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BEQUESTS OF HEARTS.

The Dying Wish of Bruce and the Fate of Douglas.

Requests of hearts have been by no means uncommon. Richard Coeur de Lion bequeathed his heart to the canons of Rouen cathedral, and in July, 1838, this remarkable relic was once again brought to light after the lapse of six centuries. The heart, which is said to have been surprisingly large, was inclosed in boxes of lead and silver and withered, as it was described, to the semblance of a faded leaf.

Bruce's heart was by his dying wish intrusted to Douglas to fulfill a vow which he had been unable to execute in person of visiting the sepulcher of Christ. Douglas, "tender and true," promised to fulfill his sovereign's last request and after Bruce's death, having received the heart incased in a casket of gold, set forth upon his mission. Proceeding to Spain, however, he fell in the thick of a fight with the Moors, having previous to his final charge cast the heart of Bruce from his breast, when he carried it into the ranks of the infidels, crying, "Onward as thou wert wont; Douglas will follow thee!" Bruce's heart was afterward recovered by Sir Simon Lockhart, by whom it was brought to Scotland and buried along with the bones of Douglas in the abbey of Melrose. When the remains of Bruce were disinterred at Dunfermline in 1819 the breastbone was found sawed through so as to permit of the removal of the heart.

DIED WITH HIS CHUM.

A Deed of Heroism That Stirred an Entire Army.

In the reminiscences of General Sir Evelyn Wood, himself a brave English soldier, a touching instance of courage and self sacrifice is given. One June day in 1885 a detachment of English marines was crossing the Woronzow road under fire from the Russian batteries. All of the men reached shelter in the trenches except a seaman, John Blewitt. As he was running a terrific roar was heard. His mates knew the voice of a huge cannon, the terror of the army, and yelled:

"Look out! It is Whistling Dick!"

But at the moment Blewitt was struck by the enormous mass of iron on the knees and thrown to the ground. He called to his special chum:

"Oh, Welch, save me!"

The fuse was hissing, but Stephen Welch ran out of the trenches and, seizing the great shell, tried to roll it off his comrade.

It exploded with such terrific force that not an atom of the bodies of Blewitt and Welch was found. Even in that time when each hour had its excitement this deed of heroism stirred the whole English army. One of the officers searched out Welch's old mother in her poor home and undertook her support while she lived, and the story of his death helped his comrades to nobler conceptions of a soldier's duty.

The Lavish Jenkins.

In October, 1886, a religiously minded Buckinghamshire farmer named Jenkins brought his firstborn to the parish church to be christened, and this was to be the name: Abel Benjamin Caleb Daniel Ezra Felix Gabriel Haggai Isaac Jacob Kish Levi Manoah Nehemiah Obdiah Peter Quartus Rechab Samuel Tobiah Uzziel Vaniah Word Xystus Zechariah. It will be observed that the names are all arranged in alphabetical order and are as far as possible selected from Scripture. It was only with the very greatest difficulty that the clergyman dissuaded Mr. Jenkins from doing the lasting wrong to his child that he had unwittingly devised, but eventually it was decided to christen the boy simply Abel.—Chambers' Journal.

Handy Feat.

Mr. Nolan's description of an acrobatic performance was clear enough to any listener, although his excitement over it led his tongue, as usual, into unfrequented mazes of speech.

"He was a wonderful man, that man was," said Mr. Nolan to his audience. "You'd see him go up a ladder wid the ind of it up in the air and the bottom of it risting on a kind of a sofa pilier, an' you'd say, 'There's a man going to his death.'

"But was he? Not a bit of it! Anny man that can get such a foothold on the air wid his hands and be as handy wid his feet as a monkey there's no fear for him!"—Youth's Companion.

The Heart an Inner Garden.

He who would have beautiful roses in his garden must have beautiful roses in his heart. It is the inner garden. He must love them well and always. To win he must woo, as Jacob wooed Laban's daughter, though drought and frost consume. He must have not only the glowing imagination, the enthusiasm and the passion, but the tenderness, the thoughtfulness, the reverence of love.—Dean Hole.

His Party Ties.

"I didn't know young Snobberly really took any interest in politics."

"Nonsense! He doesn't."

"But I just heard him talking for the past ten minutes about 'party ties.'"

"Oh, he means white lawn bows."—Philadelphia Press.

Awful.

Isn't it awful when a woman keeps fixing her back hair at the theater and then when the performance is over finds that she has left her diamond ring on the dresser at home!—Cleveland Leader.

Johnnie's Choice.

Barber—How do you want the little fellow's hair cut, Mr. Balder? Johnnie Balder—I want mine cut like papa's, with a hole on top.—Yorkshire Post.

A COSTLY DROP CURTAIN.

The One Meissonier Didn't Paint For a French Theater.

The enterprising manager of a theater called upon the famous French artist, Jean Louis Ernest Meissonier, on one occasion, says Mr. Robert Kempt in Pencil and Palette, and asked him to paint a drop scene for a certain theater and name his own terms.

"You have seen my pictures, then?" asked Meissonier.

"Oh, yes," exclaimed the manager, "but it is your name I want! It will draw crowds to my theater."

"And how large do you wish this curtain to be?" inquired the artist.

"Ah, well, we will say 15 by 18 meters!"

Meissonier took up a pencil and proceeded to make a calculation. At last he looked up and said with imperturbable gravity:

"I have calculated and find that my pictures are valued at 80,000 francs per meter. Your curtain, therefore, will cost you just 21,600,000 francs. But that is not all. It takes me twelve months to paint twenty-five centimeters of canvas. It will therefore take me just 190 years to finish your curtain. You should have come to me earlier, monsieur. I am too old for the undertaking now. Good morning."

CONQUESTS OF SILENCE.

Men Whose Greatness Was Not Measured by Their Speeches.

Washington never made a speech. In the zenith of his fame he once attempted it, failed and gave it up, confused and abashed. In framing the constitution of the United States the labor was almost wholly performed in committee of the whole, of which George Washington was day after day chairman, and he made but two speeches during the convention, of a very few words each. The convention, however, acknowledged the master spirit, and historians affirm that had it not been for his personal popularity and the thirty words of his speech, pronouncing it the best that could be united upon, the constitution would have been rejected by the people.

Thomas Jefferson never made a speech. He couldn't do it.

Napoleon, whose executive ability is almost without a parallel, said that his difficulty was in finding men of deeds rather than words. When asked how he maintained his influence over his superiors in age and experience when commander in chief of an army in Italy he said, "By reserve." The greatness of a man is not measured by the length of his speeches and their number.

LIQUID LITIGATION.

The Trial by Ordeal That Finds a Place In Perak.

In Perak lawyers find no business, for a modified form of trial by ordeal decides all disputes. In place of the legal practitioner the pleader is a native boy who is assigned to one or the other of the sides and is given a bamboo tube in which is sealed the pleading of the person or party whom he represents.

When all is ready two stakes are driven into the bed of a stream, and by aid of a bamboo pole the heads of the two boys are submerged at the same time.

By grasping the stakes they are enabled to remain under water for quite awhile after their natural inclination would bring them to the surface, but at last one of them gives in and, releasing his hold of the stake, comes to the air.

He is immediately seized, and the tube he holds is cast aside. The other lad is led ashore, his tube opened, and the document contained therein stands as the decision in the case.—New York Herald.

The Dhebar Lake.

A British government engineer living in Bombay asserts that India has the largest artificial fresh water reservoir in the world. He says that in the native state of Udaipur, in Rajputana, some thirty miles south of the city of Udaipur, is the great Jaisamand, the Dhebar lake. The dam of this lake was built some 200 years ago by the Maharana Jai Singh. It covers an area of between twenty-one and twenty-five square miles. Its depth at the dam is ninety feet, and its capacity is estimated at 153,000,000,000 gallons.

Those Beardless Angels.

The Right Rev. Richard H. Wilmer, late bishop of Alabama, was remarkable at once for his piety and his humor. When some one asked him why it was that the pictures and figures of men angels as well as female angels were represented without beards the bishop replied promptly that it seemed to be easy enough to make angels out of women, but that men could only get into heaven by a "close shave."—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

The Cemetery of the Sea.

The sea is the last of all cemeteries, and its slumbers sleep without monuments. All other graveyards in all other lands show some symbol of distinction between the great and small, the rich and poor, but in that ocean cemetery the same waves roll over all.

Suspicious.

"Why do you think all is not right between Mr. and Mrs. Flashington?"

"They are so often seen together lately. It must be that they have some reason for trying to drown suspicion."—Chicago Record-Herald.

Justice is the bread of nations—they are always famishing for it.—Chateaubriand.

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