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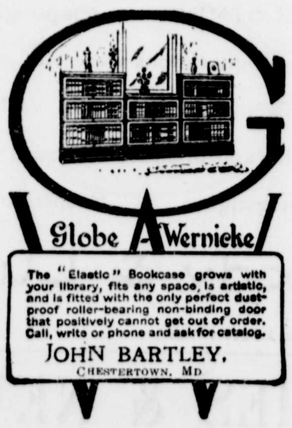

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OUR FIRST MUSTANGS.

They Were Probably Brought to This Country by the Spaniards.

The first horses of the western plains were probably brought there by the Spaniards. In 1545, almost fifty years before Jamestown was settled, Coronado, the Spanish captain, was roaming about the plains of New Mexico, and he tells of the dogs used by the Indians to haul their plunder on lodge poles, indicating that they had no horses at that date.

In 1716 the Spanish again worked their way eastward across the plains, and their letters tell of the astonishment of the Indians at seeing the horses they had with them. The expedition was constantly losing horses, and there is little doubt that the first droves of western horses originated from these strays.

In the early days upon the plains they were a great pest to travelers. Woe be unto the luckless camper who allowed a band of wild horses to get close enough to his gentle horses, turned out for the night, to sweep them off. It was almost useless to follow, for the call of the wild comes to the gentlest of horses when he is thrown with a band of his kind that have been born and raised free of all restraint. It is a well known fact that the hardest one to "cut out," the leader of them all in a mad race across the prairie, is the old, gentle, well broken saddle or work horse once he gets a taste of such freedom.—Will C. Barnes in McClure's.

PAPUAN COIFFURES.

Heads In New Guinea That Look Like Rising Suns.

"One of the most interesting things that came under my observation was the odd manner in which the people wore their hair," said a physician, describing a visit to New Guinea and the leading traits and characteristics of the inhabitants, known as Papuans. "One type wore the hair standing up from the head at a length of seven inches or more. It was trimmed with wonderful regularity and with mathematical accuracy. The hair was greased with cocoanut oil and painted red. At a distance it looked like a rising sun."

Another type of the inhabitants who wear their hair in an unusual fashion was described.

"Starting from the forehead," he said, "the hair is brushed back over the scalp and hangs down to the waist. It is a perfect mass, an intricate jungle. I am sure it was never combed, and it was impossible to run the fingers through it. At a distance it looks like a cap with the visor turned downward.

"One other odd type of hairdressing—coiffure, if you will—was observed on this visit. The hair was gathered at the front and back, then brought together above the head, where it was inclosed in a basket-like cylinder. The end spread out about two inches. Apparently these caps are never removed from the head."—Baltimore Sun.

Playing Greenhorn.

"Why did you tell the manager of that employment agency that you had just come over?" said one servant girl to another. "You didn't, you know. You have had three situations in New York."

"I know that," said the girl. "I pretended to be green so she would try harder to get me a good place. At most of these agencies the managers have green girls on their conscience. The sharks in the business, of course, will fleece them, but the average manager is sympathetic and gets them easy places to start with. I'll have a snap where I am going. The woman thinks I have just arrived and that she will have to break me in. Breaking in means that she will do half the work, while I will just stand around and look on. It pays sometimes to be a greenhorn."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Would Take Chances.

Mr. Philanthropist was passing a bakery when he observed a little girl gazing with longing eyes at some cakes displayed in the window. The youngster's wistful gaze was too much for Mr. Philanthropist, so he took immediate measures to satisfy her longing.

When she had in short order disposed of a rich bit of pastry she calmly asked for another.

"I should like very much to give you another," said the kindly man, "but I'm afraid it would make you sick."

"Get it for me anyhow," quickly responded the little girl. "I can git all the med'cine I need at the dispensary fer nuthin'."—New York Herald.

A Dangerous Place.

The two tramps had been particularly lucky, and, having funds in hand, they discussed plans for the night's shelter. "We can sleep under a roof if we like," said Wiggins.

"Sure we can," responded Higgins, "but some way these lodging houses make me nervous. Supposing a fire was to break out in the night?"

"You've got it right," agreed Wiggins dolefully. "It's no place for us. They'd turn the hose on us in a minute!"—Youth's Companion.

Scorched.

Mr. Crimsonbeak—What in the world is the matter with this shirt? Mrs. Crimsonbeak—Oh, I guess the girl boiled it a little too long, dear; that's all. Mr. Crimsonbeak—Looks to me as if she had fried it.—Yonkers Statesman.

Lacking Warmth.

"The critics all say that my pictures lack warmth."

"Do you work in oils?"

"Yes."

"Then why not paint in a few oil stoves?"—New York Times.

SORTING PEARLS.

The Gems Vary Greatly In Size, Shape and Quality.

When the pearls are taken from the dead fish they are first sorted according to size. This is done by passing them through a set of ten small brass sieves, called baskets, with meshes of varying sizes. Pearls of the first class that are perfect both in sphericity and in luster are called ani. Those of the second class, that to the average observer seem equally without flaw, are anitari, and most of the pearls we see in the west and on general sale come under this head. Of the third class, called masauku, are those that are somewhat irregular in shape and a trifle off in color, but that are valuable for use in clusters and are largely used by eastern artificers in mountings of various sorts. Kural is the double or twinned pearl, which, when of good luster and sufficiently freakish shape, is sometimes enormously valuable. In this class the most wonderful specimen on record is the great Southern Cross pearl, which is in reality nine pearls naturally grown together and forming a perfect cross an inch and a half long. It was found off the coast of Western Australia in 1874. Many seed pearls and rejections, called vadivu, are generally ground into chunam and used as an ingredient in a favorite sweetmeat. From China also comes a heavy demand for seed pearls, and in India bushels of them literally are used in the decoration of idols and sacred images and of weapons as well.—Everybody's.

A STRIKE IN OLD EGYPT.

There Was Trouble In the Building Trade In Pharaoh's Day.

Egyptian history discloses the details of a labor difficulty at Thebes in the year 1400 B. C. The strike was in the building trades, and the strikers were masons. They were paid in rations, and they claimed that these were insufficient to sustain them and their families until the following pay day.

On the 10th of the month they laid down their tools and gathered behind a chapel. "We are hungry," they said, "and there are eighteen days before the next pay day." They charged the paymasters with dishonesty, saying that they gave false measure. The paymasters charged the men with want of foresight in feasting too well while the rations lasted.

After long discussion the men decided to return to work on condition that Pharaoh himself investigate the matter. Two days later Pharaoh came to the temple and decided that the masons should have their wages raised at once. For a little while all went well, but evidently the paymasters did not live up to their agreement, for on the 5th of the next month the strike was again in full force, and for three whole days not a tool was lifted.

The strikers decided to go out to the public with their troubles, but they found themselves locked in the temple. Then they broke out and rushed into the streets, frightening pedestrians as they paraded the thoroughfares.

Sheer-Luck Blake.

The modern Sexton Blake climbed through the kitchen window, followed by his faithful ally, Bunny—or was it Watson?

"Ah," exclaimed Blake, surveying the surroundings, "I find that his wife is away!"

"And how long has she been away?" asked his ally.

"Exactly thirty days."

"And how on earth are you able to tell that?"

"My dear fellow, by the unwashed dishes and cups and saucers. There are ninety of each in all, which shows that he has used three a day for thirty days and left them for her to wash when she comes home—same as we all do. Simplest thing in the world, my dear fellow; simplest thing in the world!"

Early Methods of Curing Skins.

The original process of curing skins was probably the simple one of cleaning and drying them. Removal of the hair by maceration in water seems to have been common among the very early tribes, and one writer has suggested that the idea was obtained from the natural process of depilation. They must certainly have been familiar with it in the case of drowned animals, where maceration can be plainly observed. Following this smoke, sour milk, oil and the brains of the animals themselves were found efficacious. Many of these primitive methods are employed in remote places at the present time.

Why the Old Man Danced a Jig.

"What's Susie crying about?" asked the old farmer as he rubbed the tallow on his copper toed boots.

"Poor gal!" said his sympathetic wife. "Wind swept through the parlor and blew all her planner music away."

The old man jumped up and danced a jig.

"Praise to glory!" he shouted. "And now if a cyclone comes along and blows away the planner we sartinly will have something to be thankful for."—Boston Post.

He Was Mentioned.

Admiring Constituent—Senator, your name has been mentioned in connection with a cabinet position, hasn't it? Senator Greatgunn—Er—yes, I believe it has. A paper in my home county remarked the other day that any president who would offer me a place in his cabinet would be darned hard up.—Chicago Tribune.

Good breeding shows itself most where to an ordinary eye it appears least.—Addison.

THE PARAGUAYANS.

A Lazy, Happy-go-lucky People In a Bankrupt Republic.

The infusion of Spanish blood and customs into the Guarani has produced a people with the faults and good qualities of both in about equal parts. Dark of complexion, with strongly marked Indian features, essentially gentle when unrestrained or not unduly excited, careless of the morrow, poor and honest, hospitable and generous, indolent and uncultured, strongly Catholic in theory, but generally lax in religious performances as to dogmas—this is a rough sketch of the native people of Paraguay. Asuncion, the capital, and even the smaller places—Villa Rica, San Pedro, Villa del Pilar, Villa Concepcion—have their aristocratic families, of which the daughters and sons are sent to Europe to be educated and which maintain an exclusiveness that must be almost isolation. But in general the people mingle readily.

In the early morning in the streets of Asuncion the women gather in their long white dresses and barefooted to sell their wares. The younger women, judged by our standard, are beautiful and from carrying baskets and water jars on their heads have attained an erect and graceful carriage which our young women could well imitate. Besides, when they laugh they show two rows of pearls, and their speech in soft Guarani patois is worth going far to hear.

When you see Asuncion you see Paraguay, for it is the most advanced city in the republic. Its streets are poorly paved, it has mule cars which run at long intervals and low speed, and the hotel accommodations are not exceptional, but there is a kind of lazy, happy-go-lucky gayety about the city that represents the national feeling. Paraguay is hard up—yes, almost stone broke. The currency is paper and the value so small that for a hundred dollars one receives a basketful of ragged stuff, printed in Germany, to represent some nebulous indebtedness of the republic. Gold does not stay long in Paraguay, nor does it often enter the country.—Van Norden Magazine.

EXPLOSIVES.

Best Way to Destroy Gunpowder and Nitroglycerin.

The best way to destroy ordinary black gunpowder is to throw it into a stream under conditions that prevent any harm coming to human beings or animals through the dissolving of the saltpeter. If no suitable stream is available, the gunpowder may be stirred with water in tubs, or the dry gunpowder may be poured out on the ground in a long thin line and ignited with a fuse at one end.

To destroy dynamite cartridges the paper wrappings should be carefully removed, the bare cartridges laid in a row with their ends in contact and the first cartridge ignited with a fuse without a cap. Even with these precautions a simultaneous explosion of the entire mass may occur, so that it is wise to retire to a safe distance. The row of cartridges should be laid parallel with the wind and ignited at the leeward end, so that the flame will be driven away from the mass.

Frozen dynamite should be handled with special care, as its combustion is peculiarly liable to assume an explosive character. A small quantity of dynamite may be destroyed by throwing it in very small bits into an open fire, or the cartridges may be exploded one by one in the open air with fuses and caps.

Dynamite should never be thrown into water, as the nitroglycerin which it contains remains undissolved and capable of doing mischief. Other explosives which contain nitroglycerin should be treated in the same way as dynamite.

Ammonium nitrate explosives may be thrown in small fragments into an open fire or if they do not contain nitroglycerin may be destroyed by means of water. Explosive caps should be exploded singly with pieces of fuse.—Scientific American.

His Vocabulary.

He was an only child. They were very particular about his manner of speech, constantly correcting him so that he would use beautiful English. He, however, was allowed now and then to associate with other children. He played with a neighbor boy a long while one day, and when he came home there was an ecstatic smile on his face.

"I like that boy, mother," he said. "I like him very much. He swears beautifully. He knows every word."—New York Press.

Getting In Deeper.

"Who is that singing so dreadfully out of tune?"

"It is my wife."

"Perhaps the accompanist plays out of tune."

"She is accompanying herself."—Meggendorfer Blatter.

One Recompense.

"That sheet iron clothing a chap had to wear during the middle ages must have been far from comfortable."

"Still, a fellow could have a permanent crease put in his trousers."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

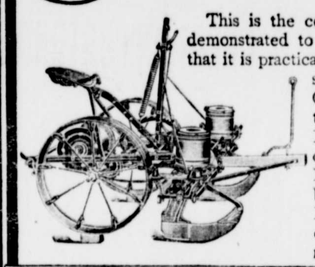
Not a Bark.

"Then you don't have any dog-watch on this craft?" inquired the anxious passenger, according to a writer in Life.

"No. This is a catboat."

For artificial evils, for evils that spring from want of thought, thought must find a remedy somewhere.—Lowell.

The New Deere No. 9 Planter



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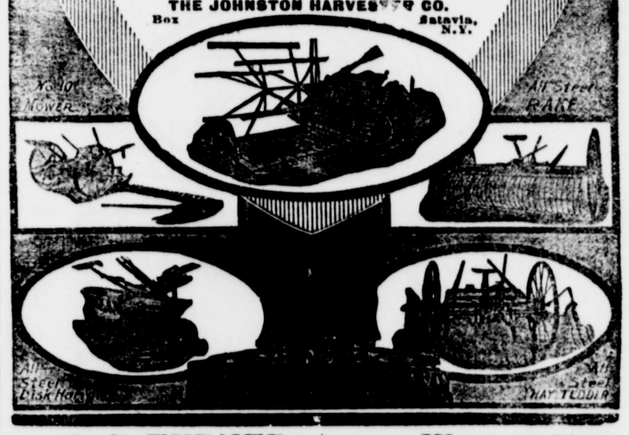

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