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ENGLISH ALMANACS.

## The Earliest Printed One Appeared In

the Fifteenth Century. The earliest English printed almanac is the calendar of Shepardes Mrs. Ellis, a lady who was present of the fifteenth century. But many and among those lamenting the loss almanacs must have come into exist- of their purses. It is conjectured ence when Queen Elizabeth gave the that the thief was a person with a monopoly of publishing them to two, weakness for practical joking .--members of the Stationers' company. King James afterward extended the patent to include the company in its corporate capacity and

the two universities, which last asaigned their rights for a yearly consideration to the company.

But with the civil war the monopoly was broken through. Oxford, where the king chiefly resided, might tesue its loyal almanacs, but the more popular and widely circulated was the almanaç of William Lilléy, the astrologer, first issued for 1643, under the title "Merlini Anglici Ephemeris." The English Merlin is to be credited with the foresight of getting upon the winning side and prophesying boldly, for the parliament was presently justified by the overwhelming victories of his party. In the issue of the Ephemeris for 1647 the prophet, writing in October, 1646, launched out into a since this time twelve months! Townes and cities taken or surren- got down in de cellar an' let 'em fit. They heard a gentleman's voice be left alone in their shells. Exdered. armies royale routed, the parliament forces ubicunque victorious, his majesty distressed, the prince fled beyond the sea."

He does not hesitate to show how the approaching conjunction of Mars and Jupiter presages still further calamity for the royal head. But his triumph does not make the prophet magnanimous. He has no words too scornful for a rival seer who has endeavored to find encouragement in the stars for the losing nide,

An Embarrassing Predicament. Dr. King, the bishop of Lincoln, once found himself in a most embarrassing predicament. He was assisting at the opening ceremony of a bazear, which was being held in aid of the Nurses' institution. During the course of the proceedings it was discovered that pickpockets had been at work, and several ladies proclaimed the loss of their purses. The fact was communicated to the bishop, who expressed his regret, at the same time examining his own pockets in the hope of finding nothing gone.

He was not disappointed-noth-

ing was gone. He was, however, surprised, for from one of his pockets he brought a strange purse that he had never seen before. It contained three coppers and was ultimately discovered to belong to a London Tit-Bits.

#### A Strong Position.

Negroes usually have a ready answer, even for the most unexpected question. The Washington Star settled the neighbors began to call, tells of a man who visited the scene and it was then that the fact was of the battle of Antietam and there discovered that Wing was absolutemet an old colored man, who took ly devoid of any ideas as to the ushpleasure in explaining all "facts", ering in or out of guests. about the engagement.

The negro was asked if he was mined to instruct him. Providing present when the fight took place, him with a tray, Miss Anderson; and his answer was, "Sartainly, sah; went out, rang the bell, was shown sure, I wuz right heah." "Then you must have seen the calm Chinaman carried her card to

whole thing." "'Deed I did, sah, an' it wuz right

bilious times, sah." "What position did you occupy?" that Wing was perfect in his role.

"I wuz down in de cellar, sah. I That evening at 8:30 the bell got down dar to keep out de way of rang: Wing shuffled majestically to ic? de Yankees, 'case I knowed dat I the door, while mother and daughwould be 'bleeged ter whoop fer ter hung breathlessly over the banisbold pæan of victory: "A new world dem, an' I knowed dat Marse Bob ters to watch the result of their to talk with every one they meet, Lee didn't 'spec' dat of me, so I jis teaching.

it out."

### Not In His Paper.

verse received from the hands of Robert Bonner, the founder of the a card from his sleeve. New York Ledger, a story which he had submitted to him the week be- "The one we used for the lessons!" fore. "If you please," said the poet politely, "I would like to know why you cannot use my story, so that I may be guided in the future by your preferences." "Certainly," replied Mr. Bonner. "This story will not do for me because you have in it the marriage of a man with his cous-"But," protested the young author, "cousins do marry in real life very often." "In real life, yes,"

A writer discussing the subject of mughter describes the Italian laugh

as languid, but musical, the German as deliberate, the French as spasmodic and uncertain, the upper class English as guarded and not always genuine, the lower class English as explosive, the Scotch of all classes as hearty and the Irish as rollick-

nearty or so expressive as the Luropean. It is more often a titter than, a genuine outburst of merriment.

# A STRICT DOORKEEPER.

Amusing<sup>®</sup>Experience With a Chinese Man of All Work.

When the Andersons went to California, they rented a small furnished house and engaged a Chinese man of all work. The house was well situated and tastefully furnished, and Wing Lee proved to be a good

An Ancient Table.

marked a visitor to a collector of

"That must be an antique," re-

shocked, my dear, to hear you say cook, clean and respectful. you intend to give the baby some As soon as the Andersons were paregoric. Don't you know paregoric is opium, and opium stunts the growth, enfeebles the constitution, weakens the brain, destroys the nerves and produces rickets, marasmus, consumption, insanity and So one morning the ladies deter-

death? Young Mother-Horrors! I never heard a word about that. I won't give the little ducky darling a drop; into the parlor and waited while the no, indeed. But something must be done to stop his yelling. You carry Mrs. Anderson.

him awhile. This was repeated several times Father (after an hour's steady until the ladies were quite satisfied stamping with the squalling infant)

ter?"

tic."

### Good Intentions Frustrated.

-Where in thunder is that paregor-

"You surprise me," said the col-

lector, not a little nettled by the re-

mark. "I had no idea there were

any tables as old as that. Is its his-

tory authentic? What is its charac-

other. "It's the multiplication ta-

ble. Its history is perfectly authen-

The Firstborn.

Young Father-I am amazed,

"Oh, it's very simple," added the

Some men are affable and want while other men are not and want to ask if the ladies were at home. They tremes met on a Sixth avenue elesaw Wing present his tray and revated train the other day-one of ceive a card with an air which made the dark, rainy days. A grim, them mentally pat each other on the grouchy individual sat in a corner back, and then they saw him draw seat reading a paper. At Forty-see-

ond street a trim little man got on "Mine!" gasped Miss Anderson." and took the seat next to the sour one. After settling himself com-Wing compared the two carefully, fortably he remarked, "This is very and, returning the one which the nasty weather, isn't it?" The surly caller had just handed him, he re- one looked up from his paper, glared marked blandly: "Tickee no good. at him a moment and then replied, No can come," and calmly shut the "Is that any of your darned busidoor in the face of the astonished ness?"-New York Tribune.

Puritanical Treatment of Boys. In Miss Earle's book, "The Sabbath In Puritan New England," a story is told of Dr. Dakin hearing a noise while he was praying in a

edge of the gallery, while a vener- ed with the number two.

able deacon clutched the boy. At last the balustrade gave way and representation, and so far as mon-"It may be the finest, but not the boy and deacon fell with a crash archs have been concerned it car-The deacon then led the boy out of tainly seems to have been an unthe meeting house and swishing lucky number, most of those who sounds, accompanied by wails, were were second of a name having had known to be more than 2.000 years soon heard from the region of the troubled reigns or met with untimehorse shed.

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The Number Two.

in many of the legends of the North American Indians two witches or medicine women play a conchurch at Quincy. The minister spicuous part. This may be/merely opened his eyes to discover the a curious coincidence, but more cause and saw a red haired boy probably it is the result of some clutching the railing on the front half forgotten superstition connect-

÷ .

In the old world two has an evil ly fates.

in." cried the canny Scotchman, "but bric-s-brac who was exhibiting his not in the New York Ledger." Laughter of Different Countries.

chief tressure, a handsomely carved oak table. "Indeed it is," replied the other proudly. "I believe it to be the finest and oldest specimen of furniture extant."

oldest," remarked the other. "Why, I have an Arabic table at home which dates before the beginning of the Christian era. In fact, it is the Chinese lanet is not a

# One day a maker of prose and

guest-Little Chronicle.

