

**The Parsees.**

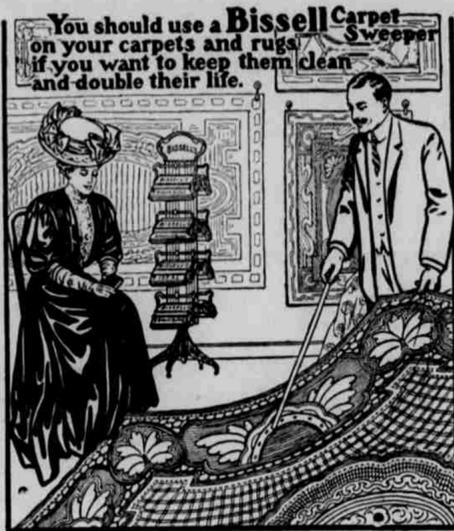
The Parsees are sun worshippers, and it is an interesting sight to see throngs of them on the shore of the bay as the sun rises, apparently from the sea, performing the simple rites of their religion, the fluttering robes showing their fine figures to the best advantage as the day begins. Their religious practices are simple in the extreme, consisting mainly in strict dietary rules and personal cleanliness. The rigid observance of sanitary laws produces the natural result of perfect health among the adults—large families of active, healthy children and immense numbers of old men, gray bearded, white haired, but erect and princely in their gait and attitude despite the naturally enervating character of the tropical climate.

**An Interesting Link.**

One curious incident in the siege of Badajos may be related. The day after the assault two Spanish ladies, the younger a beautiful girl of fourteen, appealed for help to two officers of the rifles, who were passing through one of the streets of the town. Their dresses were torn, their ears, from which rings had been roughly snatched, were bleeding, and to escape outrage or death they cast themselves on the protection of the first British officers they met. One of the officers was Captain Harry Smith of the rifles. Two years later he married the girl he had saved in a scene so wild. Captain Harry Smith in after years served at the Cape as Sir Harry, and this Spanish girl, as Lady Smith, gave her name to the historic town which Sir George White defended with such stubborn valor.—"Wellington's Men."

**Why Teakwood Is Durable.**

The teak, which has passed into proverb as the best material for shipbuilding, is superior to all other woods from the fact that it contains an essential oil which prevents spikes and nails driven into it from rusting. This property is not possessed by any other wood in the world and furnishes an explanation of the fact that ships built of teak are practically indestructible. Some have been known to last for 150 years, and when broken up their beams were as sound as when first put together.



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**Horseshoes.**

There were horseshoes as far back as history can take us, but they were not iron ones fastened by nails to the hoof. When such shoes first came into use will probably never be known. The ancient horseshoes—those used by the Greeks, Romans and others—were plates covering the entire bottom of the foot and fastened by thongs fixed about the animal's ankle. The oldest horseshoe nails found by antiquaries date back to the time of Childeric I, who died in 481. It is generally understood that horseshoes were introduced into England by William the Conqueror in 1066.—New York American.

**The Way of the World.**

Four-year-old James awakened early one morning and found his father dressing by lamplight and asked why he was up so early. "To earn potatoes for you, my lad," was his father's reply. Presently James slowly climbed out of bed, and his father asked why he got up so early. "Why, to eat the potatoes," came the answer.—Delineator.

**THE BAZZAZAZ BALK.**

**Kilroy's Throw to First Base While Looking at Home Plate.**

"Players of the present day are prone to scoff at the tales of the prowess of Matty Kilroy, better known as 'Bazzazaz,' a left handed pitcher, who performed marvels," writes Hugh S. Fullerton in the American Magazine. "Most modern pitchers declare that under present conditions Kilroy would have been a failure. The little left hander, after years of triumph, retired because his arm was hopelessly worn out. In spite of that fact Tom Burns, when he assumed charge of the Chicago club in 1898, resurrected Kilroy, whose arm was so weak, according to his own admissions, he 'couldn't break a pane of glass at fifty feet.' Yet for one season and part of another he pitched against the strongest clubs and beat them regularly.

"Kilroy's success was due almost entirely to his 'bazzazaz' balk, which he evolved by persistent training. He was the only pitcher who ever balked without balking, if such a thing is possible. In the first four innings of the first game he pitched against Baltimore after Burns resurrected him nine men reached first base. He caught six of them off the base, and, although two umpires watched every move he made, they declared that under the rules he did not balk.

"Kilroy explained to me after his permanent retirement his system of training by which he acquired the 'bazzazaz' balk."

"I see the old soup bone was ready for the undertaker," he said, "so I goes to work on the balk. I always had a good balk motion, but wanted a better one. I spent half the winter in the side yard at home with a chalk mark on the wall for first base and another on the fence for the home plate. I practiced morning and afternoon, making from 250 to 400 throws a day with my wrist and forearm trying to hit the first base line while looking at the other one and without moving either my feet or body. By practicing I got so I could shoot the ball faster to first base with wrist and forearm than I could pitch it to the plate with a full swing. That's all there was to it. Just look straight at the plate, pull your hands up against your breast, raise your left one to the level of your ear, then drive the ball to first without looking until after it starts, and you're got him. The umpire can't see whether you look before you throw or not."

"He did get them. Probably he made 20,000 practice throws at the chalk mark, but he perfected the motion that enabled him to pitch two years after his arm was 'dead.'"

**How Bells Are Tuned.**

When certain bells in a chime produce discord they can be tuned. The tone of a bell may be raised or lowered by cutting off a little metal in the proper places. To lower the tone the bell tuner puts the bell in his lathe and reams it out from the point where the swell begins nearly down to the rim. As the work proceeds he frequently tests the note with a tuning fork, and the moment the right tone is reached he stops the reaming. To raise the tone, on the contrary, he shaves off the lower edge of the bell, gradually lessening or flattening the bevel, in order to shorten the bell, for of two bells of equal diameter and thickness the shorter will give the higher note.

A notable instance of bell tuning was at Lausanne, where twelve bells in three neighboring steeples produced only seven distinct notes and produced a most curious discord.—Harper's Weekly.

**ATHLETES TO VISIT ENGLAND**

**Sheppard and Gissing to Sail For Europe Shortly.**

Fired by the success of Nat Cartmell, the former University of Pennsylvania sprinter, Melvin M. Sheppard and Harry Gissing, two of the greatest runners in the country today, are planning an invasion of England. The pair are to sail shortly and expect to be abroad until the end of the summer. Sheppard has been anxious to return to England since the London Olympic games, nearly two years ago, when he disagreed with the majority of the American athletes who were members of the United States Olympic team and declared that the British athletic authorities had accorded him fair and impartial treatment. Since that time he has always been outspoken in his praise of the British athletic fairness.

The two athletes will be watched closely by the Amateur Athletic Union



MELVIN SHEPPARD.

of the United States and the Amateur Athletic Association of England, although it is freely predicted by prominent athletic authorities here that the pair will follow the example of Cartmell and turn professionals should inducements to do so prove satisfactory.

There is one point about the trip that is puzzling to the Amateur Athletic union officials, and that is how men of the moderate means of Sheppard and Gissing can afford to spend the summer in England. The cost of the trip, including the passage by steamer, will be not less than \$1,000 each, irrespective of the loss of salary during the summer months.

In the London Olympic games two years ago Sheppard won the 800 meter run in 1 minute 54 4-5 seconds and the 1,500 meter event in 4 minutes 32 5 seconds, creating new a record in each event. Emilio Lunghi, the Italian, was second to Sheppard in the 800 meter race, while Wilson was runner up in the long distance event. Both of these men competed in this country last summer under the Irish American Athletic club colors and are in England at present. This quartet constitutes the fastest middle distance runners in the world and will furnish some spectacular races in England the coming summer.

**Mozart and Beethoven.**

The stories of how men of genius have had future fame predicted for them in their early youth must generally be taken with a considerable grain of salt. As authentic as most is the account of the first meeting of Mozart with the young Beethoven, which took place on the latter's first visit to Vienna in the year 1787. Mozart, then at the height of his fame, asked him to play, but, thinking his performance a prepared piece, paid little attention to it. Beethoven, seeing this, entreated Mozart to give him a subject, which he did, and the boy, getting excited with the occasion, played so finely that the composer of "Don Giovanni," stepping softly into the next room, said to his friends there: "Pay attention to him. He will make a noise in the world some day or another."—Chambers' Journal.

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