

FEATHERS FIGURE IN PRAYER

We the Indian Their Religious Importance Is of Far More Value Than as Ornaments.

Feathers have an intense religious significance for Indians, and are valued for this far more than for their value as ornaments. To a Hopi a feather is tantamount to a prayer, and the use of one or two feathers in his prayers is considered sufficient to ensure a favorable reply.

When an Indian desires something urgently he will tie a feather to a stick and conceal it in a shrine which he himself has constructed. This is considered extremely efficacious. Small fluffy feathers dangling from the ceilings of huts by strings are common sights. They represent prayers for trifles. Indians are always careful to keep a stock of prayers or feathers on hand, so that they will not be caught empty-handed when an occasion for prayer arises.

It was a departure from this custom which accounts for the use of feathers in costumes. Squaws of tribes whose habitat was Virginia, wore mantles fringed with feathers, and the Colonial records also tell of coats made of blue feathers sewed so close and thick that the coat looked like satin.

TOO BAD ABOUT HER MEMORY

And Really Opera Goer Should Not Be Expected to Remember Details That Are Trifling.

"You were at the opera last evening?" "Yes; perfectly delightful time." "What did you hear?" "Hear? Oh—Madge Gray is engaged at last, and the Billy Brews are going to get a divorce, and Bertie Baxby has lost all his money in Wall Street, and Sue Cathro has a baby, and Mrs. Sylee was lurching with another man while her husband was out of town, and—"

"But—you don't understand! What did you see?" "See? Why, that Kate Kady has turned her old rose gown, and that those wonderful Van Gruber diamonds we read of are only paste, and that the Adleys are hardly on speaking terms, even in public, and—"

New Type of Boiler.

In a recently developed boiler of a new type the steam is generated by passing heavy currents directly through the water from one electrode to another, according to Popular Mechanics Magazine. A claim of 95 per cent efficiency is made for the apparatus. In structure the boiler is quite simple, being a rugged, vertical cylinder containing the vertically arranged electrodes. Steam pressures of up to 220 pounds are generated, with a voltage ranging from the minimum to a maximum of 3,000. The quantity of steam is ingeniously controlled by means of automatic valves which reduce the water level as the demand for steam decreases. Immediately the top electrode is uncovered generation ceases.

Simple, but Effective.

A woman went to her doctor, complaining to him of her husband breaking out into violent tempers, and asked if he could recommend a cure. "The remedy," replied the doctor, "is simple. I have here an excellent water which I give to most of my patients who suffer from the same complaint. Should your husband become violent again, you need only take half a cupful of the water in your mouth and hold it there for a few minutes; the warmer the water becomes in the mouth the more visibly will your husband's wrath melt away. Repeat the dose in very severe cases. The water was ordinary well water. The result was domestic happiness."

The Republic of Chuvask.

"Our second stop was at Chobovara," writes a member of an Italian labor mission, traveling down the Volga in Russia—his article appears in la Stampa, Turin, Italy. "Chobovara is a little township, capital of the autonomous though diminutive republic called Chuvask. The republic consists of 940,000 inhabitants of Tartar and Finnish descent. It is governed by the same laws as Greater Russia, its autonomy being preserved solely for linguistic reasons. However, the people are slowly becoming identified with the Russians."

Oil Valuable in Leprosy.

The use of chaulmoogra oil has been known for some time to have some virtue in the treatment of leprosy, and recently it has been discovered that there are a great many points of similarity between the germs of leprosy and those of tuberculosis. This has led to some government experiments in the direction of combating tuberculosis which will be conducted in Hawaii.

Unknown Iceland.

Iceland lying just south of the Arctic circle, in the latitude of central Alaska, Norway, Sweden and Finland, is little known. The people are a sturdy lot or they would not be there. There is possibly no other people who are so uniformly intelligent and well educated. Its mountains, of which there are an abundance, provide it with a great amount of water-power, which its people are just now about to utilize.

COUSIN EMILY

By SUSAN L. ALDERMAN.

Hearing the rattle of the stage, Lina went out, peering through the porch-vines to see if Cousin Emily had come. Yes, Calvin had stopped; some one was getting out.

"I haven't seen her since she was a little girl," Lina thought. "How pretty she is—light hair and dark eyes. Likes to dress, too; that's a lovely muslin, but she must have got it dusty."

Smiling a welcome, she led her guest upstairs to a spotless chamber. While Emily bathed her heated face and changed her gown, she cast shy glances at this unknown cousin.

"Lina isn't very good looking," ran her thoughts. "And what serious eyes! I should hate to have her vexed with me about anything."

Lina interpreted her look. "She's sizing me up," thought she, amused. In truth, the contrast between the two girls was striking. Emily was slight, graceful, fluffy-haired, daintily gowned. Lina's figure inclined to plumpness; her gingham dress was planned for comfort rather than elegance; her brown hair was brushed smoothly back. Her one beauty was her deep, intelligent eyes.

Presently they went out-doors. At the rear of the house was a pleasant, tree-shaded lawn with flower beds, seats and a rustic arbor. Beyond were chicken houses, barns and garage, with a good-sized vegetable garden.

"Why, it's a farm, Cousin Lina," cried Emily, surprised. "You don't manage it alone?" "I have a hired man," returned Lina. "Besides, Henry Vaughan, from the next farm, helps in harvesting and advises me when I'm puzzled. He has done a good deal for the place but it's for his interest—I'm going to marry him."

"Oh!" said Emily rather blankly. "Henry's a good fellow," went on Lina composedly. "There he is now," as a tall young man in working clothes came toward them from the garage. "Come, Emily, and meet him."

Henry nodded bashfully, casting admiring glances at Lina's guest. "I was just going to the station," said Henry, turning to Lina. "Mert sent word there was a package for you."

"Take Emily with you," suggested Lina. "I have to get supper you know, and it will entertain her."

Emily was delighted. So the shining new automobile was brought around and they drove off with a flourish. They were late in returning, and when they did appear, were not hungry. They were laden with fruit and chocolates and Emily told laughingly of having eaten two large plates of ice cream.

"And tomorrow," she went on eagerly. "Mr. Vaughan is to take me over to Hillman, to see the old quarry."

"Oh, of course we'd like to have you, Cousin Lina," said Emily, somewhat restrainedly.

Lina turned her near eyes upon her cousin. "Old Mrs. Barr spends the day here and I could not leave. I hope you will enjoy yourself."

She saw them off the next day, with mingled feelings. She trusted Henry, but Emily was so pretty and fascinating! In the days that followed, when excursions and parties succeeded each other rapidly, Lina felt, somehow "out of it." She tried to be her usual self, but the feeling persisted that Henry and Emily did not need her. Emily's voice had a different note, in addressing Henry; her eyes sought his with a starry, appealing glance. And Henry, though kind and thoughtful as ever, was like a man in a dream.

Then came the night of a large party, when Lina, hurrying to the gate, slipped on a banana peel and stayed at home to nurse an injured ankle. The two, returning home at midnight, did not know that she had kept vigil for them; did not see her watching from the porch landing. A light, suddenly shining out above, showed an affectionate little tableau—a girl's lips upturned to a man's, his arms about her shoulders. Limping down stairs, Lina faced them quietly.

"I think, Henry, this has gone far enough," she said. "You are engaged to me, but if you like her better and she likes you, I resign."

The grave eyes seemed to search every part of the shrinking girl. "All these years, Henry," she went on, "you've saved, and I've saved, and improved the place, thinking how we were going to own it together some day. And now comes a silly little girl and upsets all our plans! Come, Henry, decide before there's any more foolishness. Do you want her or me?" Henry hesitated not a moment. Without a glance toward Emily, he went to Lina and put his arm around her waist.

"OLD SKEESICKS" ALL RIGHT

Maybe He Is a Little Too Careful About Money, but Consider the Good He Does.

That is what the boys call him, perhaps because he wears clothes that are not of the best and talks sometimes about the duty of being careful about spending money unnecessarily. "Old Skeesicks!" they whisper when they see him coming, and I sometimes think he hears what the thoughtless boys and the more thoughtful men say about him. Edgar L. Vincent writes in Farm and Life. But he just smiles and goes on about his work.

I saw "Old Skeesicks" night before last coming out of a home where things are not going very well just now. Father sick, mother worried to get things her little folks need to make them comfortable and bills crowding hard, now that the winner of the daily bread is laid on his back. A bit curiously to know more about "Old Skeesicks," visit, I slipped over after supper and found them all cheery, no clouds in sight, and they told me with a glad light in their eyes that the good old farmer man had left a bushel more or less of good things to eat and he had told them if they needed it he would let them have money to tide over the hard spell.

Since then I have thought of some other things "Old Skeesicks" has done, and somehow I wish no one ever would speak disrespectfully of our old neighbor again. Trips to town after a coat for Tony Kingle, sitting up all night with Perry Potter when he was sick enough to die, plowing all day in the raw November wind for old man Hawley because he had the rheumatism so he could scarcely put one foot before the other, and always so good and kind and pleasant to meet. "Old Skeesicks?" Boys, let's never call him that, and let's be a bit more careful how we say things about other folks, anyway. We cannot always tell what is back of the old clothes and the rough outside. Under the tattered waistcoat may beat the truest, kindest heart ever given a man. If "Old Skeesicks" is a mite overcareful about the use of money it is only that he may do good with it. He was brought up in the school of economy. His heart is all right, though, and some day I am sure he will hear the Sweet Voice saying to him: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Aviation in France. Speaking at the Aero Club of France recently, M. Flaudin, under-secretary for aeronautics, said that, whereas in 1919 the aggregate distance flown in France was 218,750 miles, the distance flown in the first ten months of this year totaled 937,500 miles. Likewise the number of passengers carried grew from 1690 in 1919 to 6,750 in the first ten months of this year, while the amount of mails carried increased from 9 hundredweight in 1919 to well over 5 tons this year. The cost to the state in subsidies amounted to about \$600,000. He went on to say that there were now 2,900 miles of routes in France in regular operation. The ratio of accidents was one to every 82,500 miles flown, and the fatal accidents worked out to one for every 134,374 miles.

Really Had No Use for Him. An East Liberty woman who attends church, and who would faint if accused of being a "sweaver," was much given to the use of the word "devil." Finally her five-year-old daughter began following suit and his name was called into the conversation oftener than was altogether nice and polite. This worried the mother and she began to be more careful. But the kiddie kept going on high until the parent was forced to chide her.

"What the devil's the matter with you, monny?" queried the innocent. "You know I don't like the devil and I don't care how mad he gets when I swear. I never did like him!"—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Love of Pictures Universal. Mankind has always loved pictures. Races, without a written language, have left behind them rude carvings and murals to attest the fact. When an industry arose that appealed to this ancient appetite with pictures that moved, it did not have to wait long to see whether it would die or flourish. A dozen years ago the motion picture business, as we now know it, did not exist. Today the American public supports 16,500 moving picture theaters, makes 5,000,000,000 visits to them a year and spends \$750,000,000 annually for this amusement. —The Nation's Business.

Plant at Victoria Falls. The project to erect a power plant at Victoria Falls, on the Zambesi river, in South Africa, has been revived and it is exceedingly likely that a 250,000 horsepower plant will soon be under way at that place. It has been under discussion for many years, but the one thing which stood in the way was the proximity of cheap coal, but this fuel is now at such a price that there is a demand for hydro-electric power. Current will probably be conveyed to the Rand mines, 600 miles away.

King George Now "Black Pig." King George has received a new title and is now a member of the Black Pig Order of Great Britain. It is a social organization of men who are interested in raising the famous Berkshire pigs, and particularly interested in making them reach unusual size. King Alfonso also is one of the Black Pigs.

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