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CHESTERTOWN, MD.

A Strange Pirate Story.

In the museum at Kingston, Jamaica, there are some tattered ships' papers, brown with age and salt water, and a small tin canister. These articles attest the truth of the strangest pirate story ever told.

In 1799 the crew of the Nancy brig were apparently honest traders, but did some piracy now and then on the side. One day they found it necessary to go into Kingston for supplies. Before doing so they naturally removed all traces of their buccaneering trade. Among other things they threw overboard this tin canister stuffed with papers taken from ships they had sunk, with comments written on the margin by the pirate captain.

Later in the day a British frigate was becalmed near the spot, and the sailors spent their leisure catching sharks. Presently they hauled up a big fellow, cut him open and found the tin case with the papers inside. These were taken to the captain, who as soon as a breeze sprung up sailed into Kingston harbor, found the Nancy brig there and had the crew tried, convicted and hanged in chains at Port Royal.

Lacemaking.

The birth of lacemaking dates back to the days of Greek maidens who watched the spider make its web and copied the pattern with fine threads of flax. The art has developed to the point of producing brussels point, which is so delicate in texture that the dryness of the air makes the threads brittle; therefore the makers of the finest kinds have to work in damp cellars, using magnifying glasses. On the altar cloths and vestments of the church will be seen the most beautiful of the old rose point as it was made by the nuns in their convent cells and dedicated to the use of the church. Every one is familiar with the painting of "Queen Bess, the Dress Lover," which shows her with high ruffles embroidered with seed pearls. The portraits of Queen Charlotte display this keenest of lace lovers in hoops of balloon-like flounces of her priceless lace. Queen Victoria preferred to lay away in lavender boxes the piles of inherited laces.

A Curious Wedding Present.

Among the Brass river tribes of west Africa when a young couple get married it is the custom for the oldest member of the bride's family to present the bride with a plot of ground six feet long. This is for the grave of her family and herself when they die.

The first member of the new family who dies is buried about twenty feet below ground and the next one almost sixteen feet, and this goes on until all the family die and are buried. The grave holds them all, and this, they think, prevents them from being separated.

This grewsome wedding present is the one most valued by the bride, the favorite native saying being, "When all other things are gone this remains."

Quaint Holland Customs.

They have quaint customs in Holland. One of these is placing the laundry at the top of the house. The clothes are sent away to be washed and bleached, and when they are returned they are drawn up to the laundry by means of a pulley and dangle for a time right in the drawing room windows, to the infinite delectation of the guests. But, as an offset to this peculiarity, the bathroom—when there is a bathroom, which is not often—is placed in the cellar. It is the dry cellar, where potatoes and such things are stored, and the tub is an immense iron thing, with a cover that is divided into halves.

The Largest Domes.

Some of the largest domes in the world are the Pantheon at Rome, 142 feet diameter, 143 high; baths of Caracalla, Rome, 112 feet diameter, 116 feet high; St. Sophia, Constantinople, 115 feet diameter, 201 feet high; St. Maria delle Fure, Florence, 139 feet diameter, 310 feet high; St. Peter's, Rome, 139 feet diameter, 330 feet high; St. Paul's, London, 112 feet diameter, 215 feet high.

The Price of Experience.

"What did you buy with that money your uncle left you?"

"I bought experience," was the rueful reply.

"Spend it all for that?"

"My dear sir, I never was much on bargain day affairs, and the ordinary price of experience is all that you've got."—Chicago Post.

Her Modest Wish.

"Sometimes," said the poet, "I almost get to thinking I would rather have been born rich than a genius."

"Oh, dear," his wife replied, "I don't go to such extravagant extremes. If you'd only been born with a longing to go out and get a job somewhere I'd be satisfied."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Inquisitive.

"I'd like to know"— began the little boy.

"Well, what would you like to know?" asked his mother.

"I'd like to know why sweetbreads haven't any bread in 'em and sweetmeats haven't any meat in 'em."—Baltimore American.

Monuments of Woe.

"Did you notice Mr. Jones' new teeth?" asked Mrs. Sharpeye. "I never saw anything so ghastly. They look like gravestones."

"Yes," said Miss Sinnie Cal, "I presume he had them placed in memory of his lost ones."—New York Press.

An Essential.

Would Be Writer—What do you consider the most important qualification for a beginner in literature?

Old Hand—A small appetite.

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