

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER.

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## Many Famous Persons

### Had Defective Hearing

The customary callosity of authors to the afflictions of the deaf, was referred to in a lecture on "Deafness in Literature," recently delivered in London by Dr. Macleod Yearsley, a prominent consulting aurist. Doctor Yearsley said it was curious that one of the greatest of human afflictions should often be dealt with so unsympathetically by authors. English literature teemed with pathetic blind characters, but deaf people were seldom mentioned except in a casual way and as a subject for humor. As a matter of fact, the deaf mute was a far greater sufferer than the sightless person. The only great British authors who made serious and successful attempts to represent the case of the deaf were Sir Walter Scott, Thackeray and Dickens. Speaking of authors who themselves suffered from deafness, the speaker mentioned Doctor Johnson, Harriet Martineau, Rousseau and Martin Luther. The last named, he said, was wont to ascribe the incessant head noises by which he was afflicted to the machinations of the devil. It would seem, therefore, that a competent aural surgeon, had he been available, would have been able to solve some of the greatest religious difficulties of the time.—Exchange.

## Animals and Birds

### Have Own Domains

If you want a piece of land you buy it, but if a robin wants a garden he fights for it, and so long as he is fit he will continue to fight for it and drive off all intruders of his own kind. Other birds he tolerates, but no other robin, except his own mate, may invade his "property."

Each fox has his own range on which he hunts, and other dog-foxes respect his rights. Badgers have their own territory. There are great earths in the Devonshire woods inhabited by badger families that have been there so long that mankind's oldest families are mere upstarts when compared with them!

Golden eagles are very long-lived, and a pair will cling to the same eyrie for many years. Peregrines do the same, but these fine hawks have the curious habit of nesting in one place and hunting in another. Keepers declare that they never touch game in the neighborhood of their nesting places.—London Times.

### Showers of Stars

Great showers of meteors or shooting stars have occurred on a number of dates. One of the most brilliant was that of November 12 and 13, 1833. On this occasion it was estimated that stars to the number of 240,000 fell in the space of nine hours, all from the same part of the heavens. Another great shower, though less intense, was observed in November of the following year. On November 13 and 14, 1866, there were other abundant meteoric showers, meteors falling at the rate of about 2,500 an hour. Observers have noted that these brilliant displays have occurred at intervals of about one-third of a century, the explanation being that a great cloud of distended stream of meteors revolves around the sun in that period, and that one portion of the elliptical orbit intersects that of the earth.

### Discovered by Accident

Shelf plate was discovered by accident in 1742 by Thomas Bolsover, a Sheffield mechanic.

He was repairing the handle of a pocket-knife composed partly of silver and partly of copper, says Good Hardware, and in making his repairs accidentally fused the two metals. He at once conceived the idea of uniting these two metals and used this as a substitute for making articles which hitherto had been made of sterling silver only.

He seems to have specialized in making small articles such as buckles, buttons, snuff boxes and match boxes, some of which were only half an inch in diameter. He did not appreciate how important his discovery was, and consequently did not reap the full results from his remarkable invention.

### Poet's Small Reward

The great Spanish poet and novelist, Cervantes, received three silver spoons as the first prize for winning the great poetical tourney, which was held at Saragossa, Spain, in May, 1595, in honor of St. Hyacinth.

### Guarded Gates of Hell

Cerberus according to ancient Greek mythology was the watchdog that guarded the entrance to the infernal regions. He was usually pictured as having three heads, a serpent's tail and a mane of serpents' heads.

### Immortal Hymn

The immortal hymn, "Jerusalem the Golden," is derived from "Laus Patriae Coelestis," a part of "De Coemptu Mundi," one of the seven great hymns of the Latin church.

## Guitar Long Famous as Musical Instrument

In the National museum at Naples is a statue of Apollo, the god of music, seated and holding the cithara—a small harp-shaped instrument from which the lyre was derived as long ago as 1700 B. C., according to a writer in the Cleveland Plain Dealer. In Greece the cithara was used both to accompany the voice in song and in epic recitation and as a solo instrument at the national games. The Greeks of Asia Minor transformed the cithara into the guitar, and later still the application of the bow to the guitar resulted in the viola. The Moors carried the guitar into Spain, a country where, as in Italy and France, it has always been regarded with the highest favor among all classes. In the early part of the Seventeenth century an Italian guitarist was court musician in England, and playing the guitar became a fashionable accomplishment. In the Eighteenth century it was popular in court circles in Germany; about the beginning of the Nineteenth century Sor of Barcelona, one of the greatest guitarists, again brought it into favor in England; and in the latter part of the Nineteenth century special interest in the guitar appeared in the United States.

## Oldtime Wedding Cake Finds Stout Defender

Whatever the moderns may think of the news that the wedding cake is abandoning its Gothic complexities of decoration, it is certain that one rather famous cook would have been horrified at the change. Readers of "Penny's" will remember that when M. Alcide Mirobolant wished to signify his undelivered passion for Blanche Amory, he sent up to her a special dinner, the dishes of which were designed from beginning to end to symbolize her maidenly virtues and his own admiration for them. He wound up with "an ice of plombers and cherries." In the form of two hearts united with an arrow, on which he had laid, before it entered, a bridal veil in cut paper, surmounted by a wreath of virginial orange flowers. If Monsieur Mirobolant could do so much with a mere ice, to what heights would his symbolism have soared in the architecture of a wedding cake? It is clear that he would have had no sympathy with a cake which depended on a classical severity of line for its effect.—Manchester Guardian.

### The Calm, Clear Mind

The more wheels there are in a watch, the more trouble they are to take care of. The movements of exaltation which belong to genius are egotistic by their very nature. A calm, clear mind, not subject to the spasms and crises which are so often met with in creative or intensely perceptive natures, is the best basis for love or friendship. Observe, I am talking about minds. I won't say the more intelligent, the less capacity for loving; for that would do wrong to the understanding and reason; but, on the other hand that the brain often runs away with the heart's best blood, which gives the world a few pages of wisdom or sentiment or poetry, instead of making one other heart happy. I have no question.—Oliver Wendell Holmes.

### Tree of Vast Age

A tree trunk of record size, that grew in the coal-making forests millions of years ago, has been discovered by Prof. Sari Noe, paleobotanist of the University of Chicago. The find was made in a coal bed of the Carboniferous formation, near West Frankfort, Ill. The circumference of the ancient trunk is ten feet, and the length of the section unearthed about five. The whole tree, as it originally grew, may have been in the neighborhood of 100 feet high, Doctor Noe says. The surface of the trunk is covered with close-set pits, which are the scars where the leaves once grew. These ancient trees had few branches, and the leaves grew all over the trunk, like the scales of a fish. The name of the genus, "Lepidodendron," means "scale tree."

### How Diamonds Are Judged

The color of a diamond is the most important thing. Diamonds of the finest quality are colorless, perfectly clear and are said to be of the first water. Some varieties are green, orange, red, yellow and blue. Those are the most valuable in which the tint is decided and equal throughout. The commercial value of the diamond is affected by the slightest tinge of a different color. The way a diamond is cut is also important.

### How Sky Writing Is Done

In the airplane used for sky writing the instrument board is cluttered with some 15 controls and recording devices and half a dozen dials, levers and indicators controlling smoke gear, all of which the flyer must watch.

## Expert Writes About

### Borrowing Big Money

As to borrowing money—which is one of the great essentials of business—I simply can't do it. As soon as I got across the steps of the bank I should be afraid—scared that they would throw me out.

I know, of course, from reading about it that this is mere silliness, that the bankers are there simply waiting to lend the money—just crazy to lend it. All you have to do is to invite the general manager out to lunch and tell him that you want half a million dollars to float a big proposition (you don't tell him what it is—you just say that you'll let him know later), and the manager, so I gather, will be simply wild to lend you the money.

All this I pick up from the conversations which I overhear at my club from men who float things. But I couldn't do it myself; there's an art in it; to borrow money, big money, you have to wear your clothes in a certain way, walk in a certain way, and have about you an air of solemnity and majesty—something like the atmosphere of a Gothic cathedral.

Small men like me and you, my dear reader, especially you, can't do it. We feel mean about it, and when we get the money, even if it is only ten dollars, we give ourselves away at once by wanting to hustle off with it too fast. The really big man in this kind of thing can borrow half a million, button it up in his chest, and then draw on his gloves and talk easily about the League of Nations and the prospect of rain. I admit I couldn't do it. If I ever got that half a million dollars I'd beat it out of the bank as fast as a cat going over a fence.—Stephen Leacock in Harper's Magazine.

### Einstein Theory Tested

Prof. Dayton Miller is doing some work at the Mount Wilson observatory near Los Angeles which may shake the foundations of the Einstein theory. The results indicate that the earth travels through the ether. Einstein himself admits that if these results are confirmed the theory will be untenable, because according to it such motion would never be detected from the earth. The experiments were first made from an underground chamber. Professor Michelson of Chicago university made similar experiments. At first the results substantiated the Einstein theory. But Professor Miller then made similar experiments at Mount Wilson, which is about a mile in height. This time he found that the results varied with the altitude. Pathfinder Magazine.

### Lot's Invisible Grave

The announcement that the Academie Française has set "The Tomb of Pierre Loti" as the topic for its annual poetical competition has brought the subject of Loti's grave and his odd instructions regarding it to public notice.

Pierre Loti, himself quite as romantic as his books, was buried at his own wish in the garden of his home, the Maison des Alouettes on the little island of Oleron. That islet has been described as "a floating raft." It is not more than nine feet above sea level except for one small hill crowned with a few pine trees.

By the terms of the novelist's will only ten persons now living are allowed to visit his grave—if they wish to do so.

### Celluloid Hippopotamus

A celluloid hippopotamus is the latest thing in museum art, according to Popular Science Monthly. Heretofore the hippo has defied the skill of taxidermists because it could not be reproduced with convincing realism. But now L. L. Walters of the Field Museum of Natural History at Chicago, Ill., has discovered a method of using celluloid to produce translucent color effects that are said to have almost the semblance of living flesh and blood. Using this method he is constructing a remarkably life-like reproduction of a hippo, in which the real hairs are embedded in the celluloid.

### Late Fall Flower

The last fall flower is the November blossom of the witch hazel, or, as it is sometimes called, "the frost flower." It looks like an ice crystal in shape and color and can be found low on the ground among the brown stubble. This sturdy blossom is not in the least like the fragile summer flower of the witch hazel. It never grows to more than three inches in height, so must ordinarily be sought for before it is found.—Grit.

### Sex and Athletics

According to a study made by Prof. A. V. Hill of the University college, London, woman athletes are able to attain a maximum speed of only 79 per cent of that of men, in running and swimming. A woman is able to expend only 62 per cent of the energy expendable by a man of the same weight.

## WHY

### Planes Are Held Impractical in Arctic

Dirigibles, not airplanes, must be used if an aerial survey of the Arctic regions is to be successful, according to Donald B. MacMillan, who was compelled to abandon that part of his expedition to the North. From his and Amundsen's experience, he was convinced that the unreliability of landing places and the unreliability of caches of fuel and food made travel by airplanes exceedingly hazardous. For that reason, and because adverse weather had set in earlier than had been expected, he advised that further expeditions by naval planes be discontinued this year. "A fjord is free today and icebound tomorrow," was one of the explorer's radio messages from the Far North. "A cache under such conditions, is not a help but a menace, for, if depended upon and a plane arrives out of fuel, destruction is the inevitable result. The lighter-than-air machine can do the work and should do it at the earliest opportunity." Naval officers declare that the dangers of venturing into the Arctic regions with a dirigible such as the "Los Angeles" are tremendous. They point out that if the big gas bags get weighted, with snow or ice from frozen mist and rain, they might never return. On their advice, the naval airships were not allowed to fly to the polar regions in search of Amundsen and Ellsworth when it was feared that they were lost last summer.—Popular Mechanics Magazine.

### Why One Feels "Blue"; Mere Matter of Air

It may be assumed that during the summer there are many occasions when you will exclaim, "What a depressing day!" Your spirits will droop; energy will go; work will become hard labor. Do you know why? Well, it's just a matter of air!

Bad weather decreases the normal pressure of the atmosphere. The immediate result on ourselves is that our blood vessels become inflated; the circulation of our blood is hindered.

Our uncomfortable feeling is increased by two other factors. When the air is damp we do not perspire normally, and therefore our bodies retain the waste and poisonous products that otherwise would pass off. The non-energetic feeling follows.

Further, instead of the air containing its ordinary supply of oxygen, there is a smaller and a diluted supply. The position is the same as that of an engine from which normal work is required, but which is not being fed with sufficient fuel to raise the required amount of steam. Oxygen is the body's fuel, and we cannot fully assimilate our food without a full supply. Hence the "heavy" feeling.

### Why Gasoline "Goes Up"

A large percentage of automobile mechanics may be seen smoking while working on cars, even when tinkering with vacuum tanks. Motorists seeing this conclude that gasoline has ceased to be dangerous, and because nothing happens they acquire a contempt for its known hazards. Sometimes, however, something does happen and the result is always serious.

The vapor from a gallon of gasoline when mixed with the right portion of air produces a hazard equal to 85 pounds of dynamite.

If a motorist will consider the potential destructive power of gasoline on a par with dynamite fewer accidents of this nature will occur.

### Why Circular Rainbow

The rainbow is caused by light from the sun passing into a drop of water and out again after reflection from the far side. The light is refracted, as we say, both where it enters the drop and where it leaves the drop, and thereby split up into its original colors. Now, the red, say, or any other given color, reaches the eye of the observer only when the straight line from drop to sun and drop to eye make a particular angle with each other; the reason for this comes from the laws of refraction.

### Why Columbine Is Liked

Among the reasons advanced for making the columbine our national flower are: First, forms of the columbine grow wild in all states of the Union, with a possible exception of Louisiana; second, it can be cultivated easily in any garden; third, it lends itself admirably to conventional design; fourth, the name comes from the same root word as Columbus; fifth, the technical name, aquilegia, comes from the same root word as eagle, our national emblem.

### Why They're Green

Recent tests show that the green color of French oysters is due to a pigment present in their food materials. A quantity of the pigment was isolated and oysters placed in a solution which contained it took up the color within twenty-four hours.

## How Nature Provides

### for Seeds "Traveling"

Most people would be surprised if told that the dandelion growing on their back lawn had its origin in Africa. Yet this might easily be so, for seeds do travel in the most remarkable way.

How then, do they do it? One way is by air. Those that travel in this manner have a kind of wing or parachute attached to their seed, by means of which they can be carried by the wind for miles before they finally come to earth and grow.

Others with the aid of a light float take a sea voyage and travel with the current of the water for great distances. But by far the most interesting way of all is the seed that travels with animals and birds. This is done with the help of a hooked attachment which clings to the animal's fur.

Charles Darwin once took from the foot of a bird a small fragment of hardened earth; this he moistened and warmed, and waited with curiosity to see whether or not anything would grow from it. To his great surprise no fewer than 50 plants sprang from this small portion of soil.

### Officer's Revenge

A naval officer, who had taken offense at something said at a dinner party by a clergyman who had just been made an honorary canon, and who was somewhat autocratic, resolved to be revenged.

He invited the whole party to inspect his ship next day, and when inquiry was made regarding the use of one of the sham wooden cannons he had put in a conspicuous place to attract notice, he replied, in a loud tone: "Oh, that wooden thing; it's only a dummy—a sort of honorary canon."

### The Great Smith Family

The great family of Smiths bear a name which is not only the commonest but the oldest in the world. Professor Mahaffy, when deciphering the Petrie papyri, came upon one bearing the name of Smith, unmistakably written. "We have never," he says, "found anything like it before, and it is surely worth telling the many distinguished bearers of the name that there was a man known as Smith in the twelfth year of the third Ptolemy, 227 years B. C., and that he was occupied in brewing and selling—beer!"

### Add Motoring Perils

One of Attleboro's fairest little maidens has been having a rush job done at the dentist's. A broken tooth needed expert attention. It was no ordinary mishap, the breaking of that tooth. She and he were motoring and while kisses were being exchanged the car hit a particularly rough spot in the road. There was a facial collision in which lips proved ineffectual bumpers, two sets of teeth met head on—and then came concern on his part, lamentation on her part, and the enlisting of the dentist's services to repair damages sustained in an unusual way.—Boston Globe.

### Complimented

When an Edinburgh councillor was traveling to London there was an old man in the same carriage to whom he spoke several times without getting a reply. Just as they neared the end of the journey the old man leaned forward and asked, "Are we near King's Cross?"

The councillor told the old man that he thought him very ill-mannered for not replying when spoken to earlier in the day.

Said the aged traveler: "Man, I was feared to answer ye. Ye are awfu' like a photograph I saw in the paper of a murderer."—London Times.

### Fashion Note

Representative fashions of Philadelphia said at Atlantic City:

"The fashions of today are all right provided what's inside them—or rather what's outside them, for that's more outside than inside usually—is all right, too."

"What would happen if we could see ourselves as others see us?" Representative Vore gazed out over the crowded boardwalk at the beach crowded with bathers, then he added: "A great many ladies, certainly, would put on more clothes."

### Oldest Book in the World

The oldest book in the world is the "Big Veda," which was in existence, as complete as we have it now, 1,500 years before the Christian era.

### One Definition

The pessimist is a man who would enjoy the job of putting up "detour" signs.—Lafayette Journal and Courier.

### We Get You, John!

A Chinaman's description of a piano: "Them box, you fight him in the teeth, he cry."

## Capitalize Blunders

It doesn't make much difference whether your age is seventeen, seventy or one hundred and seventy you will grow and develop as long as you are willing to profit by your mistakes, says Harry Daniel in Thrift. Look your mistakes straight in the eye, shake hands with them and then bid them good-bye forever. A bad habit is nothing but a mistake that has acquired a permanent address.

The average man of success today will say, "I owe my success to hard work." But he is holding out one of his choicest secrets. What he should say is, "I'm a success because I know how to clean up \$100 worth of wisdom on every little \$2 mistake I ever made." Mistakes seldom bite the first time.

### Mysteries

Not all the mysteries are cleared up. There is one connected with those persons who walk across the continent or wheel perambulators from one section to another or undertake to get the autographs of a thousand mayors—all, say, upon a bet. What one would like to know is who puts up the reward or lays down the other half of the wager. We never hear of him. He is more obscure and modest than the head of a bootlegging syndicate and, apparently, every bit as afraid that he will get his deserved punishment.—Toledo Blade.

### Odd Court Cases in 1856

A page from a Massachusetts court docket for the year 1856 reveals that Henry Walton was fined for saying that he would as soon hear a dog bark as to hear Reverend Cobble preach; that Robert Edwards was fined for excess in apparel in wearing sleeve lace and gold buttons; that John Seely was fined for stealing his master's ox and selling it to him and that Sarah Collins was fined for railing at her husband.—Detroit News.

### Polar Explanation

Early efforts in polar exploration were largely for commercial interests. During the Twentieth century the removal of exploration in the Arctic and Antarctic regions has been due largely to the spirit of scientific research, but also for geographic achievement. Peary, at the North pole, made a great number of observations which are very valuable in the study of geography, physics, meteorology and oceanography.

### Grave Error

"I hear tell that Horace Bristles got shot yesterday down at his fence corner," stated Mrs. Johnson upon her return from a neighborhood call. "Seems like he was just coming round it when a feller going by up and shot him."

"I've been looking for something of the kind to happen for right smart of a while," replied Gap Johnson of Rumpus Ridge. "He ort to have shaved oftener, and he wouldn't have been mistook for a mad dog."—Kansas City Star.

### Barkless Dogs

Thoroughly muzzled "hot dog dealers" have made their appearance at Detroit. First waffle batter is poured into a specially constructed grid molded to the shape of a full-grown raw "dog." As the first tinge of golden brown comes over the batter, the cook drops in the canine. Another spoonful of batter completely incases the barkless barker.

### "Followed the Band"

A span of horses which performed and waited in a circus ten years ago were recently recovered by their present owner, Albert French of Ekeola, N. H., after they had followed a traveling band's music wagon several miles. When found, the horses were kept close to the music. They reluctantly left with their master for home.

### Record in Climbing

Harold Eastman of Fryeburg, Maine, has climbed Mount Washington 25 times. In all of these outings he has encountered bad weather only three times and most of the time the fair weather has been "extremely fair," he says. He has gone to the summit on each trip. Mount Washington is one of the show peaks of the mountains in New England, frequented by thousands of tourists regularly each year.

### Why Fountain Pen Leaks

A fountain pen is more likely to leak when it is almost empty because the heat of the hand causes the air inside to expand, tending to force out the ink.

### Why Statue Is Armless

Venus de Milo is always represented without arms because when the original statue was unearthed on the island of Melos the arms had been broken off and were never discovered.

## Wonder of Nature Is

### Vision Given to Birds

The vision of birds is an amazing thing. A vulture soaring almost out of view sees a carcass lying perhaps in a quite inconspicuous position; a kestrel hovering at a height of 100 feet, spies a mouse creeping about in the grass; a gannet cruising round 200 feet above the sea observes a fish swimming some distance below the surface, says W. W. White, in the Nineteenth Century Magazine.

The gannet's sight is by no means the least remarkable among keen-eyed birds, for it has to penetrate water as well as air. A gannet's hurdle on fish beneath well expresses the action. At once it checks its flight, poises for a second, half closes its wings, and dives with tremendous speed. There is a curious corkscrewlike motion in the downward swoop, and at the moment of entering the water the long, pointed wings are folded.

## Day's Length Varies in Different Parts

If you met a man, and he casually remarked that he ate 315 meals yesterday, you would either be amazed at his appetite or take him for a hardened romantic. But the man may be from Spitzbergen, where they have a day three and a half months in length.

And on the whole it would be wise, if one should undertake to do certain work to receive so much a day in payment, to understand just where the work is to be done, or one might have to labor 13½ hours at Stockholm, if it happened to be the longest day of the year, or all the time from May 21 to July 22 if in some parts of Norway.

In Petrograd the longest day is 19 hours and the shortest 5 hours. In Finland there is a 22-hour day. In London and at Bremen the longest day is 16½ hours; at Hamburg and Danzig 17 hours, and at Washington about 15 hours.

### New Rays Discovered

Science has established the existence of new rays, stronger than ultra X-rays and 1,000 times greater in frequency, with ionization the same at all times of the day or night and of 10,000,000-volt variety. They were partly described by Dr. R. A. Millikan of the California Institute of Technology to the convention of the National Academy of Sciences in Madison, Wis. He has studied them since the World War, beginning where German scientists left off. Millikan won the \$40,000 Nobel prize for first measurement of the electron. The rays, unnamed, are due to atoms passing over to other atoms, with the sun having no effect on the action, he said. They appear throughout space, bombard the earth from all directions at all times and have extraordinary absorbing power.

### Was Well Stocked

A day book of a retail grocer located in a midwestern town shows the entire list of imported articles sold by him in 1924 as follows: Coffee, tea, figs, mustard, pepper, cloves, all-spice, nutmeg, ginger, cinnamon, lemons, oranges, sage, prunes, raisins and almonds. Other foods handled by him were: Eggs, molasses, dried apples, dried peaches, cranberries, potatoes, sugar, vinegar, saleratus, butter, cheese, crackers, lard, smoked halibut, whitefish, dried herring, rice, sirup, salt, cream of tartar, beans, rye, coffee, peanuts, beef, veal, pork, lemon extract, onions, cabbage, turnips and native nuts. If this grocer-keeper had other foods they were not indicated on his charge account for two years.

### Nothing Ever Lost

Elements which enter into the making of a soap-bubble film are as lasting as those which form granite rock; no material thing is ever lost or destroyed, says science. Man's immortality is fairly well assured both by science and the Bible. It was the Frenchman, Lavotier, who first proved with his fine balance, that in all chemical operations it is only the kind of matter that is changed, the quantity remaining the same. This was the discovery of the conservation of matter to which knowledge of the conservation of energy has since been added.—Capper's Weekly.

### Women's Wigs

White wigs are to be the vogue for the women of Berlin this winter, according to the Philadelphia Ledger. The natural blond hair of German women was popular in classical antiquity with Roman women, who wore wigs made of it to cover up their own black tresses. "Transformations" began to be used in Europe in the Sixteenth century, and Queen Elizabeth owned no fewer than 80. The full-bottomed wig, similar to the imposing headgear of English judges today, reached its apogee in Queen Anne's day. A wig in that epoch often cost \$300 or \$700.