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(5.) TWO STORY HOUSE AND LOT on Cannon St. occupied by Mrs. Lydia C. Shaw, 90 ft. front, 6 rooms.

(6.) OFFICE BUILDING on Court St. adjoining office of Hope H. Barroll, Esq.

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HOLIDAYS IN MEXICO.

They Are Numerous, but Are Not All Local Celebrations.

The visitor in Mexico is apt to be surprised at the number of holidays celebrated here and made the occasion of rejoicing, with accompanying music and decoration, and is likely to think that the Mexican does nothing but celebrate.

With his religious and national feast days, the Mexican does have many holidays of more or less general importance, and when he is not celebrating these he may be celebrating the day of his patron saint or of that of some member of his family, so that it seems to require little inducement for him to celebrate. If a member of the family goes out of town for a few days or weeks, his return is celebrated in some mild way and his welcome home made pleasant.

But not all of the celebrations which take place in the capital are Mexican, as the foreign colonies contribute their share of feast days. The Americans celebrate their day of independence on the glorious Fourth of July, and ten days later the French celebrate the fall of the Bastille, and so it goes, the British celebrating the birthday of their king, the Italians the entry into Rome of the troops of united Italy, the Germans the birthday of the kaiser, the Swiss the day of the formation of the confederation. The Spanish celebrate the birthday of their king, and in September their feast of Corvodonga is important enough to last three days. No doubt there are other celebrations not so public or prominent, such as the Chinese New Year and others, but the above goes to show that not all the feasting in the capital is done by natives. An interesting point, however, is that foreigners who come to Mexico are soon the keenest for the coming of the various holidays, and Mexican, religious or their own, are jealously demanded as leisure days from all houses of business or commerce.—Modern Mexico.

CLIFF VINEYARDS.

The Farmer on the Rhine and the Difficulties He Surmounts.

Going down the Rhine you get a lesson in farming. If you wanted to buy a farm in America you would go out with a pick and spade and dig holes all over a 100 acre tract to make sure the soil was so and so and that there was not more than one stone to the rood. On these cliff vineyards along the Rhine it looks to you as if there was not more than a bushel of earth to the rood and that the rest was all stone.

In America you wouldn't buy a farm on the perpendicular surface of the Grand canyon, yet you imagine the bluffs of the Rhine seemed almost as impossible before the enterprising grapevines got a start there. There may be a few inches of space on the cliffs where some German has not made a terrace big enough for a bunch of grapes, but if any such spot has been overlooked you failed to discover it with your binoculars.

There are advantages in owning a vineyard on the Rhine. Next to the financial returns, the chief advantage lies in the glamour of romance that hangs over the bluffs. Frowning castles look down on you from the most inaccessible peaks.

"Who lives in that big brownstone house?" you ask a German passenger on your steamer as you round a bend.

"That is the castle of an old nobleman who kidnaped a beautiful maid and held her prisoner," you are informed. "When the knights of those days tried to rescue her, the old noble man would simply drop a big stone or two upon them as they attempted to climb the cliff. One day while rolling a stone down upon a knight the nobleman fell off and was killed."

"And now," you observe, "I suppose the place is for rent. Do you know how much the administrator wants for it?"—Chicago Post.

Mrs. Craigie's Habits of Work.

It had been Mrs. Craigie's habit for many years to begin her work at 8 o'clock in the morning, no matter how late she had been up the night before Off and on she wrote till 11:30, never being able to do more than half an hour's work at a time, a disability which makes the amount she produced the more amazing. After luncheon—even after a luncheon at the Carlton—she wrote again until it was time to pay calls and to talk at tea tables as idly as if she had been idle all day, a feat of unbending which few women and fewer men can perform. But after dinner she was always tired. "At night," she confessed, "I never by any chance do anything. I cannot even write a post card then."

August.

"August," the name of the month, is accented on the first syllable. "August," the adjective, is accented on the second syllable. This is due, no doubt, to the fact that, though both started from the Latin "augustus," they have arrived by different routes. The adjective is the French "auguste," while "August," commemorating the Roman emperor's title, is the French "aout" and the middle English "augst" or "aust." "July" used to rhyme with "duly," even in Johnson's time, as it had done centuries earlier and as it does in southern Scotland to this day.

In the Air.

Farmer Greene (who has been knocked down by a balloon anchor)—Gol dern 'em! I'll hev th' law on 'em! Whar's th' sheriff? Farmer Brown—No use kicking, Josh! Them critters is above the law, I reckon!—Houston Post.

It is not enough to run; one must start in time.—French Proverb.

TWO ALPHABET LETTERS.

"J" and "W" Comparatively Recent Additions to the List.

It is a fact, not so well known but that it may be said to be curious, that the letters j and w are modern additions to our alphabet. The letter j only came into general use during the time of the commonwealth, say between 1649 and 1658. From 1630 to 1646 its use is exceedingly rare, and I have never yet seen a book printed prior to 1652 in which it appeared.

In the century immediately preceding the seventeenth it became the fashion to tail the last i when Roman numerals were used, as in this example, viij for 8 or xij in place of 12. This fashion still lingers, but only in physicians' prescriptions, I believe. Where the French use j it has the power of s as we use it in the word "vision." What nation was the first to use it as a new letter is an interesting but perhaps unanswerable query.

In a like manner the printers and language makers of the latter part of the sixteenth century began to recognize the fact that there was a sound in spoken English which was without a representative in the shape of an alphabetical sign or character, as in the first sound in the word "wet."

Prior to that time it had always been spelled as "vet," the v having the long sound of u or of two u's together. In order to convey an idea of the new sound they began to spell such words as "wet." "weather." "web," etc., with two u's, and as the u of that date was a typical v the three words above looked like this: "Vvet." "vveather," "vveb."

After awhile the typefounders recognized the fact that the double u had come to stay, so they joined the two u's together and made the character now so well known as w. I have one book in which three forms of the w are given. The first is an old double v (vv); the next is one in which the last stroke of the first v crosses the first stroke of the second, and the third is the common w we use today. —New York News.

GREAT VOYAGERS.

As a General Rule, They Came From the Smaller Countries.

Portugal is a small country, with a land area one-third less than the state of New York, but it has turned out in its time celebrated navigators, Cabral and Da Souza among them.

It is a somewhat peculiar circumstance in the history of ocean navigation that the chief navigators of Europe have usually been natives of minor kingdoms and without the advantages which would naturally accrue to a representative of one of the larger governments.

Christopher Columbus, as every schoolboy knows, was a native of Genoa at the time when the Italian peninsula was subdivided among numerous petty governments. John Cabot was a Venetian, who sailed in the service of England, as Columbus had sailed in the service of Spain. Amerigo Vespucci was a Florentine, who sailed originally in the service of Spain and afterward transferred himself to the Portuguese service and then went back to the Spanish service for a second time.

Vitus Bering, after whom Bering strait was called, was a Dane by birth, who served under the naval flag of Russia. Magellan, after whom Magellan strait was named, was a native of Alemtejo, in Portugal, and was the first to complete the circumnavigation of the globe, in 1522.

Verazzani was a Florentine, whose voyages of discovery were undertaken under the protection of the flag of France. Hendrik Hudson was an Englishman, and it seems surprising to many persons in this day familiar with the pre-eminence of England as a maritime nation that he should have been in the service of the government of Holland when he discovered Manhattan Island.

What Father Does.

Mothers may talk, work, struggle to make their sons models by which to shape a new heaven and a new earth. But the boy's world is in the man who is his father, and the boy believes that whatever may be right on Sundays or at prayer times the things that are really good, that really count in life, are what father does. Moreover, it is what father does which defines the means with which the boy shall work, the sphere wherein his efforts shall be shaped. In a word, what father does is the beginning as it is the end of the boy's achievements.—Harper's Bazar.

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