

NAPOLÉON'S AWFUL HAND

One Theory of the Emperor's Fall is at Waterloo. Napoleon, according to Alexander Dumas, lost such a battle not because he wrote such a bad hand. His generals could not read his notes and letters, typewriting had not been invented, and the trembling marshals, afraid of disobeying and striving to interpret the indecipherable commands, loitered, wandered and did not come up to the scratch, or not to the right scratch. Thus Waterloo was lost. Cannot you fancy Grouchy standing round Napoleon's notes on that Saturday Sunday? "I say," cries the marshal to his aide-de-camp, "is that word Gemblioux or Wavre? Is this Blucher or Bulow?" So probably Grouchy tossed up for it, and the real words may have been none of these at which he offered his conjectures. Meanwhile on the left and center D'Erlon and Jerome and Ney were equally puzzled and kept on sending cavalry to places where it was very uncomfortable (though our men seldom managed to hit any of the enemy, firing too high) and did no sort of good. Napoleon may never have been apprised of these circumstances. His old writing master was not on the scene of action. Nobody dared to say, "Sire, what does this figure of a centipede mean, and how are we to construe these two thick strokes flanked by blot?" The imperial temper was peevy; the great man would have torn off his interrogator's epaulettes and danced upon them. Did he not once draw his pistol to shoot a little dog that barked at his horse? And when the pistol missed fire the great soldier threw it at the dog and did not hit him. The little dog retreated with the howls of war.

Such was the temper of Napoleon, and we know what Marlborough thought of the value of an equal temper. Nobody could ask Bonaparte to write a legible hand, so his general lived a life of conjecture as to its meaning, and Waterloo was not a process, and the emperor never knew why of all his seven or eight theories of his failure at Waterloo, his handwriting was not one. Yet if this explanation had occurred to him Napoleon would certainly have blamed his pens, ink, and paper. Those of Nelson at Copenhagen were very bad. "If your gun is no better than your pen," said Danish officer who came in with the flag of truce before the fight. He asked to put a message into with "you had better retire."—Andrew Lang in Longman's Magazine.

SICKROOM PHILOSOPHY

Never confine a patient to one bed if you can obtain the use of two. Never play the piano to a sick person if you can play on strings or sing. Never complain and fret when a sick person is talking to you. Sit down. Never complain that you cannot eat a feeding cup if there is a teapot to be had instead. Never read fast to a sick person. The way to make a story seem slow is to tell it slowly. Never judge the condition of your patient from his appearance during conversation. See how he looks an hour afterward. Never put a hot water bottle next to the skin. Its efficiency and the patient's safety are both enhanced by surrounding the bottle with flannel. Never allow the patient to take the temperature himself. Many patients are more knowing than nurses where there is a question of temperature.

Hot Cross Buns.

In its early days, when it is to be hoped, it was more toothsome than it is now, the hot cross bun played some part in converting the people of these islands to Christianity. Pagan England was in the habit of eating cakes in honor of the goddess of spring, and Christian missionaries found that though they could alter the views of the people in reference to religious matters they could not induce them to withhold from the consumption of confectionery. So they put the sign of the cross upon the bun of the Saxon era and launched it upon missionary enterprises which has extended through the intervening centuries and survived till now.—London Tit-Bits.

SOUTHERN SUPERSTITIONS

If you kill frogs, your cows will "go dry." Tickling a baby will cause the child to stutter. To throw hair combs out of the window is bad luck. To thank a person for combing your hair will bring bad luck. No person who touches a dead body will be haunted by its spirit. Cut a dog's "claw claws" and it will not die from poisonous snake bite. To kill a ghost it must be shot with a bullet made of a silver quarter dollar. To dream of a live snake means troubles at large; of a dead snake enemies dead or powerless. To dream of unbroken eggs signifies trouble to come; if the eggs are broken, the trouble is past. If you boast of your good looks, pound wood immediately with your feet or you will become sick. To cut a baby's finger nails will deform it. If the child is a month old, it will cause it to have fits. To allow a child to look into a mirror before it is a month old will cause it to have trouble in teething. A child will have a nature and disposition similar to those of the person who first takes it out of doors. To hear a creak and it is bad luck. To prevent bearing the cry turn the pockets inside out and set the shoe soles upward.

HID BEHIND THE RULE.

One of Horace Greeley's Orders That Heaped His News Editor. As an editor Horace Greeley had become weary of the constant repetition of the word "the" in opening sentences. One issue of his paper in particularasperated him. Almost every item in its opening paragraph began with "the." This lack of judgment on the part of his writers in the choice of words received attention. Greeley wrote a note. This notice he requested to be posted in the editorial room and copies of it to be sent to correspondents. The order read: "Under no circumstances must the word 'the' be used in the opening of subsequent paragraphs of a news article. In sentences within a paragraph it will be tolerated if used with moderation. If you cannot write a paragraph without 'the' to open it, omit." One day shortly after the issuance of his new rule Greeley entered the editorial room in a fury. "How is it that we have nothing in today's paper regarding Holland's attitude toward the policy of the north?" he asked of his editor who had charge of the foreign news. This editor was aware that he had omitted an important news item which at the time he considered as unimportant. But he was resourceful. "Your rules and orders are positive, Mr. Greeley, are they not?" asked the editor. "Certainly!" shouted the famous scribbler. "Then tell me how I could have used 'The Hague' for the date line in the Holland dispatch without violating your positive order." Mr. Greeley was silent, but he muttered, "If you fellows could use judgment, there would be no need for rules."

PONIES AND COBS.

How the Distinctions Between Two Are Defined. A correspondent writes, says the Badminton Magazine, to ask me what a "pony" is—not the pony of the betting ring; he refers to the animal. The dictionaries which he has consulted tell him no more than that "a pony" is a little horse, and he wants to know where the pony ends and the horse begins. The term is, of course, very loosely used. At Newmarket, where one might expect accurate definitions, the trainers seem to call all sorts of animals ponies. "I will send round your pony at 8 o'clock," is a familiar phrase to me, and in two cases I always portended the arrival of an animal of quite 14.2. I have searched for authorities for some time past and only accidentally came upon one the other day. A pony, I find it stated, is strictly applicable to an animal under 13 hands. Above 13 and up to 13.3 the creature should be known as a poney, and over 13.3 it becomes a horse. This, however, is not the modern interpretation, though when the phraseology was altered I do not know. According to the Hurlingham rules of polo, "the height of ponies shall not exceed 14 hands 2 inches," and such an animal according to my old time authority, would be quite a full sized horse. One cannot, of course, go against the Hurlingham nomenclature, but I should be inclined to say that in general parlance anything under 14 hands is a pony. I am glad my correspondent did not ask for an exact definition of a "cob," for I could do no better than suggest that a tickset pony from about 13.3 to 14.2 would come under the head. The term "cobby," at any rate, has a significance of its own.

The Columbine.

There are some good reasons adduced by those who favor the claims of the columbine as a national flower. The colors of the wild varieties are red, white and blue. The flower is purely American, quite widespread, hardy, graceful, beautiful. The petals are perfect "liberty caps," reversed they are "horns of plenty." Columbine comes from the Latin columba, a dove; the peaceful derivation of the word accords well with our national policy; the name also recalls Columbus, the great navigator and discoverer. The flower also lends itself well to a conventional architectural decoration.

Esau and His Copyright.

Once a month it was the custom of a clergyman in a neighboring town to catechise the Sunday school. Among the questions asked was, "Who was Esau?" Several responded, but none of the answers was satisfactory, and as the pastor was about to tell them, one little fellow said, "I think I can tell you what he did." "Well," said the pastor, "tell me what Esau did." "Esau was the fellow who sold his copyright for a mess of potash."—Philadelphia Ledger.

A Hint For the Future.

"It is a source of great happiness to me, my dear," remarked Mr. Baxter to his wife's companion, "that I do not ever wish to selfishness point to you a woman with a past." "Yes, James," replied Mrs. Baxter, "and you bappy, and as for my past, on Friday it will be my duty to have everybody point to a woman with a present."—New York Herald.

Investments in Miracles.

"Would you like to live your life?" "Yes, but I'd like to spend some of the money I've spent.—Scribner's Magazine.

Inhospitable.

"I am positively the most inhospitable man I ever saw." "I never knew him even to be inhospitable."—What is Said.

STREET CRIES IN CAIRO.

Sounds and Voices That Travelers Hear in the Egyptian City. Take a chair outside a busy cafe near the market place and trust center and watch street life. There are no hungry men, no starving, pinched child faces, no finger worn mothers, for this is a land of plenty, and the people's wants are few and simple. Thus sunshine and laughter spray a welcome fragrance over the novelty and romance of the gay city's streets. Here is a street melodist twanging a monster one stringed "something" and accompanied by a nose ringed girl who taps deftly on a species of tambourine, while bystanders ejaculate "Allah, Allah"—the Arabic word for applause. If not quite in accord with your prejudices concerning music, well, maallah (never mind), it is not nearly so distracting as a street corner at home, and they will go away if you tell them to. The baboon, the donkey and boy are in evidence, with a score of performing tricks that are very original and certainly funny, and you console yourself with the hope of a minimum of cruelty in the training. A fruit seller, basket on head, with luscious grapes and figs, saunters by, singing in a quaint minor: "O grapes, O sweet grapes, that are larger than doves' eggs and sweeter than new cream! O angels' food, delicious figs, bursting with honey, restorers of health!" There is a drink seller, bent under the weight of the odd shaped jar slung over his shoulder, a lump of ice projecting from his mouth, conjuring custom in a similar strain as he struts up and down, making the air resound with the rhythmical clap clap of two brazen saucers: "O refreshment of the weary! O quencher of parched lips! O blessing of heaven!" Another street cry which may be heard in the main street of Abbassieh, a suburb, contains the following enticing announcement: "Tomorrow, O people, I am going to kill a camel! The doctor says, it is young and healthy. Oh, its flesh will be tender as the quail and juicy as lamb. Its price is but 1 1/2 piasters (7 cents) a pound. Do you love the sweet flesh of the camel? Then come early and be satisfied." Not the least picturesque figures in the streets are the city police, in their neat white drill and red turbans in summer and blue serge in winter.

FRUITS AND FLOWERS

From a twenty-year-old mulberry tree 218 pounds of leaves have been picked in a year. Spring beans may be obtained during the entire summer by planting once a month for successive supplies. Some trees are much more unfavorable to the growth of plants beneath them than others. The worst are the yew and the ash. Whenever water is given to pot plants enough should be used thoroughly to wet the soil around the roots. Mere sprinkling of the surface does little good. The next time you have a bouquet of flowers to keep add a very little camphor to the water in the vase and see how much longer its freshness will be retained. One of the most satisfactory plants for house culture is the yellow oxalis. It will blossom freely if given sun and water, and its bronze brown foliage sets off its pretty yellow bloom rarely.

Peppermint For Sleeplessness.

A physician declares that he finds peppermint water an efficient remedy for sleeplessness. This is a very simple cure, and it will not bring forth from the organs of professional opinion any declaration of unsafeness. It is added that a mixture of spirits of chloroform and peppermint water given in hot water to the victim of insomnia will produce sleep, but perhaps in the case of the admixture of chloroform water may claim a decided share in relieving the trouble. It is at least easy to try peppermint water, and the theory of its action is believed to be founded on its effect in withdrawing blood from the brain by attracting a fuller flow to the stomach.

He Asked A-miss.

"What's the trouble, my boy?" queried the minister of a young member of his flock. "You look sad." "And I feel sad," replied the young man. "I asked Miss Silvertown to be my wife, and she declined the honor." "That's too bad," said the parson. "But it's in accord with the Scriptures, which says, 'Ye asked and received not because ye asked amiss.'" "Well, what would you advise me to do?" queried the youth. "Next time ask a widow," replied the good man, with a suspicious twinkle in his eye.—Chicago News.

Imitation Laughter.

This is a perfectly splendid liver medicine. Take a deep breath and then expel the air from the lungs in little puffs, like a donkey engine. Push out all the air you possibly can, drawing the abdomen in and up as far as it will go. The doing of this exercise will probably strike you as being so perfectly funny or silly that you will find it with some of the real thing, which is, of course, better than the imitation.—Maxwell's Talisman.

A Fatal Mix.

Cholly would have bought a box of candy this evening. Gladys, only you're training for a basketball game, you know, and— "Indignant Madder—I'm not doing anything of the sort!" Cholly (turning pale)—Then I've got my girls mixed!—Chicago Tribune.

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