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Trace All Alphabets to Symbolic Pictures

While printing, of course, has unlocked the intelligence of the world, still even before printing there were records and communications. At first, these merely consisted of pictures. Then the pictures were arranged in series so that there was narration. Next through use, these pictures became symbols, that is, they were given a phonetic value. For example, the circle which the Egyptians used to represent the sun, in time became a symbol.

It was the Assyrians, however, who were first to take these various symbols and give them arbitrary values phonetically. They were still pictures, but they conveyed sounds.

Thus was formed the basis of all alphabets, Roman, Hebrew, Greek, Russian, Turkish, Armenian and Arabic. Different these may seem, but all can be traced back to the common origin.

Take the letter "A" of today. In the Phoenician-Assyriac alphabet that letter represented ox and was designated by a conventional ox's head. The Greeks took it and turned it upside down, refined it and made it more graceful. In Hebrew, the word Beth is very common. Originally, it was an upright rectangle with a cross stroke in the center. In other words, a drawing of a house, which is what it means in Hebrew. Now the old rectangle with the corners rounded is B, that also being due to Greek influence, the Greeks favoring the curved line of beauty rather than the rigid rectangle.

"Mashers" Worsted by Girls' Clever Scheme

Pittsburgh's young women have various ways of dealing with "mashers," "asphalt arabs," or whatever the species may be called. They are not lacking in the art of refusing unsolicited ice cream sodas or buggy rides. But this little tale is handed on for what it may be worth in an emergency.

The two girls had been visiting in a rather lonely neighborhood and were walking to their homes. The street was deserted except for two men behind them. After a time of doubts and apprehensive shivers, the young women realized that they were being followed.

They hastened their steps, but to no avail. Gradually the pursuers gained, and at last were almost within speaking distance. The young women were at a loss as to what to do. Suddenly one raised her hands toward the other and began making strange gestures. The other one did the same.

At this unusual procedure the men stopped in their tracks and stared. Then they turned and retraced their steps. Neither, apparently, knew the sign language of the deaf.

Neither did the young women, who continued in giggling triumph to their homes.—Pittsburgh Post.

Fighting the Mississippi

The levees on the Mississippi river have been in existence from the Eighteenth century. Formerly under the slave system each planter along the river had dikes erected for himself. The towns then took action, finally the counties, and the states building levees. Then congress in 1879 appointed the Mississippi river commission, but made no provision for the actual building of levees or protection of the lands from overflow. In 1880 congress made the first appropriation for the improvement of the Mississippi river. From 1879, under the commission, the federal government has expended more than $80,000,000 in the improvement of the Mississippi river and the protection of lands from overflow.

Peer of Producers

Niagara falls is still the peer of producers of electric energy. Howard P. Quick, the eminent Canadian engineer, has gathered data on all the great falls of the world and finds that after making due allowance for water diverted to scenic beauty the Niagara falls can produce 3,300,000 horse power of electrical energy while under similar conditions the falls of Parana river on the Brazil-Paraguay boundary could only produce 2,600,000 horsepower of electrical energy and the falls of the Zambesi in Rhodesia, Africa, have a capacity of only 215,000 horsepower.

Got Through, All Right

Recently there visited in this city a genuine old Georgia "cracker" from the outlying piney woods section of that state. While here he attended for the first time in his life an Episcopal church service. Later he remarked to a friend:

"It was all as interestin' as a 'possum hunt. I never did know much o' what all the folks about me was a-doin', but I jest kept my wits about me an' fell an' riz with 'em every time."—Boston Globe.

Great Military Leader

Hannibal of Carthage was one of the great soldiers of ancient times. In 218 B. C., when twenty-nine years of age, he led an army of 100,000 across the Mediterranean sea to Spain, and then marched his force over the Alps into Italy. Only 26,000 men remained with him, and yet for 15 years he maintained a war against Rome. He was finally compelled to return to Carthage; was defeated in the battle of Zama, 202 B. C., and finally committed suicide in Syria.

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Four out of every five electric refrigerators being installed in the United States are Frigidaires, it was recently estimated by Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., president of General Motors Coporation, of which Frigidaire tors Corporation, of which Frigidaire

The story of Frigidaire, infant prodigy of the world's largest industrial corporation and unchallenged leader in the electric refrigeration field affords a wonderful illustration of reasons for American supremacy in home comforts, in national well-being and in industry.

Forseeing in electric refrigeration a great universal service comparable with what had been accomplished by the automobile in benefiting mankind. General Motors, many years ago put scores of engineers to work in its development. Millions of dollars were spent with a free hand in perfecting it and adapting it to both household and commercial use.

"Some idea of what has been accomplished in this direction may be visualized by comparing our lowest priced Frigidaire, which now sells for $195 with the price of $750 which represented the cheapest unit manufactured five years ago.

The Frigidaire unit production of 50,000 units a month, exceeds with the exception of Chevrolet, the number of units produced monthly by any car manufacturing division.

"I should not be surprised if General Motors in another year or two had $100,000,000 invested in the electric refrigeration business. I am satisfied that the biggest development is ahead of us."

"Overwhelming acceptance of Frigidaire is taken as an expression of the high regard felt by the American people for General Motors engineering and its ability to build a quality commodity at a quantity price," says E. G. Biechler, president and general manager of Frigidaire Corporation.

The Frigidaire is sold in Kent by Geo. W. Baldwin, Chestertown, who will be glad to show you one of these machines at the Electric Light Co. Office, under Voshell House.

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Surely No Other Man Looked Like Bill Nye

When Bill Nye and Walt McDougall, the cartoonist, received their first checks from a press association they repaired to the bank.

"Bill presented his check and the cashier rather testily informed him that he would have to be identified," says McDougall in his breezy reminiscences, "This Is the Life."

"Do you mean I've got to go and find some one who knows me and whom you know before I can get the money?"

"Precisely," assented the cashier, "Step aside and let that gentleman get to the window."

"Oh, he's with me," said Bill. "He can identify me."

The cashier, not knowing McDougall, demurred, and an argument ensued. Finally, Nye asked him, in turn, if he knew Grover Cleveland, De Witt Talmadge, Senator Breckenridge and Queen Victoria, eliciting a snappy "No!" each time, whereupon he said with a protesting gesture:

"There! You see, you don't move in my set! How can I find anybody who knows us both?"

Then he pulled out that morning's paper, exposed his portrait, and took off his hat. The cashier glared, melted and, with a grin, began to count out the money. Then Nye introduced McDougall and he cashed his check, after which they invited the cashier out to lunch and found him to be entirely human and companionable.

Precept Often Heard Is of Ancient Origin

The author of the phrase, "Cleanliness is next to Godliness," quoted by John Wesley, in his sermon on "Dress," and again in his journal (February 12, 1772), is not known. Long before Wesley, Bacon had put the same idea into the words, "Cleanliness of body was ever deemed to proceed from a due reverence to God;" and Aristotle, still further back, into, "Cleanliness is half a virtue." But even long before Aristotle this well-known English phrase had been taught by the Rabbis of the Talmud, both as a religious principle and a sanitary law in the form: "The doctrines of a religion are resolved into carefulness; carefulness into vigorousness; vigorousness into guiltlessness; guiltlessness into cleanliness; cleanliness into godliness."

"Count" Coins by Weight

If you had a ton of pennies how rich would you be? Or if some one gave you 4,000 quarters in a sack could you take them home? In other words, how much would the sack weigh? The Federal Reserve bank of New York handles so many coins daily that it has machines to count and weigh them. The turnover in coins at this bank averages 35 tons a day, including gold, silver, copper and nickel, says an exchange. Quarters lead this group in value, with nickels second and dimes third. Since most of the business of the bank is done in large sums, the coins are packed in sacks of convenient size and weight for handling. A sack containing 4,000 quarters weighs 53 pounds. Dimes also run $1,000 to a 53-pound bag. Fifty bags of nickels total $10,000; 60 bags of pennies weigh a ton and are worth $3,000.

Explosion's Effect

The bureau of standards says that the noise and the shock of an explosion occur simultaneously. There is an interesting record of an observer in England who was looking down and across a stretch of open country from a hill during a bright sunshiny day, and suddenly noticed a long narrow shadow rushing toward him silently across the valley. As it passed him he heard the sudden report of a heavy explosion and felt the jar of it. A powder magazine several miles away had exploded, as he learned later. The "shadow" was the result of the increased density of the air in the compression waves.

Mighty Suspicious

A Georgia statesman tells the story of an aged negro who saw an extraordinary-looking instrument in the shop of an optician. He gazed in open-mouthed wonder and turning to the optician, inquired:

"What is it, boss?"

"That," replied the optician, "is an opthalmometer."

"Sho," muttered the other, his eyes still fastened on the curious-looking thing on the counter, as he backed out, "sho', dat's what I was afeard it was!"—Christian Register.

City's Downfall Complete

Achaia was the name given by the Romans to the province that comprised the southern part of Greece, and the capital of the province was the famous city of Corinth. In ancient times its wealth was so great as to be proverbial; so were the vice and profligacy of its inhabitants. The city in the Middle ages shrunk to a miserable village, standing on part of the site of the ancient city.

Famous Army Corps

Mamelukes were light cavalry soldiers forming the bodyguard of the caliph of Egypt in the Thirteenth century. They mutinied and established a new dynasty which lasted from 1254 to 1517. After that they exercised a great influence down to the beginning of the Nineteenth century, when they were massacred according to orders issued by the sultan of Turkey.

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