

SEES ENGLISH AS WORLD LANGUAGE

Lexicographer Makes Prediction for Future.

"We are building a great language for the future years," remarked Dr. Frank H. Vizetelly, managing editor of the Standard dictionary. He believes that "English is undoubtedly the greatest language of all ages for ease of expression and shades of meaning," and thinks that "the English-speaking races of today number nearly 200,000,000 people." This is about 12 per cent of the population of the earth, but Doctor Vizetelly expects the percentage to double in 75 years, according to the New York Sun.

Languages can be measured in importance by their usefulness as means of communication and by their contributions to world culture. English has quite evidently become the most important of all languages from the purely practical standpoint. No other tongue is used so extensively in trade or even in governmental and social relationships. It is estimated that 120,000,000 people speak German, 90,000,000 Russian, 60,000,000 French and 55,000,000 Spanish. Despite the great population of China and India neither of these countries has a single language spoken by as many people as speak English. India has 147 languages, Chinese dialects are innumerable. Altogether only 220,000,000 Indians speak languages of the Indo-Aryan branch, and there are three of these. Mandarin represents a means of communication almost everywhere in China, but it probably has not the actual currency that English has. The tongue that only 20,000,000 people spoke in 1800 is undoubtedly dominant among languages today so far as extent of use and variety of usefulness are concerned.

English has also steadily shaped itself into an effective medium for accuracy and beauty of expression. It has been jeered at as a heterogeneous language and it has been criticized for the "weakness" of turning to Latin and Greek for new terms. Lovers of the romance languages find it lacking in elegance. Its grammatical irregularity has been noted. Still, English has produced poetry, drama and fiction that are now world inheritances. Its poetry especially challenges comparison in fineness and body with that of any language. Meanwhile, as the power of the nations using English has grown, the serviceability and dignity of the tongue as an instrument of diplomatic, scientific and critical or philosophical use has been more generally acknowledged.

Historical Organ
An organ with which King James II entertained himself while he and his army were encamped outside of London in the year 1687 for the purpose of overawing religious rioters within the city, arrived in this country a few weeks ago. A firm in New York has bought it. The organ is square and has a false front, pierced and carved, and with dummy pipes painted on it. The keyboard has four octaves and forty-three notes and diapason, cornet, waltz, principal, twelfth and fifteenth stops. The lower half of the instrument, except for two small panels that are decorated with cupids and represent "Music" and "Singing," shows scenes in East India. The large panels in front evidently represent episodes in the life of a princess. In one she is seated on a camel led by a guide armed with a spear. In another she is alighting from a camel in an oasis.—Youth's Companion.

"Corking Idea" Is Right
The Boston Transcript credits the following to a Texas newspaper:
"Milt Simmes had a narrow escape yesterday. While working on his water tank his bolts slipped and he fell in. All he had to get out by was a rope, and with overhauls and overcoat it was hard climbing. He worked 'til he almost gave out and in desperation stopped, but failed to let loose the rope, in a very short time his hands froze to the rope which gave him a corking idea, he would reach as high on the rope as he could, hold a time 'til his hand would freeze to the rope, then blow his breath on the lower hand 'til it turned loose, then reach again, so finally reached the top. His feet are frozen, but he is able to be at his business."

Early Coffee Houses
Coffee houses were places of refreshment first opened in the sixteenth century in Constantinople. In London they were, so to speak, club houses, free to all who could buy a cup; and yet each was known for its special circle of visitors, literary, scientific, religious or political. In the absence of newspapers they were a great means of spreading news and of discussing public questions. Nearly all of the middle and higher classes attended them daily, and they came to exert so powerful an influence in politics that in 1675 Charles II attempted to suppress them, but in vain.

Southern City Keeps Old Funeral Custom

The custom of having a funeral announcement on a silver salver carried through the streets by an aged negro of Chesterfieldian descent, an old Spanish custom, still exists in Tallahassee, Fla., and nowhere else in the United States, according to the historical committee of the Florida Centennial celebration.

"This means of announcing the death of a member of a leading family long antedated the newspaper," said Col. Fred T. Myers of Tallahassee, whose family has resided there continuously for more than a century. "It was common in the days when the flag of Spain waved over Florida and has persisted in the face of modern means of communication.

"A carefully engrossed announcement of the place and date of funeral and burial is attached to a broad silver tray by bands of black silk ribbon. A dignified negro then bears it through the business section with a mien in keeping with the solemnity of his duty. He presents it ceremoniously to all who care to read. Later, he carries the tray to the homes of friends of the deceased.

"Primus, the impressive colored coachman owned by M. D. Papp, a lawyer of the Civil war period, was the official bearer of these sad tidings for years both before and after the war of secession. Citizens of Tallahassee are so accustomed to this rite that they do not recognize it as a relic of a bygone era."

Vast Wealth Easily Carried in Pocket
Gems represent a value so highly concentrated that it is possible to carry a million dollars worth of precious stones in a waistcoat pocket. Though the diamonds of the world probably have a value of \$5,000,000,000, the African yield since 1880, according to Dr. George F. Kunz, in the Engineering and Mining Journal-Press, has been only about 14 metric tons, and with the diamonds from all other sources, the world's production in the last 35 years may have been 25 tons—an average of only about 30 pounds a week.

The profitable sapphire mines of Montana have produced since their discovery in 1900 not more than one or two tons. The total yield of Burma rubies has been not more than a ton or so. In extreme values natural precious stones have ranged up to \$20,400 per carat, or \$3,000,150 per troy ounce, for an exceptional 20-grain pearl; \$5,500 per carat for a red diamond; \$5,500 per carat for a white diamond; \$6,000 per carat for an emerald; \$4,500 per carat for a ruby, and \$2,000 per carat for a sapphire.

Why Henry Went Out
It was pouring rain and dreadfully cold. He came in, kicked off his wet shoes, slid his tired feet into a pair of comfortable carpet slippers, sat down in an easy chair, drew forth his pipe, lit up and declared that nothing would make him stir from the house until next morning.

"Henry, my dear," said his wife, "did you mail my letter?"

"Of course I did, my love," he answered.

"I asked mother to postpone her visit for a while," the wife went on; "you see—"

Apparently Henry did see, for with a single bound he sprang from his chair, grabbed his shoes, slipped them on and tore out into the murky street.

A little later he returned and remarked:

"Do you know, my dear, I couldn't resist the temptation of popping round to see the new motion picture." He had carried the letter to the branch post office.

Poetic Name for City
The appellation "City of the Violet Crown" was bestowed upon the city of Athens by the ancient Athenians. The origin of the term is in dispute, and is variously explained. According to some authorities, the violet was the favorite flower of the Athenians, and thus became the symbol of the city. Aristophanes, in his "Equites" and "Acharnians," speaks of Athens as the "Violet-Crowned." According to others, Ion (the Greek for violet) was a king of Athens, was in consequence Ion's city, the violet city, the city of King Ion, or the city of King Violet.—Kansas City Times.

Not a Legal Precedent
In a Chancery court in London recently a decision involving \$500 was made on the toss of a penny. It was to fix the ultimate costs of the litigation. The court attaches, in admitting that form of settlement, specified that it should not set up a legal precedent in British law, however.

Tuberculosis Reduced
At the end of the year 1924 more than 60,000 heads of cattle remaining over 1,000,000 head had been officially accredited as free from tuberculosis.

Indian Always Ready for Game of Chance

All Indians of both sexes are inveterate gamblers. They have been known to gamble away everything they owned, including their wives and their lives, which is raising the white man's ante to a considerable degree. As a rule, Indian dice have but two sides that are marked. These markings are of a thousand and one different designs and colors. The dice are cast either from the hand, a cup, bowl or basket. Many of the dice are thrown on stones, either held in the hand or on the ground. The object of this is to make the dice bound over and over, thus insuring a fair cast. The Indian, even as does the white man and the African enthusiast, speaks endearingly to his gaming implements, beseeching the Great Twin Brethren, the Spider Woman or whoever happens to be the deity presiding over that particular game of chance to cause "Lady Luck" to hover in his or her vicinity. Some of the younger generation living on the Mesa Grande reservation coin their own phrases, decidedly modern and the elder men and women chanting gaming songs so old that even the most ancient of the tribe had forgotten the meaning of the words.

Roach, Pantry Pest, Is Native of India

Sir Francis Drake, buccaneer of three hundred years ago, once took as a prize a Spanish ship loaded with spices from India. It is recorded that on that ship was a strange "black bug" which the Spanish called carache, which strictly speaking, meant "wood louse." This carache became the modern cockroach.

It was a native of India, never until that time seen in Europe. These cockroaches, however, were sturdy fellows, given to living in dark and narrow places, and therefore happy in the holds of ships that piled the seas. Thus these arthropods of commerce have served as a means of broadcasting the cockroach, and it is found in abundance wherever man dwells. His bones have provided suitable breeding and dwelling places for these children of the warm countries.

New species, one in America and one in Australia, were found and distributed. So have world-grinding multitudes of them appeared where before there were none at all or but local tribes. This increase in the range and numbers of the cockroach is typical of the man influence in the insect world.

Put It To It
Unlike Dickens, Thackeray did not delight in placing among the men and women of his novels unforgettable little portraits of their dogs and cats, parrots or canaries. Nor do we think of Thackeray as having that personal fondness for domestic creatures which was characteristic of Dickens, whose own dogs no less than his favorite raven, Grip, figure largely in his letters. But Thackeray's daughter, Lady Ritchie, gives in her recently published letters several delightful little glimpses of her own and her friends' pets; and in one brief and charming note she even ventures to interpret a few words from Fellings into English. She writes to her friend, Mrs. Gerald Ritchie:

"Solomon (the cat) has been purring messages, tell Peggy. He proposes to write, but says it is superfluous to say how much he misses her, and that he is perfectly lost without her to stroke his back. He has tried my lap, but he doesn't much like it; he finds it too perpendicular, and he sends his love purr me."—Youth's Companion.

How Japan Fights Flies
Following the Japanese earthquake, lack of sanitary facilities caused an enormous increase in the number of flies. To combat the pests, school children in Tokyo and Osaka were offered five cents a hundred for catching them. The response was so great that crews of clerks were kept busy counting the piles of victims sent in by the energetic young workers, some catching as many as 1,000 flies. The insects were placed in bottles after being classified and credited to the hunters and were displayed at a public sanitation exhibit—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

How Seamen's Wages Differ
The average pay of the total crew of an 8,900-ton ship, operated by the United States shipping board, is \$3,493 monthly, as compared to \$1,732.71 for the same vessel of Great Britain; Norway, \$1,100.14; Holland, \$1,623.53; Sweden, \$1,820.59, and France, \$1,319.85. The monthly pay of an able seaman ranges from \$15.75 in Japan to \$32.50 in the United States.

Milk as a Food
Milk as a food for every one has been extensively advertised in the United States in the past few years, and apparently with convincing force. Statistics from 300 cities and 30,000 farms indicate that in 1923 the consumption of milk was 53 gallons to a person, as compared with 50 gallons in 1922 and 49 gallons in 1921. In Boston the consumption to a person has advanced in eight years from 35 to 64 gallons.

Vicious Revenge
Prayers for revenge are said in Congo by driving nails into a wooden statue.

"Is It Game Meat?"
Dried yak meat, often 100 years old, forms the staple of the Tibetan diet.

HOW ANIMALS AND BIRDS CARE FOR THEIR APPEARANCE.

It is wrong to suppose that animals, upon waking up in the morning, are ready for the day's work and play. Like human beings, they have to "dress" themselves and, although this may merely consist of taking some sort of a bath and sooting down ruffled plumage and fur, animals are not contented until they have completed their toilet, writes London Answers.

Dogs and cats are rather particular in this respect. They sit by the fire for hours washing and dressing themselves. More bashful animals select lonely spots where they cannot be observed.

Birds are extremely neat. Many insist on a bath every day. Watch a canary; he will not eat his breakfast before he has had his bath and arranged his feathers. But offer him a bath in a tub that is not perfectly clean, and he will refuse to plunge in.

Swallows bathe only in fresh rain water, so they cannot indulge in the "cold tub" every day. Ducks are also partial to rain water. When a shower falls they ruffle up their feathers to allow the rain to soak in. Ducks living near the sea will fly inland to a great distance for fresh water in which to bathe.

How Taximeter Records Fare Passenger Pays

The principle upon which a taximeter works is that for every complete revolution of the cab's wheels a certain distance has been covered and, therefore, a certain amount of fare is due.

The actual meter consists of a number of clocklike wheels with indicators which show the fare due in terms of dollars and cents. The lowering of the "For Hire" flag brings into play a flexible shaft which connects the meter with the road wheel of the car and at the same time turns a wheel which records the number of times the cab has been hired in the day.

By the different turns of keys on the outside of the meter the driver brings into play gear wheels which record the extras, so giving the fare in total, the whole machine, of course, ceasing to register when the cab stops.

It is, however, possible if the vehicle is hired at "time" instead of "distance" rates to disconnect the meter from the road wheel and set in operation a clock which will record the fare due for the hire by time.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

How Rice Is "Cultivated"
Rice is not "cultivated" in the sense that corn is. The seed is sown like wheat or oats, after which the ground is flooded until the seed germinates. Then the water is drawn off, but the ground is flooded again later to kill the weeds and a third time when it is about to head. Generally speaking, the height of the rice plant depends on the depth of the water, for the ear always grows above the surface. The grain is produced in heads similar to oats. Shortly before the grain is ripe the water is drawn off and the crop is cut with reapers and threshed much like barley or wheat. Most species of rice are grown on marshy or inundated land, but a few species are grown on higher ground.—Exchange.

How Shoe Sizes Are Named
There are three general systems for measuring shoes: English, used in England and the United States; American and French. The French unit length is the Paris point equaling 2.3 of a centimeter, or approximately 4.15 of an inch, 15 points or sizes being about four inches. English and American measure is 1.3 of an inch, the former counted from the 4-inch mark, while the latter is counted from the 3 11-12 inch mark. It has been suggested that the English measure be universally used. In the English measure the sizes run from 1 to 13 for children. For adults they continue in a new series. Size 13 is therefore 3 1-3 inches long, while an adult size 4 is ten inches.

Wigs Cover Bobbed Hair
Once again wigs of various-colored hair are being worn by women of fashion in Paris to cover their bobbed heads when they put on evening attire. The color of the hair matches the gown and after five years of stagnated business the hairpin manufacturers are starting up with a flourish.

Bachelor Percentage High
Nevada has the highest percentage of single men of any state in the Union, but on the other hand the lowest percentage of unmarried women. Of its male population over fifteen years of age 42 per cent are bachelors, while of its women only 19.3 per cent are single.

Caves of Various Origins
Scientists recognize a number of different types of caves. To the American the most familiar are those tunneled in limestone and gypsum as a result of the solvent action of water. In many countries lava caves have been produced by the expansion of steam and gases. Some immense caves have been hollowed out in cliffs on the coasts by the incessant lapping of waves.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Colors Have Varying Effect on Surfaces

Considering the large influence colors exert upon us and the fact that we cannot afford to redecorate every few days if we do not care for a color scheme, certain facts about colors should be well considered before any paint is purchased. On this subject an authority has said:

"Color materially affects the appearance of surfaces, according to the speed at which the light rays travel—reflective ability, that is. Red is an aggressive color, irritating to some. Blue, a receding color, is soothing. A dull red does not bring a surface, apparently, as near the eye as a brilliant red. Green is considered a staid color, while gray, as well as green, unless influenced either by yellow or blue, retains the apparent position. Yellow appears to enlarge the size of an object or surface without changing its position. For this reason orange can make a surface appear smaller, depending upon the amount of red it contains, or larger if the yellow predominates. Violet can be either aggressive or receding, depending upon the amount of red or blue it contains. Light violet, like gray, is static unless it leans more to the red."

Famous Delhi Gardens Laid Out by Monarch

The Kudia Bagh or the Kudia gardens in Delhi, India, where tennis tournaments are held, were originally laid out in 1748 by Quack Bengam, the mother of Ahmed Shah, emperor of Delhi.

They have been well looked after, and although they cannot compare with the more ambitious pleasure grounds of the earlier Moghals, are well worth a visit. No wall adorned with serrated battlements encircles the grounds, nor is there any imposing entrance gateway which is a great feature of the larger pleasure parks.

In the center of the gardens, however, there is an old gateway. Now but a picturesque ruin, it was a writer in the Montreal Family Herald understands, the gateway to Qudsi Begam's palace, of which nothing now remains. To the southeast of this gateway there is another picturesque ruin—an old mosque which, though attached to the palace, was not included in it. In many ways the mosque is the more interesting of the two structures which give the gardens an air of bygone times.

Invisible Light
A demonstration of how opaque objects can be rendered transparent by "invisible light" acting through a special instrument called the "veper," patented by the famous Indian scientist, Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose.

Sir Jagadish Chandra Bose declares that he has perfected his instrument after 50 years' experiment.

"Invisible light" consists of short electric waves having the same properties as a beam of light. These waves are selectively absorbed by different substances. Coal tar and pitch are transparent, while water is opaque.

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Cortlandt Beecher said at the annual Parrot ball at the Ritz-Carlton in New York:

"The new fashions are transparent. Well, we're used to that. But have you remarked—I know you have, of course—the return of the slashed skirt? The short, very tight skirt with a long slash at the left side has returned, and it's—well, it's a revelation.

"A grand dame, got up in transparent blouse and slashed skirt and all the rest of it, stopped at my table in a restaurant the other day at luncheon time and laughed and said:

"I love these new fashions. They make me feel so girlish. Cortlandt! Every time a man looks at me I blush."

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"You can imagine how I felt when she replied, 'That's dime. Have you got the other?'"—Chicago Tribune.

Corned Beef Heroes in American History

Corned beef and cabbage was responsible for the Titan race of New Englanders that dominated art, commerce and literature until it was discovered that blond Nordic warriors, after all, very inferior and that the real vintage manhood came from southern Italy and Ukraina. Then they sort of faded away.

In the old days, and it is perhaps so now, you took a piece of case-hardened beef from the most durable part of the ox. You soaked it over the winter in salt brine. This destroyed the taste and perfected the vulcanizing. Then you took the big iron pot off the hook in the woodshed, filled it half full of water, and put in the meat. You also put in potatoes, carrots, a cabbage, onions, turnips, rutabaga, or what have you, and set the pot on the back of the stove and went on about your business. When it was dinner time, you took the pot into the depth of the back yard and poured out the water. Then you ran back, because that water, if approached, too intimately, would destroy one's taste for any kind of dinner. Then you served the remaining material on one big dish. The corned beef tasted like carrots; the potatoes tasted like cabbage; they all tasted like onions. If you have ever eaten it you will get the general idea.

The path breaker, the empire builder, that passed westward along the Omaha trail and the Mohawk valley in the furries, wore corned beef and cabbage-eating Americans. They went to Ohio and grew up and became presidents, just as others stayed in Boston and ate cod, and still others went to Vermont and perfected the savory fire-harvest of the succulent bean. These commodities are food for heroes and prophets. They are the just and proper stimulants for dwellers on "a stern and rock-bound coast." Roger Williams, and Old Trapper Blackstone, and Betsy Stark and Col. Issy Putnam ate them. "Don't give up the ship," cried Lawrence in the thick of battle. Certainly not. They hadn't any cabbage, but the hold was full of corned beef. There is still a lot of corned beef in our national institutions, and well it is for us—F. M. K. in Mollough's Monthly.

Ingenious Machine
At a recent German motor show there was exhibited a tank-like. A caterpillar tractor working like an army tank drew a plow.

An automatic potato digger has been designed that the inventor says will prove a wonderful labor-saving machine on the farm. It not only digs up the potatoes, but discharges them in windows for pickers.

Looking like a huge mosquito, a new machine is said to be able to bore a hole three feet deep and six inches in diameter in half a minute. The machine looks like a small engine on four wheels, and carries a huge carburetor-like drill in front of it at the end of two braces. A pull on a lever is sufficient to start the drill downward. Another pull stops it at the desired depth and brings it back to the starting point. The inventor built his original model from 23 pieces of farm machinery.

Fight Decided Name
In 1905 the community now known as Barry, Va., was undecided as to the new name for the town, the original name of which was Wilkesburgh. A change was decided on in 1908. Eventually the prospective names narrowed down to two, Holden, sponsored by Capt. Joseph Thompson, and Barre, offered by Jonathan Sherman, both names being after Massachusetts towns. The controversy developed into a fist fight, Sherman winning. The city fathers and the legislature honored the victor by naming the town Barre.

"Wasted" Medicine
The particularly well-known man entered the doctor's consulting room and took a chair.

"Well, what can I do for you?" asked the doctor.

"I don't think much of that cough medicine of yours," answered the man.

"Oh, I'm sorry to hear that," was the reply. "What is the reason?"

"Why," said the other. "There's so much dead waste in it. I hadn't taken more than a quarter of a bottle when my cold disappeared, and there is the other three-quarters just thrown away."

Pharaohs Built Well
The stone used in the construction of the Egyptian pyramids was from the Turah quarries. It is established that it took 100,000 men working for ten years to make a causeway 3,000 feet long to facilitate the transfer of the stone, and 20 years more to complete the pyramid of the Cheops. This pyramid contains 2,300,000 blocks of stone averaging some 40 cubic feet. The blocks came from the Mokattan hills as well as the Turah, both of which were on the opposite side of the Nile.

Pork and Vegetables Staple Chinese Foods

Pork is the chief meat of the Chinese. It is used by practically all classes of people in all parts of China. A meal without pork is considered to be unusually simple, and with the exception of vegetarians is used by slaves or very poor people only, the North China News says.

Fresh pork is such a common food that wealthy people will not even touch it. During New Year festivals and birthday or wedding celebrations a whole dressed hog or a half of it is often purchased and consumed by the family and their guests.

Lamb, however, may be substituted for pork, but beef is considered more or less sacred and is very seldom used for food. The quantity of meat eaten is small; it is usually served cut into small pieces and mixed with vegetables in a great variety of ways.

Vegetables are used much more freely by the Chinese people than by Americans. In addition to the common ones, such as potatoes, spinach, cabbage, radishes and the like, many plants and weeds are eaten which are not usually considered as food in America. Thus radish leaves, shepherd's purse, bamboo sprouts and a large number of sea weeds are used as food.

Believed Evil Spirit Lurked in Watch Case

Until comparatively modern times the wearing of a watch was considered a proof of the owner's gentility, though the invention can be traced back to the fourteenth century. Watches were worn attached to a chain suspended around the neck, a fashion which still survives with women.

From the following story of one Mr. Allen, a reputed sorcerer, who died in 1650, watches must have been very uncommon in his day.

Being at Holme Lacey, in Herefordshire, Allen happened to leave his watch in the chamber window. The maids entered his room to make the bed, and, hearing a curious ticking sound coming from a case, concluded that it was their master's devil. One of them took it up with tongs and threw it out of the window into the street.

The string attached to the case caught on the spring of an elder that grew out of the meat, and this confirmed their belief that the case contained an evil spirit.

Youthful Mountains
As old as the hills means little in Haiti, for the mountains there are very young and the earth's crust very mobile.

Dr. Wendell F. Woodring of the United States geological survey says that the rising of these hills probably causes the earthquakes which at intervals shake the northern part of the country. Some of the coral reef caps cover marine terraces that rise like gigantic stairs from sea level to a height of about 1,500 feet. These terraces, begun in Miocene times, are preserved because of the aridity of the climate and underground drainage.

Modern Life
Martinsburg is a little town away from the railroad and the small children know very little about riding on the train. One day Elmo Wyman and his mother went to New Albany in an auto, but returned via Borden on the train. It was Elmo's first ride on the train. The train went a short distance and stopped. At the same time Elmo heard the noise of steam escaping, and with a look of disgust he leaned back in his seat and said, "Oh, gee, there goes a tire, now we have to wait another half hour."—Indianapolis News.

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