

THE USEFUL BANANA.

Its Leaves and Pulp Applied to Many Purposes.

In the West Indies the dried leaves and prepared portions of the stem are used as packing materials. Fresh leaves are used to shade young coffee or cocoa seedlings in nursery beds...

In the Malay peninsula the ash of the leaf and leaf stalk is used instead of soap or fuller's earth in washing clothes, and a solution of the ash is often used as a salt in cooking.

Fibre got from the stems of many is the "Manilla hemp" of commerce, which holds the chief place for making white ropes and cordage. Old ropes made from it form an excellent rope-making material, much used in the United States for stout packing papers.

Hawaiian Conscience. Among the incidents of the late cholera visitation is one which reveals the energy of conscience and its supreme power in the disciplined soul.

Laying a Japanese Cable. There seems to be little that the plucky Japanese cannot take hold of and handle successfully.

An Awful Record. An old man in England was sent to prison for four months for petty stealing whose record, the judge who sentenced him said, "is one of the most awful pieces of reading that has ever come to my notice."

How the Earth Loses Time. The explanation of Lord Kelvin's estimate that the "set back" of the earth in its daily rotation round its axis amounts to twenty-two seconds per century, is reported to be that such retardation is owing to the friction caused by the tides...

Vespucius Voyage to America. The Geographical Society of Florence will celebrate in 1898 the 400th anniversary of Americus Vespucius's voyage of discovery and will invite all the geographical societies in the world to take part in the festivities.

Watch Dogs. Next to a man in the house, there is no such protection against burglars as a dog. And some extremists value the dog highest for the position.

one; that, while the first is generally friendly and unsuspecting, and comes toward them readily, so that it may be easily chloroformed, the little terrier, for example, will bark his small heart out at the least disturbance. There is no coaxing this tiny, nervous creature to them. He will stand at a good distance and call his loudest for assistance.

Leander is Out of Date. There are more ways of winning a wife than there are of losing one. A Leaningtower has, however, discovered a new one. The object of his affections admitted that she had "walked out" with his rival.

Monarchs of Old. Alphonso VI. of Leon and Castile was the Brave on account of his knightly daring. The same title was given to Alphonso IV. of Portugal.

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Moscow's Big Theater Undermined. Moscow's Imperial Theater, one of the largest in the world, came near collapsing recently. The land about it having been drained, the piles on which the theater is built were exposed to the air and rotted away.

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TALMAGE'S SERMON.

HE PREACHES ON THE RETURN OF THE PRODIGAL.

New Lights on a Familiar Story—The Richest Ring Ever Flashed on the Vision Is That Which Our Father Puts on a Forgiven Soul.

A Ring on His Hand. In his sermon Sunday Rev. Dr. Talmage took for his subject the return of the prodigal son. The text chosen was Luke xv. 22, "Put a ring on his hand."

Oh, no, you cannot separate a soul from Christ! It is an everlasting marriage. Partle and storm and darkness cannot do it. It is too much exaltation for a man, who is but dust and asks like myself, to cry out this moment, "I am persuaded that neither height nor depth nor principalities nor powers nor things present, nor things to come, nor any other creature shall separate me from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus, my Lord!"

A Ring of Adoption. I remark, in the first place, that when Christ receives a soul into his love he puts upon him the ring of adoption. While in my church in Philadelphia there came representative of the Howard mission of New York.

Every day I find happy Christian people. I find some of them with no second coat, some of them in huts and tenement houses, and yet they are as happy as happy can be.

Why, religion lightens all our burdens; it smooths all our ways; it interprets all our sorrows; it changes the jar of earthly discord for the peal of festal bells.

Why should not I, I see it. There is no peace, and sometimes you laugh when you feel a great deal more like crying.

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in a casket, and sometimes the box is opened on an anniversary day, and as you look at that ring you see under its arch a long procession of precious memories. Within the golden circle of that ring there is room for a thousand sweet recollections to revolve, and you think of the great contrast between the hour when, at the close of the "Wedding March," under the flashing lights and amid the aroma of orange blossoms, you set that ring on the round finger of the plump hand, and that hour when, at the close of the exhaustive watching, when you knew that the soul had fled, you took from the hand, which gave back no responsive clasp, from that emaciated finger, the ring that she had worn so long and so well.

There is no power on earth or hell to effect a divorce after Christ and the soul are united. Other kings have turned out their companions when they get weary of them and sent them adrift from the palace gate.

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now the work is all done, and to-morrow is Sunday—an everlasting Sunday." "Oh, when, then, city of my God, shall I thy courts ascend, Where congregations ne'er break up, And Sabbaths have no end?" There are people in this house to-day who are very near the eternal world.

Beautiful heaven, where all is light; Beautiful angels, clothed in white; Beautiful strains that never tire; Beautiful harps through all the choir; There shall I join the chorus sweet, Worshipping at the Savior's feet.

I know there are some people who say they are Christians who seem to get along without any help from others, and who culture solitary piety. They do not want any ordinances, I do not belong to that class. I cannot get along without them.

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Thoroughly Introduced. Mrs. Disraeli was not only fond of her husband, but so proud of him that she often made him ridiculous by indulging in the most fulsome flattery in his presence. On one occasion, however, she laugh turned against a listener who had previously been only too ready to "gush" her conjugal fondness.

Everybody was roaring with laughter, and Smythe burst into the wrong room, which was quite dark. The others heard a splash, a cry, and then out came their leader, wet and dripping. He had fallen into "Dizzy's" bath, and it only remained for him to present himself in his drenched condition before Mrs. Disraeli.

I know nothing about the place of his birth, said Smythe, ruefully, "but I have been in the room where he was probably baptized."

Legal Punning. We do not mean punning which is legal—for there is no pun which the law authorities—but punning by members of the profession which calls itself legal. It is credited by the Green Bag to Vice-Chancellor Robertson, of New York.

Sooner or later a neglected Cold will develop a constant cough, shortness of breath, failing strength, and wasting of flesh, all symptomatic of some serious lung affection, which may be avoided or palliated by using in time Dr. D. Jayne's Expecto-rant.

These jokes about the young man staying so late, remarked Chollie at 11.58 p. m., "make me tired." "Dear me," said Maud Edith, "I had an idea you never got tired."—Indianapolis Journal.

By using Hall's Hair Renewer, gray, faded, or discolored hair assumes the natural color of youth, and grows luxuriant and strong, pleasing everybody.

Piso's Remedy for Catarrh gives immediate relief, allays inflammation, restores taste and smell, heals the sores and cures the disease.

Many a supposed giant has turned out to be only a shadow.



Brings comfort and improvement and tends to personal enjoyment when rightly used. The many who live better than others and enjoy life more, with less expenditure, by more promptly adapting the world's best products to the needs of physical being, will attest the value to health of the pure liquid laxative principles embraced in the remedy, Syrup of Figs.

Advertisement for Hood's Sarsaparilla and Hood's Pills, featuring the brand name in large letters and a small illustration of a woman.