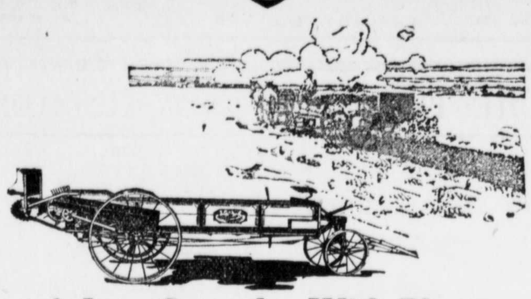

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## EMPEROR OF GERMANY.

**Why, From a Legal Standpoint, There Is Now No Such Title.**

There is no such person now as the emperor of Germany, and there never has been so far as a Prussian king is concerned. Further, there is a reason why such is so. It is no mere quibble over the form of a name.

Emperor of Germany was a title assumed by Rudolph, count of Hapsburg, in 1273. By the pragmatic sanction of 1439 the title, then held by Albert II, was confined in perpetuity to the house of Austria. This succession came to an end in the person of Francis II, who after his crushing defeat by Napoleon resigned his title of emperor of Germany and took that of emperor of Austria, 1806. At the same time Austria withdrew from the leadership of the Germanic states, and Prussia, once a mere fief of Poland, stepped into the position. That movement, however, was gradual, entailing many other changes, and it was not till 1871 that the new German confederation completed its dream by the king of Prussia becoming German emperor.

William I. imagined then and continued to imagine to his dying day that he had a right to the older title, but Bismarck would have none of it, and by mandate, German emperor, became law. The reason was obvious, the emperors of Germany being the representatives of the ancient empire of the west, the Holy Roman Empire, a position impossible to the Lutheran descendant of Brandenburg electors. Moreover "emperor of" meant, as in Russia it still means, sovereign of absolutely of land nd people.—Philadelphia Ledger.

### Fighting Moles.

Two men were walking toward a camp in the Adirondacks.

"Just look at that titanic fight," said one.

The other, a native, turned his head slowly. "Moles," he said. "They'll kill each other Watch 'em."

Titanic would have been the word for that struggle had the combatants been of any size except the tiny things they were. Apparently for no reason whatever these dainty bits of fur that furnish the softest known covering for woman had fallen upon each other with the greatest fury at the entrance of a run and paid not the slightest attention to the men who approached within a few feet.

One had a hold at the shoulder, the other nearer the throat, and throughout the long battle they never changed grips, but hung on like bulldogs, each braced and pulling in the opposite direction. So it was merely a question which skin would tear first. Soon both became quiet, and it was found they were dead.

"It always ends that way," said the native, "one or both dead. Come on. It's five miles yet."—New York World.

### Generosity.

It often happens that men are very generous with their money, but stingy with their heart. They will give hundreds and hundreds of dollars to the church or charity, but not spare a kind word to their neighbor next door or to the man who comes to collect a bill. A man who is generous in giving to good causes neutralizes his generosity when he is grouchy, peevish, overbearing or insulting. We often hear about tainted money. There is such a thing and in no instance more manifest than where a mean, snarly, spleenful man gives a sum of money to a good cause. It ought to be refused. It will do no good. The track of the serpent is over it all. People should understand that a generous gift cannot cover up their surly natures. This is the reason so many generous gifts turn out without a single generous influence for the good.—Ohio State Journal.

### The Wonderful Telephone.

A telephone conversation is an instantaneous process. Sound travels at the snail's pace of 1,160 feet per second, but the telephone message leaps over the wires at the rate of 56,000 miles per second. A "Hello" traveling through the air at the ordinary sound rate, if such a thing were possible, from New York to San Francisco would make the trip in four hours. The faintest "Hello" into the transmitter at New York strikes clear and distinct upon the ear of the receiver in San Francsco just one-fifteenth of a second later. A breath against a metal disk changes air waves into electrical currents, and these, in less than the proverbial twinkling of an eye, reproduce at the other end of the line, more than 3,000 miles away, identical sound waves.—Leslie's.

### Children's Pets.

Luther Burbank voices his sentiments in favor of children's pets in his system of "Training the Human Plant:" "Every child should have mud pies, grasshoppers, water bugs, tadpoles, frogs, mud turtles, elderberries, wild strawberries, acorns, chestnuts, trees to climb, brooks to wade in, water lilies, woodchucks, bats, bees, butterflies, various animals to pet, hayfields, pine cones, rocks to roll, sand, snakes, huckleberries and hornets, and any child who has been deprived of these has been deprived of the best part of his education. By being well acquainted with all these they come into the most intimate harmony with nature, whose lessons are, of course, natural and wholesome."

### Coffee In Java.

It is said that nowhere in the world is coffee, the drink, worse than in Java, where coffee, the bean, is supposed to be at its very best. Javanese distill coffee essence of extreme strength, bottle it and pour a few drops into a cup of hot water when they wish refreshment.—Argonaut.

### The Other Way.

"Then you don't want to leave footprints upon the sands of time?"

"Nix," answered the politician guardedly. "All I want is to cover up my tracks."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

### The Family Jar.

Mrs. Adipose—A man always wants his way. Hubby—So would you if you weren't afraid to get on the scales.—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

Subscription to the Transcript $1.00 per annum.

## WHITE OF THE MOON.

**What Causes Fair Luna, In Its Color, to Rival Pure Snow?**

The moon has no light of its own and shines through being illuminated by the sun. What sort of surface must the moon have to reflect the light so whitely as it does? This question is put forcibly in a letter to Nature from J. Evershed of Srinagar, Kashmir, who describes the moon as far whiter and more brilliant than the snow clad summits of the Himalayas when these are still lighted by the sun. He writes:

"Why does the moon appear so white if it is composed of rocks similar in reflecting power to those on the earth? The rock surface of the moon should reflect far less light than the cloudy surfaces of Venus and Jupiter, and it would be of interest if those who know would explain the apparent whiteness of the moon as seen in daylight.

"A direct comparison of the moon with terrestrial rock surfaces illuminated by sunlight is possibly to some extent vitiated by the superimposed blue light scattered by the intervening air, which may affect the color of the moon. Yet it is very difficult to believe that this can convert the grays and browns of rock surfaces into an almost pure white.

"On several occasions in this valley I have compared the waning moon, setting behind the Pir Panjal mountains, and, of course, in full sunlight, with extensive snow fields. These snows are perhaps fifty miles distant, and there is a considerable amount of blue scattered light superposed on the snow, although less than on the moon. Also the light absorbed by the atmosphere is approximately and may be exactly the same for each if one considers the whole path of the light from sun to snow and thence to the observer. When the air is transparent enough to see the moon clearly it appears to me to be distinctly whiter than the snows, which seem dull and yellowish in comparison."

Mr. Evershed throws out the suggestion that the moon's surface may be covered with ice.

## PICKING A LOBSTER.

**Always Select One That Kicks and Struggles Vigorously.**

When you go to pick out a lobster for cooking select one that kicks. Such is the advice Mrs. Mary C. Pickett gives in the National Food Magazine, the editor of which calls her the "lobster queen" and says she is the best known lobster broker in the United States.

Mrs. Pickett quotes the ancient Hebrew law against eating anything that has died of itself, and says that the moment a lobster is taken out of salt water it begins to die and its flesh to deteriorate. So the excellence of a lobster depends in large measure on the length of time that elapses between his being taken from the water and his being served at table. When a lobster moves his claws feebly he is nearly dead and, though not unfit to eat, his flesh will not be firm and tasty.

Keepers of first class restaurants have experts to select their lobsters. These pick them over as soon as received, sending some to be boiled at once and reserving others for broiling.

The finest lobsters come from the coldest waters, and Mrs. Pickett says those caught south of Cape Cod do not amount to much, their flesh being not nearly so firm as those from Maine waters.

The only way to tell if a lobster is in really good condition is by its liveliness. If it struggles vigorously, flops its tail and "makes wide open mit its claws," it is all right; if it is lethargic, opens its claws wearily and shows no sign of fight, it is dying and should be let alone, for it is not cheap at any price.

"The lobster," writes Mrs. Pickett, "should be boiled in the morning for use at dinner and kept in a very cold place, but not in direct contact with the ice, and it is better not to remove the meat from the shell until just before preparing it in any desired way."

### Mystifying Chemical Trick.

A plain blue handkerchief is shown to the audience. When the handkerchief is warmed it turns white and when cooled resumes its former color.

Make a starch paste and add enough water to the paste to thin it. Then add sufficient tincture of iodine to color the liquid blue. A few drops will be enough. Dye a white handkerchief with this blue liquid, and when the handkerchief is dry it is ready for the trick.—Popular Science Monthly.

### A Bargain.

"Look, dearie, at the lovely pair of shoes I bought today. Such a bargain, too—only $3.95."

"But aren't they a trifle small for you?"

"Now that you mention it, I think they are, but what can one expect for such a ridiculous price?"—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

### The Difference.

Man has fashioned the world. He has tunneled its peaks, bridged its chasms, drained its floods, laid cables across its oceans, cut its isthmuses, farmed its deserts and set up its civilizations. He fashions. Woman follows the fashions—that is the difference.—Life.

### Housekeeper's Reason.

"What is your chief objection to moving pictures?"

"The dust that has accumulated behind them."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

It is easier to ascend to the cloudy heaven without a ladder than to depend entirely on self.—Japanese.


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## SHAKESPEARE WAS SHREWD.

**Poet Was an Excellent Business Man, but Fond of Litigation.**

One reason may be given for Shakespeare not publishing his plays, and we have reason to think it was of a kind to appeal to him. There was no copyright, and to publish the plays was to lessen their financial value to his company. This "gentle Will," this "sweetest Shakespeare," this "Swan of Avon," was an admirable man of business. If we had only the records of the law courts, in fact, we might not be able to think so very well of him. He had a keenness for litigation which he seems to have inherited from his father. As a taxpayer he was slow, if not positively evasive. He was apparently negligent of a debt contracted by his wife. Like many men of property, he evaded the restrictions against brewing malt liquor for his private use, being in his way a moonshiner.

Liberal in giving aid and lending money to his friends in need, he was strict in collecting debts. At about the time he wrote the final version of "Hamlet" he sued the village apothecary at Stratford to recover a small loan, and while he was at work on the world tragedy of "Antony and Cleopatra" he engaged in litigation that brought him in conflict with the village blacksmith, a state of affairs that Emerson relates with something akin to horror. He conspired with his father to secure from the conniving Heralds' college a shady coat of arms and the right to subscribe himself "gent," and, while apparently not actively aiding an attempt to inclose Stratford common lands in defiance of the rights of the people, he at best remained strictly neutral toward the project.

Careless as he seems to have been as to his fame as a dramatist, he was in business by no means above current standards of conduct. One gathers that the chief interest of his later years was to live at ease as a gentleman and provide well for his family. It is related on pretty good authority that he died of "a feavour" after "a merry meeting" at Stratford with his old friend Ben Jonson and the poet Drayton. But it is not unlikely that the true cause of his fever was not drink, but the insanitary condition of the street in which he lived.—John Corbin in New York Times.

## LOST BY LACK OF NERVE.

**Louis Philippe Was Wanting When the Crisis Came.**

Baroness Bonde wrote in her diary the following account of the abdication of Louis Philippe of France on the day of that remarkable occurrence:

"An aid-de-camp of the minister of war who was in the king's cabinet when he abdicated gave me a detailed account of this most signal piece of cowardice. He had reviewed the troops in the Carrousel on horseback, highly rouged, when a cry was raised, 'Voici les faubourgs!' No one had any orders; no one gave any. The mob rushed forward, shouting, 'Vive la garde nationale—vivent les troupes!' and shook hands with the outposts.

"The king retreated precipitately with his sons, and a sublieutenant of the national guard rushed into the palace asking to see him. He was admitted and in the greatest agitation said:

"'Your majesty must abdicate.'

"'Very well,' says the king. 'In favor of my grandson.'

"'No, unconditionally,' says the young and self elected mouthpiece of public opinion.

"Would you believe it? Of all who were congregated around the royal person Piscatory alone said: 'Go down and head your troops. Fight for your crown and your dynasty.' He was overruled, and they all marched out of the palace except the Duchesse d'Orleans, her children and the Duc de Nemours."

### "Being Musical."

What is called "being musical" cannot be passed on to some one else or to something else. You cannot be musical vicariously—through another person, through so many thousand dollars, through civic pride, through any other of the many means we employ. Being musical does not necessarily lie in performing music. It is rather a state of being which every individual who can hear is entitled by nature to attain to in a greater or less degree.—Atlantic.

### Shell of the Snail.

The snail's horny shell serves to protect its soft body against numerous foes. Slugs are simply snails that live a retired life and consequently need no covering at all. The shell of the snail is built up from lime in the plants on which it feeds, and they are never found on soil which contains no lime.

### A Tightwad.

"I understand that Mr. Pinchpenny has been operated on for appendicitis," remarked Miss Cayenne.

"Yes, it's the first time any one was known to get anything out of him."

"And even then they had to chloroform him to get that."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

### Once Is Enough.

"Jiggs says that if he ever marries again he's going to have 'obey' eliminated from the ceremony."

"What's the trouble?"

"No trouble, but he says that they can't fool him more than once."—Buffalo Express.

### A Difference Between Differences.

A man may disagree with his neighbor on religion and be merely a fool. If it be a political difference, then it is clear he is a scoundrel.—Houston Post.


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