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SPRING CLEANING.

As to Valuable Hints for Renovating Old and Soiled Articles.

An efficient and economical housewife will always welcome suggestions in matters of cleanliness and renovation. To begin with, the best cleanser of hair brushes is spirits of ammonia and warm water. Take a tablespoonful of ammonia to a quart of water, dip the bristles up and down in the water without wetting the back of the brush, and rinse in clean warm water, then shake well and dry in the air, but not in the sun. Soap and soda soften the bristles and will turn an ivory-backed brush yellow, so in the case of the latter the following treatment is recommended: Rub plenty of flour well in, wrap up in paper, and leave all night, give a good shaking and remove the remaining flour by blowing the brush. All brushes and combs should be kept in the dressing case, or in a bag made for the purpose, when not in use, so as to keep them as much as possible from the dust. Ivory that has become yellow from age or usage may be whitened by a good rubbing with fine sandpaper or moist powdered pumice stone.

Glass which has become dull may be brought back to its original brightness by washing with diluted hydrochloric acid and afterward rubbing with moist chalk or whiting.

Marble may be cleansed with common dry salt, which requires no preparation, but may be rubbed directly in the soiled surface, leaving the marble beautifully clean. Alabaster may be washed with soapsuds. If stained, whitewash the stains, and let it remain for several hours, then clean it off. Take the finest quality of ground pumice stone and mix it with vegetable oil; let it stand two hours; then take a sponge and rub the alabaster with the mixture. Wash it with a linen cloth and fresh water, and dry it with clean linen rags.

Ornate articles and trimmings of furniture should be washed with plain soap and water and polished with camellia oil. To clean brass and copper a mixture of oil and rotten stone applied with a piece of leather and then rubbed bright with clean chamois skin will give a beautiful polish. Furniture to be polished should be washed with soap and water, little by little, and each little quickly dried. Afterward the cream should be applied. Here are two good recipes: Boil quickly in a gallon of water one pound of beeswax, four ounces of soft soap and two ounces of pearl ash. The second, which should be made at least a day before it is used, is compounded by melting together at a gentle heat eight parts of white wax, two of resin and a half pint of turpentine. Pour into a jar, shake it well, and add six parts of rectified oil of turpentine.

A careful housekeeper is frequently troubled by the tannin stains in fine china teacups. They may usually be removed by rubbing them with a little whiting on flannel. Salt will have the same effect, but it sometimes scratches very fine ware.

To clean wall paper use bread about a day old. If the paper is only dusty, flick and rub it with a soft yarn mop. If it is marked with grease, hold a piece of blotting paper over the spot with a hot flatiron for a few moments. —Atlanta Constitution.

A MIND READER.

His Honor Knew What His Private Secretary Thought.

"Job," said his honor, holding beneath his nose a bunch of flowers which had been left on his desk a few minutes before by a city hall bride, "did you know that I am a bit of a mind reader?"

"I did not know it," answered the private secretary, "but if you say so, of course."

"I will prove it to you," answered his honor, chuckling gleefully. "I will tell you what was in your mind a few minutes ago, Job. You remember that when I finished the marriage ceremony the pretty bride stepped forward and presented her cheek for me to kiss?"

"Yes, I remember," stammered the private secretary, his cheeks flushing.

"And you remember how I merely shook her hand and did not accept the invitation?"

"I do," answered the private secretary, with a regretful sigh.

"Well," continued his honor, "the moment I turned away from the girl I caught sight of your face and I'll bet you a pound of the best fine cut that I can tell you what were your thoughts at that moment."

The private secretary blushed, hung his head, and mumbled something.

"Ha! ha!" his honor chuckled, "you don't want to hear your thoughts repeated, eh? Well, I am going to repeat them, anyhow. At the moment I turned away from that pretty girl you were thinking: 'What a blanked fool the old man is!' Come, now, isn't that so?"

The private secretary saw it was useless to enter a denial, so he fled to his desk, and so agitated was he that in the next five minutes he missed the cuspidor three times in succession. —N. Y. Journal.

LEGAL OLLA-PODRIDA.

Funny State of Affairs in the District of Columbia.

What is an Offense on One Side of Rock Creek is Perfectly Legitimate on the Other Side.

[Special Washington Letter.]

The laws which are enforced in the District of Columbia are peculiar. Many of the old laws of Maryland, which were made before this land was ceded to the federal government, are still in force. Then there are federal laws which were enacted before the creation of the territorial form of government; laws enacted by the territorial legislature, and laws enacted by congress since the present form of government was created in 1872.

The ancient city of Georgetown was an independent corporation until recently, but it is now West Washington. It is separated from the national capital by Rock creek, and the laws there are in many instances different from the laws on the east side of Rock creek.

Many acts punishable as offenses in that section do not constitute offenses under the laws governing the rest of the district. Many of these old laws, though they may never have been repealed, are seldom enforced, and then only when many complaints are made about a certain thing, and the old law books are overhauled. Now and then one of these old law books is resurrected, and for awhile persons have to obey it, but it soon becomes a dead letter again, and the law is violated with impunity for another score or more of years. Every few years the question of observing the Sabbath is agitated. Some of the old laws are found to meet the case. It is a violation of one of the old Georgetown corporation laws to sell on Sunday any article except medicines, fresh fish, milk and other perishable goods which cannot be kept over night with safety, but this law is seldom enforced, and then only when complaint is made, or after a general order has been issued notifying storekeepers to close their places on Sunday. This law, like many others, has been contested in the courts and found to be valid.

Then there is another law which prohibits any manual labor on the Sab-



THIRTY-NINE STRIPES.

bath. This law, like the preceding one, has been contested and held to be still in force. It provides:

"That more effectually to prevent irregular practices so common on Sunday, every person working or commanding, or suffering their children or slaves to work, except in cases of necessity, or otherwise profane the Sabbath by gaming, hunting, fishing or other unlawful pastimes, shall, on conviction, forfeit a sum not exceeding five dollars." The second section provides that "if the offender be a minor and the fine is not paid by himself, parent, guardian or master, he shall be forthwith committed to the penitentiary for a time not exceeding five days, or if he be a slave he shall be publicly whipped, not exceeding 39 stripes."

At the West Washington station-house the police have an old law book, printed in 1821, which furnishes them the text of the old laws covering certain offenses. There are but few of these books in existence, so far as is known, and when a case other than assault and battery or disorderly conduct is made the officer making the arrest usually has to take this book to court to show his ground for action. The police doing duty west of Rock creek have not only to be able-bodied men, strong and plucky enough to handle ruffians and smart enough to capture thieves, but they have to be versed in all the ancient laws of Georgetown. Most of them can stand for hours and discuss the legal status of their section.

Reported in the book is a law passed August 4, 1795, which is intended to prevent accidents arising from galloping horses through streets. The act provides "That any person, within the jurisdiction of this corporation, who shall by galloping or otherwise force at an improper speed any horse, mare or gelding through any of the streets, lanes or alleys, shall, if a free man, forfeit and pay for every such offense the sum of 15 shillings, current money, to the use of this corporation, to be recovered either before any one alderman or by indictment or confession in the mayor's court; and if an apprentice, indentured servant or slave, the mistress or master of such apprentice, servant or slave shall forfeit and pay the sum of

seven shillings and six pence, current money, to be recovered as aforesaid."

An act of October 10, 1796, sets forth that "the respectable inhabitants have suffered great inconvenience from the vast concourse of idle white and black persons who frequently assemble and engage in cock fights, at which times they drink to excess, become riotous, and prevent the quiet and repose of good citizens." The first section of the act, and the second section, related to slaves, who were subject to 39 stripes on the bare back in a public place. The firing of guns or other firearms was made punishable under an act of October 24, 1801. The penalty prescribed was five dollars, one-half of which went to the informer. If the person violating the law was a slave or indentured servant the penalty was ten lashes, unless two dollars was paid by his or her master or mistress.

An act to prevent goats from running at large was passed in 1796, giving persons power to kill all goats found running at large, and to sell the same at the market-house to the best advantage, the person doing so to retain one-half the money received and the corporation to receive the other half. September 4, 1804, an act was passed to keep dogs out of the market-house, where it appeared they went to get meat and other vegetables from the stands. A tax of one dollar was assessed on dealers whose dogs were found within the walls of the market, but country dogs were not troubled, provided they were kept a respectable distance from the stands. A penalty of \$20 was provided under act of March, 1806, for the keeping of any public gaming table, whether "A, B, C," "L, S, D," "E, O," or other game. A subsequent act, entitled an "Ordinance to restrain vice," included "rooley pooly," or faro bank, faro table and hazard, and prescribed the same penalty.

An act approved April 30, 1808, regulated and fixed the size of loaves of bread offered for sale. The loaves were to be made in size according to the quality of the flour used and were to sell at the same price per loaf. The vagrancy act under which vagrants are now prosecuted fixes the term of imprisonment at not more than 20 days. The act also provides that if he fails to pay the jailer's fees he shall, with consent of the mayor, be sold at vendue to serve and labor for any time not exceeding four months. There are other acts of the old corporation regulating commerce and protecting the river and various business interests. The chimney sweep is required, under penalty, to faithfully perform his duties, and to his advantage a penalty is prescribed for placing a stove-pipe through the exterior wall of any frame building or through the roof of any house, so that stove pipes, under the law, are not permitted to pass through the frame partitions of summer kitchens.

"It would be almost impossible to enforce many of these laws," said a policeman, "yet when complaints are made, and the law is found, there is nothing else to do, and, until congress acts in the matter, West Washington will remain under the old laws. We work under too many laws," continued the officer. "Inside the city limits we have one set of laws and in the county we have an entirely different set. What is an offense in one place is permitted in another. Within the limits of West Washington a man may strip off his clothing and walk the streets in defiance of the officers because there is no law to punish him, but if he does the same thing on the river shore and goes bathing before nine o'clock in the evening he may be arrested for unlawful bathing. On the eastern side of Rock creek the same state of affairs exists."

"Persons can do an act not in violation of the law on one side of Boundary street, but if they repeat it on the other side they soon find themselves in the hands of the law. Then, again, there are some offenses punishable by a heavy fine in one section, while the penalty in another section is not half so heavy. Such a state of affairs makes it very hard for a policeman to know whether he is doing his duty properly or not."

While all Georgetown policemen are required to know something of law, and intricate law at that, the policemen in Washington study only the police regulations, and very few of them seem to have brains enough to master even that much literature. At any rate they are a careless lot of peace guardians, and knowingly wink at vice.

Just across the river from Georgetown, on the Virginia shore of the Potomac, there are numerous gambling houses and vile liquor saloons, the very lowest of the low. The governor of Virginia claims that he has no legal power to control the lawless or to arrest the vicious. The sheriff of the county does not call on the governor for aid, and the governor says that he cannot invade the county without the authority of the sheriff. While the lawless can capture the sheriff they can continue to defy the law. SMITH D. FRY.

Excused.

Justice Magnifico—What is your excuse for not serving on the jury?
Juror—I'm an expert witness myself; and I know what fools all those testifying would be! —N. Y. Truth.

She Had an Idea.

Ethel—What is Stimson in Wall street? A bear?
Maude—Why do you ask?
Ethel—He hugs just like one.—Town Topics.

ON THE CONGO RIVER.

A Beautiful Country Rich in Natural Resources.

European Emigration to Tropical Africa is Increasing from Day to Day—Deplorable Condition of the Women of the Native Tribes.

[Special London Letter.]

The newest "new world" is the vast region watered by the Congo river and its numerous tributaries. It is over 600,000 square miles in extent, and has been discovered and mapped, and some parts settled, annexed, and even partially civilized within the past quarter of a century. It is a strangely beautiful new world of which Henry M. Stanley was the Columbus, whose wealth and fertility and scenery are gradually becoming better known. Where

"Far away through forests old
The Congo rolls o'er sands of gold."

Unlike some other great rivers of the old world, the Congo empties into the Atlantic ocean in a single stream, seven miles wide and of enormous depth, and although cataracts and rapids interfere with its continuous navigation, there are between these impediments, in the Congo and the Aruwimi, its chief tributary, over 4,000 miles of navigable waters.

The Congo valley, that is the country of the Upper and Lower Congo, is a wonderfully fertile land. At present the chief commercial products are



A CONGO LANDSCAPE—N'TOMBO FALLS, MANYANGA.

palm oil, rubber, spices, gums for medicinal use, and ivory. Gumcopal, wild coffee, camwood powder and fruit in great abundance are produced. These yield a revenue of about \$25,000,000 annually. In what is termed the lake region of the Congo there are valuable iron and copper mines and gold and silver deposits.

The Upper Congo region, between the Congo and the lakes, is said to be a fine field for colonization. The climate is salubrious and temperate, the altitude ranging from 2,000 to 6,000 feet above the sea. The rich river valleys and old lake bottoms yield immense crops of rice and grain and there, as well as on the uplands, is found some of the most valuable timber in the world, the logs making the most costly transportation profitable.

Speaking of the Congo valley as a New World is only figuratively true, for those lazy old pioneers, the Portuguese, have been settled at the mouth of the great river, and many a grand family in Portugal has been kept flourishing for the past 200 years on the profits of the Congo slave trade. Thanks to the intervention of the British, principally, this iniquity is being broken up, the only transgressors nowadays being the Arabs, next to the "unspeakable Turk" the most despicable member of the human family. Wherever the influence of the believers in the false prophet extends the traveler expects to find that the natives are treated with cruelty, and that neither age nor sex is spared when those demons are aroused. What the Mohammedan is doing in Armenia he has done in Equatorial and West Africa, and occasionally cities and cultivated regions are destroyed for miles by the Arabs so as to capture slaves.

Among the many natives which people the Congo region there may be found as many varying types as in Europe, and some of them are as strange in their appearance as they are in their manners and customs.

A favorite facial adornment with the Ba Yansi, Usindi and Mabila is the curled barb of the beard which is stiffened with gum and grease so as to give it the most elegant curve. Dr. Baumann, who was one of the first travelers to follow Stanley's footsteps in the Congo valley, had a pleasant experience among the Usindi. They believed that he was a reinbodiment of their last king and had come back from the moon! The Urundi, or Unsindi, claim that their former kings were lineal descendants of the moon, and in this respect exhibit an extraordinary parallel with the belief of the Incas of Peru.

One of the strange races of the great forests of the mid-Congo basin is the Batwas. Before the early traveler and pioneer had become familiar with the Batwas he had heard them described as cannibals, though better acquaintance proved this to be incorrect. The Batwas averages only four feet three inches in height, but is well built, active and much stronger than his height would lead one to expect. A dwarf woman was bought by Dr. T. H. Parke, who paid her former owner, an Arab, for her

"a handful of beans, 12 cups of rice and six cups of Indian corn." He tells us that he was obliged to be very kind to her at first to prevent her running away, but when she had ceased to have any dread of cruelty, her devotion was unbounded. "To her constant attention and care," he said, "I owe the enjoyment of good health and good foods—as far as forest weeds can be foods—during months of what would, without her, have been absolute starvation."

The first of the forest dwarfs that was measured was found to be exactly four feet in height. It is supposed by scientists that the pigmies represent the earliest type of African humanity, and that through the centuries they have remained unaffected by the partial civilization that has come to their larger-limbed fellows of other tribes. It has been found that these dwarf races are not deficient in mental ability, that is, as compared with the other races of the Congo.

Among the 50,000,000 or 60,000,000 of natives, divided into many different nations, there is a wonderful diversity of tongues. Not a few of these races use sounds made by "clicking" or "chirping" the sounds we make with the tongue against the palate when we call a dog or a horse.

To the hunter the valley of the Congo presents extraordinary attractions. From its mouth to its source it is a grand hunting field where such mighty game as the rhinoceros, the hippopotamus and those great felines, the leopard, lion, etc., can be found, and in the Lower Congo the African elephant is at

home, though he has never been domesticated like his Asiatic brother, and is hunted for his tusks only.

The condition of womankind among the savages of the Congo and adjoining territory is shocking in the extreme. Generally she is classed as a domestic animal merely, and to murder his wife is not considered a crime by a Mukumbi. A chief of that tribe, in conversation with a missionary, casually remarked: "I killed five of my wives during the night." A Mabunga sent his wife to collect firewood. She sank up to her shoulders in a marsh, and her screams attracting his attention, he threw her a stick with which to defend herself against the hyenas and other wild beasts, and left her till morning, when no trace of the wretched woman was to be seen!

Writing from the court of King Mtesa, Capt. Speke, the famous English traveler, said: "No day has passed without my witnessing the execution of at least one, and sometimes two or three, of the unhappy women who compose the king's harem. A cord round their wrists, they are dragged to the slaughter, their eyes streaming with tears, and venting their misery in heart-rending cries of 'Hai Minange! K'bakka Hai n'yavio!' (Oh, my lord, my king! Oh, my mother, my mother!) Not a hand is lifted to save them, although here and there a remark upon the beauty of some young victim passes current in a low voice among the crowd."

Fr. Hautecoeur, a missionary, reported that recently a child was born to one of the slave women in the village where his mission is located. Regularly every day, in defiance of any consideration she might have claimed for her child's sake, the wretched woman was cruelly beaten, so that she would spend the greater part of her time prowling among the bushes round the village for fear of the ill-treatment which she knew awaited her reappearance. "One day," he says, "I heard the baby was dead, and I learned a little later from the other natives that the poor little thing's death was entirely caused by the brutality of its own father, who would beat his wife without any regard for the child which she carried on her back, according to the custom of the country."

And if this is the fate of African women in their own homes under favorable circumstances the reader can imagine that it must be unspeakably worse when capture and exile are added to their sufferings. The conqueror, generally some Mohammedan monster in human form, profiting by the frequent battles between rival tribes, secures a hundred or more of the prisoners. These miserable wretches, bound together, weighed down beneath heavy burdens of ivory, or precious gums, are driven for weeks and months across the desert to an unknown land, there to be again sold into abject slavery.

The conquest and annexation of western and equatorial Africa by European nations will be the dawn of day for the women at least.

JAMES IRVING CRABBE.