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CALIFORNIA MONEY.

Queer Early Coinage—D. O. Mills issued First Paper Money. Coins in California till the fall of 1856 were a queer kettle of fish. More than 60 per cent of the silver and at least 25 per cent of the gold were foreign.

Most of the other gold coins were private coins. Moffit & Co. got a permit from the government to coin gold. Their coinage was stamped "Moffit & Co."

We had all kinds of doubloons and smaller South and Central American coins. Of the smaller gold coins the French twenty franc piece led all the others.

The English guinea was fairly represented. But it passed for only its face value, while the other gold passed for more. The twenty franc piece, value \$3.75, went at \$4.

There was a still greater discrepancy in the silver coins. A one franc piece went for 25 cents, and the East India rupee, value 45 cents, went for 50 cents; the five franc piece, \$1. The French silver represented about 60 per cent of the silver circulation.

German silver thalers, worth 60 cents, went at \$1. Everything above 50 cents was \$1, and everything above 25 cents was 50 cents. A French bank in San Francisco was said to have got rich shipping French coin in exchange for gold dust. United States coin was scarce until the mint was established. In the fall of 1856 the banks refused to take any foreign coins except at a heavy discount. The result was that in a few months all foreign coin disappeared. It proved a bonanza for the saloon people. They would still give a drink for a franc, while the banks gave only 12½ cents. The saloon people gathered them and the rupees in at old prices and sold to the banks for bullion and made a good thing.

But for a few years we suffered badly for silver change. Even until 1856 gold dust circulated to a considerable extent in mining districts, but the scales were always used.

There was no paper money until D. O. Mills & Co. issued their gold notes about 1858. In getting change for an old octagon \$50, gold, often as many as four or five nationalities would be represented in the change. On all drafts sent east \$3 was charged by the express companies until Adams & Co. and Page, Bacon & Co. failed and left the field to Wells-Fargo; then it was raised to \$5.

Greenbacks were never recognized as money, only as a commodity. They were used for buying postage and revenue stamps. All mercantile billheads and notes had the special contract enforcement for gold. California even paid the claims of the federal government in gold. And it came in mighty handy to Uncle Sam in 1862 and 1863. The old style Californian still has an inclination for the yellow stuff.—P. E. Magazine.

A Vague Prescription.

One of the virtues of the modern physician is definiteness of direction. To prescribe a dose "once in so often" is to leave a wide margin of chance, especially if the drug be a potent one. Let it be hoped that the good man whose prescription is quoted below was not dealing in strychnine nor prussic acid. The letter is taken from "Highways and Byways in Sussex" by E. V. Lucas and was written by the doctor in an English village a century ago:

Mr. Andrews—I have sent you some things which you may take in the manner following, viz. of that in the bottle marked with a + you may take of the quantity of a spoonful or so, now and then, and at night take some of those pills, drinking a little warm beer after it, and in the morning take 2 spoonfuls of that in the other bottle, fasting an hour after it, and then you may eat something, you may take also of the first and every night a pill and in the morning. I hope this will do you good which is the desire of him who is your loving friend.
WILLIAM BENBRIGG.

The Call of the Dime Novel.

Between the writer and his constituents there was a bond of affection which incited him to make them glad to be alive. In the mind of every healthy boy there is romance. For that boy's entertainment the producer of dime fiction strewed romance through farm, mining camp and city street. Out of his surroundings, however sordid, the boy was lifted. He became to himself the center of the universe. At the particular spot on the globe on which he stood all the parallels and the meridians converged. In no more intense a degree than this did exaltation ever come to the Count of Monte Cristo—the world was his. What was Edmond Dantes' paltry \$20,000,000 to the vast treasures, physical and spiritual, spread out by Osborn before "Plucky Paul, the Boy Prospector," and his tens of thousands or hundreds of thousands of readers?—C. M. Harvey in Atlantic.

The Backward Moor.

There is no education as we understand it among the Moors. There are no clocks, and it is estimated by one who knew that not 15 per cent of the population are able to reckon the time of day. As the sun crosses the meridian at seventeen minutes past 12 a flag is run up on the tower of the principal mosque, and immediately other flags appear upon the towers of the other mosques throughout the city. This is noon. At half past 1 another flag is run up, and at sunset the evening flag is fired. This is the extent of the Moorish idea of time. Only a few of the better class have books or can read or write. The mails are carried by runners who go from Tangier to Fez in two days. They carry a loaf of coarse wheat bread, which, together with an occasional drink of buttermilk, serves as their only sustenance.—Harold F. Sheets in Outing Magazine.

ALLAN McLANE HAMILTON.

Noted Alienist Who Examined Mrs. Mary Baker G. Eddy.

More or less discussion had been indulged in of late with regard to the value of expert testimony in murder trials. There are handwriting experts, medical experts and other kinds. Dr. Allan McLane Hamilton is a noted alienist and has served as an expert witness in several famous trials. His latest service as an expert was in the case of Mrs. Eddy, mother of Christian Science, whose "next friends" contended that she was of unsound mind. Dr. Hamilton pronounced the venerable woman competent to conduct her affairs.

Dr. Hamilton is a grandson of Alexander Hamilton, the famous American



DR. ALLAN McLANE HAMILTON.

statesman. He lives in New York, but now and then he is called to Europe for professional services. It is said that he met his present wife, who was Mrs. Mae Copeland Tomlinson, on one of these ocean trips. The couple were married in Sioux Falls, S. D., about five years ago, Dr. Hamilton having resided there long enough to secure a divorce from the first Mrs. Hamilton, from whom he had been separated many years. He alleged incompatibility of temper.

Dr. Hamilton was called to Buffalo immediately after the shooting of President McKinley to reach an opinion as to the sanity of Czolgosz. He also testified in the trial of Roland B. Molineux, whom he pronounced innocent. In the Thaw case he declared his belief that the prisoner was insane and incompetent to advise his counsel.

BISHOP OF LONDON.

Right Rev. A. F. W. Ingram and His Visit to America.

One of the early autumn visitors from abroad is the Rev. Dr. A. F. W. Ingram, bishop of London, who comes to America to bring the Bible which King Edward presented to the old Bruton parish church at Williamsburg, Va. This gift is complementary to the gift of a beautiful lecture from President Roosevelt, on the desk of which the Bible will rest. The three-hundredth year of English settlement in America, now being commemorated by the Jamestown exposition, furnishes the occasion for the gifts and for the bishop's visit.

Dr. Ingram is a man of strong personality. For many years prior to his elevation to the high ecclesiastical post which he now holds he devoted his energies to the amelioration of the condition of London's poor and unfortunate. With another man he es-



BISHOP A. F. W. INGRAM.

established one of the first and most successful slum settlement institutions. His work in that connection endeared him to the great mass of common people in England.

The bishop will visit the principal Canadian cities and New York, Washington, Richmond and Boston. He will be present also at the ceremonies in dedication of the restored Bruton church.

A Big Difference.

"For my part I can't see the difference between gambling and speculating by buying or selling things on a margin."
"There is a big difference. A man who gambles has a certain number of chances out of a thousand to win."
—Chicago Record-Herald.

BUYING OLD FIDDLES.

Many Fine Instruments Have Been Picked Up Cheap.

Great numbers of fine old violins and violoncellos that come into the high class market of London are procured through the medium of advertisements inserted in obscure country papers and especially those of ancient cathedral cities.

Of course few of the fiddles thus obtained are veritable masterpieces, but a great many of them are fine examples of early English and foreign makers, and they are often bought for ridiculously small prices by a group of experts, who have brought the business to a lucrative system. Many a struggling family of long descent, in some out of the way part of the country, happens to see in the one county newspaper of the week that good prices are given for old fiddles, and some long forgotten instrument in a lumber room or put away on a shelf suddenly comes to mind.

Correspondence follows. The dealer sends a deposit in order that some fiddle spoken of may be sent to him and examined, and he usually replies that the instrument sent is dilapidated and but so-so generally, but that he is willing to give 30 shillings or £2 for it. In a great many cases the offer is accepted offhand, and in this way most of the finest fiddles extant of the second class come into the hands of dealers. Only lately a cello that came from a Shropshire farm at the price of £2 sold the same day to a west end dealer for nearly £100.

One of the most shrewd and respected of all these dealers was until a year or two ago a humble member of the orchestra of a London suburban theater. He began to advertise in remote papers to the greatest limits of his scanty wages and is now one of the most extensive and prosperous dealers in the trade.—London Tit-Bits.

A SILLY TRAGEDY.

The Duel Between Tom Porter and Sir Henry Bellasis.

Some of the royalists who were forced to endure the English commonwealth seemed to console themselves for the dullness of life under a Puritan government by fighting as many duels as they could compass, so that ignoble squabbles and foolish plots make up the history of their days.

Tom Porter was of a family which had zealously served the king. Under the new government his occupation was gone, and he descended to a triviality of life which finally involved him in a most pathetic event. This was a duel which he fought with his friend, Sir Henry Bellasis, and which, says Pepys in his "Diary," is worth remembering for "the silliness of the quarrel, * * * a kind of emblem of the general complexion of the whole kingdom."

But, silly as the quarrel undoubtedly was, it carried in it an element of heart-break.

The two young men involved were intimate friends and companions, but one day, "being merry in company," Tom Porter said he should like to see the man in England who would dare give him a blow. With that Sir Henry Bellasis struck him a box on the ear. The inevitable duel followed, wherein each was wounded. Sir Henry proved to be seriously hurt, so he called Porter, kissed and bade him fly.

"For," said he, "Tom, thou hast hurt me, but I will make shift to stand upon my legs till thou mayest withdraw, for I would not have thee troubled for what thou hast done."

Porter profited by his friend's generosity and escaped to France. Sir Henry died a few days later, and Pepys concludes, "It is pretty to see how the world do talk of them as a couple of fools that killed one another out of love."

Spying on Bargain Gifts.

The engaged girl was found studying life in an auction room.

"I don't expect to buy anything," she said, "but I want to see if anybody I know buys anything. A lot of auctioneers are advertising that they have on hand bric-a-brac and pictures and odds and ends of furniture suitable for wedding presents. That set me to wondering if any of my friends would try to avail themselves of these auction room bargains when buying presents for me. I saw two girls here this afternoon who have been invited to my wedding. One bought some kind of a brass bowl, another a vase. They got the things dirt cheap. I fancy they are for me. If they are—well, just wait till those girls get married!"—New York Press.

When to Take Off the Sinker.

For angling in quiet, deep running water more sinkers should be placed on the leader to keep it down from the surface, but if angling in a quick running brook or river for chub, dace or brook trout the float and sinkers should be removed and the bait allowed to run in front of the angler wherever it wills on the surface by the action of the current, which takes it naturally just as nature does their general food.—Louis Rhead in Outing Magazine.

A Long Tumble Needed.

"They say that when a man is falling from a height he thinks of all his evil deeds."

"I don't believe it."

"Why not?"

"Some men would have to fall out of a balloon to get 'em all in."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Floored.

One Sexton—Do you have matins at your church? The Other—No, we have colicloth.—Harper's Weekly.

The father's virtue is the child's best inheritance.—Chinese Proverb.

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So great is the demand for this specific C. R. Woodworth & Co. have been able to secure only a limited supply, and every one who is troubled with dyspepsia, constipation or liver trouble should call upon them at once, or send 25 cents, and get sixty doses of the best medicine ever made, on this special half-price offer, with their personal guarantee to refund the money if it does not cure.

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