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FRENCH CONSCRIPTS.

Marked by Bad Clothes and an Absence of Baggage.

"They are a curious crowd," says a writer describing the conscripts of the French army, "these boys of twenty and of twenty-one, in various stages of sobriety, as they throng on to the platforms of the railway stations and, under the fire of gentle and superior sarcasm from the young men in uniform who have already done a year or two, climb into the third class cattle pens which are to take them to the threshold of their lives in barracks. The sons of wealthy men elbow the scourings of the street.

"All wear their worst clothes, except those who do not possess a second suit. The chief peculiarity about the whole of them is an entire absence of luggage. A young friend of by own was one of them. His luggage for the two days of his first visit to Paris consisted of a comb and an extremely aged toothbrush, and before leaving Paris he asked me to keep his overcoat for him till he returned. 'They will only spoil it, and it is a new one,' was his plea.

"I counted the valises of a whole train load of conscripts who accompanied my friend, and they numbered exactly four. 'Those four will have their lives teased out of them tomorrow,' was the verdict of a private under arms upon the platform."

ANIMAL STRIKERS.

Both Birds and Beasts Occasionally Refuse to Work.

Both birds and beasts occasionally go on strike, according to observers. A herd of horses will bunch together, neglect their food, become restive, neigh and rub noses when in a field. The outcome is that the herd will not allow themselves to be saddled or harnessed and will chase and attempt to kick the attendants. Female birds take tantrums and refuse to do the housework. They desert their nests and leave their eggs to become cold and barren. The male naturally becomes greatly concerned, but with the bird and beast creation the male will never attack the female, so there is no remedy. Warblers and starlings are given greatly to these strikes.

A species of black ants have little yellow ants which do most of their work for them. Occasionally the yellow species will go on a strike. Their food supply is cut off, but if that does not avail the strikers are attacked or another lot of yellow ants are secured.

Even the rabbit is a hardened striker. In rabbit colonies the stronger rabbits do most of the burrowing, and as often as perhaps once in two years these become discontented and refuse to work.

BOILING WATER.

Why a Redhot Poker Does Not Cause It to Hiss.

If a redhot poker be thrust into cold water it hisses and sputters; if into boiling water, there is no commotion.

When in the first experiment cold water comes in contact with the hot iron there is a sudden and explosive generation of steam, which causes the liquid to be scattered with a hissing noise, consequent upon the bursting of innumerable bubbles.

When, on the other hand, a poker is thrust into boiling water, which is already freely giving forth steam, the introduction of the hot iron by still further assisting steam production causes the poker to become at once surrounded by a sheath of vapor, which effectually prevents the water from coming into actual contact with the metal.

This sheath of vapor is comparatively a bad conductor of heat, so that but little passes from the iron to the water. There is no commotion, and the poker can be withdrawn still glowing brightly.—London Answers.

An Irish King of Portugal.

An Irishman was once king of Portugal, or at least he once ruled in the king's stead over that country. In November, 1640, there was a revolution in Portugal, brought about by the tyrannical exactions of Miguel Vasconcellos, the secretary of state. The hated minister was shot and the vice queen, Margaret of Savoy, abdicated. The crown was offered to the Duke of Braganza, who was living at Villavicosia. Meanwhile, until the duke should accept the crown, the people of Lisbon elected a popular and influential Irish merchant, named John Darcy, who resided in the city, as their nominal king. Darcy accepted the honor conferred upon him and bore the title of "king of Portugal" from Dec. 1 to Dec. 6, 1640.

Living Stones.

The visitor to the Falkland isles sees scattered here and there singular shaped blocks of what appear to be weather beaten and moss covered bowlders in various sizes. Attempt to turn one of these bowlders over, and you will meet with a real surprise, because the stone is actually anchored by roots of great strength; in fact, you will find that you are trifling with one of the native trees. No other country in the world has such a peculiar "forest" growth.

Hopeless Case.

"Do you enjoy classical music?" asked the young woman.

"Yes, miss," answered Mr. Cumrox; "I enjoy it much, but I never can get over the idea that the tunes would sound better if they were played by a mandolin or banjo club."—Washington Star.

Nearer the Mark.

Briggs—Do you believe that the world is divided into two classes—those who borrow and those who lend? Gregory—No, sir; my experience is that two other classes are much more prevalent—those who want to borrow and those who won't lend.

THE LOST PARADISE

THEORIES AS TO THE LOCATION OF THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

The Consensus of Learned Opinion Supports the Belief That Adam and Eve's Original Home Was on the Great Babylonian Plain.

Almost every spot of the globe has had the claim made on its behalf that it is the site of vanished Eden. Most persons seem agreed on the fact that paradise has disappeared from our midst. The question is, Where was it situated? To those who deny the Biblical story of man's genesis the question takes another form, and they perplex themselves as to the spot in which man first appeared on this earth. Some evade the difficulty by saying that man appeared in many different spots—that he did not spring from one original.

If we accept the doctrine of the Darwinians we are forced to confess that the place where man first evolved must have been anything but a garden of Eden. It must have been a haunt of mere animalism, and its food would certainly not have been fruit. Roughly speaking, therefore, there are two schools—those who believe that man came from a divine original, but fell away from his first estate, to which with infinite labor he may return, and those who believe that he evolved from the beast and is still evolving to the greatness that he may ultimately attain. Setting aside these somewhat discordant theories, we may well ask, Where was Eden?

The soundest scientists are agreed that mankind came from a single origin—whether a distinct creation or an evolution is beside the mark—and the original man must have had a local habitation. The geographical manuals and maps of the middle ages leave a good deal to be desired in the matter of accurate detail, but they have at least the merit of boldness, and if we go to them for an answer to our question we may get something like a definite reply. According to an old map of the thirteenth century, paradise is a circular island lying near India. It is surrounded by a wall in which is a gateway opening to the west. The gate is closed and the wall quite insurmountable. Our later atlases do not locate this happy island.

Other early maps would have us believe that Eden lay in central China. We can go with these ancient geographers so far as to place the probable site of man's birthplace in Asia, but the consensus of learned opinion does not incline either to India or China. Eminent authority supports the idea that Eden lay somewhere on the great Babylonian plain, watered by the Tigris and the Euphrates—the Perath and Hiddekel of Genesis. Other authorities give their vote for Armenia, possibly influenced by the tradition which says that the Ark rested on Mount Ararat, but this tradition would only point to Armenia as the probable first home of postdiluvian man.

Professor Delitzsch and Professor Sayce favor Babylon; Heidegger favors Palestine; Media, Arabia and the upper Nile have all their supporters. Quatrefages, treating the subject solely from a scientific standpoint, concludes that linguistic and other human types point to central Asia, but does not decide on any precise locality.

With the author of Genesis, as Dr. Kalisch has remarked, "Eden is geographically described in a manner which leaves no doubt that distinct locality was before the mind of the author." Even to those who think that this author was building on uncertain traditions it must yet be of interest to know what this locality was. Babylon was the most fertile land known to the ancient world; its poorest fields repaid cultivation fiftyfold, its better a hundredfold. Its luxuriance of fruit and grain was so great as to be actually embarrassing. There is no question at all that this district was the seat of Asia's earliest civilization and therefore why not say of the world's?

The idea of man created perfect and living in a garden of fruitful loveliness has always had a fascination for poor humanity, recognizing its present imperfections and the frequent distressing dismalness of its present surroundings. Even those who knew nothing of the Bible story pictured such a spot for themselves. Every early mythology has its fortunate isles, its Atlantis, its Hesperides, its Arcadia and its Golden Age.

Some persons even conjectured that paradise had not been on the earth at all, but was an island floating in the air, something like the island visited by Gulliver. They did not wish to think that the sacred spot could be submerged by the waters of the deluge, and by this device they raised it above any such calamity. On this island dwelt the sacred phenix; the well of life flowed there, the elixir of immortality; leaves never fell from the trees; the sun shone always on a perpetual summer. Men declined to believe that Eden had been destroyed forever. They preferred to imagine that its gates were closed to them for a season. To deem that such a spot could vanish seemed sacrilegious.

Many an early voyager and explorer had strange dreams of discovering some earthly paradise when he set out for unknown shores—dreams perhaps not spoken, but secretly nourished and strengthened by unconquerable force of romantic superstition that lived in the heart of ages in other ways so dark. Even the Elizabethans dreamed always of some more wonderful country to be discovered. Their toils and perils and fightings had ever the redeeming glamour of romance. In those days was the true poetry of travel. There was always some El Dorado, some hidden Eden, to be reached.—Kansas City Independent.



THE GUARDIAN OF OUR BODY.

The foremost biologist of our day, M. Metschnikoff, has shown the world of science that there are leucocytes in our blood that act as scavengers or policemen. These policemen which are called *phagocytes* look out for the noxious or poisonous elements in our blood. Various offending elements are picked out of the blood and tissues by these policemen and destroyed. Therefore our lives are protected by these blood-cell-policemen, the *phagocytes*, and we enjoy immunity from disease so long as our blood contains plenty of phagocytes and red blood corpuscles.

"A new broom sweeps clean"—and in order to put our own house in order we must get rid of all the poisons in the blood with a new broom such as an alterative extract made from roots and herbs—without the use of alcohol, as Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, a specific for making rich red blood—for eradicating the poisons from the blood. In some way the policemen in the blood are increased in number and strength—so that we are put in the best possible shape to resist disease—to cure neuralgia, colds, catarrh, and incipient consumption.

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