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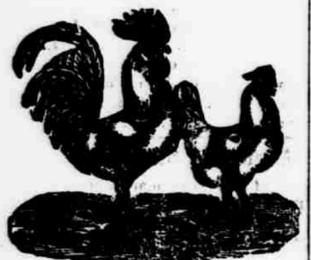
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ALL AFFECTIONS OF THE  
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**World-Old Handicraft.**  
The "hot pepper" seller of Mexico is a merchant who derives his livelihood from the fact that the Mexican must have his peppers, whatever else he may deny himself. They are brought to his door by the countryman, or he may go to the market place and find them spread out for sale on matting. The market man, while dressed inexpensively as far as his bodily garb is concerned, wears in nearly every instance an elaborate head covering. Some of these Mexicans own hats that cost as much as the rest of their wardrobes. The pride of the white man in his Panama is not to be compared to that of the Mexican in his sombrero. It is a racial characteristic which finds its counterpart in the apron of the Portuguese onion seller. Her occupation may be lowly, but her apron might be that of a woman of higher degree plush edged with fur is not uncommon.—Everybody's Magazine.

**Non-Poisonous Phosphorus.**  
A new material made of non-poisonous red phosphorus and potassium chlorate has been bought by the German government, and is to be substituted in its works for the deleterious and oftentimes more dangerous white phosphorus. Great gain attaches to the fact that it does not ignite easily, hence removing or minimizing the danger from fire. How important this is appears when one is reminded of fires caused by the ignition of white phosphorus matches by the sun's rays. In regard to danger to employees, the commission says explosions are practically impossible with the new material.

**His Account Book.**  
A firm of masons in an Irish town employ a hodcarrier whose novel method of keeping account of his time was brought to light lately by a queer circumstance. He went one evening to his employer's home with the sad intelligence that he had lost his account book. He said that the pigs had unfortunately got it and eaten it up.  
"What sort of an account book did you keep?" asked his employer.  
"Why, I had an empty barrel and when I worked a whole day I put in a potato and when half a day half a potato, and the pigs ate them all entirely."  
—Pearson's Weekly.

**A Post Office Hint.**  
The post office department has prepared a ruling to the effect that cremated bodies should be classed as merchandise and should pay the regular rate of one cent for four ounces. As a result of his decision, four air-tight canisters, containing the remains of a family, shipped from New York to San Francisco, were forwarded from the Washington post office, where they had been held up pending a determination of the postage rates for the journey.

**Just a Hint.**  
Towne—Yes, Subbubs has a 'phone in his house.  
Brown—Why, he gave me to understand he hadn't.  
"That's strange."  
"No, I think I understand it now. He invited me home to dinner with him the other day, and the meal was most elaborate. He wanted me to believe his wife hadn't been warned of my coming."  
—Philadelphia Press.

**The Same Thing.**  
"How do you spell 'ambura'?" inquired the proud parent, as he was in the throes of writing home a fitting eulogy on the distinguishing points of his first born.  
"R-e-d," replied the P. P.'s unregenerate brother, who had just gained the mother's everlasting ill-will by referring to her offspring as "it."—N. Y. Times.

**Not from the Head.**  
Kitty—Harry evidently loves me sincerely. You should have heard him when he told me of his consuming affection. It was plain enough it came right from the heart.  
Charly—I suppose you mean it was so silly it never could have come from his head?—Boston Transcript.

**For Crippled Pupils.**  
Londoners are becoming accustomed to the sight of the comfortable carriages which convey crippled children between their homes and the schools, which, thanks largely to the energy of Mrs. Humphrey Ward, now form part of the educational system of the London school board.

**Versatility.**  
Towne—I could scarcely refrain from laughing at Dumley's fiancée when she remarked that he was "so versatile."  
Brown—Well, he is rather versatile.  
"What? He's a regular idiot."  
"Yes, but he's so many different kinds of idiot."  
—Philadelphia Press.

**Man of Action.**  
"George certainly is a man of action."  
"What has he done?"  
"Why, the very next day after the heiress accepted him he gave up his job at the bank and joined the Don't Worry club."  
—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

**They, But Expensive.**  
In France the phycocera, a tiny insect with luxurious tastes, cost the vineyard owners \$650,000,000 a few years ago, that being the value of the royal feast they had enjoyed.

**The Cats' Well.**  
In the south of Ireland, near Inchigeelah, is the "Cats' Well," the waters of which are supposed to exert marvelous remedial effects upon ailing tabbies.

**Disproves Nothing.**  
Knowing a man was calling you a flatulent, you might be able to operate the

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**Dr. T. A. Slocum, the Great Chemist and Specialist, Will Send Free, to the Afflicted, Four Large Samples of His Newly Discovered Remedies to Cure Consumption and all Throat, Chest and Lung Troubles.**

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**Do YOUR CHILDREN ASK QUESTIONS?**  
Of course they do. It is their way of learning and it is your duty to answer. You may need a dictionary to aid you. It won't answer every question, but there are thousands to which it will give you true, clear and definite answers, not about words only, but about things, the sun, machinery, men, places, stories and the like. Then, too, the children can find their own answers. Some of our greatest men have ascribed their power to study of the dictionary.  
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It is exceptional to find a family where there are no domestic ruptures occasionally, but these can be lessened by having Dr. King's New Life Pills around. Much trouble they save by their great work in stomach and liver troubles. They not only relieve you, but cure. Get at C. O. Freed's Drug Store.

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**A Very Close Call.**  
"I stuck to my engine, although every joint ached and every nerve was racked with pain," writes C. W. Hellamy, a locomotive fireman, of Burlington, Iowa. "I was weak and pale, without any appetite and all run down. As I was about to give up, I got a bottle of Electric Bitters, and after taking it, I felt as well as I ever did my life." Weak, sickly, run down people always gain new life, strength and vigor from their use. Try them. Satisfaction guaranteed by C. O. Freed, Druggist. Price 50 cents.  
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(Formerly Joe Openheimer's)  
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**Provisions from Trees.**  
There is a tree which grows in Sumatra, Algeria and China which is known as the vegetable tallow tree. From its fruit large quantities of oil and tallow are extracted, and the fruit is gathered in November or December, when all the leaves have fallen. Excellent candles are made from the berries of a tree which grows in some parts of South Africa and the Azores. At Sierra Leone is found the cream fruit tree, the fruit of which is very agreeable in taste. In Ceylon there is the bread fruit tree, from which a food is made in the same way that we make bread. It is said to be equally good and nutritious. In South America we find the milk tree.—Philadelphia Ledger.

**New Two Cent Stamps.**  
Nineteen hundred and three is a notable year for stamp collectors. It has seen a new series of postage stamps and three designs for the two-cent stamp; the design with the profile of Houdon's bust of Washington, which had been in use for 32 years; the nearly full face of the Stuart portrait of Washington, draped with the flag, which has just been abandoned because the engraving was not satisfactory; and, as its successor, a larger head, in the Stuart pose, framed by a shield. It is not often that collectors can get three patterns of a stamp of the same denomination issued within 12 months. Yet coin-collectors will recall that three different kinds of five-cent pieces bear the date of 1883.

**Generous, But—**  
There was a worthy Irish member of parliament who was so generous that a request for financial assistance was never refused. But his checks had one little drawback—they were never honored. The shortcoming naturally in time became known, but it did not affect his popularity. A visitor to the district, hearing of the member's peculiarity, asked a leading politician how it was that public faith in the member was not shaken. "Why, sure, it is because he shows his willingness to assist, but for lack of funds," was the reply.

**The Chrysanthemum.**  
Cultivation of the chrysanthemum in China may be traced back to a very early date. Already in the eleventh century two strains were cultivated, the one bearing yellow ray flowers and the other white. Dr. Henry, who has collected specimens now in the herbarium at Kew, England, believes that two wild plants are the progenitors of all the cultivated strains. The yellow flower is found throughout China and Japan. The white flower comes originally from Hupeh, China.

**Desperate Villain.**  
"Alas! all is lost," he moaned as he left the home of his adored. "She has cast me out into this cold world. I must have revenge." And he forthwith filled his face full of smoke from an Egyptian cigarette and blew it through the keyhole. (Shrieks, oaths, call for the ambulance and police.)  
"Bah! Jove, I did not reckon on such havoc, don't you know, I am an assassin."—Butte Inter Mountain.

**London's Bird Sales.**  
In spite of all efforts to stop the slaughter of birds for millinery purposes the havoc made is still enormous. In London there is every autumn an auction sale lasting several weeks, at which hundreds of thousands of birds, mostly from the Malayan archipelago, Australia and South America are sold. A recent collection included eight varieties of birds of paradise.

**Improved Auto.**  
"An' wud yez luk at Rafferty an' his wulfe, roidin' round on the shtame roller, d'ye mind?" exclaimed Mrs. Branigan.  
"Faith, an' 'after business hours that same shtame roller do be Rafferty's horseless kerriage jist," explained Mrs. Mulgoon.—Detroit Free Press.

**Fertile Fields.**  
Some of the old Nile lakes, which were formerly dry salt plains in summer and covered with a few inches of alkali water in the wet season, have been reclaimed by the British government and are now worth from \$200 to \$300 an acre. They produce magnificent crops.

**Short and Pointed.**  
"What!" exclaimed the book agent, "you say you never heard of his great book? Did I hear you right?"  
"No," snapped the busy merchant, "you didn't hear me write, but you'll feel me speak if you don't get out of here."  
—Philadelphia Press.

**Pretty Small.**  
The atom of hydrogen is the smallest of the "ultimate atoms" of the chemists, but it is 1,750 times as large as the corpuscles which have recently been demonstrated as the elements of the atoms.

**Diplomacy.**  
Fair Customer—I only wear number twos, but these don't fit me.  
Shoe Clerk—No; they're too large. I'll get you a smaller pair. (To the stock boy). Get me a pair of fives.—N. Y. Mail and Express.

**Not Playing the Game.**  
Miss De Menor—That Dobby is a regular Bohemian, isn't he?  
Turner van Newleaf—Not much! Why, when he lends a fellow money he expects to get it back!—Sray Stories.

**Information Wanted.**  
Little Willie—Say, pa?  
Pa—Well, what is it, my son?  
"Will my hair fall out when it gets ripe, like yours?"—Chicago Daily News.

**Sun-Ray Message.**  
The United States signal service made the world's record by flashing sun-ray messages between mountain peaks 120 miles apart.

**Strange Visitors.**  
An English lady traveling with her husband in Somaliland tells the following story of a thunder shower and the visitors it brought: "Oscar Grat and his men had come to the zeriba to pay an afternoon call, and having on their best togas, did not care to get wet, so came and sat under the fly of our tent. They each brought a handful of spears and shields, and huddled together in the cramped space, alternately prodded each other or put a spearhead through the canvas roof. The storm lasted nearly an hour, and when the first gleam of light appeared all ran with wild shouts on the dusty track whence we had come, but which was now a rushing river. All the casks and skins were filled, to the accompaniment of weird songs, and then the ponies, sheep and camels—these last had had no water for seven days—were brought down to drink."

**Armor Worn Nowadays.**  
Some officers of the British army now wear armor. As a general rule the mail is inclosed in a leather casing which is sewn inside the tunic so as to be invisible unless the garment is picked to pieces. And the same with helmets—a similar device is fixed as lining, so as to give additional protection in case of need. Some officers are not above wearing mail vests underneath their tunics and perfectly obvious to their comrades, who, although they may scoff in time of peace, would be only too glad to don one themselves when in the middle of hostilities. The majority of the makers' customers are officers, because the suits are naturally very expensive.

**Verdict for Spoiled Dress.**  
Mrs. Clara Beck, of New York city, has obtained a verdict of \$100 damages for injury done to a dress through the carelessness of a waiter in a small restaurant. She and her husband were dining at Sherry's and the waiter dropped a glass of water on the white crepe de chine princess gown. The manager made profuse apologies and so did the waiter, but Mrs. Beck refused to be mollified by fine words. Next day she sent the dress to the hotel people, with a demand for its value. This was refused, so she sued and got a verdict, as stated above.

**Hardy Highlanders.**  
When the Fraser Highlanders landed in North America in 1757 it was proposed to change the dress on account of the cold winters and hot summers. The officers successfully opposed this, and were ultimately justified by the Highlanders being the healthiest soldiers in the army. In the campaign in Holland in 1794 some regiments lost as many as 300 from disease, but the Black Watch, which had 300 recruits in its ranks, had only 25 casualties, including the killed in battle.

**Animals Fear Human Voice.**  
Gordon Cumming was perhaps the first to discover the effect of the human voice upon wild animals. On one occasion he had a lioness in full retreat before him. He called loudly to her, whereupon she squatted like a huge dog and permitted him to approach. In a similar venture he checked the charge of a lioness by yelling at her and continued to do so, while she remained perpetually sniffling the ground and allowed him to escape.

**Census Inquiries.**  
While the American census is in the nature of a national "account of stock," embracing inquiries relating to population, mortality, agriculture and manufactures, that of other countries is generally confined to an enumeration of population by sex, age, nativity, conjugal condition, occupation, etc., and in some cases details relating to dwellings.

**Answered.**  
"I want to know," remarked the pretty woman, as she fussed up her hair for the seventeenth time, "whether that mole on my chin will show in the picture?"  
"Madam," replied the polite photographer, "I must answer you in the negative."  
—Cincinnati Times-Star.

**Led to Trouble.**  
Lawyer—What was the thing that led to your financial downfall? You seemed to be doing a good business.  
Bankrupt—I was; but one day I started out to see if I could borrow some money. I found it so easy that I kept on borrowing.—Someville Journal.

**National Weather Bureau.**  
Even Japan has her own weather service, and the Australian colonies each one. The Russian service and the German service are most excellent, but the American is generally conceded to be the best of all, as it is, by far, the most expensive.

**Couldn't Read Her Mind.**  
Maude—They say that the young man who has been calling on you for some time is a mind reader.  
Clara—I don't believe it. If he was he would either propose or quit calling.—Chicago Daily News.

**Increasing His Weight.**  
Sportsman—You look heavier than when I was here before.  
Maine Guide—I am. I've got more lead in me. I've been shot by mistake for a deer 40 times since you were here last.—Judge.

**A Striker.**  
Bibbs—Of course you never struck a man when he was down?  
Bobbs—Well—yes; my rich uncle was down to our house yesterday and I struck him for five dollars.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

**Positive Proof.**  
Maude—What proof have I that you care for me?  
Jamie—Didn't I climb three mountains in one day just to get you to be near me?—Chico (Mass.) Gazette.