

**Brian Boru Recognized as Ruler of Ireland**

The O'Briens and many other distinguished Irish families claim as their ancestor Brian Boru, king of Ireland from 1002 to 1014. This warlike monarch, says a writer in the Kansas City Star, is regarded as the popular hero of early Irish history and the stories told about his reign have led to its being regarded as a sort of golden age. Brian passed his youth fighting the Danes, who were constantly ravaging Munster, northern part of the holding of Brian's tribe, and he won much fame for the dashing brilliancy of these encounters. He was still quite young when he avenged the slaying of his brother, a tribal king, and became a ruler himself. Setting out on a career of conquest, he forced virtually every Irish tribe to acknowledge him as its chief, and during the last 12 years of his life he was regarded as the king of Ireland. Then the Danes made an effort to re-establish their supremacy and some of Brian's enemies joined the invaders. In 25 battles, however, he displayed such indomitable fighting spirit that the Danes were all but vanquished, and finally, at the battle of Clontarf, in 1014, the victory was made decisive. Brian, then eighty-three years old, was able only to advise on the maneuvers from his tent, where, after the victory had been won, he was killed. To-day many pilgrimages are made to Armagh, which tradition makes his burial place.

**Evidence That Tigers Select Human Victim**

Man-eating tigers of the Indian jungles sometimes appear to single out a certain person and go after him, ignoring all others until they get him, points out Gen. William Mitchell, the noted flying officer, in an article in Liberty. The general tells a story to illustrate his point. "A native being separated from his companions in the jungle and was chased by a tiger," he writes. "He succeeded in climbing into a tree, while the tiger remained on watch below. "After a while," General Mitchell continues, "his companions, noting his absence and suspecting that a tiger might have killed him, returned, making a great racket by beating drums so as to keep the tiger away. "The man descended and joined his companions. They were walking quietly, single file, through the jungle, when suddenly there was a flash of orange and black and the doomed man was carried off by the tiger. It is related, also, that this man was the fattest of the group."

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**Thunderstorm's Beginning**

The thunderstorm is owing to the rapid vertical convection of air containing a large amount of water vapor. The lower air must, therefore, be rather warm, say 70 degrees Fahrenheit or over, else it would not carry the requisite amount of water vapor, and the temperature must decrease rather rapidly with increase of height, else there would be but little or no convection. In the summer time the humidity in Oregon and Washington is rather low. Hence thunderstorms generally are improbable. In the winter time, when most of the rains come, the surface commonly is too cool to set up vigorous vertical convection. Hence thunderstorms are not likely. Thunderstorms are not frequent in Oregon and Washington any time of the year.

**Ravages of Hurricane**

A West Indian hurricane means days of anxiety to the inhabitants of the southern coast cities. The government gets reports of the approaching storms long before they reach the American coast. When the storm strikes it may demolish sea walls, tear down telegraph and telephone wires, and destroy buildings and ships at anchor in the harbors. Galveston, Charleston and other cities have paid dearly in the past for their unpreparedness. In a single season a hundred vessels, large and small, have been wrecked, a thousand buildings seriously damaged, scores of lives lost and hundreds of miles of sea walls, docks and telegraph wires destroyed.

**Building Note**

A colored cook came home after midnight from a revival meeting shouting at the top of her voice. Her employer, letting her in, said: "Aunt Mandy, this is all foolishness. Religion shouldn't be so noisy. Tell that preacher of yours to give a sermon on the building of King Solomon's temple, which arose without even the sound of a hammer. And remember that real religion is quiet and peaceful."

"Lawd, honey," answered Aunt Mandy, "us folks ain't almin' to build no temple yit. We is jes' blastin' now!"—Capper's Weekly.

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**Good Manners**

As a man thinks in his heart, so he. Manners go deeper than etiquette. Though they begin there they end in morality. They are established on the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would that they should do unto you." If there had never been a book of etiquette published, or a code written down, humanity would have needed nothing more than that rule by which to train the children of the race in gentleness. And so the text of good manners is: That another expand in the sunshine of your presence.

**Believe That Stolen Articles Bring Luck**

An extraordinary example of the survival of foolish superstition was disclosed in the case of a Hampshire (England) farmer who was convicted of stealing turnips from a neighbor. He explained to the magistrate that he could easily afford to pay for them, and that, moreover, he had plenty of turnips to make a concoction for a cow which had fallen sick, for he firmly believed no other could be so efficacious.

A similar belief is held in many parts of Germany, where practically everyone buys a ticket for one or other of the state lotteries. Many uneducated peasants will tell you they are sure of winning if the ticket they have was bought with stolen money.

In Turkey, copper rings are worn on the fingers to prevent erysipelas. If the ring has been stolen from some one else, it is supposed to answer its purpose twice as well.

Examples might be multiplied from every quarter of the earth. Most probably the superstition arose from the natural desire of the criminal to find some excuse for his delinquencies.

**U. S. Grant Won Bride While Forging River**

Ulysses S. Grant selected an odd time to propose marriage to Julia Dent, Lieutenant Grant from West Point had met Julia while on a visit to the home of his chum in St. Louis. He fell in love with her and decided to return to pursue his attentions, relates Edna M. Colman in "White House Gossip."

Their betrothal occurred while they were fording the Gravois river. They were in a light rig, the young man driving. The waters were swollen and the current so swift from the recent heavy rains that they were in grave danger. The manner of her clinging to him in her fear of the water inspired him with the courage to propose to her then and there. In after years she often related to her grandchildren the story of the betrothal, placing special stress on the old superstition that unusual strength and constancy were attributes of many pledges made over running water, says Capper's Weekly.

**Elephants That Burn**

Mixed metaphors are not by any means uncommon. Sometimes they are merely inept; occasionally they are ludicrous. In England the other day the Salford city council emitted a gem.

The question under municipal debate was whether Salford wanted to have an exhibition hall. There seems to have been a considerable difference of opinion. Said one speaker: "I do not want the council to get their fingers burnt with a white elephant!"

**Presidents for a Day**

In March, 1849, the United States had three successive Presidents on as many successive days. James A. Polk ended his term March 3. President-elect Zachary Taylor refused to be inaugurated on Sunday, and he did not take office until March 5. As neither administration was in office, David Rice Atchison of Kentucky president pro tem of the senate served in the interim.

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**Kindness to Animals Trait of Portuguese**

The Portuguese are the only Latin nation that is kind to animals. For hundreds of years noble Arabian steeds were raised here and the Portuguese rider sits well in the saddle by second nature.

The donkeys here are smaller than in other Latin countries, and the largest beast of burden is the ox. In Portugal this creature is a strong, red, well-cared for animal, with wide-spreading horns. The streets are full of yokes of oxen pulling carts with solid wheels bound fast to their axles. Since the axle is ungreased, a frightful squeaking announces the approach of these wagons, which can be heard a mile away.

Oxen are particularly common in northern Portugal, where the yokes themselves are made of beautifully-carved hardwood decorated with many colors. The wheels of these wagons bearing tremendous burdens, clatter on the streets of Oporto.

I have never seen a driver maltreat his animals. In the country the cow herds guide their flocks with enormous bamboo staffs.—Iwoda Roda in Ubu Berlin (Living Age).

**Famous Charter Oak Honored by Funeral**

There is one instance on record in which a tree was given a funeral. It took place on an evening in 1856 in Hartford, Conn. Flags and mourning streamers covered the shattered stump of a tree on the hillside, while hundreds stood around with bared heads.

And the crashing thunder of a fierce storm the mighty Charter oak had fallen and the entire state of Connecticut was honoring its passing.

There is little of which this state is prouder than its ancient charter granted by Charles II, endowing the colony with liberties far exceeding those of the others.

It was strange coincidence that this charter, which was hidden in an oak for safety's sake, bore the seal of a monarch who himself, years before had taken refuge in a tree of the same variety.

Visitors to the State library at Hartford today may see a copy of the original charter, its frame containing fragments of the celebrated oak preserved under glass these many years.—Grit.

**Subtle Rebuke**

Cupid has shown himself to be utterly indifferent to matters of state and messages of great moment. In 17 James Wilkinson, who later became a general in the United States army, was an aide to Gen. Horatio Gates and by him was sent to congress at Yorktown in Pennsylvania with the dispatches giving an account of the surrender of Gen. John Burgoyne and the British army at Saratoga. On the way Wilkinson stopped to spend a whole day with his sweet heart at Reading. When he finally delivered the dispatches and they were introduced to reward the messenger who brought such pleasing news, Gov. Samuel Adams thereupon, with grave and solemn face, moved that the young man be presented with a pair of spurs.—Kansas City Star.

**"The Marseillaise"**

"The Marseillaise" has been the French national anthem for over 100 years, since the time of the French revolution. In April, 1792 when a column of volunteers was about to leave Strassburg the mayor of the city gave a banquet on the occasion and invited an officer of artillery, Rouget de Lisle to compose a song in their honor. He wrote the words during the night, adapting the music from an oratorio, and the song was sung with enthusiasm the following day. The Army of the North took up the song, which was introduced to Paris by the Marseillaise battalion and became known as the hymn of the Marseillaise.

**Desolate by Winds**

There lies between Formosa and the coast of China a group of 21 islands interspersed with innumerable reefs and ledges, which are called the Pescadore islands. According to the investigations of certain geologists these islands have suffered in a remarkable manner from the northeast winds which blow with violence there during nine months of the year. The original area of the islands has been greatly reduced by erosion, and their surfaces are barren and desolate, so that the wind-whipped group forms a queer desert amid the green island world of southeastern Asia.

**Wild Wild-Animal Stories**

The story of two Idaho men who killed a mountain lion with rocks is not quite so good as the story of the African hunter who, unarmed, met a lion. He held the beast's mouth open until it starved to death.—Atchison Globe. And neither is quite so good as that of Baron Munchausen who meeting an angry bear, thrust his hand down its throat, grabbed it by the tail and jerked it inside out.—Capper's Weekly.

**Tolerance's Great Value**

Tolerance is the most lovable quality men and women can possess. It enables them to see things from others' viewpoints. Its generosity concedes to others right to their own opinions. Its very bigness wishes others to be happy in their own way.—Grit.

**Child Training That Has Harmful Effects**

Too much or too little affection of parents is equally harmful and both spoil character. The training that produces docile obedience spoils the child's native aggressiveness and leaves him to be easily beaten in the later competitions of life by minds superior only in their inner preparation. The authority of a parent is a responsibility rather than a privilege.

Another risk assumed by parents, which is not so commonly understood, is that of hurting their children by affection. With human beings the love attitude may persist in such a way that the child never actually matures and comes to have a fully developed self-life, or indulgence heaped upon the child by the parent may spoil the zest of life and keep the child emotionally infantile. He may become fixed upon the parent so that he is essentially parasitic in his inner emotional cravings and cannot maintain normal relationships in business, social contacts or later family life if he ever attempts to establish a home of his own.—From "Social Problems of the Family" by Prof. Ernest R. Graves.

**Trollope's Cigars**

Lord Birkenhead recently boasted a lifelong devotion to cigar smoking, but he can hardly claim to have given more thought and time to his hobby than did Anthony Trollope, remarks the Manchester Guardian. Trollope, as soon as his income was large enough to stand the expense, had one entire wall of his library equipped with air-tight little bins fitted with sliding doors and numbered. These he kept filled with choice cigars, laid across and across like planks of timber, to get thoroughly seasoned. True to the Trollope tradition, he worked through the bins in methodical fashion, refilling each as it was emptied with special imports from Havana. Thus, he declared, he attained the most perfect smokes in the world.

**Porpoise's Fish Appetite**

The porpoise has a great appetite, is feeding constantly as opportunity offers and lives principally on fish, and scientists were able recently to get a ciew to the number of fish a lively porpoise may eat when a giant porpoise was caught and 15,193 otoliths were found in its stomach.

The otolith is the carbone of a fish, is very hard, supposed to be the last remnant of a fish that is reduced by the chemical process in the mammal's stomach, and the large number found may be far less than the number of fish served live and wiggling for the satisfaction of the porpoise. At any rate, it bids fair to hold first place as a fish eater.

**The Arabian Nights**

The author of the original Arabic work, and the period in which it was composed, is unknown. But the Arabian Nights, as it stands at present, is the work of many hands, and numerous references in the stories show that they were added at different times. The work was introduced into Europe from Syria, where it was obtained in the latter part of the Seventeenth century, by Antoine Galland a French traveler. It was first translated and published by him between 1704 and 1717.

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