

There Are Twenty-four Reasons Why the Nine of Diamonds Is Called Unlucky.

Every reader has at some period of his or her life heard of the nine of diamonds referred to as "the curse of Scotland;" but why, perhaps, you have never taken the time or trouble to ascertain.

In my "Repository of the Rare and the Wonderful" I find no less than seven explanations of the origin of the expression, while Southwick's "Quizzical and its Key" gives eleven, seven of which are wholly different from the ones given in the work above referred to.

Perhaps the most satisfactory explanation of the origin is that which refers it to the massacre of Glencoe. The order for that cruel deed was signed by the Earl of Stair, John Carywale, secretary of state for Scotland.

It is also said that the Duke of Cumberland wrote his infamous orders at "Nulien on the back of a card, the front of which was marked with nine diamonds.

The "Oracle, or Resolver of Questions," printed in 1770, says that the crown of Scotland had nine diamonds, and that the Scotch people were too poor to add to the collection.

An Elevator Incident. In one of the elevators in a downtown building the other day an absent minded man came near depositing this life with unbecoming haste.

Even the elevator man had nothing to say for a minute, but when the next floor was reached the whole affair seemed to strike him in a new light.

Another Flower I am very successful with is the single dahlia, which is very much headier than the double dahlia, you know.

Experiments on the French railway show that the resistance of the engine to the motion of the wheels is almost often to half the total resistance.

Furrows on the Finger Nails. Nearly twenty years ago Dr. Willis directed attention to the curious fact that a transverse furrow always appears on the nails after a serious illness.

Nothing wears a railroad traveler more than a straight track," says an old railroad man. "Any road with fifty miles of straight track would be shunned for one with three or four curves in that distance.

It is a fact not generally known that Missouri furnishes better cavalry horses than any other state in the Union.

Inquiring Boy (looking up from a book)—"What does 'paying the piper' mean?" Worried Father (absently)—"Tell him to call next week."

"Well, if it's a plumber, he needn't call for a month."—Good News.

FLOWERS BRING MONEY.

HERE IS AN INDUSTRY WORTH WHILE FOR WOMEN TO PURSUE.

A Young Washington Woman Tells About Her Success in Cultivating Roses and Violets—They Require Little Labor and Bring Large Returns.

"Flower culture in a small way can be made to pay even by an amateur who chooses to pursue it in a painstaking and intelligent way," said a young woman.

"I am extraordinarily fond of roses, but violets are more profitable. On the day before Christmas I picked and sold 2,500 violets at two cents apiece; that is 50 cents worth. They were worth the highest price then, but they never bring less than one cent apiece.

Always a Market. All of my violet plants come from one little pot that I bought at the Center market five years ago.

There is always a market for flowers and there is never any difficulty in disposing of them. Any florist is glad to buy them if they are good ones and in prime condition.

My greatest success is with sweet peas, which most people do not get along very well with in this latitude. I got the very first possible seed to begin with.

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A TAWNY HEAD FROM EGYPT.

With tufts of hair warm brown, within a case it rests, this marvel from the antique land of pyramid and sphinx.

Archives of art and ethnology, to stand Glean all time's efforts looking to a face. These priceless sockets can't with love light gleamed.

"I never knew Carlyle," says the author of "Gleanings of Great and Little Things," "except by sight.

"Oh, yes, I know him well enough. E. orson rides in my bus. 'E's vot you call a literary gent—writes books wot nobody can understand."

Actors Who Paint. Speaking of people who paint, Edward W. Kemble, the artist, said: "I know many actors who are artists with the brush and pencil.

Work in Lecturing. A popular lecturer, who has appeared before big audiences on hundreds of platforms during the past ten or twelve years, says that lecturing is the hardest way of earning a living.

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Common Sense About the Cigarette.

A tobacco dealer says: There has been a great deal said about the harmfulness of cigarettes, and certainly they are injurious to young boys or to men if smoked in excess.

If you take a piece of rice paper and light it scarcely any residue will remain, and a man might smoke that paper indefinitely without experiencing the smallest bad result.

Why People Bite Their Lips. If you surprise the father of a family stretched out at full length and trying if he is red in the face to raise his legs without lifting his body, you may know he is endeavoring to work off his superabundance of avoirdupois.

A Rare New Zealand Bird. Dr. Friswell has brought a most interesting and valuable collection of birds, etc., from Australia, where he had many an adventurous outing.

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What is CASTORIA. Castoria is Dr. Samuel Pitcher's prescription for Infants and Children. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance.

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