

IS OLD LONDON PLAYGROUND

Hyde Park Has for Centuries Been the Scene of Amusements Dear to Englishmen.

In Hyde park, London, nearly every game and sport known to the English has been practiced at one time or another. In 1550 the French ambassador hunted there with the king. In 1578 the Duke of Casimir killed a barren doe with his piece in Hyde park from among 300 other does.

Racing in the ring was one of the greatest attractions in the park, and some of the meetings were thought to be of great importance. As even among the state papers there is preserved the agreement for a race that took place there.

MORE THAN MERELY ORATOR

Will Crooks, English Labor Leader, a Man of Most Remarkable Personality.

Although he had such a wonderful way with him when talking to an audience, the late Mr. Will Crooks was the despair of reporters.

It was impossible to transfer his spoken words into cold print without losing the very thing that captivated his audience—the personality of the man.

It was all personality with Mr. Crooks, and experienced reporters have been known to go to a meeting which Mr. Crooks kept in rooms of laughter, and when they had written their report tear it up because it failed to convey any idea of what had happened.

Mr. Crooks was good at telling a story, but even better at repartee. At a recurring meeting during the war a man tried to interrupt him, and provoked the withering retort, "Yes, I know you. You are one of those who could settle the whole thing in a barber's shop on a Saturday afternoon."

Mr. Crooks' favorite story concerned a woman who bought some flowers from a flower-girl at Piccadilly circus. She was so pleased with them that she promised to buy more on Wednesday.

Famines in History.

The famines of the ancient world, usually confined to comparatively small countries, such as Egypt or Palestine, were largely due to the smallness of the area depended upon for food.

Another cause of those ancient famines and of some of the famines in Europe during the Middle Ages, was want of means of transportation.

White-haired Uncle Peter Perkins, known as the oldest person in his community, was standing by his gate when a touring car stopped close behind him. Several of the ladies in it asked numerous patronizing questions concerning the locality.

Why Hats Cause Baldness. It is necessary for the hair to have sufficient air and good circulation of the blood as it is for the body.

Plants That Mimic Stones. In South Africa a plant of the genus Mesembryanthemum, growing on stony ground, so closely resembles a pebble that it has been picked up in mistake for a stone.

Armenian Music. The melodies and composition of Armenian music are unique, although in recent years Russian, Italian and English styles have been incorporated in her music.

Prepared. Antoinette—Miss Black has called to see you, madam. Mrs. White—Oh! Run to the drug store now and get me some aspirin, Antoinette.

TRULY OPTIMISM HAS LIMIT

Joe's Smiler Met Day's Many Adversities With a Smile, but There Are Some Things!

"Ha, ha, ha!" laughed Joseph Smiler. "It's Friday, the thirteenth, Good job I'm not superstitious, otherwise I could be miserable all day today!"

"Oh, Joe!" said Mrs. Smiler at breakfast, "the pedal broke off my sewing machine yesterday!"

"That's unfortunate," said Smiler. "But never mind dear, I'll bring you back a motor this evening, and you'll be able to run the machine on that!"

"My umbrella dear?" he said to his wife. "Oh, Joe," she cried, "I forgot to tell you, some one stole your umbrella from the hall yesterday!"

"Oh well," answered Smiler, "It had a hole in it anyway!" And he stepped out briskly through the shower.

Other little things, which many men would foolishly have allowed to disturb them, did happen to Smiler that day, but he did not grumble until returning home in the train he pulled out his fountain pen to jot down a brilliant idea that had occurred to him.

GREAT POET TRUE GENTLEMAN

Carlyle's Pen Portrait of Schiller Among Finest of the Tributes Paid to Him.

In his dress and manner, as in all things, he was plain and unaffected. Among strangers, something shy and retiring might occasionally be observed in him; in his own family, or among his select friends, he was kind-hearted, free, and gay as a little child.

In public, his external appearance had nothing in it to strike or attract. Of an unassuming aspect, wearing plain apparel, his looks as he walked were constantly bent on the ground; so that frequently, as we are told, "he failed to notice the salutation of a passing acquaintance; but if he heard it, he would catch hastily at his hat, and give his cordial 'Guten Tag.'"

When Kissing Was Illegal. Laws against kissing still exist in America, which produces most of the blues from which the Japanese censors last year cut out 120,000 feet of kissing scenes, observes London Tit-Bits.

Not many years ago a student of Yale university and his sweetheart were arrested for the crime of kissing in a Boston restaurant. They were sentenced to 15 days' imprisonment, the magistrate relying on one of the "blue laws" passed in the seventeenth century, when Massachusetts was a British colony.

Under these laws many men were fined or put in the stocks for kissing their wives in public, such conduct being penalized as "lewd and unseemly behavior."

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BARBARA-BABS

By AGNES G. BROGAN. (© 1921, Western Newspaper Union.)

Barbara Bainbridge sometimes felt that she had two personalities, and whether the one adopted with the abbreviation of her name was her true personality, or the other of the dignified Miss Barbara, the girl herself, could not determine.

The Bainbridges felt nothing undone that she might further their granddaughter's natural advantage, while old Gran'ma Burnie instructed her in homely tasks and gave to her homely pleasures.

There was a little attic room at the farm cottage that Babs occupied, where a rambler rose peeped its fragrant head through the casement window, and where across sun-stepped meadows she could hear the first soft stirrings of early morning.

Big Price, But Worth It. England Paid Kingdom for Bill of Rights and Has Never Regretted the Fact.

One writer has aptly observed that England paid a kingdom for the Bill of Rights, but it was worth it. Literally the observation is true.

Curious Behavior of Yangtze. The Yangtze, the great muddy river of China, is one of the greatest of streams, and its valley is the most densely populated and closely cultivated river basin in the world.

House, in Form of Teapot. Among the oddest of unusual cottages is the queerly shaped little house by the roadside in the parish of Daberly, near Horncastle, in Lincolnshire, England.

Commercial Art. "Don't you think the theater has become sadly commercialized?" "If," replied Mr. Stormington Barnes, "by 'commercialized' you mean affording opportunities to make large sums of money, I cannot say that I have noticed it personally."

Justifiable Pride. Robinson—What's that rooster across the street crowing so for? Boosters don't lay eggs. Cewley—No, but he's done something more wonderful. He just crossed the road without being hit by a fast automobile.

WERE OTHERS IN THE FIELD School Superintendent Learned That He Was Not Alone in His Devotion to Fair One.

The superintendent of schools in a small Indiana town recently persuaded the school board to revoke its ruling to employ only single women as teachers in the school.

French Paper Fined For Libeling Clergy (By N. C. W. C. News Service) Paris, Dec. 11.—A Communist paper of Blois and its printer have been condemned by the court for having put up posters containing insults against the clergy.

Most Valuable of Cements Artificial Product Known as Portland Is Highly Esteemed as a Building Material.

Weekly Calendar Of Feast Day (By N. C. W. C. News Service) Sunday, Dec. 25.—The feast of the Nativity, the day on which Jesus was born in a stable at Bethlehem.

Dr. Guilday Declares Disarmament Plans Are Those of Pope. (By N. C. W. C. News Service.) Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.—Declaring that there is not a single plank in the disarmament conference platform which was not written word for word by Pope Benedict in his world appeal of August 1, 1917, the Rev. Peter Guilday has urged students of the Catholic University to be apostles of Christian doctrine by word and act by carrying the message of world peace back to their homes during the Christmas vacation.

During the past month the most remarkable attempt at world peace in our times has been going on in our midst. The students of the University should carry back to their homes during the Christmas season, not tales of little doings in college life, but the great message of peace.

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APPLE TREES POINT MORAL

All of Us, if We Would, Can Find Satisfaction in a Little Life Dream Coming True.

Oliver Wendell Holmes tells of a man who, in youth, planned to buy a certain piece of land for a home-stand, find on one part of it to plant an apple orchard, so that he could have the flowering trees in spring, the ripening fruit in summer and apples to eat and cider to drink in winter.

Years passed, the man progressed toward old age; his son grew up, married and had a son. Finally the money was saved, the land bought, and the three men, grandfather, father and grandson, debated the question of planting the apple orchard.

The grandson said it took apple trees seven years to come into bearing, and he could not take any interest in anything happening so far ahead; the father said no one could tell what would happen in seven years, and they had better plant yearly crops; the grandfather said he would plant the apple trees himself, and he did, and lived 14 years, and during the last years of his life enjoyed the sight of the flowering trees and the apples and the cider in the delight and satisfaction of a little life dream come true.

Wherefore, says Doctor Holmes, if the time comes when you must lay down the fiddle and the bow because your fingers are too stiff, and drop the oars because your arms are too weak, and come at last to the reality of spectacles—if the time comes when the fire of life has burned low, that where its flames reverberated there is only the somber stain of regret, and where its coals glowed there are only the white ashes that cover the embers of memory—don't let your heart grow cold, and you may carry cheerfulness and love with you into the teens of your second century, if you can last so long.

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