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A CANADIAN FOLK-SONG.

(William Wilfred Campbell.)
The doors are shut, the windows fast;
Outside the gust is driving past,
Outside the shivering ivy clings,
While on the hob the kettle sings.
Margery, Margery, make the tea,
Singeth the kettle merrily.

The streams are lashed up where they flowed,
The ponds are frozen along the road,
The cattle are housed in shed and byre,
While singeth the kettle on the fire,
Margery, Margery, make the tea,
Singeth the kettle merrily.

The fisherman on the bay in his boat
Shivers and buttons up his coat,
The traveler stops at the tavern door,
And the kettle answers the chimney's roar.
Margery, Margery, make the tea,
Singeth the kettle merrily.

The freight dances upon the wall,
Footsteps are heard in the outer hall,
A kiss and a welcome that fill the room,
And the kettle sings in the glimmer and gloom.
Margery, Margery, make the tea,
Singeth the kettle merrily.

Japanese Houses.

(Tokio Letter.)
The houses are provided with paper doors, formed by pasting tough paper, made of a certain plant called vegetable paper, on light frames. These light doors serve for windows as well. The floor is raised about two feet from the ground, and is covered with woven mats about two inches thick. At the door space just inside are left the heavy wooden shoes of the street. So these mats are usually faultlessly clean, and are frequently bound about the edge with black linen. The rooms are partitioned by these sliding frames covered with paper, so that in a few moments the house may be made large or small at will. Turned into one of these rooms for the night, you find the furniture to consist of a rustic rug upon which to hang your hat. The mats on the floor serve for beds, and at time for reclining they will bring you a thick quilt-like arrangement called a futon. You may have a wooden pillow, but you choose, but unless long in the land, you probably will decline. If far from the open ports curious eyes will peer through every crevice, or indeed a finger may make crevices in the paper to get a view of a foreigner.

A Greyhound's Long Leap.

(Cincinnati Enquirer.)
Capt. Ed Murphy has a beautiful greyhound. Recently Capt. Murphy paid a visit to relatives at Urbana and took his hound along for the purpose of having a little sport. In company with some of his friends he went out hunting, and near a lane, which was thirty feet wide and bordered on both sides by a stake-and-rail fence, got up a rabbit. The hound gave chase and the rabbit ran under the fence. The first jump the hound made it cleared twenty-five feet, got over one of the fences and landing in the lane. Without any preliminary motion it made the second leap, and covered the immense distance of thirty-three feet, clearing the fence on the other side of the lane. There was a heavy fall of snow, and it was therefore an easy matter to determine the distance covered by the prints of the dog's feet in the snow. The distance was measured by Capt. Murphy and three others who witnessed the remarkable feat, and their report made it as mentioned above.

The Earliest Calendars.

(New York Mail and Express.)
The earliest calendars were of two classes, and were cut upon rods of wood or metal or on stone. The first contained astronomical information, the other the date of saints' days. The first printed calendar is dated 1492, and was filled with advice to physicians and farmers. The agriculturist is told when to plant, the sick man at what hour to take his dose of medicine. Then come prognostications of weather, and here is a quaint rhyme from an old manuscript, which may serve still as a guide to those who like to know what weather to expect after the change of every moon by "pryme" days:
Sunday pryme, drye weather;
Monday pryme, mist weather;
Tuesday pryme, cold and wynde;
Wednesday pryme, soune and clere;
Fryday pryme, fayre and fowle;
Saturday pryme, rayne.

New Diet for Soldiers.

(Chicago Times.)
The German war department is trying an interesting experiment. A Westphalia company of soldiers has been separated from the rest for the purpose of testing the new diet to be given the men during a fortnight, within which time they are to go fully equipped for six hours daily through a regular field service exercise. The food consists chiefly of preserves and material such as is least exposed to deterioration in a campaign, and may in case of need be carried by the men in their haversacks. Strict watches are kept that none of the men procure other food outside, in order to test both their own endurance and physical condition, and at the same time the nutritious qualities of the provisions.

There are 2,800,000,000 copies of daily, weekly and monthly journals published annually in America, against 7,800,000,000 copies in Europe.
There were over five thousand northern school teachers at the New Orleans exposition during the holidays.

Dakota Diversified Interests.

(St. Paul Pioneer Press.)
"Hogs will tend largely to solve the problem of Dakota's prosperity, remarked one of the members of the Coopers-town syndicate in the hearing of a reporter. "It costs next to nothing to grow them. I will tell you our own experience. Four years ago in March we shipped out to our farm with a car load of mules a sow and a litter of pigs, and now we have some 800 heads of hogs, although we have killed enough for our own meat, some 5,000 pounds, last season. How do you feed them? Well, we have given but little attention to them except to feed them the screenings from our wheat and barley in the winter. Yes, of course, we shelter them from the storms and from the snow as we do all of our stock.

"Now, since we find our experiment with hogs a success, we shall pay more attention to the business next season. We will sow some alfalfa grass, which we think will in a measure take the place of red clover. Then we shall raise rutabagas and perhaps peas for them. Yes, we can raise rye to good advantage, which is recognized as prime feed for hogs in the state. No, there isn't any reason in Dakota farmers buying their hog products. Every farmer can raise enough for home consumption from the refuse about the house and the farm, just as he could cattle and chicken product. Where these luxuries are now indulged in they come from wheat production at a comparatively unprofitable price. But little attention has been given to hogs as yet, but it is one of the diversified industries upon which the future of the territory will depend. We have a farm of 27,000 acres, but shall not rely upon cereal products. Even barley has not been a very profitable crop this season. In fact, of the 20,000 bushels shipped to the market this season we netted but little over 90 per cent. Yes, fax is a good profitable crop, but it impoverishes the soil."

A Searching Test.

(Exchange.)
The American Register of Paris tells a good story of a young country dentist who had recommended to him as a patient the bishop of his diocese. His first commission was for a complete set of teeth, and a day was appointed for the prelate to call and fit them in. It was a moment of anxiety, and indeed, professional importance, to the dentist, as he watched his lordship examining himself and his new teeth in the mirror.
Imagine his horror, therefore, when he distinctly caught an expression of a condemnatory character ending in "ation" from his client's lips. "I dare say they are a little uncomfortable," my lord, he murmured conciliatingly, "but just at first, and until you get used to them." "Without doubt he shall perish everlastingly," exclaimed the bishop with vehemence. "But indeed, my lord, if you will have patience," pleaded the dentist, "in a week's time—" "What do you mean?" inquired the prelate, turning around with an apologetic smile. "Why should I not have patience? The teeth fit me beautifully; it is the first time I have found myself able to pronounce the Athanasian creed with distinctness for twenty years."

The Coal Hole of New York.

(New York Herald.)
The coal hole is one of the local institutions of New York. There is a coal hole in front of every house. Unlike the banana peel, the coal hole is always in season. It is covered with a round iron plate of about the size of a piano stool, and it is always loaded. When the cover is properly secured, the sufferer merely slips up and sits down on it. The cover is made of iron and is never injured, even by the concussion when a fat man sits down on it with sufficient emphasis to shake the birds out of their nests at the antipodes. Very frequently, as was the case with poor Van Slyck, the cover is not properly secured and then the man who steps on it puts his foot in it. In that event, it is a miracle if the victim is not injured for life. Falling over a wheelbarrow in the dark is a childish sport in comparison to it.
I asked another New York gentleman if there was not some remedy for the man whose leg is bruised all up by falling into a carelessly closed coal hole.
"O yes," he replied, "there is a remedy. 'Rub arnica on it.'"

"Speak Out, Jeremia!"

(Pittsburg Chronicle-Telegraph.)
"A good wife is heaven's greatest gift to man, and the rarest gem the earth holds," remarked Mr. Jarpally the other morning. "She is his joy, his inspiration, his very soul. Through her he learns to reach the pure and true, and her loving hand leads him softly over the rough places. She is—" "Jeremia!" said Mrs. Jarpally solemnly. "Jeremia! what wickedness have you been up to now? There's no use of waiting or whipping round the stump, for I'll hear of it soon enough. Say it right out, Jeremia!"

Josh Billings Aging.

(Inter Ocean.)
Josh Billings, who has abandoned housekeeping and removed to the Windward Hotel, New York, is now about 65 years old, and begins to feel the burden of life, irrespective of its probabilities. He has been lecturing twenty-four seasons, and has furnished a New York weekly a half a quarter column of columns, and has a tribune every week for the last nineteen years.

Lost Power.

An actual and careful test shows that 99 per cent of the power exerted in driving the propeller of an ocean steamship is lost, or rather it is yet unaccounted for.

Boston Globe. Who can tell why bad taste in dress and manners and all the walks of life is severely frowned upon, while in language it is ignored?

The Current. Among the toys of the season has been a bull-frog made of caoutchouc. (South American for ker-chug.)
Quail pens are again becoming fashionable.

Business Cards.

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Thanking the public for past favors, I so-
licit a continuation of the same.
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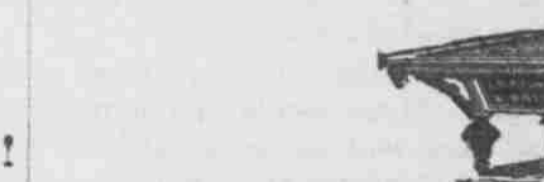
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