

Debt-Paying in China Has Humorous Side

Many amusing tales are told of difficulties arising in China from the ancient custom which decrees that each man must pay his debts before the sun rises on New Year's morning.

If one cannot meet his financial obligations he must secure a new loan from another person, and as there is no law, he may be forced to pay as high as 50 per cent or more interest.

Happy is the man who can outwit his creditors during the last precious hours of the old year, for he may then sail along in peaceful, undisturbed waters for another year.

Dog Formally Tried for Stealing Chicken

Today the satirists have plenty to wear themselves out on, but one thing that does not annoy them is the trial of dogs for committing the crime of stealing chickens.

He portrayed the case of a dog accused of stealing and eating a capon which had been scheduled to adorn somebody's dinner table.

Ring Fingers

For many centuries wedding rings were worn on the thumb, and even as late as the reign of George I it was the rule for brides, although the wedding ring was placed on the finger now customary, to remove it, after the ceremony to the thumb.

It is a pretty belief, but incorrect, that the fourth finger of the left hand was chosen for the ring finger because from that a vein ran directly to the heart.

Harvesting Almonds

But few people realize the trouble taken in the cultivation of almonds. They are the most important crop of the island of Majorca, where many varieties are cultivated, and the industry is so prosperous that as old olive trees die they are replaced by almonds.

When the almonds are almost ripe they are knocked off the branches by long bamboo poles and then picked up by women and children. The nuts are separated from the husks after drying, and the shells are then broken by hand or machinery and the kernels extracted.

Real Womanhood Admired

I know a woman who is naturally thoroughly feminine, and has many of those gentle qualities which make men marvel. Suffrage has changed her somewhat; she has heard about her wrongs until she believes she has some. In addition, she is a spinster, and somehow holds the men responsible for that.

Insects in Disguise

There are beetles that pretend to be wasps, and plenty of flies that try to palm themselves off as unsavory ants. There is even a spider that assumes the appearance of an ant.

Genius of Holbein Recognized by King

When Hans Holbein, the celebrated portrait painter, went to England, he became a favorite of King Henry VIII, who took him into his service, and paid him a salary of two hundred florins a year.

One day, it is said, a nobleman called upon Holbein when the latter was very busy, painting from life. Holbein sent a message asking to be excused the honor of the visit for that day.

American Children as Frenchman Sees Them

"American children are 'insouciant,' open-minded and gay," so writes a noted observer in Comedie, a Paris paper, after a visit to the United States.

Like Dynamite

There is nothing that a man will not do for the woman he truly loves! There is a type of woman who knows this and who, after having won the devoted love of a man, proceeds to use that love as a means of gaining her purely selfish ends.

Many a woman of this type is hopelessly extravagant. She knows that her husband will make any sacrifice to gratify even her slightest whim.

Love is somewhat like dynamite. If properly handled, it can serve the most useful purposes. If treated carelessly, it can cause havoc and even death.

Army Rations Long Ago

How the American soldiers in the old fort of Detroit used to fare is indicated by a warrant recorded in September, 1797, contained in the records of Otto Stoll, register of deeds, and signed by Edward Day, department commissary.

Mirrors 3,000 Years Old

When the modern girl picks up a hand-mirror to admire herself, she is only following the example of young women of 3,000 years ago.

Archeologists in Media, in Greece, have discovered in tombs of the Mycenaean period several hand-mirrors, one with an ivory handle. Silvered glass was unknown in those days, and mirrors were made of sheets of polished metal.

Even before polished metal was used, girls had their mirrors. They used polished stone, dipping it into water so that the thin film of liquid would serve as a reflecting surface.

Skunks Show Mercy

Under the skunk Geneva convention the use of a gas-attack is strictly forbidden in any battle which only skunks are engaged in, says Nature Magazine.

Where Courtship Is Privilege of Women

Not only does the Cham maiden in some districts of Indo-China make the proposal, but with her also lies the initiative for divorce.

Even more favored is the girl of the "maternal kinship" tribes of Assam. She proposes, and, if he accepts, the marriage takes place and the husband must then come and live with her people.

The maiden of Bonda Porjas in southern India resorts to a severe test when selecting a husband. The chosen man has to accompany her into the jungle, where she applies fire to his bare back.

Production of Honey Important in Quebec

In the "Jesuits Relation" dated 1638, it states the Indians used to make a decoction containing alum and honey as a remedy for typhus.

The first agricultural statistics of Quebec hardly date as far back as 1870. The first census showed 41,255 hives, with a total yield of 648,000 pounds of honey.

The annual production in the province of Quebec amounts to 4,000,000 pounds of extracted honey and 300,000 pounds of comb honey.

Hessians in Revolution

"Hessians" is a term in American history for the German conscripts who were hired and sent over by England to help subdue the revolting Colonists.

Ten Plagues of Egypt

Contrary to the popular notion, there were ten plagues of Egypt. It is a common error to speak of the "seven plagues of Egypt."

Work for the Blind

Among many remarkable pictures in the annual report of the British National Institute for the Blind, perhaps the most striking are those showing the blind engaged in world industries.

First Thought

It was little Jacky's first experience in a train and the succession of wonders had reduced him to a state of astonishment.

When the locomotive plunged into a tunnel there came from his corner sundry grunts indicating dismay and suspicion. Then the train rushed into daylight again and a voice was lifted in profound thankfulness and wonder.

By Force of Habit

Jane is three years old and wise beyond her years. She is a great favorite with the grocer, who always contributes a sweetmeat on occasions that bring her to the store.

LINCOLN, NEB.

Mr. Henderson of Kansas City, Kansas, spent Sunday in the city, and worshipped at Mount Zion Baptist church.

Arthur Hurd, formerly of Lincoln, died in North Platte last Thursday. His body was brought here for burial.

Mrs. Mary Williams was called to Kansas City, Mo., last Saturday on account of the death of a cousin, Mrs. Morehead.

Mrs. Bertha Forbes of St. Joseph, Mo., is visiting her sister, Mrs. Ula Scott, here.

Mr. and Mrs. Felix Polk returned home from Louisiana last Saturday. Mrs. Polk had made her folks a long visit.

Mrs. Anna Christman was able to attend church Sunday.

Mrs. Ula Scott and daughter, Miss Elizabeth, were on the sick list the past week.

Shakespeare Had to Wait for Recognition

In reading a British review of William Shakespeare's life and works, I found many interesting statements. Jack Malone observes in the Chicago Daily News.

This intensely interesting and gripping article asserted that the above trio were considered the "cream" of Elizabethan authors, with the power to make or break any upstart seeking to compete with them.

South Seas

The Pacific ocean was formerly known as the South sea, due to the fact that Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Spanish governor of Darien, first saw it in 1513 when looking southward.

Flower Names

The names of many flowers find their origin in proper nouns. Back of them there are often biographies. The beautiful Japanese flower, wistaria, discovered by Nuttall, was not named after him.

New Test for Diamonds

A method by which the quality of diamonds can be definitely determined and imitations detected has been discovered by M. Malaval, chemical head of the police laboratory at Lyons.

Not What He Meant

"Perkins," thundered the farmer to his new assistant, "I told you to get an answer to that letter I instructed you to deliver!"

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