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The M'Cook Tribune  
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In Italy the aristocracy still protects itself from the evil eye, and the multitude is still devoted to the little evil eye charms to secure immunity from disaster.

The true evil eye charm of the Italians is in the shape of a tiny hand, the index and the little finger being pointed out and the third and fourth fingers being held down by the thumb. The charm, however, is merely a representation of the way in which the Italian holds his hand. When pointed outward he wishes to cast the evil eye on an enemy, or when turned toward himself he thinks to protect himself from its malicious spell.

This little charm can be bought in Italy of various materials, coral, tortoise shell, silver and gold being the ones in highest favor. The coral charms are those worn by the poorer classes, since of a cheap grade of the material they can be bought for a few cents. Naturally the aristocracy prefer them of gold. In Italian money these tiny things then cost the equivalent of about \$8. Sometimes they are seen exquisitely modeled, the fingers and nails being as carefully chiseled as marble statues.

Another small hand that the Italian wears as a charm is known as the Manus Panthea, a facsimile of which is to be found in the museum in Rome. It is referred to in various Egyptian papyri, and indeed was worn by the ancients to prevent disease and witchcraft and the evil eye from taking hold of them and to induce love and amiability.

This hand has the thumb, the index and the middle fingers held out in a straight line, while the other two are turned under toward the palm of the hand. Instead of being smooth on its outer surface, as is the evil eye hand, it is covered with many mystical symbols—a tooth, a serpent, and so on. Each of these little signs has its peculiar charm and is as well understood and heeded among the Italians today as formerly among the Egyptian magicians.

The third small hand which the Italians wear for their supposed good is the so called Manus Pontificus, or the hand of the Holy Father. It shows the four fingers held out closely together, and the thumb alone is curved under the palm of the hand. As the Manus Panthea, it is covered on the outside with mystical symbols. — Washington Star.

FOIBLES OF LITERARY MEN.

Keats liked red pepper on his toast. Dickens was fond of wearing jewelry.

Daudet wore his eyeglasses when asleep.

Joaquin Miller nails all his chairs to the wall.

Hawthorne always washed his hands

before reading a letter from his wife.

Alexandre Dumas the younger bought a new painting every time he had a new book published.

Thackeray used to lift his hat whenever he passed the house in which he wrote "Vanity Fair."

Robert Browning could not sit still. With the constant shuffling of his feet holes were worn in the carpet.

Robert Louis Stevenson's favorite recreation was playing the flute in order, as he said, to tune up his ideas.

Darwin had no respect for books and would cut a big volume in two for convenience in handling, or he would tear out the leaves he required for reference.

No Sweethearting in Ireland.

Through a great part of Ireland public opinion, molded by the clergy, separates the sexes as far as possible. At the church door and wherever else they congregate men group on one side, women on the other. It is not well thought of for people of opposite sexes to be seen walking along the road together even to a market. The position certainly of some ecclesiastics has been made definite by the refusal of certain bishops to allow "mixed classes" in branches of the Gaelic league. On the whole, public opinion discourages whatever can be justly or even unjustly set down as sweethearting. — Edinburgh Review.

The Extinct Mamo.

Perhaps the most notable native bird of the Sandwich Islands was the mamo, which has been extinct comparatively only a few years. It had two little tufts of yellow feathers on its wings, which were used exclusively in the manufacture of cloaks worn by the kings of those islands. The estimated value of one of the cloaks is \$200,000, and it took an almost indefinite number of birds to furnish the feathers. — London Times.

Thunder and Lightning.

Here is a Georgia youngster's definition of thunder and lightning:

"The thunder is maw readin' a lecture to paw, an' the lightning is paw-runnin' to git away from it. But I doubt if lightning's kin beat him when he jumps the garden fence an' hits the grit!" — Atlanta Constitution.

All in the Point of View.

"It seems a terrible thing to lead a dog's life," panted the cur with the tin can attachment, yawning into a corner to rest himself.

"Oh, I don't know!" contentedly answered the lap dog. — Chicago Tribune.

Self Esteem.

Druggist—Huh! You seem to think you are the boss of this establishment. New Clerk—Oh, no, sir. Druggist—Then why do you talk like a blooming idiot? — Exchange.

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