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. Practically every person in China owes some one else, all transactions being conducted on the basis that one may evade paying one's debts until the new year, and it is not a Chinese trait to pay a bill until payment has been requested at least twice. This accounts for the frantic haste in which the men rush here and there trying at once to collect debts and avoid creditors.

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. To dun a debtor on New Year's day is not considered good form; hence it is not uncommon to see an anxious creditor carrying a lantern in broad daylight, seeking to find his debtor, on the assumption that, because of his carrying a light, it is still the night before.

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.-Inez Marks Lowdermilk, in the Dearborn Independent.

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. Racine, the great French poet and dramatist, whom wa loosely think of today as a placid soul living in a placid age, satirized such a trial in his day.

He portrayed the case of a dog accused of stealing and eating a capon which had been scheduled to adorn somebody's dinner table. Racine paints a ludicrous picture in his play, "Les Haideurs," which means the attorneys, literally "pleaders," of the dog before the court. The lawyers are as windy as ever they should be in such a case. the judge as doggedly intent on impartiality. The dog is condemned to the galleys, although what he would do in the galleys is a subject of wonder. Perhaps he was sentenced to be a mascot. But the lawyer for the dog hits upon the idea of bringing before the court the dog's sons and dauguters, a itter of pupples, "poor children that would be rendered orphans.' The judge is touched by this scene, for he also has children. The outcome of the case is not related. Probably the dog was "simply knocked on the head."-Kansas Chry Star.

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. Ecclesiastical admonitions, however, had the effect of bringing that somewhat queer custom to an end.

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. The choice was for practical reasons-to save the ring from unnecessary usage. That also is the reason for the ring being worn on the

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. Still, she has frequent flashes of beautiful natural womanhood, and the men love to hang around and admire her. There is nothing the men admire so much as real womanhood; nothing they so much dislike as the new flapper type. -E. W. Howe's Monthly.

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. At first sight it would seem that the possession of eight legs would be a bar to the disguise, but, when occasion requires, up go the front pair of legs as counterfelt antennae. Instances might be multiplied. One South American fly which happens to be first-class eating goes about under a shield fashioned in the appearance of a highly indigestible

Genius of Holbein

Recognized by King When Hans Holbein, the celebrated portrait painter, went to England, he ecame 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. The nobleman, highly offended, walked straight upstairs and broke open the door of the studio. At this, Holbein also lost his temper, and aimed a blow at the intruder which sent him from the top of the stairs to the bottom. When his passion had cooled down, the artist realized his danger, and wisely went at once to the king, to whom he told the story of the quarrel. Shortly afterward, the nobleman made his appearance, clamoring for vengeance. Henry made Holbein apologize, but the angry peer declared that nothing but the offender's death would content him. Whereupon Henry replied, "You have not now to deal with Holbein, but with me. Whatever harm you do him shall rebound tenfo'd on your own head. Whenever I please, I can make seven lords out of seven plowmen, but of seven lords I could not make one Hol-

American Children as Frenchman Sees Them

"American children are "insouclants,' open-minded and gay," so writes a noted observer in Comoedia, a Paris paper, after a visit to the United States. "They work without white man's fly. It is said that the effort, that is to say, very little. They only learn the indispensable. In the big cities many streets are reserved for them and their plays. They are safe from the life-crushing juggernauts of modern traffic. At the age of twelve an American child upholds his own opinion against that of his parents and opposes his 'reactions' to their 'reactions.' They are treated and addressed as if they were adults. At fifteen they go out to earn a living, without losing their insouciance and their gayety. They will have known neither laziness, nor indolence. And they will die without having noticed that they have lived. Quietness and retreat in the eventide of life, preparation for death; those are unknown things in a country where death is but an insignificant detail."-Pierre Van Paassen, in the Atlanta Constitu-

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 hopeher husband will make any sacrifice But she often does not know that the very love which makes him spoil her will make him violently condemn her if she indulges in dangerous indis- gagements. Of the approximate 30, cretions.

properly handled, it can serve the 2.200 were killed outright or died of most useful purposes. If treated their wounds. carelessly, it can cause havoc and even death .- True Story Magazine.

Army Rations Long Ago

old fort of Detroit used to fare is indicated by a warrant recorded in September, 1797, contained in the records United States owe at Detroit to rations of soap at 22 cents a pound; 31.736 rations af whisky at \$2 a gal-5.404 rations of candles at 24 cents a pound, and 24,886 rations of vinegar at 6 cents a quart. . . All of which quantities have become due to the soldiery anterior to this date as appears by due bills of the assistant 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 tombe of the Mycenaean period several band-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. In such a fight the combatants depend entirely on tooth and claw. Sometimes that flerce death-inthe-dark, the great horned owl, will occasionally pounce on a strolling skunk. Usually, however, he finds that the latter's antiaircraft armament is too strong for him and retires without honor to bear about with him the aftermath of his raid until his next

Where Courtship Is Privilege of Women

Not only does the Cham malden in some districts of Indo-China make the proposal, but with her also lies the initiative for divorce. Moreover, when divorce occurs, which it does often, the wife retains the home, the children, and one-third of the property.

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. And the wife may divorce her husband when she pleases. By so doing, indeed, she gains much, for she not only keeps the children and ber own property, but all her divorced husband's property as well. If a husband divorces his wife be must still surrender his entire property and the children to her.

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. If the pain draws a yell from him, he is contemptuously rejected. She takes him for husband only if he suffers in silence.

In Borneo, among the Kalabit peoples, it is always the girl who conducts the courtship.-From the Continental Edition of the London Daily

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 white man's fly. It is said that the first hive was imported into America in 1638.

The first agricultural statistics of Quebec hardly date as far back as 1870. The first census showed 41,285 hives, with a total yield of 648,000 pounds of honey. In 1880 the harvest had considerably decreased, and this year gave only 550,000 pounds. The 1890 census gave 48,418 hives, with a production of 759,000 pounds. The growth for the following years was nothing short of a wonder, 1.001.000 unds being produced by 60,968 hives. the value of honey production and hives being over \$500,000.

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. They came from six of the small states of Germany, but as over half of them were from Hesse-Cassel and Hesse-Darmstadt, the name "Hessians" was generally applied to them. They were first commanded by Lieut. Gen. Philipp von Heister, but he was succeeded lessly extravagant. She knows that by Wilhelm von Knyphausen in 1777. They took a prominent part in the to gratify even her slightest whim. battles of Long Island, Walte Plains. Trenton, Bennington, Brandywine, Germantown, Guilford courthouse, Yorktown and several other smaller en-000 who came over to America, only Love is somewhat like dynamite. If | 17,000 returned to Germany. About

Ten Plagues of Egypt

Contrary to the popular notion, there were ten plagues of Egypt. It is How the American soldiers in the a common error to speak of the "seven plagues of Egypt." The ten plagues. according to the Bible, were as follows: The turning of the Nile into of Otto Stoll, register of deeds, and blood, covering the land with frogs, signed by Edward Day, department turning the dust into lice, sending commissary. The warrant reads: "The swarms of fles, killing of the cattle by a murrain, afflicting the Egyptians Messrs, Leith, Shepard and Duff, 5,185 with boils, raining fire and hall, covering the land with locusts, covering 123 pounds beef at 10 cents a pound; the land with a thick darkness for three days, and the destruction of lon (one-half a gill being a ration); the first born man and beast.-Exchange.

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.

A blind man is ringing coins at the royal mint; a blind woman is assembling parts of electric motors; blind workers are assembling toys; a blind girl is employed in photographic envelope folding; while blind girls wrap sweets and fold cardboard boxes.

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. "Mamma! It's tomorrow."

By Force of Habit

Jane is three years old and wise be yond her years. She is a great favorite with the grocer, who always contributes a sweetment on occasions that bring her to the store. Today he handed her some candy.

"What must you say to the man?" mother said, warning her daughter of the etiquette altached to the gift. "Charge it," was the reply not new

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. Mr. Hurd is survived by a wife, two sisters and other relatives, and was a member of Cornhusker lodge No. 579, I. B. P. O. E. of W., here. The funeral was held at Mount Zion Baptist church Monday at 2:30 p. m. The Rev. H. W. Botts officiated. The Elks lodge was well represented. Interment was in Wyuka.

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 Wil liam Shakespeare's life and works. I found many interesting statements. Jack Malone observes in the Chicago Daily News. One of these depicted the "Bard of Avon" as having no rating whatever with the arbiters of literary excellence-Bacon, Marlowe and Green. These critics ignored him utterly, refusing to publish any comments either pro or con, their studied silence attesting a desire to squeich an actor who presumed to intrude upon their particular field-literature.

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. So the "Immortal William" was suppressed. and during the next 100 years remained a dim legend. Then came a plea for his rehabilitation among authors of Pope's time. Shakespeare "fans" became more and more numerous, his dramas and verses were collected and read and the habit was formed. And finally, 240 years following his death. Shakespeare's fame was secured or all time!

South Seas

The Pacific ocean was formerly known as the South sea, due to the fact that Vasco Nunez de Balboa, Spanish governor of Darlen, first saw it in 1513 when looking southward. He named it "el Mer del Sur," or the "Sea of the South." Almost from the beginning, however, the English used the term in the plural form and applied it to all the waters of the southern hemisphere. In 1528, only 15 years after Balboa first beheld the Pacific, a man named Thorne wrote to Henry VIII as follows: "Ventill they come to thee, South Seas of the Indies Occidentall." In English literature "South Seas" refers especially to that part of the Pacific ocean south of the equator. "The South Sea islands" is a general term designating the more remote and less civilized islands in that region.-Exchange.

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, but in honor of one of his scientific friends, Casper Wistar, a professor of anatomy at the University of Pennsylvania. The gentian gets its name from the Illyrian king Gentius, who was the first to discover its properties. Quassia was named after Quassi, a negro slave in Suriname, Dutch Guiana, who used its bark as a remedy for fever.-Mentor

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, in collaboration with Professor Locard.

The stones are photographed under the light of ultra-violet rays filtered through a screen, sunlight being too diffused for the purpose.

Diamonds of the first water make a brilliant image, while inferior stones are merely shadows.

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!"

"Well, sir, they just wouldn't give me one. I did the best I could." "Did the best you could, eh? Well, that was a pretty idiotic effort. If I had known a fool was going I'd have gone myself!"

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