

**A BELIEF IN GHOSTS.**

**Finds Lodgment In Many Minds Despite Scientific Denials.**

Are there such things as ghosts? The incredulity with which the question is often asked is paralleled by the passionate belief with which the affirmative answer is often stated. That there are apparitions is granted even by the most skeptical investigators. But whereas the impressionable seer of ghosts believes they are supernatural the colder scientist says they are nothing but hallucinations. Frank Podmore, the English "ghost hunter," has much to say of the attendant circumstances in most ghost seeing, circumstances which do much to weaken the value of the testimony of the seer. Almost invariably there are mysterious noises, by which the witness is put in a state of nervous alarm. Then comes the vision, which often takes terrifying form. Is the ghost seer viewing something objective and external or is he merely contemplating an image created by his own imagination? Of the good faith of many people who say they have seen ghosts there can be no question, but Mr. Podmore shakes his head as to their credibility.

And yet when the testimony of people who believe they have seen ghosts has been attenuated to the utmost people will still believe. Science may discredit evidence, but it cannot prove that ghosts do not exist. Throughout the ages there is a cumulative mass of testimony which, though it does not amount to proof, yet commands shuddering respect. The sternest materialism will not eliminate from people's minds that credence in the unknown and the undemonstrable which has been handed down to them from the beginnings of time.

Plato himself accepted the existence of ghosts, and he makes Socrates explain their frequenting of graveyards. These ghosts, says the great Athenian, long to re-enter the body in which they could gratify their desires. It is hopeless, but memory tortures them with vain affection for the fleshly abode in which they formerly dwelt. Shakespeare is full of allusions to the dwellers in the realm of shadows. But he, too, knows the meaning of philosophic doubt, for he makes Hamlet wonder whether the image of his father may not be some coinage of his fancy. He hesitates between contrary opinions, but inclines toward belief in the supernatural. He says to his friend:

There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, Than are dreamt of in thy philosophy.

From Shakespeare's day to now we have advanced in one particular. We know more of the composition of the brain and the susceptibilities of nervous tissue. We are assured today that a man may honestly believe he sees a ghost and yet see nothing but the projection of an image within his own brain. But as to the existence or nonexistence of ghosts we are as ignorant as the ancient Egyptian or the modern redskin. Reason learnedly as we may, we cannot eradicate from our mind that vague feeling, half fear, half hope, that ghosts may be. Sir Thomas Browne touches on this matter with characteristic quaintness. Some people, he says, hope to see a ghost that they may be persuaded of the immortality of the soul. But he adds that the devil will never let them see one, for that would be to turn them away from himself.—Rochester Post-Express.

**Colonial Mail Routes.**

The first record contained in our colonial history of any kind of mail service dates from 1676, when the court in Boston appointed Mr. John Hayward to "take in and convey letters according to their direction." In December, 1716, arrangements were made to receive letters in Boston from Williamsburg, Va., during four weeks of the summer time and eight weeks in winter. In 1738 Henry Pratt was appointed "riding postmaster" for all the routes between Philadelphia and Newport, Va., to set out in the beginning of each month and return in twenty-four days. Postage stamps were first introduced into the United States in 1847.—New York American.

**Contrasts In Populations.**

The population of the known earth at the death of the Roman emperor Augustus, about the time of the beginning of the Christian era, was estimated by Bodio, an Italian statistician, at 57,000,000. The Romans knew nothing of Asia beyond the Indus river and nothing of Africa save the Mediterranean states. In 1492, at the time of the discovery of America by Columbus, the population of Europe was placed at only 40,000,000. Today Europe has ten times that number, or 400,000,000 people, with about a hundred to each square mile.

**ORRIS ROOT.**

**How It Is Grown and Gathered on the Hills Near Florence.**

Most people know that orris root is one of the chief ingredients of violet powder; many others are well acquainted with the strangely shaped pieces of white root that seem like dried ginger which give out the delicate and subtle scent of the violet, and perhaps the privileged few know that it is made from the roots of a kind of iris.

"Never have I seen the cultivation of the iris and the preparation of orris root to such perfection as last summer in the Tuscan Apennines, where Vallombrosa lifts its pine covered head," says a writer in the London Queen. "On the sunny side of the mountain lies the whole district of the Val d'Arno, and between Saltino and Pian di Sco the entire neighborhood is given up to the cultivation of vines, olives and iris.

"Indian corn, wheat and millet find a place, but wine, oil and orris root are the three commercial industries. Pergolas of vines stretch along as far as the eye can see—vines with clusters of purple or white grapes, olives laden with green berries and under them and between them little plantations of Iris dalmatica.

"The iris, or giaggolo, as it is called in Italy, is planted thinly and allowed to grow for three years, when the roots are dug up and tied in bundles. These are then prepared. Nearly the whole of the tuberos root is cut off, leaving only a tiny bit with fibers in order that the plant may grow when replanted, as it is at once for another three years of peace.

"The tubers are then thrown into big basins of water, and the whole family of the contadine, or peasant, sitting on the doorstep of their house or under the pergolas in the shade of the vines, begin the business of peeling them previous to their being dried in the sun for the market. Everybody is busy with the small sickle shaped knives trimming the iris root. In its fresh condition it is sold for about 20 centimes the kilo, about 2 cents a pound. But after a few days' exposure to the brilliant Italian sunshine on large wickerwork trays it loses two-thirds of its weight and is sold to the wholesale merchants at 9 cents a pound."

**The Only Original.**

George Washington was very small, very black and very new to the life of the public school which he had just entered. His family had emigrated to the city from some unknown wilderness, and the officials of the school board had discovered little George and brought him into line with the prospects of the higher education. It was his first day, and the teacher was trying to make him at home.

"And so your name is George Washington?" said the teacher. "Yassum, Jorge Washin'ton." "And I suppose you try to be as like him as a little boy can, don't you?" "Lak who, mam?" "Like George Washington." The youngster looked puzzled. "Ah kain't help bein' lak Jorge Washin'ton," he replied stoutly. "cos that's who Ah am."—Youth's Companion.

**Bad Handwriting.**

Every man who has his living to earn or any work in the world to do ought to be made to understand that if he does not write legibly at least, if not beautifully, it is entirely his own fault and that if he is made to suffer for it he has only himself to blame. The pestilent theory that bad writing is the sign of a great mind ought to receive no countenance from men of common sense. It is sometimes, no doubt, the result of extreme pressure of business, but in most cases it is the sign either of bad training or of a contemptible perversity in fashion or of a careless and unstable disposition which will display itself sooner or later in things much more important than handwriting. In no case is it to be commended. In only few cases is it to be even excused.—London Times.

**Saved His Life.**

A story is told of an Englishman who had occasion for a doctor while staying in Pekin. "Sing Loo, greatest doctor," said his servant. "He saved my life once." "Really?" queried the Englishman. "Yes; me terrible awful," was the reply. "Me calles in another doctor. He gves me medicine; me velly, velly bad. Me calles in another doctor. He come and give me more medicine, make me velly, velly badder. Me calles in Sing Loo. He no come. He savee my life."—Birmingham (England) Post.

**Pale-Faced Women**

You ladies, who have pale faces, sallow complexions, dark circles under eyes, drawn features and tired, worn-out expressions, you need a tonic.

The tonic you need is Cardui, the woman's tonic. It is the best tonic for women, because its ingredients are specifically adapted for women's needs. They act on the womanly organs and help to give needed strength and vitality to the worn-out womanly frame.

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**STATEMENT THE - CITIZENS - BANK**

HENDERSON, N. C.

March 29th, 1910

RESOURCES	
Loans and discounts	\$480,247 19
Overdrafts	3,318 80
Stocks and bonds	30,151 25
Banking house and fixtures	10,732 73
Insurance Department	3,643 11
Cash on hand and in other banks	205,129 14
Total	\$733,222 38
LIABILITIES	
Capital stock paid in	\$100,000 00
Surplus and undivided profits	71,527 74
Accrued interest due depositors	449 77
Cashiers checks outstanding	346 58
Due to banks	4,337 10
Deposits	556,561 09
Total	\$733,222 38

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My stock of Heavy and Fancy Groceries is the most choice and select lot I could get, as are all the other lines I carry. When in need of anything in my line see me before buying. Remember I carry the Lynchburg steel plows, the best made.

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