Large Body of Water Under French Capital

If you put a fish into the little pond on the butte of Menilmontant, in the northeast corner of the city of Paris, he could from there make an underground sight-seeing tour several miles long, which would include a visit to the foundations of the opera, the bourse and the Folies-Bergere. Hordes of other fish would flick past him, but they would not see him because they are blind.

Under a large part of the first arrondissement lies a subterranean lake, called La Grange-Bateliere, which is fed by this underground stream. Next to the old building of the Bank of France is a two and a half-acre plot, underneath the surface of which strata of earth, sand and limestone stretch down until, at a depth of 40 feet, they meet the waters of this lake. The lake itself is about 40 feet deep and rests on a huge shell of solid rock. It is in this rock that the gigantic vaults of the Bank of France have been carved. The vaults form a square hall, 20 feet from floor to ceiling, its sides longer than a football field. The walls are of concrete and sand and are themselves 20 feet thick.—World's Work.

Here Are Reasons Why Secrets Are Divulged

Keeping secrets is not natural and not a friendly thing to do, Edgar Guest, poet philosopher, declares in an article in the American Magazine.

"We have been told something in strict confidence," he continues. "We have information in our possession which others would enjoy. It may be good news or bad news, but, good or bad, it would greatly interest certain people we know and love. And this faithful old friend of ours would enjoy knowing what we know. So we tell it to him, just to make him happy. Then he has something in his possession—given to him in the strictest confidence—and the difficulty is that he likes to share with others what he knows. He ought to keep it to himself, as he promised to do. We should have kept it locked without our breasts, as we promised to do. The trouble is that it burns and throbs and pounds away at us until we do share it.

"I am quite sure that the only really good things in the world are those which you can share."

What Profit?

Why be always talking about profits? The man who hustles for profits in this world will get his loss in the next.—Farm and Fireside.

Only Soft-Shell Turtle

The leather-backed turtle's home is in Tanganyika, Africa. So far as is known these are the only land turtles in existence whose shells are not hard. In appearance they resemble giant bedbugs, with a covering of an extremely tough, leathery substance. It belongs to the same genus as the giant tortoises from the Galapagos and the Seychelles. The soft-shelled tortoise lives in the desert regions of East Africa and the flexible nature of the shell permits it to live in crevices of the rocks in the Kopjes. The Smithsonian-Chrysler expedition brought home many of this type and specimens have been widely distributed to various zoological gardens throughout America.

Nicest Auto Ride

Dessa had the toothache. She had been troubled in the same way only a few times before in her thirteen years. This time she came home from school crying and her mother promptly took her to see the dentist. He said the tooth had been neglected too long and must come out, advising that she take gas. Telling Dessa to "be a fine brave girl," mother stepped out into the waiting room, while the dentist and anesthetic went into action. In what seemed but a few seconds, the door opened and the dentist announced smilingly "All over." Dessa sat up, blinking, as mother took her hand and asked, "Did it hurt much, honey?"

"Well," said Dessa, "it kept right on aching until the epidemic took effect, and then I had the nicest automobile ride."

Goldsmith's Birthplace

The birthplace of Oliver Goldsmith, the British poet, playwright, and novelist, is not known for certain. He is usually said to have been born at Pallas or Pallasmore, County Longford, Ireland. Recent investigations indicate that he may have been born at Elphin, Roscommon, Ireland, in the home of his mother's father, Rev. Oliver Jones. At any rate, Goldsmith was born in Ireland in 1728.

Timely Thought

We ought daily or weekly to dedicate a little time to the reckoning up of the virtues of our belongings—wife, children, friends—and contemplating them then in a beautiful collection. And we should do so now, that we may not pardon and love in vain and too late, after the beloved one has been taken away from us to a better world.—Exchange.

Name Originated in War

Anzacs is a name often applied to the people of Australia and New Zealand, says an article in Pathfinder Magazine. It originated during the World war. The Australian and New Zealand forces in the British service were officially known as the "Australian-New Zealand Army Corps." In popular usage this name was shortened to "Anzac," being the initial letters of the words composing the longer name.

Common Breed of Hogs

The razor-back hog is a hog of no distinct breed, which is found in the South. Ordinarily, it is allowed to get most of its food by foraging. These hogs are usually not confined to lots or pens, as those of the recognized standard breeds found on hog farms. In different sections of the South they are known by other names, such as "piney wood rooters," "rakestraws" and "guinea hogs."

Fresh Water Under Sea

An undersea well in the Persian gulf gives forth fresh water. That water is the only source of supply for the city of Bahrein. Divers equipped with waterproof bags descend into the depths, carefully fill their water bags from the gushing spring and come back with sweet drinking water for the inhabitants of the hottest spot on earth.

Immense Sturgeons

According to a report of the American Museum of Natural History, the largest sturgeon on record was taken in the Columbia river in 1911 and weighed 1,000 pounds. There are species of sturgeon in Russian waters which are said to weigh more than a ton, but there are no records of catching them.

Historic Snuffbox

There is in existence a snuffbox made from a hoof of Napoleon's famous charger, Marengo. The hoof is silver-shod and fitted with a silver lid, upon which is this inscription: "Hoof of Marengo, barb charger of Napoleon, ridden by him at Marengo, Jena, Wagram, in the Russian campaign and at Waterloo."

Differ Over White Heather

Why white heather should be considered a luck-bringer is an open question. Certain Highland clans, whose chieftains included heather in their badge, have always regarded white specimens as lucky. On the other hand, ancient Gaelic tradition associated it with misfortune and death.

Not Accepted Measure

The "load" is an indefinite measure, not generally recognized by state laws in this country. In Great Britain a load of earth or gravel is one cubic yard; a load of lumber is 50 cubic feet; a load of wheat is 40 bushels; a load of oats is 30 bushels, etc.

Perfect Diamond

The term "first quality" in a diamond signifies a stone absolutely white and free from all flaws and imperfections. The finest old East Indian, the Jagers-fontein, the Rivers and the Blue Wesselton diamonds are all approximately one grade.

Giving All a Chance

A sculptor in Poland has suggested to his government that it erect a "universal monument" in the form of a bronze bust, on which should be placed detachable heads which could be changed, according to who was most popular at the time.

Uncle Eben

"It's hard to keep a cheerful disposition," said Uncle Eben. "Even if you only talks about de weather, you seems like somebody hurryin' to tell de bad news."—Washington Star.

Link With King Olaf

An elaborate stone cross, 12 feet high and most elaborately sculptured, was unearthed at Leeds, England, in 1840. It bore the date of 940, and the name Olaf, king of Northumbria.

Blind Following

"Our ancestors claim our deference," said Hi Ho, the sage of Chinatown, "and so we proceed, while praising their virtues, to make their old mistakes."—Washington Star.

Godsend for Funny Men

A young scientist claims to have discovered a force that eliminates gravity. Many music hall comedians are said to be anxious to use it.—London Opinion.

The Better Part

Those men who try to do something and fail are infinitely better than those who try to do nothing and beautifully succeed.—Jenkin Lloyd Jones.

Paternal Hopes

A man looketh on his little one as a being of better hope; in himself ambition is dead, but it hath a resurrection in his son.—Tupper.

Fame

We are told that the only thing woman has not yet vanquished is the revolving door.—Boston Transcript.

Advice

He who can take advice is sometimes superior to him who can give it.—Von Knebel.

Imitation Seal

Hudson seal is a name given to the fur of a muskrat dyed the color of Alaska seal.

Anger in Vain Then

Man has his limitations. No matter how angry he gets, coming out of an office building, he can't slam the revolving door.—Toledo Blade.

But Do We Know It?

Few of us have more judgment than we need right on our own premises.—American Magazine.

Water Power

The greatest water power on earth is women's tears.—Atlanta Constitution.

Young Diplomat Saved Situation for Visitor

He is the young son of a prominent family, and is evidently destined for the diplomatic corps, for while his selection of words may not always be appropriate, his efforts to preserve cordial relations show him to be tactful and kindly.

Recently his mother brought home a friend who is always attired with admirable taste. The three children in the family adore the young woman, and when their mother announced that they were all going to the club for dinner there was much joy.

Then the young woman cast a damper over the plan by saying that she had not anticipated dinner at the club in her itinerary, and that she was not fittingly arrayed for an evening festivity.

Up spoke the twelve-year-old son of the house: "Why, you look all right. I've seen lots of ladies at the club more miserably dressed than you are."

That settled it. The young woman went.—Buffalo Courier-Express.

Mother-in-Law Sees How New Generation Works

"I guess Harold must be going to get the closed car. Minnie has been talking for two days now about how wives should not make unreasonable demands on their husbands. They probably compromised the way they did the time they built the sun parlor. Harold wanted a fireplace in it and Minnie didn't. So they compromised on new rugs downstairs and new living-room furniture, and Harold soon cut out the fireplace on his own account.

"I'm learning a little late in life. I remember the time I wanted gas lights put in, back in Peoria. Lamech didn't want them, so I decided to have it out with him. I did; and we kept on using oil lamps.

"Minnie often says, 'Mother, I believe a man ought to have his own way as much as possible. It preserves his self-respect.' And when the limousine is delivered, Minnie will have Harold believing that he forced it on her."—Kansas City Times.

Monarch's Logic

St. Olave, who was a Viking king, once had an ungainly Icelander in his train. One morning the king awoke to see that Thorarin was sleeping with one clumsy foot sticking out. When his comrades concluded their slumbers, Olave told them that he had seen the ugliest foot in all the town. He stated that he was sure there was none uglier.

So sure was the king that he professed himself ready to bet on the question. Thorarin took him up. Then, without more ado, the Icelander stretched out the other foot.

"There, O King," said he, "that foot is every bit as ugly. In fact it is uglier, for one toe is missing."

"You are wrong," replied the king. "The first foot has five ugly toes on it and this has only four. The first is, therefore, uglier."—Detroit News.

Mixed Grill

A woman asked her husband to take a copy of a radio recipe she wanted. Unfortunately, the man got two stations at once, and this is what he copied:

"Hands on hips, place one cup of flour on shoulders, raise knees and depress toes, and mix thoroughly in one-half cupful of milk. Repeat six times. Inhale quickly one-half teaspoonful of baking powder, lower the legs, and mash two boiled eggs in a sieve. Exhale, breathe naturally, and sift into a bowl. Lie flat on the back on the floor, and roll the white of an egg backward and forward until it comes to a boil. In ten minutes remove from the fire, and rub smartly with a rough towel. Breathe naturally, dress in warm flannels, and serve with fish soup."—London Tit-Bits.

Don't Be a Goose

A teacher asked her class to write an essay on geese. This paper was turned in by an eight-year-old miss:

"Geese is a low, heavy-set bird which is most meat and feathers. His head sits on one end and he sits on the other. He ain't got no between-his-toes and he's got a balloon in his stummick to keep him from sinking. Some geese when they get big has curls on their tails and is called ganders. Ganders don't haff to sit and hatch but just eat an' loaf and go in swimming. If I was a goose I'd rather be a gander."—Pathfinder Magazine.

Business Reverse

The wayfarer was making an appeal for charity from a well-dressed gentleman.

"Well," said the other, "I seem to remember you. Didn't you have a little business of some sort once upon a time? Don't tell me you've taken up begging?"

"Yes, I have, sir," returned the other. "I've got no other way to get along since I lost me business."

"But how did you come to lose it?"

"My business was a one-hand laundry," said the mournful soul, "an' one day my wife just up an' left me."

A Handicap

"But surely," said the haughty passenger, "if I pay the fare for my dog he will be treated the same as other passengers and be allowed to occupy a seat?"

"Of course, madam," the guard replied politely, "provided he does not put his feet on it."

Speech Defects

Stammering and other speech defects may be caused by malformations of the palate, tongue, etc. Various speech defects may be symptoms of a functional nerve disorder.

Proof of Nobility

If a man is compassionate toward the afflictions of others, it shows that his heart is like the noble tree that is wounded when it gives the balm.—Francis Bacon.

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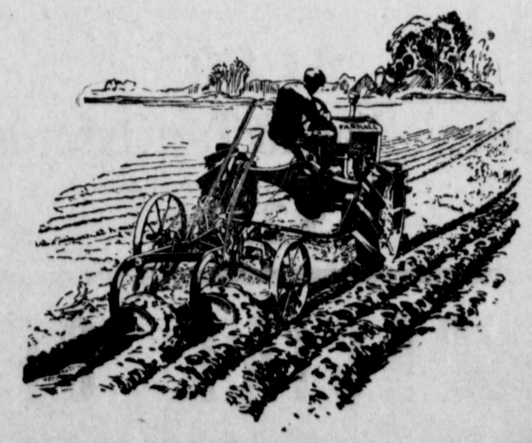
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