

Speaking of Rivers.

The Thames and the Seine are about as large as the nameless creeks that wander across almost every county in America, while the waters of the blue Danube could be poured into the boiling flood of the Mississippi without changing its colors a single shade.

What! You have never seen the Mississippi! Then, suggests Guy Walker, in Good Housekeeping, postpone your trip abroad and see your own country first, for one of the most awe-inspiring sights in nature, greater even than the roaring falls of Niagara, is to watch the silent, majestic and restless sweep of the Mississippi at its flood.

Key to Yale Yell.

When Gen. Kuroki visited Yale and heard the college yell, relates Harper's Weekly, he turned to one of the interpreters in the party and asked, "What are they saying?"

"They have just remarked," explained the interpreter, "that they are very glad, indeed, to see you, and they hope you will come again and stay longer. They congratulate you upon our victories in the East, and, in conclusion, they wish to inform you that you have been unanimously elected a Son of a Gamboller."

Finds at Herculanum.

In June 1750, excavations were begun in the west end of the garden of the House of the Papyri, writes Ethel Ross Barker in the Burlington Magazine. In an article on "Past Excavations at Herculanum" in the same magazine, it was stated that the remains of a man in inland wood containing lumps of charcoal, many of which were thrown away. Finally characters were noticed on some of them, and they were discovered to be papyri. A monk, Father Platino, invented a machine for unravelling them and for 120 years scholars were busy in the work of deciphering and editing. Some of the original rolls opened and unopened, are in the British Museum and the Bodleian Library.

England's Highest Church.

On the rugged heights of Dartmoor stands England's highest church—the Church of St. Michael and All Angels. It is unique in being the church of the highest inhabited village in England, 1,400 feet above the level of the sea. Its position is in the parish of Lydford, the largest parish in England, of 60,000 acres of moor and heath. It was built in the early days of the nineteenth century by the French and American prisoners of war, who were kept there while the thunders of the Napoleonic wars were reverberating through Europe.

Manchuria's Exports.

One of the principal exports of Manchuria is bean oil, whose use at the present time is largely for illuminating and cooking purposes. The manager of the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha at Tieling, however, believes that by combining it with a small percentage of some other oil it will be impossible to produce a very satisfactory and cheap lubricant and states that at present his company is performing experiments to that end.

A Cat's Vitality.

Horbling, near Billingsborough, in England, has a cat of wonderful vitality. A fine crossbred Persian mysteriously disappeared from its home, and sixteen days later was found in an open field firmly secured in a rabbit trap. Notwithstanding the animal's long and painful confinement and exposure to the heavy rains it was still alive. It was, however, reduced to a mere skeleton, and was unable to walk, but under proper treatment it recovered.

To Prevent Highway Ravelling.

The ravelling of State highways in Massachusetts during dry weather has generally been prevented in the past by spreading a thin coat of sand over the surface. During last year, however, there were two quite protracted dry spells which disturbed the bond of the road and caused loose stones to stand up in the surface. Although sand was spread thinly as before it did not prevent the ravelling in all instances.

The Sailor's Counselor.

Sixty thousand sailors look to H. A. Hanbury for advice and for protection. Mr. Hanbury is the United States shipping commissioner for the port of New York. He is the sailor's judge and jury. The men who sign on foreign crafts now must appear before him for their papers instead of going to the consuls of the various countries. He decides all disputed questions between the men and their sailing masters.

When They are at Their Best.

In the course of a recent case before Mr. Justice Darling the judge declined to make a requesting ruling, saying that if he did so the Court of Appeals would say he was wrong. Counsel having expressed disagreement with this view the judge said: "Well, you know the Court of Appeals as well as I do. Perhaps better, for you see them at work, while I only see them at luncheon." To which the barrister dryly replied: "Your lordship sees them at their best."

There are no Prisons or police in Ireland—the people are so honest.

Some fools become wise men by attending the school of experience.

MARRIAGE AFTER DEATH.

Strangest of All Queer Chinese Customs is Brought to Light.

A writer in the Pittsburg Dispatch tells of the strangest of all strange Chinese customs: Marriage after death. When a young person of marriageable age dies unmarried the fond parents give him or her a mate in order not to let their loved one die all alone in the cemetery.

The details of the marriage are usually arranged by a shrewd-eyed Schachden for a consideration. When all is settled a grave is dug along side that of the boy or young man to become a groom. Then the casket of the dead bride is removed from its resting place and carried to that of the groom with great ceremony and with attendance of all relatives and friends. A band is never missing. The more well-to-go the father-in-law the more bands. At the head of the procession a red flag is carried "in order to show the soul of the young girl the road."

The relatives await the bride at his grave. There is a religious ceremony when the second coffin arrives. Congratulations, singing and musical exercises follow. These signify the wedding. When the bride's coffin is lowered into the grave there is much crying and lamentation.

Italian Tomatoes.

A visit to an Italian grocery is pretty sure to develop a host of tasty things that are unknown to the average American housekeeper. Even a can of tomatoes has an unfamiliar air if it falls from Italy, as most of the products supplied by such houses do. The can has a label with the usual red picture of the fruit, but instead of one big fat tomato there is a stem of pear-shaped fruit of the usual rich color, opening in the greater amount of pulp and the less quantity of liquid. These Italian tomatoes are about the size of plums and are peeled and put up whole. They are less watery than the American sort, and the acid is not so sharp.

In King Edward's Pockets.

Like every man who values the look of his clothes, King Edward carries very little in his pockets besides a handkerchief. In his waistcoat pocket he carries a gold pencil case, a cigar cutter, a little passkey, a gold watch, carefully regulated by Greenwich time, and half a dozen sovereigns. In his coat pocket he carries a tiny note book and in the winter he puts his gloves in the pocket of his topcoat.

The King never carries a cigar case, except a gold case which holds one cigar, but he almost always has a small box of lozenges. Unlike his nephew the Kaiser, he never carries a fountain pen in his pocket.—Tit-Bits.

Means of Preserving Flour.

In England much interest has been shown of late by the army and navy authorities in a new method of preserving flour by means of compression. With hydraulic pressure apparatus the flour is squeezed into the form of bricks, and experiments are reported to have shown that the pressure destroys all forms of insect life, thus preserving the flour from the ravages of insects while it is equally secure from mold. Three hundred pounds of compressed flour occupy the same space as 100 pounds of flour in the ordinary state.

Statistics of Fires.

Electric light people find much consolation in statistics of fires. A report read at the recent convention of the National Electric Light Association showed that among illuminants in New York in the last five years candles were responsible for 1,629 fires, gas for 2,539, lamps for 976 and electricity for 467. The figures for Boston show that out of a total of 3,069 fires electricity caused 60, gas and kerosene 234 and matches 340.

Days on Which Months Begin.

October always begins on the same day of the week as January, April as July, September as December, February, March and November begin on the same days. May, June and August always begin on different days from each other and every other month in the year. The first and last days of the year are always the same. These rules do not apply to leap year.

Huge Smelting Works.

At the Washoe smelting works, Anaconda, Mont., over 13,000 tons are handled daily by 13 compressed air locomotives, 1 of which weigh 13 tons each and one 21 tons. Each locomotive carries two storage tanks for its air supply, the air being taken from a pressure system of pipes laid conveniently to the tracks, and having stations at which the locomotives stop to get their supply.

Sound Proof Material.

In Germany sound-proof building blocks are made of a mixture of gypsum with sawdust, coke, dust or ashes. Some chemical skill is required to make the mixture.

Korea's Cotton Fields.

It is estimated that the area of land in Korea which can profitably be put under cotton is capable of producing about 130,000,000 pounds of ginned cotton annually.

A MONSTER BAKERY.

Machinery Makes Loaves by Wholesale at Essen.

The monster bakery at Essen is a vast building in which 70 workmen, divided into two shifts, work night and day. Everything is done by machinery, says Figaro. A gigantic screw turns unceasingly in a kneading trough into which are poured ten sacks of flour of 100 kilogrammes each and some water.

This machine makes about 20,000 kilogrammes of bread every day in the shape of 25,000 small loaves and 25,000 large loaves, produced by 230 sacks of flour of 100 kilogrammes each.

All the operations of breadmaking are performed in this colossal bakery. The wheat arrives there, is cleaned, ground and brought automatically to the kneading trough by a series of rising and descending pipes. There are 36 double ovens and the workmen who watch over the baking of the bread earn 10 to 12 sous an hour, making on an average four francs (75 cents) for 11 hours on duty. They have coffee and their bread free. Eight douches and a bath are at their disposal.

A Cave Art Museum.

In the most recently discovered of the prehistoric cave art museums, that in the French Pyrenees of Arles, the mural drawings are in the darkness of the heart of the mountain, 300 feet from the entrance.

The two travelers, who made the accidental discovery, at once sent a plan of the cave to M. Cartailhac and M. Salomon Reinach, the authorities on such matters.

The designs include 30 bisons, with horses, stags and wild goats, all drawn in black, but seven of the bisons bear arrows of red as well as black. This is thought to be the most ancient of the art caves of the early stone Age, the figures probably playing some part in ancient mysticism or magic.

Cost Much in Human Life.

In ancient times the great engineering works were costly to human lives. The making of the Red Sea Canal is said to have involved the loss of no fewer than 120,000 Egyptian lives. Buckle's examination made him believe the number to have been somewhat exaggerated, but he gives it as still a guide to the enormous waste of human life in those days.

The men who kept 2000 slaves engaged for three years bringing a single stone from Elephantine to the pyramids did not care a great deal so long as in the 20 years in which one of the pyramids was building there were forthcoming the 300,000 men required for the work.

Effects Produced by a Vacuum.

The remarkable heat-insulating effect of a vacuum is strikingly brought out in the claims made for a new sportsman's bottle. The vessel has double walls being really one bottle within another with a sealed-up intervening space from which the air has been withdrawn. It is asserted that liquids in this bottle can be kept hot 48 hours in the coldest weather, and thaticed beverages will retain their delicious coolness for weeks in the hottest summer.

Types of "Phobias."

There is a class of well-defined "phobias," as they are called, with which nerve sufferers are plagued. "Monophobia," or fear of being alone, "castraphobia," or fear of closed-in spaces; a "goraphobia," or fear of crowds or of broad open spaces; "insomniaphobia," or fear of not going to sleep, and many others. The one great remedy for all these and similar mental miseries writes Dr. Samuel McComb in Good Housekeeping is auto-suggestion.

Fighting the Gypsy Moth.

It is costing Massachusetts \$1,000,000 a year to fight the gypsy moth. This includes public appropriations State and local, and expenses incurred by individuals in the warfare. This estimate does not take into account the loss through the destruction of trees in the great wooded areas, which is heavy economically and not less serious esthetically.

Singing Their Wares.

One of the curious figures of Paris boulevard is the street poet, who sings or recites in front of cafes or in the public squares effusions which he has composed on monuments, public affairs, or the visit to the city of some important personage, such as a reigning sovereign. Having given his audience this sample of his wares he tries to sell cheap printed copies of them.

Tobacco in the Army.

In all Lord Wolsey's campaigns he made it a rule where possible to allow each soldier one pound of tobacco a month, which he considered a fair allowance. In Italy the military authorities recognize the weed as one of the comforts essential to the troops, and cigars are served out to them with their daily rations.

Increased Prices Abroad.

The advance in prices seems to have been largely restricted to manufactured goods. Foodstuffs have remained stationary as a rule and in some places have declined in value.

WEEDS OF VALUE.

Decomposed Seaweed is Worth a Lot of Money.

New Zealand flax is one of a number of wild weeds that yield their gatherers great wealth, says the Scientific American. This flax, the strongest known, grows wild in marshes. When it is cultivated it dwindles and its fibers become brittle and valueless.

Indian hemp grows wild, and out of it hasheesh, or keef, is made. Keef looks like flakes of chopped straw. It is smoked in a pipe; it is eaten on liver; it is drunk in water. It produces an intense, a delicious happiness, and among Orientals it is almost as highly prized as beer and whiskey with us.

The best nutmegs are the wild ones. They grow throughout the Malay Archipelago.

But the most valuable weed of all these wild growths is the seaweed. The nitrate beds of South America, which yield like \$65,000,000 a year, are nothing but beds of seaweed decomposed.

High Living in Yukon.

United States Consul Coe, stationed at Dawson, again warns all concerned that the prices in the Yukon Territory take away a new-comer's breath. "Everything consumed in the way of living costs from two to three times as much in this country as it does in the United States," he writes. "There is no article sold for less than 25 cents, no matter how trivial, as there is no money in circulation of a lesser denomination than that amount. The cost of living will remain high so long as the means of getting supplies into the country remain as they are, and what is true of the Yukon territory is true of the Yukon Valley from the Alaskan line to the coast."

Longevity Professions.

Which profession is the most conducive to longevity? It would seem from statistics quoted that painters and artists in general are as a class among the longest lived. An examination of Bryant gives the following results: Nineteen have reached the age of ninety and over, 134 lived to be eighty, at least; 243 outstripped the threescore and ten; 250 managed to turn the corner of sixty years, and 474 have attained to the age of fifty and above. The average mean age by these figures works out at something like fifty-five. But it is so very difficult for the average man to be an artist!

Payal's Fine Lace Makers.

The women of Payal in the Azores, make a lace out of the fibers of the leaves of the century plant, and it is not less beautiful than costly. These women are the only makers of the lace left in the world to-day, and travelers stopping at Payal on their south Atlantic voyage do not miss the opportunity of seeing these women at work. The peasants of Abyssinia once possessed the same art. They made of the century plant's leaves a beautiful black lace, but it would not wash.

Recovering Tin and Solder.

A simple plan of recovering tin and solder from old tin cans and other scrap is to run them in a perforated tumbling barrel which is mounted over a small fire of any kind. A hood or casing of sheet iron surrounds the whole thing to keep in the heat. The rotation gives the whole contents an equal heating, and the melted solder and tin flow down into a trough made for them.

Earnings of Graduates.

The earnings of mining school graduates have been shown in statistics collected for the mining and metallurgical courses of Lawrence Scientific School. The average earnings of 25 men for the first year were \$378, for the second \$1456, and in the third \$1900. The average present age of graduates is 28 years, and the average present salary is \$2387.

Wives By Purchase.

Wives are still obtained by purchase in some parts of Russia. In the district of Kamyslin, on the Volga, for example, this is practically the only way in which marriages are brought about. The price of a pretty girl from a well-to-do family ranges from \$100 to \$200, and in special cases a much higher sum is obtained. In the villages the lowest price is about \$25.

Cost of Enthusiasm.

On the wall in a barber shop in a Carbon County (Col.) town is a sign which reads: "Those wanting baths, take notice. Ten cents extra will be charged if water is splashed over the partition. Don't get too enthusiastic."

Trading in Mummies.

A mummy factory has been discovered in Montrouge, a suburb of Paris. The "mummies" are sent to Egypt, and thence returned via Marseille. Many have been sold to museums in various countries.

Begging in China.

The begging business is more thoroughly organized in China than anywhere else. The beggar chief of Soochow, who is the king of the Chinese beggars, has an income said to be \$16,000 a year.

PIPES MADE OF PAPER.

New Method of Manufacturing Gas Pipes.

In the process of making gas pipes out of paper, Manila paper cut in strips, as wide as the length of the pipe to be made, is put into a receiver filled with fused asphalt and rolled solidly and uniformly around a rod or core of iron until the desired thickness is obtained. After the pipe, thus produced, has been submitted to a heavy pressure the exterior is covered with sand and the whole cooled in water. The core is then removed and the outer surface covered with a waterproof product.

Can't Change Boat's Name.

After 20 years the name of a vessel registered in this country cannot be changed unless it be rebuilt at a cost of at least one-half the original cost.

A navigation company on the Great Lakes is led to an unusual predicament, says Popular Mechanics. It recently put up a new steamer, named City of Cleveland. The company has an old steamer of the same name, which they changed to City of St. Ignace, only to find to their surprise that they had collided with a Government regulation which forbids the name of a vessel to be changed after being carried longer than 20 years, and the old boat was named in 1880.

Character and Stammering.

Stammering arises from a weak nerve in the brain. Strengthen that nerve and the stammerer is cured. But it so happens that this particular nerve is never weak in the case of people who are mean, or hard, or utterly selfish.

"I do not pretend to say that only stammerers have gentle, sensitive, sympathetic natures, but I do claim that a person who stammers slightly will generally be found to be trustworthy, diffident, kind hearted, and, in times out of ten, possessed of considerable mental ability.—The Sketcher.

Canadian's in Rifle Practice.

In rifle practice among civilians Canada is far ahead of the United States. It has 122 military rifle associations and 450 civilian rifle associations. The military associations have a membership of 18,088 and the civilian 34,370. In Canada each member of a civilian club draws 100 rounds of ammunition yearly and the Government allows a rifle to every four men. In no rifle range is available a small cash allowance is made toward the expenses of the club.

Antarctic Flora.

A comprehensive report on the field geology of the Discovery Antarctic Expedition shows that, although generally barren of organic remains, the sand formation which is 2000 feet thick, yielded at the top, 7000 feet above sea level, fossil plant remains. Of these, however, the characters could not be determined owing to decay of the plants and to changes produced by an adjacent layer of dolerite.

Were Fashionable Once.

An Irishman was displaying a full line of samples of dress materials and the prospective buyer had handed their merits and demerits ad nauseam, asking finally, "Are they fashionable?"

"They were when I began to show them to you," replied the traveler, "but I'll be hanged if I can tell you now."—Strand Magazine.

Resembles Radium Bromide.

According to the Petit Parisien, a student at Rochester has discovered a substance called "molybdoth," which is said to possess the same properties as bromide or radium, and costs only 20 francs per gramme instead of 3000 francs. It is reported that the discovery was made while the student was working for a competition in scientific photography.

Depopulation in England.

Among the causes of rural depopulation in England are the attractions of cities, the conversion of arable land into pasture, the consolidation of farms, the use of labor-saving machinery, the low average wage of \$3.50 a week, the craze to get rich quick, the spirit of the age and its restless desire for amusement.

Where Most People Live.

Considerably more than half the people of the world live in the countries which border in the Pacific Ocean. The latest available statistics furnished by the United States Department of Commerce and Labor, give these countries, exclusive of the United States, an area of 17,096,060 square miles and a population of 904,363,000.

Telephone Service in Paris.

About \$30 a year is charged for an unlimited telephone service in Paris, but in addition to this the subscriber must purchase his own instrument, which may be any one of a number of different kinds.

Rules in Many Languages.

Mining rules in Pennsylvania have to be printed in 32 languages to reach all nationalities employed in that State.

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