

As I ride with a keen lookout through town, In the wind of the autumn blow-down, You lean from your open window, cheer! And I raise my face to win your hair, I press my lips to the top of the two on your face; And with it was the window there, Would you give me a last embrace? I have been rather sad. I dreamed of a day (How the wind of the autumn is blowing free!) When the rattle of sabers would pass away, And the winds would whisper to you and me That love is the best, whatever betide, And the journey of life, made hand in hand, Is a path of flowers; but the dream soon died In the air of this war-curst land.

This very moment I catch the beat, On the wind of the autumn flowing free, Of a squadron passing with muffled feet, By the mill, who are hunting me. If they find me—a shot—I am wounded, sweet! One touch of the roses so fair to see; If they drag me in to die at your feet, You must kiss me again, cherie! —Southern Bivouac.

TOO MUCH AVOIRDUPOIS.

Stoutness a Sign of Disease—A Man of Extraordinary Weight.

Fatness, or stoutness, is still loosely mentioned as evidence of health, although everybody acquainted with the laws of hygiene knows that it is nothing of the kind. "You're getting fat," is a common form of greeting intended to be complimentary; but if it be true, it is seldom so regarded. Stout persons, particularly women, are very sensitive on the point, and would be glad to forget it, not to be continually reminded of it. They are but too well aware of the inconvenience, awkwardness and discomfort of the condition to be pleased by any reference thereto. Not only this, any excess of flesh is a sign of disease, if not disease itself. It is altogether preferable, on every account, to be thin rather than fat, to have too little rather than have too much avoirdupois. Stoutness, although not so called, is unquestionably a misfortune. Everybody that is stout wishes to be otherwise, and many that are stout are trying various ways to reduce themselves. A man of ordinary height and build who weighs 200 pounds generally weighs more than he ought to, and is made conscious of it in divers ways. There are exceptions; but such is the rule. One of the extraordinary exceptions, as reported, was the noted Daniel Lambert. In youth he was very strong, excelled in athletic exercises, and gave no indications of corpulence. But, before 20 he began to increase rapidly in size, which he ascribed to sedentary habits as keeper of the prison at Leicester. At 23, when he weighed 448 pounds, he walked from Woolwich to London with little fatigue. He excited so much curiosity that he decided to exhibit himself, and he drew crowds in the chief cities of England. He was five feet eleven inches high, measured nine feet four inches about the body, more than three feet around the leg, and weighed at his death, which occurred at 89, 700 pounds.

No doubt his immense bulk was due to some organic disease, which an autopsy would have disclosed. Pathology was not nearly so well understood seventy years ago as it is now. It is preposterous to suppose that any man of so extraordinary accumulation of flesh could have been in good health. If a very stout man were healthy, the fact of his stoutness would, after a while, be very likely to cause some physical disorder.—New York Commercial-Advertiser.

The Bursting of the "Peacemaker." Commodore Stockton's "Peacemaker," which burst on board the United States steamer Princeton, on the 28th of February, 1844, was of English manufacture. It was manufactured at the Mersey works, of Yorkshire wrought iron, brought to this country and subjected at Sandy Hook to what was deemed the proper test. After the first firing, preparations were made to mount the gun. In doing this a crack was perceived opposite the chamber, which induced Commodore Stockton to have the breech strengthened by putting bands around it. These bands were represented as being 3 1/2 inches in thickness. With this additional strength given to the defective part of the gun, the experiments were renewed, and the result was a decided conviction upon the minds of all connected with them that, in general, the anticipations of Commodore Stockton were perfectly realized; and, secondly, that if a gun of this construction should yield to the force of the trial, it would be by a single opening, and not, as in cast iron, a violent disruption and scattering of the fragments. Unfortunately this anticipation was not realized, and the fragments killed several of the distinguished spectators.—Ben: Perley Poore.

A Remarkable Raft of Logs. Unless legal entanglements prevent, the New Brunswick newspapers say, the most remarkable raft of logs ever put together is about to leave St. John, New Brunswick, for this city. It is a cigar-shaped cylinder 400 feet long, with the beam and draught of a sea-going vessel, and contains 8,500,000 feet of logs. Its value is \$35,000. It will be hauled by a regular ocean steamer, which will follow the coast pretty closely. The success of the enterprise will depend on the weather, and a storm would doubtless cause a total loss. The object is to save \$3,000 duty, saved timber being taxed, while logs enter free.—New York Commercial Advertiser.

Twenty-Four-Hour Clocks in Canada. On the Canadian Pacific railroad standard time will be used, and the "twenty-four-hour system" adopted. There will be no "a. m." and "p. m." and clocks and watches will be numbered from 1 to 24.—Tacoma News.

Capt. Ericsson, of Monitor fame, although over 80 years of age, spends two hours each day in gymnastic exercises.

There are in the United States 1,024,801 tenant farmers.

PRODUCTION OF BRISTLES.

Statistics Concerning the Trade—The German and Russian Hog.

While the American hog can produce more and better meat than the pauper laborer of Europe, he can not compete with the latter animal in the production of bristles. The American hog is grown for his meat and is confined in a pen and scientifically fattened up. A long course of breeding for this purpose has caused the American hog to grow fat mainly and to neglect the growth of bristles. The European hog, on the contrary, or more particularly the German and Russian hog, is not confined in a pen and fed for fatness, but either roams round through the streets of the villages, seeking what he can devour, or in large droves through the fields and forests, feeding on nuts and roots under the care of swineherds. The German, Polish, and Russian hog has thus plenty of exercise and is thin and muscular. These hogs are almost entirely without fat and are not killed when young as here. Their bristles grow long, stiff and elastic, and of good color. The American bristles are soft, have a tendency to become kinky, and very few are over four inches in length, and 75 per cent. are not over two and three-quarters inches. Eighty-five per cent of them are gray, the most undesirable color, the other 15 per cent. being white. German and Russian bristles run from four to seven inches in length, and some of the latter run up to fourteen inches.

The largest bristles are not by any means the best. Excellent lengths are five to six and a half inches, and the value of a bristle depends as much upon its color and elasticity as upon its length. The German and Russian are of the following colors, placing them in the order of their value: white, yellow, black, and gray. The French bristles are the best for fine varnish and artistic brushes. They are usually only three or four inches in length, but are the whitest and best dressed of all the bristles. They are imported in a dressed state and not rough as are the German and Russian. The well-dressed French bristles are usually as white as chalk, with very soft ends, and are strong and elastic, springing up under the touch no matter how thickly charged with color. They are used in the finest brush tools, embracing varnish brushes, fresco brushes, the best sash brushes, the best quality of shaving brushes, and the largest brushes used by artists are made of them. Hair and toilet brushes are also made from them.

St. Petersburg, Russia, and Leipzig, Germany, are the great bristle markets of the world, the former being the larger. The English get most of their bristles from St. Petersburg, where only Russian bristles are sold. The Americans get most of theirs from Leipzig, where both German and Russian are sold, though the bulk is Russian. The Russian bristles sold in Leipzig are those obtained from Poland. The bristles are pulled out of the hogs and brought to market. They are brought principally in the spring of the year, the eastern fairs being the time when most of them are brought to market and disposed of. The bristles are dirty, and there is a shrinkage of 15 to 25 per cent. in weight to the consumer after they have been thoroughly washed and cleaned. Russian and German bristles are packed in casks, the quantity ranging from 250 to 500 pounds, the cask not being of the same capacity. Generally a cask contains bristles of equal length, but many times of different quality and color. Each quality and color is put up in a separate bundle and brush manufacturers sort them out. These German, Polish and the Russian bristles sold in Germany run very irregular and require the greatest caution and best judgment in buying. They are in a great variety of colors and qualities.—Boston Commercial Bulletin.

The Biggest Cannon England Has.

The steamship Elder has arrived at Woolwich from Emsworth with the first of the 110-ton guns ordered by Sir William Armstrong for the British government. It is to be proved at the butts below the royal arsenal, and after some experiments have been made to test velocity and other qualities, it will probably be taken to Shoeburyness for the customary range trials. The gun can not be landed for a few days, and can not at present be seen, being buried in the ship's hold under 150 tons of projectiles, and even after it is on shore will not be immediately taken to the butts, as it will be necessary first to test the canal bridge and ascertain if it is strong enough to bear it.

A great carriage or sleigh of iron has been built in the royal carriage department to hold the weapon while being fired, and this, which weighs about ninety tons, will be weighted with 110 tons more, and passed over the bridge before the gun is ventured upon it. The gun carriage, which is enormous in comparison with anything of the kind, has been named "The Juggernaut.—London News.

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Sights To Be Seen in Rouen.

There is little strong color in these vast sanctuaries, although not the altar merely, but the walls and windows, struggle with the grayness and gloom. Some of the old stained glass is very restful to the eyes after the paltry stuff they make to-day in Paris. Once in a while one does, indeed, come upon a painting also, which is not merely gaudiness in color and dullness itself in execution. But the space is so immense that these are spots of brilliancy on the general darkness. On the endless floor the people are dull-colored also—all save one. This is the beadle, who in France wears a big cocked hat and most elaborate military uniform and carries a sword by his side. The beadle of Notre Dame de Rouen is a large, well-fed man, under 40, whose manner unites the sternness of Scipio Africanus with the deportment of a Chesterfield. He is all red and blue and gold, with "galoons" of white braid, a feather in his hat, and the mildness of assured power in his eye.

The charge may be harsh against an officer of the church, but the beadle of the cathedral is a sad flirt, and only a promising family of English people can lure him from tender talk with one or more of those demure and well rounded shop-ladies who have run into the church till the shower is over. His bow on leaving the victim of his fascination is good; far better his approach to the English family; it can only be described as a noble insinuation. They are dazzled at the flaming apparition. The light-haired miss is visibly pleased at so much gallantry; papa, mamma and brother follow dumbly, meekly in the in the flamingo's wake, and the old charwoman and the lady of the counter, from whom Luthario has torn himself, are too used to the scene to give it a second thought.—Rouen Cor. New York Times.

Some Amazing Dead-Letter Puzzles.

In the busy foreign-room of the dead-letter office, the other day, they had a postal-card with an amusing history. It was dated "June 2," last month, and was addressed "Mr. Koester, North of New Oberlin, Russia." It was mailed at an Ohio town, the postmaster of which pitched it in the foreign mail bag and sent it across the sea. It arrived promptly in St. Petersburg all right, was duly examined, marked in pigeon English, "insufficient address," and returned to this city, where it was taken in hand by the ladies of the dead-letter office. They inferred that, as it was posted in Ohio, it was probably intended for the adjoining town of "Russia," so they added "O." to the card and sent it west. The important message which this card had borne upon its back across the ocean to Muscovy and back again was: "When you come in please to bring me one and a half bushels of potatoes."

He Is Born in His Caste.

The English gentleman is kindly and friendly, but he is born in his caste and he is conscious of it as any Brahmin, and he acts according to its code; and he feels toward a servant not at all as a Frenchman or an American feels who has been brought up in a land of equality. I am not sure but that this caste is a strong factor in the keeping open of the breach between the Englishman and the American—in so far, at least, as it is open; and that the gulf between the two nationalities is very deep and not wide would be denied by no one who had known them both. We Americans may say of the English, what the Scotch engineer of the Cunarder said of the captain: "He's my friend, but I dinna like him."—Brander Matthews' Letter.

Meaning of Colors of Flags.

Several of our readers wish to know the meaning of the various colors displayed on flags. The generally accepted meaning of flags of a single color is—white, as a token of peace; red, of defiance; black is the sign of piracy, or a black flag is hoisted as an indication that no quarter will be given or taken; a yellow flag denotes quarantine. The flags first used were of a single color only, but gradually, as new nations were forming, flags of two and more colors, and various devices were designed.—American Agriculturist.

How to Kill Off Cockroaches.

The Sanitary Engineer gives the following as a method of getting rid of cockroaches: "Give the bug a kind of phosphate paste. A few of the bugs eat some. Then those cockroaches who do not get any set to work and kill those who were fortunate enough to get some, and tear open their stomachs, so possessed are they to get some of the paste. These bugs in return are killed by others, until there are no cockroaches left. The paste kills the last set.—Exchange.

Cutting Down the Chancellor's Drink.

Dr. Schwinger, Prince Bismarck's physician, has not allowed the chancellor for some time past to drink anything during meals. Now he goes a step farther, and wishes the prince to shut off on beer drinking altogether. Bismarck will obey, as he found on two or three occasions when he remonstrated with Dr. Schwinger that the latter will stand no trifling.—Boston Budget.

Brutal Sports of Ancient Rome.

Cæsar is said to have had 820 pairs of gladiators at once in the arena, and to add to the scenic effect the bloody struggles were at night. Trajan surpassed all in forcing 10,000 unhappy prisoners and gladiators to contend for life in the Roman amphitheatre; the bloody and brutal sport lasted for 133 days.—Boston Budget.

Salicylic Suet in the Army.

Salicylic suet is used in the German army as a remedy for footsores, etc., instead of the salicylic powder formerly employed. It is composed of two parts of pure salicylic acid and ninety-eight parts of the best mutton suet.—Exchange.

Piles of Old London Bridge.

The piles of old London bridge, put down in the year 900, are still sound, the water and the blue mud of the Thames having preserved them.

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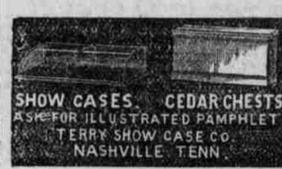
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