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MONKEY PRANKS.

The Way One Cunning Ape Served a Thieving Crow.

Recently a monkey got the better of the common enemy, the carrion crow, by feigning illness. He was fastened to a bamboo pole with a running ring. When he was on his perch the crows annoyed him by stealing from his porringer on the ground.

One morning they had been specially disagreeable. He closed his eyes and feigned a bad illness. When his day's food was brought him the crows descended upon it, and he had scarcely strength to defend it. By good acting he managed to capture one of the crows. To pluck it alive was the obvious course. Then, instead of pulling it to pieces, like the king monkey whom Kipling and Sir Edward Buck watched enjoying a similar triumph at Simla, this monkey tossed the crow into the air, where its own companions fell upon it and killed it.

Monkeys certainly have a sense of fun. Darwin used to spend hours watching a young female orang outang in the zoological gardens and was sure that she had the comic sentiment. She delighted to put upon her head, like a cap, a peculiar shaped bowl, which had a droll effect, and she was sensitive to the effect which her joke produced upon the spectators.—Lahore Tribune.

LAWS ON EATING.

Meals at One Time Were Regulated by Statute In England.

On Nov. 2, 1336, a law came into force in England for the regulation of meals and continued to have a place on the statute book until 1857. It was designed to check the evils resulting from an excessive use of costly meats and enacted that no one should partake at any place or time (except on specified festivals and holidays to the number of sixteen days a year) of more than two courses, each not consisting of more than two sorts of victuals, either flesh or fish, with the common sorts of pottage, and inexpensive sauce. On named feast days three courses were allowed.

This law was an extension of an ordinance issued by Edward II. in 1315 regulating the meals of his nobles, the greater of whom were allowed in addition to two courses of two kinds of meat a side dish of one sort.

An act of 1363 enacts that servants, artisans and laborers "shall be served to eat and drink once a day of flesh or fish and remnant of other victuals, as of butter, milk and cheese, according to their station in life."—London Telegraph.

AFTERNOON TEA.

It Was the Vogue In England In the Eighteenth Century.

The earliest mention of afternoon tea is by Carlyle of Inveresk, who, writing of society at Harrogate in 1763, says, "The ladies gave afternoon tea and coffee in their turns."

In 1766 William Dutton wrote home from Eton college to his father in Sherborne, "I wish you would be so kind as to let me have tea and sugar to drink in the afternoon, without which there is no keeping company with other boys of my standing."

Dr. Somerville, minister of Jedburgh, writing of social habits in Scotland in his early life (1741), says, "Most families, both in the higher and in the middle ranks, used tea at breakfast, but among the latter it was only recently introduced in the afternoon, on the occasion of receiving company."

Thackeray, in "The Newcomes" (1855), alludes to the light refreshment halfway between lunch and dinner as if it were already a fashionable institution, "Barnes Newcome comes every day from the city, drops in and drinks tea at 5 o'clock."—London Globe.

Unique Public House.

In a busy thoroughfare in Glasgow there is a fully licensed public house, which is probably the smallest establishment of its kind in the kingdom. When full it can just accommodate eight customers. It is nicknamed the "Coffin," and the regular habitues give the various drinks, etc., names to correspond. A whisky is a "nail," a pint of beer a "lid," and brandy and soda is a "monument." The sandwiches are dubbed "gravestones" and the cigarettes "worms."

Mutual Distrust.

"A genius," said the young man with long hair and eyeglasses, "usually regards the world as a balky mule."

"Yes," answered Miss Cayenne, "and the world usually regards a genius as a horse that is trying to run away."—Washington Star.

Things Worth Remembering.

Do not forget that it isn't necessary to be disagreeable in order to disagree with the other man.

If we took as great pains to say kind things as we do to think unkind ones, life would be one long metaphorical May.—Success.

The Limit.

"How much will you give me for a novel of 40,000 words?"

"Let me see," replied the editor. "You ought to get six months for that!"—Atlanta Constitution.

Storms.

"Allbone says he can foretell storms."

"He can not only tell them. He can cause them."

"How?"

"By staying out till midnight."

Strong Love.

Patience—How do you know her love for him was strong? Patrice—Because it broke him.

The more you say the less people remember.

A MONSTER DUMPLING.

It Weighed a Pound For Each Vote Cast at Dumpling Town.

In Halifax county, N. C., prior to 1840 there was a voting precinct known by the odd name of Dumpling Town. In 1840, when William Henry Harrison was elected president after a most exciting campaign, Dumpling Town had exactly 114 voters, and every man of them cast his ballot for Harrison.

The people of the small but prosperous town of Scotland Neck, in that county, showed their appreciation of the unanimous vote of Dumpling Town by a generous and whimsical gift. Two days and a night were consumed in building a big dumpling, which was made of apples and flour and which weighed 114 pounds, one pound for each vote cast at Dumpling Town. This monster of a dumpling was put in a sack supported by a tripod and lowered into an immense iron kettle.

It required two days and a night to cook it properly. Then it was lifted out and placed in a specially made bowl cut from the trunk of an enormous cypress tree, and round it were placed 114 dumplings of the usual size. A band of music and fifty wagons were sent to Dumpling Town, and in these wagons were taken to Scotland Neck the 114 true blue Harrison men and their families.

There was great cheering when they arrived at Scotland Neck, and the guests cheered themselves when they saw the feast prepared for them, for, besides the dumplings, no end of good things filled many tables in the spacious warehouse, and the feasting and fun lasted the rest of the day and nearly all night.

A barrel of the best molasses was used as sauce for the big dumpling, and the hungry people ate it all.—Youth's Companion.

PAYING IN CENTS.

Creditors May Refuse Large Sums of Small Change.

Ordinarily when a debtor appears before a long time creditor there is no questioning of the United States coin in which the debt is to be paid, but the wide possibilities possessed by an arbitrary creditor in stipulating just what coins and in what amounts he will receive payment are enough almost to discourage borrowing.

You can't force a mean creditor to take more than 25 cents' worth of nickels or 25 cents' worth of copper cents. If you could get as much as $5 worth of old silver three cent pieces of another generation you could unload $5 worth on him, just as he would have to take $5 worth of the silver five cent pieces and $5 worth of the obsolete twenty cent pieces, which made so much trouble in the late seventies. But you can pay out $10 in silver dimes and silver quarters and silver half dollars. The trade dollars, of which there are a few still coming into the treasury of the United States for redemption, are worth nothing, while the standard dollar is an unlimited legal tender, as is the old "dollar of our dads," the first of which was coined in 1794 and the last in 1873.

Coins that virtually have disappeared from circulation are gold three dollar and one dollar pieces, the trade dollar of silver, the nickel three cent piece, the copper two cent piece, the copper half cent and silver three and five cent pieces.—Omaha World-Herald.

German Paternalism.

American tourists returning from Europe bring back stories of the paternal watch which is kept upon them in Germany. One woman was requested by a policeman to hold up her gown, which was a trailing, elaborate affair of lace and chiffon. It was after dinner, and she was taking a stroll with her husband through a park whose immaculate walks seemed to offer no harm to its delicacy, so she let it hang. The policeman was polite enough. He informed her gravely that any dress that was allowed to trail was liable to collect undesirable matter and prove injurious to health, and he reminded her that one time a law was under consideration to make the wearing of such skirts a misdemeanor.—New York Tribune.

The Weathercock.

The effigy of the cock so often seen on church steeples is usually connected with a legend in connection with St. Peter. As a matter of fact, however, the figure of a cock used to be placed on the tops of sacred trees long before it was used on buildings. The movement of the bird in the breeze was supposed by the superstitious to ward off evil spirits. On a number of modern churches the familiar vane is missing, but in days gone by a church was hardly ever built without the weathercock on its steeple.—London Standard.

Garden Lanterns.

The noted Japanese gardens, famous for their beauty, owe much of their charm to the quaint lanterns which are used in great profusion. The best of their garden lanterns are made of bronze after quaint native designs. Some of them are richly carved and are of great intrinsic value. Many of these lanterns are of great antiquity, and the best examples are seen at Nikkho, famous for its exquisite bronzes.

Posthumous Editions.

"Did you ever see anything to equal the way some of these live young authors turn out books?"

"Well, they can't compete with some of the dead ones who keep on getting out new volumes every year."—New Orleans Picayune.

When trouble goes hunting him a man may dodge it, but when a man goes hunting trouble it hasn't one chance in a thousand of escaping him.

BURIED BANK BILLS.

They Had Almost Crumbled to Dust, but Were Redeemed.

The money counters in the United States treasury were startled one day, says Theodore Waters in the November Everybody's, by the appearance of a remarkable looking fat man who entered the department and told a strange tale. He said he was an Ohio farmer and did not believe in banks, and so had buried his money in the ground for safe keeping. He had dug it up and was horrified to find that it was slowly turning to dust, as notes will when long buried.

Panic stricken, he gathered the disintegrated money into an old pillowcase, bound it around his waist beneath his clothes and started for Washington. He traveled part of the way on horseback, part of the way on an Ohio river steamboat and part of the way by train. During the journey he never once took off the pillowcase. He even slept with it on. The officials of the treasury department found it difficult to make him part with it.

He did not want to go with a clerk to a hotel for fear the clerk might rob him, but as it was manifestly impossible for him to disrobe in the office he had finally to submit. They got the money at last, and the condition of it was so bad that the treasury expert had to be called to decipher it. So great was her skill that the farmer lost only a few hundred dollars out of $19,000.

EARTHQUAKES.

Theories to Account For These Upheavals of the Earth's Crust.

A scientist who has made a special study of earthquakes says: "Let us imagine the influx of the sea into one of the fissures formed in the earth's crust. On coming into contact with molten matter it would instantly be changed into gaseous steam, expanding to more than 18,000 times its original bulk. This would press with enormous force upward upon the crust of the earth and downward upon the surface of the liquid lava. If there were then no vent for the lava to escape an earthquake would result."

There are other ingenious theories which have weight, such as that of Davy, who when he discovered the metallic bases of the earths and alkalis conceived that water may penetrate to these metals if they exist underground in an unoxidized state and so set free sufficient gaseous matter to cause an earthquake. Shrinkage of the earth's crust is also to be taken into account.

CLIMBING SERPENTS.

The Method by Which They Glide Up Smooth Surfaces.

Serpents can easily climb a smooth wall. "I have often seen them do so in Central America," says a traveler, writing to a journal published in Rome. "I watched a little one, whose bite is fatal, climb up a canvas stretched taut between two snakes. On reaching the top the reptile curled itself round a handglass, and I killed it with a cane."

A serpent is to be seen in almost any zoological garden which makes no trouble of climbing its glass case. This is how it sets to work: Stretching itself up the glass for about four inches, it discharges from its glands a quantity of viscous matter which serves as an adhesive liquid to hold and support its body long enough to enable it to thrust itself up a little higher, when the process is repeated.

In warm climates this mucus is very thick and glutinous, so that by its aid even heavy serpents can glide up perfectly smooth surfaces.

Microscopic Detective.

Ehrenberg, prince of microscopists, some years ago was employed by the Prussian government to investigate a case of smuggling. A case had been opened, valuables extracted and the case repacked and shipped onward to its destination. The only clew to the criminals was that the unpacking must have been done at some of the customs houses through which the goods had passed. To all appearances the microscope had a hopeless task. Ehrenberg took some of the sand which had been used in repacking, placed it under the microscope, looked through the tube, and, behold, there on the sand lay a peculiar specimen of foraminifera. That animal was found only at one place in the world and told just where the crime had been committed.

Flower Essences.

To extract the essence from any flower place a layer of the flowers in a clean earthen pot and over them a layer of fine salt. Repeat the process until the pot is filled, cover closely and place in the cellar. Forty days afterward strain the essence from the whole through a crape by pressure. Put the essence thus expressed in a clear bottle and expose for six weeks in the rays of the sun and evening dew to purify. One drop of this essence will communicate its odor to a pint of water.

The Wrong Place.

"Porter, do you intend pasting a lot of those labels on my trunk?" said the young man.

"Yes, sir," answered the porter.

"Well, just give them to me, and I'll put them on myself."

"Oh, I wouldn't do that, sir. You'll look like a tattooed man if you do."—Yonkers Statesman.

The Doctor Answered.

Wagstaff—Good morning, doctor. Are you enjoying good health this morning? Doctor—Well—er—that's about the only kind of health a man can enjoy, isn't it? You never knew any one to enjoy bad health, did you? Wagstaff—Oh, yes; I've known some doctors to enjoy bad health.



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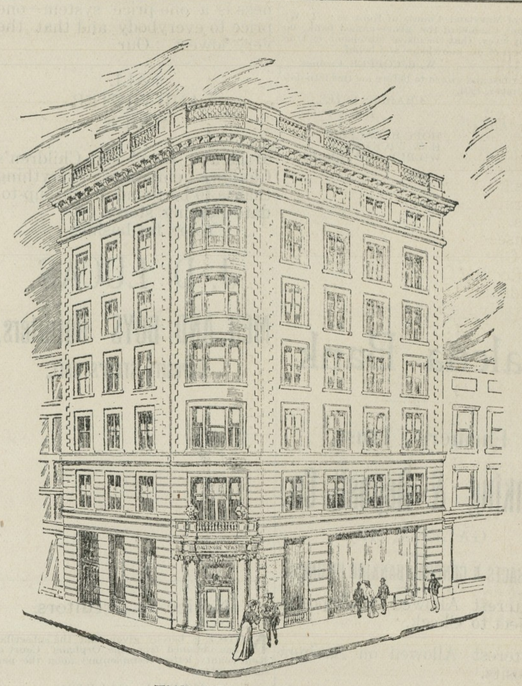
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