

Aristotle Clever in Evading Royal Wrath

Alexander the Great met defeat when he tried to obtain ownership and exclusive control of the writings of Aristotle. During the philosopher's second sojourn in Athens he gave instruction to the youthful world conquerer and prepared a number of compositions especially for his royal pupil's instruction. A little later Alexander wrote the following letter to Aristotle:

"You have not treated me fairly in including with your published works the papers prepared for my instruction. For if the scholarly writings by which I was educated become the common property of the world, in what manner shall I be distinguished above ordinary mortals? I would rather be noteworthy through possession of the highest knowledge than by means of the power in my possession."

To which Aristotle ingeniously replied:

"It is true that through zeal of admiring friends these lectures, originally prepared for thy instruction, have been given out to the world, but in the full sense of the term they have not been published. For in their present form they can only be understood when accompanied by the interpretation of the author and such interpretation has been given only to you."—Kansas City Star.

Lightning Thought to Drill Hole in Glass

If any reader should find one of his window panes perforated by a perfectly round hole, without apparent cause, the first question he should ask is, Has there been a thunderstorm in this neighborhood recently? If the answer is in the affirmative, he may conclude that Jupiter Tonans, the lord of the thunderbolts, in playful mood has sent one of them through the glass. In ordinary English, the pane has been struck by lightning.

That is what probably happened to the plate-glass window of a New York building recently. A minute hole appeared mysteriously in the glass. Three employees were at work inside the window, and all three heard a distinct report. Particles of glass fell on one of them. Search failed to reveal any bullet or other object that might have caused the hole. It seems to have been due to one of the mysterious pranks of lightning.

Disraeli's Birthplace

The late Lord Beaconsfield was always very vague in his mind as to where he had been born, but at one time he firmly believed it to be the house at the southwest corner of Bloomsbury square and Hart street. Actually, says Mr. Charles G. Harper in "A Literary Man's London," he did not go to live in that house until he was some twelve years of age, and today a bronze tablet on the house testifies to that. Yet when he was the prime minister he visited this Bloomsbury square house, and sat pondering "in the room in which he was born!" Another anecdote Mr. Harper has to tell is of Disraeli when he was nearing his end. When his sovereign wished to call and bid him farewell, he refused, because he said, "She only wants me to give a message to the Prince Consort!"

Motors Lift Bridge

Most railroad bridges of the lift type in the United States are operated by electric motors served by a power system. However, the Pennsylvania railroad has a bridge across the Chesapeake and Delaware canal that has no easy access to central station power, so a gasoline engine generator set was installed to supply the lift motors with energy. A 110-kilowatt gas engine set serves the two 120-horse-power motors. The lift span of the bridge, carrying two tracks, weighs 700 tons and is raised to a level that clears the water by 90 feet. If a boat approaches the bridge can be lifted to its top position in 90 seconds.

Iguana's Accomplishments

In northern Australia the iguana is seen quite often. This is a very versatile reptile that "can run like a horse, can swim and dive, shin up a tree, dig its burrow, and, when necessary, can fight like a demon." The iguana may go down its hole to sleep for months. It can go foodless for weeks; at other times it will eat or swallow anything. Mr. Terry says that snakes, old socks, or even an unopened tin of jam are alike to it, when its throat can gulp down such tasty morsels.

Love Story

"You love me, don't you?" he said, looking into her beautiful face. A loving look was in her eyes as she snuggled her head on his shoulder.

He slipped his hand into his pocket and drew out a little box. Opening it, he withdrew a sparkling cube of sugar. He slipped it into her awaiting mouth, and with a low whinny she galloped off to the pasture.—Pathfinder.

Voiced Her Desire

One day while four-year-old Helen and her father were out walking, he took her into an ice cream parlor. He thought she had decided to have a chocolate soda; so, when the waitress appeared, he said:

"Helen, tell the lady what you want."

Imagine his surprise when Helen innocently replied:

"A baby brother."

Old Roman Fountain Credited to Domitian

Rome has the reputation of being the city which possesses the largest number of artistic and monumental fountains, which all help to give her a most attractive aspect. But certainly very few people in Rome, writes a correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, could tell you which is the oldest of all, and guides often miss pointing it out to the tourists and other foreign visitors.

At the foot of the road leading to the Coliseum there lies the so-called Meta Sudans, a fountain whose name is probably derived from its conical shape, similar to the "metae" of the circus. The fountain is believed to have been erected or embellished by the Emperor Domitian, and it was reproduced on the special medal struck on the occasion of the formal opening of the Coliseum. The water issued from numerous small holes in a bronze globe at the top and fell in a veil into a large circular basin, lined throughout with marble. This fountain is mentioned by the philosopher Seneca in one of his epistles, when he complains of the noise which was made by a showman who blew his trumpet close to the fountain.

Gretna Green Unlike Town of Olden Days

The big increase in the surplus of English women, as indicated in recent census returns, has robbed Gretna Green (Scotland) of hopes of staging a comeback. The good old days of romance are gone forever, aver the townfolk.

Daughters were far more scarce a hundred years or so ago than now when parents so rarely try to shoot any young sports who purloin them. Gretna Green did most of its rushing marriage business between 1754 and 1856.

One of the popular paintings is that of romantic passengers in a post-chaise hurrying to the town on the boundary line between England and Scotland and showing the pursuing father's vehicle in a ditch with the wheel broken down.

This picture is more in demand than the village blacksmith himself who used to lend a helping hand to parties bent on clandestine marriage to avoid the English law.

Ancient Topography

The road followed by the dead on their way to the Elysian fields, based on the actual topography of the Nile valley, is depicted on one of the earliest maps known. In a lecture before the Royal Dutch Geographical society, Dr. F. C. Wieder said that the first map makers of whom there is any record were the ancient Egyptians and Babylonians. The way to Elysium was pictured on a sarcophagus of the old empire of Egypt now in Berlin. A plan of the Nubian gold mines, he continued, is preserved on a papyrus of the Fourteenth century before Christ. Road maps made into a household necessity by the automobile had precursors in the clay tablets into which the Babylonians baked charts of their roads 50 centuries ago, according to the Dutch scientist.

Careless Letter Writers

Post office employees in congress may be pardoned if their estimate of the public's intelligence is somewhat low. Letters still come addressed to Mark Hanna and Boise Penrose, former senators and now dead several years. Uncle Joe Cannon's mail is quite heavy yet. Senators and members of the house are mixed up indiscriminately by letter writers. So many letters are received for members of state legislatures who should have been addressed at their state capitals that a membership roll of all legislatures is kept on hand for assistance in forwarding such mail to the proper address. Why are letter writers so careless?—Exchange.

Selected Big One

Albert, age six, was very fond of squeezing tooth paste from the tube. His mother warned him not to take too much. One morning he said:

"How much may I take, mother?"

"Oh, a little," she replied, "about as big as a bean."

Then Albert pinched the tube and out shot the paste.

"Oh, oh!" exclaimed his mother.

"Not so much. I said as big as a bean."

"Yes," said Albert, "this is a string bean."—Youth's Companion.

Leather Centuries Old

Pieces of leather believed to be six centuries old, dug up in excavating for the foundation of a new building in the city of London, were still in serviceable condition and were used by the workmen to repair their shoes. The find was made in a heap about ten yards square of waste and manufactured leather in a layer of black mud, which apparently had been the dump of a medieval leather worker, deposited in the Fourteenth or Fifteenth century. The wet earth had preserved the material.

Most Children on Farms

More than half the farm population of the United States, 50.4 per cent to be exact, is made up of persons under twenty-one. In the cities only 37.5 per cent of the people are less than twenty-one. Which is as it should be, for the country is the place to raise children. And farm-raised boys and girls are the life-blood of all large cities.—Capper's Weekly.

Succession of Ideas Produced Motor Car

The history of the motor car began over 230 years ago, when Street, an English inventor, first utilized oil as a motive power. It was not until 1870 that a really practical petrol engine appeared. It was the work of Julius Hock, of Vienna.

The next name connected with the progress of the motor car is the most important of all—that of Gottlieb Daimler. In 1883 Daimler made the first small, high-speed petrol engine; all previous engines had been huge, clumsy and slow-moving.

Two years later he installed his engine in a motor-bicycle, and at the same time fitted boats with motors and ran them at Paris.

The boats attracted the attention of Levasor, another famous pioneer, who at once saw the immense possibilities in Daimler's invention. He bought the French patents from the inventor. Levasor invented a system of transmission—a method of taking the power from the engine to the wheels—and with a few small improvements this system is in use today.

Perfectly Plain

A ten-year-old girl had moved from Indianapolis to a farm in southern Indiana where the language of the Hoosier schoolmaster sometimes still exists in reality. Many of the school children's expressions were like Greek to her and called for translation by her schoolmates or mother.

One day she inquired of a school mate why Imogene was out of school.

"She's got a raisin' on her head," was the reply.

"What's that?"

"Why, it a raisin'," was the explanatory answer.

Repeating the conversation to her mother she learned that Imogene had a boil or abscess on her head.—Indianapolis News.

It Does

In a lesson in parsing a sentence the word "courting" came to a young miss of fourteen to parse. She commenced hesitatingly, but got on well enough until she had to tell what it agreed with. Here she stopped short. But as the teacher said, "Very well; what does courting agree with?" Ellen blushed and held down her head.

"Ellen, don't you know what courting agrees with?"

"Ye-ye—yes, ma'am."

"Well, Ellen, why don't you parse that word? What does it agree with?"

Blushing still more and stammering, Ellen at last replied, "It agrees with all the girls, ma'am."

Plenty of Ignorance

The uneducated have to pass through life with crippled powers, they have not a fair chance of contending in that struggle for existence upon which all have to embark who are obliged to earn their own livelihood. Few, if any, industrial operations are so entirely mechanical that a man will perform them equally well whether his mental powers have been developed or have been permitted to remain dormant. Ignorance takes away a considerable part of the power of a man to acquire the means of living.—Henry Fawcett.

Reply Not Recorded

Mildred, age five, having been born a day far removed from the dangers, had never seen a man with a beard. One day an uncle who possessed a crop of rather short whiskers came to visit them. After the first salutations had been given, Mildred stared at her newly found kinsman with intense interest.

Evidently arriving at no satisfactory conclusion, she asked: "Where is that of fur is that on your face—the rabbit?"

Start of Honeymoon

The honeymoon journey is stated to have had its birth in the reign of George II of England, declares George Logie. It became, declares an authority on wedding customs, "a recognized bridal institution in the aristocratic world in the earlier days of George III's reign. Many years passed before modest gentlemen in the middle rank of life presumed to imitate their betters in respect to this convenient custom."

Character Shown in Likes and Dislikes

If you are ever in doubt as to whether an acquaintance would prove a good companion, there is one infallible sign by which you can make sure of the matter. When you talk to him notice whether he tells you first of something he likes or dislikes. If he is prone to air his dislikes you may be sure he will not prove a very cheerful companion. His mind is destructive. He is more concerned with pulling to pieces than with building up. Such a person has a tendency to shut up one's mind or put it on its guard against impulses and innovations. He has a sensitive nature that withdraws itself into its shell on the least impact of the common things about him. One will get nothing from him but grumblings and animadversions.

The person on the other hand who quickly makes you acquainted with what he likes is one who will prove a fine stimulating companion. He is ardent, curious, adventuring. He will communicate his own enthusiasm and awaken in those he meets tastes and sympathies and ideas. He is a builder, a creator, a doer. Such men of infinite likes are to be cultivated.

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