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CEYLON MENUS.

The Way Natives Wrestle With the English Language.

A writer in the Epicure tells of several menus with which he was confronted when traveling in Ceylon. The menu, he says, is an indispensable adjunct to a respectable luncheon or dinner table in Ceylon. As a rule, the head servant writes it out and from his elementary knowledge of English as "she is wrote" springs a host of quaint blunders. At the same time his fertile oriental brain is ever apt to add footnotes, which are perhaps his happiest achievement.

At one lunch there figured among the dishes "roast beef," but it caused the hostess some consternation when she discovered the additional legend in very small letters, "roast beef smelling a little," the parenthetical note being meant to intimate that the dish was accompanied by a sauce of savory odors.

On another occasion there appeared this following acknowledgment of deficiency: "Steak and kidney pie; no kidney."

It was altogether delightful, continues the writer, to find at one dinner our old friend Welsh rabbit appearing as "Welsch rubbish." The same genius translated haricot mutton into "hurryged mutton." Our own boy, he adds, on the occasion of a hastily improvised dinner, was unable to accomplish a dessert. Consequently he put the word "plates" at the end of the menu.

A COSTLY TRIFLE.

It Brought Bankruptcy to an English Iron King.

It was a common penny postage stamp that brought Hobart, the great British "iron king," to his ruin. At the time of the Whitworth period, when there was a big crisis in the iron trade, he had agents in all parts of the world who kept him posted. Sometimes they telegraphed news to him in cipher but those in England were nearly always instructed to write. At that period his principal agent, who was also his chief partner, was in Sheffield and wrote him from there warning him to sell out all iron interests for the time on account of the Whitworth crisis.

Hobart had frequent fits of irritability, and he had been receiving a lot of unstamped letters of no importance on which he had to pay double postage. One morning in anger he gave orders that such letters were to be returned to the postman. The very first unstamped letter received after this was from his partner. It was rejected as soon as it arrived.

Consequently, knowing nothing of the existence of the letter or the all important private news it contained Hobart pledged himself next day for more iron deals than even his mighty credit was good for. The great drop in prices came two days later, and Hobart, once a millionaire, was involved in a hopeless bankruptcy from which he never recovered.—London Telegraph.

Pillsbury's Wonderful Memory.

Harry N. Pillsbury, the chess player offered one day in South Bethlehem Pa., to memorize thirty words, no matter how hard they might be, the selections to be read to him only once.

Professor Merriman of Lehigh university and Dr. Threlkeld-Edwards of Bethlehem picked out most of the following words: Antiphlogistine, periosteum, takadiastase, piasmon, ambrosia, Threlkeld, streptococcus, staphelococcus, micrococcus, plasmodium, Mississippi, Freiheit, Philadelphia Cincinnati, athletics, no war, Eichenberg, American, Russia, philosopher, Plet-Potgieters-Rost, Saimagundi, Oomsillecootsi, Bangmamvato, Schlochter's Nek, Manzinyama, theosophy, catechism, Madjesoomslopa.

Mr. Pillsbury immediately repeated these words in the order given and in the reverse order.

A Cockney.

Minsheu, a dictionary maker of London, in 1617 issued a work which gave the following amusing account of the origin of the word "cockney:" "A cockney, or cockny, applied only to one born within the sound of the Bow bells—that is, within the city of London—whiche terme came first out of the following tale:

"A citizen's sonne, riding with his father out of London into the country and being a novice and merely ignorant of how corne and catel do increase, asked when he heard a horse neigh what the horse dide. His father answered, 'The horse dothe neigh.' Riding further, he heard a cock crow and said, 'Dothe the cock neigh too? And therefore cockney, or cockneigh, by inversion thus: Incoctus—i. e., raw or unripe in countrey-mens affaires.'"

Italian Brigandage In 1848.

One summer evening in the crowded theater an impatient house demanded the drawing of the curtain preliminary to the first act. When at last it was upraised Il Passatore and his armed band occupied the stage, with muskets aimed at the affrighted audience. The chief stated that he should levy a tax per head, which he then and there collected. The gang made off with their booty unmolested.—Lady Presturch's "Essays."

Depressed.

"I am afraid Bliggins has met with reverses."

"What makes you think so?"

"He goes about with a gloomy look, saying there is no such a thing as disinterested friendship. That is almost a sure sign that a man has been trying to borrow money."—Exchange.

There are more than 600 proverbs in the English language which relate to dogs.

THE GUARD WAS ANGRY.

But the Pretty Girl Didn't Need His Protection.

Passengers on a subway car bound from Brooklyn to New York on Sunday afternoon had an experience that first caused frowns and then a laugh.

The car was crowded, but all the women had seats. On the platform was a middle aged man, apparently respectable. On a side seat was a girl in old rose, with cheeks to match.

The man on the platform caught her eye for a moment and threw a frantic kiss. The girl first smiled, then blushed furiously.

He threw another, and she turned away a crimsoned face.

"That will about do for you," said the big, rawboned guard. "Go home to your wife."

This didn't seem to worry the apparently respectable man, and, catching a glint from the girl's eyes, he threw another kiss. She turned her face to study carefully a pretty hat across the car.

At the Manhattan end of the bridge the girl rose to leave the car. The man who was trying to flirt with her also faced the sliding door. By that time all eyes were on the pair, the guard was mad all through, and a couple of passengers edged dangerously close.

The girl in old rose took the arm of the apparently respectable man and said in a silvery voice that all could hear:

"Oh, papa, how could you?"

Then everybody laughed at a joking father and a lovely daughter.—New York Press.

CONQUERED HER RIVAL.

Pretty and Pathetic Story of Jenny Lind and Grisi.

Jenny Lind and Grisi were both rivals for popular favor in London. Both were invited to sing the same night at a court concert before the queen. Jenny Lind, being the younger, sang first and was so disturbed by the fierce, scornful look of Grisi that she was at the point of failure when suddenly an inspiration came to her.

The accompanist was striking the final chords. She asked him to rise and took the vacant seat. Her fingers wandered over the keys in a loving prelude, and then she sang a little prayer which she had loved as a child. She hadn't sung it for years. As she sang she was no longer in the presence of royalty, but singing to loving friends in her fatherland.

Softly at first the plaintive notes floated on the air, swelling louder and richer every moment. The singer seemed to throw her whole soul into that weird, thrilling, plaintive "prayer." Gradually the song died away and ended in a sob. There was a silence—the silence of admiring wonder.

The audience sat spellbound. Jenny Lind lifted her sweet eyes to look into the scornful face that had so disconcerted her. There was no fierce expression now. Instead a teardrop glistened on the long, black lashes, and after a moment, with the impulsiveness of a child of the tropics, Grisi crossed to Jenny Lind's side, placed her arm about her and kissed her, uttering regardless of the audience.

Revised the Bill.

A young solicitor got a verdict for a client of considerable riches, but little beauty. Shortly afterward, in due course of business, he sent her a somewhat formidable account. On the following day his client called on him and asked him if he had been serious in his proposal.

"Proposal? But I have not proposed," replied the solicitor, somewhat aghast.

"What!" replied the fair client calmly. "You have asked for my fortune. I should have supposed that you would at least have had the politeness to take me along with it."

The next day she received a revised account as follows:

"Miss B., debtor to Mr. C. for legal business performed."

Then in place of "£ s. d." was "Total amount, Miss B."—London Telegraph.

What She Imagined.

"Don't imagine," he said after she had refused him, "that I am going away to blow my brains out or drink myself to death."

"No," she replied, "I have no idea that you will do anything of that kind. You are going away to do some wonderful thing which will bring you wealth and fame and make me regret all the rest of my life that I didn't believe you when you intimated that you were one of the greatest little men that had ever come over the asphalt."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Never Forgets 'Em.

"Maud is continually giggling. She seems to have an ever present sense of humor."

"Not at all. What she has is simply an ever present consciousness of dimples."—Boston Transcript.

Fashion Note.

"Isn't your hat rather curious in shape?" asked the uninformed man.

"Certainly," answered his wife. "It has to be. Any hat that wasn't curious in shape would look queer."—Washington Star.

A Linen Shower.

Helen—The friends of the bride elect are going to give her a linen shower. Harold—What's a linen shower? Helen—It's a shower in which the rain comes down in sheets.—Exchange.

The Lesson.

Sunday School Teacher—Now, Tommy, what does the story of the prodigal son teach? Tommy—It teaches us how to get fresh veal.—Chicago News.

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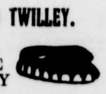
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