The Columbus Journal.

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Repairing of all kinds of Upholstery Goods.

6-tf COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA.

WANT TO BE SAILORS.

INFORMATION FOR YOUNGSTERS WHO LONG FOR THE SEA.

Uncle Sam Hard to Please—Only Boys Who Are Physically Perfect Can Enter His Navy—A Trial Trip to the Mast Head—Tests.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, BUREAU OF EQUIPment and Recruiting, Washington, July 10, 1888.—Boys wanted, between the ages of 14 and 18, for apprentices in the U. S. Navy, to serve until they are 21 years of age. Pay at $8, $10 and $11 per month. Bad boys, or boys whose parents or guardians "wish them to be disciplined" will not be received. The object of the naval training system is to train a body of first class men to man the ships of the U. S. Navy. Apply in letter or in person on board the U. S. S. Minnesota, foot of West Twenty-seventh street, North river, New York.

The above is an advertisement which meets one's eye in the newspapers almost every day. In fact, Uncle Sam's appetite for sailors is insatiate. Yet the owner of this big farm is very particular as to who shall "hand reef or steer or ship as salvagee" on his men-of-war.

REQUIREMENTS OF A SAILOR.

Capt. G. C. Wiltse, of the Minnesota, says that only one out of seven applicants for the blue shirts and wide trousers is accepted. Out of 1,217 boys of the prescribed ages who applied during the year ending June 30, 871 were rejected, 135 were accepted, but got homesick and were never enlisted, and only 211 actually enlisted and became apprentices. The average age of these was 17 years. Besides those who appear in this table of figures there are scores of inquirers and lads who are rejected by R. H. Marsh, the captain's clerk, because of too apparent defects. These defects are cross eyes, bow legs, stiff fingers, voice impediments, inequality of the length of legs, under height and other things.

Uncle Sam will not have a boy without the consent of his parents, or, if an orphan, the consent of a guardian appointed by the surrogate. Then the youngster must enlist of his own free will, must be of fair intellect, able to read and write; must be between fourteen and eighteen years of age; must be a good boy and not sent on board to be disciplined; must have good eyes and ears; must not be troubled with epilepsy or convulsions within five years prior to enlistment; must have good teeth, a ready tongue and no symptom of chronic disease of any kind.

He must, according to his age, also come up to the standard of height, weight and chest measure shown in this table:

	Ft.	In.	Lb.	In.
Fourteen to fifteen	4	9	70	25
Fifteen to sixteen	4	11	80	27
Sixteen to seventeen	5	1	90	28
Seventeen to eighteen	5	2	100	29

The candidate must be able to read distinctly, with each eye singly, Snellen's twenty foot test type at a distance of fifteen feet, and, having satisfied the examiners, Drs. Wagner, Henneberger and Keeney, that he fulfills all these requirements, he must go over the masthead to the maintruck, 200 feet towards heaven above the deck, without flinching and without dizziness. The medical examination is very simple. The candidate strips to the cuticle, and his heart is sounded, his lungs tried, his muscles and bones examined, and if he has never so slight a defect his chance of remaining a landsman is splendid.

ONE WHO COULDN'T PASS.

The writer knows one youngster who tried for three successive springs to enlist on the Minnesota. He had never had a day's sickness since birth, was a robust, strong, hearty lad, but he was rejected each time because the examiners detected an incipient trouble with his throat, an enlarged bronchial tube, or something of that sort, not immediately troublesome, but promising disease later in life. Uncle Sam demands physically perfect men. Boys are rejected by the examiners for curvature of the spine quite frequently; for bad eyesight, enlarged veins, color blindness, deafness, and because they are pigeon breasted.

Many lads pass the physical examination, but hesitate half way up the ropes to the main truck, look down for an instant from their giddy height, and are lost—to Uncle Sam's navy. But having successfully surmounted all obstacles, the youngster enlists, bids farewell to terra firma till he's a voter, and becomes an entered apprentice. He will be sent along with nineteen other boys in a day or two to Newport, where he goes into training on the New Hampshire for six months at least. He will be taught the common English branches—sailmaking, rowing, swimming, boxing, fencing and sailing boats. When sufficiently advanced he will be transferred to a cruising training ship, and after a time again he will be transferred to a general cruising ship of the naval service.

The next step is to the place of seaman's apprentice, second class, at $19 per month; the first class, at $24. After this, for the remainder of his training cruise and till he is twenty-one, he is eligible to the rating of a petty officer, such as quartermaster, coxswain, captain of top or sailmaker's mate, with pay from 30 to $40 a month. Apprentices, according to law, have the preference in appointments to warrant officers, as boatswains, gunners and sailmakers. It must be borne in mind, however, that the object of the training system is not to educate officers for the navy, but seaman, and as there are but 112 of these officers only a few of the most deserving can hope to reach these positions.

The apprentice will come out a sailor, quite distinct from the military part of the service. He cannot go to the Annapolis school. He will get for better food, however, than a merchant sailor. Indeed, Uncle Sam keeps his sailors like lords, and the bill of fare for a week on shipboard includes fresh beef, salt pork, ham, canned goods, coffee, soft bread, ship biscuit, beans, oatmeal, cornmeal, flour, sugar, hominy and a dozen other palatable things, and many a lad would fare far better on one of Uncle Sam's men-of-war than he ever did at home or in the streets.—New York Evening World.

HARD ON THE MINISTER.

His Poor Pay for Special Services—A Few Hints.

Those old questions concerning paying the minister for such special services as confirmations, baptisms, weddings and funeral services are again up for agitation and discussion. People are to be found who think not only that a minister ought to work for almost nothing and find himself, but that he ought to include all these special services in the work he does for his regular salary. It is hard on the ordinary minister. As to the few ministers who receive princely salaries, their fees are large in proportion. People who expect special services of them generally do the fair thing as to compensation.

Such special services as ought to be performed in church when the congregation is assembled are usually considered part of a minister's regular duty. Should a minister be called to a private house to baptise a baby there is an evident propriety in making him a present of some kind in return for his kindness and as a compensation for his trouble. It may be in cash, or it may be some acceptable article for table use or for household decoration. People who give books to ministers generally make the mistake of selecting some book which the minister does not want. Some good people who recently gave their pastor a copy of the Bible did not stop to think that he already had in his library about fifteen copies in various styles and languages.

In wedding fees it may safely be said that the man who gives none is a mean fellow, not worthy to have a good wife. He who pays only a dollar or two is not much better, unless his abject poverty is the cause of the smallness of the fee. Why a minister should be expected to attend and conduct a funeral without charge is hard to guess. It is quite as hard work, both for mind and body, as to preach a sermon. More attacks of clerical bronchitis and pneumonia have been suffered by going to funerals than from any other cause. The person who stands bareheaded on the cold ground or damp boards beside an open grave is apt to be reading his own death warrant while he pronounces the words of the funeral service. In a word, the minister ought to be as squarely dealt with as any other man of any profession or calling who renders service of any kind.

The art and science of handing the preacher his money would seem a very simple thing. Yet there are many church officials who lack understanding as to the most speedy and graceful method of doing it. As to the regular pastor, it is to be supposed that the treasurer promptly hands him a check on pay day. But it is in regard to the minister who happens to be the "supply" for a Sunday or two that embarrassment sometimes exists. Sometimes the treasurer happens to be absent, especially in summer. His mind has been so full of preparation for his own vacation that he has gone away without thinking of leaving the necessary cash for the minister's fee. The minister feels bashful about asking for it. With a blank look on his face, and with possibly a heartfelt vacancy in his collapsible pocketbook, he sadly departs, hoping that somebody will think of the matter and send him the price of his day's labor. In a week or two it comes by mail; perhaps with an apology; perhaps as a matter of course.

There are cases in which the treasurer comes to the supplying minister after the service, and just when some of the chief people of the church are shaking hands with him and telling him how greatly they were pleased with the sermon. With a show of official importance, and with a descending smile on the preacher, the treasurer hands over the fee in sight of all who are present. The idea conveyed by this proceeding is, "I'm treasurer, you're preacher; you've been preaching for money. Here, take your pay and go."

The most graceful way of settling with a "supply" is for the treasurer or some other gentleman connected with the church to shake hands with the minister in a quiet and unostentatious way, and while doing so to leave in the minister's palm the exact sum, either in gold or in notes of the largest denomination the sum will allow. A bank check is quite as acceptable and as proper. The practice of handing the minister a lot of ragged currency and some small change is rude and boorish. Yet the preacher for the day would rather receive small change or ragged bills than be indefinitely "hung up" for his fee by the treasurer or committeemen, who politely say as he departs: "You will hear from us, sir."—New York Press.

What Might Happen in India.

There is a secrecy among Orientals which is rarely equaled among Europeans. They live so entirely apart and their manners and customs are so totally opposite to those of the white masters of India that a political movement may be on foot and have permeated the masses before we are thoroughly aware of its importance. Thus any outbreak would be sudden and unexpected. Although life and property under British rule is safeguarded beyond all precedent in Oriental history, the race animosity exists, and we are simply obeyed because India is not strong enough to resist. The dark skinned masses will never love their white conquerors. This is a fact which should be ever present to the eyes of our administrators. We rule because we are supposed to possess the power to enforce obedience; we are obeyed because of the disintegrating force of caste prejudices, which prevent concerted action among the Indian races. Were the 250,000,000 unanimous, their united action would turn us out. And still we sleep unsuspiciously upon the slope of the volcano without anxiety or care.

Upon a dark midnight twenty roofs might suddenly burst into flame at widely spread intervals in the cantonments of Jubbulpur. A score of natives with bottles of petroleum to throw upon the thatch might simultaneously ignite the principal bungalows of the station, and a general attack might be made during the confusion. The "alarm" would sound in barracks, and officers would be compelled to hurry to their posts, without a place of refuge for their wives and children. The railway station would be attacked and the rolling stock carried off at the moment of the outbreak; the cantonments would be invested by the rebels, without protection of any kind for the defenders, and without the possibility of retreat. This is not only a possibility, but a very obvious contingency, and yet we live in a fool's paradise without care or thought of the morrow. All military stations throughout India should not only be fortified, but the railway stations should be under the immediate protection of the fort to insure the safety of the rolling stock and access to the line. I have heard officers distinction admit this necessity, but they have offered objection to such a movement at present, "lest the natives should be rendered suspicious by a sudden defensive action upon our part."—Sir Samuel Baker in Fortnightly Review.

Ice Water in Brazil.

"The use of ice water in this country is universal," said an old doctor, "but in Brazil it is but little used. It was thought that a factory for producing artificial ice would be very profitable there, where the temperature is very high. An English syndicate constructed the necessary works, but found that the natives would not touch ice water. Then, to tempt their palates by creating an appetite for it by constant use, the company placed free tanks of ice water upon the street corners of the cities. It was a novel plan, and the fruits of the investment are being borne. The use of ice water is increasing, but it is not yet a universal beverage."—Chicago Herald.

Something New in Leather.

Persons on the outlook for odd things in the way of foot gear have something new in leather in what is called by the trade Kordofan. This is really horse hide, a small part of the skin from the rump of each animal being available for the shoes. It is said to be pleasant to wear, and to last forever or thereabouts. The supply comes from the wild horses of South America and from the zebra and quagga of Asia. The demand is not yet so extensive as to threaten the extermination of those species.—New York Sun.

Boys Dressed Like Girls.

A little Philadelphia miss, who has been traveling in northern Europe during the summer with her mother, was much amused at the way that prevails in Holland of dressing boys and girls under 8 years of age exactly alike in full dark skirts and bright bodices. The only way to tell them apart is that the girls wear plain caps, while the boys' caps are colored. Both wear the hair short, with bangs, so that the face offers no hint as to the sex of the child.—Philadelphia Times.

Another small boy of three, who is decidedly irreverent, on praying "God bless papa," added "and make him a good boy; if you can't, just warm him up."—Babyhood.

VANDERBILT'S ESTATE.

METHODS BY WHICH THE OLD COMMODORE MADE HIS FORTUNE.

Cornelius Vanderbilt's Originality and Power of Financial Combination—Successful Railroad Undertakings—Social Qualities—Physical Appearance.

Another great estate is the Vanderbilt estate. It was founded by Cornelius Vanderbilt, as its fellow was by John Jacob Astor, born thirty-one years, and died twenty-nine years earlier, at the same age. Vanderbilt, who was an American for several generations, had first seen the light on Staten Island, and inherited various traits from his Dutch stock. He had more financial capacity—it amounted to genius—than Astor; had far greater originality, boldness and power of combination; but it was exclusively of a monetary sort. He divided mankind into two classes, those who could and those who could not make money, and the latter he condemned as blank fools. Probably no man of this century ever bent himself more entirely to the pursuit of wealth, from the time he bought a periagua, at 16, after his father's death, to carry farm products to the New York market, until his final illness at 82.

NOT AN EDUCATED MAN.

He was illiterate throughout life, having a violent prejudice against education, which he believed to interfere with practical success, and talked a peculiar English, defiant of syntax and orthoepy. Letters he almost never wrote—correspondence was as severe a task for him as for Sam Weller—but he invariably wanted everybody else to put any business proposal on paper. He never, so far as known, expressed the slightest regret for his lack of education, and, presumably, never felt any, being in this an exception to his race. But as a compensation—fully sufficient for him—he was phenomenally astute at a trade, big or little, and had a marvelous instinct for commercial profit. Before 20, he removed to this city, and three years later was worth $10,000, which was harder, he said, to get than any subsequent sum. At that time he built the first steamboat to run between New York and New Brunswick, and received $1,000 a year as captain. He continued on the line until he made its revenue $40,000 a year; his wife meanwhile keeping an inn—he had married at 19—at the New Jersey terminus, and turning it to good account.

For fifty-four years he followed the water, owning steamboats on the Delaware, the Hudson and Long Island sound, and steamships on the Atlantic and Pacific, steadily overcoming opposition and swelling his fortune. At 70, with property estimated at $40,000,000, the commodore, as he was called, directed his attention to, and concentrated his interest in, railways, having been for many years a heavy stockholder in the New York and New Haven road. At so advanced an age such a change was hazardous to say the least; but he was brilliantly successful in it, showing the energy and force of youth in all his plans and combinations. He scarcely ever miscalculated, but in attempting to gain command of the Erie road, when Fisk and Gould controlled it, he found that they were supplying, without any thought of responsibility, all the shares that he or others were willing to pay for. Soon tiring of pitting his money against their printing press, he confessed his mistake, which he ascribed to his advisers, to whom he had yielded, he said, against his better judgment.

HIS PURPOSE ATTAINED.

When he saw his days closing—he had a long illness—he had the supreme satisfaction of having amassed not far from $100,000,000, and he cared for nothing else. His one purpose in existence he had splendidly attained. Although averse by constitution to giving away money—it could do no permanent good, in his opinion—he presented the steamship Vanderbilt, which cost $800,000, to the government at the outbreak of the civil war, and endowed, through the influence of his second wife, the Vanderbilt university, at Nashville, with $700,000. He also made, toward the last, various bequests, some of which indicated that he was not impervious to artful gallantry. He often helped men that he happened to like, and it may be said, to his credit, that he was always as good as his word. Totally without pretense or presumption, he was generally accessible, having so much executive power that he was seldom pressed for time.

Fine looking, especially in his old age, his handsome face, erect carriage, and elastic step were likely to draw attention, even in crowded Broadway. He might have been a prince in disguise, if princes were what they are imagined to be. He certainly did not appear, physically, like the hard headed, unconditional, unlettered business man he was. His two recreations were driving and whist. He loved good horses, had plenty of them, and was the despot of the road. In whist, he played the rigor of the game, and could not bear to be beaten, which he seldom was. At Saratoga, where he usually spent the summer, he was disappointed if he did not win enough to meet his hotel bill. When his memory began to fail he ceased to play; serious as was the deprivation, he was unwilling to lose the rank he had so long occupied. He did not bother himself about theology; but if he had believed the Biblical announcement of the difficulty attendant upon a rich man's entering heaven, he would have had a very poor opinion of heaven.—Paul R. Cleveland in The Cosmopolitan.

Wellington's Lack of Magnetism.

I would instance Cæsar, Hannibal, Marlborough, Napoleon and Gen. Lee as men who possessed what I regard as the highest development of military genius—men who combined with the strategic grasp of Von Moltke and the calm wisdom and just reasoning power of Wellington, all the power of Marshal Bugeaud and of Souwaroff to inflame the imagination of their soldiers and impart to them some of the fiery spirit of reckless daring which burned within their own breasts. The personal magnetism which such great men possess so largely, and can without effort impart to others, was, I think, wanting in our "Iron Duke." The marvelous magnetic power of the great generous leader (Napoleon) over his men was certainly undervalued by Wellington. He seems in his mind to have divided his army into gentlemen and common men, placing a great unbridged gulf between the two classes. With one or two exceptions, he apparently had the very poorest opinion of the military capacity of his generals of division, while he believed with all his cold heart in the dash, courage, endurance, loyalty and patriotism of his regimental officers, the sons of English squires and younger sons of what was then called our aristocracy.

He seldom, if ever, spoke in appreciative terms of those brave soldiers who carried him in triumph from Lisbon to Toulouse, and if he had any affection for them he never showed it. He believed that when restrained by the most rigorously enforced discipline, and led by English gentlemen, they were, under him, invincible. But he never hesitated to describe them as a collection of ruffians, the blackguards of every British parish, the scum of every English town. In fact, he was a thorough aristocrat at heart, with all the best sentiments, but still with all the prejudices of that class. There was no genial sympathy between him and his soldiers; they respected him, and during his later campaigns they had the most unbounded confidence in his military genius, but beyond his own immediate military household, with whom he lived on terms of intimacy, no one loved him. It is for this reason that I think he will never be classed in the same rank of military greatness—of real military genius—with the five great leaders of men I have named above.—Lord Wolseley in Fortnightly Review.

The Apotheosis of Rats.

How easily can the names of the great teachers of youth be counted upon the fingers of one hand! Of the great teachers of the common schools we have almost no traditions. Pestalozzi and Froebel made it possible for mediocrity to reach a child's mind; but without well learned guiding lines the average instructor makes the school room a chaos where ignorance becomes its own law and shuts out knowledge.

In some such manner the pleader for system might argue. But the great difficulty is that we have not yet learned the relative meaning of ignorance and knowledge. We do not teach the right things and we do not get the best results. We use examinations as gaging lines, but our percentages do not show true values. We get bits of information and progressive series of bits, but we have flooded the child's mind, not developed it. Our school room work too often runs along the line of mere suppression—suppression of teacher, suppression of pupil, suppression of individuality; the apotheosis of rats.

We build up elaborate school systems in our great cities, bind all the schools together in a series of grades, apportion the hours for all work—indeed, the very minutes—set a thousand machine moved teachers in the schools, and then pour in an overcrowded throng of children and begin to examine them. The children are of all sorts and nationalities: some well fed, well cared for, and well loved; some almost barbaric, with generations of ignorance and poverty and indifference to education behind them. But our education of all lies chiefly in our examinations, in which the teachers are examined with them, for upon the results depend the teachers' fortunes. This is one of our proud methods of building up the state. Of instruction, of character forming, of mental growth, there is scarcely a thought. Often it seems but a great and complex system for wasting the formative years of childhood.—The Century.

The Reverse Side of War.

A boat load of soldiers had gone to place, in the Danube, torpedo obstructions, for the benefit, or the reverse, of the Turkish ironclads, and when they returned, one of their number was lifted from the boat, dead.

"He was a fine fellow," said some one in the throng. As soon as the drooping head of the dead man became visible, bound with a blood stained white handkerchief, it seemed exactly as though something had stung me; for a moment I realized the frightful reverse side of war.

I beheld a strong, healthy man struck down by a bullet, his pale face framed in a black beard, his powerful hands hanging. I beheld standing around him his comrades, as strong and healthy as he had been. I glanced at their gloomy, swarthy faces. I heard the sighs, the remarks of the crowd which had assembled; in a word, I beheld those details of war which it is difficult to reproduce with the pen.

Wonderful fact! I afterwards took part in several great battles; I saw hundreds of the slain, but this first man killed whom I had beheld in the midst of peaceful surroundings, without cannon shots and volleys of musketry, produced upon me a crushing impression. In an instant, all those joyous dreams and the charms which I had fancied I should perceive in war, took their flight, and before my eyes there flitted the head of Gorshkoff, bound up in that white handkerchief, and with its pallid, deathly face.—"At Home and in War."

To Tow Wheat to Europe.

A man in Duluth has an invention which he thinks will cheapen by a half the cost of transporting grain and lumber from the northwest to Europe. In his idea there are suggestions of the Leary raft, a canal boat, and a torpedo boat. His plan is to make cigar shaped cylinders of steel, which are to be loaded in Duluth with grain, sealed up, taken in tow through the lakes to Buffalo, through the Erie canal to Albany, down the Hudson, and over to Liverpool, without once breaking bulk.

One of these shells is now on the stocks at Duluth, and it will be sent to Liverpool as soon as it is tested and the necessary contracts for towing are made. It is likely, though, that more than one shell will be built before an experimental trip across the ocean is made, as it would not be a complete experiment nor would it pay to take over only one shell. The shells are made as large as the locks of the Erie canal will permit. That is the limit to the size of any vessel bound from Duluth to New York.—New York Sun.

Woman's Fancies Concerning Jewelry.

A long time ago, that day when the world moved at the nod of Cleopatra, the Egyptian women saved all their gold to buy emeralds for their daughters, because the possession of them not only insured freedom from all physical ills, but made in their hearts an ever spring well of hope, forcing them to be cheerful, happy women. Sometimes the emerald was engraved with cabalistic characters, oftener its smooth surface was untouched; what could not be accomplished by the precious gem itself certainly could not by the aid of a mysterious symbol. Then the Sicilian women bought coral for their babies, believing that it not only brought to them good health, but counteracted the effect of the evil eye and kept away the wicked spirits. It seemed for a while as if the same interest was going to be taken in coral now that was then, for beautiful pink coral framed in diamonds was not only shown in the large jewelry shops, but was worn by some very smart women. However, the fancy seems to have died out; coral is no longer either displayed in the window or on the woman. Unfortunately both of these health giving ornaments, the emerald and the coral, are easily imitated, which destroys their value in the eyes of the gem collecting woman.—"Bab" in Philadelphia Times.

Points in Butter Making.

At a recent meeting of the Ithaca Dairy Institute Professor Roberts stated that in his experience the Holstein's milk tested 18.4 and the Jersey's 12½ pounds of milk to one pound of butter. A fact generally conceded at this meeting was that cream should be kept cool and sweet until there is enough for a churning, and then all soured or ripened alike by putting in a warm room and stirring from bottom to top once an hour. Experts present claimed that by this means one-tenth more butter will be made than by a promiscuous mixing of the cream in all stages of ripening.

The fastest armed cruiser in the world is said to be the German Grief, with 2,000 tons displacement and 5,400 indicated horse power. She makes twenty-three knots per hour.

Renan said recently that "France will perish in a literary sense because of her young writers. It is impossible to write well before the age of 40."

The Honduran government has ordered a scientific survey to be made of the ruins of Copan.

THE TRAVELER'S LUCK.

SUPERSTITIONS CONCERNING THOSE WHO START ON A JOURNEY.

"Good Luck" at the Parting—People Whom It Is Lucky to Meet—A Negro Superstition—A Chinese Notion—The Hump-backed Person.

There is an old superstition which says, "You must never watch a traveler out of sight," and still another, "You maun bid him godspeed thrice and good luck ance, and no turn your back to the bow of the boat while speaking the words." Only a few weeks ago, while making one of a throng of people who were bidding adieu to friends bound across the Atlantic, I noticed that the words "good luck" were oftener used in one form or another than any other expression of farewell; it was: "Good luck go with you," "Good luck to you," "Luck to you," "Good-by and good luck"; and one old Irish grandmother, after devoutly crossing herself, called out to her daughter, "The blessed Virgin bring you and good luck back to me," while I among the rest found myself saying, "A lucky trip to you, captain," as that monarch of all he surveyed stepped on board his kingdom, a big ocean steamer, although I am afraid I was tempted to say it not so much in my belief of the good it would bring him as in a foreknowledge that he was not only honestly superstitious, but firmly believed in such a wish bringing the safe, quick voyage he hoped for, and I am glad to say that in this case the omen proved good.

With some sailing masters, however, such an expression would foretell anything but good luck, and in fact many people dislike to have luck given them in this way, believing that it is ill luck to speak of luck at all; and there are others who, whether they believe in it or not, like to have pleasant things prophesied to them, or, in other words, "they are not superstitious, but they do like to have the signs on the right side."

STARTING ON A JOURNEY.

There are plenty of wise men and women who will on no account turn back after starting on a journey; if compelled to, they must sit down or change some garment before going out again; others who think it the luckiest thing in the world to have left something that they really need, for then they say, "We are sure to go back," especially a pair of slippers or an undergarment. Scotch people are very superstitious about the first person they meet in the morning on going out for the day or starting on a journey. If it is a woman, and she is well dressed and pleasant looking, then it is good; a beautiful child is rare good luck, especially if you can get the little one to notice you; a business man with a quick, brisk walk, or a workman with his tools and filled lunch pail, is also lucky to meet; while the postman, policeman, doctor and priest are all forerunners of anxiety, and you "need be unco canny and unco wary, for there's muckle depends on your prudence that day."

A universal negro superstition—and I have found it existing among the Israelites of New York city—is to ask a question of any stranger who strikes their fancy, and if answered satisfactorily, they believe they have taken that person's luck. I once asked an old colored aunty who had been eying me for some time, and who I saw was about to make some inquiry, why she wanted my luck. She looked at me a moment, and seeing I was in earnest, said, "Well, honey, I don't want all your luck, but you's young and kin get more, and I's gwine to see my daughter, who am expecting a little baby girl, and I wants her to look just like you." The compliment was appreciated, and so when she left the cars I carefully dropped a silver dollar where she would see it. Picking it up and holding it out for me to see, she exclaimed, "I knowed you'd bring me luck."

A German superstition, and one said to alter your luck if it does not please you, is to change or remove some article of clothing, such as the right cuff to the left arm, or your earrings or finger rings, or take off your hat, being careful to put it on straight.

A CHINESE NOTION.

The Chinese believe that when starting on a journey it is great good luck to have an insect or reptile go out before you, or, better still, to cross your path coming from the left side.

If you are not thinking of taking a journey and find a key, you may expect very shortly to have to pack your trunk. To start on a journey with the new moon is by far the luckiest thing one can do.

A white mark on the nail of the little finger of either hand is said to foretell a journey, the old saying, "A gift, a friend, a foe, a lover to come, and a journey to go," being firmly believed in by more than one wise woman. Cut your nails on Saturday if you wish to travel, for to cut them on Monday is to cut them for health, on Tuesday for wealth, on Wednesday for a letter, on Thursday for better, on Friday for woe, on Saturday a journey to go.

It is considered very lucky by some to meet a humpbacked person when starting on a journey, and if you would have rare good luck be sure to touch his hump.

When starting on a journey remember to put your right stocking on first and your right foot out of the house first, and do not look back at the house after the front door is closed.—Harper's Bazar.

Amusement for English Schoolboys.

I believe that Uppingham makes fuller provision than any other existing school to meet the necessity for diverse employment or healthy amusement outside of study hours. Until within a few years the great schools mostly contented themselves with providing facilities for cricket and foot ball. For these ample provision is made at Uppingham in several large playing fields, and the cricketers of the school particularly have won for themselves a record so distinguished as to prove conclusively that exclusive attention to this game is not essential to great success. But Mr. Thring was perhaps the first head master who fully realized and acted upon the fact that many a boy has not the stamina for these games of strength and skill, nor can he, by any amount of forced exercise, be led to take pleasure in them. The gymnasium, opened in 1859 under the care of a competent gymnastic master, was the first possessed by any public school in England. For many years the school has had in operation a carpentry, where any boy, by the payment of a small fee, can secure regular and competent instruction in the working of wood and the use of carpenters' tools. In 1882 this field of useful manual occupation was enlarged by the construction of a forge and metal workshop, where skilled instruction is similarly given, and a boy can go far towards making himself a competent mechanical engineer.

In the same category may be included the school gardens. These gardens, opened in 1871, cover some acres, and are laid out and planted with much taste. Here a boy may have allotted to him a small plot of ground for the cultivation of plants and flowers. In connection with the gardens is an aviary, where the lad with a taste for natural history has an opportunity to observe the life and habits of a considerable collection of birds. A pretty stone building looking out upon the gardens serves as a school sanitarium, and if beautiful surroundings conduce to health, Uppingham patients ought to recover rapidly. The want of any stream of considerable size near at hand led to the construction, a few years ago, of large swimming baths, where the boys can perfect themselves in an art which, while it does so much to protect life, is also of great sanitary value.—George R. Parkin in The Century.

Tea of a Special Picking.

The daily life of the tea importer and his representatives would appear well calculated to give them "old maidish" characteristics, as they are obliged to spend the greater part of their time in sipping tea; but, on the contrary, they are an exceedingly lively and active lot of people. When the wind is southerly they know a poor flush from a Young Hyson. There are several of the leading experts in the Chicago tea houses who endear themselves to a large circle of friends every year by sending with the regular orders of their houses a number of personal orders for a few small packages of a special picking.

At the tea plantations these personal orders are carefully filled with the choicest leaf and shipped here with the bulk orders. As they usually pack the tea in five pound boxes the salesman ordering it can allow his chosen friends to have it in convenient packages, and he disposes of it at the importation price—sometimes less. It is the nearest approach to the fabled nectar of the gods imaginable, and the drinker can almost feel a pigtail growing out of the back of his head as he sips it. It is too fine an article to be sold to the trade, as it must be retailed at $1.50 per pound to secure the retailer's usual profit, but the privileged few who get it at the cost price bless the friendly tea man for his favors.—Chicago Herald.

Raw Material of Man.

"The human boy," says The London Evening News, "is a potentially important member of society, in that he is the raw material of man; but only a prejudiced taste can put him on a par with the flowers of the field as a thing of beauty and a joy forever." Here we have the English article pictured.

But the wild, unkempt American specimen—we mean the composite product—is a study of more than passing interest. What he lacks in fine qualities is made up by his robustious, full orbed love of mischief. In him you have the miniature of a vivacious, restless, resourceful manhood, always eager and ready to vent his superfluous spirits, sometimes at his own cost, but chiefly to the disadvantage of others. But there is the making of a man in him every time under our free and unfettered institutions, and that benefit inheres in American life as contrasted with the crowded condition in which these less favored sons are born who live and die on British soil, with scarcely a hope, in the vast majority of cases, of rising above the dead level of their early career.—Boston Transcript.

Phrenology with Modifications.

Dr. Clevenger, while assailing phrenology in its technical forms, has taken strong grounds in The American Naturalist in favor of a modified cerebrology. He does not like bumpology, but believes that the differences in heads mean something, and a very definite something pertaining to character; precisely as facial unlikenesses do. "We now know that there are centers in the brain of man for the speech faculty, above the temple; and that thence backward and upward to the upper back part of the head are arm and leg centers; that auditory mental impressions are registered in the brain above the upper ear tip; and a center for visual function is located in the occipital end of the cerebrum." So after all our science steadily leads us back, or perhaps forward, to a rational chastening of the brain functional centers, a verifiable phrenology. Charlatans do not so much indicate the falseness of a theory as its perversion.—Globe-Democrat.

The Country Cook's Originality.

The various well known qualities of the average cook in this country are sometimes equaled by her originality. The other day, there being English guests at dinner, the cook was told to ornament the pudding with some fresh strawberries. When the dish was served, it presented a delicious appearance of jelly and whipped cream decorated with the bright red fruit; but as soon as the hostess took out a spoonful of the mass, a look of horror came upon her countenance. In the saucer were fragrant strawberries, but attached to each was a wooden toothpick. The culinary artist had found that to present the desired effect, the berries needed some support and had hit upon the ingenious plan of wooded stems. In spite of the protest of the hostess, the English guests have written home that the queer Americans serve toothpicks in their puddings.—Good Housekeeping.

The Seller of Perfumes.

The subject of peculiar guests around a hotel is a never ending one for new features. Now, there is a drummer for an eastern house, manufacturing a full line of perfumes, who comes to this city occasionally. He is a veritable walking advertisement for his employers. He dresses in the latest style, is of a striking appearance in his general make up, has his handkerchiefs perfectly saturated with different perfumes, and with a small rubber ball he throws a fine spray of perfume on his shirt bosom and clothing, thus attracting attention to his business by furnishing a combination of delicious smells, from the spicy isles of eastern seas down to the real, common, every day musk that is so popular with the colored people.—James O'Connell in Globe-Democrat.

Egyptian Tax Receipts.

The tax collectors' receipts of the ancient Egyptians were inscribed on pieces of broken crockery. Some of them, from the British museum collection, have been translated, and show the tax in Egypt under the early Cæsars.—Arkansaw Traveler.

Want of Sleep

Is sending thousands annually to the insane asylum; and the doctors say this trouble is alarmingly on the increase. The usual remedies, while they may give temporary relief, are likely to do more harm than good. What is needed is an Alterative and Blood-purifier. Ayer's Sarsaparilla is incomparably the best. It corrects those disturbances in the circulation which cause sleeplessness, gives increased vitality, and restores the nervous system to a healthful condition.

Rev. T. G. A. Coté, agent of the Mass. Home Missionary Society, writes that his stomach was out of order, his sleep very often disturbed, and some impurity of the blood manifest; but that a perfect cure was obtained by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla.

Frederick W. Pratt, 424 Washington street, Boston, writes: "My daughter was prostrated with nervous debility. Ayer's Sarsaparilla restored her to health."

William F. Bowker, Erie, Pa., was cured of nervousness and sleeplessness by taking Ayer's Sarsaparilla for about two months, during which time his weight increased over twenty pounds.

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