Kent News

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Japanese Wall Paper.

Real Japanese papers for wall coverings imitate raw silk, burlap or matting to a nicety.

A Table Polish.

An easy polish for the daily rubbing of the dining table is an emulsion made from two parts of table oil to one part of vinegar. This, applied with a soft cloth or flannel and rubbed afterward with a dry one, will be found efficient in removing all ordinary stains.

To Remove Marble Stains.

To remove stains from marble mix together a quarter of a pound of whiting and an eighth of a pound each of soda and melted laundry soap and boil them until they become a paste. Just before this is cold spread it on the marble and leave it there for twenty-four hours. Then wash it off with soft water and dry the marble with a soft cloth.

Keeping Silver Bright.

Somebody has discovered that silver is easily kept bright if it is boiled occasionally in an aluminum kettle. This latter vessel must be kept perfectly clean and bright and filled with hot water when the household silver is put in it. Keep the water boiling for fifteen minutes, then take out and dry the silver with the ordinary silver towels, and it will be found that the forks, spoons, etc., will be beautifully bright and glittering. The kettle, on the contrary, will have become tarnished.—New York Post.

Care of a Child's Clothes.

A wise woman suggests that the average mother may gather many valuable suggestions by a visit to a modern day nursery. The lesson of airing clothes is especially well illustrated in such institutions. In all well conducted nurseries the clothes taken off from the child in the morning are replaced by clean outfits provided by the institution, and they are well shaken in the open air, loosely folded and gathered in an open bag made of knotted cord. The bag is then hung out of the window, or sometimes in a large, well-ventilated room filled with dry heat. At night when the child leaves he is dressed in these clothes thus freshened. The process is partly to guard against possible infection in the garments, but as well to air them thoroughly and get rid of the close, stuffy smell that gets into clothes in small rooms where cooking and laundry work is carried on. The personal clothing in any house should never be shut in hermetically sealed closets, and all modern architects when planning a house pay great attention to the ventilation of clothes closets. If closets are hermetically sealed, which is the case in the average house, they should be thoroughly aired for an hour or two each day.—Chicago Record-Herald.



Pepper Vinegar—Break up a half-dozen peppers, add three dozen black peppercorns, add two tablespoons of sugar to a quart of vinegar; scald and pour over the peppers. Put in a jar, steep a few minutes, strain and bottle. Eat with fish or raw oysters.

Tomato Relish—Scald and skin thirty ripe tomatoes; pare and core twelve sour apples; peel ten onions; remove the seeds and stems from six peppers, then chop all very fine; mix thoroughly and stew slowly one and a half hours; this is very nice served with meat.

Golden Waffles — Sift together one-half of a teaspoonful of baking powder and two cupfuls of flour. Add the well-beaten yolks of three eggs to one and three-fourths cupfuls of milk and stir smooth into the dry ingredients. Also add two level tablespoonfuls of butter, melted. Just before baking the waffles stir in the stiffly beaten whites of the three eggs. Serve with shaved maple sugar or lemon syrup.

Fricasse of Mushrooms — Peel and wipe a quart of small button mushrooms; put a tablespoon of butter into a saucepan and lay in the mushrooms; set over fire and stir; add flour to thicken; season with a teaspoonful of minced thyme, a grating of nutmeg, pepper and salt. Pour in soup stock to thin the mixture and let simmer for twenty minutes. Take out the mushrooms with a skimmer, strain the gravy, add a beaten egg and juice of half a lemon. Lay the mushrooms on slices of buttered toast and pour the gravy over.

Sweet Potato Pie—Wash two medium sized sweet potatoes; boil them for fifteen minutes; remove them from the water when cold, peel and grate them; beat the yolks of three eggs; add one tablespoon of softened butter, half a cupful of sugar, one cup of milk and one and a half teaspoonfuls of cinnamon; pour this gradually over the sweet potato and when well mixed turn it into a pie plate lined with a good pie crust; prick several times with a fork and brush over with a little white of egg; turn in the mixture and bake half an hour in a moderate oven.

Watch Made from Billiard Ball.

Henri Houriet, a Swiss watchmaker, has recently completed a watch made entirely out of the ivory taken from a billiard ball—works and case complete. It keeps good time.

COMPENSATION.

Where have they vanished, the mysterious lands,
Which oft, far-off beholden, bathed in gold,
With genii and wonders manifold,
And great palms towering from burning sands,
We fashioned with imagination's hands
From unforgotten legends, strangely old?
Where have they vanished?—Science, swift and bold,
Has torn the fairy fabric into strands.

Yet we have stolen from the coming years
The undiscovered realms that once was ours,
Not in revolt; but conscious that the hours
Hold rich requital for old hopes and fears;—
And in these changes unperturbed we see
The patient purpose of Divinity.
—Felix N. Gerson, in "New" Lippincott.

LEGION OF HONOR CANDIDATE.

By Montjoyeux.

(Translated for the New York Commercial Advertiser.)

IN the little village of Nancay in Sologne there lived a worthy man by name of Oliver Folichon. He lived on a pension of 900 francs paid him by the Government. The fact of his being a pensioner without any other visible means of support had at once won him general respect. In the country, however modest your income may be, provided you get it as pensioned-off functionary of some sort and not from tilling the soil, you attract attention and command esteem.

At first Folichon kept aloof from people and had nothing to do with any one. He stayed in the miserable little room that he had rented from Mme. Cretu, who kept the village inn as well as the grocery and dry goods store, and made no attempt to insinuate himself into the village society. It was extremely exclusive to outsiders. Any stranger and, above all, any Parisian was looked upon as a dangerous intruder. Try to tell a man of Sologne that a Parisian is a his fellow-countryman, and if he does not call you a liar it is only because he does not dare to, but you may be sure he thinks it. The only means of escaping the traditional ostracism is to have your name on the pension list. When he arrived, therefore, the newcomer was the topic of conversation for those who patronized the inn.

"Who on earth is that man?" asked one.

"I don't know," replied another.

"He's one of those people that nobody knows anything about. They come here without telling anything of their past history, and then you find out that things have happened——"

But old Mother Cretu bawled out: "What are you talking about, Sosthenes? Do you or don't you know this man?"

"As for saying I don't know him, why, I do know him since I've seen him, but as far as anything else is concerned why I'm not acquainted with him personally."

"Then you're just slandering. He's not a good-for-nothing fellow like you, to be sure, that has never amounted to anything. He's an educated man. His name is Folichon, and he was an official at Paris. It's so and I can prove it, for the clerk at the town hall, who keeps the register, told me so, and he said that Monsieur Folichon had a pension from the Government. There's no use in trying to make out that every one is bad."

And she added as a final argument: "He's an honorable man, for he pays me my rent without trying to beat me down, and besides he wears the tri-colored ribbon in his button hole."

"That's so," said a customer. "I saw him this morning and said 'Good day,' and he even took off his hat."

"There! You can see he's an honest man," cried Mother Cretu.

Sosthenes defended himself. If Monsieur Folichon wore a ribbon, why, he must be somebody, of course. But you have to know people. Now, that he knew who Monsieur Folichon was, he was satisfied, and he had no reason to have anything against him.

"And he's not proud, either," continued he who had seen the tri-colored ribbon. "He bows back whenever anyone bows to him."

"But," asked Sosthenes, "what is that decoration of his?"

After a moment's hesitation the shrill voice of Mother Cretu replied: "That is given to those who have saved the flag."

At the back of the room an old man arose and took off his cap. Then all took off their hats one after the other. From that time Oliver Folichon had the freedom of the village. Wherever he went he received homage and marks of friendship. Whenever he went into the inn to take a glass with his proprietress, busy tongues were quiet, glasses remained untasted, countenances assumed a thoughtful air as if they were in church, and no one drank before the rescuer of the flag had given the signal by saying, "To your health, gentlemen!"

The consideration with which he felt himself surrounded at last inspired him with esteem for himself. He no longer walked as he did before; his steps were measured, majestic; he carried his head thrown back with a lofty air, and his former modesty would have been astonished at the admiration that he now considered merely just. He became the curiosity of Nancay. They spoke of him as we speak of a historic monument, and the village was proud of owning him. When tourists or bicyclists asked Mother Cretu if there were any ruins in the locality to visit or old walls to investigate, "No," she would reply, "but we have here M. Folichon, who has saved two flags."

The sort of mystery that hovered over the former deed of arms only added to the glorious souvenir evoked and consecrated by the tri-color ribbon. Each time that some curious person had tried to find out:

"Never mind that," interrupted Folichon. "It isn't worth speaking of. I only did my duty, no more and no less." And the good people of Sologne, although they were disappointed, only admired their hero the more for it.

His reputation, passing the limits of the village, had reached the Chateau of Eberniers, where Count Oscar of Nefle lived during the hunting season. He was a free-and-easy, hospitable gentleman, although he boasted that he belonged to one of the best families in France. The noble ears of the Count had heard rumors with regard to the pensioner of the State, and he made inquiry of his gamekeeper for further details about him. "He's an old soldier," replied the keeper, without hesitation. "He gets a pension from the War Ministry for having saved his regiment in '70!" "Thunderation!" exclaimed the Count. "Go at once to this valiant old captain and tell him that I should like very much to shake hands with him." Folichon was given the honor of touching the hand of the last of the Nefles.

"Pray tell me, my good man, on what occasion you saved——"

"Oh, Count! It isn't worth speaking about. I only did my duty. No more, no less."

Count Oscar from a feeling of delicacy did not insist. The interview impressed him most favorably. He repeated to each of his guests: "That is a truly brave man, and as modest as he is brave. He did not say a word about his heroic act. Let us show respect to him, gentlemen, for people like him are rapidly dying off."

The Count stopped calling him "old man Folichon" and addressed him very respectfully as "M. Folichon." He became his panegyrist. He told everyone the legend of the regiment snatched from disaster. At Paris all his friends knew the story of the Thirty-eighth Dragoons miraculously rescued from butchery; and to induce them to come to Eberniers he promised them a sight of the hero. Gradually a new page of history was inscribed on the memory of a whole band of country squires, who retailed it proudly to their tenants and their men. The whole country became enthusiastic over the deeds of a certain Oliver. And the day arrived that the legend on its way back from the south was implanted in the counties of Vierzon, Romorantin, Sancerre, Saint Armand and Bourges—a definite history in which Folichon, alone, had delivered a corps of the Army and had almost captured the Emperor of Germany.

Before long it was a unanimous cry in the country, which was at that time in the midst of its elections: "How can a Republic that respects itself think that it has done its duty to the most devoted of its children when it has given him only a medal from the Humane Society?"

There was a general cry of indignation. Each one of the candidates took up the wrongs of Folichon as one of the planks of his platform. Each one swore to use his influence to have him decorated with the Legion of Honor. The Radical and the Conservative each pledged his word solemnly.

The Radical, however, bethought himself to look up the title of the old soldier who had become a bugbear to him. He had no trouble in finding out what he wanted to, and one fine morning a placard was pasted up in the forty-three districts of his riding.

"The individual named Folichon (Oliver), about whom so much fuss is being made, is a former policeman of Paris, retired and pensioned after thirty years of loyal service. His regular beat was the quay of Bercy. The 7th of July, 1875, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon he saw a drunken man who was lying on his stomach with his lips to the water and was trying to drink. He drew him away by his feet, took him to the station and left him there till he was sober again. On this occasion a report having been sent in the medal of the Humane Society was awarded to the said Folichon (Oliver) and he now wears its ribbon."

The people of Nancay could not believe their eyes.

"Is it true . . . what's written on that paper?" asked Mother Cretu with a trembling voice.

"Why, yes," replied the thunderbolt that had almost taken the Emperor of Germany by the scruff of the neck.

And always modest, he added:

"I never told you anything to the contrary, did I?"

The Oak and the Squash.

When the late President Barrows, of Oberlin College, was asked by a student if he could not take less than the regular four years' course, Dr. Barrows looked the applicant over thoughtfully and replied: "Why, certainly, my lad. A short course, if you like, but my advice to you is to take the longest course possible. The length of time you wish to devote to study rests with you entirely, and should depend on what you intend to become. Just remember that when God wants to make an oak He takes a hundred years, but when He wants a squash He takes six months."—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

As to Influence.

The strongest men are often the most easily influenced, because they are influenced unconsciously. The influence is usually of a negative kind, and coming from a weak source is unexpected.

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