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OLD NEW ORLEANS GEM AMONG CITIES

Gayety and Animation Its Chief Characteristics

The little house was on a small side street that bore the fine name of Kerlerec, away but not isolated, from the fashionable quarter. It was one of the one-story cottages built directly on the sidewalk in a long row that filled the block, all shut in by heavy green batten doors and French windows fastened with long iron bolts; whose little wooden steps to the "banquette" in front were kept polished by daily scrubbing with red brick. The fragrance of the rich golden-hued wild camomile flowers pervaded these humble streets as the scent of roses and jasmine the streets of the rich. It was built in the stereotyped Creole fashion with two rooms front and two rooms back, a gallery along the rear, wide enough to give the space for a small dining-room—which looked out on a little square garden with red brick walls and a center parterre always filled with flowers. Across the garden were the servants' quarters, the rooms of Charlotte and Rosalie, so well known by all of Mme. Girard's scholars, and beyond these another yard that stretched to the next street—Dauphine street.

New Orleans at that period could not but please refined and elegant exiles from Sainte Lucie. The city, Grace King writes in the Yale Review, was filled with gay, animated, French-speaking throngs. Slaves were as numerous as they had been in the old home. The shop windows on Royal and Chartres streets had nothing to fear in comparison with the glittering streets of Saint Pierre. Fashions, luxuries, bonbons, books, pictures and jewelry were displayed with the same sure confidence of purchasers here as there. Laughter and pleasantries were apparently the commonplace of conversation. Piano music flowed through every window, the passer-by humming an accompaniment.

What is called today the "Vieux Carre" was then the city. It was compactly built with solid brick houses, whose iron-railed balconies with their garlands of filigree work extended over the banquette; whose courtyards with great gates, then as now wide open, showed the luxuriant tropical foliage of their secluded gardens—the lounging place of the gayly turbaned women and the well-dressed servant men of the establishment. Fresh meats, fresh vegetables and fruits were cried every morning in the musical patois to which the island ears were accustomed. At night the theaters, the opera and public balls kept the city awake and alive with their gayety, while children fell asleep behind the batten windows to the pretty tinkle of the ice-cream cart that busily threaded its way in and out of every thoroughfare.

Little Heart Breaker

The beautiful Peggy Joyce, whose marital troubles have caused her to suffer a nervous breakdown, is the subject of an anecdote.

Peggy, even as a little girl, was a great breaker of hearts—or so, at least, the anecdote, would have it. One afternoon the minister called at the Joyces' and took her on his knee.

"I'll give you a dime, my child," he said, "if you'll tell me who your sweetheart is."

Peggy blushed, hid her face on the minister's shoulder, and presently said in a low, bashful voice:

"Arthur."

The minister forked out the promised dime. Little Peggy studied it gravely for a moment. Then she said:

"If you'll give me another dime I'll tell you who my other sweetheart is."

Famous Early Poets

The troubadours were poets, often of high rank, who flourished chiefly in Provence, in the south of France, during the Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth centuries. In the Langue d'Oc, which was their medium of expression, they produced romances, but excelled especially in lyric verse. They were usually accompanied by professional musicians, known as jonglers, who sang their masters' verses. The compositions may be classified under the heads of terzons, or contests between minstrels; chansons, or lyrical songs; sirventes, or songs of war and chivalry; serenades; and pastourelles. The most famous troubadours were Raoul de Coucy, King Thibaut IV of Navarre, Adam de la Halle and Guillaume Machault.—Kansas City Star.

Folding Baby Carriage

Owners of apartment houses, particularly in sections of the city where baby carriages are numerous, will be interested in the success of an invention of an English family man. He has devised, according to a news item from London, a baby carriage that may be folded up around a walking stick.

Stocks One of Oldest Forms of Punishment

The stocks at Wrothall recalls one of the oldest forms of punishment of drunkards, disorderly persons, and other offenders against the law. The chief merit of the punishment was that it was cheap, no expense being incurred by the parish. Every village was required by the law of 1405 to provide stocks, and these as a rule were placed just outside the church, as being the most prominent situation. Up and down the Midlands the old stocks are still to be met with. In London their use was discontinued nearly a century ago, but in the provinces they were not abandoned until some years later, says the London Chronicle. So far as Birmingham is concerned, the last person placed in the stocks was in 1844, the punishment taking place in the yard of the old public offices in Moor street.

It is recorded that at Stratford-on-Avon as late as 1868 a man who had taken too much malt liquor was put in the stocks, but does not seem to have been at all abashed by his public degradation, for when an inquisitive person inquired how he liked being where he was he replied: "I beant the first man as ever were in the stocks, so I don't care a fardin about it." Biblical students need not be reminded that Jeremiah, the prophet, was placed in the stocks by Pashur, and Paul and Silas would seem to have suffered much the same kind of treatment at the hands of the jailer at Philippi.

Much Work Involved in Making Dictionary

The dictionary, together with the textbook, is largely responsible for the uniformity of pronunciation in the United States and the general adoption of a similar system of spelling than that which is used in England. Such words as "labor" and "color," spelled with a "u" in the second syllable in England, are examples of the newer method.

The business of making a dictionary is a stupendous task. A dictionary is a record and arrangement of all the words of a language, current and obsolete, together with all their meanings and uses. In addition, a dictionary is a historical record of words.

The lexicographer—for that is the name given to a man who compiles a dictionary—must indicate the origin of each word so far as it can be determined, and the changes which have come about in its meaning through the passing of the years. If a word has died out, he must tell when it happened.

We Have No Real Bananas

While the banana is eaten in great numbers and made the subject of song, loud and vociferous, the statement is made that we do not know what bananas are until we have had the experience of eating them in the lands where they are grown. Those which we in this country are familiar with are grown in Costa Rica, Jamaica and countries in tropical America, but they are picked for shipment long before they have ripened and before they have taken on their best flavor. Efforts have been made to grow the fruit in California, Louisiana and other warm sections of this country, but the attempts have been generally unsuccessful, for the tree will not stand the temperature approaching frost. The efforts have never been commercially successful. In the East Indies bananas are grown that are a foot long and two inches in thickness, but it is impossible to ship these.—Rehoboth Sunday Herald.

Strength of Beetles

Scientific observations of the beetle show it has tremendous power. So far this power has been set at 112 times its own weight. A captive beetle was placed under a large milk bottle made from heavy glass. In a short time the beetle was pushing the bottle ahead of it at a steady and good pace. Another beetle was made to climb an incline of 6 degrees dragging a weight equal to 125 grains. The weight was attached to its leg by a silk thread.

Skis and Snowshoes

Owing to the thick forests of America the snowshoe has been found to be more suitable for use than the ski, which is preferred in less wooded regions. The large, flat surface of the snowshoe furnishes a larger plane of resistance to the soft snow and by distributing the weight of the wearer over a larger surface does not break the brittle crust on top of the snow, which makes progress without snowshoes impossible.

"A Little Learning," Etc

Some people imagine there's nothing more to learn. They know it all and cannot be told anything more. They not only stand still while the world goes forward, but, awakened to this fact, blame the world instead of themselves. They don't know enough to place blame where it belongs.—Grit.

Pointer for Those Who Seek Knowledge

Once upon a time, according to an old story, a young man went to Socrates, the Greek philosopher, and said: "Sire, I come to you in search of knowledge. I have heard much about you, and have come a long way to find you. Will you not tell me how I can gain knowledge?"

Socrates said, "Follow me." The youth followed Socrates to a body of water and was surprised to see him wade into it up to his waist. He followed him and Socrates grasped him by the arm and head and thrust his head under the water. He held him there until it seemed the youth would surely perish. He dragged him to the shore and waited for the youth to catch his breath; then said: "My boy, what did you most desire when I held your head under the water?"

The youth replied: "Air."

Socrates said: "Go your way and remember that when you want knowledge as much as you wanted air when you were under water, you will get it."—Forbes Magazine.

One Place Where Rat Is Not Thought Pest

A deity whose name is Ganesha is worshipped by the Hindus.

Because Ganesha is always pictured riding on a rat or attended by one, the rat receives part of the homage directed to the god. For this reason many rats live in state in the temple at Deshnoke, India, where there is an old and interesting shrine erected to this mythological god.

"Pilgrims prostrate themselves before a group of rats, which have no idea in life beyond that of eating everything available and keeping a safe distance from cats and hawks. But they represent the fat god, Ganesha, and the temple in which they live is sacred on account of their presence. It is even called 'the Rat Temple.'"

According to Hindu mythology, Ganesha was the lord of the Ganas, who were a group of inferior deities. Ganesha removes obstacles. He is propitiated at the beginning of any undertaking. He is particularly endowed with wisdom and judgment.

Scholars on Strike

Strikes are not a modern trouble. One of the earliest and oddest strikes on record is that which took place in Oxford, England, in 1209, when, in consequence of a peculiarly outrageous aggression of town upon gown, masters and scholars to the number of 3,000 "downed tools" and retired in high dudgeon to adjacent centers of learning. The schools were closed, the city was laid under an interdict, and the trouble only ended five years later—in the complete humiliation of the erring burgesses, who were compelled to do public penance and to accord large privileges to the university. When the offended clerks finally consented to return, these "blacklegs," who had continued to lecture in defiance of the will of the majority were punished by three years' suspension.

How Cannon Are Spiked

In former times when the old-fashioned type of cannon was used the guns were disabled by driving an iron spike into the opening at the breech through which fire was communicated to the powder. This was called "spiking" the cannon. It was done when it was necessary to leave the guns behind, to prevent their immediate use by the enemy. Such disablement was usually only temporary. The phrase, however, is retained in modern military usage. Spiking a cannon nowadays means breaking or carrying away part of the breech mechanism, making it impossible to use the gun without considerable repair.—Exchange.

Rosamond

Rosamond was the daughter of Walter de Clifford, Lord Hereford, and was the favorite mistress of Henry II of England. To conceal his amour from his jealous queen, Eleanor, Henry is said to have removed Rosamond to a labyrinth in Woodstock park, where his wife discovered her and obliged her to take poison. Some authors declare that the fair Rosamond died at Goodstow nunnery, near Oxford. She had two sons by Henry, William, surnamed Longsword, and Jeffrey, archbishop of York.

Making Him Useful

The plumber worked and the helper stood looking on. He was learning the business. This was his first day.

"I say," he inquired, "do you charge for my time?"

"Certainly," came the reply.

"But I haven't done anything."

The plumber, to fill in the hour, had been looking long at the finished job with a lighted candle. Handing the two inches of it that were still unburned to the helper, he said, wistfully: "Here, if you must be so conscientious, blow that out!"

WHY Microbes Have Such Tremendous Power

A few microbes find entrance into the body and in a few hours, it may be, the man is dead. The effect seems somehow out of proportion to the cause.

"Behold how great a fire a little spark kindleth." Within the food-canal or in the blood, or in the wind-pipe and lungs, the invaders multiply with extreme rapidity.

A bacillus less than one five-thousandth part of an inch in length multiplies under normal conditions at a rate that would cause the offspring of a single individual to fill the ocean to the depth of a mile in five days.

Doctor Macle calculates that the cholera bacillus can duplicate every 20 minutes, and might thus in one day have a progeny of 5 with 27 naughts after it, and weighing over 7,000 tons. But before this happens the patient is dead.

It is not, however, by sheer multiplication that microbes kill, nor, in most cases, by making holes in tissues, blocking passages, or devouring blood-corpuses.

These things may happen, but the main answer to our question, as far as bacteria are concerned, is that disease and death are due to poisoning. Many bacteria secrete albuminoid poisons or toxins which are fatal to various kinds of living cells within the body. In other cases the toxins are only set free by the destruction and solution of bacteria which is continually taking place.

All that we can say in a few words is that the living matter of the body cells is disastrously susceptible to the presence of these strange albuminoids, and it must be borne in mind that even an innocent stuff like white of egg may act as a virulent poison.

Why Advertising Man Would Be Millionaire

"There are only two reasons why I'd want to be a millionaire," says Bruce Barton, advertising man, writing in the International and Cosmopolitan, combined magazines. "First, I'd like to wear old clothes. Being fitted for a new suit is one of life's saddest experiences. I should like, if I dared, to go through the rest of my days with just the good old stuff I now have. Wealth would make it possible. People would say: 'You see that old boy? He's got a cold million. Could be one of the best-dressed men in town if he wanted to. But he hasn't bought a suit in ten years. Nice enough old fellow, too, but just a bit eccentric.'"

"Second, I yearn to carry a cane. A cane is a companion, a playfellow. I own a dozen different canes, bought in various places. Sometimes at night or on Sundays I carry one of them, looking furtively here and there to be sure that none of my customers see me. A rich man can disregard public opinion in these matters; the rest of us cannot. If we do not dress beyond our means, the rumor spreads that our business is slipping. If we carry a cane, our competitors use it against us, as though we had married money-wore spats."

Why Crosses Mean Kisses

Whatever your sex, at some time or other you have probably written a letter and put some "crosses" in it—for kisses. But have you ever wondered why a cross should be used as the written symbol of a kiss?

This story takes us back to the times when few could read, and still fewer could write. In that respect the nobility were no better than those of a lower station in life; but deeds transferring property, wills and other documents had to be signed somehow. So those who could not write their names "made their mark," and this, in an age when religious symbolism was very much in evidence, almost invariably took the form of a cross. From motives of reverence the shape used was not that of the cross of Calvary, but the St. Andrew cross, which resembles the letter "X."

Having duly made their mark, the signatories of a document then kissed it—partly as a pledge of good faith and partly as an act of reverence. And so a cross marked on paper became associated with a kiss.—London Answers.

Why No American Rubber

With regard to its rubber consumption, the United States is in a peculiar position, in that it has no territory where the rubber trees grow on a commercial scale, although it has possessions where these trees could be grown extensively. England, on the other hand, some years ago planted rubber trees in some of its tropical and semi-tropical possessions.

Why Ships Carry Cats

A ship found under certain circumstances without a living creature on board is considered a derelict, and property rights in her are forfeited. It has happened, after a ship has been abandoned, that a live cat discovered on board has saved the vessel from being condemned.

Water Looked On as Cureall by Gypsies

Konrad Bercovic, the magazine writer, who was born a gypsy, in writing in Hygeia of the habits of gypsy tribes, comments as follows on their use of water as a preventive of disease.

"The gypsy believes in the curative qualities of water. When a child is born it is immediately immersed in running water. When some one is ill he is given water—cold water, hot water, water all the time; water against headaches, as a cure for rheumatism and all old age complaints. When a man is over sixty they say: 'He is drinking old age water.'"

"They use water to cure ills of horses and cattle and sheep. Even their incantations for happiness, their love potions and hate potions are all water. Naturally a dose of hokum goes with it. Water is their religion, their witchcraft. Many a gypsy has told me the reason gypsies move from one place to another is because they are going to better and better waters—to swiftly running waters.

"The gypsies use no drugs of any kind; not even herbs, dried or boiled. Next to water, their other remedy is fat—lard, grease and butter. They apply that to wounds after washing them. Water, grease and sunshine begins the gypsies' prayer to Tchuma, the mother of the world."

Two Theories as to Origin of "Gazette"

There are two theories as to the origin of "gazette." It seems that the first newspaper so called was published at Venice in the Sixteenth century. According to one theory, the paper was issued at Venice by the government and came out in manuscript once a month during the war of 1563 between the Venetians and the Turks. The paper was read publicly in certain places and the fee charged for hearing it read was one "gazetta," which was a small Venetian coin worth a fraction of a cent. Hence the paper came to be called the "gazetta" and finally the "gazette." If this derivation is correct it is parallel to that of "jitney" as applied to a bus which carries passengers for a "jitney," or a nickel. According to the other theory, "gazette" as applied to the Venetian paper is derived from "gazza," a magpie. Hence it might have been a fitting name for a newspaper.—Pathfinder.

Tracts and Tracks

Uncle Bill Walker, who lived at the foot of Great Smoky, became an easy convert to the propaganda of Mormon missionaries. His brother, Sammie, an old magistrate of considerable means and great influence in the coves of the Smokies, was eagerly sought after as a "prospect."

Squire Sammie was sitting on his front porch one afternoon when two elders of the new faith came up from the road.

"Brother Walker," one of them began courteously, "we have come to tell you about the Church of the Latter-Day Saints, and we should like to leave some tracts for you to look over."

"That's all right, gentlemen," the old mountaineer replied without even taking his pipe from his mouth. "You-uns is welcome to leave all the tracks you want to, just so's the toes of 'em is p'intin' t'ward yan gate!"—Everybody's Magazine.

By Intention

When a Scotchman has no argument at his tongue's end to defend his own line of conduct which another may have criticized, it may safely be inferred that his ancestry has a strain from some other nation.

A man who has an estate in Scotland took his new plowman to task for the wavering furrows which were the result of his work.

"Your drills are not nearly as straight as those Angus made," he said severely. "He would not have left such a gibe as this."

"Angus didna ken his work," said Tammas calmly, contemplating his employer with an indulgent gaze. "Ye see, when the drills is crookit the sun gets in on all sides, an' 'tis then ye get early 'taties.'"—Philadelphia Ledger.

Youth and Middle Age

Youth is the time for action—middle age for thought. In youth, red-handed, red-ankled, with songs and shontings, we gather in the grapes; in middle age, under our own fig tree or in quiet gossip with a friend, we drink the wine free of all turbid lees. Youth is a lyrical poet—middle age a quiet essayist, fond of recounting experiences, and of appending a moral to every incident. In youth the world is strange and unfamiliar, novel and exciting; everything wears the face and garb of a stranger; in middle age the world is covered over with reminiscences as with a garment, it is made homely with usage, it is made sacred with graves.

Famine Has More Than Once Gripped England

The story of famines in England has been a gloomy one from earliest times. At the beginning of the Eighth century a dearth, which extended to Ireland, drove men to cannibalism.

It was not until the reign of Aethelred the Unready, however, that "such a famine prevailed as no man can remember," from 1005 to 1016.

Those chroniclers who were wont to see bad conditions at their worst, says the National Geographic Magazine, declared that half the population of the larger island perished.

But it must be remembered that much of the mortality of this period was occasioned by the wars between Aethelred and Sweyn the Dane, the latter being forced by the famine to retire from England for a time.

Naturally, the era following the advent of William the Conqueror was one of widespread starvation and pestilence among the English peasantry. During the last 30 years of the Eleventh century, nine were years of dire distress.

So great was the dearth in 1009 that the peasants of the north, unable longer to secure dogs and horses to appease their hunger, sold themselves into slavery in order to be fed by their masters.

All the land between Durham and York lay waste, without inhabitants or people to till the soil for nine years, says Beverly, and another writer accuses the destitute of cannibalism.

"Dead Shots" Devoted Much Time to Practice

I had a man with me in Texas and New Mexico—surely for Santa Fe—who knew a thing or two about drawing a gun, Louis C. Millikin writes in Adventure Magazine.

I have seen him put his hands on his head, have another man throw up a can, draw, hit it with both right and left gun and return guns to scabbard before it had reached the top of the throw about 15 to 20 feet (or at least before it had stopped going up from the hits).

In my estimation at that time he was a marvel with a six-gun and, though I have seen others, I never saw his equal. His name was Jack Mellish.

The reason why gunmen of the "Wild Days" were such experts at the draw and shot, even with the old Frontier Colt, was simply that they spent as much if not more time in practicing the draw and shot as some of our eminent musicians spend practicing their art.

Within and Without

Why should I hasten to solve every riddle which life offers me? I am well assured that the Questioner who brings me so many problems will bring the answers also in due time. Very rich, very potent, very cheerful giver that He is, He shall have it all His own way, for me. Why should I give up my objection to it? Consider—only whether it remains in my life the same it was. That only which we have within, can we see without. If we meet no gods, it is because we harbor none. If there is grandeur in you, you will find grandeur in porters and sweeps. He only is rightly immortal to whom all things are immortal. I have read somewhere that none is accomplished so long as any are incomplete; that the happiness of one cannot consist with the misery of any other.—Emerson.

Outclassed Solomon

Solomon has generally been regarded as the world's most married man, but King Tchrimkundun, who lived thousands of years before Solomon's time, had him beaten. He ruled over the land of Bheia, had 3,000 mistresses and ruled over 60 little kings. In addition he had 500 wives of noble lineage, 500 wives endowed with great riches and other 500 perfectly beautiful wives. This inventory is given in one of three Tibetan "Mysteries" translated from the French of Jacques Bacot. These dramas are played in the Tibetan monasteries during the cooler weather of the sixth moon and the costumes and wigs are very accurate. There is not much "action" in the plays, but the dialogue is interesting.—Family Herald.

Poor Advertisement

Good advertising should look not merely to the present but to the future. It must have been a short-sighted house painter that inserted the following announcement in his home newspaper: "To the Public: The reason why I have hitherto been able to do painting so much cheaper than anybody else is because I am a bachelor and do not need to make a profit for the maintenance of a wife and children. 'Tis now my duty to inform the public that this advantage will shortly be withdrawn, as I am about to be married. You will therefore do well to send in your orders at once for the old rate.'"—Youth's Companion.

Why Ferns May Be Banned

Some of our most beautiful ferns may fall under the ban which the government is placing on gooseberries and barberries, according to S. A. Weatherly, noted fern specialist. He reports that species of rust attacking balsam fir with destructive force are found to have ferns for their alternate hosts. Both eastern and western balsams are infected, and ferns guilty of transmitting their disease are found on both coasts. Among them are the beach fern, the sensitive fern, the marsh fern, the western lady ferns.

Apple in High Place as Family Physician

This is what an apple does to you: It starts all the secretions into vigorous action and floods the system with a new tide of life.

It is a friend to health and a foe to disease.

It is a food, tonic, condiment and cosmetic all in one.

It kindles the brilliancy of the eye, and it plants roses in the cheeks.

You cannot eat too many—after the heartiest meal there is always room for an apple.

An apple is a social fruit; it draws human beings together in fellowship.

Plenty of good apples will keep the children at home and in at night—husbands as well—and keep the doctor away.

It promotes temperance.

It appears on our table in many appetizing forms.

Raw fruit, as it comes fresh and crisp from the trees and the refrigerators, needs no culinary art to improve it.

A knife spoils it; let it be crushed and crunched in the mouth, and then it gives out its richest flavor and yields the greatest satisfaction.

The apple family contains in its varieties exquisite flavors adapted to all tastes.

It is the oldest of our known food necessities.—American Pomological Society Bulletin.

Cook Did Her Best, but Big Egg Wouldn't Boil

The often embarrassing trick that Chinese servants have of obeying an order literally is well known. The classic example perhaps is that of the cook who, once observing his mistress who was making cake throw away a spoiled egg, over afterward cast aside an egg when he was making that particular kind of cake. A contributor sends us this amusing anecdote of a servant, not Chinese, but negro, who did her best to do exactly as she was told:

A New England woman who had recently moved to a remote South Carolina plantation home handed an egg and a small minute glass to the old colored cook who was part of the estate and said to her, "Boil this by the glass until it runs through three times."

In a little while the woman stepped into the kitchen and asked whether the egg were not ready.

"No, no, Miss 'Mella," was the astonishing reply. "I bile un right side an' s'ide wid de leetle wasp-wal' bottle, but dis big egg ain't able to run 'trog un de fast time yet!"—Youth's Companion.

A Doctor's Life

The doctor sent a bill for \$10 to the terrible-tempered Mr. Bangs. The bill read: "Two visits—\$10."

"You're a robber," said Mr. Bangs. "Five dollars a visit! It isn't worth it."

"I'll rewrite the bill," said the doctor, and Bangs smiled. They couldn't get anything like that over on him.

Then the doctor wrote: "To getting out of bed at 2 1/2 a. m., answering telephone, disturbing wife, dressing, going to garage, cranking 'tin Lizzie,' two-mile drive in the cold, saving baby's life, return to garage, waking wife, undressing, getting back into bed—\$10."

He said to Bangs: "I won't make any charge for the second visit, and you need not pay me the first unless you feel I have earned the money."

Mr. Bangs paid the bill.—Boston Globe.

Uncle Sam Gives Bargain

Nobody likes to get a letter on which there is postage due. One of the R. F. D. carriers tells a funny yarn about a woman, a foreigner, who received a letter from the old country marked 20 cents due. He offered it to her, asking for the 20 cents. She refused it, shaking her head. He stayed a moment, not knowing exactly what to do. Finally, he noticed that he had made a mistake and that the postage charge should have been 15 cents. So he called to the woman, trying to explain.

As soon as she heard 15 cents she smiled, showing all her teeth. She cheerfully gave him the money. She thought she had got the best of a bargain.—G. Edward Snyder in the American Magazine.