Wide Variation as to Significance of Kiss

The history of the kiss is vague. The Bible records it as a salutation of respect, but prehistoric history gives the origin to cannibalism, contending the modern kiss is only a modified bite, thereby giving the impression that Man so loved Woman he wished to indicate she was good enough to eat.

Among the oriental races the kiss has been known from time immemorial.

Kisses are not used in Madagascar, parts of Polynesia, Africa, South Sea islands and Japan. In ancient Greece it was a death penalty offense to kiss in public.

The Malay kiss (the rubbing of noses) also is used in Greenland and parts of Russia.

In Egypt they kiss one hand and place it on top of the head as a sign of affection.

The Romans had but three words to signify the kiss, while the Greeks had four, the French have twenty and the Germans have thirty. Among the latter cognomens is one which might be highly recommended to the world at large; it is called "nechkussen," meaning "making up for kisses that have been omitted."

In olden times, to kiss a pretty woman was considered a sure cure for a headache.

Remember Plural When Speaking of Molasses

"Molasses" comes to us through the Spanish from the Latin "mellaceus," meaning honeylike. Since the singular and plural forms are spelled the same the word is often construed as a singular when it should be construed as a plural. Hence "molasses are," "these molasses," and "those molasses" are common expressions, especially in the South and West. They are incorrect except in those rare cases when the speaker or writer has in mind different varieties of molasses and really desires to use the word in the plural. "These molasses are good," is not correct when the speaker refers to molasses on the dining table. He should say, "This molasses is good." On the other hand, it might be correct, though awkward, for a merchant to write, "Please send me 10 gallons each of both of those molasses I ordered last year," when he referred to different varieties of the product.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Cyrano Not Imaginary

Savinien Cyrano de Bergerac, a French romance writer and dramatist, was born in Paris March 6, 1619. At the age of nineteen he entered a corps of the guards, serving in the campaigns of 1639 and 1640, and began the series of exploits that were to make him a hero of romance. After ten years of this life Cyrano left the service and began to write tragedies. Cyrano's ingenious mixture of science and romance furnished a model for many writers, such as Swift and Poe. He died in Paris in September, 1655. M. Edmond Rostand's romantic play, "Cyrano de Bergerac" (1897), revived interest in him.

Shepherds First Golfers?

It is now said that shepherds in Scotland originated the game of golf 500 years ago. Although it has been claimed that the game began in Holland in 1732, it seems that it made its first appearance in Scotland five centuries ago. The shepherds, tending flocks, were in the habit of knocking stones with a stick at other shepherds whose flocks were beginning to intermingle with the first group.

From this means of warning another shepherd of the trespassing of his flock grew the game of golf. Gradually the practice became a sport, the objective being to hit small objects with the stone.

"An Historian" Incorrect

"A" is the correct form of the article before words beginning with consonant sounds. Therefore we should say "a historian" and "a union," not "an historian" and "an union." A few writers in this country adhere to the old practice of using "an" before words beginning with a consonant sound when the first syllable is not accented, but this practice is now regarded as incorrect. It is a holdover from the days when "an" was used indiscriminately before words beginning with vowel and consonant sounds.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Quaint Inn Signs

"Help Me Through" is the name of a licensed house at Bilton, Lancanshire, England. Its sign depicts a globe with the head and feet of a man protruding at the top and bottom respectively. There is also "Same Yet," in Simister lane, Rhodes, Lancs. The original name of the house was "The Red Lion." It was being redecorated and when a sign-writer asked what name was required, he received the reply, "Same yet," and forthwith complied. And so it remains to this day.

Durability of Furs

It is said that if otter, the strongest fur, is given a 100 per cent durability rating, other of the furs rank thus: Beaver, 90; chinchilla, 15; hare, 5; natural fox, 40; dyed fox, 25; baum or pine marten, 60; dyed marten, 45; mink, 70; dyed mink, 35; raccoon, 65; dyed raccoon, 50; sable, 60; dyed sable, 45; skunk, 70; tipped skunk, 50; hair seal, 80; dyed seal, 75; fur seal, 70; squirrel, 25; dyed squirrel, 20; coney, 20; lynx, 25; mole, 7; muskrat, 45; dyed muskrat, 35.

One's Home a Castle

The house of every one is to him as his castle and fortress, as well as his defense against injury and violence, as well as for his repose. —Coke.

Our Toes

Without our toes we could not keep our balance. Dancing, cycling, football, running, would be impossible. Nature, in toes, has not endowed us with useless appendages.

France Has Monopoly on Roquefort Cheese

The pilgrim father of all cheese in America today is Roquefort, which can trace its "blue blood" as far as the First century, when Pliny remarked about its excellent flavor.

Attempts have been made in the United States to duplicate the famous French product, but such experiments have been fruitless, as the ideal curing conditions of Aveyron, France, cannot be reproduced anywhere in the world. The wholesale price of the imported Roquefort is so low, and the flavor so appetizing that American hostesses are purchasing it in greater quantities than ever before.

Epicures bow their heads in respect to the shepherd whose misfortune was responsible for its origin. He left his lunch of barley bread and native cheese made of sheep's milk in a cave near the town of Roquefort, in southeastern France, to keep it cool until noontime. A sudden storm arose which forced him to forget about his lunch. Two weeks later he passed that way again, and thought about his abandoned food. He found the bread worthless, and the cheese covered with a curious culture mold. His curiosity and hunger being great, he nibbled a bit, and found the cheese had a flavor surpassing any food he had ever eaten. —Chicago Evening Post.

Three Idioms of Latin Tongue Long Employed

Ecclesiastical Latin differs from classical Latin in various ways, these changes being due principally to the origin and derivation of ecclesiastical Latin. Originally the Romans spoke the old tongue of Latin known as the prisca latinitas. In the Third century B. C., Ennibus and a few other writers trained in the schools of the Greeks made certain changes and, encouraged by the cultured classes, thus developed the classical Latin. The mass of the Roman people, however, continued to speak the old tongue, and after the Third century there were two separate idioms. The necessary contact between the two classes produced still a third. When the church developed a Latin it was necessary to employ a language which would appeal to the masses as well as to the literary class; hence some of the factors of each idiom were used. St. Augustine says: "I often employ words which are not Latin, and I do so that you may understand me. Better that I should incur the blame of the grammarians than not to be understood by the people."—Washington Star.

Effect of a Yawn

One day doctors will be able to tell us why yawning is so infectious. The other morning a woman sitting opposite me in the bus gave vent to a prodigious yawn, writes a well-known practitioner. Within a few seconds both her neighbors were yawning also, and shortly afterwards I began to yawn myself, although I felt quite fresh and wideawake. I made a deliberate attempt to check myself, but could not succeed, and it was only when my mind had been occupied by some other matter that I forgot to yawn. Probably by now you are yawning yourself. The very word "yawn" seems as infectious as the habit.—Exchange.

English in Switzerland

A traveler recently returned from a six months' holiday in Switzerland gave two quaint examples of English as she is written in out-of-the-way mountain chalets. One notice, taken from a hotel frequented by rock-climbers, runs as follows: "It is defended to circulate in the corridors in boots of ascension before seven hours of the morning." The other is a warning to travelers not to appear at dinner in evening dress. It says: "Strange gentlemen are requested not to dress for dinner, as their costume flatters the souls of the maid folk and no work is resulted." Which implies that Swiss girls are more susceptible than is generally imagined.

Intelligence of Trees

Trees have almost as wonderful a sense of direction as birds. Should there be a leak in an underground water pipe in a park or graden, a neighboring tree is almost sure to find it out, and, extending its roots in that direction, project a shoot through the break into the pipe. Even more extraordinary is the performance of the rattan, a climbing palm common in tropical countries. When it has climbed a tree, it goes over the top and comes down again to the ground. Then, growing at the rate of a foot every 24 hours, it sets out straight for the next tree, which may be over 50 yards away.

Tastes Smart

A little animated question-mark was curious as to the contents of a bottle that his mother was using to cure a headache. He wished to smell it, too. He persisted until he got one whiff from the smelling salts bottle. After recovering enough to talk, he said: "Whew, that tastes pretty smart in my nose; how does it taste in your nose, mother?"

Frankness

Little Jane was visiting one of the neighbors, and talking all the time, finally got to comparing the neighbor's home with her own.

"We have a nice dining room, too," she said with frankness, "but we only eat in it when we have company."

Got Title From Bunyan

"Vanity Fair" seemed to Thackeray an appropriate name for his great book, and was chosen from "Pilgrim's Progress"; "And the name of that town is Vanity; and at that town there is a fair kept, called Vanity Fair."

Strength of the Handshake

The skin of the human palm is 76 times as thick as that of the eyelid. That's why there is more in the glad clasp of a hand-shake than in a wink. —Atlanta Constitution.

Every VEEDOL victory is a victory for your pocketbook



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TO KEEP HIS FEET FROM BLISTERING



Don Smith is a considerate master. He and his dog "Bill" have walked from New York to Los Angeles and are now at Cincinnati on their homeward bound hike. To protect "Bill's" paws from the rough roads, specially designed wool-lined shoes were made for the dog. "Bill" gets about 900 miles tramping out of these shoes. Many of the "Knights of the Road" would be pleased if their "dogs" could have such fine protection from rough roads. (Herbert, N. Y.)

Start of Pony Express

The first announcement of the formation of the Pony express, one of the most spectacular institutions of the old days of this country, was made in March, 1860.

Monday's Troubles

The main trouble with Monday morning is that it has so much agenda. —Arkansas Gazette.

Salt Water's Freezing Point

The freezing point for sea water of average salinity—that is, 35 per mille—is 28.6 degrees Fahrenheit. The freezing point becomes lower as the salinity increases.

Flyer Sees 60 Miles

Provided the air be clear, an aviator at an elevation of 6,000 feet can see more than sixty miles.

"Grandeur That Was Rome"

Rome, the eternal city, offers such a multitude of sights that to visit every one worth while would take days or even weeks. Most important among the places to see are the Colosseum, the Forum, St. Peter's, the Vatican, the Catacombs, the Baths of Caracalla and the castle of St. Angelo. The works of art in Rome are innumerable and include statues and paintings by Bernini, Giotto, Raphael, Perugino and Botticelli. Other marvels of the city are the Appian way, queen of all ancient roads, which was built in 321 B. C. and was flooded with traffic for all of the known eastern world; also the Claudian aqueducts, ancient engineering triumphs, which still supply Rome with water.

Beautiful Venice

Of all the beautiful cities in the world none can rival Venice and its lagoons. Artists and poets of all ages have felt the charm of this unique city, where genius and nature have met to create a perfect harmony. The square of St. Mark, with its basilica scintillating with gold; the solemn lines of the procurate; the ducal palace; the Grand canal, with its marble palaces, whose decorations seem copies from the famous laces of Burano and Torcello; the churches and bridges, and the gondolas slipping silently through the water—all arouse in the visitor intense emotions and admiration.

To Gain Knowledge

The genuine lover of knowledge must, from his youth up, strive intensely after all truth.—Plato.

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Rolled Sheet Iron Old

Production of rolled sheet iron dates back before 1620 in Bohemia. It was introduced into Wales in 1720.

"Message to Garcia"

At the time that Hubbard wrote a foreword for an edition to "The Message to Garcia" he said that 40,000,000 copies had been distributed and that it had been translated into Russian, German, Spanish, Turkish, Chinese, Japanese and Hindu.

Mules Race With Man

Some mules have the chronic kicking habit almost as bad as some men. —Chicago News.

A Sufficiency

It is sufficient for a man to apply himself wholly, and to continue his thoughts and care to the tendan[illegible] of that spirit which is within him [illegible]nd really and truly to serve him. —Marcus Aurelius.

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