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Cracks Whip in Church, According to Custom

Our own country is so young in years and its customs and conditions have changed so rapidly during its brief existence that we know nothing of those curious customs which persist for generation after generation in a venerable country like England. In some English manors singular practices are still observed. For example, says Dr. G. C. Williamson in his book "Curious Survivals," at Calster in Lincolnshire, a most peculiar service was retained until the middle of the Nineteenth century.

The owner of the estate, known as Brigg, held certain lands subject to the performance on Palm Sunday of every year of the ceremony of cracking a whip in the church; while the clergyman was reading the first lesson the tenant cracked the whip three distinct times in the church porch and then folded it up. As soon as the second lesson was commenced he went up to the clergyman, presented the whip to him, held it over his head and waved it three times, holding it in that position during the reading of the lesson. The whip had a purse tied at the end of it, which was supposed to contain thirty pieces of silver; it had also four pieces of elm attached to it, representing the Gospels. The three cracks were typical of St. Peter's denial of his Lord, and the waving of the whip over the clergyman's head was supposed to be an act of homage to the Blessed Trinity.

The origin of the ceremonial goes back to exceedingly remote times and is said to have been connected with a penance imposed on some tenant for an act of murder.—Youth's Companion.

Germans in Argentina

German immigration is one of the outstanding features of colonization work in Argentina this year. The latest enterprise is one concluded by a powerful German financial firm in Buenos Aires whereby nearly 50,000 acres of a big estate known as La Mercedes, owned by the South American Cattle and Farming company, a Liebig subsidiary, are handed over to the financial concern to be colonized. The property, ideally situated as to water and other essentials, is being surveyed and divided. Seventy German families have arrived and are located in homes erected for them. One hundred and fifty more families are en route from Hamburg. Arrangements have been made through the National Mortgage bank of Argentina whereby the settlers have 30 years in which to pay for their homes.

Old Warrior Remembered

The authorities of Malmesbury, Wiltshire, England, have set themselves the task of ascertaining the color and the cut of the whiskers worn by old King Athelstan, who died in 925. They have looked through ancient books, studied statues and pored over archives, but up to the present time with no success. They are not discouraged, however, and the search is still going on, says the Philadelphia Public Ledger.

A fund has been subscribed for the erection of a stained glass portrait to King Athelstan in the local town hall. It seems Athelstan drove out the Danes 1,000 years ago and the people of Malmesbury want to commemorate his act.

Dogs Carry Watches

A new kind of a watch dog has made its appearance in London. These dogs do not need any special training to be efficient, nor do they differ in pedigree from any of the other useless lapdogs that escort their mistresses on sunny afternoons along the Mall.

What makes these pets distinctive is that on their collars they wear tiny watches, often set with gems, and sometimes with little bells that strike the hours. A woman from San Diego, Cal., is credited with having started the fashion, which the Bond street jewelers were not slow to encourage.

A Round Oath

The bishop of London is said to figure in the following incident. He had been salmon fishing in the Highlands when two ghillies were heard subsequently discussing his merits, and one of them remarked: "He's a very nice gentleman, he is, but he do swear something dreadful."

"Swear?" exclaimed the other, aghast. "And him a bishop?" "Aye," said the first. "A salmon started to rise and I asked him, 'Shall I row after that 6-4 fish, m'lord?' And he said, 'Yes, do!'"—Sporting and Dramatic News.

Peculiar Formation

A queer African snake, which lives on eggs, has a toothlike spike projecting downward from its backbone, just behind the head, which is tipped with enamel. When it swallows an egg the latter passes down the gullet until it encounters the spike, which breaks the egg.

Work for the Camera

Archaeologists always find it rather difficult to keep their native diggers up to the mark. But the men who are excavating the Punic ruins at Utica, near Carthage, have found out that all they need to do is to take moving pictures of the work. The laborers who know that the reels are to be shown at the moving picture theater in Tunis, where they can enjoy the felicity of seeing themselves on the screen, display the most extraordinary industry. Count De Prorak, the head of the expedition, says that if the Carthaginians had had the moving picture camera instead of the whip with which to spur their slaves to labor, they could have erected temples and palaces that would have reached the clouds.—Youth's Companion.

Why Rosin in Paper

Rosin is used in the manufacture of paper to make it "water resistant" so that it will be resistant to writing ink. For this purpose common rosin is treated with soda, a rosin soap being formed which is a combination of sodium rosinate and free rosin and which is soluble in water. This material is added to the paper stock in the form of a dilute solution in water. Aluminum sulphate is then added to the paper stock, this precipitating the rosin in very finely divided form, the precipitate consisting of a mixture of aluminum rosinate and free rosin which, when the paper sheet is dried, forms a water-proof film over the paper fiber.

Why Sounds Vary

Syllables ending in "ng" are the most difficult for human ears to grasp, while those with "g," "w," and "y" apparently are the easiest. These conclusions have been reached through recent scientific investigations, says Popular Science Monthly. In tests with a large audience in an acoustically poor auditorium, only 43 per cent caught sounds such as "ting" and "bong," while from 90 to 100 per cent were right on sounds like "wis" and "yoax." The sounds "d," "b" and "th" made a poor score.

Improved Sandals

Spring sandals strapped on like skates and with two stout steel coils fastened between the bottom and a lower leather-padded sole, are now on the market for boys' and girls' amusement. They are made in five different sizes and stiffness of springs for small and larger children, and the springs are so flexible that there is practically no danger of turning the ankle. Walking or jumping with them is said to strengthen the muscles of the feet and legs and besides providing healthful sport the sandals lead to the development of new games for the playground.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

Meal in a Monument

Most visitors to Windsor Great park have seen the equestrian statue of George III which stands at the far end of the Broad walk.

It is a huge statue, and when it was erected in 1823 the horse's body was first set up, then its head fixed, and lastly the figure of the king was seated upon his steed. Just before the head was fixed one of the officials of the castle, and six friends, had dinner inside the body of the horse. After all parts of the statue had been closed up and hermetically sealed, they remembered that a short ladder had been left inside. That ladder is there still.—London Tit-Bits.

Costly Fishing

The high cost of salmon fishing in private Scottish waters has gone higher this year. For some reason the fish have refused to provide sport for the wealthy anglers as in other seasons, says a writer in the New York World. The salmon population of the River Spey this year was estimated at 800, compared with approximately 2,000 in normal seasons.

A sportsman is said to have paid \$3.50 weekly for the privilege of using one fishing rod. He remained five weeks and caught one fish at a cost of \$17.50.

Remarkable Feet

William Shakespeare—the other William, who has written a book called "Plain Words on Singing"—tells an amusing incident about Labiache—the greatest basso of all time—whom a friend of his knew intimately. At dinner one day, Labiache, full of wine, sang a long note from piano to forte and back to piano; then drank a glass of wine, without having breathed; then sang a chromatic scale up the octave in trills still in the same breath, and finally blew out a candle with his mouth open.

There were giants in those days!

New Long-Range Gun

The United States army has developed a 75 mm. gun which shoots nearly three miles farther than the famous French 75 mm. gun used in the World War, but weighs the same.—Science Service.

HOW

COINAGE OF SILVER WOULD SAVE TREASURY MONEY.—Some time ago it was announced that the United States treasury would seek to put silver dollars into circulation to a greater extent than has prevailed for some years. Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Charles S. Dewey reveals the reason. In speaking in Boston Mr. Dewey said that a dollar bill costs 17 cents for printing and it lasts about four months. A silver dollar costs 1 cent for minting and it lasts indefinitely, says the Pittsburgh Gazette-Times. If 40,000,000 silver dollars are put in circulation to replace bills there will be an immediate saving of \$1,000,000 a year. He remarked further, "Mr. Mellon is vitally interested in creating savings."

A million dollars saved to the United States treasury is of not less value than \$1,000,000 saved in any other enterprise, and the shrewd financier is seen in the discovery of what some might think so small a leak as not to be worth bothering about.

How Colonial Postal System Was Organized

In the English colonies in America before 1639 such postal facilities as existed were supplied by private enterprises. In 1639 the General court of Massachusetts took the first step toward the establishment of a government postal system. In Virginia each planter was required to convey the dispatches, as they arrived, to the next plantation, and so on. In 1672 the government of New York established a monthly mail to Boston, and this practice was followed in other colonies. Benjamin Franklin was identified with the early interests of the colonial post office. In 1737 he was appointed postmaster of Philadelphia. In 1738 the delivery of letters by penny post was begun. In 1735 the colonies combined to establish their own post office and to pay the necessary officials. The Continental congress appointed a committee to devise a postal system, which went into effect July 26, 1775. Benjamin Franklin was unanimously appointed postmaster general.

How Indians Explain Formation of Canyon

An Indian legend says that the Grand canyon of Colorado was made single-handed by Pack-i-tha-aw, who was armed with a large flint knife and a big stick. Once upon a time the world was covered so deep with water that nobody knew what to do until Pack-i-tha-aw took the initiative. The knife he thrust deep into the heart of the earth, hammering until the canyon was formed; the Family Herald says. Another legend says that there was a great chief who mourned the death of his wife Tawwots. One of the Indian gods came to him and told him his wife was in a happier land and offered to take him there that he might see for himself if upon his return, he would cease to mourn. The great chief promised. Then Tawwots made a trail through the mountains. Then he rolled a river into the gorge so broad and raging that it would engulf any that might attempt to enter thereby.

How Race Has Advanced

Just when and where and also how did the human race develop from some more or less ape-like ancestor? This is the most important of the questions which anthropologists are seeking to answer. Because most of the anthropoid apes of today are inhabitants of Africa, savants have held that Africa was the scene of man's emergence from darkness and the realm of brutes. Recent discoveries have tended to strengthen this assumption. Nevertheless there is reason in the argument of those who still hold that central Asia was "the cradle of the human race."

The plateau of Iran was long given the honor. Now, however, scientists are looking farther east and are casting very inquisitive eyes in the direction of the Desert of Gobi.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

How Opinion Is Counted

One man's opinion is as good as another's only when he possesses equal knowledge and is capable of equally logical reasoning. Knowledge must be acquired and reasoning comes only through training. Properly used knowledge is power.—Grit.

How to Stop Pen Leak

Your fountain pen will not leak in your pocket if you rub paraffin on the thread of the pen before screwing on the top.

How Characters Grow

Two of the most remarkable instances in fiction where a character has gradually gained his maker's respect and affection may be seen in Mr. Pickwick and Dick Swiveller; compare the unpromising first appearance of these men with their development. Dickens could not have imagined any such growth in grace when he conceived of these characters; they won his heart in spite of himself. Clyde Fitch used to say that he would begin a play with a perfectly definite idea of what his characters were to be and to do; and then the characters would insist on behaving in a totally different fashion and he was forced, in spite of himself, to obey and follow, rather than have his own way with them.—William Lyon Phelps in Scribner's.

New England Shakes

One earthquake seems to have the effect of breeding another, and New England is getting to be a fine place for earth tremors. A slip which causes an internal earth slide appears to have left a vacancy which must be rectified by another. And thus the process goes on. A portion of this general region south of Boston felt a recent quake which the scientists tell us centered off Long Island. Another shake, they predict, will shortly be felt in Connecticut, but fortunately, they assert, it will not be of a serious nature.—Lowell Courier-Citizen.

The Lazy Janitor

As a countryman on holiday in the city was walking past a high building he saw the following notice: "Please ring the bell for the janitor." He rang the bell furiously, and the janitor, who lived at the top of the building, hurried down, and, out of breath, asked the man what he wanted.

The man pointed to the notice and said, "Why can't you ring the bell yourself?"

Martyr to Duty

"What makes you look so fatigued?" was asked of an undersized Arkansas City man the other day. "Well, it's like this," he replied. "My wife is walking to reduce, and the only time she can do it without attracting the attention of the neighbors is in the evening. She then insists that I go along, even if I am tired. The past two weeks I have lost eight pounds and she has gained two ounces."—Arkansas City (Kan.) Traveler.

Why Shadows Form

A shadow is formed when rays of light are obstructed by an opaque body. Rays of light radiate in straight lines in all directions. As a man approaches a street lamp the light shines on his face, and therefore his body casts a shadow behind. In passing the lamp the shadow naturally moves with the man, so that when he is in front of the lamp the rays of light strike his back, and therefore cause the shadow to fall before him.

Why Lens Is Hard to Make

For five months experts in Washington tried to cast a six-inch disk of optical glass, but made two failures. In Germany, however, a disk of seventy-two inches of perfect lens has been made. It requires 5,000 pounds of raw material compounded with great exactitude. The lens when completed must be of uniform density throughout.

Bagged Wild Turkey

The Little Rock Arkansas Gazette prints a dispatch saying that recently, near Arkadelphia, Ark., J. C. Patterson, who recently was commended on the amount of business he had written for a life insurance company, turned his talents in another direction when he bagged a large wild turkey gobbler in the Ham creek section of Hot Spring county. The birds are now so scarce that getting one is an event of a hunter's life.

Good Producer

The famous California quicksilver mine, located in Santa Clara county, near San Jose, recently celebrated its hundredth anniversary. It is from this mine that Indians are said to have procured their war paint a century ago. Since its inception, quicksilver to a total value of \$75,000,000 has been obtained.

Old Roman Term

The Romans employed the term "Gallia" in three varying ways; i. e., in its broadest sense which included Gallia Cisalpina, North Italy, and Gallia Transalpina; in a narrow sense, only Gallia Transalpina, in most restricted sense, the Land of Gaul, the Middle Part of Gaul.

Character and Goodness

No man deserves to be praised for his goodness unless he has the strength of character to be wicked. All other goodness is generally nothing but indolence or impotence of will.—La Rochefoucauld.

WHY Simple Signature Is Best Protection

In their attempt to defy forgery of their names it is not uncommon for men to develop a certain flourishing in the signatures they attach to bank checks. Almost any bank cashier will corroborate this statement. They think they are smart, but in reality they are making a mistake, for, paradoxical as it may sound, the simplest signatures are the hardest to forge without detection.

A plain, straightforward signature, without flourishes, must be limited with consummate skill in the shape of shading each letter to avoid detection by keen eyes, whereas the one that is scarcely decipherable, or which is characterized by unnecessary elaboration, presents a comparatively easy task.

The forger, naturally presuming that the customer's signature is identified more by the characteristic flourishing than by the actual name, concentrates his effort on producing a perfect copy of them, trusting, and apparently with good reason, that any slight deviation in the unembellished part of the signature will not be noticed.

The most painstaking forger may, however, it is pleasant to say, fall in his purpose through some careless slip where everything else was perfect. Such was the case when, not long ago, a paying teller detected a forged check, not by the signature but because he knew that the man by whom it purported to be signed always put the date before the name of the month, whereas on this check they were reversed.

Why Trade Winds Blow in Certain Directions

Trade winds are common to certain parts of the world, and are so called because they can be relied upon to blow for given periods in an absolutely given direction. The nearer the equator, the more direct are the rays of the sun. Consequently there is to be found the greatest heat, and the quickest rising of the heated air. To make up for this rise, cooler air is constantly rushing in from the colder belts to north and south, and so winds are set up. These currents do not, however meet, for the following reason: The earth being very much bigger round its equator or middle than at its poles or ends, it follows that the spin round the equator is much faster than at the poles. This extra fast spin, then, bends the currents of air as they rush in from north and south, and so it happens that while there is an absolutely windless belt in the very middle, north and south are two belts with absolutely regular currents of air.

Why Builders Like Wood

To determine the cost of heating homes constructed of various materials, a test has been made in Norway with 27 models built of different materials by measuring the amount of electricity required to keep each at a uniform temperature. Floors, ceilings, double windows and doors were alike in all the houses, the only variable feature being the construction of the walls. Each of the models was about 6 1/2 feet square and 8 feet high. The most economical to heat was found to be a lumber-built house having the hollows of the walls filled with sawdust. It was stated, however, that the sawdust must dry to be an efficient nonconductor of heat, and before its use can become general, some means must be found to make it dry and damp-proof. It was found that hollow walls are better heat insulators than solid walls.

Why Dishes Are Covered

How many persons, seeing covered dishes come to the table, have any idea of the origin of serving food in this fashion? How many know the reason that led to the covering of dishes? They were covered from fear—the fear of poison. In medieval days and down to the time of Louis XIV, people were afraid that poison might be introduced into food between the kitchen and the table.

The wholesomeness of the food was first tried on the servants, who were required to taste it before any of the guests, and then if they were not poisoned, the food was all right. It did not matter so much if a servant was poisoned.

Why Blondes Are Dying Out

An authority on cultural anthropology says that in the great urban centers of Great Britain the tall blonds are dying out and are being replaced by short, dark-haired and brown-eyed people. The Nordic blond seems to thrive best in the country, and the dark peoples do best in the cities. The anthropologist predicts that, if England continues to become more and more urban, Alpine and Mediterranean folk will predominate, as they did centuries ago.—Youth's Companion.

LAUGH WITH US

Down to Cases

"Faw, what is grim reality?" "Grim reality, son, is riding home from the auto show via street car."

Not a Paderewski

"What would you do if you could play like me?" "I'd take lessons."

Rude Question

"I want you to understand, sir, that I'm a self-made man." "Who interrupted you?"

Particulars Wanted

Nurse—The new patient in our ward is light-headed.
Doctor—Delirious or blond?

Dangerous

"My husband has the disposition of a mule." "Then better not talk about him behind his back."

Modern Camouflage

Alec—"Your new flat is larger, isn't it?" George—"In one way it is. There are three rooms made into six."—London Answers.

Real Work

"You can't stop people from thinking." "Heavens, no! The trouble is to get 'em started."—Boston Transcript.

Long Enough

Ethel—Were they engaged long?
Edith—Oh, one cross-word puzzle.—Life.

Difference

"Love laughs at locksmiths, you know." "Yes, but not at landlords and grocers!"

In Full Explanation

"Where did you get that black eye?" "I intercepted a forward pass."—Georgia Yellow Jacket.

Not Guilty

"I know a very good story—but perhaps I have told it to you before." "You certainly haven't."

Gentle Hint

Nervous Youth—"Darling, you are the breath of my life!" Girl—"Well, why don't you hold your breath?"

A Wish Answered

Flora—I wish God had made me a man.
Fred—He did, darling. I'm the man.

Not Yet

He—Book have a happy ending?
She—No, I believe the author is still alive.—Life.

Short Sessions Held by British Launderers

Parliaments come and parliaments go. Some are long and some are short, but the shortest parliament in English history was summoned to September 30, 1590, for the purpose of deposing Richard II, and was dissolved the same day after fulfilling its task. The parliament which Charles I summoned in 1625 failed to please the exacting monarch, and was dismissed after five months, while the Barbones parliament, named after one of its members, lasted a similar period. The parliament of 1701 lasted a month longer. The briefest parliament in recent times was the one elected under Gladstone's premiership in December, 1885, and which lasted only until July, 1886. The shortest since then was a parliament lately dissolved at the instance of Ramsay MacDonald.

Jewelers Lose Trade

Women's constantly changing ideas regarding what they shall or shall not wear always affect some trade or another. This time it is the jewelry trade which is suffering, owing to the new simplicity of tastes regarding the wearing of jewelry, says a correspondent of the New York World. All women want pearl necklaces for the moment, and if they cannot get real ones they will have imitations, with the result that pendants with ornate gold settings as well as brooches are out of fashion.

According to the head of a jewelry association in Birmingham, where much jewelry is manufactured, there is today a slump in gold watch wristlets because women are now wearing a plain moire ribbon band, and whereas it was quite usual for a woman to wear four rings it is now only usual to wear two, a wedding and an engagement ring.

First Safety Razor

Razors were in use at a very early period and known to the people of Egypt. They used a primitive form of razor, in many cases merely a sharpened flint. The first instance of the safety razor was that made by Michael Hunter of Sheffield, England, in 1875.

Selecting Dairy Breed Important

Good Individuals Should Have First Consideration of Dairyman.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)
Good individuals of whatever breed is selected should have first consideration by the man about to launch himself into the dairy business, says the United States Department of Agriculture. As between breeds, there are three points that should be considered: (1) The breed that predominates in the locality where the new herd is to be located; (2) personal preference; and (3) market requirements for the product.

Number of Advantages.
There are a number of advantages to a dairyman in having the same breed as his neighbors, says the bureau of dairying of the department. A dairyman just starting with pure bred stock may feel that since his neighbors have one breed of cattle, he should get another breed so as to have a monopoly in the business of selling breeding stock. There is no question about the monopoly, says the bureau, but there would be no business to monopolize. It is difficult for an isolated small breeder to dispose of his stock to advantage, while if there are many breeders with the same breed, buyers are attracted to the locality because of the better chance to get the desired animals from one or more of the several breeders. Other advantages in having the same breed as the neighbors are the opportunity to exchange bulls, or to own good bulls co-operatively; to take advantage of breed sales of surplus stock, and lastly, the advantage of bringing the community together in other endeavors which usually result where there is but one breed.

Because a man will usually do best with a breed that he likes, it is well to give this personal preference the right of way when there is no other breed already established, providing, however, that just as high-quality animals are available in the preferred breed as in some other breed. Market requirements for the product should not be overemphasized, says the bureau, for the reason that these requirements may fluctuate from one year to another, and obviously, the dairyman cannot change breeds with every change of market requirements.

Summing Up Matter.
In summing up the matter of which breed to select, the bureau says this point should be kept in mind—there are good cows and poor cows in all breeds, and other things being equal, the breeder or dairyman who gets good individuals to begin with will have a good chance for success, no matter what breed he selects. The several breeds recognized as dairy breeds in the United States, are the Ayrshire, Brown Swiss, Dutch Belted, Guernsey, Holstein-Friesian, and Jersey. Although much alike in what is known as general dairy conformation, these breeds differ to some extent in certain characteristics. What these characteristics are, the factors to consider in selecting a breed, and the history and origin and development of the breeds, are questions of interest to both the beginner and the established breeder of dairy cattle. These topics are discussed in a new bulletin issued by the bureau of dairying as Farmer's Bulletin 1443.

A copy of this bulletin may be had free of charge, as long as the supply lasts, upon request, from the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington.

Why Wood Rots
It is claimed that rotting of wood results from the activity of low forms of plant life which take nourishment from the wood and thus destroy it. This refutes the theory that wood rot is caused by the elements or by direct chemical action.

Why So Many Divorces
Nearly half of the divorces granted in London courts in 1923 resulted from childless marriages. Divorces for couples without children numbered 1,266 out of 2,834 cases.

Marriage Statistics
The average age of marriage in Germany is twenty-eight for the man and twenty-five for the woman; in Denmark, twenty-nine for the man and twenty-five for the woman; in France, twenty-nine and twenty-five, respectively; in England, twenty-eight and twenty-six, and in Italy the man is twenty-eight and the woman twenty-four years at the average age of marriage.

Covetous
We never envy another man his money. It is the guy whose fountain pen functions successfully that we are indebted to for our green complexion.—Houston Post-Dispatch.