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QUEEN VICTORIA'S HOME.

Arrangement of the Apartments at Windsor Castle.

Rooms into which were But Members of the Royal Family are Permitted to Enter - Rich and Costly Decorations.

The state dining-room at Windsor castle is, according to the Pall Mall Gazette, a very fine apartment in the Prince of Wales' tower. It was redecorated shortly before the jubilee in gold and white, after a very tasteful design chosen by Princess Beatrice. The furniture is of a Gothic pattern, and is said to have been designed by Welby Pugin. The doors are ornamented with most exquisite Chippendale work. In the center of the north window, which looks out on the north terrace, the Home Park, and Eton college, is displayed a massive gold punch-bowl, which was designed by Flaxman for a prince regent. The table, which is a very fine piece of work, is made in the form of a trochus shell. The whole cost two thousand guineas. This room was nearly destroyed by fire in 1833, and again by water in 1891. It is only used on grand occasions, when the queen's party is over sixteen. When it is under that number the queen prefers to dine in the oakroom, which looks out on the inner quadrangle, and contains fine pictures of the queen's four daughters-in-law. When the party is too large for the dining-room St. George's hall is used.

The three drawing-rooms are connected with the dining-room, with the corridor, and with each other by folding doors, and all the doors are decorated with the same unique Chippendale work. The three drawing-rooms face the east and look down on the splendid east terrace and gardens over the broad expanse of the Home Park towards Datchet, Old Windsor. The crimson drawing-room is next to the dining-room. It is decorated and upholstered in crimson satin brocade, which, together with the richness of the embellishments and the wealth of gilding with which it is adorned, gives this room a very gorgeous appearance. Superb carvings, the finest ormolu work, and the most exquisitely inlaid cabinet like the wall, and conspicuously placed in one of the windows is a large malachite vase, which, like the one in the grand reception-room, was given to the queen by Czar Nicholas, of Russia.

The crimson drawing-room opens into the green, which is similarly decorated, and furnished in the richest satin brocade, but the prevailing color, as might be expected, is green, by which I do not by any means mean sea de Nil, but green of a somewhat crude shade. The principal feature of this room is the magnificent collection of Sevres china, which is said to be the finest in the world. This is another product of the extravagant tastes of George IV., and the sight of the innumerable lovely pieces, delicately molded and colored, is enough to make a collector mad with envy. However, as a rule, collectors have not much time to examine very closely, for it is only on rare occasions, such as a state dinner party or by special favor, that her majesty's subjects are admitted into the green drawing-room.

The white drawing-room is furnished in crimson and gold damask with white walls decorated in an essentially French style. The walls of this room are hung with numerous portraits of the royal family, while a number of exquisitely worked cabinets and a table beautifully inlaid with Florentine mosaic in the form of flowers and fruit are among the principal ornaments. It is in the white drawing-room that the queen holds private inventories of the knightly orders, when a few ministers are summoned from town in order to form a council for the occasion. Luncheon is held first in the dining-room. The queen then proceeds by the corridor to the white drawing-room, while the company pass through the crimson and green rooms to the same destination.

The drawing-rooms were cleaned not long ago and the furniture rearranged, but otherwise they have been left untouched. The hangings and stuffs with which the chairs and sofas are covered might with advantage be altered, for though they are very rich the style is old fashioned, belonging to the early period of her majesty's reign, and shows only too clearly and somewhat plainly to the eye the advances that art has made since then. The queen, however, is very conservative in her tastes, and she likes the old fashions. One of the curiosities of this portion of the private apartments is Mozart's old harpsichord which stands in one of the tall windows which overlook the private garden. It is a quaint, rather shabby-looking instrument with a double set of keys. These fine rooms are all connected by the grand corridor. It is very handsomely decorated, the ceiling in gold and cream and the walls in sage green and gold. It is hung on one side with pictures of the events in this reign from Willie's "First Council" to Linton's "Marriage of the Duke of Albany." The other side is lined with portraits of statesmen, including Angell's picture of Lord Beaconsfield. Among the numerous curiosities are some magnificent china, a bust of Gen. Gordon, and his pocket Bible in a glass case.

RECORDS OF JUDGES.

In a certain western town, according to Texas Siftings, the clergy of the various religious sects were very tolerant toward each other. On the occasion of the Jewish rabbi's silver wedding, he invited the Protestant clergyman and also the Catholic priest. While the reverend clergymen were enjoying the good cheer set before them, the Catholic priest said to the rabbi: "I know that you are a very liberal-minded gentleman; but could you bring yourself to eat pork?" "Certainly I could relish some ham, at least on one occasion." "And that would be?" "At the marriage dinner of your reverence."

RUNNING THE GAUNTLET.

A Young American's First Experience of the Punishment.

A military punishment once prevalent in Europe consisted in compelling the offender to run between two files of men who stood facing each other, and who were privileged to strike him as he passed. The gauntlets upon the men's hands being bullet-proof of copper or steel, often made the punishment very severe.

Whenever a girl voluntarily places herself in a position to draw forth unfavorable comment, she may be said to run the gauntlet. Seldom does she escape unscathed.

A few years ago, according to Youth's Companion, an uninitiated American girl, walking in St. Petersburg, wished to pass down a certain street. The gentleman with her objected, saying it would be necessary to pass a certain famous clubhouse where all the diplomatic corps and young guardsmen spent the morning, and that she would not enjoy their silly and often indecent jests.

"Indecent!" was her reply. "I think I can stand these gentlemen. My actions can bear the light; we will not retreat before the enemy."

"As you like," was the vexed reply. The words were hardly uttered before a party of young men, talking loudly and smoking their cigarettes, came striding out of the club. They parted to let the couple pass, indulging meanwhile in bold staring and comments in a language which happily the girl did not understand.

"I said I would do it," she cried exultingly when the two were alone. "Was it not amusing?"

"It is a form of amusement, mademoiselle, which I confess does not commend itself to my taste," was the stiff reply. And the gentleman, who had assiduously sought her friendship hitherto, dropped her acquaintance from that time.

THE POWER OF WATER.

Constantly Working in One Form or Another to Destroy the Land.

A southern engineer contributes an article on "Geology and the Mississippi Problem" to the Engineering Magazine. In it he says:

"We find in water the only tireless agent that works in the modification of the continents; and instead of being a great renovator of the land, as it is popularly conceived, it is the great destroyer. The destruction of ancient Rome has been attributed to time. But it was due simply to the moisture of the atmosphere working through chemical agencies. It was water, invisible, but penetrating even the very stones of the wonderful city, that caused her to crumble into ruins, and gave to modern Rome a grade greatly elevated above her ancient grade. But it was not only in the cities and towns. There is not a hill on earth that has not been worn of something of its altitude by this subtle force, and there is not a mountain on earth, if not fitfully renewed by volcanic action, that has not been compelled to lower its peak before this universal leveler of the exalted. It may be a dreadful thought, indeed, but we do not know absolutely that we are not dependent on the earthquake and the volcano for keeping our continental habitat above the level of the ocean for water not only destroys, but it has the persistency and force to carry off to its burial place in the sea all that it has caused to perish. It may take a long time at its task, but working either in its gaseous, its liquid or its solid form, it seems to be the most persistent thing on earth, ever persisting, and, however divided and feeble its forces for a supreme effort at the degradation of a continent."

RECREATIONS OF GREAT MEN.

Simple Diversions of Heads Stored with Learning.

The favorite recreation of Pope's leisure hours was the solitaire of painters. Nothing was more agreeable to the poet, says Chambers' Journal, than to spend an occasional evening with his friend Kneller, who, to use the words of Thackeray, "bragged more, spelled worse and painted better than any artist of his day." Warburton tells an amusing anecdote of the two friends. Mr. Pope was with Sir Godfrey Kneller one day when his nephew, a Guinea trader, came in. "Nephew," said Sir Godfrey, "you have the honor of seeing the two greatest men in the world." "I don't know how great you may be," said the Guinea man, "but I don't like your looks. I have often bought a man much better than both of you together, all muscles and bones, for ten guineas." Sir Joshua Reynolds used to amuse himself in his last days in his house in Leicester square with a little tame bird, which, like the favorite spider of the prisoner in the Bastille, often served to while away a lonely hour. But this proved a fleeting pleasure, for one summer morning, the window of the chamber being by accident left open, the little favorite took flight, and was irretrievably lost, although his master wandered for hours in the square and neighborhood in the fruitless endeavor to regain it.

Where Marriage Comes High.

A young man laughingly remarked: "Oh, yes, I could afford to get married; that's cheap, but I don't know that I could afford to get unmarried again, for that comes pretty high." That young man ought to live in Spanish Honduras for awhile, and he would not talk so slightly of the expense of getting married. The unfortunate natives have to be twice married before the knot is considered sufficiently tied. The civil marriage is absolutely necessary, as it is the only one the state recognizes. The religious marriage is equally necessary, as it is the only one the church recognizes. Of course this is true in many Catholic countries, but in Honduras there is a fee of twenty dollars to be paid for each ceremony, and the native Hondurians are generally miserably poor. Forty dollars looks as big there as four hundred dollars does here, consequently marriage is not very much to be made in Honduras.

A MUSICAL BEAR.

The Vocal Experiments of a Certain G.T.

How He is Playing and Attracting the Attention of Bears, and His Fall in Love with the Young Lady and the Instrument.

Mary Carter was practicing her music and was all alone in the house. But for some reason she was always alone when she did so. As soon as she struck the first note of her exercises everybody went outdoors and staid there regardless of the style with which she went over the scales. Mary, according to the Elmira (N. Y.) Telegram, was a San Francisco girl who had gone to spend the summer with her sister, who married a rancher that lived away up in the mountains near the headwaters of American river. Her brother-in-law, Mr. Matthews, was well-to-do and fixed the little house to which he took his bride in fine style. Things were so elegant it was hard to imagine that the place was nearly fifty miles from civilization. When he was buying furniture he was persuaded to take a splendid grand piano, which in due time arrived at the ranch, and it was on this that Mary was practicing. She did not like the idea of being alone at first, but as she found it impossible to persuade her sister to stay with her she had to make the best of a bad job. She went over the scales carefully every few minutes, taking a look out into the garden to see that her relatives did not get too far away. After finishing one piece she rested a moment, thinking of what she would play next. Suddenly she heard a shuffling sound, and, turning around, she saw a large, brown bear standing in the doorway leading to the back part of the house. She was paralyzed with fear and could neither move from her chair nor scream.

She saw the bear come nearer, and she trembled like a leaf. Oh, how she wished she could faint. But she was a strong girl and couldn't, and the bear kept coming closer, and soon had his paws around her. She gave herself up for lost as she felt the grip, which she knew was deadly, tighten around her and the warm breath of the creature on her face. Looking through the window she could see her relatives hanging around peacefully in the shade of the pines and tried to call them, but her tongue would not move and she closed her eyes, expecting to open them in that happy land of which she had been taught from childhood. But what was this? The bear was not hurting her. He held her gently but firmly in his paws, and she was actually liking her face, like a pet dog. She opened her eyes, and the world was the same as usual. She could not tell whether she was frightened or not, but somehow she did not try to scream. She just kept quiet, hoping something would happen to end the agony, which she did not understand. The bear did not hold her more than a second, although it seemed ages to the girl. He did not want to hold her, for he threw her on the floor. She was still frightened and expected the bear to jump on her and devour her at his leisure. But instead he turned around, commenced to claw the piano and was evidently delighted with his performance, for he kept time with his feet and looked around approvingly. The people outside heard the clatter but did not pay any attention to it, as they afterward said it was not unusual. Mary has never forgiven them for this. The bear began to play furiously, and Mary, seeing a way to escape, took advantage of it and ran away screaming from the room. Her relations at first refused to believe her story, but hearing the clatter ran to the window and looked in. Brian was still at it, and by this time had become so enthused that he was performing a sort of can-can to his own accompaniment. He was in the height of his glory and had found out where the bass keys were, and with these he was particularly delighted. The deep, continuous rumble seemed to afford him the greatest pleasure, and he would execute a bar that sounded like the cadenza of "A Storm in a Sea."

DIGGING FOR FISH.

A New Way of Catching Them in Vogue in 1891.

In some parts of Ceylon the natives are accustomed to dig in the mud during the hot season for fish, which are found buried in the soft clay at a depth of two feet or more. It is thus that the various animals hide themselves during a period of torpidity.

There is one species indigenous to the island that has this remarkable habit, which accounts for the appearance of frog-growns fishes in ponds which have shortly before been entirely dried up. This phenomenon was for a long time regarded as an inexplicable mystery. The creatures as they find their accustomed element disappearing by evaporation during the dry time of the year bury themselves in the mud, sinking to a depth at which they find sufficient moisture to preserve life for months, while the bed of the pond above them may perhaps become a hardened crust dried and cracked by the heat of the sun. As soon as the water comes again they emerge and people take advantage of the opportunity while they are still floundering about in the shallows to effect their capture in large numbers.

SERVED HER SHOE FOR SUPPER.

A Gallant Noble and How He Tamed His Cook's Resentment.

Remarkable instances of gallantry are the subject of an article in the San Francisco Examiner, who says: In London a century ago it was no uncommon practice on the part of the "fast men" to drink bumper to the health of a lady out of her shoe.

The earl of Cork relates an incident of this kind, and to carry the compliment still further, he states that the shoe was ordered to be dressed and served up for supper. The cook sat himself seriously to work upon it; he pulled the upper part (which was of fine damask) into fine shreds and tossed it up into a ragout, sliced the soles, cut the wooden heel into thin slices, fried them in butter and placed them round the dish for garnish. The company testified their affection for the lady by eating heartily of this exquisite impromptu.

QUEER CUSTOMS.

Curious and Unusual Customs of Three Months Ago.

Mr. Charles How, the British resident of the Basam district in Borneo, has just sent to the Royal Geographical Society an interesting account of some of the queer customs which he observed in his journey in Sarawak. After sleeping in a chief's house one evening he found at the head of his bed a box containing the dead body of his host's wife. It appears the Chicago Inter Ocean, that the natives always keep corpses for three months. The body is then removed from the house and conveyed with much ceremony to the tomb. Every one present sends one or more spirit-sticks (betel-nuts), wrapped in the dry leaves of the wild banana, to his dead relatives in "Apo Leggan" (Hades). These spirit-sticks are placed in a pot of oil and the coffin; and, with the body, is that of a man, his weapons, tools and a small quantity of rice, with his "pririk" (betel-nut) are deposited in the coffin. Men that may be able to continue his daily pursuits in the other world, but if of a woman, her large breast and her hair—used for weaving the native cloth—are placed, earthenware and other things are placed with her body that she may not be found wanting on her arrival on the other side of the grave. Mr. How once was present when the corpse of a boy was placed in the coffin, and he watched the proceedings from a short distance. As the lid of the coffin was closed an old man came out on the veranda of the house with a large gong and solemnly beat it for several seconds. The chief said that this was always done before closing the lid, that the relations of the dead who had already passed out of this world might know that the spirit was coming to join them. There was another strange ceremony called "Dajong Janol," in which the dead are supposed to send messages to the living, and which proved that "spiritualism" was of very ancient practice among them.

INTELLECT AT A DISCOUNT.

Germany suffers from an intellectual overproduction, according to the Forum.

All professions are overcrowded. It was fondly believed up to our days that the state had no more important task than to render the acquiring of knowledge as easy as possible, and for that purpose to establish many higher schools. But it was not asked whether there was room enough for employing men and women when their education was finished. Taking, for instance, the career of law in Prussia, we find that there are 1,531 men who have not only passed through the gymnasium and the university, but have already served the state gratis for about five years, while the annual average demand is 109. There are more than 7,000 examined architects without a fixed employment; it is the same with engineers, teachers in classics, mathematics, etc. These unemployed forces are particularly attracted to the great capitals because everyone hopes that with the many chances they offer he will find a gap into which he may jump. Men of university training are almost without exception capable only of intellectual work. If they do not succeed in their branch they cannot become tailors or carpenters; they must take to pettyfogging, giving lessons, copying, writing for papers, etc. There are lawyers, physicians, doctors of philosophy among those who are regularly relieved by the Berlin poor board. All these men are, of course, discontented with the present state of things and ready to join with those forces which hold out hope of overthrowing it. Nor are female candidates wanting in this particular, all those who give cheap lessons, write mediocre novels for low-class journals or work for shops at starvation wages are swelling the army of social revolution.

THE WAY OF CATCHING THEM.

How the Fishermen of the Bay of Naples Catch Them.

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THE TEMPLES.

The Temple of the Sun at Palmyra covered a square of twenty-two yards on each side. It was approached by a magnificent avenue over half a mile long, lined by rows of columns and statues. The temple of Diana at Ephesus was four hundred and twenty-five feet long, two hundred and twenty-five broad, and with statues and columns innumerable. Of this magnificent structure not a trace remains except the foundations.

LOCUSTS IN CHINA.

They are Regarded as a Calamity from Heaven.

The Singular Methods Adopted by the Chinese to Destroy the Locusts.

The great province of Kiang-Soo, China, is being devastated by locusts. Consul Jones at Chien-Kiang sends the state department an account of the curious efforts made by the afflicted sections to drive the scourge away. A Washington correspondent of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says some of the methods resorted to are as follows: The suggestions offered to the king as people when they were suffering from a similar visitation some years ago. When the locusts gather in a place, one of the Chinese officials there is escorted by a band of musicians to the spot where the locusts are gathered. He is accompanied by a band of gongs, armed with long bamboo sticks and streamers attached, and a variety of incense-burners, and a variety of incense-burners. They beat and burn, and cover their faces with yellow paper, and a faint, sour smell, like that of fermenting vegetable matter, is always perceptible in the neighborhood. It comes, no doubt, from the droppings of the insects. There is a curious and widespread belief among the Chinese in the existence of a "king" locust, who is called "the locust king" and who is supposed to direct and control the movements of the different swarms. At some places the locust king is publicly sacrificed and made offerings to the king of the locusts in order that he might be influenced to spare their localities.

"I know of few things," writes the consul, "more extraordinary than a swarm engaged in painting. The air is filled with clouds of locusts, circling, crossing and recrossing, with a faint whirring noise, and all over the ground is thousands of couples. The ground is carpeted thickly with them; you cannot take a step without crunching heaps of them under your feet, while thousands more start up in pattering volleys against your legs, hands and face."

The eggs are deposited in holes drilled by the female on high or low deep in the ground. The time required for hatching depends entirely on the temperature. In very hot weather the new brood begins to make its appearance at the end of a week. At this stage they are very small, black, and as active as fleas, making extraordinary bounds by means of their muscular hind legs. At a little distance they suggest the idea of a swarm of black ants, and with their legs they are full grown.

The destruction, by suitable measures, of the formidable pest, involving, as it does, the protection of families, fever epidemics, and riots, is a matter of grave public concern. One constantly hears of mandarin's losing their buttons and being disgraced as the penalty of remissness or failure to destroy the enemy.

Consul Jones says the Chinese consider that the visitation of the locusts is a "calamity from heaven, and that there is no help for it." Chinese records chronicle many instances of the appearance and the calamities inflicted by locusts in former times, but they have no peculiarly effective methods of destroying them. The government usually issues proclamations ordering out the soldiers and encouraging the farmers to destroy them. The latter are given a bounty for their destruction.

The soldiers, with their officers at their head, are used against the locusts as against an adverse army in the field. Instead of a gun or a lance, however, each soldier is armed with a coarse hempen bag attached to a bamboo pole, which, with wide-open mouth, is waved back and forth among the swarms until filled, when they are killed and the action renewed.

SOLDIERS' SUPERSTITIONS.

The superstitions of actors would fill a book and so also would those of sailors. But this, says the Boston Home Journal, has affected the amateur yachtsmen, who are men of education and who might be expected to laugh at it. Notice the names of crack racers of late years, and it will be seen that the mystic seven has entered most largely into their selection. In 1891 the "Adams boys," as they are called, had a boat called the Beatrice (notice the seven letters) which was very successful. She was altered and renamed the Harpagon, which, in addition to the seven letters, had a lucky 70. The Typhoon had the lucky seven letters and the lucky 70, and was eminently successful, therefore. It is also lucky to have double consonants in the middle of the name. The Gossoon, a cutter owned by the Adams boys, won all the races in her class in 1890, and in a previous year these same yachtsmen misspelled a word for the sake of gaining the lucky combination, and called a boat the Rabbon.

Magnificent Temples.

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