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NOT DRIED CURRANTS

A LEARNED GROCER COMMENTS UPON A COMMON MISTAKE.

The Tiny Fruit Used In Cake, Puddings, Buns and the Like Are Raisins Made From Little Grapes That Are Grown In Greece.

"Mother wants a pound of dried currants," said a little girl who came into the learned grocer's store in Eighth avenue.

"I hain't got a dried currant in the store and there hain't none in the city," replied the learned grocer. "But I know what you want, sissy, and I've got 'em."

The learned grocer brought forth a box of the little, sticky, sugary, gritty currants used in fruit cake, plum puddings, mince pies, buns and the like.

"Why, them's 'em!" exclaimed the little girl.

"Yes; them's 'em," assented the grocer, "and if the Grecian maiden who trod this particular lot of 'em into shipshape had used a little water or even a feather duster on her feet before she began there wouldn't be so much grit in 'em as there is. She must have been having a regular hoedown on the classic sands before she began to dance on this box of fruit. There, sissy; tell your mother she must bathe 'em in several waters before she uses 'em, or she might just as well put a lot of sandpaper in her fruit cake. And tell her that they ain't dried currants either."

"What's the reason they ain't dried currants?" demanded a disputative customer when the girl had gone.

"They ain't dried currants any more than they are dried pumpkins," replied the grocer. "The reason they ain't dried currants is that they weren't currants before they were dried. Good reason enough, ain't it?"

"Yes," said the customer, less disputative than he was. "But what does everybody call them dried currants for then?"

"'Cause they don't know any better," said the learned grocer. "They'll go right on coming in here and asking for dried currants just the same after I tell 'em why they ain't dried currants as they did before."

"What should they ask for, then?" inquired the customer.

"If any man should come in here and ask for dried corinths," replied the learned grocer, "he would not necessarily be a gentleman, but I'd bet on him being a scholar. Dried corinths is what you should ask for when you want this little sugar coated, gritty raisin, for it's a raisin pure and simple."

"How's that?" the customer wanted to know.

"Because it was a grape before it was dried," said the grocer, "and if raisins ain't grapes what are they?"

"But you said these were dried corinths," persisted the customer. "What's a corinth, anyhow?"

"A corinth is the smallest grape that grows," replied the learned grocer, "and it lost its name years and years ago because it was gradually corrupted into 'currant,' which became also the name of the acidulated little berry of our garden, which you might dry from now until Gabriel sounds his horn without getting it nearer the condition of a raisin than a pea is.

"This little grape grows all over the islands of the Grecian archipelago and was first exported from Corinth, and that's what gave it its proper name. The bunches don't grow much bigger than a stem of red currants, and they are so full of sugar that when they are picked and dried in the sun they actually seem to melt and run together like gumdrops, and it takes a lot of care and work to separate them again.

"After they are separated is the time when the Grecian maiden gets her work in on 'em, for it is one of her pleasant duties to jump on a heap of the sticky stuff with her bare feet until she has compressed enough of the little raisins to squeeze three boxes of them into one. No hydraulic pump could do it better. If it could, we wouldn't have the sand and grit the maiden's feet mingle with the fruit, and without that no dried corinths are genuine.

"Still, I shall expect folks to come in here right along and ask for dried currants just the same," said the learned grocer as he went to wait on a new customer.—New York Press.

Pitch and Toss.

The professor happened in at the doctor's the other morning and found him polishing the belongings on the sideboard.

"Improving the shining hours, are you?" he said.

"No, sir," replied the doctor. "I'm improving the shining ewers."

"H'm!" ejaculated the professor. "Whose are they?"

"They're ours."

"Well, isn't that what I said?"—Chicago Tribune.

Family Factions.

Caller—Wasn't that Miss Robinson who just left?

Ethel—That was my Aunt Carrie Robinson.

Caller—Oh, your aunt, eh? On your mother's side?

Ethel—Not much! She sticks up for papa all the time.—Philadelphia Press.

Warning Mr. W.

Wimble—A judge in one of the courts has decided that a man has a right to remain out all night if he wants to.

Mrs. W.—Don't let that worry you, Wimble. That judge hasn't jurisdiction in this household.—Boston Transcript.

The art of manicure is many centuries old, having had its birth in the dim old convents of France, where the patient nuns practiced it on the hands of the noble ladies brought up within their walls.

A MUTUAL SURPRISE.

The Meeting Between an Ambitious Hunter and His First Grizzly.

In "Sketches of Life In the Golden State" Colonel Albert S. Evans tells an amusing anecdote of an ambitious hunter who met his first grizzly bear—in procession. The incident occurred in the woods near the site of the present town of Monterey.

The hunter sat down to rest in the shade of a tree and unwittingly went to sleep. When he woke, it was near sunset, and he sat up, rubbing his eyes and contemplating a return to his hotel several miles distant.

Just then a rustling and cracking noise from a clump of chaparral about 100 yards away attracted his attention. Out walked a grizzly bear, a monarch of his kind. He yawned, licked his jaws and then advanced toward the tree where our hunter sat, but evidently was unconscious of his presence.

His grizzly majesty had proceeded about 20 paces when a female bear followed him, and an instant later a third grizzly followed her at a slow, shambling pace.

The hunter sat spellbound with terror as the procession came toward him until the forward grizzly was within 30 yards. Then, scarcely realizing what he did, he sprang to his feet and uttered a frenzied yell—yell upon yell!

The effect was magical. The foremost bear sprang into the air, turned sharply about, knocked the female down, rolled over her, gathered himself up and bolted "like 40 cartloads of rock going down a shoot," straight for the chaparral again, the other two bears close at his heels and never turning to see what had frightened them.

The hunter, seeing the enemy retreating, sprang to his feet and fled at top speed for the hotel, leaving hat and gun behind. The truth of his wild and startling tale was proved the next day by the numerous bear tracks of different sizes found in the marshy ground near by. But the three bears had gone off beyond pursuit.

SINKING SHIPS.

They Don't Linger In Midocean, but Go to the Bottom.

What becomes of the ships that sink at sea? Do they go all the way to the bottom or do they meet somewhere under the surface a certain pressure that buoys them up and holds them in equilibrium? Somebody, we forget who it is, has given rein to his grewsome fancy and pictured all the ships that have been lost in midocean as wandering about like so many ghosts half way between the surface and the bottom.

There is no foundation whatever for such a notion, though many persons have it. Any object that will sink beneath the surface of the sea will go all the way to the bottom. The pressure encountered on the way down, which is simply enormous in the deeper parts, has nothing to do with the object's sinking, for it is exerted on the object as well as on the water, thus equalizing the conditions.

The reason why the object sinks to the bottom is that water is not compressible; at least it is so little so that its density at the bottom of the sea is only a trifle greater than it is at the surface. Scientists tell us that the water at the bottom is just about as much denser than the water at the surface as sea water is denser than fresh water.

This slight difference in density, therefore, does not and cannot stop the downward course of a sinking ship or any object that is heavy enough to sink rapidly beneath the surface. Pressure, as we have said, is not a factor in the case at all.—Chicago Record.

A Bone "Library."

There is a lending library of human bones in London. It is intended for the use of medical students, and the bones are lent out in exactly the same manner as books from a circulating library. The entire collection is valued at £5,000 and contains besides human bones the skeletons of horses, dogs, cats, oxen and sheep—all animals that the veterinary surgeon is likely to be called upon to treat. The present market price of a human skeleton is from £6 to £20, according to its condition. A skull may be worth anything from 5s. to £1. For a payment of 6d. a student can borrow any part of the skeleton that he desires to study and may retain it for one week. A complete skeleton can be borrowed from the library for the sum of 15s. down and a deposit of £5.—London Answers.

Her Proposals.

Talking of the Baroness Burdett-Coutts Lord Houghton said: "Miss Coutts likes me because I never proposed to her. Almost all the young men of good family did. Those who did their duty by their family always did. Mrs. Browne (Miss Coutts' companion) used to see it coming and took herself out of the way for ten minutes, but she only went into the next room and left the door open, and then the proposal took place, and immediately it was done Miss Coutts coughed, and Mrs. Browne came in again."—Augustus J. C. Hare's Recollections.

The Mystery of Gout.

It is better to confess ignorance than to assume false knowledge. In spite of the careful study that has been given to the subject of gout it must be admitted that we are as yet uninformed as to its exact nature.—Medical Record.

Pneumonia Can be Prevented.

This disease always results from a cold or an attack of the grip and may be prevented by the timely use of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. That remedy was extensively used during the epidemics of La Grippe of the past few years, and not a single case has ever been reported that did not recover or that resulted in pneumonia, which shows it to be a certain preventive of that dangerous disease. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has gained a world-wide reputation for its cures of colds and grip. For sale by M. A. Toulson, druggist.

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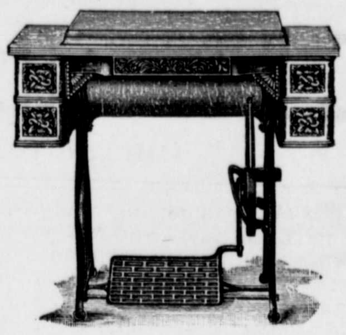

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