

OLD ENGLISH HOUSES.

The Days of Wooden Huts, Thatched Roofs and Clay Floors.

The habitations of English common people for centuries consisted of a wooden hut of one room, with the fire built in the center.

The Sixteen or knight built a more pretentious hall, a large open room like the Roman atrium with a lofty roof thatched or covered with slates or wooden shingles.

By day the hearthsmen and waiters, when not working or fighting, sat on long benches on either side of the fire and, as John Hey puts it, "carried themselves on some sort of porridge with fish and milk or meat and ale."

SEEING THE WIND.

Easy to Watch the Air Currents Flowing Like a Waterfall.

It is said that any one may actually see the wind by means of a common handkerchief.

On a windy day hold the saw against the wind—that is, if the wind is in the north hold the saw with one end pointing east and the other west.

By glancing along the edge of the teeth you can "see the wind." It will be pouring over the edge of the saw much after the manner that water pours over a waterfall.

It is doubtless the tiny particles that make the air dust laden that can be seen falling over the edge of the saw as the wind current drops, but it is about as near as any one can get to seeing the wind under normal conditions.

Humor in Old Wills.

A certain Lieutenant Colonel Nash left an annuity to the bell ringers of Bath to "toll dolefully" on each anniversary of his wedding day, and contrite Mr. Withipol of Walthamstow left the bulk of his property to his wife.

Mr. Jasper Mayne at least considered himself witty when he bequeathed to his valet a worn-out portmanteau, as it contained something, said the will, which would make him drink.

Wonderful Memory.

A few years ago there was a taster in Milwaukee named Israel Mullin who was able to tell at the end of the week the number of loads and their weights he had hauled for the six days past without so much as a figure on paper.

The first week the pencil and paper man made over a dozen errors, and Mullin got his job back.—Pittsburgh Press.

Knave Traveling Men.

"She's a sensible girl," said the first traveling man. "You bet she is," said the second. "Last night when I took her to dinner, before ordering she asked me if I was going to pay the check myself or work it into the expense account."—Detroit Free Press.

Minority's Power.

"You believe in the will of the majority, of course." "Well," replied Three Fingers Sam, "it's all right, theoretical; but it won't always work out in practice. I've seen two men hold up a whole trainload of people."—Washington Star.

Remarks by One's Neighbors.

After nearly every marriage the neighbor women offer gratuitous insult to the groom by saying, "And her mother had such high ambitions for her daughter!"—Exchange.

Postponing the Evil Day.

Glady's—Why don't you let Tom propose if you love him? Muriel—Because when we are engaged I shall have to make him economize.—Puck.

Early Uses of Copper.

Copper is not a metal of modern utilization. It was mined and manufactured in prehistoric times, when it was utilized as a material for the construction of utensils for domestic use and also for implements of war.

Gadaby Had Nothing to Say. "Henry," said Mrs. Gadaby, "a poor man came to the house this morning and asked me if I had any old clothes to give away, so I—"

Working Up a Sable Pett. "A fur dealer told me I wouldn't know a sable if I saw one," said a man who had been inquiring about pelts.

The Ancient Greek. No greater gift could be made to our modern world than the rediscovery of the Greek physical supremacy.

Old Curses. The antiquary took down a little gray book. "Here is a family doctor," he said, "that was published as far back as 1561. Talk about your quaint prescriptions!"

The Bright Side. "What is you sorrowful about?" Brother Williams asked. "De harricane ain't blowed yo' roof tree down yet; de land is still here, an' yo' two foots is on it; yo' ain't too deef ter hear de dinner bell, an' dar's plenty on de table. De only trouble is yo' is too congratufer ter thank de Lard fer what yo' got an' 'a' blessin' over it!"

Set No Bounds. We need not be afraid that we shall go too far in serving others. There is no danger that any of us will ever go far in the walk of active love.

Let 'Er Shoot. "Allow me to introduce Mr. McKinnal, inventor of the letter chute."

Described. "What do they mean by the horns of a dilemma?" "Two autos. I suppose, honking at you at once."—Kansas City Journal.

Whatever we give to the wretched we lead to fortune.—Seneca.

BAGGING A HIPPO.

How It is Done and How the Flesh of the Animal Tastes.

There are two ways of bagging a hippopotamus, says a writer in the Wide World Magazine, and neither is justified unless the sportsman is sorely in want of food, for its meat is very poor indeed and wants a good deal of preparation to be palatable to any one except the starving.

The hippo may be shot in water. When mortally wounded he will sink and will not reappear on the surface for several hours, consequently a tring lookout has to be kept for the carcass. If he is only slightly wounded he may charge, but more often he will die and die in the reeds to serve as food for scavenger birds or crocodiles.

FORCES OF NATURE.

Soft Their Touch, but Constant and Effective Their Work.

What adds to the wonder of the earth's grit is that the millstones that did the work and are still doing it are the gentle forces that career above our heads—the sunbeam, the cloud, the air, the frost.

The snow falls as lightly as down and lies almost as lightly, yet the crags tumble beneath it; compacted by gravity, out of it grew the tremendous sheets that ground off the mountain summits, that scooped out lakes and valleys and modeled our northern landscapes as the sculptor his clay image.—John Burroughs.

The Distinguished Guest. Captain Raabe was a man whose name had weight in the French cavalry.

Von Holstein's Dress Coat. Prince Buelow once invited Herr von Holstein to dinner, telling him that it was to meet the emperor.

On the Safe Side. A lean, lanky individual entered the office of the Weekly Bugaboo. "Say, Lem," he remarked, "in last week's issue you got a photograph of a boss, an' it says under the picture, 'Wat's wrong with this phytograph, \$5 for the correct answer?'"

Measures Here and Abroad. A yard and a pound are "for all practical and most scientific purposes" (as the editor of Nature remarks) the same in the United States and in Great Britain.

Dangerous Proficiency. "What was the matter with your last cook?" "She was too good."

They Knew. "Now, children," said the teacher. "I've explained to you the nature of a fixed holiday. Now, give me an instance of a movable holiday."

Her Wavering Affections. "Hubby, I'm in love with that fat!" "You fall in love with too many hats. If you'll promise to remain constant to that one as much as six weeks I'll buy it for you."—Buffalo News.

There never was a man so strong but strong drink was stronger.—Detroit Free Press.

Showers of Meteors.

The most brilliant display of meteors ever seen in the United States was on Nov. 13, 1836.

Why the Hen Cackles. "The accepted theory that a hen cackles after laying an egg because she is proud of herself is a mistake," said a naturalist.

Their Longest Run. "Your show was the worst we have ever had here," said the manager of the Heleakville Opera House.

Washing the Windows. Housekeepers ought to know how shopkeepers have their windows washed.

Got Rid of Him. "I understand your wife is doing her own cooking."

An Unfair Example. Professor—If I fail to give a correct answer to any problem in mathematics that any one present offers me I agree to forfeit the sum of \$10.

Romance Versus Reality. For about three months she regards her wedding day as the greatest day in history, but later on she gets so that she regards pay day as the greatest day in history.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

They who know not how to act agreeably, though they have learned many things, are still ignorant.—Cural.

Origin of Pugilism. Man being instinctively a pugacious animal and the fist being the simplest and most natural weapon, it may be assumed that pugilism, as a mode of settling difficulties, is coeval with man himself.

Sensitive Plants. There are plants so sensitive that if when standing by you should suddenly put up your umbrella or sunshade it would be quite sufficient to cause them instantly to close together.

A Quiet Hint. Brown—I can't see that it makes any difference what one's name is. I would just as soon my name were Brown as anything else. Cleo—So would I. Oh, I didn't mean that. I mean—Exchange.

Waters of the Nile.

The waters of the upper Nile start to rise about June 15, reaching the great height at the autumnal equinox.

As Good as a Clock. When Rossini, the Italian composer, who was noted for his punctuality, was director of the Theatre Italien in Paris he used to attend the rehearsals every morning.

Won a Title. December, 1854, when Napoleon III offered to send reinforcements of 20,000 men to the Crimea if the British would convey them, the government was on the point of declining on the ground that no transports were available for such work.

The Sardonian Smile. The expression "sardonian smile" is as old as Homer. It means literally to "grin like a Goc" and bears reference to the hideous contortion of the facial muscles produced by eating the sardonian, a plant of Sicily, which was said to scrow up the face of the eater, giving it a horrible appearance.

Her Chief Charm. "I'm very much taken with the young woman you introduced me to the other night."

Logic. "You little girl is very pretty. Is she the prettiest one you have?" "Yes, she is the prettiest of my daughters."

Reason-For Speed. Rankin—Branbrough has bought himself a \$5,000 racing car, Phyle—But he couldn't afford one worth half that amount.

Greenland. Greenland is governed by the Greenland commission at Copenhagen, Denmark. It was first settled by a band of Norsemen under Erik the Red, who gave it its name, in 985.

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Federal Pitchers Easy.

That the pitching in the Federal league last season was not near as hard as in the majors the year before is proved by the pitching records of the new league.

A Game Tank Town. If Bruning, Neb., has its way it will be the smallest town in the country in organized baseball. With a grain elevator, a railroad water tank and a population of only 353—all rip-roaring fans—it has applied for a franchise in the Nebraska State league.

Baseball proved a losing venture for the University of Pennsylvania last season. Basketball and football were the only sports that made money for the athletic association.

It has been pointed out that Eddie Collins cost Connie Mack \$2.75. He sold him for \$50,000, according to report. That shows a net profit of \$49,997.25, which is a fair margin.

Champion Travers a Broker. Jerome D. Travers, amateur golf champion of America, is going to mix golf with cotton. He has filed an application for admission to the New York Cotton exchange and expects to be a regular cotton broker.

Chicago a Good Billiard Town. There are said to be 1,218 billiard tables in Chicago and nearly 3,000,000 players in the United States.

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THE CURRENT OF LIFE.

It is not the unusual—the whirls and eddies—of a river that tells its course, but the uniform flow of its current. So is it with our lives. There are periods of exaltation, there are counter-currents of temptation, of defeat and sin, but it is the steady flow of the common days that reveals our course to others, that shows what we are and whether our lives are tending.