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## The McCook Tribune!

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TRADE IN SEA-SHELLS.

Shape, Size, Color and Characteristics in Endless Variety.

[St. Louis Globe-Democrat.]

The trade in shells is growing to such proportions as to form one of the leading branches of industry in not a few quarters of the world. Shells are the growth of animals, being exuded from their bodies and hardened by the action of the air or water, are always in layers, and in shape, size, color and characteristics are in endless variety. The shells of the strombus and triton are used for horns, trumpets, lamps, vases and general ornaments; other shells are used by fishermen for ladles and spoons, others still in the manufacture of boxes and bangles. The painter's mussel is used to hold gold and silver colors, while in China the shell of p'acuna placenta serves as a substitute for glass. Cowries are still used for money in parts of Africa and India, while in Europe many kinds are used for buttons, and some even for jewelry.

In commerce, shells are divided into

In commerce, shells are divided into those used for making pearl buttons, iridescent shells for ornamental work, those used for shell flowers and for ladies' bracelets, those used for cameo jewelry, those of which knife handles and similar articles are made, those used for lime and those used for enamel. The bull's-mouth is the one most commonly employed for cameo jewelry, and the extent of this business may be judged of from the fact that in Paris alone there are over 3,000 cameo cutters who work in shells alone. Cowries are still considerable articles of trade, one Hamburg house sending out fourteen ships annually to Zanzibar for cowries, with which they purchase cargoes of west African produce. The value of the shell depends on the locality. In British India 4,000 of them are worth a shilling, and near Calcutta a church which cost 4,000 pound sterling was paid for entirely with cowries. In western Africa the market price of a first-rate article of wife is 100,000 cowries, or 7 pounds 10 shillings, while a cheaper article may be had for 20,000 cowries. The tiger cowry is often handsomely engraved and made into inkstands, snuff boxes and the like. The common mussel shell is often used for ornamental purposes, and the Maories also use a pair of them as tweezers, while the Bashee islanders make pipes from several kinds of spiral shells.

Some years ago a sailor presented Queen Victoria the shell of a nautilus on which he had engraved the royal arms, the prince of Wales' arms, the images of two steamships and a number of verses from Pope, amounting altogether to 1,500 words, the lettering being so minute as to require the aid of a microscope to decipher it, all the work having been done with a jack-knife. Formerly a number of valuable dyes were obtained from shellfish, but the mineral and vegetable dyes are now so numerous and beautiful as to have completely supplanted the shellfish product. Marine silk is seldom heard of, yet is a reality, and a very beautiful reality, too, obtained from the Mediterranes Peima nobilis or sea-wing. It is really the bunch of filaments by which the shellfish fastens itself to the rocks, but when properly treated becomes a pretty fair article of silk, capable of being woven and spun into cloth, and robes have been made of it, more, however, as curiosities than for any real use they might have

#### Stage Glitter and Sparkle. [New York Times Interview.]

"It strikes me that there are effects in scene painting which cannot be got by colors alone."

"You are quite right," replied the scene painter, "and that's where we have got the 'dead wood' on the other painters. Ordinary gold and silver leaf are used to a great extent on the stage in gorgeous architectural scenery or in spectacular sets. So are colored foil papers. Then we have bronze powders, as they are called, of all shades. A coat of glue is laid on and the bronze powder thrown upon it. It produces a rough, metalliclooking surface. Another dodge is the counterfeit presentment of precious stones. For a very moderate sum I can get you up a splendid palace, studded with gigantic, sparkling jewels."

"How do you do that?"

"How do you do that?"

"We use what we call 'logies.' They are made of zine, and can be got in all colors. Then we can produce polished marble of varying hue, or the sunwrought sheen upon polished metals, just as easily as we can walk. All we have to do is to paint the thing in colored lacquers, put plenty of gaslight on it, and there you are. The sparkle of an iceberg comes from 'frosting' of crushed glass sown on a coat of give."

#### What a Boy Won't Do.

[Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.]
A boy won't smoke his father's cigars
when the box is kept in a burglar-proof
safe and none of the stumps are left
lying around loose.

He won't pour a nest of red ants down his little sister's back if the latter wears a high necked dress and there is snow on the ground.

He won't eat a pie, if the pantry-door is locked.

He won't tie a tin can to a cat's tail if there is a dog handy. He won't go in swimming when his

mother tells him not to, if skating is good.

He won't play marbles for keeps when he is busted, suck eggs when the nest is empty, nor play hookey when school is

he is busted, suck eggs when the nest is empty, nor play hookey when school is out. In fact, a boy that is a boy won't do anything he ought not to do, unless he gets a good chance and "nobody's looking."

#### Pocket-Glue. [Exchange.]

Dry pocket-glue is made of twelve parts of good glue and five parts of sugar. The glue is boiled until it is entirely dissolved, the sugar is then put into the glue, and the mass is evaporated until it hardens in cooling. Lukewarm water melts it very readily, and it is excellent for use in causing paper to adhere firmly, cleanly, and without producing any disagreeble odor.

Julia C. R. Dorr: To choose and to hold fast to the very best that is within our individual reach—is not this the true philosophy of life?

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For estimates, catalogues and prices, apply to G. B. NETTLETON, McCook, Neb-

Agent for Southwestern Nebraska and Northwestern Kan-

Uncomfortable Genius. [Kate Field in The Manhattan.]

Half a dozen hearts are worth a world of heads. Once upon a time I worshipped intellect. Brains were all that were worth having. Brilliant men were the gods of my idolatry, and good people I thought stupid. Since those salad days I've discovered that, however fascinating genius may be in public, it is not the sweetest of boons in a private family, for nine times out of ten genius is intensely selfish. It wants to be coddled; it rarely coddles. It wants to be heard; it seldom listens. Ego is the burden of its song. Who and what you are, matters little. Accustomed to be adored, it accepts devotion as a divine right. To receive is its due. To give is the privilege of lesser mortals. Now, if I have a talent, it is that of appreciation. If there is a good listener among women, I am that she. I delight in genius, but I've found it out, and have no more illusions.

It is a charming companion for holidays, but for daily breakfast, dinner, and supper nothing is so satisfactory as a combination of common sense and unselfishness. The humblest of us have longings, affections, sorrows, pleasures, and like to be treated as though we filled a place in the world. We want to feel that those upon whom we lavish thought are not unmindful of our welfare. Genius hasn't time for such commonplaces. It is too engrossed in the evolution of a sublime idea to dwell upon the individual head or heart ache. I'm persuaded that this is the reason why very clever men and women marry those who are considered their inferiors. The know by introspection the egotism of brains, and seek, an unselfishness which will minister to their comfort. Intellectual companionship may be found in books or society, but that thoughtfulness and care upon which the happiness of daily life depends, can only proceed from human beings possessed of hearts. As there are exceptions to all rules, so are there great hearts allied to great heads. Such creations are the glory of the universe, and to be honored without stint.

#### War Songs. [Philadelphia Times.]

Songs that appeal forcibly to some strong sentiment which is universally felt are apt to have a wide sale and hence the late civil war afforded golden opportunities to popular song writers, of which they were not slow to avail themselves. It would be difficult to enumerate the authors and the songs which made triumphant successes during that time. One of the most pronounced of these was that achieved by a ballad called "When This Cruel War is Over; or, Weeping Sad and Lonely," of which more than 300,000 copies were sold in a few months, realizing a fortune for the publisher. George F. Root wrote and published a song called "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the Boys Are Marching," which made him rich in both money and reputation. "Just Before the Battle, Mother," "Who Will Care for Mother Now?" and "Rally 'Round the Flag, Boys," also enjoyed widespread popularity. Among the greatest favorites of the war time was "John Brown's Body Lies a-Mouldering in the Grave," while "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground" is a very pretty ballad which has outlived the ephemeral popularity of most of the other war songs, and still has a steady sale, being sung by children's voices at the firesides of many who in the saddest

sale, being sung by children's voices at the firesides of many who in the saddest days of our country's history did indeed tent on the old camp ground.

Of comic and serio-comic war songs there were a host and they all sold largely. Among the best known of these were "Dixie's Land," by an old-time negro comedian named Dan Emmet, "Kingdom's Comin'" and "Marching Through Georgia," the two latter being the productions of Henry C. Work, who died only the other day: The last named of these has continued one of the most popular of all campaign songs to the present "time. "Johnny Comes Marching Home" was also one of the cleverest and most successful of the war song hits.

Origin of Some Queer Words.

A correspondent of Notes and Queries writes: "Modern fiction has contributed but few common nouns, adjectives or verbs to the English language, and it is curious to note the sources' whence these come. Thus, 'Gulliver's Travels' furnishes three words, 'brobdingnagion,' 'lilipution' and 'yahoo;' but from the whole of Shakespeare we get only one, 'benedict,' while from Scott I can recall no example. Other instances from English literature are 'braggadocio,' 'caphuistic,' 'lothario,' 'utopian.' Cervantes gives us 'dulcenia' and 'rozinante,' as well as 'quixotie;' and to the list may be added 'chauvinism,' 'knickerbockers' and 'rodomontade.' It might be considerably extended by examples from Greek and Latin writers. Has an exhaustive list ever been attempted of the English words derived from the proper names of real life? I believe I could give upward of 300, from 'mausoleum' and 'laconie' to 'boycott' and 'magenta.'' The editor points out that Scott contributed to the language at least one word—"Dryasdust."

#### Appreciation in Pompeil. [Texas Siftings.]

It has been said that the ancient Romans did not appreciate women. We are not sure of that. The frescoes and wall painting unearthed at Pompeii disclose the fact that all the chopping and sawing of wood was done by the softer sex. This idea is corroborated by the additional fact, that all the axes and bucksaws found in the ruins of Pompeii are of light make, as if constructed especially for women's convenience. The ancient Romans knew what they were about.

#### Prompter than Usual. [Norristown Herakl.]

An Atlanta man who was given a letter to mail eighteen years ago, posted it last week. If the letter contained a remittance for a suit of clothes bought on "tick," the creditor will not manifest any surprise at the long delay. He will morely remark, as he pockets the money: "Barkins is a little more prompt than usual."

During the present century 150,000,-000 copies of the Bible have been printed in 526 different languages.