

SACRED TREE OF SPAIN.

And its Connection With the Ancient Euskarian Language.

You all know about the Charter oak, that tree that figured in the fight for independence of the American colonies, and perhaps you have heard of other trees with national significance.

Did you ever hear of the sacred tree of Spain and the means by which it is perpetuated? It stands close to the town of Guernica, in Biscay, and under its spreading foliage the general junta are inaugurated. Several centuries ago, when Spain was a loosely tied bundle of more or less independent states, the lords of Biscay took their oath under one of the parents of this same tree, where a stone bench was provided for their use, as a symbol of the enduring solidity of their reign. In some respects the tree shows a deeper symbolism than is to be found in the beech of hewn stone, for both the family dignity and the Euskarian language are handed from father to son.

In that isolated region a form of speech that is utterly different from both French and Spanish has been maintained since the beginnings of European civilization because each father made it his business to instill into his eldest son the idea that it was his duty to perpetuate his language and the peculiar institutions of his race.

The tree of the Basques is one of the hardest of all the hardy things to be found around the bay of Biscay and the Pyrenees mountains. The one that is now standing was taken from the parent tree in 1780 and had been growing for thirty years when its 300-year-old progenitor succumbed to age and a hard windstorm. Another shoot was started from this one forty years ago.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

of recreation; a bloody and murdering practice than a felicitous sport of pastime. For doth not every one lie in wait for his Adverserie, seeking to overthrow him and to picke him on his nose, though it be on hard stones, so that by this meanes sometimes their backs, sometimes their legs, sometimes their arms, sometimes one part thrust out of joynt, sometimes another; sometimes the noses gush out with blood, sometimes their eyes start out—fighting, brawling, contention, quarrel pickling, murder, homicide and great effusion of blood, as experience daily teacheth."

Beethoven's Fits of Rage.

Beethoven's behavior was often atrocious. In giving lessons to young ladies he would sometimes tear the music to pieces and scatter it about the floor or even smash the furniture. Once when playing in company there was some interruption. "I play no longer for such hogs!" he cried and left the piano. He once called Prince Lobkowitz an ass because a bassoon player happened to be absent.—Dole's "Famous Composers."

Horns of a Dilemma.

We apply the term "horns of a dilemma" to a situation in which a person is confronted by two opposite and conflicting lines of conduct, the advantages or disadvantages of which appear to balance; hence the analogy to the "horns" of an animal.

Humility Not All.

Humility is the part of wisdom and is most becoming in men. But let no one discourage self reliance. It is all of the greatest quality of true manliness.—Louis Kosuth.

Evidently She Did.

"Does your wife like pets?" "She must. I rarely go home without finding her in one."—Boston Transcript.

CHINESE LETTER CARRIERS.

Feats They Must Perform Would Tire a Hercules.

How many of our own postmen would care to transfer their services to the Chinese postoffice?

To get into the postal service in China is not an easy matter.

In the first place an applicant must have strength and courage, and in order to gain these he must be prepared to undergo a very queer method of training. He must wander through mountains and valleys, forests and caves. The exact time to be occupied in a trip of this sort is fixed by the law, and a very heavy fine is imposed for any unnecessary delay.

The would be postman must repeat these trips at night, and if he listens to the bad spirit, thereby failing to appear at the required time at a specified place he is sure to lose his chance of being a postman.

But that is not all, for he is obliged to carry enormous weights for many miles and must return with his burden within a given time, though his road usually takes him through districts thick with bandits.

In training, the postman eats very little—though he is used to this—and tries every training exercise. Then comes his real examination, under the direction of the government officials. He is taken into a large room, where, suspended from a high beam, are very heavy sacks filled with rocks. He must give a swinging motion to all these sacks, run to and fro between them, carefully guarding himself against a blow from the heavy weights.—London Globe.

Ancient Football.

Phillip Stubbs wrote in 1853 in his book on "The Anatomy of Abuses:" "For as concerning football I protest unto you it may rather be called a friendly kind of fight than a play

MRS. SHEPARD AND SON.

Former Helen Gould With Adopted Son, Finley Junior.



Photo by American Press Association.

FATALITY IN A WORD.

Why France Changed the Name of the "Life Saving Belt."

A vivid illustration of the power of mere words over human beings was once brought to the attention of French people by Francisque Sarcy.

After the wreck of the Bourgogne many passengers were found floating drowned with life preservers on. These life preservers were fastened upon the bodies, but round the middle instead of under the arms, and the greater weight of the upper part of the body had tipped the head under water and the person of course was inevitably drowned.

Now it appears that the greater number of the persons so drowned were French. The French term for life preserver is ceinture de sauvetage, or "life saving belt." This word ceinture suggests to the mind in its moments of disorder and unreadiness, such as a great catastrophe brings, the idea of putting on a belt, and as a belt is put round the waist and nowhere else the frightened person instinctively adjusts the life preserver close about the hips.

The result is that as soon as the person so provided falls into the water his body tips over, with the heavier part downward, and the head is plunged beneath the surface.

The word "belt," therefore, was the cause of the loss of many lives in the Bourgogne disaster. Sarcy accordingly proposed to counteract the fatal effect of the French word by renaming the article and calling it a brasserie, which is a kind of waist, and by bringing the word bras, or arm, to mind to teach people to put a life preserver on just underneath the arms.

The Pelican.

No one would be likely to imagine that so heavy and, in fact, apparently ungainly a bird as a pelican is a king among soaring birds. After much flopping when these great birds have acquired headway the broad wings are spread, and in majestic circles they mount skyward, with only an occasional flap of the wing, often passing beyond the range of one's vision.

MAJOR W. H. CROSSETT.

San Francisco Man May Be Candidate Hughes' "Colonel House."



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Not Good For the Gander.

The following sign is displayed in a certain bathhouse:

"This Place Is Closed at 1 p. m. Sunday So We Can Go Home and Take Our Baths."

Which is very similar to the note a traveling man found on the door of a lunchroom in a small town: "Gone Home to Dinner."—Indianapolis News.

VANCE C. M'CORMICK.

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Weakness of the Great.

The two greatest men who appear in "Julius Caesar"—namely, Caesar himself and Cicero—are allotted but minor parts in Shakespeare's play, and to each with daring originality the dramatist has attributed a physical defect, for the existence of which history supplied him with no evidence. Caesar, for instance, confesses to deafness, bidding Antony—

"Come on my right hand, for this ear is deaf," while Brutus speaks of Cicero's "ferret and fiery eyes," as if no one could fail to note them. Respect for those two immortals was no doubt thus diminished, but by showing them as not above human weaknesses Shakespeare made them more easily realized.—London Opinion.

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