

Chestertown Transcript Daily.

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NO. 2.

THE END OF THE DAY.

I hear the bells at eventide
Peal softly one by one,
Near and far off they break and glide,
Across the stream float faintly beautiful.
The antiphonal bells of Hull;
The day is done, done, done,
The day is done.
The dew has gathered in the flowers
Like tears from some unconscious deep.
The swallows whirl around the towers,
The light runs out beyond the long
cloud bars
And leaves the single stars;
'Tis time for sleep, sleep, sleep,
'Tis time for sleep.

The hermit thrush begins again,
Timorous creemite,
That song of risen tears and pain,
As if the one he loved was far away:
"Alas! another day—
And now good night, good night,
Good night!"

—Duncan Campbell Scott in Youth's Companion.

A Mine Under the Sea.

There are in England several coal and metalliferous mines which extend and are worked at a considerable distance out to sea. But perhaps the most remarkable submarine coal mine is that at Nanaimo, on Departure bay, beyond Victoria, B. C. This mine is known as the Wellington, and its galleries are situated 600 feet below the surface of the ocean, which here incloses an archipelago of islands very similar to the Thousand islands at the head of the St. Lawrence river. The galleries of this pit, which are continually developing, extend at present a length of six miles under the bottom of the waters of the Pacific ocean.

Nearly the whole population of the town of Nanaimo, amounting to nearly 1,000, is engaged in the mines of the place, the average daily wages per head being from twelve to twenty-three shillings. Liberal as this payment appears to be the cost of living in that inhospitable region is so high that the miners can after all only just make both ends meet.—Iron.

Natural Sand Blasts.

The idea of cutting designs on glass by forcing sand against the surface of plates and vessels of that material was first suggested by one of nature's freaks, just as hundreds of other inventions have been. An observing young man who was summering on the coast of New England noticed that the windstorms in that section frequently gathered up large loads of sand and hurled it with much force against exposed window panes, and that these within a very short time were worn through and had to be replaced. In places where they were protected by leaves, vines, mosquito netting, etc., the glistening surface was left intact. He set about utilizing old nature's hint at once, the result being a machine which does work that cannot even be imitated in any other way.—St. Louis Republic.

His Memory Was Weak.

An elderly widower was so dull and stupid that it was very difficult to marry him. When told to give his right hand, he gave his left; when the minister said "Say this after me," he immediately remarked "Say this after me." But when the words he was to repeat were given, he was stolidly silent.

"At last," says the narrator, "he saw that I was somewhat bothered by his extreme stupidity, so in the middle of the service he upset my gravity by volunteering the following apology, 'You see, sir, it's so long since I was married afore that you must excuse my forgetting of these things.'"—Cornhill Magazine.

One of the Earliest Weapons.

The sling was one of the earliest inventions in the way of a weapon, and was itself an improvement on the stone thrown by hand, which was the rudest and most primitive method of fighting.—Harper's Young People.

Jewish Vacations.

Of the Jewish vacations there are, first, the Sabbatical institutions of the Old Testament, viz., the weekly Sabbath, the seventh new moon or Feast of trumpets, the Sabbatical year and the year of jubilee. Besides these there were the great feasts, Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles, together with the two of later times—Purim and that of the Dedication. The time spent in these observances required frequent and in some cases protracted suspension of labor.

To the Jews living in the remote districts of Palestine, particularly the pilgrimages to and from Jerusalem, together with the time spent in the actual celebration of the feasts, which in the case of the Passover and Tabernacles was each eight days, meant an amount of migratory recreation and rest from the ordinary occupations of life year by year greater proportionately than that obtained in the vacation of these days.—New York Independent.

The Artist and His Kaleidoscope.

The kaleidoscope is of wonderful assistance in geometrical drawing, and people who suppose that this little toy is of no use will probably be surprised to learn that the greatest portion of the geometrical designs employed in art and architecture are copied by the artist from the figures produced by the kaleidoscope. The instruments employed are somewhat larger than the toys sold in the shops, and some of them are fastened upon stands in such a way as will enable the draftsman to retain his instrument in the same position for a considerable length of time, and thus give him an opportunity to make copies of the figures produced.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Heathen Men of Mashoupa.

Mashoupa was once the residence of a missionary, but the church is now abandoned and falling into ruins, because when asked to repair the edifice at their own expense the men of Mashoupa waxed wroth, and replied irreverently that God might repair his own house, and one old man who received a blanket for his reward for attending divine service is reported to have remarked when the dole was stopped, "No more blanket, no more halleluiah." I fear me the men of Mashoupa are wedded to heathendom.—Fortnightly Review

A Wooden Statue in Tokio.

In Tokio, the capital of Japan, there exists a gigantic statue of a woman, made of wood and plaster and dedicated to Hachiman, the god of war. In height it measures fifty-four feet; the head alone, which is reached by a winding stairway in the interior of the figure, being large enough to comfortably hold twenty persons. The figure holds a huge wooden sword in one hand (the blade of the weapon being twenty-seven feet long) and a ball twelve feet in diameter in the other.

Internally the figure is fitted up with an extraordinary anatomical arrangement, supposed to represent the different portions of the brain. A fine view of the country is obtained by looking through one of the eyes of the statue.—London Tit-Bits.

The gay feathers of the parrot are particularly valuable to many Indian tribes, and some dances cannot be held without them, though the Indians have to travel hundreds of miles into Mexico to get them.

W. J. Florence, the comedian, once offered \$5,000 for a catch phrase about which an American comedy could be written. Nobody supplied the demand.

The chief cause of the decline of population in France is the vast standing army, it being impracticable for the soldiers to marry.

What We Want Is Sounds.

We have no symbols to represent the sound of a sigh, a kiss, a chirp, a groan, though characters expressive of these would be of great service to novelists; but, on the other hand, we have three distinct characters—f, ff and ph—expressing exactly the same sound.

Then how imperfect and arbitrary we are in the use of those symbols which we possess; th is all we can do to express the initial sound of thing and thine, though a Welsh writer can show the difference by making the former an aspirated t, the latter an aspirated d; yet in this respect we are better off than the French, who cannot employ the aspirated dental at all. Englishmen are inclined to wonder why the Chinese, with all their ancient civilization, have no symbol for the consonant r, and are apt to forget that, except at the beginning of a syllable, that letter has become in their own language a mute redundancy.

The following sentence, for example, might be perfectly well expressed in Chinese characters, "Sour barts are more alarming than certain earls," for, in colloquial English, not one of these seven r's would be trilled.—Blackwood's Magazine.

Early Railway Traveling.

The first regular train service in England commenced on the Liverpool and Manchester railway on Friday, Sept. 17, 1825, two days after the opening of the line. It was not on a very ambitious scale; three trains each way on week days and two on Sundays were deemed quite sufficient. The novelty of the thing, however, at first and very soon its proved safety and efficiency, led at once to a much larger traffic than had been anticipated, and as soon as the company could obtain more rolling stock the service was increased.

For a time people who had ventured to risk their lives by the new mode of conveyance were the objects of admiration for their courage or of contempt for their foolhardiness; but one by one the coaches had to be taken off the road, and everybody went by rail.

The time occupied in the journey was at first seldom more than two hours and often less, the distance being thirty-one miles; but even this rate was too fast for some people, for a gentleman, writing about six weeks after the opening of the line, says the speed was too great to be pleasant and caused him to feel somewhat giddy.—Cornhill Magazine.

The Girdle Is Useful.

A most useful article for ladies to have in their possession is a girdle, the like of which a friend of mine has just brought from Paris. The girdle is made of gold lace or filigree, substantial, but not harsh, and is studded all over with jewels of various colors. The ends are passed around the waist from the front, crossing behind, and, again coming forward, are allowed to fall in front or on one side, being fastened loosely shortly below the waist. The ends are finished off with gold fringe.

The girdle is most adaptable and can be worn with a morning wrapper, a tea gown, or an evening dress. When I saw it, it was associated with a summer tea gown of pretty design. The material was a combination of cotton and wool in pale blue, with white stripes. It had a sailor collar, with narrow lace edging and lace cuffs. The garment was decidedly loose, and of fair length behind.—Philadelphia Press.

One Day's Liberty.

Mr. Neater—I wish you wouldn't let little Dot play with such a dirty ragamuffin as that boy she is with out there on the street.

Mrs. Neater—Why, that's little Dick, your own son. I've been away all day and he's been doing as he pleased.—Good News.

Testing Counterfeit Coins.

"Here's the way we test coins in the treasury." And the expert swiftly poised the dollar piece horizontally on the tip of his forefinger, holding the thumb a quarter of an inch away from it and gave it a brisk tap with another coin. A clear silvery ring sounded out. "Good, but here; listen;" and he repeated the operation with another coin that gave out a dull, heavy clink that ceased almost as soon as it began. "Type metal and lead; molded too. That is a wretched counterfeit." "How do you tell that it was molded?" He held the two coins so that the light struck on their edges.

"Just compare the reeding, will you, or milling, as most people call it? In this genuine coin this is very clear and sharp cut, in the counterfeit it is coarse and dull. That is because it is molded instead of being stamped in cold metal like the government coins." "Why do the counterfeiters not use the same cold process?" "It costs too much and makes too much noise. With a mold, you see, a counterfeiter can carry on his work in a garret and if a policeman comes in he can shy the whole outfit out of the window. But it takes great power to run a die. Still some high flying counterfeiters do use them, and their work is usually harder to detect, though it is never so perfect as that of the government mint."

"What is the surest test for counterfeit coin for popular use?" "The looks of the reeding, as I was telling you—the milling, by the way, is on the face of the coin and not on the edge, as most people think. That's the surest and easiest thing, but of course other tests have to be used, especially for weight and thickness."—Springfield Republican.

Marriage Experiences.

It was the lot of a young parson to be embarrassed by the appeals of two young women who wanted to marry the same bridegroom. The first corner of these had scarcely told how her faithless lover had actually put up the banns in the East End parish when the delinquent turned up with an idiotic grin on his face and a gayly appareled young woman on his arm. What could the parson—then a young and bashful curate—do but invite the trio into the vestry room, there to discuss the business. Luckily for him, it speedily leaked out that there had been no legal residence in his parish, which afforded him at once a sufficient ground for declining to perform the ceremony.

On another occasion the awful discovery was made that the bride had by accident been described in the marriage license by her pet name. It was suggested that an affidavit of identity sworn at a neighboring police court might repair the blunder. This was done just in time to complete the ceremony within canonical hours, but the accommodating clergyman afterward received a stern admonishment from high quarters "not to do it again."—Cornhill Magazine.

The Jews and the Moon.

Dr. Goldziher refers to the occasional lunolatry of the Jews. "Queen or princess of heaven," he writes, "is a very frequent name for the moon. Even in the latest times the Hebrews called the moon the 'Queen of Heaven,' and paid her divine honors in this character at the time of the captivity. What was the antiquity of this lunar worship among the Hebrews is testified (as has long been known) by the part played by Mount Sinai in the history of the Hebrew religion. The mountain must in ancient times have been consecrated to the moon."

The peculiar symbol of Ashtaroth and the other lunar deities appears to have been a heifer or a figure with a heifer's head and horns resembling the crescent moon.—London Standard.