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See clubbing arrangements in other parts of paper.

Entered at the Postoffice at Baltimore, Md., as second-class matter, April 13, 1904.

Subscription the Transcript $1 per annum

LONDON'S HISTORIC TOWER.

And the Egg From Which Was Hatched the Great Charter.

Richard Davey in "The Tower of London" connects the historic edifice with the wresting of the great charter from King John.

King John, it would seem, though legally married to Isabella of Angouleme, fell desperately in love in 1214 with "Matilda" or "Maud," "the Fair," the beautiful daughter of Robert, Lord Fitzwalter. This lady, remaining deaf to his entreaties, was treacherously abducted from her father's seat at Dunmow by the king's order and shut up in the round turret of the White tower. On this Fitzwalter made a vain attempt to rouse the people to revolt, but was forced to fly to France with his wife and remaining children. Maud once safe in the tower, King John renewed his suit, but only succeeded in driving her to utter silence, which so infuriated him that he sent her a poisoned egg for her breakfast, and she died early in 1215. A year later her remains were translated to the family vault at Dunmow.

When the news of this crafty murder came to the ears of Fitzwalter he forthwith returned to England and discovered to his joy that the barons were on the point of declaring war against John. He at once placed himself at their head, hoping, it is said, to combine his personal revenge with his duty as an English peer and is indeed supposed to have forced the king to sign the great charter for the express purpose of humiliating his daughter's murderer. Thus from an egg was hatched the great charter. Whether the story be true or false, it is a certified historical fact that the barons held the tower in pledge till John consented to accept the charter and affixed his reluctant signature to the deed.

About a year later, when the war with the barons was at its height and John once more a power, the tower again fell into his hands, and, though the barons laid siege to it, they were repulsed by the king's men. To complete its strange vicissitudes during this strenuous reign the tower became on Nov. 1, 1215, the temporary court of King Louis of France, whom the rebellious barons had summoned to assist in the adjustment of their grievances. Appearing before the gates with a large body of men, he so completely awed the officials that they handed over the keys without striking a blow for their rightful monarch.

FREAKS OF A RIVER.

A Stream So Crooked That It Double Crosses Itself.

There is a stream in Massachusetts called the North river. It starts in a pond near Hanson and runs to the sea at Scituate. It is ten miles by air line from Hanson to Scituate, and the river is forty miles long.

This river is probably the most remarkable body of water, barring the Dead sea, on this footstool and has stood more abuse and bad language than the Chicago river. When the tide is coming in the river runs upstream, and not only that, but the upper part of it, which is fresh water, also runs up, and the spectacle of a fresh water river beating it uphill is alone enough to call attention to itself. But there is much more to it than that.

The North river is noted for being the scene of the last Indian raid on the coast settlements. It is notable for having given birth to the ship Columbia, whose captain discovered and named the Columbia river, and was the first American vessel to circumnavigate the world. It is notorious for having suddenly changed its mind on its course on the night of Nov. 27, 1898, when it moved its mouth three miles to the northward, presented the town of Marshfield with a deep harbor, killed three men and converted about 200,000 acres of prime meadow land into a salt marsh.

But the chief thing about this river is its crookedness. This river is so crooked that it double crosses itself. If you don't believe it go and see. There is one place in Hanover where by making three loops the river moves toward the sea for a distance of almost fifty feet and meanders about for fifteen miles in doing it.—Boston Traveler.

The Open Fire.

The open fire is a primitive, elemental thing. It cheers with more than mere heat; it is a bit of the red heart of nature laid bare; it is a dragon of the prince docile and friendly there in the corner. What pictures, what activity, how social, how it keeps up the talk! You are not permitted to forget it for a moment. How it responds when you nudge it! How it rejoices when you feed it! Why, an open fire in your room is a whole literature. It supplements your library as nothing else in the room does or can.—John Burroughs in Country Life in America.

Out or In.

"What's that noise?" asked the visitor in the apartment house.

"Probably some one in the dentist's apartments on the floor below getting a tooth out."

"But this seemed to come from the floor above."

"Ah, then it's probably the Popleys baby getting a tooth in!"—Catholic Standard and Times.

Dolly and Doris.

Nurse—Come, Doris. It is time for you and dolly to go to bed.

Doris—What's the use? Dolly's so tired she can't sleep, and I've got a touch of insomnia.—London Punch.

The best of us lack more'n wings to be angels.—Thomas B. Aldrich.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of Chas. H. Fletcher.

A CARD TRICK.

The Sequel to a Challenge to a Duel In a Berlin Cafe.

"Sir!"

"Well?"

"You have been staring at me!"

"Not that I am aware of."

The young gentleman, evidently a student, was about to retire with an apology when the person addressed—a banker—thought proper to add:

"You are altogether too insignificant an individual for me to stare at you."

"Sir, that is an insult! I shall challenge you. Here is my card."

After a moment's hesitation the banker also gave up his card. The cards were inscribed as follows:

"Count Botho von Felsing, student of philosophy."

"Ernst Grunschild, banker."

The scene occurred in a Berlin cafe, and the count at once took his departure. After his excitement had somewhat abated and he had had time to collect his thoughts Herr Grunschild also left. Fearing lest his better half might suspect something from his looks, he went straight to his place of business and began to write letters to his friends containing the customary last farewell greetings in case he should fall a prey to a "vindictive and quarrelsome opponent." It was 7 p. m., and the cashier called, as usual, to present his report. Grunschild ran his eye listlessly over the balance sheet. Suddenly he gave a start.

"A thousand marks drawn for private use! What does this mean? Come; this is above a joke!"

"Have you forgotten, Herr Grunschild? You were playing at the cafe, you know, and lost a thousand marks, and as you hadn't that amount on you Count von Felsing was good enough to call for the money on his way. He showed me your visiting card in proof of his statement."

Grunschild hardly knew whether he should go into a fit with vexation or whether he should shout for joy. He had been done out of a thousand marks, but at the same time it was "off" with the duel. When he afterward learned that the imaginary student was a professional swindler he was thankful to have got off so cheaply.

FLAG ETIQUETTE.

Displaying the National Ensign at Half Mast.

There have been many mistakes made about the etiquette of the flag. When President William McKinley was assassinated thousands of loyal Americans raised flags at half mast over their places of business and let them fly by night and by day until they wore out. They undoubtedly thought they were showing respect to McKinley's memory. But they were not showing proper respect to the flag. The United States government displayed at that time its flags at half mast from sunrise to sunset from the president's death until his burial. The government regulations provide that on the death of a president in office its flag shall be displayed at half mast only one day.

In memory of the 350,000 Union soldiers who lost their lives during the civil war May 30, Memorial day, each year the United States displays its flag at half mast at all army posts, stations and national cemeteries from sunrise to midday. Immediately before noon a dirge is played by the band or field music, and the national salute of twenty-one guns is fired. At the conclusion of this memorial tribute at noon the flag is hoisted to the top of the staff and remains there until sunset. The idea is that the national ensign is too sacred an object to be long in mourning for any man or number of men, no matter how exalted their rank.

The flag reversed, with the union down, indicates distress. The flag on anything but a fort actually besieged should never be displayed between sunset and sunrise.

When the flag is to be displayed at half mast it is lowered to that position from the top of the staff. It is hoisted to the top before it is finally lowered.—Washington Post.

WATCHED OVER BY SATAN.

Superstitions That Twine About the Mandrake Plant.

The little plant the mandrake has a wealth of tradition centering round it such as is seldom found in floral lore. Quite an insignificant little plant with a spindle shaped root often divided into two or three forks and rudely resembling the human form, it is doubtless from this latter fact that it has derived its name. Langhorne in the latter part of the eighteenth century tells us to

Mark how the rooted mandrake wears
His human feet, his human hands,

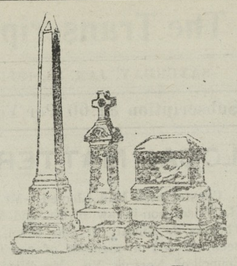
while it was once believed that a person pulling up a mandrake would instantly fall dead. This was said to be because the mandrake had a human heart at its root and when pulled it would scream in such a fearsome manner as to terrify the hearer to death or else induce madness. Shakespeare alludes to this where he says:

And shrieks like mandrakes torn out of the earth,
That living mortals, hearing them, run mad.

And again in "King Henry VII," where Suffolk, asked by Queen Margaret whether he has not spirit to curse his enemies, replies:

Would curses kill, as doth the mandrake's groan,
I would invent as bitter, searching terms
As curst, as harsh, as horrible to hear.

From time immemorial the mandrake has been associated with enchantments and has ever been believed to be one of the most powerful charms of witches. Mr. Conway in a paper on "Mystic Trees and Flowers" states that "by popular superstitions in some places it is said to be perpetually watched over by Satan, and if it be pulled up at certain holy times and with certain invocations the evil spirit will appear to do the bidding of the practitioner."—Westminster Review.



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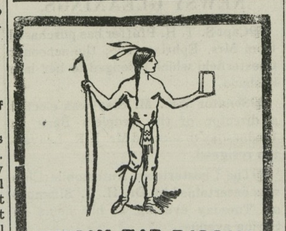

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Road Engineer Gives Notice

The following abstract from the road law of Kent county will hereafter be strictly enforced, and all persons and corporations should take warning:

167L. Any person or corporation placing any obstructions of any kind whatsoever upon the public highways or bridges, roads, lanes, streets, avenues or alleys of Kent county, or interfering with or obstructnig any of the ditches or drains thereof, or encroaching upon the same with fences or other obstructions, or any person or corporation, its agents or employees, exercising the business of a common carrier, permitting his or its vehicles, steam or other engines or cars, to obstruct any crossing for more than five minutes at any one time, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be liable to prosecution at the instance of any tax-payer of said county, and upon conviction by any Justice of the Peace exercising criminal jurisdiction in Kent county, shall be fined in an amount not less than one dollar nor more than twenty-five dollars for each offense. Any person arrested under this Section shall have the right to appeal to the Circuit Court for Kent county for trial, and all fines collected under this Section shall be paid to the said County Commissioners and by them applied to the General Road Fund of the county.

ISAAC GIBBS, JR.,
aug27-tf. Road Engineer for Kent county.

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Thanking you kindly for past favors and soliciting a continuance of the same, we remain,

Very respectfully yours,
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During the past 13 years it has paid to its policyholders for fire losses $80,000.00.

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