

HOW THEY ORIGINATED.

Some of the Queer Expressions Now in Common Use.

"Dead as a Door-Nail" Explained—"I Acknowledge the Corn" First Used by a Congressman—"Takes the Cake" a Negro Contribution.

"Mad as a March hare" is another much-used phrase. The hare is not reputed to be ferocious at any time. Those who have given information respecting the hare assert that in March the animal is particularly wild and shy. Consequently the phrase can have no meaning except as a sarcastic allusion to one's lack of courage and spirit.

One often hears "He's as dead as a door-nail," yet it is probable that most of those who use the phrase cannot tell why a door-nail should be deader than any other nail that is made of metal. It is explained, however, that the door-nail in earlier times was the plate on the door upon which the old-fashioned and now unused "knocker" struck to arouse the inmates of the house. As the plate or nail was struck many more times than any other nail, it was assumed to be deader than nails struck only when driven into wood.

"I acknowledge the corn," meaning to retract or take back, has a number of explanations, the most plausible of which is that, in 1828, one Stewart, of Ohio, made a speech in congress in which he declared that "Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky sent their haystacks and cornfields to New York and Philadelphia for a market." Wickliffe, of Kentucky, questioned the correctness of the statement. "What do you send?" asked Stewart. "Why, horses, mules, cattle and hogs." "What makes you horses, mules, cattle and hogs?" continued the Ohio man; "you feed one hundred dollars' worth of hay to a horse; you just animate and get on top of your hay stack and ride off to market. How is it with your cattle? You make one of them carry fifty dollars' worth of hay and grass to the eastern market. How much corn does it take at thirty-three cents a bushel to fatten a hog? Why, thirty bushels. Then you put thirty bushels in the shape of a hog and make it walk off to the eastern market. "I acknowledge the corn," shouted the Kentucky member.

"To take the cake" had its origin in the cake walk in which colored couples participated, the prize being a cake. Hence, anyone who does a thing conspicuously well, or sarcastically and more usually, one who fails is said "to take the cake."

"A little bird told me" is an almost universal adage, based upon the idea that this ubiquitous wanderer from the vantage of the upper air spies out all strange and secret things and tells them to those who can understand. Thus, in Ecclesiastes, x, 20: "Curse not the king, no, not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bed chamber; for the bird of the air will carry thy voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter."

"Let us return to our mittens," meaning let us return to the subject matter from which we have wandered. The phrase comes from an old French play, in which a draper who had been cheated by a lawyer of six ell of cloth appears in court to defend a shepherd who has stolen twenty-eight sheep of the draper. The pretense of the thievish lawyer caused the draper to wander from the sheep thief to his swindling lawyer, confusing the judge to our mittens" (sheep).

"Not worth a tinker's damn" is really not profane in itself, as the last word should be spelled without an "n." A tinker's damn is a wall of dough or clay raised around a spot which the plumber is repairing, just as he desires it, fixed with solder. The material can be used but once; consequently, after being used, is worthless. Hence the force of the adage for a comparison of worthless things.

"Everything is lovely and the goose hangs high" is a much-used expression, but why the hanging of the goose high should have anything to do with making everything lovely is not clear, unless it is explained. Hangs is a misapprehension of the word "hanks," the cry of the wild goose as it flies. On clear days wild geese fly high, hence they "hank" high. Consequently the adage means everything is lovely and the weather is fair.

"I'll put a spoke in his wheel" has very little meaning as the word spoke is now used, and, instead of being a threat, might be considered as a pledge to assist. It had its origin many years ago when wheels were solid except three holes to receive a "spoke" or pin when going down hill, which acted as a brake. In 1689, in a memorial, two measures designed to interfere with the arbitrary government of James II. are spoken of "as such spokes in their chariot wheels that made them drive much heavier."—N. Y. Journal.

Secretary Morton's Death in Embryo. NEBRASKA CITY, Neb., February 17.—Early yesterday morning entities were found dragging at a prominent place in this city of Hon. J. Sterling Morton, secretary of agriculture, and his son, Earl Morton, bearing the inscription: "Compliments of Democratic Marching Club." It is not known who did the work. The deed is the continuation of the part of many prominent Democrats on account of the Nebraska appointments made by Secretary Morton, whose home is here.

W. L. O'Brien Dead. CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—Colonel W. L. O'Brien, one of the best known railroad men in the country, died at the Grand hotel this morning.

Torch a Woman's Hile

Electric

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REVIEW OF TRADE.

But the Snow and Storm Checked the Business, Principally.

THE SOUTH'S TRADE REMAINS GOOD.

The Volume of Business During the First Half of February Shows a Decrease Over January. The Southern Cities Remain Firm.

New York, February 17.—Broadstreet

Telegraphic advices from leading trade centers make it plain that the volume of general business since the beginning of the month shows a decrease as compared with a corresponding portion of January this year, and it is difficult, of course, to determine at this writing how much it is due to a natural temporary recession of the wave of the incoming tide. There is a disposition to continue disposing of stock and buy for immediate wants until after the tariff question is disposed of. This is evidently, it is being some effect. Commercial travelers for dry goods, clothing, hardware, shoes and other houses, in a number of instances, are on their way home, or have arrived home, and report many orders, of those secured, dependent on the passage or otherwise of the tariff bill.

Snow and storms have temporarily checked business west, many railway lines being blocked and country roads rendered impassable, though south-western advices are that the snow is of value to the water wheat.

The general activity in the commercial line is in dry goods, shoes, rubbers and southern plant on supplies.

Wool is duller, with manufacturers working on orders and buying as needed. This results in shaded prices. At more important eastern dry goods centers, jobbing is very moderate, and is being cut to 1-2c and print cloths lower, with stocks accumulating.

Rice is in good demand and strong, sugar is from 1-8 to 1-4c higher, and Bessemer pig iron, at Pittsburg, holds its advance, although fears are expressed of a react on now that makers will begin to produce from lower priced ores.

Recent expansion of the demand for manufactured iron and steel continues, although checked by consumers awaiting action on the tariff by congress.

The recent government report on cotton marketed from plantations indicates a probable crop of 7,100,000 bales. Merchants are fairly sanguine throughout the country this week number 288, against 282 last week and 205 in the week a year ago.

There is no improvement in merchandise lines at Pittsburg, while the gain noted at Philadelphia is in demand for solvents. The capacity for iron and steel production there far exceeds the demand. Anticipated trade revival at Baltimore has not appeared, and commercial travelers report business dull.

No change is reported at Charleston or Mobile, the feature at the former being fast demand for fertilizers and lumber. General trade at Nashville is smaller than in the opening weeks of January, but at Memphis, demand has improved in groceries and plantation supplies.

Atlanta, Chattanooga, Savannah and Augusta report fairly satisfactory volumes of business, covering fertilizers, naval stores, cotton manufactures and leading staples.

There are indications of improvement in several lines at Birmingham, but at New Orleans the volume of trade is smaller. Galveston reports leading lines fairly active.

DOUBLE MURDER AT A WEDDING. One of the Guests Killed Two Men and Cut the Bride.

"I feel it my grateful duty to testify to all sufferers, particularly weakly, worn-down females, of the great benefits I have derived from the faithful use of the ELECTROPOISE."

Mrs. J. M. BROWN, Newton, N. C.

to read about the Electropose and how it cures Indigestion, Nervousness, Constipation, Insomnia, Displacements, Irregularities, Ulcerations, Inflammations, and the hundred and one horrors in the train of

Female Troubles

AGE AND MARRIAGE.

The Girl of To-Day Weds at Nearly Twenty-five Than Eighteen.

The observant mortal must certainly have noticed among other things that the marrying woman of to-day defers her wedding until a much more advanced season in life than did her grandmother, or even the girls of a decade ago.

Perhaps mothers are more sensible in these days and the young daughter is not thrown upon the world, either in a social or more workaday fashion, until she has had a thorough schooling, which means, in these days of long terms, a communion with books until she is over twenty-one. The girl herself may be wiser in her day and generation and realize that gayeties and the happy-go-lucky existence before marriage must of necessity come to an end when she is led to the altar.

Then, again, this is an age of independent women. They enter the field of labor with men and find in such occupation less time for sentiment than was allowed for the lackadaisical girl of the past. It is our earnest conviction that many girls have been led into the error of a foolish marriage through a lack of occupation. Busy, active, intelligent women have no time and less inclination for the making of romances. They are absorbed in art, in music, or in more hum-drum occupations that return an excellent remuneration and which they are too wise to give up until they are certain that the man who asks them is able to compensate for all that they put away for his sake.

Many a woman defers marriage because she feels that her duty lies at home in the care of an aged father or an invalid mother or helpless brothers and sisters who depend upon her alone for support. Perhaps some one argues that all this tends to the establishment of a vast spinsterhood, but let us whisper that after all when the right man comes along, when real love creeps into the heart, and wily Cupid makes his presence felt, then it matters not what specious argument may have been advanced heretofore, engagement and marriage appear to be the truest art and the noblest duty; for after all we are but women and are governed more by the heart than by the brain, independent and self-reliant though we think ourselves.—Philadelphia Times.

Hard Times at the Capital.

"Say, mister," said a boy who had just overtaken a market wagon after pursuing it for four or five blocks, "do you want me to hit you in the neck with that hard snowball?"

"You bet I do," said the man, slackening speed.

"Will you gimme a quarter of I ketch him and bring him here?"

"Yep."

"Gimme fifty cents?"

"Yes," said the driver, lifting the whip from the socket; "but I won't give you any more'n that."

"Well, git the money ready."

"You haven't got the boy that threw the snowball yet."

"Yes I have. That boy is me. Dad's sick and me mother can't git work. The twis is too little ter earn anything an' I don't hustle there won't be anything to eat at our house. I'll take a lickin' any day for fifty cents."

"Sonny," said the marketman, in a voice that was remarkably husky, "here's your fifty cents. I'm in a hurry now—you needn't bother about deliverin' the goods. We'll call it square."—Washington Star.

Prof. Burnham's Career.

Prof. S. W. Burnham, who has just been appointed to the chair of practical astronomy in the University of Chicago, is one of the leading authorities on double stars. His contributions to that line of study were valuable and copious during his connection with the Lick observatory. He was one of three highly accomplished astronomers who withdrew from the staff of that institution within a year, much to the consternation of devotees of stellar science. There will be widespread satisfaction in well-informed circles over Prof. Burnham's gaining a good opportunity to resume his work. He will have access, of course, to the new forty-inch telescopes soon to be completed for the University of Chicago. Prof. Burnham is to be associated with Prof. George E. Hale, of Chicago, who was added to the faculty of that university more than a year ago.—N. Y. Tribune.



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MAINE ANTIQUITIES REFUGED.

Edgewood, Me., Was to Have Deaf Her Home.

There is a building in Edgewood, an old square, white house, concerning which an interesting story is told, says the Lewiston Journal. This tradition is that at the time of the French revolution Capt. Samuel Clough, the owner of the house, who sailed a ship between Maine and France, was engaged to bring to this country no less valuable treasure than the unfortunate queen, Marie Antoinette, and that quantities of rich stuffs, furniture and silver were put aboard his ship for the use of the exile, whose destination was to have been this same house, which then stood in Westport, it having been removed to the main land on a raft sixty years ago. It is yet occupied by Capt. Clough's descendants.

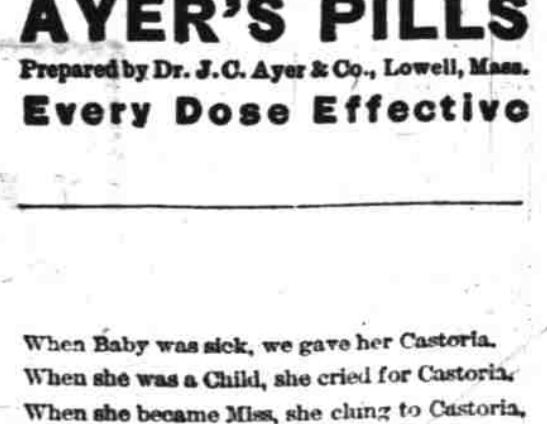
One circumstance which lends confirmation to this story is that a similar legend attaches to a house in Dorchester, Mass., the famous Swan mansion, then owned by Col. Swan who spent much of his time in Paris, but who settled permanently in this country after the French revolution, his house being adorned in princely fashion. Now Capt. Clough and Col. Swan had money dealings together in Paris, Capt. Clough in 1794 having had a contract to purchase fifty thousand dollars' worth of lumber for the colonel. What more likely than that Col. Swan, who was a warm friend of Lafayette, should have engaged the Maine captain to aid him in a plan of such great importance as the attempted rescue of the French queen, with which he is credited.

Nightmare Poetry.

Dr. Smith, the man who wrote "My Country 'Tis of Thee," tells a story about an anthem which he composed in his sleep. He got up out of bed and wrote it down in the dark while it was fresh in his memory. In the morning he tried to remember it and could not. He looked for the paper on which he had written it and found that the pencil he had used was a stub and that there was nothing but some few faint marks. So perished, Dr. Smith thinks, his greatest work.

The composition of poetry and prose while asleep is not uncommon. Many perfectly proved instances are known where men have written stuff of one kind or another, while dreaming. A friend of mine, who was never guilty of writing poetry, had an experience of this kind the other night. He dreamed he was writing poems for a magazine and he wrote a quatrain which lingered in his memory long enough to enable him to put it on paper after he had risen. This is it:

PHILOSOPHY
He sought to reach the level of the stars,
But failed. Then straight he went
And dropped a nickel in the slot and gazed
At a painted firmament.
Leaving the fact that that is as good poetry as the run of magazine verse out of the question, it was rather a queer circumstance, wasn't it?—Buffalo Express.



A FRIEND

Speaks through the Boothbay (Me.) Register, of the beneficial results he has received from a regular use of Ayer's Pills. He says: "I was feeling sick and tired and my stomach seemed all out of order. I tried a number of remedies, but none seemed to give me relief until I was induced to try the old reliable Ayer's Pills. I have taken only one box, but I feel like a new man. I think they are the most pleasant and easy to take of anything I ever used, being so nicely sugared that even a child will take them. I urge upon all who are in need of a laxative to try Ayer's Pills. They will do good."

Condensed Schedule table with columns for routes (e.g., Lynchburg, Roanoke, Salem) and times.

Northbound and Southbound schedule table with columns for destinations (e.g., Lynchburg, Roanoke, Salem) and times.

Between West Point and Richmond schedule table with columns for routes and times.

Between Richmond and Raleigh via Keyville schedule table with columns for routes and times.

Sleeping-car service schedule table with columns for routes and times.

Longman's Oil Paint advertisement featuring an image of a paint can and text: "LONGMAN'S OIL PAINT. THE BEST MARTINEZ PAINT. SOLD UNDER GUARANTEE. SMITH IDEAL HARDWARE CO., SOLE AGENTS."

Ayer's Pills advertisement featuring an image of a pill bottle and text: "AYER'S PILLS. Prepared by Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass. Every Dose Effective."

The Cameron Pump Works advertisement featuring an image of a pump and text: "THE 'CAMERON.' Steam, Air and Vacuum Pumps, Vertical and Horizontal of every Variety and Capacity. Regular Horizontal Piston. VERTICAL PLUNGE. The most simple, durable and effective Pump in the market for Mines, Quarries, Refineries, Breweries, Factories, Artesian Wells, Fire Duty and General Manufacturing purposes. Send for Catalogue. Foot of East 23d Street New York. Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria. A. S. CAMERON STEAM PUMP WORKS."

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