

AN OLD ALMANAC.

IT IS TREASURED BY A VENERABLE CLERGYMAN OF ALBANY.

Both Almanacs and Memorandum Books in One—Some Old Heating Prognostications—It Came From a Revolutionary Hero.

Rev. Dr. William Hull, of this city has a copy of "The New York Pocket Almanac in the year 1767. Calculated for the use of the Province of New York, and the neighboring Provinces By Poor Tom, Philomath, New York: Printed and sold by A. Gains, at the Bible and Crown, between the Fly and Meal Markets."

It has thirty-two printed pages besides a number of blank pages for entries. It is four and a half inches by two and a half inches in size. In addition to the monthly tables it has a tide table, tables giving the time of Quaker general meetings, times of holding of Supreme Courts in New York and New Jersey, Courts of sessions and Common Pleas, Superior and Inferior Courts for Connecticut, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. It gives the time of birth of George II., who was crowned in 1727 and a list of his children. It has an interest table at seven per cent and one on the value of coins and a list of his Britannic majesty's land forces in America and their daily pay. At that time the State of New York had a population of 100,000 and the city of New York 10,708 whites and 2,272 negroes. It contains the officials of the State government, with Cadwallader Colden at the head, and of the city government with John Cruger as mayor.

The weather prognostications read "Pleasant but now expect snow to sled," "Cloudy or not," "Now perhaps snow," "Dirty weather now I think," "Fine for the season," "Now expect some rain," "Now comes rain a think," "An exceedingly hot month," "Thunder and rain," etc.

The almanac came to Mr. Hull from his great grandfather, who kept some of his accounts on the blank pages in the German language. His name was Adam Clum, and he lived in the town of Clermont, Columbia county, and died in 1839. He was a soldier in the cavalry in the war of the revolution and besides his almanac Mr. Hull has a well-preserved sword which he carried in the military service as a cavalryman.—Albany Argus.

Coral.

Professor Le Conte says the popular idea in regard to corals is that these animals are little insects, that they build as ants and bees do, and when they are alarmed they disappear into their little burrows, and these reefs are accumulations of millions of these little insects in generation after generation. The fact is the coral animal is a polyp belonging to the group of radiata; that it consists of limestone deposits in the shape of a cylinder with top and bottom disks surmounted with tentacles, containing a stomach and enveloped with gelatinous organic matter. The tentacles or arms are provided each with a mouth for the absorption of food. The animals that build reefs are not much larger than pinheads. Reef-building corals will not grow at a depth of over one hundred to one hundred and twenty feet. There have been reef-building corals found at a depth of one thousand feet, but they were dead—drowned by being carried below their depth. This confines them to coast lines and submarine banks. Corals will not grow where the temperature is lower than sixty-eight degrees at any time—that is, the ocean, not the air. Therefore they are confined to the tropical regions. They will not grow except in clear salt water; hence there is always a break in reefs opposite the mouth of a river. Finally, they demand free exposure to the heating of the waves.

Warfare in Russia.

The Moscow coal looked to me very like the earthy lignite found under the bunch-grass in South Dakota. By imposing a duty on imported coal, varying from two dollars a ton to half a dollar a ton, according to whether the coal is from the West or from the Baltic imports, and by reducing the freight rates on Russian coal the government is trying to force the consumption of the home product. What it advises it also practices; for I found that on the war vessels on the Baltic the stokers from the Black sea are being employed to fire the furnaces and to drill the Baltic stokers in the use of the peculiar coal of southern Russia which, though it is the best of the country affords, yields its inferior qualities only to adept handling. This is purely a defensive course—the policy of a government which is first of all military and weakly. It is pursued with a view to render Russia independent in time of war. In scores of important matters—in every way that is practical—the government is compelling the people to develop Russian resources and rely upon them. This is in order to discount the effects of a stoppage of imports during a great war. The importation of foreign coal seems, however to be a necessity in some lines of manufacture, for, despite the very heavy tax upon it the quantity brought in has been slowly increasing of late. It amounts to only 2,000,000 tons of coal and coke; but the home extraction is only a little over four times as much.—From "Awakened Russia," by Julius Ralph, in Harper's Magazine for May.

Man's Ancestors.

Says Science Sitings: We can now trace the long-since extinct ancestors of the lowest vertebrates; we are able to introduce all the reptiles, the birds, and the mammals to their primitive prototypes; in the mammals, particularly, gap after gap which seemed to separate species and genera and orders has been successfully spanned by the discovery of intermediate forms; and we have now the genealogical trees of the deer, musk, horse, tapir, rhinoceros, cat, lemur, monkey, and many others. And yet as regards the pedigree of man we are still in the dark. Huxley's impressive words still hold: Paleontology sheds no light on man's origin or his last pithecooid parents; for "so far as that light is bright it shows him substantially as he is now."

WANTED TO LYON THE MURDERER.

The West-Newsman Man, that the Queen Were Anxious to Hang Him.

Captain Lee was seen walking along Market street the other day holding a dark complexioned young man of sinister countenance by the arm. People turned and glanced back, wondering if the captain had captured another dangerous criminal. The captain was talking in a loud and angry tone and gesticulating violently. He was heard to say: "You cold-blooded murderer, you! I'll put you where you won't make any more trouble. I've got a rope around your neck already."

Several people heard it and turned to follow the couple, starting curiously at the prisoner.

"If you make a move," roared the captain, "I'll blow the top of your head off!"

The prisoner looked decidedly uncomfortable.

"We were a long time getting you but now that we have landed you you can commence getting yourself ready for a necktie party."

"Lynch him!" yelled some one in the great crowd that had surrounded the couple.

"Hang the murderer!" yelled half a dozen voices; and several of the foremost impelled by those behind, rushed upon them.

"Stand back there! What's the matter with you?" demanded the captain.

"Hang him!" they shouted, as they seized the dark young man.

"What do you want to hang him for?"

"He's a murderer."

"Oh, go and attend to your own business! He's a newspaper man, and I was just telling him what I said to Devine, 'the Chicken,' when I captured him twenty-five or thirty years ago."—San Francisco Post.



Mr. Goodman—My little man, when I was your age I didn't smoke the way you do.

Slooby—I'll bet yer didn't. Why, dere ain't a kid in de ward dat kin inhale like me.

Ridiculously Kneelmate.

"I understand that there is a revolt among the young women," said a college president.

"There is," replied the professor in mathematics.

"What seems to be the trouble?" asked the president.

"They refuse absolutely to wear the university cap and gown."

"Refuse to wear the cap and gown!" exclaimed the president in astonishment.

"Well, I don't understand that they have any particular objection to the cap, but they positively refuse to put on the gown."

"Do they give any reason?"

"Oh, yes; they say it is too effeminate and entirely out of date. Besides, it hides their bloomers, and is really only fit for men to wear."—Chicago Tribune.

Taken From Life.

There was a man who bought a wheel. He bought it for his wife. And through the streets this man would reel.

A-risking of his life: Just so his wife could learn to ride, With swift and agile bounds, He galloped onward by her side— She weighed two hundred pounds, Of course he couldn't keep the pace, And soon he traveled hence; His love a tandem now doth grace— Her second hub has sense. —Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Why He Protested.

"It's very wrong of you people to ring those gongs after 10 o'clock at night," said the man who lives on a rapid transit car line.

"Why you don't mean to say that you go to bed at 10 o'clock," said the conductor.

"N—no, I can't say that I do. But when I don't, I'm particularly anxious that my wife shouldn't be awakened."—Washington Star.

Publication.

"Know all women by these presents," began a sagacious attorney on a public proclamation.

"Know all men, &c.," corrected a fellow lawyer.

"That's all right," explained the first. "If the women know it, the men will soon hear of it."—Washington Evening Times.

The Heart First.

"I notice that you eat the heart of your watermelon first," said the theorist.

"That is all wrong. You ought to save it up till the last." "It's," said the other man, "according to your theory, a man oughtn't to begin the honeymoon until he had been married ten or twelve years."

Nanette's Difficulty.

First Goat—Why, Nanette! what's the matter? Second Goat—Appendicitis, William. First Goat—Stovepipe? Second Goat—No; art posters.—New York Press.

Importance.

Ferry—How did you get that black eye? Hargreaves—Got knocked down by a confounded scorcher.

"Was he on his wheel?"—Cincinnati Enquirer.

USES OF CATS.

That are Not Known to the General Public.

There are many curious facts about cats that are not known to the general public, especially as to the use to which the animal is put. For instance; the Chinese utilize cats as clocks. They say that the pupils of their eyes grow steadily narrower until twelve noon, when they are like fine hair lines, gradually dilating after that hour. By this way a Chinaman finds out the time when a clock is not handy.

Cats have a commercial importance in certain lines of trade. Marine insurance does not cover damages done to the cargo by the depredations of rats, but if the proprietor of the merchandise injured can prove that the ship was not furnished with a cat he can recover compensation from the vessel owner. A ship that is found under certain circumstances without a living creature on board is considered a derelict, and property rights in her are forfeited. It has frequently occurred, after the crew had been lost or the ship otherwise abandoned, that a live canary, domestic fowl, or more often a cat, being discovered on board has saved the vessel from being condemned. For this reason a ship owner seldom sends a ship to sea without a cat.

Cats were first domesticated by the ancient Egyptians. On a tomb erected about 1300 B. C., puss first appears as a domesticated creature, being shown seated beneath a chair. Cats were worshipped in Egypt and behind a temple at Beni Hassan great pits have been found containing multitudes of cat mummies. When a cat died a natural death in an Egyptian house the occupants went into mourning and shaved off their eyebrows.

A few years ago there was a discovery made of a great cave in Egypt which was filled with thousands of mummified cats. These were dug out, exported to England and were sold at the rate of four pounds a ton for manure. Some of them, however, were carefully undraped and dissected for scientific purposes, and were found to be similar to the cat of today.

What Locusts Have Done.

There are many instances on record of locusts stopping the progress of enterprise, including that of armies. They have, in the West, impeded railroad trains, the tracks becoming so slippery that the wheels slid on the rails. In the year 1709 locusts invaded Europe in immense multitudes and Charles XII. and his army, then in Pessarabia, were stopped in their course. We read that a swarm of locusts once stopped the advance of a Russian army. They filled the air and blinded both officers and men so that the former could give no orders, and even if they had done so the men could not have obeyed them. A few years ago a detachment of Russian soldiers in Turcomania were so beset by locusts that a stampede at last took place and eventually the men were held prisoners by the insects forty-eight hours, until the villagers killed the latter and carried them away for manure locomotion having become as difficult as if the men were on ice.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Pets of the Japanese.

For the children have a kind of tiny rabbits and a queer breed of cats, says St. Nicholas. The cats have white fur with black and yellow spots, and do not have tails. Tiny dogs also are sometimes seen. In the houses of families in moderate circumstances there is usually an aquarium well stocked with beautiful and curious varieties of fish, gold, silver and crimson, some as round as a ball, some with spreading fins as fine as gauze.

Another pet is the large katydid, whose piercing note is very much enjoyed by the children. The katydids are very numerous in certain places in the summer. As a residence for these creatures they have bamboo cages built like tiny houses in which they daily arrange beds of flowers or leaves for the minstre's. Gayly colored butterflies are sometimes kept in the same kind of cage upon beds of flowers. Butterflies have been seen to alight voluntarily on children's hands and in Japan, birds, too, show that they are not afraid of man or child.

Tennessee Assurance.

In March, 1796, the sheriffs of the territory which is now Tennessee took a census of their own, and as there were 60,000 citizens of proper age the territory declared itself a state, proceeded to choose a governor, a congressman and a legislature, which selected two United States senators. Congress, then in session in Philadelphia, had received no information regarding the action in the territory until congressman and senators walked in uninvited and announced that a state had been born, had elected its officers, made its laws and was running on scheduled time.

Congress was disconcerted and notified the applicants that the sheriff's census was irregular and they must wait at least for an invitation before they proceeded to sit at the federal table. Upon second thought congress decided to be courteous, and on June 1 admitted Tennessee, nearly three months after she had become a state by her own action. This state, whose coming into the Union was a little previous, was the third state in the Union to provide a president for the Union and the first outside the original 13, and with one exception the only state south of the Ohio and the James ever to furnish a president, and she has provided three, more than any other state except New York, Virginia and Ohio.—Boston Transcript.

GRACEY GUESTS.

Experiences of Hotel Clerks in Dealing With Some of Them.

"I cannot sleep in that room," said a guest at a hotel in this city last evening as he walked to the desk in the office and threw the key upon it.

"What is the matter with it?" asked the clerk.

"There is nothing the matter with it, except that the bed is in the wrong place," the guest replied. "For more than twenty years I have slept in a bed with the head toward the north, and it has become such a habit with me that it would be actually impossible for me to sleep with the head in any other direction."

"It will be impossible for me to give you a room containing a bed with the head in that direction," said the clerk. "The hotel is well filled to-night, and I have only two vacant rooms, but I will have the bed turned for you." Calling a porter the clerk instructed him to turn the bed in the gentleman's room, so that the head would be to the north. The guest followed the porter upstairs, and as nothing further was heard from him it is presumed that he retired and slept peacefully.

"There is no accounting for tastes," said the clerk, turning to the reporter, "and the funny experiences we have in the hotel business would fill a volume. Before the night is over we may have calls for beds with their heads turned to every point of the compass, and, of course, we are obliged to accommodate every one."

"I remember an instance like this several years ago. A man slightly inebriated came into the hotel one night, and, producing a pocket compass, said that he wished a room whose the head of the bed should be placed to the northeast. We sent two boys with him and they turned the bed as requested. The joke was that the compass was furnished with a little stop, which held the indicator in a certain position. If so happened that the gentleman's bed, which had been carefully placed north-east according to the compass, was in reality placed with the head to the south. The man discovered his mistake next morning, and was cured of the bad."—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Presidents Who Joked No.

Washington was always aggressive, uncompromising, serious.

Tyler was cross, sour, unapproachable and irritable.

John Quincy Adams was a Puritan through and through, with a caustic and bitter wit, but no humor.

John Adams was impulsive and irascible, but too much in earnest ever to be humorous.

Benjamin Harrison is credited with having no sense of humor, although he does not object to a joke if the point is explained to him.

Buchanan could never see the point of a joke and regarded all jesting as ill-bred. His strong point was dignity and politeness.

Washington was the embodiment of gravity. It is said that he seldom smiled, and never laughed. A man was once so careless as to slap Washington on the shoulder, and the poor fellow was frozen stiff by the icy stars of his excellency.—Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette.

Always Certain of His Room.

"What room shall I give you, Mr. Bland?" asked the clerk at the Tremont, of a late comer the other night. This dialogue followed.

"How about 33?"

"Well, then, 101."

"Can't do it, that's taken."

"No, 202, then."

"It's yours."

The clerk wrote the number of the room opposite the name on the register, and asked:

"Why do you always ask for these rooms, Mr. Bland?"

"Because," was the reply, "the figures on the door can't get away from me. It's the same forward or backward in the early morning or late at night."—Chicago Chronicle.

How He Won His Title.

A Charleston naval officer tells the following story of an old fellow who was familiarly called general:

He was in company one evening when a hero-worshipping young girl asked:

"How did you get your title of general?"

"I cut my way into it," was the proud reply.

"Oh, how beautiful! On the field?"

"No; in Bill Wiggins' hotel. There were only two men in our town that had ever been in the army at all, so we cut the cards to see which should be general and which colonel. I won."—Boston Globe.

The Woman of It.

"Now, dear, I have one favor to ask of you."

"It is granted."

"Then please don't tell me that you have never loved before, that you never dreamed that you could love, that you the only girl you have ever been engaged to that."

He (interrupting)—I won't. She (anxiously)—But you have never been engaged before, have you, dear? —Brooklyn Life.

An Example.

Father—"I hear, my boy, that you are in the habit of telling falsehoods. This grieves me to the heart. Always tell the truth, even though it may bring suffering upon you. Will you promise?"

"Yes, sir."

"Very well. Now go and see who is knocking at the door. If it is Bingly say I'm not at home."—Indianapolis Sentinel.

It Fits.

A.—When I see you I always think of the proverb: To whom God gives an office to him he gives understanding.

B.—But I have no office.

A.—Well, don't you see how it fits? Fliegende Blaetter.

Too Much Competition Now.

She (to young poet)—How much do you get for your poems, Charlie?

Charlie (with pride)—From a pound to thirty shillings.

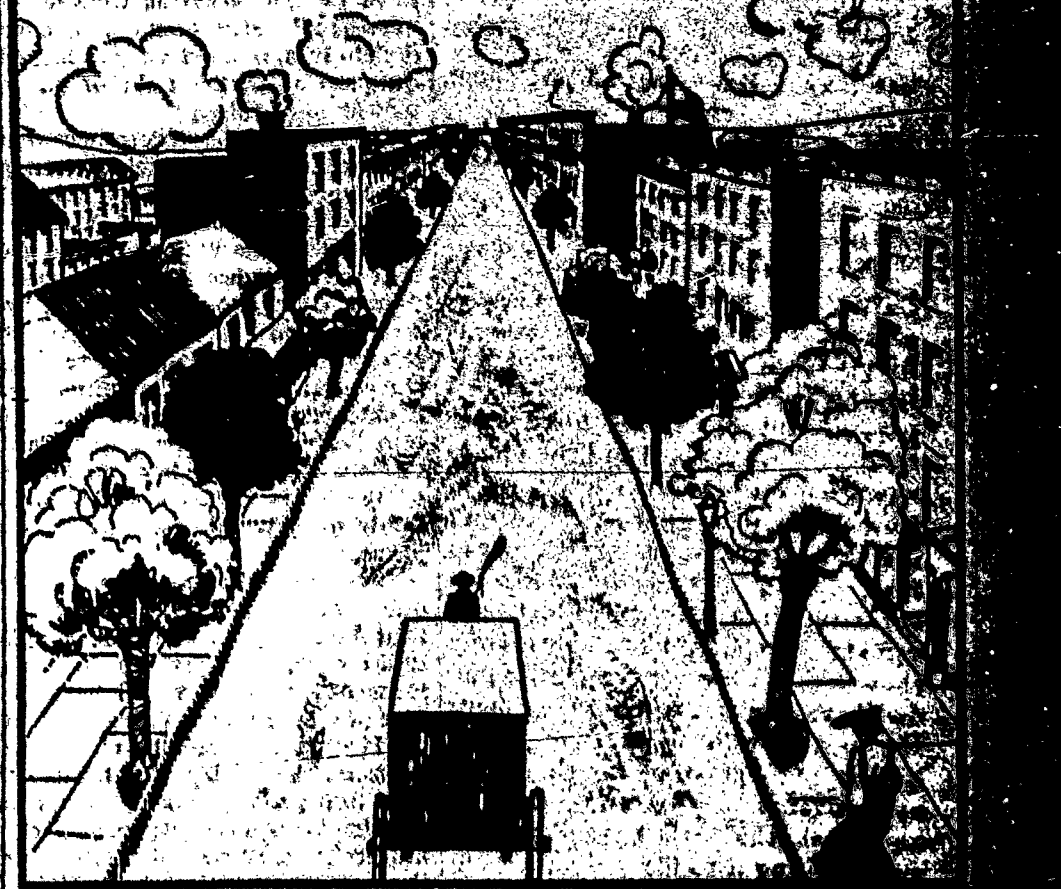
She—Well, isn't that very little, Charlie? I see that Sir Walter Scott got five hundred pounds for one of his.

Charlie—Yes, but you see, Walter Scott's business it used to be. There's too much competition.—London Tit-Bits.



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