

THE MASTER PASSION.

Alleged to be the Mania For Getting Free Passes For the Play.

"I was once present," said Charles Dickens, "at a social discussion which originated by chance. The subject was, 'What was the most absorbing and longest lived passion in the human breast? What was the passion so powerful that it would almost induce the generous to be mean, the careless to be cautious, the guileless to be deeply designing and the dove to emulate the serpent?'"

"One of these on making land came straight to London and straight to the newspaper office with his story of how he had seen the ship go down before his eyes. That young man had witnessed the most terrible contention between the powers of fire and water for the destruction of that ship and of every one on board."

Hardy Climbing Roses.

In the prairie rose-we have a class of hardy native climbing roses often found growing wild in Michigan and the western states, which we may plant with confidence. Two of the more commonly known roses of this class, which are favorites everywhere on account of their hardiness, free blooming, and the fact of their flowers appearing just after the other varieties are nearly over, are Queen of the Prairie and Baltimore Belle, varieties raised in the year 1843 by a rose grower named Feast, in Baltimore, from seeds of the wild prairie rose crossed with some European variety."

April Fool Day.

The custom of sending one on a bootless errand or otherwise "April fooling" him on the first day of April is very ancient. Yet it cannot truthfully be said that any one is equal to the task of tracing it to its origin. Some antiquarians profess to believe it a survival of the travesty of sending the Saviour hither and thither, first from Annas to Caiaphas and then to Pilate and Herod. This opinion is strengthened by the fact that during the middle ages that very scene in Christ's life was made the subject of one of the Easter "Miracle Plays" enacted on the chief streets of London and other English cities of the first class. Even though the above opinion has received the sanction of Brande, Moore and Hone, it is not at all unlikely that it is really a relic of some old heathen festival, such as the Huli festival of the Hindus or the Roman "feast of fools."

Proof That Sparrows Can Count.

There is no doubt but that birds can count, and an incident I witnessed several years ago illustrating this fact amused me not a little. A sparrow, with four of her young, had a nest in a sparrow house under the veranda of my dwelling. One day the old bird flew up to the nest with four living worms in her beak. The four little birds reached out their heads with the customary noise and were each fed a worm. The sparrow then flew away, and after a time returned again with four worms in her beak, which were disposed of as before. The bird kept this up for some time, during which I was an interested spectator.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Important Information For Girls.

Blue eyed men are the most sentimental of the species. At least this is what an eminent physiognomist says. They are peculiarly susceptible to the influence of the opposite sex, melt under the warmth of one ardent glance, have emotional, mercurial affections and are found by the coquettes to be easier game to bag than to hold.—American Woman.

MAKE YOUR OWN SNOW.

Its Curious Formation in the Fall Rays of a July Sun.

Two solid bodies, one yellow, sulphur, the other black, carbon, unite under certain circumstances to form a colorless liquid called sulphide of carbon, which must be handled with much precaution on account of its great explosive property. The soluble property of sulphide of carbon renders it valuable to take spots off of garments. If its odor is more disagreeable than that of benzine or turpentine, it has at least the advantage of being dispelled quickly in consequence of the prompt evaporation of the liquid. There is nothing equal to it to take off spots of paint on clothes. It does not do it, however, without creating great fear in persons who use it for the first time, for they see on the very place where, to their great pleasure, the paint had disappeared a large white spot, the nature of which is hard for them to define, and the more they brush the more unsightly and the larger that white spot grows. Is then the garment lost? No, for fortunately after a few moments the spot melts away never to show again. It was snow and nothing more. The sulphide of carbon in evaporating takes heat from the cloth and surrounding air, and the result of that is a sudden lowering of temperature sufficient to freeze the vapor of the atmosphere.

Without operating on your clothes you may make the experiment in the following way: Fill a small vial with sulphide of carbon, taking great care to do it far from all flame or heated stove. Then close the bottle with a cork stopper through which you have previously bored a small hole. In this hole place a piece of blotting paper made up into a small roll. The paper must reach to the bottom of the bottle and about an inch above the cork. Within 15 minutes you will see the outside of this paper covered with snow, the quantity of which gradually increases. The liquid has risen through the pores of the paper as the oil of a lamp through the wick. When it gets to the open air, it evaporates, and the water contained in the surrounding atmosphere, being brought to a temperature below 32 degrees, has been frozen. If you divide the paper outside of the bottle into several pieces, you obtain flowers and most charming effects. You may make the experiment in summer and in the fall rays of the sun. The result will be obtained then more promptly, evaporation being more abundant.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Moths.

Dr. Aldricks of Kentucky is an enthusiastic entomologist. When asked for some information on the subject he has made a specialty of, he said: "To study the habits of the moth family you must live and grow up with them. The finest varieties fly by night, and it is with some difficulty that they are captured. The usual way is to go out with a hand net and a pot of stale beer, sweetened with a quantity of molasses or sugar. A dash of this mixture on the bark of the tree, whose leaves the moths feed upon, is the bait which lures them to death. As soon as they light the net is sprung over them, and later on they are asphyxiated by being dropped in an etherized jar, after which they are carefully mounted and labeled. I have a house built especially for their propagation and filled with leaves of their favorite tree. With the caterpillars crawling to the right and left of me I spend many a night watching their habits from a rude cot in one corner of the building. It is quite a profitable business, besides being unusually instructive. Some of the largest varieties are the size of a humming bird, and the rarest kinds, when properly mounted, easily bring \$25. The Smithsonian institution at Washington before the fire of several years ago, had one of the finest entomological collections in the world."—Philadelphia Press.

The Color of Animals.

There is a connection between the color and character of animals. Although much of the subject is veiled in considerable obscurity, as a general rule it may be stated that vivid, conspicuous coloring accompanies strength, courage and often ferocity. The black or red hair and the ruddy skin indicate carbon or iron somewhat in excess, a sanguine temperament, rapidity of thought and action and courage frequently bordering on rashness. In the brute creation it is rather character that has modified color in the course of the survival of the fittest. The timid animal, bird or fish possessing the most neutral coloring lived longest and left most offspring, and so gradually the conspicuous members of the family were eliminated. This neutral coloring as well as color that changes for protective purposes is the external characteristic of shyness and timidity, alertness of sense, keenness of vision and scent and swiftness rather than strength of limb.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Primitive Names.

The consternation which some botanists have raised in pressing the duty of abandoning many universally accepted plant names and adopting for general use more primitive ones is spreading to other departments of learning. It is found that the whole English language is in the same unfortunate condition as the language of botany. It is proposed to abandon "thinks," "walks," "listens," "freezes," etc., for "thinketh," "walketh," "listeneth," "freezeth," etc., as having a much prior claim to our regard.—Meehan's Monthly.

Muscular Exercise.

Dick (feeling of Tom's biceps)—My, what an arm! Do you frequent the gymnasium? Tom—Gymnasium nothing! I read all the papers, dailies and weeklies. Just try it for a week or two yourself. The amount of turning over it gives a fellow to follow the different articles from one page to another beats all the gymnastics in Christendom for exercise.—Boston Transcript.

LUCK IN ODD NUMBERS.

Superstitions of Modern Gamblers Which Are "as Old as the Hills."

If there is one active principle that enters into gambling, it is superstition, and for almost every man that hunts the elusive dollar over the desolate waste of the green baize cloth, or on the race track, or in any of the other multitudinous ways or places that one may lay siege to alluring fortune there is a separate fancy.

Jack McDonald, one of the best known bookmakers of America, believes that he is most successful in those years which are indicated by odd numbers, and if you are doubtful of the truth of it he will offer you figures to prove it. "Carley B," as Bookmaker Woolf is best known, has a steadfast belief in "3," and after he has selected a horse to bet upon he will place an extra heavy wager on him if he discovers that he is numbered "3" on the programme.

Several superstitious betting men at the Morris park races a few years ago noticed the coincidence that the thirteenth day of the meeting fell upon June 13, and they straightway sought out a horse numbered "13" on the card. They found one and bet upon him, and to make the coincidence most strange he won.

That this belief in luck as applied to certain numbers is as old as our philosophy is shown by the fact that centuries before the Christian era the Pythagoreans and Platonists, who represented all movements and phenomena of nature by numbers, invented the science of arithmancy, consisting of the use of magical squares and applying occult powers to numbers. On the combinations of certain numbers depended systems of divination, and particular virtues were ascribed to numbers according as they were odd or even.

"There's luck in odd numbers" is a saying as old as the hills. As ancient a writer as Virgil says the gods themselves esteemed the numbers odd, for in the eighth eclogue he wrote:

Around his waxen image first I wind Three woolen fillets of three colors joined; Thrice round his thrice devoted head, Which round the sacred altar thrice is led— Unequal numbers please the gods.

The Chinese have similar ideas. With them heaven is odd and earth even, and the numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 belong to heaven, while the even digits are of the earth earthy.

So it is little cause for wonder that our modern gamblers stick to their belief that fortune abounds in odd numbers only.—New York Herald.

Reformed Geometry.

Almost 100 years ago two men set out from Virginia to visit the Scioto valley, of the beauty and fertility of which they had heard alluring reports. On the third night they reached Clarksburg, where they put up with a man who appeared to be honest, but old-fashioned and illiterate.

"Can you tell us how far it is to Marietta and what sort of a road we shall find?" asked one of the travelers.

"Yes," answered the host; "that is exactly what I can do, for I was appointed one of the viewers to lay out the road and have just returned from the performance of that duty."

"That is fortunate. What do you call the distance?"

"Well, the distance on a straight line, which we first ran, was 75 miles, but on our way back we discovered and marked another line which was much nearer."

The two travelers had each spent some years in the study of surveying and were more or less amused at the idea of a line shorter than a straight line between two given points.

However, the next morning they took the route which their informant had pronounced the shorter, and true enough they found his statement correct, for the crooked road went round the hills, while the straight one went over them, and the distance round was less than the distance over.—Youth's Companion.

Gifts at Baptism.

Gifts to infants on their baptism are of ancient origin. Formerly the sponsors generally offered gilt spoons to the child. These spoons were called apostle spoons, because the figures of the 12 apostles were carved at the top of the handles. Rich sponsors gave the complete set of 12, while for those who were not so opulent four was considered the proper number, and poor sponsors would content themselves with offering one. In the latter case the handle of the spoon generally exhibited the figure of any saint in honor of whom the child received its name. It is in allusion to this custom that, when Cranmer professes himself to be unworthy of being sponsor to the young princess, Shakespeare makes the king reply: "Come, come, my lord, you'd spare your spoons."

The mug or spoon and fork offering of the present day appears as a very debased survival of a really beautiful christening offering.—Westminster Review.

Business.

"Say, old man, I want to talk business to you a few minutes." "Certainly; go ahead." "Could you lend me \$25 without inconvenience?" "Yes, I think I could." "Thanks. I'll return it shortly." "What security will you give?" "Why—er—I—didn't think any necessary." "Oh, probably I misunderstood you. I thought you said you wanted to talk business."—Indianapolis Sentinel.

Japan and Foreigners.

In the last century there was a Japanese law providing that no ship or native should leave Japan under pain of forfeiture or death; that any one returning from a foreign country should be killed; that no one should purchase anything from a foreigner, and that any person bringing a letter from abroad should die, together with all his family.—Chicago Tribune.

ONCE ON A TIME.

At teatime in the ruddy light— Chrysanthemums were in their glory— My baby came to say good night And beg for "just one little story."

I told her how a girl like her Came long ago, somewhere or other, And brought her doll and made a stir, And begged a story from her mother.

Who, tired and listless, also crossed The little story begging hour? With news of how another girl Had her irksome story telling done.

Still backward was the tale referred To weary her, but when I ended, As if I had not said a word, With looks half pleading, half offended.

She clasped my neck—her childish trust Had made the hardest heart compliant—"A little one," she said, "please—just About a fairy and a giant."

I kissed her close, and off I went: "O low, slow and steady."

She heaved a sigh of sweet content— My darling was asleep already.

—Memories MacDonald in Good Words.

Their Verdict.

Many are the stories told of the remarkable verdicts brought in by inefficient juries, but there could scarcely be a better illustration of what a certain legal man calls "colossal inefficiency" than the story he tells of the verdict given by a jury in a western city. The case under trial was that of a man who—accidentally, as almost every one believed—had fatally shot a friend while the two were off with a hunting party.

The accused person was a prominent citizen of the place and was greatly beloved as well as respected by every one who knew him.

As the trial proceeded the faces of the jurymen were filled with anxiety. When they at last retired, it became evident to them that the prisoner could not be acquitted of all blame, according to the evidence, but they decided that if he must be considered guilty of something they would make that something as light as possible.

Accordingly the foreman gravely announced on the return to the courtroom that they found the prisoner "guilty of drunkenness."

In spite of the gravity of the case a ripple of amusement ran over the courtroom at this verdict. The judge, with considerable severity and with great clearness, again charged the jury and again they retired.

A long interval elapsed. At last they came straggling in again. Once more the foreman confronted the judge and thus announced the verdict:

"We find the prisoner guilty of manslaughter in the third degree, but"—this in a tone of something like defiance—"we don't believe he did it!"—Youth's Companion.

An Expensive Bow.

A gentleman's court dress is a very expensive affair. It costs \$40 at least, without the shoes, stockings or sword. Many men who are not members of parliament or likely to wear their suit more than once or twice hire it from one of the numerous costumers who abound in the neighborhood of Covent Garden. Their charge is from \$4 10s. to \$5, including the services of the obliging gentlemen who attend to see it properly put on. One ultra fashionable tailor charges 6 guineas for one wearing, but his suits are of the best quality, made to fit and of proper cut. Altogether, with silk hose, shoes, buckles, sword and hat, a man cannot make his bow to the price at a cost of less than \$10.—New York Herald.

Curing a Bolting Horse.

A horse purchased at an equine "rubbish" sale was a confirmed bolter. No sooner was it harnessed than it set off at full gallop, a career which generally ended in a smash and the immediate resale of the culprit. But the new purchaser, far from trying to check this propensity, resolved, as he said, to "humor him a bit" and generously "lent him to a fire engine."

The horse soon found that he was encouraged not only to bolt at starting, but to keep up the pace, and in six months was quite ready either to stand in harness or to start at any speed wished by his driver.—London Spectator.

A Limit to Her Grief.

Miss Congee—My heart is broken—broken in twain. I shall never, never smile again after the cruel way in which he has jilted me.

Her Dearest Friend—What, never? Miss Congee (hesitatingly)—Well, not till I have finished my breach of promise suit against him!—Boston Traveller.

Her Proposal.

Harold—Ethel, do you love me? Ethel (deeply agitated)—Ah, Harold—forgive me—I cannot tell you. Will you, oh, will you, Harold, excuse me while I find the article in 'The Ladies' Parlor Journal on 'How to Behave When Proposed To?'—London Tit-Bits.

The Jewish law ordered that the grainfields should not be gleaned, and that the wheat in the corners of the fences or walls should not be gathered, in order that something might be left for the poor. No farmer might forbid poor persons from entering his fields and gleaning after the reapers.

Cherubini copied all his own scores, and that with such care that the manuscript looks as though printed. He even copied all the orchestral parts, for, as he said, "there is always something to be learned in copying music."

Amadeus of Spain abdicated in 1873, disgusted with the tedious ceremonies of the Spanish court. He returned to Italy and was glad to resume his honorary and nominal duties as an officer in the Italian service.

Cotton and cotton weaving were introduced into Europe by Alexander the Great, who sent the material, the seed and the workmen from Persia and India.

There are 10 'fruit schools' in France, where pupils are instructed practically how to cultivate and husband fruits.

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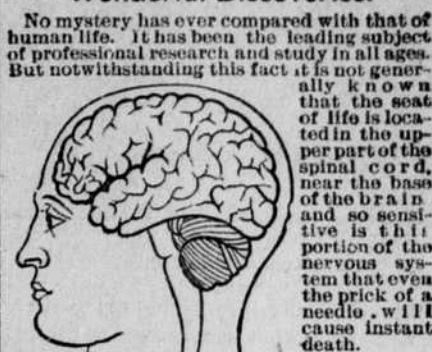
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MYSTERIES!

The Nervous System the Seat of Life and Mind. Recent Wonderful Discoveries.



No mystery has ever compared with that of human life. It has been the leading subject of professional research and study in all ages. But notwithstanding this fact it is not generally known that the seat of life is located in the upper part of the spinal cord.

Recent discoveries have demonstrated that all the organs of the body are under the control of the nerve centers, located in or near the base of the brain, and that when these are deranged the organs which they supply with nerve fluid are also deranged.

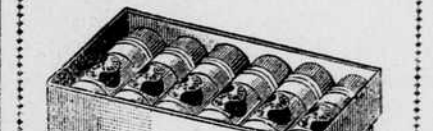
Two-thirds of chronic diseases are due to the imperfect action of the nerve centers at the base of the brain, not from a derangement primarily originating in the organ itself.

DR. FRANKLIN MILLS, the celebrated specialist, has profoundly studied this subject for over 20 years, and has made many important discoveries in connection with it, chief among them being the facts contained in the above statement, and that the ordinary methods of treatment are wrong.

DR. MILLS' RESTORATIVE NERVEINE is sold by all druggists at a positive guarantee, or sent direct by Dr. MILLS MEDICAL CO., Elkhart, Ind., on receipt of price, \$1 per bottle, six bottles for \$5, express prepaid. It contains neither opiates nor dangerous drugs.

Ripans Tabules.

Ripans Tabules are compounded from a prescription widely used by the best medical authorities and are presented in a form that is becoming the fashion everywhere.



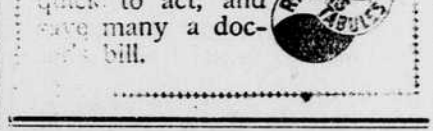
Ripans Tabules act gently but promptly upon the liver, stomach and intestines; cure dyspepsia, habitual constipation, offensive breath and headache.

Ripans Tabules may be obtained of nearest druggist.

Ripans Tabules are easy to take, quick to act, and save many a doctor's bill.

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Here's the idea. The bow has a groove on each end. A collar runs down inside the pendant (stem) and fits into the groove, firmly locking the bow to the pendant, so that it cannot be pulled or twisted off.

It positively prevents the loss of the watch by theft, and avoids injury to it from dropping.

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