SACRED THREADS.

The Cords Worn by the Three Castes of the Hindoos.

The sacred thread of the Brahmans is well known. It is a caste distinction assumed at an early age and never parted with. It must be made by a Brahman and should consist of three strands, each of a different color, forty-eight yards in length, doubled and twisted together twice, the ends tied in knots. It must be worn next the skin, over the left shoulder, hanging down to the thigh on the right side. The three castes of the Hindoos are distinguished by the material of these threads—cotton for the Brahmans, hemp for the warriors and wool for the artisans. The Parsees also wear the sacred thread, and boys of seven or nine are invested with it, the threads used being made always of fibers of the suru tree. Monier Williams describes the sacred girdle of the Parsees as made of seventy-two woolen threads, forming a flat band, which is twined three times around the body and tied in two peculiar knots, the secret of which is known only to the Parsees.

The use of "medicine cords" is common among North American Indians. Mr. Bourke describes those worn by the Apaches. These consist of one, two, three and four strands, to which are attached shells, feathers, beads, rock crystal, sacred green stones and other articles, doubtless employed symbolically.—Chambers' Journal.

THE PARIS CLUBS.

Election to the Most Exclusive Ones Is a Serious Business.

Election to the exclusive clubs of Paris is a very serious business. The proposer and seconder must not only know all about their candidates, but be able to bear witness to their antecedents and even to their forefathers. They must write to all their friends and ask them to support their candidates. When the election takes place, they must not only be in the room, but approach each member individually as he comes up to the ballot box and ask him for his support.

When the member has been elected, he arrives the first day as a kind of stranger and with his hat in hand. He is then formally introduced by one of his proposers to each member separately who happens to be in the room at the time. On the second occasion he has ceased to be a stranger and may leave his hat in the hall, but he is still expected to go round the room with one of his proposers and be formally introduced. This lasts for a week, by which time he is assumed to know all his colleagues, though a foreigner who is extra punctilious and insists on being introduced to every member of the club gains considerably in popularity.—London Saturday Review.

A Puzzled Author.

When Alphouse Daudet brought out "Sappho" an American publishing house that issued religious books, not knowing its character, offered M. Daudet a large sum for advance sheets of the work. He accepted the offer, and the advance sheets were sent. When the publishers received them they decided that they could not issue the book, and they cabled to the author, "'Sappho' will not do." This dispatch puzzled Daudet. He consulted with numbers of friends, and this was the conclusion at which they eventually arrived: "Sappho" in French is spelled with one "p"—"Sapho," after the Greek fashion. In English it is spelled with two. An unusually acute friend pointed this out to Daudet, which much relieved the novelist, and he cabled back to the publishers, "Spell it with two p's." It is needless to state that the publishers were more astonished at Daudet's reply than he had been at their cable dispatch.

Her Head Was Hot.

Lady Dorothy Nevill in her reminiscences tells this story of the two Misses Walpole, her cousins: "On one occasion, when both of the two were well over ninety, Miss Fanny, the younger, who had that day been rather ill, only joined her sister in the sitting room just before dinner. On her arrival downstairs the latter (Miss Charlotte by name) remarked: 'Fanny, I am going to be ill too. I feel so hot about the head. It must be apoplexy.' 'Nothing of the sort!' exclaimed Miss Fanny, making a dash at her sister's head. 'Your cap's on fire, and I'm going to put it out.' And so the brave old thing did."

The First Dancers.

People have danced for thousands of years and will probably continue to do so for ages to come. This custom is of ancient origin. The first people to dance were the Curetes, who adopted dancing as a mark of rejoicing in 1543 B. C. In early times the Greeks combined dancing with the drama, and in 22 B. C. pantomimic dances were introduced on the Roman stage. At the discovery of America the American Indians were holding their religious, martial and social dances.

Daily Duties.

The best part of one's life is the performance of one's daily duties. All higher motives, ideas, conceptions and sentiments in a man's life are of little value if they do not strengthen him for the better discharge of the duties which devolve upon him in the ordinary affairs of life.

Woman's Marked Down Age.

Howell—You have a sister older than yourself, I believe? Powell—She was born first, but she isn't older.—New York Press.

A liar is sooner caught than a cripple.—Spanish proverb.

LOVE CHARMS.

Some of the Queer Superstitions That Live In Sicily.

The love charms of Sicily are many and curious. One, very popular and considered very powerful, is to put into an eggshell a few drops of the blood of the longing lover. The shell is exposed to the sun for three days and to the dew for three nights. It is then placed on hot ashes until calcined, when the whole is reduced to a fine powder and administered secretly in a cup of coffee or a glass of wine to the object of affection.

Another charm is for the witch to undress at midnight and tie her clothes up in a bundle which she places on her head. Then, kneeling in the center of her room, she pronounces an incantation, at the end of which she shakes her head. If the bundle falls in front of her, it is a good sign; should it fall behind her, the charm will not avail.

Yet another is worked in the following manner: Pieces of green, red and white ribbon are purchased in three different shops, the name of the persons to be charmed being repeated mentally each time. The shopkeeper must be paid with the left hand, the ribbon being received in the right. When all the pieces are bought they are taken to a witch, who sets out to find the person to be charmed. On finding him or her the witch mutters to herself, "With these ribbons I bind you to such a one." Then she returns the ribbons to the purchaser, who ties them beneath his or her left knee and wears them at church.—Macmillan's.

DIED A BEGGAR.

The Pathetic Career of John Stow, the English Antiquary.

John Stow, the celebrated English antiquary, was a remarkable man. He was born of poor parents about 1525 and brought up to the tailor's trade. For forty years his life was passed among needles and thread, but in the few leisure hours which his trade allowed him he had always been a fond reader of legends, chronicles, histories and all that told of the times that were past. By such reading he grew to be so attached to old memoirs that when about forty years of age he threw down his needle, devoted himself to collecting them and followed his new profession with the faith and enthusiasm of an apostle. Short of means, he made long journeys afoot to hunt over and ransack colleges and monasteries, and, no matter how worn and torn might be the rags of old papers which he found, he kept all, reviewing, connecting, copying, comparing, annotating, with truly wonderful ability and good sense. Arrived at fourscore years and no longer capable of earning a livelihood, he applied to the king, and James I., consenting to his petition, granted to the man who had saved treasures of memoirs for English history the favor of wearing a beggar's garb and asking alms at church doors. In this abject state, forgotten and despised, he died two years later.

From the Bountiful East.

A small proportion of the flora is indigenous. The majority came from the east, like all the great ideas on which our culture is founded, and were developed and improved on this classic soil. Italy received the lemon and the orange from the Semites, who in their turn had obtained them from India. The olive, the fig, the vine and the palm were grown by the Semites long before their cultivation penetrated to the west. The laurel and myrtle, indeed, are indigenous in Italy, but their use for ceremonial purposes came across the Mediterranean from the east. The home of the cypress is not in Italy, but in the Greek archipelago, northern Persia, Cilicia and Lebanon.—From Strasburger's "Riviera."

The Difference.

Small Boy—Pa, what is the difference between a pessimist and an optimist? Pa—Well, let me see if I can illustrate. You know I am often discouraged, and things don't look to me as if they'd ever go right. Well, at such times I can be said to be a pessimist. But years ago, when I was a young man, everything looked bright and rosy, and I was always hopeful. Then I was an optimist. Now, my son, can you understand the difference between a pessimist and an optimist? Small Boy—Oh, yes; one is married and the other isn't.—Harper's Weekly.

Cause of His Joy.

"What are you looking so happy over, old man?"

"I am rejoicing over the birth of twins."

"Great Scott! I congratulate you!"

"Don't congratulate me. Go and congratulate Evans. He's the lucky man. I never did like him."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Stole His Livelihood.

Tattered Timothy—I hate doctors. Tiepass Thomas—What fur? Tattered Tim—One of 'em cured me o' fits w'en I wuz a kid. Gee, I cud work up some sympathetic crowds if I c'd have one right now!—Cleveland Leader.

She Was the Girl.

The Widower—I've always said that if I married again I should choose a girl who is as good as she is beautiful. Miss Willing—Really, this is very sudden, George, but I accept you, of course.—Pick Me Up.

When money does not talk too much it may properly be termed a modest sum.—Nashville Democrat.

Trust to Nature.

A great many Americans, both men and women, are thin, pale and puny, with poor circulation, because they have ill-treated their stomachs by hasty eating or too much eating, by consuming alcoholic beverages, or by too close confinement to home, office or factory, and in consequence the stomach must be treated in a natural way before they can rectify their earlier mistakes. The muscles in many such people, in fact in every weary, thin and thin-blooded person, do their work with great difficulty. As a result fatigue comes early, is extreme and lasts long. The demand for nutritive aid is ahead of the supply. To insure perfect health every tissue, bone, nerve and muscle should take from the blood certain materials and return to it certain others. It is necessary to prepare the stomach for the work of taking up from the food what is necessary to make good, rich, red blood. We must go to Nature for the remedy. There were certain roots known to the Indians of this country before the advent of the whites which later came to the knowledge of the settlers and which are now growing rapidly in professional favor for the cure of obstinate stomach and liver troubles. These are found to be safe and yet certain in their cleansing and invigorating effect upon the stomach, liver and blood. These are: Golden Seal root, Queen's root, Stone root, Bloodroot, Mandrake root. Then there is Black Cherrybark. The medicinal principles residing in these native roots when extracted with glycerine as a solvent make the most reliable and efficient stomach tonic and liver invigorator, when combined in just the right proportions, as in Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery. Where there is bankrupt vitality—such as nervous exhaustion, bad nutrition—and thin blood, the body acquires vigor and the nerves, blood and all the tissues feel the favorable effect of this sovereign remedy.

Although some physicians have been aware of the high medicinal value of the above mentioned plants, yet few have used pure glycerine as a solvent and usually the doctors' prescriptions called for the ingredients in varying amounts, *with alcohol*.

The "Golden Medical Discovery" is a scientific preparation compounded of the glyceric extracts of the above mentioned vegetable ingredients and contains no alcohol or harmful habit-forming drugs.



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We have on the farms owned by Mr. James T. Ireland about 40 head of fine beef cattle which will be butchered on the farms and placed on the market as desired.

We want 5,000 lbs of fine pork and all kinds of poultry, for which the highest market price will be paid.

Mr. Alfred Crew is our butcher.

JAMES T. IRELAND & SON,

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BOUGHT BIG SAFES.

The Way Jay Gould Brought an Express Company to Terms.

Recalling early days in the express business, an officer of one of the largest companies told this story of Jay Gould:

"Gould and Fisk then had hold of the Erie," he said, "and the United States Express company had all the express business on the road. The contract was about to expire, and Gould wanted an arrangement more profitable to the Erie.

"'The Erie's doing all the work and you're making all the money,' Gould said to the express people. You ought to do some of the work and give the railroad a chance at the money.'

"The express company officials demurred. Their profit, they insisted, was no more than they were entitled to, and they refused to shade the contract a penny. Gould insisted on a decrease, but they remained obdurate and eventually let the Erie president understand—what he very well knew—that no other company would compete against the United States for the Erie business. All the companies at that time were in an agreement to maintain rates.

"'All right,' said Gould at the conclusion of the interview, 'you've no objection, I guess, to my going into the express business for myself. It looks better than railroading.'

"The express people replied that Gould could organize all the companies he wanted to. They thought it was all bluff, but things that came to their attention soon weakened their faith in this idea. Gould was going around among his associates talking up an express company scheme, officials of other roads were told that a new company would be in the field to bid for their business, and the papers began to talk about the new Gould express company.

"The express officials, however, saw none of Gould's money going into the enterprise and stood pat. Presently it was reported that he had bought twenty-four big express safes. Was this talk or was it business? the express men asked themselves. They set to work investigating, and they discovered that the report was true. Gould had actually bought and paid for the safes—safes cost money in those days, too—and he was negotiating for all the other equipment required.

"Now, thoroughly convinced of Gould's sincerity, the express company came to terms. Gould got the best contract from a railroad standpoint that had been known up to that time. The clause in the contract that the United States Express company considered most valuable to itself was one stipulating the abandonment of Gould's express plans.

"It was all a bluff on Gould's part except buying the safes. For that matter the purchase was, of course, part of the bluff, but Gould had actually bought and paid for them unconditionally. Nevertheless he lost nothing on the deal, for as soon as friendly relations were established with the express officials he persuaded them they could use the safes in their business and sold them at a little better than cost."—Washington Post.

Precedence In New York Society.

A philanthropic society of New York recently arranged a benefit performance in one of the theaters. A large number of prominent women were to act as patronesses. When the time came to have the announcement cards engraved the president of the society was in a quandary. In what order should he arrange the names? He had never given the matter of social precedence a thought. He referred his troubles to one of the women, and she said decisively:

"They must be arranged alphabetically or you will be in hot water at once."

"But some of these ladies are wives of scientific men who are world renowned and some are simply rich. Some are wives of army and navy officers."

"It makes no difference. In New York society the order of precedence is alphabetical, and there is no other rule."—New York Sun.

Generous to the Church.

Lady Dorothy Nevill in her reminiscences tells this story of George Payne, who dropped his worldly means in the quicksands of the turf, but was always unruffled and pleasant in conversation: "'Are you not coming to church, Mr. Payne?' was on one occasion the stern interrogation of his hostess, a very great lady, who descended upon him in all the severity of her Sabbath panoply. 'No, duchess, I am not,' he replied, making swiftly for the door; but, pausing as by a polite afterthought previous to his exit, he exclaimed, with magnificent emphasis, 'not that I see any harm in it.'"

Early Beds.

The beds of the ancients were piles of skins. The first beds resembling those used in modern times were made of rushes and later of straw. The use of feathers in making beds has been attributed to the Romans, and Elagabalus (Heliogabalus) is said to have used an air cushion for a pillow in 218. Air beds were frequently used during the sixteenth century. Feather beds were largely used during the reign of Henry VIII. of England.

Pleasant.

"Oh, George, I'm so glad you've come!" exclaimed the girl. "Father is so excited and disturbed. Do go in and calm him."

"Very well," replied George, "what's the matter with him?"

"Why—er—I just told him you wanted to marry me."

To willful men the injuries that they themselves procure must be their schooling.—Shakespeare.

TORTURING PAIN.

Half This Man's Sufferings Would Have Killed Many a Person, But Doan's Cured Him.

Thousands of grateful people are telling every day how Doan's Kidney Pills cured them of distressing and dangerous kidney and bladder troubles.

Yet other thousands are suffering every day from these same ills. Why? They are either very negligent or very skeptical. Neglect of kidney disorders leads to dropsy, diabetes, Bright's disease and other fatal diseases.

Sincere, honest testimony like the following should convince every skeptic.

A. C. Sprague, stock dealer, of Normal, Ill., writes: "For two whole years I was doing nothing but buying medicines to cure my kidneys. I do not think that any man ever suffered as I did and lived. The pain in my back was so bad that I could not sleep at night. I could not ride a horse and sometimes was unable even to ride in a car. My condition was critical when I sent for Doan's Kidney Pills. I used three boxes and they cured me. Now I can go anywhere and do as much as anybody. I sleep well and feel no discomfort at all."



A. C. SPRAGUE.

A FREE TRIAL of this great kidney medicine which cured Mr. Sprague will be mailed on application to any part of the United States. Address Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y. Sold by all dealers; price, fifty cents per box.

COROT'S RUSTIC HABITS.

How the Artist Came to Live the Life of a Peasant.

Corot's father was a little, dry, thin old man, whose correct appearance, precise gestures and short speech were in singular contrast to the geniality and jovial ways of Camille. He was the typical business man. He wished his son to go into business and apprenticed him to a wholesale cloth merchant. Camille, who dreamed only of painting, conceived a violent aversion to commerce and seized every opportunity to escape from the shop and go up to his room to copy drawings. His employer was very dissatisfied with him and complained to his father, who reprimanded him severely. At last one day the young man did not go to business and told his father that he must follow his vocation, even if it brought him misery. Seeing that nothing could alter this decision, "Very well," the father answered. "I will give you 1,200 francs annually—not a centime more—and you will make the best you can of it."

Camille leaped for joy. He immediately made preparations for departure, left home and installed himself in the little hamlet of Morvan, at a farrier's whose numerous family was crowded into the only room, which was the forge. Corot there contracted the habits of the peasantry, which he retained ever after. He had no needs, lived only for his art and found complete happiness in it.

For a long time Corot remained at the farrier's, satisfied with the coarse food, happy in his liberty and feeling rich with his modest allowance. Endowed with robust health and being jovial by nature, he always sang while he worked, and his gayety never deserted him.

At his father's death Corot found himself possessed of a revenue of 40,000 francs, but this opulence did not change his rustic habits. He continued his simple and laborious life. Always up before dawn, he put on the peasant's clothes that he wore all his life, ate his soup, lit his pipe and with his box in his hand and his easel on his shoulder started for his work, his sonorous voice ringing out joyously.—G. Chardin in Putnam's Monthly.

London's First Balloon Ascent.

When Lunardi made the first balloon ascent from London in 1784 he had for fellow passengers a cat, a dog and a pigeon. Such was the excitement caused by this ascent that a jury, deliberating on the fate of a criminal, returned a hasty verdict of acquittal in order not to miss the spectacle, while King George III. broke up a meeting of his council to watch the progress of the balloon. It was in the following year, 1785, that an adventurous Dublin undergraduate, Mr. Maguire, made a balloon ascent and was actually knighted by the lord lieutenant for his courage.

Don't Be a Sensitive Plant.

The sensitive plant is found in the church. The pastor has a difficult time keeping him in humor to do church work. The sensitive plant is found in political circles. The candidates must handle him with gloves. The sensitive plant is found in all avenues of human activity. Most generally he is a nuisance. Don't be one.—Columbia Herald.

An Awful Realization.

First Tramp (shuddering with terror and clasping his companion's arm)—Say, Ike, look at wot that there sign says, I wisht ye would! Second Tramp—Wot sign, Aleck? First Tramp—W'y, that there sign on de big brick buildin' It says "Iron wolks," Ike, an' we've got iron in our blood! I wonder is it wolkin' now.—Chicago News.

A Craven's Haven.

Mrs. Hicks (relating burglar scare)—Yes, I heard a noise and got up, and there under the bed I saw a man's legs. Mrs. Wicks—Mercy! The burglar's? "No; my husband's. He had heard the noise too."—Boston Transcript.

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