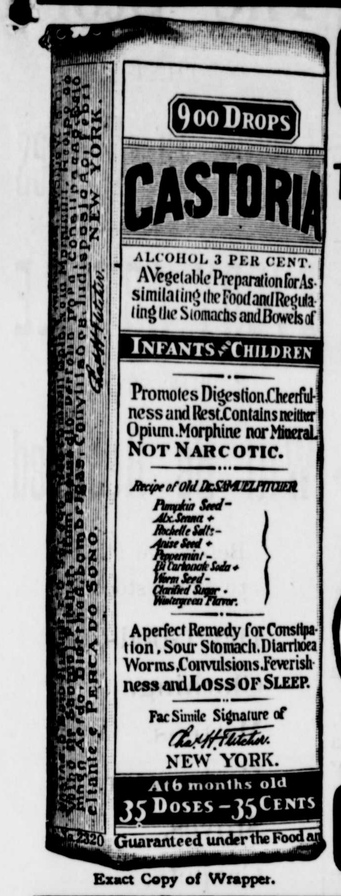


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THE MONEY QUESTION.

An Inquisitive Youngster and an Ingenious Father.

"Papa," began Gunston junior, "when the government of the United States began to coin gold and silver money it was necessary to buy the gold and silver, wasn't it?"

"Yes, my son," replied Gunston senior rather cautiously.

"Of course, papa," resumed the youngster, "you'll be able to tell me where the government got the money to buy the gold and silver."

"Why—er—of course," stammered Gunston senior as he put down the paper and gazed thoughtfully at the boy; "Now, let me understand you. The government wanted to coin money, and in order to do so it was necessary to purchase gold and silver. You want to know where the government got the money to buy the gold and silver?"

"That's right," chuckled Gunston junior gleefully, and a great joy filled his being as he thought of his all important sire struggling with the simple question.

"Why, sonny, the government simply issued dollar bills and bought gold and silver with them. Anything else?"

"Yes," said Gunston junior. "Where did the government get money to buy paper for the dollar bills?"—Harper's Weekly.

THE HORSE WON.

Beat the First Locomotive on the B. and O. Road.

The first locomotive on the Baltimore and Ohio had sails attached. So did the cars. These sails were hoisted when the wind was in the right direction so as to help the locomotive.

The rivalry between the railroads using locomotives and those using horses was very bitter. In August, 1830, an actual trial of speed was held between a horse and one of the pioneer locomotives, which did not result in favor of the locomotive. The race was on the Baltimore and Ohio, the locomotive being one built by Peter Cooper, who also acted as engineer.

The horse, a gallant gray, was in the habit of pulling a car on a track parallel to that used by the locomotive. At first the gray had the better of the race, but when he was a quarter of a mile ahead Mr. Cooper succeeded in getting up enough steam to pass the horse amid terrific applause.

At that moment a band slipped from a pulley, and, "though Mr. Cooper lacerated his hands trying to replace it, the engine stopped and the horse passed it and came in the winner."—Van Norden Magazine.

They Don't Like Funerals.

"If you want to know just how sensitive some Washington folks are, listen to the reasons some of our tenants give for canceling their leases," said a renting agent. "Here are the complaints from five families who want to move because they live on 'funeral streets.' A lot of people, it seems, are sensitive about that. There are certain streets in town—those near churches where many funerals are held and those leading to the various cemeteries—which are usually traveled by funeral parties. Houses in those streets are becoming a poor investment. There is more moving from those houses than from any others we have anything to do with, and generally the movers give as the reason for their dissatisfaction the fact that the sight of so many hearses gets on their nerves."—Washington Star.

The Saragossans.

It is said that the queer, composite race of people that dwell upon the waterlogged hulks of the Saragossa sea, in the mid-Atlantic, have a pretty theory about death. They believe that those to whom the messenger comes when the sun is shining brightly are transported straight away to a heaven of warm fresh water only four feet in depth, in which they may wade and disport themselves to all eternity. On the other hand, those who receive the call of death in hours of darkness must needs endure a probationary period before they can enter into the future life. The Saragossans are in addition firm believers in premenitions, omens and foreordinations.

Instincts of a Woman.

A little girl who had for some time wanted a dog was taken very ill. One day when much better she told her mother of her desire and begged her to ask her grandpa to buy her one. The mother answered that grandpa did not like dogs and probably would not be willing to buy one. Then, seeing the little invalid look sadly disappointed, she said, "Well, wait till you get well, my dear, then we will see."

"Oh, no," answered the child, whose few years had taught her some wisdom. "The more sick I am the more likely he will be to buy it for me."—Exchange.

Hoarding.

Hoarding is not only an economic mistake, but an economic crime as well. It is, in fact, a survival of the evil days of maladministration. It comes down to us from the time when nearly all governments were conquerors which considered themselves entitled to plunder their subjects. Thus hoarding is founded upon distrust of the government.—Statesman, Calcutta

Reverse Action

The Elder Matron—You shouldn't mind the baby crying a little. It strengthens his lungs. The Younger Matron—Oh, no doubt, but it weakens his father's religion so!—Indianapolis Journal.

If you would not have affliction visit you twice, listen at once to what it teaches.—Rogers.

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THE DOLLAR.

Its Evolution From the One Time Bleat or Bellow.

The dollar took some rounding. Nor did it formerly ring true, but, much alive, simply gave a bleat or bellow. Cattle, among country folk, at one time constituted the dollar, while primitive man generally made use of any article sufficiently abundant for the standard payment of all merchandise.

Thus, in ancient Greece, a large bronze tripod had the value of a dozen oxen. A good hardworking woman, on the other hand, was given in exchange for only four such beasts.

When metal took the place of money the dollar clung to its traditions, and coins were still called after live stock. Thus "pecunia," applied to metal money, derived its origin from "pecus" (cattle). From the custom of counting heads of cattle came the present designation of a sum in cash—capital or "capita" (heads). In Sanskrit roupa (herd, flock) made roupya or the Indian rupee, while ingots of electrum or admixture of gold and silver when first in use as money bore the impress of an ox or cow.

Not clumsy, but too fragile, were the shells in use as money by the negroes of Africa and throughout ancient Asia, where the natives, taken by its beauty, gave the shell a money value.—R. Holt-Lomax in Harper's Weekly.

THE MINE PACK BURRO.

Information Gleaned by the Newcomer In Camp.

He was a newcomer in the mining camp, and as everything he saw appeared novel and interesting he kept up a rapid fire of questions that seemed mighty foolish to the boys.

The placid little pack burros, mostly ears and voice, pleased him immensely, and he supposed they were kept as pets or else as camp scavengers to nibble the labels from old cans and eat stray newspapers. He came across one packing a wheelbarrow secured on its back with wheel and handles in the air.

"My good man," he asked the owner, "can you tell me why the little donkey is tied to the wheelbarrow in that odd fashion?"

"I shore can, stranger," replied that accommodating individual. "This here jassax has been acquired by old Walapai Huggins for a house pet at the Bully Boy mine, an', bein' as the annimule is too dellycat' to walk all the way over them rough trails, the old man drives him uphill an' at the summit jes' naterally turns him down the other side. Yessir, it do come hard on old Walapai, but it's mighty restin' for the jassax."—Success Magazine.

Eating on the Train In Spain.

As even express trains seldom attain a higher rate of speed than twenty-five miles per hour travel is slow and tedious, though fairly comfortable, and to enjoy Spain one must assume the leisurely indifference of the Spaniard to whom manana is always the chosen time. He is wise who carries his own luncheons, and never are dainty tea baskets more indispensable than on these long journeys. Spanish etiquette demands that the traveler before partaking of his food must politely offer it to those who share the compartment with him. It may either be graciously accepted or declined. In no country is it so difficult to travel and to secure information, as but little English is spoken even by important officials.—Travel Magazine.

Not Business.

Two highland farmers met on their way to church.

"Man," said Donald, "I wass wonderin' what you will be askin' for yon bit sheep over at your steadin'?"

"Man," replied Dougal, "I wass thinkin' I wad be wantin 50 shullin's for that sheep."

"I will tak' it at that," said Donald, "but, och, man, Dougal, I am awful surprised at you doing business on the Sawbath."

"Business!" exclaimed Dougal. "Man, sellin' a sheep like that for 50 shullin's is not business at all. It's just charity."—Dundee Advertiser.

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NATURE'S MYSTERIES.

And the Little That Man Really Knows About Them.

I seized the opportunity some little while ago on finding myself sitting next to a great physicist of asking him a series of fumbling questions on the subject of modern theories of matter. For an hour I stumbled like a child, supported by a strong hand, in a dim and unfamiliar world, among the mysterious essences of things. I should like to try to reproduce it here, but I have no doubt I should reproduce it all wrong. Still, it was deeply inspiring to look out into chaos, to hear the rush and motion of atoms moving in vast vortices, to learn that inside the hardest and most impenetrable of substances there was probably a feverish intensity of inner motion. I do not know that I acquired any precise knowledge, but I drank deep drafts of wonder and awe.

The great man, with his amused and weary smile, was infinitely gentle and left me, I will say, far more conscious of the beauty and the holiness of knowledge. I said something to him about the sense of power that such knowledge must give. "Ah," he said, "much of what I have told you is not proved; it is only suspected. We are very much in the dark about these things yet. Probably if a physicist of a hundred years hence could overhear me he would be amazed to think that a sensible man could make such puerile statements. Power—no, it is not that! It rather makes one realize one's feebleness in being so uncertain about things that are absolutely certain and precise in themselves, if we could but see the truth. It is much more like the apostle who said: 'Lord, I believe. Help thou my unbelief.' The thing one wonders at is the courage of the men who dare to think they know."—Putnam's.

POWER OF WEALTH.

Money, Says a Physician, Is Able to Purchase Even Life.

The aged millionaire sighed.

"I'd give all my money," he said, "if I could buy twenty-five more years of life."

"But your money has already bought you that," said the physician coldly.

"What rot are you talking now?" the millionaire asked peevishly.

"No rot at all, for it is a fact, a dreadful fact," said the physician, "that the rich live, on the average, twenty-five years longer than the poor. Born rich, you are assured of a quarter century more life than would be your allotment were you born poor. Wealth buys you all that. And yet they say that there is nothing in money. Why, man, money buys life."

"How do you mean?" said the millionaire. "This sounds rather like nonsense to me."

"Oh, wealth protects one from so many ills. Rich babies nearly always live, but poor ones die of a hundred complaints induced by poverty. Poor babies die off shockingly. And so with boys and girls, with men and women—if they are rich. They live healthily and therefore long, while if they are poor they live unhealthily, and disease, accident, contagion, privation—all sorts of preventable things—carry them off.

"Yes, money buys life, and reliable statistics show that if two children are born today, one rich and the other poor, the rich one will outlive the other by the tidy margin of twenty-five years."—Philadelphia Record.

All He Said.

Officer—How is this, Murphy? Sergeant complains that you called him names. Private Murphy—Plaze, sur, I never called him ony names at all. All I said was, "Sergeant," says I, "some of us ought to be in a menagerie."—London Tit-Bits.

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