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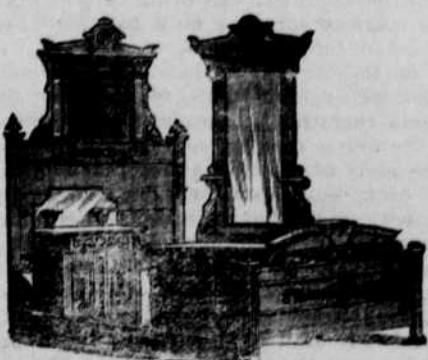
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OLD SMOKESTACKS.

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 second-hand 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 second-hand smokestack. Second-hand 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 second-hand stack would last out the life of the boiler. In such a case the user would get a second-hand stack if he could find one suitable. Second-hand 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 second-hand.

A steel or iron stack costs about half as much as a brick stack. A second-hand 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. Second-hand 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 second-hand smokestacks.—New York Sun.

AVOIDING "A TOUCH."

One Woman's Cheerful Method of Denying a Polite 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; 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.

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 1795 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 VOICE ABOVE.

Lost on the drift, and where the full clouds flow

The steep above him looms, And strong winds out of distant regions blow The snow in streaming plumes, And yawns the gulf of the crevasse below In sapphire glows and glooms. Along the precipice there is no way That he may surely tread, Slight is his foothold on the slippery stay That trembles to his tread, And chill and terrible the dying day Falls fast about his head. Could he but hear some lowing of the herd, Some mountain bell ring clear, If some familiar sound one moment stirred To guide him lost in fear! He dares not move. Some beckoning leading word, Alas, could he but hear!

In those waste places of the earth and dim No star shines forth at all. Through awful loneliness enshrouding him He gives one shuddering call, While horror of great darkness seems to swim And fold him in its pall.

Then like blown breath of music in the height A cry comes far and low, He thrills, he springs, he gathers all his might He feels new pulses glow! His father's voice—he needs not sense nor sight! He knows the way to go! —Harriet Prescott Spofford in Harper's Magazine.

REPORTER AND CHINAMAN.

The Newspaper Man Was Very Tired When the Oriental Finished.

Numberless are the tricks which newspaper reporters play upon one another to relieve the slobber "grind" of their calling. Two young men employed on a morning paper in a large city were detailed one day to call upon the resident Chinaman and "interview" them respecting some immigration measure then pending in congress. One of the two reporters was a beginner, and the other, an experienced man, naturally assumed the management of the assignment.

"Billings," he said after they had invaded several laundries without any important result, "here is a tea store. I wish you would go in and talk with the proprietor. I want to know what he thinks about Chinamen voting. I'll go on and pull off an interview with the man who runs this cigar shop next door. Remember to use the very simplest English at your command."

The young reporter went inside the tea store, took out his notebook, and thus addressed the proprietor, who happened to be alone at the moment:

"John, how? Me—me—Telegraph, John! Newspaper—savvy, John? Newspaper—print things. Un'stan? Me want know what John think about Chinaman vote, see? What John think—Chinaman—vote—all same Melican man! Savvy, John? Vote? What think?"

The Chinaman listened to him with profound gravity until he had finished and replied:

"The question of granting the right of suffrage to Chinese citizens who have come to the United States with the avowed intention of making this country their permanent home is one that has occupied the attention of thoughtful men of all parties for years, and it may become in time one of paramount importance. At present, however, it seems to me there is no exigency requiring an expression of opinion from me upon this subject. You will please excuse me."

The young reporter went outside and leaned against a lamp post to rest and recover from a sudden faintness that had taken possession of him. His comrade had purposely "steered him against" one of the best educated Chinamen in the United States.—Youth's Companion.

Reading at Breakfast.

Reading at breakfast is fatal to sociability. In breakfasting alone it is permissible, but not in company. Leigh Hunt wrote in The Indicator: "When we lived alone, we could not help reading at meals, and it is certainly a delicious thing to resume an entertaining book at a particularly interesting passage with a hot cup of tea at one's elbow and a piece of buttered toast in one's hand. The first look at the page, accompanied by a coexistent bite of the toast, comes under the head of intensities." A book at breakfast is no compliment to the cook, but a newspaper is an insult. On the other hand, a newspaper at breakfast is a benefit to the doctor, for it is when one is put off one's guard by the struggle with the folds and the search for items of interest that the way is made easy for the approach of dyspepsia.

In the old days of The Spectator and Tatler, when papers were of a reasonable size and respectful to boot, they did no harm. Now—well, now the largest circulation in the world may produce the poorest digestion. It has been remarked (by a collector) that the only literature suitable at breakfast is book-sellers' catalogues, but since catalogues lead always to telegrams or envy this is doubtful. The line should probably be drawn at private letters.—Cornhill Magazine.

Respectability Defined.

British respectability has been defined in a London police court by a prisoner charged with begging, and the definition seems to have been accepted by the magistrate, for he discharged her. She said: "I'm a respectable woman, a tailor's. Why, I make trousers for Mr. Newton—Mr. Newton, the magistrate, I mean. If I'm respectable enough to make a magistrate's trousers, I'm good enough for anything."

What They Prefer.

Running—You often hear of self made men, but never of self made women. Larkin—Women prefer to be tails made.—Detroit Free Press.

In Germany, to prevent poison being obtained for evil purposes, some is allowed to be sold without a written order or certificate from a physician.

In England there are 70,000 girls engaged in public houses and drinking bars.