

FIRST WASHINGTON STATUE.

The Incident That Gave Houdon Just the Pose He Wanted.

In Washington's diary for Oct. 3, 1785, he writes that about 11 o'clock, after they were in bed, Mr. Houdon and his three young men assistants arrived, coming by boat from Alexandria.

During the sculptor's two weeks' stay, Washington sat for a bust that was modeled in clay, writing in his diary a full account of the method of mixing the plaster of paris and the making of the molds, a process in which he was greatly interested. He also submitted to the unpleasant operation of having a life mask made of his features in order to insure a perfect likeness. In the presence of Mr. Madison exact measurements of his figure were made and full details of his uniform were noted to enable the sculptor to complete his work.

The clay bust was then sent by the sculptor to Mount Vernon, where today it is the most highly valued of all of Mount Vernon's relics of the Father of His Country. But the life mask and molds of the great American took to the hands of his assistant, "for," said he, "they are lost in the ocean and determined to perish with them."

One day, during his stay at Mount Vernon, Washington was looking at some fine horses, with a view to their purchase, but the high price asked by the groom in charge so incensed him that the man was promptly sent away. Houdon, who witnessed the transaction, saw with an artist's eye, in Washington's face and expression the very thing needed for his statue and made a memorandum of it. On Oct. 19, Washington writes, "Mr. Houdon having finished the business which brought him hither, went up Monday with his people, work and implements in my barge to Alexandria to take passage in the stage for Philadelphia next morning."

The statue, according to agreement, was to be finished in three years, but was not completed until 1789. Jefferson saw the work as it progressed and was "entirely over the likeness and character of the attitude that the sculptor had caught."—H. A. Ogden in St. Nicholas.

Advertisements in newspapers, as we know them today, were not general till the beginning of the eighteenth century. In fact, prior to that time it was dangerous to attempt such a thing. For instance, there was a penalty of £50 for advertising a reward with "No questions to be asked" for the return of the thing stolen, half of which was paid by the advertiser and half by the printer. In addition to this there was a duty on advertisements according to the number of lines which amounted to something like a few pennies to several shillings per ad. This duty was not fully abolished in Great Britain until the year 1853.

The fear an elephant has for a rat has often been spoken of as an example of colossal cowardice. But it is nothing of the kind. The elephant, when captive and an elephant has every reason to regard with terror the little rodent, which, in the still watches of the night, gnaws the toe nails of the helpless pachyderm. Not much of this sort of thing is required to make the big elephant lame. By such attack three young elephants belonging to Biggenback's outfit were so badly injured that they had to be shot.

Could He Arrest a Cold? A man was appointed detective for a railroad company, and he showed his authority at every opportunity. While riding in a coach one day he heard a little boy, behind him, sniffing. The detective turned to him and said, "Have you a pocket handkerchief, my little man?" The boy replied, "Yes, sir, but mamma said I shouldn't lend it to everybody."—Christian Herald.

Little Brother (whose sister is playing cards with a gentleman)—Mr. Smiler, does Minnie play cards very well? Mr. Smiler—Yes, very well indeed. Little Brother—Then you had better look out. Mamma said if she played her cards well she would catch you.

Oxen Cavalry. Madagascar possesses the only oxen cavalry regiment in the world. The climate is so unhealthy for horses that some suitable substitute had to be found. The oxen have been trained to maneuver with surprising skill and lack nothing of the qualities of the horse except its speed.—Exchange.

DARING AND ENDURANCE.

One Man's Heroic Rescue of a Sinking Ship's Whole Company.

A historic case of daring and endurance rarely equaled in life saving annals was that of the rescue in 1867. The fishing schooner "Sea Clipper" was driven by the "tempest" against a reef near the Spotted Islands and speedily went to pieces. Captain William Jackman, in charge of a fishing crew at these islands, had wandered in a direction he had never been before as if by inspiration and suddenly saw the whole tragedy enacted before his eyes.

Hurrying his one companion back to the fishing station to summon help, he plunged into the howling swirl himself and eleven times swam to the ship. Each time he took back a man being to safety, battling successfully against wind and tide. Then he returned, his boat among the interesting ruins of this region, the Norse pirates secured a foothold here during the early centuries of the Christian era and carried off many of the natives. It was then discovered that a well man had been overlooked and left on board, and the belief was expressed that she was dead, but he declared that he would not leave her there, living or dead.

Accordingly he plunged into the surf again and soon bore the hapless creature to the shore, where divesting himself of his flannels, he wrapped them round her, as she was almost at death's door. She expired a few hours later, but lived long enough to thank her rescuer for his noble efforts in her behalf.—Wide World Magazine.

Simplicity of La Fontaine. Appropos of the simple, philosophical La Fontaine—either read or heard a touching tract of his simplicity. He was wise enough to despise money and spent all he had from not knowing its value or caring for its production. When a friend who loved him and supplied the very few wants he had, died, he was at his house immediately to visit him to come and live with him. He met La Fontaine on the road to his chateau, and upon hearing the invitation that he had just received, he said, "I was going on my way there." The naïveté of his reply is very striking.—From Lady Holland's Journal.

Measuring the Wind. The speed of the wind is measured by means of an ingenious instrument called the anemometer. It is like a weather vane, with cups in place of "feathers" at the ends of its arms. The cups, catching the wind, whirl round, and thus turn the central shaft. This passes down into a box in which are several dials. The indicators of these dials are connected with the shaft and move according to its revolutions. Thus the number of revolutions of the cup in a certain time gives the exact speed in miles per hour.

Back and Forth. A man with the croup halted a doctor on a street corner. "Doctor," he said, coughing violently, "what ought a chap to do when he's got the croup?" The doctor's eye emitted a steady light at the thought of being bungled out of five prescriptions, and he said, "Such a man, my friend, ought to consult a good physician." "Thanks, doctor," said the sufferer, as he took his leave, "that's what I'll do, then."—Buffalo News.

Unattainable Treasure. A boy of tender years was returning from school crying bitterly. "What ails you, my little fellow?" asked an old gentleman. "I've lost the penny the teacher gave for the best boy in the class," sobbed the boy. "Oh, well, never mind," said the old gentleman. "Here is another one that will take its place." But, tell me, how did you come to lose it? "Cause I wasn't the best boy in the class!" sobbed the boy.

As the Twig Is Bent. On Long's peak, in Colorado, the branches of the fir trees all grow toward the southeast. This is because of the never changing north west wind, which keeps the branches of the baby fir always pointed to the southeast until the tree is large. The flexible pine in the same region bends over until its topmost branches and twigs rest on the ground.

Highly Improper. "What is the proper thing for a man to do when his wife asks him for money and he hasn't any?" queried young Noked. "Oh, there isn't any proper thing to do under those circumstances," replied Oldwed. "Anything he does will be wrong."—Chicago News.

Spitful. "Yes," said the engaged girl. "Dick is very methodical. He gives me one kiss when he comes and two when he goes away." "That's always been his way," returned her dearest friend. "I've heard lots of girls comment on it." Thus it happens that they cease to speak to each other.

THE ORKNEY ISLANDS.

Britain's Great Naval Base Came to Scotland as a Dowry.

No other territory in the British empire has a more tragic significance to Englishmen than the Orkney islands, off whose shores Earl Kitchener lost his life when the cruiser Hampshire was sunk.

These islands, ninety in number, of which only thirty are inhabited, are separated from the mainland of Scotland by the Pentland firth from six and a half to eight miles wide. They were selected as England's North sea naval base not only on account of their proximity to the field of operations, but on account of their semi-isolation and the advantages of the superb harbor of Stromness, in the largest island of the group, Pomona, which has an area of 200 square miles.

While the original inhabitants of the islands were Picts, whose round towers and chambered mounds are among the interesting ruins of this region, the Norse pirates secured a foothold here during the early centuries of the Christian era and carried off many of the natives. It was then discovered that a well man had been overlooked and left on board, and the belief was expressed that she was dead, but he declared that he would not leave her there, living or dead.

In 1168 the Orkneys came under the sway of the Scottish crown, Christian I of Denmark giving them as security for his daughter's dowry when she became the bride of James III. As the dowry was never paid, the islands have remained a part of Scotland's domain ever since.

The Orkneys, which are the Orkneys of classic literature, furnish the setting for many of the episodes in Sir Walter Scott's novel, "The Pirate," the character of that romance being John Gow, the notorious freebooter born in Stromness and captured off the islands in 1725. Another literary association of the Orkneys and one of especial interest to the Orkney Islanders is Shapton-shay, the birthplace of William Irving, father of Washington Irving.—National Geographic Society Bulletin.

A Trying Moment. What is the most trying position in which an actress was ever put on the stage? Mrs. E. W. Ward in her "Reminiscences" tells of a properly named Miss Vestris, who was playing the principal role in an opera, which will take some beating "owing to the violence of the acting." Miss Vestris, false to her maxim of "never let your fingers cross them back," but, finding it was impossible to do so, she turned to her other alternative, she sprang into a chair, but back on the audience box in which are several dials. The indicators of these dials are connected with the shaft and move according to its revolutions. Thus the number of revolutions of the cup in a certain time gives the exact speed in miles per hour.

Right in Style. In a stage recently a well known actress, who is noted for her personal youth, asked for a traveling bag of alligator skin. The shopkeeper, who had none of that particular sort, brought out instead some of smooth leather. "And you tell me this is alligator skin?" objected the actress. "Why, where are all its wrinkles?" "Ah, madam," replied the dealer, who knew his customer, "wrinkles are out of vogue. The correct alligator bag is made from the skin of an alligator that has been massaged."—Exchange.

The Hidden Light. Remember, if a cloud is over you, that there is a bright light all ways on the other side; also that the time is coming, either in this world or the next, when that cloud will be swept away and the fullness of God's light and wisdom poured around you. Everything which has befallen you, whatever sorrow your heart bleeds with, nothing is wanting but to see the light that actually exists waiting to be revealed, and you will be satisfied.—Bushnell.

When Death Comes to Venice. When any one dies in Venice there is posted upon his house and upon the neighboring houses, by way of information, a printed placard, giving the name, the age, the birthplace, the cause of death and a certificate that the dead received the sacraments, that he died like a good Christian, and asking the faithful to pray for him.—Thenophile Gautier, "Travels in Italy."

As a Last Resort. After trying unsuccessfully to open the lady's door, one small boy turned to his brother and said: "It's no use, Jim. None of these keys'll fit." "All right, then," said Jim resignedly, "we'll have to wait till mother comes home and ask her for something for being good boys."

FACE TO FACE WITH A TIGER.

And a Curious Escape From the Very Jaws of Death.

It is probable that no man's life was ever saved to him by a more unusual circumstance than that attending the experience of a captain of the Bengal lancers, a famous regiment of Indian troops. He had been on a visit to a civilian friend in Rajputana and went out for a walk in the country about sunset.

After proceeding four or five miles he found himself in a narrow path on the side of a steep hill. The path was a mere ledge on the rock, with a deep chasm on one side and a wall of solid rock on the other. It was not a pleasant place in which to come face to face with a big tiger, but that is precisely what happened to the captain.

It was too late to withdraw, so he determined to brave it out. The animal had evidently been asleep, for it continued for a few moments to look itself into full wakefulness. The captain stood still, with his eyes fixed on the beast. Presently the tiger took a few steps forward and made a dash at him. Luckily its teeth seized him by the flap of his coat, just over the breast, so that he was not hurt by the blow.

Then the captain had a chance to appreciate the feelings of a mouse when it is shaken by a cat. The tiger shook him until his senses left him. Perhaps it was well they did leave him, for the beast held him over the deep chasm and a fall would have been as fatal as the animal's onslaught.

When the captain regained consciousness a few minutes later he found himself lying flat on his back with his feet dangling over the precipice. He opened his eyes only to see the sky above him. He dared not move, for the tiger might have lost at his show, so he shut his eyes and remained motionless.

Then he thought he heard a strange noise at a little distance, a sound as if of somebody sneezing. His first thought was that some one had come to his rescue and he opened his eyes. He saw the tiger's head and the tiger off, but this was proved to be wrong by low, disagreeable tigerish growls mingled with the sneezing.

The Round Earth. The globe or form of the earth was not discovered by the moderns. The globe or form of the earth was taught by Pythagoras, about 500 B. C., and demonstrated from the varying altitudes of the stars that the earth must be round. Aristotle of Samos maintained as long as 200 B. C. that the earth was globe shaped and turned on its own axis.

Way to His Heart. A young woman who thought she was losing her husband's affection, went to a seventh daughter of a seventh daughter for a love powder. The mystery woman told her: "Get a raw piece of beef, cut flat about an inch thick. Slice an onion in two and rub the meat on both sides with it. Put on pepper and salt and toast it on each side over a red coal fire. Drop on it three lumps of butter and two sprigs of parsley and get him to eat it."

The Magnetic Poles. The consensus of a scientific opinion is to the effect that the magnetic poles are not stationary. This conviction is based on the fact of the variation of the magnetic needle, which leads to the thought that the magnetic poles have a slow motion around the geographical poles. The subject is a mysterious one and constitutes one of the many as yet unsolved problems in terrestrial physics.

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FEEDING THE BOY.

Give Every Healthy Youngster the Diet His System Craves.

The growing boy—the active, healthy, normal boy—is a better judge of his diet than mother or father or doctor. He needs every kind of food, plenty of it, and his system will naturally crave for just those foods that are best for him.

Such, in substance, is the theme of an article in the National Food Magazine by Dr. H. E. Barnard. There are two kinds of food—proteins, with which the body is built up, and the growing boy needs as much of these as the full grown man, often more, carbohydrates, which are the fats and sugars and starches that supply heat and energy.

The boy's protein food need not all be meat. Dr. Barnard says "It is better that no small part of this nitrogenous food come from milk and eggs, cheese, beans and peas. If he has plenty of these rich and relatively cheap foods he will not crave meat so inordinately as some growing boys do." Dr. Barnard continues.

"The boy needs a large quantity of carbohydrates. That is why his demand for bread and butter is limited only by the supply at hand, and when he uses almost as much butter as bread, do not stint him. By the pound butter is expensive, but it is pure, wholesome food, and he can use it readily. It will not make him ill, quite the contrary.

"And do not be afraid of sugar and sweet foods. Sugar is a true concentrated food. Give him candy for dessert. He craves it and his craving is natural, not abnormal. The boy's instincts will lead him to choose the all around diet he needs."

THE HASTINGS DIAMOND.

It Involved a King of England in a Bribery Scandal.

Nearly every great diamond has a history. These histories are always romantic, embodying numerous adventures some of which are tragic. In the history of the Hastings tragedy of England is a charge of bribery against a king, George III, which gave the gentle art of cartography an opportunity such as had never come to it before and showed the power that cartography could wield upon a people.

At a levee of the king held on June 14, 1765, a very valuable diamond of unusual size and brilliancy was presented to George III, ostensibly as a gift from the nizamat or native ruler of Deccan, India. At the period when this magnificent piece offering was given to the king, the impeachment of Warren Hastings was advancing in parliament and it was current rumor that this and several lesser diamonds were the purchase price of Hastings' acquittal.

Cartographers appeared in the windows of the printshops. One represented Hastings wheeling the king to market in a burrow and saying, "What a manly boy he may sell again." In another, the king was exhibited kneeling, with his mouth open and Hastings throwing diamonds into it.

An Italian juggler then in London pretending to eat paving stones placed the walls with bills describing himself as "The Greatest Stone Eater." Improving upon this, the cartographers represented the king in the character of the Greatest Stone Eater. Indianapolis News.

Value of White Oak. The white oak has served for more useful purposes than perhaps any other tree, and its wood today is worth as much as mahogany. Furniture of "solid oak" is now a rarity, for the wood has become so expensive that it is used in the form of a veneer over cheaper woods. So used it loses none of its beauty, and even the thin veneers resist wear for an incredibly long time. This wood was a useful one to the early agriculturists as well as to those of the present day. It was durable when exposed to the elements and was also durable in contact with the soil. It was and is still used in fence rails, and much of the second growth white oak timber in America is now being cut for railroad crossties.—Outing.

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