

OLYMPIC GAMES

The Famous Contests in the Days of Ancient Greece

MORE IMPORTANT THAN WAR.

Battles might be forgotten, but time was not. The Olympic Games were the most important of the ancient world.

According to tradition, the games were instituted by Zeus in honor of his victory over Cronos in his struggle for the sovereignty of heaven. The most general belief among Greek writers was that these famous games were instituted by the Ithacan Hercules, the eldest of the five brothers to whom Zeus assigned after his birth. These games were held every fifth year, because, according to this story, the brothers were five in number. The games were therefore four years apart.

The first of the games, according to this tradition, was simply a foot race in which Hercules and his four brothers were the only contestants. This straightforward foot race continued to be the only Olympic game till the fourteenth Olympiad, when a second contest, the double course, was introduced. In the eighteenth Olympiad they added wrestling and the pentathlon. Twenty-five years later boxing was made a part of the exercises, and four horse races, the pancratium and riding races were introduced. The pentathlon was a fivefold contest in leaping, throwing the discus or javelin, wrestling and hurling the javelin.

All contestants were admitted first to the leaping contest, and those who crossed a certain space were allowed to hurl the javelin. The four most successful in this took part in a foot race. The last man in the race dropped out, and the best three threw the javelin. Again the least successful retired, and the better wrestler of the remaining two was the prize.

The pancratium was a rough and tumble fight. Almost any method of fighting, an opponent and compelling him to acknowledge himself vanquished was permitted. Wrestling, boxing, legging, choking and even the deliberate breaking of bones were allowed. The prizes in the Olympic contests were merely wreaths from the wild olive trees abundant in the locality and the games all took place on one day until the twenty-seventh Olympiad, when the Greeks, desiring to do greater honor to the gods for their defeat of the Persians, extended the games to fill five days.

All Greece regarded the month during which the games were held as a holiday. Business of every kind was at a standstill, and even hostile armies disbanded and attended the games as friendly rivals. The importance of the games may be gathered from the fact that the Greeks reckoned their time according to the games, just as all people have reckoned it from the events which seemed to them the most important.

The Christians refer all time to the beginning of the Christian era, so the Mohammedans to the flight of their prophet and Romans to the year of the founding of their city. But the Greek historians used to speak like this: "This battle was fought in the fourth year of that Olympiad in which Eurystheus, the Athenian, won the prize in the course." While a war might be forgotten, an Olympiad would never be.

Those who were victorious were accorded the most extravagant honors. Their enthusiastic countrymen would escort them home with unbounded delight, and they were given the highest seats of honor at every public festivity. Poets of the highest merit sang their praises. The cities in which they resided erected statues to their honor. It is not surprising that when victory meant so much, dishonorable means were sometimes employed to secure it. Every attempt, however, was made to prevent foul play, and as unfairness was regarded as sacrilege the games being religious ceremonies the guilty ones were not only condemned by all those whose praise they sought, but they were subjected besides to heavy penalties in money and often scourged as well.

It does not seem, however, that deliberate wounding of an adversary in a contest was much deprecated, since Pausanias mentions one man who though an inferior wrestler, won several contests by breaking the fingers of his antagonist, but he who killed his opponent lost the prize, and the dead body was crowned victor.

The cause of the decay of the game was that the glory and the substantial rewards which followed victory finally became too great. At last there became classes of men who did nothing else but prepare for the games, and contending became a profession. Kings and nobles then withdrew, and their example was followed by the better class of Greek youth, with the result that the games were finally neglected until, when they were prohibited by an edict by the Emperor Theodosius, in A. D. 394, few people objected to their loss.

Long before this the games had become notorious by their brutality, and foreigners were allowed to compete. Herby, was frequent, and the Roman Emperor Nero on one occasion was permitted to take away prizes offered. —L. L. G. Globe-Democrat.

You must live for another if you wish to live for yourself.

GHOSTS

A Case That Demands an Explanation of Apparitions

It is not at all surprising that the supernatural and the unexplained explanation of apparitions. In truth there is one incontestable element regarding them as supernatural manifestations, and that is the simple circumstance that the bodies wear clothes. It is quite possible that there really may be ghosts of persons but nobody who gave the matter a second thought would expect for a moment that there can be ghosts of clothes. Nevertheless apparitions are always clothed and sometimes in garments of gold and silver cut and sewed as a human hand on earth.

After from time there is the later and by no means unimportant circumstance that "houses are sometimes haunted by apparitions of the dead, but of the living. I know of one case in which a gentleman entering a drawing room at 4 in the afternoon saw seated on the sofa a young lady with "reddish gold" hair, who appeared to be reading a book. There were two other persons in the room, one seated beside her on the sofa, and the visitor was surprised to find that they did not offer to introduce him to the young lady—did not, in fact, seem to see her. Later a guest at a week end party saw the same apparition in the same house, and it was seen a third time by one of the servants.

No light was thrown on the strange affair until, a year afterward, the wife of the son of the family arrived from Australia to pay a first visit to her husband's relatives and was immediately identified by the servant as the figure she had seen. The two visitors who also had seen the apparition subsequently made the same identification.

Since it is incredible to suppose that a person can be in two places at the same time—so that a lady can be both in Australia and in a house thousands of miles from Australia—it is a legitimate inference that phantasms, whether of the living or of the dead, are devoid of objective reality, are, that is to say, always and only hallucinations. —Metropolitan Magazine.

NERVE WON HIM LIBERTY

Quick Wit and Daring Ruse of a Russian Revolutionist

Nowhere outside of the pages of fiction would we expect such an incident as the following from the personal story of the Russian revolutionist Narodny: Narodny had just jumped from a window to escape the police. "When I scrambled to my feet I discovered myself in the yard and among half a dozen soldiers. I was without overcoat and hat—a very suspicious figure—and, having neither, I could not escape even could I get by the soldiers who surrounded me," he said.

"I jerked a card from my pocket to this day I do not know what it was—and handed it to one of the soldiers. 'Here is my card,' I said rapidly. 'I am a member of the secret police. One of these revolutionists is trying to escape. I am after him. Quick! Give me your coat and hat!'

"He automatically obeyed. I slipped on his coat and hat and to all appearances was a soldier of the czar. I walked past the guarded gate of the yard out into the street. Before me were thousands of soldiers. I saw my friends being brought down from the hall and put into the black vans, about which stood guards of Cossacks. I marched through my friends (all of that group are in prison today save only myself and the friend who escaped with me) with the air of a soldier on a very important message and pressed on through the mass of other soldiers that filled the street."

The Change of a Word.
"Spanking" did not suggest chastisement originally. It was unknown to Johnson in this sense. To him a "spanker" meant a person who takes long steps with agility. Rapid motion seems to be the root idea of the word "spank," which is not merely representative of the sound of the act, as "slap" and "smack" are. The low German "pakkern," or "spenckern," to run and spring about quickly, is close to the original meaning; hence a "spanking pace," a "spanking breeze" and a "spanker." In the sense of an active and sturdy person.

No Immediate Danger.
The Parson (about to improve the golden hour)—When a man reaches your age, Mr. Dodd; he cannot, in the nature of things, expect to live very much longer, and—
The Nonconformist—I dunno, parson. I be stronger on my legs than I were when I started!—London Opinion

Mistaken Idea.
"It may be laid down as a broad proposition," said the professor of political economy, "that you cannot get something for nothing."
"I once got the measles for nothing, professor," interrupted the young man with the wicked eye.—Chicago Tribune.

Safer.
"Of course I don't want to criticize, but I don't think it was altogether right for David to say 'all men are liars.'"
"Well, at any rate, it was safer than to pick out one man and say it to him."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Willing to Oblige.
Nervous Visitor—Will your dog bite me, little boy?
"No, little boy. If you want to see I can kick him on you."—Baltimore American.

DRAGGED THE BILLY

Incident of a Day in Tennessee

STAGECOACH ADVENTURE

The Thrilling scene when the Terrible "Cane" Stagecoach Came to Rest in the Wilderness of Tennessee

Henry Clay, who witnessed it.

Does a certain class of his countrymen, who are traveling in a public stagecoach in Tennessee, feel that they are being treated as if they were in a "cane" stagecoach? The answer is "yes," and the "cane" stagecoach is a "cane" stagecoach. It is a stagecoach that is "cane" stagecoach. It is a stagecoach that is "cane" stagecoach. It is a stagecoach that is "cane" stagecoach.

Presently the judge, who seemed to be growing sick, whispered to her husband and the husband, in the politest manner possible, asked the stranger if he would not throw away his cigar, as the smoke greatly discommodated his wife. With an impatient swarting stare the fellow replied, interlarding his speech with several "oaths":

"I reckon I've paid for my place. I'll smoke as much as I please, and I'll like to see some one try to stop me."

He looked dangerous as he glared around, and it was very evident that he was used to quarreling and strife, and, furthermore, a struggle with him might have been a deadly one. The young man who had spoken to him about the cigar was silent. The judge lowered the seat of his carriage for a breath of fresh air.

Mr. Clay felt every gallant instinct of his soul aroused. He considered for a moment whether he should interfere and found himself reluctant to draw upon his own head the brutal violence of the gigantic ruffian. In that lawless country he knew that his life might be sacrificed unavenged. He knew himself to be physically unequal to the contest, and he thought after all, it was not his duty to risk his life in some quixotic manner.

Clay was settling back with pity for the insulted and disgraced in the interior when suddenly, but very quietly, the cloaked figure in the corner assumed an upright position, parting the burled mantle without a particle of excitement, thereby revealing the small, well-knit, muscular frame of a man plainly dressed in a closely buttoned frock coat, with a face rather pale and a pair of bright eyes that gleamed like polished steel, and those strange eyes quickly attracted the attention of the ferocious Keastuckian.

With a terrible calmness this man passed his hand under his collar at the back of his neck and deliberately drew forth a long, glittering and ugly looking knife from a sheath in that singular place.

"Stranger," he said, "my name is Colonel James Bowie, well known in Texas and Arkansas. If you do not put that cigar out of the window in less than fifteen seconds I'll put this knife through your heart as sure as death."

Clay said he would never forget the expression of the colonel's eyes at that moment. They told, as unmistakably as signs can tell, that the threat would certainly be fulfilled, and this conviction evidently impressed itself upon the mind of the offender.

During a very few seconds his eyes met those of Bowie. With all his brute strength he was the weaker man, and he quailed. With a muttered curse he threw his cigar away, upon which Bowie coolly returned the knife to its sheath and, without another look of word, refolded his cloak about him and lay back as before.

At the next stopping place the Keastuckian got out and took a seat with the driver.—New York Telegram.

The Proper Retort.
At a dinner a married man praised the beauty of the Atlanta City girls. Then, with a foolish chuckle, he added:
"I had an awful bunch of them after me when I was down there on my vacation."
The lady beside him looked at him coldly and retorted:
"Dear me, they must have been an awful bunch."—Exchange.

The Better Name.
"So you are thinking of calling your baby boy Peter? I wouldn't; I'd call him Paul."
"Why so?"
"He would have a better chance in life. It's Peter, you know, who is always robbed to pay Paul."—Boston Transcript.

Proof Positive.
Crawford—Do you think he's been pecked? Grubshaw—He sure was pecked, but I've noticed that the peckmarks over his nose are those of his wife's cousin Judge.

Our highest hopes are often contrary to what we expect to do.

OLD ROMAN BATHS

They Held Theaters, Temples, Feasting Halls, and Libraries

The ancient Romans were strangely fond of bathing. They got their notions about the bath as a luxury from the Greeks, and at one time there were nearly 400 public bathing establishments in Rome, some of which were the most beautiful and elaborate structures in the world.

The baths of the Emperor Diocletian covered more than half a square mile and contained, besides immense bathing areas and thousands of marble columns, theaters, temples, halls for reading, schools for youth and academies for the discussions of the learned. The bathers sat on marble benches below the surface of the water, around the edge of the basins, scraping themselves with the dull knives of metal and ivory and taking occasional plunges into the water.

Disappointed Romans would spend whole days in the bath, seeking relief from overindulgence in eating and drinking the night before. Everybody even the emperor, used their baths, which were open to every one who chose to pay the price of admission.

It was not usual for the old Romans to have baths in their homes, though at a date 1500 years before that, or 3500 years ago, the noblemen of ancient Greece had their dwellings supplied with baths of terra cotta.

THE BIRTH OF SOCRATES

A big policeman who walks a beat near the Greek settlement in the north side always gets angry when he hears this told of his expense, but there are those who will vouch for its truth.

About a month ago a young man, very much excited, rushed up to this policeman and exclaimed:

"Say, Jim, did you hear about a Greek by the name of Socrates taking poison?"

"I did not," Jim replied innocently. Then he added, thoughtfully stroking his chin: "Sure, that's the first time I ever heard of a Greek going up against anything stronger than what he sells in his own coffee houses. I guess he'd better look this up and bulletin all the details to the department. It's an unusual case." Kansas City Journal.

PAUL JONES' PROMISE

After the great fight in which John Paul Jones in the Bonhomme Richard made splinters and shreds of the British vessel Serapis the English government generously decided that, though vanquished beyond a question, the captain of the lost vessel had behaved with becoming bravery and deserved promotion to the rank of commodore. John Paul Jones heard of this promotion and its cause and said, "Well, by George! If I ever meet that chap again I'll make him an admiral!"

MOZART'S WORK

Mozart lived thirty-seven years. His first mass was composed when he was less than ten years of age, and the enormous quantity of his compositions was the work of the succeeding twenty-seven years. Mozart wrote forty-one symphonies, fifteen masses, over thirty operas and dramatic compositions, forty-one sonatas, together with an immense number of vocal and concerted pieces in almost every line of art.

THE MISSING WORD

A prospective woman tenant through the typewriter's omission of one all important little word of two letters received the following startling statement: "Dear Madam—You can have the flat provided you repair and redecorate yourself!"

The Retort Courteous.
Miss Oldman—I've refused many many offers of marriage. Gayboy (absolutely dead)—Very thoughtful and considerate of you, I'm sure. Maggotwater's Blister.

That character in power is true to a much higher sense than that known edge of power.—Gullies.

IF YOU BUY HERE
You Can Depend on
J. B. GRAVES

SPENCER LUMBER CO.
Lumber, Mill Work, Coal, Building Material
691 Exchange St.
Phone, Bell Main 1922, Exchange 1878

John H. McAnarney
General Insurance
101-102 Elmhurst St.
Tel. Phone 2178

Book and Job Printing Done
Reasonable Rates
Call and Inspect our Samples

THE CHAINS OF SOUTHERN
Special price on...
Daily service is...
A Cleveland...
Detroit and...
THE BLOCK LIGHT CO.

BLOCK GAS ARGUMENTS
"BLOCK SYSTEM"
STREET LIGHTING
THE BLOCK LIGHT CO.

W. B. ELASTINE
Elastine Reduso CORSETS
are the most comfortable corset for the well-developed woman.
The Elastine Gores in the corset relieve all strain and allow freedom and comfort in any position.
W. B. Elastine-Reduso Corsets are guaranteed to
Reduce Hips and Abdomen One to Five Inches
effecting a wonderful improvement in the figure.
\$3.00 and \$5.00
W. B. ELASTINE-REDUSO CORSETS