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MADE ODD BOUNDARY "LINE"

Explanation of Compound Curve That Settled Dispute of Early Colonial Days

When William Penn obtained a grant in Pennsylvania he was very desirous of owning the land on Delaware bay to the sea, and procured from the duke of York a release of all his title and claim to New Castle and a radius of 12 miles around it, and to the land between that tract and the sea. Lord Baltimore protested, but in 1685 the Lords of trade and plantation made a decision in Penn's favor.

The tracts which now constitute the state of Delaware, Penn called "The Territories," or the "Three Lower Counties on the Delaware." They were governed as part of Pennsylvania for about 20 years. In 1770 the inhabitants declared them a separate state. Then ensued a long-drawn-out dispute between Delaware and Pennsylvania over the northern boundary line. Because of the inaccuracy of the original survey of 1701, no single curve could be made to pass through the stones set up to mark off a radius of 12 miles around New Castle. An attempt to rectify the line was made by the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey, but when a number of Delaware residents found they would be geographically in Pennsylvania they raised such a howl that the survey was dropped, and a joint boundary commission was appointed to settle the dispute. A compound curve was found to conform very closely to the original line, so it was adopted.

SUNSET IN ARABIAN DESERT

Scene of Remarkable Beauty Under the Glowing Moors and the Silver Stars.

There is no twilight in the desert. One moment the sun rises high in the heavens; the next it dies in brief, few moments of ruddy afterglow, and then at one bound comes the dark. One by one the stars appear, as when the lights are turned on at nightfall in a city, until the purple-velvet sky is cut across by a broad swath of silver dust, the Milky Way. And so we would fall asleep, lulled by the murmur of the Arab voices and the grumbling of the camels. Above us a moon that looked like an enormous silver plate, and the stars very near. It is usually late before the camp falls asleep. The fires die down to beds of glowing embers. The night wind rises, and I draw my blankets about me more closely. I can discern the dim, misshapen forms of the camels tethered outside the narrow walls. A sentry, rifle on shoulder, ruffled to the eyes in his aback, moves past on noiseless feet. A jackal howls in the darkness. Something rustles in the undergrowth—a snake or a lizard, no doubt. The moon transforms the yellow desert into a lake of molten amber. Over everything a magic silence falls.—E. Alexander Powell, in the Century Magazine.

Try This on Your Links.

Perkins was a billiard and pool "shark" and Watkins had tried for two years to get good enough to beat him at the game, but with no luck. Last year Watkins gave up in disgust and quit the billiard table for the golf links. Here he had better success in becoming proficient, and after one season's play, found himself able to approach within a respectable distance of old Colonel Bogey.

Watkins borrowed an extra set of clubs and, after some tall persuasion, got Perkins out on the links for a round of golf. Perkins was like a flapper in a long skirt! Watkins rubbed it in and gloated over his victim to the utmost. The game was a bit topsided and Watkins was soon 10 up on the 18 holes. Perkins saw how badly he had been beaten, but he was a true sportsman and a game bird. "Well, you won that game, I guess," he said to Watkins. "Scratch never was my game, any way. Now let's play a round of call shot."

In the Pinna.

Awake in the stillness of the country, with quiet meadows, white in the moonlight, stretching beyond your garden gate, you hear the approach of the wind as he woos your pine trees to sing with him; for the wind cannot sing alone; he needs a lyre through which to sweep his mightiest and his gentlest songs.

It is not a rustle, as with poplars, but a swift, swishing sound, at first hardly more than the breathing of a child, but rising to a powerful crescendo as the branches flatten under the mighty sweep of the wind.

A few moments and the hush follows, that wonderful vanishing point of sound, unattained by the greatest artist. So gentle is the subsiding that you hardly know when the wind left, but the pines are straight and still again, and the wind is a mile away, stirring the Hawthorn buds on the hill and flinging out their fragrance into the moonlight.

Tricks in All Trades.

The jeweler was showing an out-of-town customer around. There was an attractive girl behind the counter and the proprietor explained that it was her particular task to look after beautiful swains who came in to purchase engagement rings. Also he related a number of anecdotes about the same timorous swains.

The visitor thought the arrangement a good one. "Then she helps business to engage-ment rings!" "Very much. Wears a big one herself!"

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THEIR CHIEF DESIRE IS NOISE

Queer "Musical" Instruments That Are In Use among the Savage Tribes in Africa.

When visitors of prominence tour Africa they are greeted by the most amazing effects on the part of a native hand. One of the favorite instruments is a huge xylophone, many yards in length, upon which a score of blacks whack and bang to their hearts' content. Those at one end pound small pieces of wood, which give out high notes, while pieces of considerable size supply the bass tones. A few empty drums placed here and there give drum effects. As a rule the savage prefers something that he can bang, but any noise is better than none. In the east, wild music is played on pipes made of bamboo, while hollow gourds of various sizes provide the African savage with home-grown flutes, clarinets and bassoons. Sometimes he will arrange them so that they form a kind of piano. He sits surrounded by a circle of dried fruits, whose hollow skins give out high or low notes, according to their size, as he taps them with his fingers.

Glands Are Funny Things.

Why is it that military music makes one want to march; that jazz music makes one want to dance, and plaintive music makes one sad. Science has discovered that it is all due to a little gland situated at the base of one's brain, and it controls the rhythmic beating of the heart. It prevents it—and other organs of the body—from racing, or working irregularly.

Martial music excites the pituitary gland very much, and in response the gland manufactures and sends into one's blood more than its normal amount of fluid. It is this fluid that controls the speed of one's heart, and with the extra amount one's heart beats much faster, giving one that exhilarated military feeling. Another type of music acts on the pituitary gland in just the opposite way—it slows it down, with an accompanying depression or sadness.—Detroit News.

TORTOISES HAVE LONG LIFE

Allotted Span of Three Score Years and Ten Without Significance to Those Creatures.

What animal lives the longest? Probably the tortoise, though we cannot be quite sure. According to Mr. Frederic A. Lucas in Natural History, three historic tortoises probably have attained the greatest ages definitely recorded for any animals.

A tortoise from the Aldabra Islands that is still living at St. Helena, says Mr. Lucas, has the distinction of being the only creature now alive that saw the great Napoleon, who died more than a century ago. How old the tortoise was when brought to St. Helena we do not know, but venerable as it seems to us with our allotted span of threescore years and ten, it is not so old as another tortoise, which is—or recently was—living on the island of Mauritius, whither it was brought from the Seychelles many years before, being even then of unusual size. In Mauritius it became a national possession and in 1810 was specifically mentioned in the treaty by which the French ceded the island to England. It is said to have been living in Mauritius for at least seventy years, so that it is pretty safe to conclude that it is at least one hundred and fifty years old.

That tortoise has been confounded with another, which was brought to England in 1807, and which now is preserved in the Rothschild museum at Tring. It was certainly more than one hundred and fifty years old at the time of its death—probably it was nearer two hundred years—and it is the largest known tortoise. It is reported to have attained the weight of five hundred and sixty pounds.

Westminster Abbey Bells.

It is only on very rare occasions, for instance, such as a royal wedding, that the peal of the Westminster abbey bells is heard. The tenor bell is very old, dating from 1430, and two of the others were presented by Gabriel Goodman, dean of Westminster in Queen Elizabeth's time. The octave was incomplete, however, until some time ago, when two additional bells were added and the existing six were at the same time retuned and tuned.

Broadcasting Hotel Orders.

Horace Greeley of the world handwriting could never have held the position of a hotel manager or an assistant manager of one of our modern hostels. His penmanship was too illegible. The management of big hotel departments, from the cold storage to the linen departments, involves the use of the telegraph to a marvelous extent. Mine jolly host of the old-time hostelry needs to be an electrical expert to manage things by modern methods. He sits in his office and the moving finger beside him which records his orders is a telegraph, which inscribes his messages at the same time in as many departments as he desires by the pressure of a finger upon electric buttons.

Man's Age of Strength.

At what age is a man's muscular strength greatest? It might be natural to suppose that with increasing age the muscles, which develop with constant use, would become stronger, but such is not the case.

It has been proved by experiment that the amount a man uses his muscles does not influence the increase and decline of strength.

These tests showed that where the average lifting power of a boy is 280 pounds, it should be increased by his twentieth year to 320 pounds. A maximum of 365 pounds, or thereabouts, should be attained by his thirtieth year, after which a decline in strength sets in. Between forty and fifty this decline is rapid.

Anglo-Saxon Umbrellas.

Umbrellas were used to keep off the rain by our Anglo-Saxon forefathers long before the Norman Conquest. An old Saxon MS. in the British museum has the accompanying picture of a servant holding an umbrella over his crowned lord. It is stated that when Queen Matilda reigned for a short troubled time umbrellas were in common use. In Queen Anne's reign the use of the umbrella was confined to two women. Jonas Hanway who died in 1786 re-introduced the umbrella into England for general use, whence it use spread to Europe and the world over.

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