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THE GRAVE OF ELIA.

Burton's Effort to Find the Tomb of Charles Lamb.

Hutton's "Literary Landmarks of London" was largely a labor of love and was the result of years of hard work. Mr. Hutton gives this example of the difficulties that stood in his way: "Another Sunday afternoon I devoted to a pious pilgrimage to the grave of Charles Lamb at Edmonton. As usual, nobody at Edmonton knew anything. The churchyard is not a small one, and it is entirely filled. The sexton and the gravedigger and a few persons wandering about could give me no information. Most of them had never heard of Mr. Lamb, and I could not find the sacred spot. Naturally I applied to the rector, and as he left the vestry door after service leaning on the arm of a pretty young woman I approached him, raised my hat and asked politely if he could tell me where Charles and Mary Lamb were resting. Really he could not say! And I, forgetting the day, the place and his sacred office, cursed that rector for his criminal ignorance.

"Great heavens," I said, "you ought to be ashamed of yourself! In your care have been placed the ashes of one of the foremost men in the whole history of English letters. And you don't know where they are! They have made your churchyard and your parish distinguished all the world over. I have come 3,000 miles to visit Charles Lamb's grave, and you, the rector of the church, don't know where it is! You ought to be heartily ashamed of yourself." And I turned upon my heel and left him standing there speechless and confounded.

Half an hour after the above incident occurred and while Hutton was groping around the graveyard in the twilight the rector came to him, hat in hand, apologized most humbly for his ignorance, which he had corrected in the meantime, and conducted him to the grave of the immortal Elia.

A VOCABULARY TEST.

Some Words Strange to You That Are in the Dictionary.

The number of obsolete words that are to be found in Webster's Dictionary is considerably larger than people have any idea of. The following letter, written by an alleged poet to an editor who had treated his poetry with derision, furnishes some idea of them:

"Sir—You have behaved like an impetuous scrogle! Like those who, envious of any moral celsitude, carry their unglory to the height of creating symphonically the fecund words which my pollymatic genius uses with umberly to abligate the tongues of the weel-less! Sir, you have crassly parodied my own pet words as though they were trigrams. I will not conserate reproaches—I will outline a vell over the atramental ingratitude which has chambered even my indiscretable heart. I am silent on the fecillitation which my coadjuvancy must have given you when I offered to become your fantor and admnicle. I will not speak of the lippitude, the oblespy, you have shown in exacerbating me, one whose genius you should have approached with mental discalculation. So I tell you, without supervacaneous words, nothing will render ignoscible your conduct to me. I warn you that I would vellicate your nose if I thought that any moral dlarthrosis thereby could be performed—if I thought I should not impignorate my reputation. Go, tachygraphic scrogle, band with your crass lquinat fantors; draw objections from the thought, if you can, of having synchronically lost the existimation of the greatest poet since Milton."

And yet all these words are to be found in the dictionary.—Chicago Journal.

Multiple Screws.

Multiple screws were used as early as the American civil war on certain vessels known as "tin clads" on the Mississippi, their adoption being necessitated by the shallow draft. The great advantage they possess in securing a vessel against total disablement and for maneuvering soon made them the rule in the navy. They were much longer in coming into use in the merchant service. But since the era of the very large transatlantic steamers, beginning with the Paris and New York and the Teutonic and Majestic, all very large vessels have been built with twin screws.

The Wig.

The wig is older than civilization, for the savage used one to make him more formidable on the field of battle. The French revolution killed the article as a piece of headgear. Before the guillotine fell in France the wigs which adorned the heads of its victims cost \$150 to \$200. The costly decoration lingered a long time on official heads in England. So recently as 1858 Archbishop Sumner found it necessary to wear one at the marriage of the princess royal.

A Consistent Career.

"I can remember when the wealthy Mr. Hiden didn't have a dollar of his own," said the man who disparages. "Well," answered the misanthrope, "it is said that he is still doing business entirely with other people's dollars."—Washington Star.

The Ant's Ancestry.

"What makes Judge Ant so stuck up? Is he any better than the rest of us?"

"Is he! Why, say, the Judge is a direct descendant of the ant that the sluggard was sent to."—Puck.

Never hold any one by the button or the hand in order to be heard out, for if people are unwilling to hear you you had better hold your tongue than them.—Chesterfield.

ORIGIN OF NAVAL TITLES.

Borrowed Military Terms From the Arabic and the Spanish.

In the early days the rank of admiral was unknown. The chief officer of a squadron was called a constable or justice. The term admiral as now used is derived from the Arabic "amir," or "emir," a commander (as in "amir-al-bahr," commander of the sea). The early English form was "amiral" and is still preserved as such by the French. The Spanish and Portuguese terms are "almirante," the Italian "ammiraglio." The title captain is not a naval but a military one. Under the older organization the real captain of a ship was a master, but a military officer was placed on board, though he knew nothing about nautical affairs. As the captain became bigger and bigger the master became smaller and smaller until at the present day he fills a subordinate position, which is gradually becoming obsolete, being replaced by an officer under the title of a navigating lieutenant.

Commodore comes from the Spanish "comendador." The title lieutenant, borrowed directly from the French, is more modern and is meant as a place holder or one who took the place of the captain when absent. Sublieutenant is still more modern and at the same time a misnomer, as he never was a sublieutenant, but merely a mate, or one who assisted. In former days we had no cadets, but volunteers. However, with the gradual advance of politness, the more seemly term of cadets was borrowed from the French and adopted as the title of the young gentlemen in our navy.

In place of paymasters the ships of old had pursers, who looked after the provisions. The naval purser did more. He had charge of the stores of the ship and the money chest. Surgeons and surgeons' mates fulfilled the duties of the doctors. Chaplains are of modern introduction. Naval instructors and schoolmasters ruled in their stead. The term mate was rather a universal one and applied to all branches.

GIOTTO, THE ARTIST.

The Circle He Drew From Which Grew a Famous Phrase.

Giotto was a famous painter, sculptor and architect of the latter part of the thirteenth century. He was a son of a poor shepherd, but the attention of the great master, Cimabue, having been attracted to the boy by a drawing the lad had made on a fragment of slate, the young artist's fame spread rapidly throughout southern Europe. In those days it was customary for the popes to send for the noted men of their realm, more for the purpose of gratifying their desires to see such celebrities than anything else. Giotto was no exception to the rule. No sooner had the young Tuscan become famous than Pope Boniface VIII. invited him to Florence. When young Giotto arrived at the gates of the pope's private grounds, according to the account, the guard halted him and inquired concerning his mission.

The artist made the matter plain, but the guard was not satisfied with the explanation, frequently interrupting Giotto's explanatory remarks with, "I know he must be a much larger and distinguished looking person than yourself," and "Giotto, too, is a famous painter. By your walk I would take you to be a shepherd." Finally, upon demanding evidence of the artist's skill, the latter stooped and traced a perfect O in the dust of the path with his finger. Any one who has ever attempted the feat of drawing a perfect circle "offhand" well knows how difficult it is.

It is needless to add that the artist was forthwith ushered into the presence of the supreme pontiff, and that since that time "Rounder than Giotto's O" has been a favorite hyperbole to indicate "impossible perfection."

A Woman's Paradise.

Manxwoman declares that the Isle of Man is in some ways a woman's paradise, where at any rate she is more favored by the law than in any other part of the king's dominions. Among other privileges she enjoys a vote for the Manx house of keys and this whether she is a widow or spinster, owner, occupier or even lodger. Every widow enjoys half of her husband's personal estate, quite regardless of her late husband's wishes and "will," while the husband cannot even deal with his own property without first obtaining his wife's written consent to the transaction.

St. Matthew's Flower.

No saint has a more interesting flower dedicated to him in the floral calendar than St. Matthew. This is the passion flower. It is thought to have emblems of the crucifixion, and to these it owes the name given to it by its Spanish discoverers in America. The imaginary resemblance of the corona to the crown of thorns is the basis of the fancy. In addition to that there are the five antlers for the five wounds and the three styles for the nails, while the hammer, the lancet and the scourge are also traceable.

Don't Hinder Others.

Next in practical importance to the being possessed by a purpose of doing something in the world is the being possessed by the purpose of not hindering others in their doing whatever they have to do in the world.—Faith and Works.

Before the Ceremony.

Rural Groom—Sue an' I can't see no reason why we shouldn't get along when we're married. The Magistrate—Well, I just marry folks and don't express any opinions.—New York Press.

The truly generous is truly wise, and he who loves not others lives unbled.—Hume.

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