always associated with sleep. Some persons in perfect health and excellent sleepers hardly know the meaning of drowsiness. They are active mentally and physically until they are in bed. Then sleep comes at once, and when it leaves them in the morning they are again in full mental awakeness.

There are less fortunate persons who never have a complete and satisfactory night's rest who are yet almost constantly drowsy. They are always nodding, but when the head touches the pillow sleep recedes and the night is a succession of drowsy lapses to sleep with the instant return of semiconsciousness.

In general, with the exception noted at the beginning of this article, drowsiness is abnormal and indicates something wrong either with the body of the sufferer or in his habits. Those who habitually cut off their hours of sleep, the "night owls" and the burners of the midnight oil, pay for their bad habit by attacks of sleepiness in the afternoon and early evening. Later, unfortunately, after the influence of digestion wears off; the drowsiness disappears, and then, relieved of his burden, the person "sits up to all hours" again, thinking in that way to make up for the hours lost by the drowsiness. If he would abandon his owlish habit, go to bed betimes and get the seven or eight hours of continuous sleep that he needs his daytime and evening drowsiness would disappear, he could do more and better work and find life much more enjoyable.

A slight drowsiness is often noticed after a hearty meal, because digestion draws a greater volume of blood to the stomach, so that the brain is relatively poorly supplied. In some southern countries this tendency is favored, and the siesta after the noon meal is a national custom. With us the after dinner cup of black coffee often drives away the impulse to sleep—whether for good or ill may be left to the physiologists to determine.

Sometimes we hear of attacks of sleepiness occurring suddenly at certain periods of the day at irregular intervals. These are altogether abnormal, and in such cases there is almost always some poison at work in the nervous centers, usually a self manufactured poison, which, because it is made in too great quantity or because constipation or kidney disease prevents its rapid elimination, accumulates in the system.

An essential in the treatment of such cases is dieting. Meat should be given up for a time at least, and the only beverage allowable is water or milk.—Youth's Companion.

## Flowers in a Mexican Jungle.

For four or five miles our road passed through a marsh, and for a mile our horses splashed stirrup deep in water. Then we reached the first rise of the foothills, and a tropical growth, dense and high, closed in upon us and shut out the last breath of air that in the open marsh below had fanned our cheeks and in some degree made tolerable the burning intensity of the noon-day sun. Stately palms and gigantic ferns, with a luxuriant tropical undergrowth, made impenetrable the jungle that lined our road. Marvelous flowering vines that entwined themselves in the forest trees, blooming shrubs and here and there beautiful orchids and masses of wild honeysuckle gave a setting of gorgeous color and charged the atmosphere with delicious perfume.—Outing Magazine.

## They Got Through.

Abraham Lincoln was a captain of Illinois volunteers in the Black Hawk war. Mr. Norman Hapgood in his "Life of Lincoln" relates that during this campaign Lincoln once had his company marching in a column twenty men wide when he was suddenly confronted with a high fence with an open gate, through which only one man could pass at a time. He had no idea of the proper way to get his men into single file, so he halted the company and said:

"This company is dismissed, but it will come together immediately after getting through that gate!"

## More Than She Expected.

A little girl well expressed the mingling of hope and doubt which anticipation holds for many people.

When she received her first "very own" doll after a succession of treasures inherited from her older sisters she turned to her mother a face full of rapture.

"I expected I'd have a doll some day," she said breathlessly, "but I didn't expect I should ever have my expect!"—Exchange.

## THE SAILOR CRAB.

Makes Long Voyages at Sea on the Backs of Turtles.

Among the many curious crabs there is perhaps none more interesting than the sailor crab, a name applied to it because it goes to sea on long voyages, which it makes on the backs of big green turtles and giant loggerheads.

The sailor crab is a little fellow with a body three-quarters of an inch or an inch in length. With its claws extended it might measure an inch and a half. It is a very pretty crab indeed, with color markings that are various. It may be found with a shell all yellow or with a shell of dark colors with lighter shadings like those of finished tortoise shell, or it may have a mottled shell or a shell whose coloring resembles that of veined marble. It seems all the prettier seen amid its rough surroundings on the big loggerhead's dingy brown shell.

The big loggerhead, with a top shell six or seven feet in length, may afford a floating home for various other living things. Barnacles attach to it and there live their lives, traveling with it wherever it goes, as do barnacles that attach to vessels. Marine vegetation that lodges on its back may there stick and thrive just as it would attached to rocks, gathering in clumps or streaming back from it when the big turtle is in motion just as it might from rocks washed by a flowing tide, and in this vegetation may be found various minute forms of animal life. Some day when the big turtle, with all this life on its back, swims into shallower waters to feed or works its way through some floating mass of seaweed one or two sailor crabs may come aboard, shipping thus for a long voyage.

To the sailor crab thus embarked the big turtle may not seem like a sea washed moving continent, but it might easily seem like a sizable island with many places to roam. When the turtle is asleep, lying still upon the waters, the little sailor crab may wander out to the end of one of its long extended flippers as it might to the end of some peninsula, and then it may come back to find its way among the meadows or the forests of vegetation on the turtle's back, and if it is hungry, why, while the barnacles in their fixed places are reaching out with their delicate fingers and sweeping the adjacent waters as with a net to draw in their sustenance the sailor crab can move about in the vegetation and find food.

Or the sailor crab may find food in the scraps that come to it from the turtle's table. The loggerhead is both a vegetable and a flesh feeder. It will eat sea grass or whatever crustaceans it can catch or fish.

It might seem that the big loggerhead couldn't catch fish. But it is a great swimmer, and it will smash into a school of fish and snap up what it wants, and scraps from this float back to the lodge on the turtle's back and there furnish food for the sailor. So the sailor crab at sea on the turtle's back is likely to get enough to eat, but it has to be always on the lookout not to be swept off the ship's deck to be lost in the ocean or there devoured by some bigger creature.

When the turtle is under way or there is a heavy sea running it must hold on tight with its sharp claws, and it may find a refuge somewhere in the vegetation, but it is more likely to go clean aft and creep over the edge of the shell at the base of the turtle's back to where it can find a shelter and a lee. It is there the sailor crabs have oftenest been found on loggerheads which have come from the tropics in summer and been taken in local waters.—New York Sun.

## No Case.

Man (to lawyer)—I've been badly bitten by a dog. Can I get damages from its master?

Lawyer—Did you do anything to irritate the dog?

Man—No; I did n't.

Lawyer—Were you on its owner's premises?

Man—Er—yes.

Lawyer—In what capacity? As a friend or—

Man—Of course this is strictly confidential.

Lawyer—Certainly.

Man—Well, I was trying to break into his house.—London Pick-Me-Up.

## Caught in Her Own Trap.

"It's real mean!" the young woman exclaimed.

"What's the matter?" her mother inquired.

"Before I married Herbert I made him promise to pass every evening at home with me, and now he says he's sorry, but he can't take me to the theater without breaking his word."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

## TORN CURRENCY.

The Way Mutilated Bills Are Redeemed by Uncle Sam.

In the hands of John Doe or Richard Roe any mutilated note of legal tender in the United States is redeemable at its face value, provided a clear three-fifths of its physical surface be presented at the redemption window of the United States treasury department.

Doe or Roe may have to submit to a little questioning, perhaps, as to how he got it or how the accident happened lopping off that other two-fifths. But if he doesn't stammer and choke or attempt a clean cut for it he'll get the full value of the mutilated bill.

By inference, then, neither Doe nor Roe may expect anything doing if he shall present less than the prescribed three-fifths of the piece of currency. But the national government, still liberally disposed toward Doe and Roe, will accept a fragment that may be less than three-fifths, but clearly more than two-fifths of the original note, paying just half the value of the original bill, however, as penalty for the accident.

In the case of James Brown Smith, Esq., known and respected in his home city, he may recover the full value of his note that is under two-fifths measure provided that he will appear before an officer of the law qualified to administer oaths and make affidavit as to time, manner and place in which the mutilation was accomplished. This affidavit will be attested by the official seal of the officer, who also must be prepared to attest in like manner the good character of the affiant. Except in the above instances insufficient portions of a note or notes are returned to the person presenting them for redemption. Paper currency which has been destroyed totally is not redeemable under any circumstances.

Beware of torn currency in general. A bank ought not to pay it out to you for the reason that the government is so willing to exchange new currency for it. And if you have torn it accidentally yourself you ought to save the pieces and go to the nearest treasury to effect the redemption.—Spokane Sportman Review.

## The Naming of Ypsilanti.

The story of the naming of Ypsilanti, Mich., dates back to the time of the Greek revolution. Some feeling arose over a name for the town, and a meeting was held at which the admirers of General Demetrius Ypsilanti, the Greek general who was important as a leader for the people, won, and the Greek name was given to the city. Some years ago an attaché of the Greek legation at Washington heard of the city of Ypsilanti. The evident origin of the name interested him, and he wrote to the mayor of Ypsilanti, asking how it happened that the city had the name of the Greek general, which he said was also his family name. He asked if there were any Greeks there and wished to know something of the city. The reply told him something of how the city received its name, and he responded with an offer of a portrait of his kinsman if the city cared for the gift. Later this was received and cared for.—Argonaut.

## Blighted.

Pale of visage, slow of gait and sad of voice, a young man entered the postoffice and approached the "registered" section with a bundle of letters tied in a pink ribbon.

"Here," he said wearily, holding them out. "I want to send these by registered post. What do I do?"

The clerk instructed him and while he set to work with sealing wax and paper proceeded to make out the receipt.

"What are they worth?" inquired the clerk.

"Ah," replied the young man huskily, "that's the sad part of it! I thought they were worth £40,000, but then a bloated duke came along, so what chance had I?"—London Globe.

## No Need to Run.

"I dreamed of you last night," said Boodle to his wife over the breakfast table.

"What did you dream, dear?" inquired his wife.

"I dreamed a dream," answered Boodle.

"But what was the dream?" inquired Mrs. Boodle petulantly.

"I dreamed I caught a chap running away with you."

"And what did you say to him?" inquired his wife.

"I asked him what he was running for."

## His Real Beginning.

"I understand you began life as a newsboy," observed a friend to a "captain of industry."

"No," replied the millionaire. "Some one has been fooling you. I began life as an infant."—Exchange.

## PRISONS IN JAPAN.

Convicts Can Earn Enough Money to Support Their Families.

Most people imagine that a prison is a place where malefactors are punished for their crimes. It is not so in Japan, however. There a convict may earn enough money while in jail to maintain his family, has the best of food and lodging, is taught a trade and, if he wishes, pursues the study of foreign languages. At Sumago a qualified teacher instructs the younger prisoners in reading, writing and arithmetic. Prisoners of twenty and upward who are in seclusion for the first time are taught geography and history.

If on entering the prison a man states that he has a knowledge of English he is carefully examined by a linguist and the extent of his knowledge fathomed. He is then allowed to pursue his studies, the necessary books being supplied by the authorities. When there are several in together a teacher is obtained from outside, and lessons are given regularly.

In the office a record of each prisoner is kept during his stay. This serves to show whether the convict is prompt to obey the officials, whether he shows affection for his parents and relatives, whether he writes letters home and whether he makes progress or not in his scholastic studies.

"It pays them to be industrious," said the warden. "The average convict makes 10 sen (5 cents) a day; 4 sen go into his own personal account. A skilled worker will make 20 sen a day, 8 being his own again. Some of these men actually support their families on what they earn in prison! As you know, the average coolie can live on 50 sen a month."

It was natural that after parading this paradise I should doubt if Japan's treatment of her criminals led to a decrease in crime. The officials confessed that of robbers, burglars, thieves and swindlers 60 per cent went back to the prisons. Of those who had been twice imprisoned 60 per cent returned; of the first offenders 40 per cent found their way back.—Wide World Magazine.

## Dinners in the Old Days.

Dinner was a substantial affair in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, who was by no means indifferent to the pleasures of the table. The first course on great occasions, says a contemporary, would probably be wheaten flummery, stewed broth, spinnach broth, gruel or hotpot. The second consisted of fish, among which we may note lampreys, stock-fish and sturgeon, with side dishes of porpoise. The third course comprised quaking puddings, bag puddings, black puddings, white puddings and narrow puddings. Then came veal, beef, capons, humble pie, mutton, marrow pasties, Scotch collops, wild fowl and game; in the fifth course, all kinds of sweets, creams in all their varieties, custards, cheese, cakes, jellies, warden pies, junkets, sillabubs, and so on, and was followed perhaps by white cheese and tansy cake; for the drinks, ale and beer, wine, sack and numerous varieties of mead or metheglin, some of which were concocted out of as many as five and twenty herbs.

A farmer living in a wet and late district in the east of Scotland found times and seasons so against him that he decided not to renew his lease. Meeting his landlord the other day, he said:

"I can mak' nothin' o' sic wat and sour land, and I'm no' goin' on wi', or I'll be ruined."

"Well, John, take time to think o't," said the landlord; "no doubt we'll be able to come to terms. I might let you have the farm at a reduction on the acre."

"Ah, laird," replied the farmer, "your land should be let by the gallon, no' by the acre!"—London Standard.

## A Fishskin Suit.

The skin of a fish does not suggest itself as a suitable material for the making of clothes, yet it is used for this purpose by a tribe of Tartars in Manchuria. They inhabit the banks of the Peony river and live by fishing and hunting. During the last hundred years they have become nearly extinct, owing to the invasion of their domain by agricultural Chinese. They are known as Fishskin Tartars. The fish they use is the tamara, a species of salmon. Both flesh and skin of this fish are supposed to possess wonderful heat giving properties.—London Globe.

## Getting His Money's Worth.

"Sixtane shillun's a da did they charge me for my room at the hotel in Lunnon!" roared Sandy indignantly on his return to Croburgh Burghs from a sightseeing expedition.

"Ou, are, it wasna cheap," agreed his father, "but ye must 'a' had a gey fine time seein' the sights."

"Seein' the sights!" roared Sandy. "I didna see a sicut a' the time I was in Lunnon! Mon, mon, ye dinna suppose I was going to be stuck that much for a room an' then no get the proper use o't?"—London Scrap.



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