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OLD SMOKESTACKS.

An Article For Which There is Always a Demand.

Among the very great variety of things that may be bought at second-hand are smokestacks of iron or of steel. It may be that an establishment puts in a bigger boiler and wants a bigger stack. If it is using a steel or an iron stack, the old one is taken down carefully and a new one set up. The old stack may be sold to a dealer in second-hand boilers and machinery, or the owner may keep it and sell it himself to somebody that wants a secondhand smokestack. If it is sold to a dealer, he may remove it to his own yard, or it may be that the original owner keeps it on his premises until the dealer has sold it. A manufacturer may move from one place to another and sell the old plant, or parts of it. Here would be a secondhand smokestack. Secondhand stacks are bought by various users. It may be that the smokestack of an establishment is worn out and that the boiler is not and that a secondhand stack would last out the life of the boiler. In such a case the user would get a secondhand stack if he could find one suitable. Secondhand stacks may be used with various temporary plants set up by contractors and others. A smokestack may be blown down in a windstorm and the user supply the place of it with one bought secondhand.

A steel or iron stack costs about half as much as a brick stack. A secondhand iron stack costs about half as much as a new one. Stacks of metal are made now usually of steel. The steel used costs now less than wrought iron. There is an increasing use of steel instead of brick stacks. Steel stacks up to 6 and 7 feet in diameter would be classed as portable stacks; larger stacks would be of more or less permanent character. Steel smokestacks are now made up to 18 feet in diameter. Very large smokestacks may be lined with brick. Secondhand smokestacks up to 2 feet in diameter are likely to be found in stock in the yard of the dealer in second-hand boilers and machinery, and he is likely to have stacks of larger sizes elsewhere. There is always a demand for secondhand smokestacks.—New York Sun.

AVOIDING "A TOUCH."

One Woman's Cheerful Method of Denying a Politic Request.

Men have something to learn from women in the art of warding off "touches" for coin. Women respond to such requests about once in every thousand times, but they are scientific in their refusals. A Washington woman with a reputation as a borrower turned up at the home of one of her friends the other morning with a much done over story about a persistent and threatening dressmaker and the usual request for the loan—"pay it back tomorrow, certain"—of \$5.

"Why, my dear, certainly," was the pleasant response to her carefully rehearsed little yarn. "You poor thing, you! Just wait till I run up stairs and get my purse."

She ran up stairs. The male head of the house happened to be in the room where she kept her purse. He saw her dig the purse out of a chiffonier drawer and deliberately remove a wad of bills from it, leaving about 37 cents in silver and copper in the change receptacle. The man was mean enough to lean over the stair railing when his wife went down stairs to the parlor with her flattened pocketbook in her hand.

"Oh, I'm so sorry, Mrs. X," he heard her say, "but I really thought I had the money. I find, though, that John, as usual, has been at my purse—I heard him say something about settling a plumber's bill last night when I was half asleep—and the mean thing has only left me enough for car fare. Too bad! Of course, you know, if I had it," etc.—Washington Post.

The Coin Came Back.

"I have once or twice read how small the world was," said a young fellow, "and once or twice I have seen stories of the same kind I am going to tell. I confess I never believed them, but now I know better. Last summer, when in New York on my annual visit, I was struck with a sudden whim and scratched my initials on a 25 cent piece, cutting into the silver deep enough to make a lasting impression. I paid for a cigar in the Hoffman House with the coin and gazed myself with being foolish. I had forgotten all about the quarter when I entered a Carrollton car and gave a half dollar to the conductor. Imagine my surprise when he handed me in change the 25 cent piece I spent in the Hoffman House! I think I will keep the coin now and ever more as a curiosity," and the speaker pulled the money from his pocket and showed it in verification of his story.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Curious Policies.

Accident insurance policies have taken many curious shapes, ranging from the penny in the slot to the coupon in the weekly newspaper, but the limit has been reached in London, where the purchaser of a book of cigarette paper is insured for \$50 for a period of 70 days. The annual cost of this amount of insurance is about 75 cents a year, provided the holder of the novel policy is not a cigarette fiend. The amount of insurance is specifically set aside for the defraying of funeral expenses in the event of accidental death.—New York Journal.

Animals are often able to bear very protracted fasting. In the Italian earthquake of 1785 two hogs were buried in the ruins of a building. They were taken out alive 42 days later, but very lean and weak.

During the last 50 years Great Britain has been at war more frequently than any other nation. The total number of large and small wars waged during that time amounts to about 50, or one a year.

THE STAGE DRIVER'S BLUFF.

Hairbreadth Stories of Accidents Which Failed to Awe One Passenger.

As we left Sandy Gulch for Rising Sun there were six male passengers to go by the stage, and the route was over the mountains and full of chances of disaster. The driver came out from breakfast as soon as the stage was ready, and looking about on the passengers he selected a small, pale faced man and invited him to climb up beside him. While the pale faced man was climbing the driver whispered to the rest of us: "I picked him out in order to scare him to death. You fellows will see a heap of fun before we've gone ten miles."

Two minutes west of the gulch the road made a sudden turn, with a sheer fall of 100 feet down to Wild Cat creek, and the driver put his horses at the gallop and said to the man: "We may get around all right, or we may fetch up down below. Hold your breath and say your prayers."

The passenger made no move and did not change countenance, and after making the course all right the driver rather indignantly demanded: "Didn't you see that the off wheel run within a foot of the edge of the precipice?"

"It ran within six inches, sir," was the reply.

Beyond the curve was a down grade of a mile, and with a yell and a flourish of his whip the driver urged his horses to a dead run. The five of us inside had to hang on for dear life, and every half minute the stage seemed bound to go over.

"Did you know that if we'd struck a rock we'd all been dead men in no time?"

"Of course."

"And you wasn't prayin'?"

"Not at all."

Three or four miles farther on the driver tried his man with another curve. In his determination to make a close call of it one wheel ran off the edge of the precipice, and only a sudden effort of the horses saved the coach. We were flung in a heap and frightened half to death, but the man beside the driver never lost a puff of his cigar. When things were safe, the driver turned on him with:

"That surely was the brink of the grave."

"Guess it was," was the quiet reply.

"The closest shave you will ever have till the last one comes."

"Yes, sir."

"See here, now, but what sort of a critter are you?" was the query. "Don't you know 'nuff to git skeart?"

"Nothing has happened yet to scare me."

"But mebbe you want me to drive plumb over a precipice 1,000 feet high?"

"If you conveniently can. The fact is, I came off up here intending to commit suicide, and if you can dump the whole of us over some cliff you'll oblige me."—Atlanta Constitution.

Stopped the Fight.

"Well," said Bliggs while sitting up in bed talking with the family lawyer, "I'll tell you all about it, but not a word to any one else, mind you. I'm a sight and scared up like the hero of a German university, but I suppose it's something to be alive."

"You know the governor has been urging me to strike out and see what I could do for myself. He'd advance the money, to be charged against my share of the estate of course. I kept my eye open and I saw a chance that was worth a fortune in one plunge. A couple of fellows in our set had a falling out, with which I think jealousy had something to do, and agreed to put on the gloves as a safe and honorable way of settling their differences. They had a private hall, and it didn't require two thoughts on my part to convince me that a reproduction of their mill would make a hit and fortune. To make sure I provided myself with both a vitascope and a veriscope. I had a big pile of films on hand for the occasion, and you know that these films are of celluloid. The janitor was my fellow conspirator.

"About the third round, and while we were getting along swimmingly, there was an explosion like the blowing up of a dynamite factory, the select audience stampeded, the principals hustled down the back stairs and the police found me unconscious under a wreck. Something had set that celluloid off, and I'll never know what did it. No one else has a theory. Just tell the governor that I made a bad investment."—Detroit Free Press.

New York English.

We have been told by a keen and intelligent observer who has returned to this city after a sojourn of two years abroad that the careless New Yorker is becoming very careful with his English; not only does he jumble his words together in every conceivable sequence, but he makes a gesture to supply a noun or verb and rattles off slang the analogy of which is often intelligible only to himself. Without recalling for the moment any specific examples, we believe our friend to be correct. He does not go far enough, however; there is another side. If the New Yorker at times tries to get an idea out in the fewest possible words, on other occasions he is tediously tautologous and prolix. One has only to keep an open ear in a car ride up town to find confirmation for this. Here, as though relaxing the exigency of economy of speech that has been practiced while discussing affairs all day, needless and endless repetitions take place and the obnoxious "I say" introduces half the phrases that are uttered. We haven't any explanation to make, however, or remedy to offer.—New York Times.

The Difference.

"Why are some statues made life size and some heroic size?"

"A life size statue represents a man as big as he was, and a heroic size statue represents him as big as he thought he was."—Chicago Record.