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INDIANS HELD CORN AS HEAVENLY GIFT

One of the Four Original Celestial Blessings.

The Indian is the real advocate of corn. To him it was the staff of life. Both he and it are distinctly American. The sailing vessels which carried back to Europe news of the discovery of the one bore also samples of the other. Corn has meant so much to the Indian in his economic life that he came to reverence it. It was one of the four original celestial blessings sent down to him from heaven, the Indian says. The others were squash, beans and tobacco. Corn meal is used by the Pueblos and other Indians in all their religious ceremonies. No tribal undertaking is complete, or official pronouncement is effective, unless they are accompanied, at their reception, by the sprinkling of the sacred meal. The medicine man finds in the meal, blessed and sanctified by his own hands, his chief ally in imparting the blessing of the good spirits which rule the Indian world, or in driving away the evil spirits which threaten to usurp the functions of the good. Growing corn will wither and die, seeds will not sprout, horses and sheep will perish, families cannot prosper and the evil spirits of misfortune and disease will sweep the villages unless the sacred meal is sprinkled at the beginning of all undertakings. The chief fetish of the Pueblo medicine man is an ear of spotted white corn, adorned with a plume of downy white feathers bound to the top. Known as the mother, this ear of corn represents the mother of all mankind. With it the medicine man performs wonders. Pollen of corn and squash, especially among the Navajoes, performs an important function in sanctifying all undertakings. It is to them the most spiritual of material offerings and no ceremony connected with growth is complete without it. Its symbol, as well as that of growing corn, often appears in the sand paintings made famous by this artistic people. The ancestors of the Indians, the so-called cliff dwellers, cave dwellers and mound builders, used corn. Among arrowheads, pottery, stone implements and other artifacts found in the caves, cliff dwellings, mounds and ruins of communal houses of these prehistoric people, little ears of corn are often discovered. To these people the great American commodity probably was as essential as it became later to their descendants.

Faith Effect of Eclipse

Stirred to frenzy of a purely religious character by the sun's eclipse, hundreds of thousands of Hindus from Calcutta congregated on the banks of the sacred Ganges river, where they bathed and prayed for protection from the demon believed to be swallowing the sun, which, being too hot to retain, is causing it extreme anguish. The Hindus believe their lives are profoundly affected by this demon unless they bathe in the sacred river. Business and household activities were at a standstill during the eclipse and cooking utensils were broken and sleep and travel were suspended.

Judges in Russia

Of 2,000 judges on the bench in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, 1,418 are peasants and 882 are workmen, according to data furnished by the people's commissariat of justice. Among 1,400 judges of instruction, 627 are peasants and 292 are workmen. Eighty-three per cent are members of the Communist party, candidates for membership or members of the komzomol (proselytes for membership under twenty-four years of age). Presumably the other 791 judges are of the intelligencia. Only 112 women are in responsible positions—not on the bench—in the judiciary establishment.

Hair-Splitting

The railroad porter was a very careful man. In his youthful days he had been severely reprimanded for inaccuracy, and ever since he had been painstakingly correct. An old gentleman approached on the platform and asked genially: "Is that my train, porter?" "No, sir," replied the careful porter; "it belongs to the company, sir." "Don't be funny," snapped the old man testily. "You know I didn't mean that! I want to know if I can take this train to Springfield?" "There's no need, sir," answered the porter; "that's what we've got an engine for."

Doubly Helpful

A beauty parlor announced its willingness to contribute to the erection of a church at Kansas City, Kans., 10 per cent of the money earned by bobbing the hair of the feminine members. The pastor, Rev. C. A. Finch, issued this bulletin: "While you're building up your beauty and marceling all your locks, you'll be adding to the building fund a stream of gold on 'locks.'"

Separation of Latin and Greek Churches

Apart from the theological discussions, such as those arising from the addition of the words, "and the Son," in the creed, the separation of the Latin and Greek churches may be traced to the founding of Constantinople and the political division of the Roman empire. Ignatius, patriarch of Constantinople, had been deposed, and was succeeded by Photius, who summoned a Council of the East in 867, and passed a sentence of excommunication on the bishop of Rome. The churches became reunited toward the end of the Ninth century and remained so until the middle of the Eleventh century, when, in 1054, Michael Cerularius, patriarch of the East, renewed the condemnation of the Latin church, and was in turn excommunicated by Pope Leo IX. Efforts toward reunion were made from time to time, and at Ferrara (1438) the Greek prelates signed a decree of union, but were forced by the people and clergy to repudiate it. Since then the two communions have remained separate.

Bell Chimes Go Back to Fifteenth Century

The ringing of a bell, or bells, to give notice of the beginning of church services, and at daylight and darkness, is a custom lost in antiquity. The curfew was an ancient custom that has only recently passed away, and we still have the bell for a variety of useful purposes in our present day requirements. People visiting Europe for the first time are surprised at the melodies and peals of bells they hear. Some peals consist of as many as fifty bells, and the skill with which they are manipulated only comes after long practice in the art. Historical documents show that there was a set of chimes about the year 850, which consisted of small suspended bells that were tapped with a wooden mallet. Of course bells are much older than this, but not chimes. Half swinging chimes were first introduced in the Fifteenth century. In most cases—for chiming—the bell hangs dead, and is struck with the clapper or with an outside or free hammer, or they are swung only short distances.

Cultivate the Best

Nearly all our heartaches and cares are the products of worry. We let things rob us of our peace and we are victims of conquerors. All the worry in the world won't make us better, but it will undoubtedly deprive us of the nobility which is ours for the claiming. It is ours to be undisturbed and undistressed. Doctor Brand, in Mrs. Barclay's "Rosary," told Jane Champion: "Here is a prescription for you! See a few big things. Go for the big things. You will like to remember, when you are bothering about pouring water in and out of teacups, Niagara is flowing still." Help yourself to what is yours by right—health, happiness, uprightness, and love. If these things be yours, then nothing can rob you of your best, and there won't be any waste.—London Tit-Bits.

"Old Man" and "Dad"

Asks one of those who are always viewing with alarm: "Does your boy call you 'Dad' to your face and 'old man' behind your back?" It is quite possible he does, which worries us not in the least. In fact, there are times when he calls us "old man" right to our face. And strange to say, it is at such times when the invisible barrier between father and son is most completely obliterated and confidential relations most firmly established—it is at such times we can get in our best instructive licks without any suspicion on his part that we are giving advice. Call us "old man?" He sure does, and why shouldn't he? We call him "old man."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

State Constitutions

The states in existence at the time of the drafting of the Constitution of the United States had constitutions of their own and it was upon these that the federal one was patterned. The states developed their documents from colonial charters, which in turn were modeled upon the charters of mercantile companies of the Fifteenth and Sixteenth centuries. Massachusetts is the only state which retains the constitution framed in that period, but it has been revised and amended. All the states, however, in their modern constitutions retain many of the principles and much of the framework of the other documents.

Muslims and Christians

Muslim women are not allowed to marry Christians by the terms of the modified form of the Swiss civil code now before the Turkish national assembly for ratification. The law, which prohibits polygamy and divorce by the mere whim of the husband, declares as null marriages contracted with Christians.

Colors in History

Strong colors are a sign of predominating masculine influence and have prevailed in color history even in the vigorous reign of Louis XIV in the Renaissance. On the advent of Louis XV, and the combination of wealth with the rise of woman's influence delicate tints and shades were popular for the first time. At present there are more than 2,000,000 distinctions in color.

First Fire-Irons

It is less than one hundred and fifty years ago since stoves were first used on a large scale. The only fire-iron in the time of Henry VIII of England was the fire fork, a two-pronged implement for stirring and shifting the logs. The development of the tongs, poker and shovel came along with the eventual general use of coal. Crude strips of bent sheet-iron were, in the beginning, used as fenders.

Money in Snake Catching

The snake business is quite a good one, for there is an endless demand for snakes for the various zoological gardens. A good python fetches \$100 to \$250, and the ugly and dangerous rattler \$10 to \$25. There is also a market for small, nonpoisonous snakes, which are used as food for the rarer varieties in captivity, and for which about a dollar a pound is paid.

Had to Control Appetite

Eating between meals was once considered a crime at Harvard university. Students whose appetites were not satisfied with three square meals a day 275 years ago subjected themselves to fines. This fact was disclosed recently when an old set of college regulations was unearthed in the library of that institution.

Proof Beyond Argument

"How will we know when the millennium is here?" asks an exchange. When a woman drops a letter in a letter box and then doesn't peer down into the unfathomable depths to see if it went down, we may reasonably assume that the millennium is approaching the city line.—Buffalo Evening Times.

Pepys' Diary Unique

In all English literature there is nothing that so reflects society of the time in which it was written, between 1660 and 1800, as Pepys' Diary. It was inscribed in shorthand by Samuel Pepys and was not published until 1825. The years in which he wrote were gay and profligate times.

Rivers Hamper Railroads

With the exception of a few feeder lines, the railroads of Burma run north and south. The large rivers of the country, which flow in the same direction, assume immense proportions during the rainy season, and are the chief obstacle to the construction of east and west railways.

Lived to Advanced Age

Marion Delorme, a celebrated French woman of the Seventeenth century, lived to the age of one hundred and thirty-seven, according to a popular legend, although soldiers sent to arrest her in 1650, when she was thirty-seven, reported her dead.

No Impossibilities

Why should we call ourselves men, unless it be to succeed in everything, everywhere? Say of nothing, "This is beneath me," nor feel that anything is beyond our powers. Nothing is impossible to the man who wills.—Mira-beau.

Inconsiderate Barber

A shudder ran down the spinal columns of many persons living in one of the Cleveland suburbs when they noticed a funeral wreath hung up behind the "You're Next" sign in the window of the local barber shop.

Simple Korean Clothing

In Korea, some clothes are merely pasted together instead of being securely sewn. It is said. They are pulled apart when wash day comes around, and are pasted together again when they are dry.

Few Real Rembrandts

Of all the 700 pictures which are acknowledged as originals of Rembrandt only 35 are the real work of the master, the other 665 being either works of his pupils or forgeries, a Rutgers professor asserts.

Single-Handed Choir

Mr. Peavey not only played the piano accompaniment but sang bass, contralto and tenor solos when necessary. The audience listened in rapt attention.—Musical America.

Good Qualities First

We are firm believers in the maxim that for all right judgment of any man or thing it is useful, nay, essential, to see his good qualities before pronouncing on his bad ones.—Carlyle.

HOW

NATURE MAKES PROVISION FOR TRAVELS OF SAP.—How the water gets uphill in the trunks and stems of trees and plants has long been a sore puzzle to scientists. Several theories have been proposed, none of them very satisfactory. Until recently the one most commonly favored was known as the theory of "capillarity," which assumed that the water rose in a stem much as oil rises in a wick, through the natural tendency of liquids to climb up in narrow tubes and crevices. The trouble was, however, that ordinary capillary attraction could not raise water high enough or fast enough to account for all the losses through evaporation and use within the plant. Then there was another theory that took into account a supposed pumping action by the roots, or a so-called "foot pressure." This theory, however, was always very vague, and even those who claimed to understand it could not explain it very convincingly.

A comparatively recent development is a theory that seems to explain the phenomenon and at the same time to be free from the objections that have overthrown the earlier ideas. This theory is largely the outcome of experiments by a British scientist, Professor Dixon. He found that by sealing a column of water in a glass tube and using appropriate experimental means, he could make the water carry a considerable weight without breaking. Ordinarily, of course, we think of a stream of water as a thing as unstable as a rope of sand, but the trick seems to lie in getting rid of all the air; for when this was done the water column could support a strain of several hundreds of pounds per square inch. This is exactly the condition we find in the stems of plants.

How Dust May Be Used for Making Cheap Fuel

If you pump cornstarch with air into an inclosed tube and ignite the mixture with an electric spark it will explode. Recent government experiments have shown in dust great explosive energy going to waste. It is this that is utilized in a new fuel announced recently, according to Popular Science Monthly. Fuel made from dust or scorings not only will make use of waste material, but will reduce a big potential fire hazard in manufacturing plants, explains W. A. Noel, an engineer of the bureau of chemistry of the Department of Agriculture. It would solve the problem of cheap fuel for factories, he adds, for it may be used in steam or gas engines.

Wood, metal, leathers, chemicals, cork, rubber, sugar, grain, cocoa and cinnamon are but a few of hundreds of products from which the inflammable dust may be obtained. Probably the most powerful of all dusts is that of aluminum, while grain dusts are available in the greatest quantities.

How Races Decay

But why this swift, continual flux? Why this incessant growth and decay, this birth, senescence and death of races? Can it be that races, like individuals, go through processes of infancy and childhood, of maturity and senility? Can it be that natural laws, such as limit the life of members of a species, limit the life of a species as well, and that tribes of plants and animals are mortal because of the very laws that brought them into being, and that their sentence of death is written in their very certificate of life? Perhaps perpetuity is not even potentially possible for any race—at least, for any race higher than the protozoa, those one-celled animals individually capable of enduring forever; perhaps there is a fixed natural period, a racial "three score years and ten," beyond which no species can normally endure; perhaps various growing diseases and weaknesses of the racial mechanism must ultimately prove fatal, just as physical defects must eventually destroy the individual.—From "The Decline of Man," by Stanton A. Coblenz.

Foreigners in Shanghai

Forty-five foreign nationalities were disclosed in the last census of the French and International settlements at Shanghai. Of these the Japanese led with a population of 13,804. England was second with 8,191, Russia third with 4,109, and the United States fourth with 3,003. The total population of Shanghai, including territory properly belonging to it, was estimated at more than 2,000,000. The total Chinese population within the boundaries of the two foreign concessions was 1,107,851.

FROM PALETTE TO MORTAR BOARD



Young women artists turn from their jars of color and paint brushes to assist plasterers in setting ornaments in place atop huge pylons which adorn the main entrances to the Palace of Agriculture and Food Products, of the vast exhibition buildings which forms a part of the great Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition being staged in Philadelphia from June 1 to December 1 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Climbing ladders and walking along rickety scaffolds is nothing new to these young ladies, but each time they do it they get a thrill.

Sicilian Brigand

The Madonian mountains in Sicily have for a long time been infested with brigands who have been committing murders and robberies and kidnapping people without being molested. The new Fascist prefect and the new chief of police determined to rid the terrorized inhabitants of these human pests. They surrounded all the small towns adjacent to the mountains with militiamen, policemen and mounted carabinieri, and after a four months' blockade they have captured the notorious brigand, Ferrarello, and his band of 50 men, who have been raiding the surrounding districts for the last 33 years.

All Is Vanity!

"Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity." Morris Fishbein, editor of the Journal of the American Medical Association, agrees with the preacher. "America's beauty bill," he told the Des Moines Federation of Women's Clubs, "is \$80,000,000 a year." And he attacked vigorously plastic surgery, cosmetics, "beauticians" and "cosmetologists" who share in this great vanity fund. The doctor finds no merit in rouge or even beauty creams. Venus didn't have any, nor Cleopatra, he said triumphantly.—New Orleans Item-Tribune.

Sun and the Weather

The chief of the weather bureau, Dr. C. F. Marvin, is not one of those who believe that solar variation is of importance in forecasting weather. He thinks variation in the intensity of solar radiation is of small importance to the government meteorologist in prognosticating future climatic conditions. So far, says Doctor Marvin, he and his colleagues in the weather bureau have found little to substantiate the contentions of certain students in the Smithsonian Institution to the effect that the fluctuations in weather can be ascribed to the variation of the rays of the sun.—Pathfinder Magazine.

Molecules

A "molecule" is the smallest part of a substance that can exist separately and still retain its composition and properties; the smallest combination of atoms that will form a given chemical compound. In physics, the structural unit, as distinguished from the atom, and applied to particles of gases in the kinetic theory independently of their relation to the chemical molecule.

Snow Reef in Mountains

One of the few snow reefs to be found in all the Rocky mountain range, is on "Snow Reef Top" in Glacier National park. This snow reef is there the year round and is much raved over by landscape painters and camera artists. In some parts of this reef, which forms a crescent near the mountain peak, the snow is drifted 100 feet high.

Fought to Establish Jewish Independence

The Maccabees was the name of a family in Syria, which during the Second century before Christ, resisted the persecutions inflicted upon the Jewish nation by the Seleucidae. After the death of Mattathias, the leader of the revolt, in 106 B. C., his son Judas Maccabaeus, defeated the Syrians in three battles, reconquered Jerusalem, purified the temple, and restored the worship of Jehovah. He was slain in 101 B. C., and was succeeded by his brother, Jonathan, who was raised to the dignity of high priest, but was afterward treacherously slain at Ptolemais in 144 B. C., by Tryphon, the guardian of the young prince Antiochus Theos.

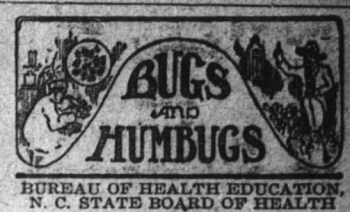
His brother, Simon, then succeeded to the leadership of the commonwealth, and completely established the independence of the Jews. After seven years of beneficent rule, he was murdered, together with his two sons, by his son-in-law, Ptolemy, who vainly hoped to be chosen his successor. John Hyrcanus, son of Simon, was the next ruler. He renewed the alliance with Rome, conquered Idumaea, and took the title of king, 107 B. C. Syria became a Roman province in 63 B. C.

Nature's Adaptability

If rabbits in a laboratory are made dizzy for a brief period every day, the little semicircular canals in their heads will become adjusted to the new state of things, and finally their heads will not swim any more. Evidence on how the apparatus for balancing the body gradually adapts itself to situations has recently been reported by Dr. Knight Dunlap, professor of psychology at Johns Hopkins university. Doctor Dunlap produced the state of dizziness and the jerking of the eyes known as nystagmus in the rabbits by rotating them and applying cold water to the ears. It had been previously found that candidates for aviation need not be rejected because their heads swim easily when they were spun around in a chair, as they might become adapted to the unusual motion.

Stymied at Lunch

Golf is a game that has a special vocabulary of its own, and beginners are at first a little at sea with regard to the meaning of some of the terms. You are "stymied," for example, when your opponent's ball lies directly in the path your own ball must take in order to drop into the hole. The Tattler says: A gentleman was playing on a certain links in Scotland when he turned to his caddy and said: "I say, caddy, why couldn't that fellow get his ball into the hole?" "He was stymied, sir," was the reply. "He was what?" "He was stymied, sir," repeated the caddy. "Oh, was he?" replied the other; "I thought he looked rather funny at lunch."—Youth's Companion



CROUP

Unfortunately, this word croup has been used as a name for various conditions, some serious and some not, until there is some misunderstanding in the minds of many as to just what the word means.

Literally, croup is a disease characterized by laborious and suffocative breathing, with sometimes spasm of the larynx and sometimes a local membrane in the throat. Diphtheria also causes a membrane in the throat and when the disease is severe the swelling in the throat causes a choking with difficult breathing.

Because of this similarity, diphtheria is sometimes called croup. This is unwise for it leads to confusion and often obscures the seriousness with which diphtheria should always be considered.

"Itis" is a suffix meaning inflammation and laryngitis means an inflammation of the larynx. Among the less serious affections of the respiratory tract in infants, none gives more alarming symptoms than acute, spasmodic laryngitis. During a spasm of the larynx in infants there are very few diseases which strike such terror to the hearts of parents, and yet as common as it is, it is consoling to know that babies do not die from such spasms alone. A characteristic of simple catarrhal laryngeal cough is that it is absent early in the day, that it begins toward evening and increases in intensity during the night, and that, even without treatment, improvement comes in the early morning hours. It is during the stage of greatest intensity, usually about midnight, or between eleven and three o'clock, when the spasm of the larynx occurs which gives rise to the symptoms that are so distressing to the child and the parents. Cyanosis and difficult breathing, except in unusual cases, is present only during the spasm.

Any doubtful or suspicious case should have immediate medical attention to be sure the trouble is not diphtheria. While the doctor is coming use every effort to relax the spasm by heat and steam from boiling water. Either hot or cold packs about the neck are helpful.

Keeping the infant in overheated rooms during the day and subjecting it to drafts and chilling at night predisposes to spasm.

Ingenious Scheme Keeps Parental Line Intact

Respect for one's elders is a praiseworthy custom, which, nevertheless, may be carried too far. J. D. Newman observes in Adventure Magazine. On Raga, in the New Hebrides, it has become quite bad form to let one's parents die. Of course, it is rather difficult to keep them alive if they fall out of a tree and break their necks, or meet a shark while they are swimming about in mid-ocean, and extreme old age is also responsible for many casualties. Even so, the respected parent must not die; he must, on the contrary, live more vitally than ever, and the practical-minded indigenes have found a perfectly simple solution to this awkward problem. They go to the next village or a neighboring island and buy a child of the desired sex, whom they adopt—as their father, mother or grandparent, as the case may require. The child is given the deceased's name, rank and precedence. He is treated with every mark of respect formerly accorded the real relative—at least when the occasion calls for ceremony.

This makes for astonishing confusion among relatives, and it drew from one visitor, who came from another island, the scornful comment:

"Raga! Oh, that is the place where they marry their granddaughters!"

Crow Deserves No Mercy

The crow is generally regarded by naturalists and sportsmen as one of the most destructive robbers of birds in the country and his depredations occur chiefly during the nesting season when the young are helpless. As a result of the enormous damage caused by crows in the destruction of game and useful birds, movements have been started in several parts of the country to conduct a vigorous warfare against them. In some states there are already bounties on crows. Anti-crow clubs are being formed in localities everywhere throughout the country where the crow has become a pest. Doctor Warren, who has made extensive studies in bird life, believes that the crow is one of the worst of all destroyers and his conclusions have led him to denounce this predatory species in severe terms.