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OLD BOSTON LIGHT

The First Mariners' Beacon to Be Kindled in America.

TWICE BURNED AND REBUILT.

Then it Was Destroyed by the British Revolutionary Naval Forces, and Again Rebuilt Through the Efforts of Governor John Hancock.

The first lighthouse of which there is any record was built by Ptolemy II on the island of Pharos, at the entrance to the harbor of Alexandria, Egypt.

Probably the most famous lighthouse of modern times is the Eddystone light, which was one of the first built in Britain and which has been famous because of its dangerous situation and of its having been four times destroyed by the angry waters of the English channel.

Minots Ledge light, at the entrance to Boston harbor, is among the most noteworthy of American lighthouses and shares with Old Boston light the interest of every voyager who enters the tortuous channel to the city of Boston.

Boston light is famous in its way. It was the first lighthouse built in America. It is one of the most important lighthouse stations on the north Atlantic coast. Every sailorman and seagoer knows Boston light. Every school boy and girl has read the many tales of shipwreck in which Boston light figures. It was captured and recaptured several times in the early days of the Revolution.

On the evening of Friday, Sept. 14, 1716, the light was first kindled. It was the expression of the chronicler of the day.

For some years the shipowners and merchants of Boston agitated the project of establishing a lighthouse at the entrance to the harbor. The general court took the matter up on petition of John George and others. The town officials of Boston also considered the proposition and urged the colonial authorities to make an appropriation to erect a light. At last favorable action was taken by the authorities, and the building of the light on the outer Brewster began.

When the light was ready to put into commission George Worthinglake was appointed keeper. He and his wife and daughter were drowned two years later.

Benjamin Franklin wrote a ballad on the drowning of the family. The salary of the first keepers of the light was \$250 a year.

On the death of Worthinglake Captain John Hayes, a shipmaster, was appointed.

The early lightkeeper had many other duties to perform besides looking after the light. He had to act as pilot for vessels and discharge the duties of health officer of the port. In the case of a vessel being in distress it was his duty to go to its rescue.

In 1720 the lighthouse was burned and rebuilt. Again in 1731 the lighthouse and other buildings were burned and were again rebuilt.

Robert Ball, the keeper who succeeded Captain Hayes, remained until the British fleet sailed from Boston to Halifax during the Revolutionary war. According to the stories at that time, Ball sailed away with the fleet and never returned.

The British wanted to destroy the harbor property, including the light, before they sailed away when they evacuated Boston. Thus it is that the island on which Boston light stands is the last soil in Massachusetts occupied by British armed forces.

The destruction of the light was a great loss to mariners and the merchants, and shipping interests induced Governor John Hancock to send a special message to the Massachusetts legislature recommending an appropriation for the rebuilding of the light. With commendable promptitude the legislature complied with the request of Governor Hancock, and plans were made for one of the finest and largest lights on the coast. This was in 1780.

The new structure was of stone. Oil lamps furnished the light. Then the government took over the lighthouses, and assigned their care and maintenance to the treasury department, under whose jurisdiction they still remain. The island and the light were formally ceded to the United States government in 1790.

The treasury department has always given Boston light a great deal of attention because of its importance and because it is the most widely known landmark to the entrance to the second port in America.

It has been improved and enlarged from time to time, and the accommodations for the keepers and their families are all that could be desired. Despite its age the light station is, for all practical purposes, essentially modern and up to date. It displays an incandescent oil vapor light, giving a white flash of 100,000 candle power every thirty seconds, visible sixteen miles in clear weather, and as an auxiliary aid in foggy weather sounds a powerful first class siren, with a double blast of five seconds each every minute.—Boston Globe.

Some Exception.
 "It must be hard to see people scramble for a meal."
 "Yes, unless it's eggs"—Baltimore American.

A Toast.
 To our mothers: May their eyes never be opened and their hearts never closed to our weaknesses!—Life.

The Marksmen's Eye.
 Blue eyes prevail among marksmen of renown. The blue is said to be the strongest eye and gray next.

SIMPLIFIED SPELLING.

The One Thing Needed to Make English the World Language.

Having been for years a teacher of English to foreigners and to high school pupils as well as a student of modern languages, the subject of an international language interests me greatly.

Certainly of the four important modern tongues English is the easiest and simplest in grammar, having no awful genders such as German and no dreadful verbs such as French and Italian. It has no baffling depths and subtleties as the last two mentioned nor any impossible pronunciation as the first. Yet, in spite of its simplicity, it is a very hard language for foreigners to master. This is due, I feel, solely to its antiquated method of spelling and of pronunciation. The difficulties arising from the difference between the spelling of English words and their pronunciation are almost insurmountable, fatal to its universal diffusion. How many native English-speaking people do we know, educated, nay, intellectual, who simply cannot spell, who have given up trying?

All over the continent one hears reiterated with boring monotony: "I like to read the English, but not to speak it. It is too difficult to pronounce. I can never tell how a new word should be said." In French and German certain letter combinations invariably represent certain sounds, while Italian is absolutely phonetic. In Italian schools there is no such thing as a spelling lesson. "Think what a saving of time, temper and grey (or is it gray) matter this is to the growing child!"

It is all very well to insist upon the classic origin of our orthography, but compare it for one moment with the clear and artistic rote parent of the Italian. Yet Italian does not hesitate to discard all artificiality.

I feel sure that only one thing will make English, which stands today as the easiest and most concise of languages, only one thing will make it the universal language, and that is simplified spelling.—J. H. Harris in New York Times.

BRAVERY OF A TOREADOR.

Remarkable Display of Nerve by a Spanish Bull Fighter.

The famous Spanish toreador, Lope, figured in one of the most thrilling incidents ever witnessed in the bull fighting arena.

It was at Bayonne. After disposing of two bulls Torero had twice plunged his sword into a third of great strength and ferocity, and as the beast continued enroaring wildly the spectators began to hiss Torero for bungling.

Wounded to the very quick of his pride, the Spaniard shouted, "The bull is slain" and, throwing aside his sword, sank on one knee with folded arms in the middle of the ring.

He was right, but he had not allowed for the margin of accident. The wounded beast charged full upon him, but the matador, splendid to the last, knelt motionless as a statue, while the spectators held their breath in horrified suspense.

Reaching his victim, the bull literally bounded at him, and as he sprang he sank in death, with his last effort giving one fearful lunge of the head that drove a horn into the thigh of the kneeling man and laid bare the bone from the knee to the joint.

Still Torero never flinched, but remained kneeling, exultant in victory, but calmly contemptuous of applause, till he was carried away to heal him of his grievous wound.

Indian "Moons."

Time is calculated among the Red Indians by moons instead of months. January is called the "hard moon," February "the raccoon moon," March "the eye moon," April "the moon in which geese lay eggs," May "the planting moon," June "the moon when the strawberries are red," July "the moon when the cherries are ripe," August "the harvest moon," September "the moon when rice is laid up to dry," October "the rice drying moon," November "the deer killing moon" and December "the deer moon."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Danmark's Sovereigns.

Danmark has had a most curious array of sovereigns, the Blue Tooth, Forked Beard, Simple, Hungry, Bare foot, Lamb, Pious and Cruel being among them.

This latter, who was Christian II, belied his real name by gaining the additional title of the Nero of the North. There was probably little happiness in Denmark when he sat upon the throne.—London Mail.

A Money Saver.

"You are foolish to buy your furniture on the installment plan. You have to pay nearly twice as much as you otherwise would."

"Yes, but look at all the money I save on moving expenses."—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Character Analysis.

"Biggins goes around asking so much advice that he never accomplishes anything."

"Yes," replied the man whose mind lingers in the past, "not enough initiative and too much referendums."—Washington Star.

Simple Tests Telling Quality of Textiles

There are a great many tests that may be used to determine the genuineness and value of materials, but only a few that are practicable for the home.

If the buyer is not absolutely sure that the material in question is as represented it is best to ask for a small sample and apply some of the home tests before making the purchase.

For instance, to ascertain if a material is all linen and not mixed with cotton, apply a drop of water. The moisture spreads rapidly on linen, but will remain unabsorbed on cotton for some time. However, this is not always a safe test, as cotton and linen are often heavily sized with dressing which prevents the water from being absorbed. Another test for cotton and linen is a drop of glycerine. Linen will become transparent, but cotton will not be affected. Crushing in the hands will show the difference between cotton and linen, as linen wrinkles more than cotton. Sizing may be discovered by rubbing the materials between the hands to see if the dressing will come out. Washing also will remove the dressing and reveal the true nature of the material.

Cotton and wool mixtures when moistened wrinkle more than pure wool materials.

In examining materials it is well to know that cotton fibers are short with fuzzy ends, while linen fibers are long and have even ends. Wool fibers are short, straight and stiff. Silk fibers are long, straight and lustrous.

The nature of the material may also be ascertained by burning a small sample. Cotton burns quickly with flame. Linen burns in the same way, but does not catch so readily, as it has less oil in the fiber and less air in the woven cloth. Wool burns slowly, giving off an odor like burnt feathers and leaving a gummy residue. Silk burns more slowly than wool and with less odor and leaves a crisp ash.

Worth Knowing

China Cement—Make a thick solution of gum arabic by dissolving two tablespoonfuls of it in hot water. Into this stir plaster of paris until the mixture is the consistency of gruel. Apply to the creases of the china with a fine brush. Allow the china to stand three days before using.

Sewing Hint—When stitching pockets on aprons, skirts, etc., you will find that they will not rip off as easily if the stitching is begun about half an inch from the top, stitch upward, then turn downward. When you come to the other side stitch downward the same distance as you stitched upward on the first side.

Feather Advice—Never sun feather beds or feather pillows. Air them on a windy day in a cool place. The sun draws the oil, and the feathers will have a rancid smell if they remain in the sun.

Mildew Remedy—An excellent remedy for mildew is to saturate an article with kerosene. Roll it up and let it stand for twenty-four hours and then wash in very hot soapsuds.

Fish Odor—To remove fish odor from silver knives and forks or from cooking utensils let stand in cold water before washing.

Light as Chaff

It Smelled Like It.

The Swedish Itney driver drew up beside the road, jumped out and, with wrench in hand, crawled under the auto. Taking advantage of the stop, the only passenger, a German, proceeded to eat a tureen consisting mainly of Hamburger wheeze. Suddenly the driver emerged from beneath the machine and, with bulging eyes and a hand on his nose, stood staring at the auto.

"What's the matter?" inquired the German innocently between mouthfuls of cheese.

"Ay don't know," said Ole. "But Ay tank the engine base dead."—Country Gentleman.

Marshaling a Parade.

An old Irishman, long destitute of official dignity, was finally appointed marshal in a parade. Veterans, bandmen and school children were lined along the streets of the town, patiently waiting the signal to start.

Suddenly Mike, on a prancing charger, dashed up the street. After inspecting the dignified procession he gave his horse a quick clip. Then, standing up in his stirrups, he yelled with a voice filled with pride and authority: "Ready, now! Every one of ye kape shtep wid the horse!"

Six For One.

Which is the strongest day of the seven? Sunday, because the others are weak days.

They Cry For More.

What is that which makes everybody sick but those who swallow it? Flatulency.

In the Arena of Sports

Captain Harry Dadmun of Harvard. Among the forwards on the big university teams Captain Harry Dadmun, right guard and captain of Harvard's formidable eleven, stands out. There are few line men his superior. Dad



Photo by American Press-Association.

HARRY DADMUN.
 Dadmun began his football career at Tufts, where he was considered about the best man on the team. His work was polished up last year by Percy Haughton, and now he is one of the most dependable men on the team.

Mike Looks Like a Coney.

Billy Mike of St. Paul, who recently outpointed Battling Levinaky of Philadelphia in a ten-round bout in New York, is a raring young chap, strong, game and a good, clever, aggressive boxer. His showing against the veteran Levinaky was the more remarkable for the fact that he was one-eighth heavier than ten rounds ago. He scaled 170 1/2 pounds, Levinaky 151. In height Mike was the taller, and he also had a corresponding advantage in reach. His fight showed that he is worthy of a rating with all the light heavyweights. He is a factor in the division that must be reckoned with.

Athletes Go to War.

Among the troops that left Halifax recently was the One Hundred and Eightieth Canadian Sportmen's Battalion, and in its ranks were such fine fellows as A. E. Wood, the fifteen mile record holder; Tom Longboat, the famous Indian runner; Lou Marsh, another famous distance; Tom Flanagan, who first won fame as Longboat's manager, and many other well known sportsmen. This battalion was recruited entirely from young men who have followed track athletics, hockey and football, and it is considered the finest body of troops that the Dominion has sent to the war zone.

Care of Footwear

With a little thought and care of shoes the family shoe bill may be reduced at least one-third. The present day liquid polish used on shoes is apt to crack the leather and ruin it. Most liquid dressings have a certain amount of acid, and this destroys the oils in the leather. If one must use liquid dressings, once in two weeks wash off every bit of dressing from the shoes and apply a liberal coating of castor oil and set the shoes in a airy place for two days. The elasticity of the leather will be renewed and the shoes become soft and pliable. Wipe shoes carefully before applying the next coat of liquid dressing.

Cleaning Silver.

To clean your silver put it in an aluminum kettle full of hot water to which has been added a tablespoonful or two each of salt and soda. This will clean the silver in a twinkling, with no rubbing or scrubbing. The only receptacle is aluminum or the chains is gone.

THANKSGIVING.

We thank thee, Lord, for one more year
 With all its months have brought;
 Both boon and bane, both peace and pain,
 Thy sovereign hand hath wrought.
 We thank thee for each pleasant path—
 Achievement's sweet success;
 As well our God, for dark ways trod—
 Disaster's bitter stream.
 Abundant rain hath far surpassed
 Such loss as life contained;
 When such seemed not our favored lot
 Thy promised grace remained.
 And so for all we thank thee, Lord,
 While faith doth banish doubt;
 Since this we know, both woe and weal
 Work thy best purpose out.
 —P. B. Strong.