

HOW

NATIVE OF SOLOMON ISLES COURTS HIS YOUNG BRIDE — In the case of more important members of a community in the Solomon Islands, a boy and girl are pledged to marry each other in their infancy—sometimes even before they are born.

The girl is tattooed from the wrist to the knees at about the age of thirteen or fourteen, and at a festival she parades with the other young girls quite naked, covered with bright yellow paint and wearing leaf garlands.

Here young bachelors dash forward and scrape off portions of the paint with palm leaves to retain as souvenirs. That night her husband comes to her but where are gathered also the parents of both bride and groom.

WHY

Leaves Change Their Colors in the Autumn.

What takes place when the leaves turn color in the autumn and gives the foliage such brilliant coloring is described as follows:

The green matter in the tissue of a leaf is composed of two colors, red and blue. When the sap ceases to flow in the autumn the natural growth of the tree is retarded and oxidation of the tissues takes place.

Under certain conditions the green of the leaf changes to red; under different aspects it takes on a yellow or brown hue. The difference in color is due to the difference in combination of the original constituents of the green tissues, and to the varying conditions of climate, exposure and soil.

Why Firefly Gives Light

How is it that a glowworm or firefly can produce light without heat? When man sets out to make light he can only use 3 per cent of the energy he employs.

How do animals sense coming danger when man cannot do so? In the great heat wave of 1921 hundreds of rabbits were seen to desert their burrows on a Yorkshire moor.

How Steel is Tempered

Chopping a cold crowbar into chunks with an ax and whittling a steel rod into shavings with a pocket-knife are made simple performances through a process of steel tempering.

The process consists in the use of certain chemicals in water or oil in the tempering vessel. It is declared that any kind of tool—from a blunt hammer head to a keen-edged razor—can be tempered to a perfection never before attained.

How "Rook" Started

The game of chess originated in the Far East, and the piece that we now see shaped like a castle was in Persian, the "ruk", or soldier.

In India, where a form of chess was much played, the "ruk" or soldier, was represented as fighting from a sort of howdah carried on the back of an elephant. This elephant piece is still to be found in some elaborately carved sets of chessmen of antique manufacture.

But in Europe there seemed no particular reason for retaining the elephant, so the castle-shaped thing upon its back was alone retained, but the old Persian name was not dropped, it merely obtaining the easier pronunciation of "rook."

How Athens Got Emblem

How the olive tree came to be the emblem of Athens is told by Greek mythology. Two deities—Minerva and Neptune—wished to found a city on the same spot, and, referring the matter to Jove, the king of gods and men decreed that the privilege should be granted to whichever would bestow the most useful gift on the future inhabitants.

How to Make Cement

An effective cement for many substances can easily be made by soaking one part of glue in an equal quantity of water. The glue is removed before it has lost its primitive form, and the swollen mass is then dissolved in one part of linseed oil with the aid of heat until a jelly is formed.

How Pails Are Made

Paper water buckets that are used by railroads are usually made from wood fiber reduced to a pulp, mixed with a suitable binder, which is a water-resistant glue, and molded to proper shape.

How to Make Fume Oak

Fumed oak is wood that has been darkened by the fumes from liquid ammonia. The ammonia does not touch the oak, but the gas that comes from it acts in such a manner upon the tannic acid in the wood that it is browned so deeply that a shaving or two may be taken off without removing the color.

Elephant Buries Master He Killed During Rage

An elephant, which was one of the finest in Ceylon and was known throughout the whole island, went wild at a kraal and ran amuck for several days. No one could approach him.

His mahout finally hit upon the idea of curing him by frightening him. He covered himself with a black cloth and approached the maddened elephant in this disguise. Unhappily he had reckoned without his host. The beast was not frightened, but seized the mahout and killed him.

Then the elephant dug a great hole in the ground with his feet, pushed the corpse into it and covered it with twigs and branches which he tore from the nearest trees.

The story may sound incredible, but many others besides myself witnessed the incident—it is absolutely true and known throughout Ceylon.—Memoirs of John Hasebrouck, Wild Animal Dealer, Summarized for the Neue Freie Presse (Vienna)

Magician of Africa Is Respected by Natives

In nearly every district in South Africa there is generally some old man who is a descendant of former witch doctors, to whom the surrounding natives go for advice.

He is usually a very old man, with teeth black from smoking "dagga" (a kind of hemp), a face all lined and wrinkles, and eyes that are coppered with the pale blue film of great age.

The natives from far and near consult him on many matters, causes of sickness, death and loss of stock. And his fee may be a fowl or a sheep or half a bag of grain or even in some cases a heifer.—Detroit News.

A Doctor's Life

The doctor sent a bill for \$10 to the terrible temper Mr. Bangs. The bill read, "Two visits—\$10."

"You're a robber," said Mr. Bangs. "Five dollars a visit! It isn't worth it!"

"I'll rewrite the bill," said the doctor, and Bangs smiled. They couldn't put anything like that over on him.

Then the doctor wrote: "To getting out of bed at 2 a. m., answering phone, discharging my wife, dressing, going to garage, cranking 'tin Lizzie,' two-mile drive in the cold, saving baby's life, returning to garage, making wife undressed, getting back into bed \$10."

He said to Bangs: "I won't make any charge for the second visit, and you need not pay for the first unless you feel I have earned the money." Mr. Bangs paid the bill.

By Compressed Air

Nowadays, in sinking caissons for bridges over certain rivers it is possible to make compressed air do the work of shovels in removing the sand through a thick stratum of which, in some cases the caisson is forced down toward the bedrock deep beneath.

Portraits of Shakespeare

Two portraits of Shakespeare are so entirely diverse to add plausibility to the problem, "What did Shakespeare really look like?" The painting called the Pelton portrait, first discovered in a broker's shop in the Minorities in 1788, by "a gentleman of fashion," shows him beardless except for a slight tuft of hair under the lower lip and a small fair mustache.

Gasoline is cheap, but the man who fools around with his cigarette at a dining station may manage to acquire unpopularity just the same.

A home girl has no chance in a small town for the same reason that the moon doesn't impress a night watchman. He's used to it.

The professor who tells his pupils not to study or smoke just before retiring is entitled to believe his advice will be heeded in part.

Water in the Earth Is Often Shut in Rocks

The water of the earth may be divided into three parts—that which rests on the surface, that which floats in the atmosphere and that which lies below the surface, says a report just issued by the Department of the Interior through the geological survey entitled "Out-line of Ground Water Hydrology, with Definitions," by O. E. Melzer.

Ground water is found partly in a zone that is saturated and partly in an overlying zone where it is suspended. The water in the zone of saturation is divided into two parts—that which supplies wells and springs and that which will not flow out of the rocks even when wells are drilled down to it; and the water held in suspension is divided into three parts—that which lies in the soil within the reach of plants, that which warms a capillary fringe, immediately above the zone of saturation, and that which lies between the soil water and the fringe water.

This the earth contains water that is available for plant growth and water that is not available for plant growth. Even that which is available for use to plants is divided into two parts—that which may be removed by evaporation and that which is called hygroscopic water, which is not removed even when the soil is fully exposed to the atmosphere for a long time.

Aeronauts Don't Land to Receive Messages

The British air service in Mesopotamia has perfected a scheme for delivering written messages to troops without the necessity of their landing and stopping to pick up the documents.

A line is stretched between two poles about six feet high and perhaps twenty feet apart. To this line the message is tied. By spreading large pieces of cloth on the ground in a pre-arranged pattern the pilot of the aircraft is signaled that there is a message for him.

The selected plane swoops low over the poles and the pilot drops a line to the end of which is attached a hook. This engages the line which the message is tied to, and the message and all are dragged into the air. The pilot treads in his own path as the plane speeds away. If the message is to be delivered the plane simply flies to the point of delivery and drops the message.

The pilots have become very expert at picking up and dropping messages in this fashion.

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PATIENCE

THE quaint old-fashioned name of Patience has a doubly worthy significance. Not only does it represent an abstract virtue which religion deems all desirable but it is also one of the names of holiness. It means "bearing up" and is regarded entirely as an English name though its origin is with the Latins.

The title Plus, applied first to faithful Alial love as in the "Aeneid," came to have a higher significance with the advent of Christianity. Under Antonine Pius it became the name of a martyr pope and later was used most frequently as one of the papal appellatives. Pius, the feminine, is still in use in Italy.

The English translated the virtue expressed in the title of Plus into their Patience, occasionally varying it with Pity and Prudence, which they seem to consider identical. The Puritans are responsible for the vogue of Patience both in England and in this country.

When a million-mark note is tendered the permission to keep the change sounds large, but actually means very little.

The first woman physician in the United States was licensed in 1840, but sulphur and molasses were treated long before that.

Tapestry Depicts U. S. Troops on Way to War

Paris.—The large tapestry entitled "Departure of American Troops From Philadelphia," which the French government is to present to the United States, is nearing completion in the government tapestry works at Beauvais.

Six selected weavers have been three years making the piece. The tapestry destined for the United States, 88 square meters in area, represents artillerymen marching in a street. In the foreground is a mounted color-bearer carrying a big American flag. In the wide border the deeds of Lafayette and Pershing are linked together with the dates 1776 and 1917.

U. S. Birth Certificates Peddled to Immigrants

New York.—American birth certificates are peddled to immigrants at European ports with the same freedom that million-mark notes are sold on the streets of New York, according to the testimony of August V. Tozzi, formerly president of the Italian Immigrant society and now in the foreign exchange business at 4 State street, before the joint legislative committee investigating the exploitation of immigrants.

Mr. Tozzi said also that passports, never used from a United States port, were made out wholesale and mailed to Europe to help in evading immigration laws. These passports were the usual permits issued to aliens admitted to the United States to visit their European homes for a period of six months, he said. The immigrant would assume the name of the resident to whom the passport was made out and enter this country without difficulty, the witness said.

Other witnesses testified that railroad agencies here sold American money to the immigrants and collected a fee of from 20 to 40 per cent. These agents come to the steamship piers and sell railroad tickets to the immigrants to points in the interior where they desire to go, while at the same time changing the immigrant's money into American money, it was explained.

To Dynamite Perch Which Kill Lake Trout

Okanogan, Wash.—Dynamite may be used to kill perch in Little Tiffany lake, near here, because of their ravages upon the small trout stock of the Tiffany lakes, according to Clay Fruit, chairman of the county game commission. Despite the expense of destroying the trout killers because of the limited killing range of each charge of dynamite, this method is suggested as the most feasible under the conditions existing at the lakes.

Perch are alleged to have been unlawfully placed in the smaller Tiffany lake by men developing a mining property in the vicinity. As it is against the law for any individual to stock a game lake, Mr. Fruit says he proposes to get a warrant for the arrest of the parties responsible.

Advertisement for Uncommon Sense by John Blake.

YOUR SNEERS

CONTEMPT, like a weed, grows without much cultivating. It is easy to be contemptuous of a man who doesn't wear your kind of clothes, who doesn't speak your particular patois, who doesn't do things in the way you do them.

Many young men despise others because they like rhubarb pie or have a habit of wearing yellow neckties. One of the difficulties of our doughboys in France was caused by their contempt of the French because the French couldn't understand the English language.

Contempt of that sort is provincialism, which is mere ignorance. It causes the country boy to be ridiculed in the city, and the city boy to be ridiculed in the country. It makes the New Yorker think that no town to the west of Hudson river is fit to live in or even worth visiting.

It makes the sailor look and feel uncomfortable ashore, and the landman an object of pity on shipboard. Travel and study will take a great deal of the contempt out of you. Experience will destroy most of the rest.

You are very likely to find that the funny looking little man who wears the seedy clothes is the president of a railroad, and the man who is feared and respected by far better men than you are.

You are due to discover that the eccentric lad you have been looking on as a nut is on his way to fame and success, and knows exactly how to attain both.

Study men and their methods before you become contemptuous of either. There are many sorts of people in the world, all with different ideas and different means of expressing them. It is quite possible that most of these are as able as you are. And if you meet at them now, your eyes may come home to embarrass you later. (© by John Blake.)

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