

"Like the Rope of Ocnus."
 Few persons who use the phrase "like the rope of Ocnus" to denote profitless labor know the significance of the expression or its great antiquity. "The Rope of Ocnus" was the name of a picture painted by Polygnotus, a distinguished Greek, who died in the fifth century B. C. He is reputed first to have given life, character and expression to painting. According to Pliny, he opened the mouth and showed the teeth of his figures, and he was the first to paint women figures with transparent draperies. Ocnus was a poor but industrious Greek, whose extravagant wife spent money as fast as he could earn it, and he related his troubles to his friend the painter. Polygnotus thereupon painted the picture of a man weaving a rope of straw, while behind him stood a donkey, eating the rope as fast as it was woven. It is pleasant to relate that the silent lesson had the desired effect upon the wife of Ocnus and that it was through her subsequent frugality and thrift that Ocnus ultimately rose to a position of great prosperity.—Minneapolis Journal.

Wart Superstitions.
 Wart lore is voluminous. It is said that a wart will leave a person if a lock of his hair is cut from the nape of his neck without his knowing it; that a wart will result if a frog spit on one; that warts may be cured by rubbing them over with a black snail, which must afterward be impaled on a hawthorn; that if a bag containing as many pebbles as one has warts be tossed over the left shoulder it will transfer the warts to the person who picks up the bag; that if one take a piece of twine, make as many knots on it as there are warts, touch each wart with the corresponding knot and bury the twine in a moist place, saying, "There is none to redeem it beside thee," the warts will disappear, and so on ad infinitum.

Lord Bacon seriously wrote in one of his works how an intelligent and nonsuperstitious woman, the wife of an English ambassador, had cured his warts by rubbing them with a piece of meat and nailing the meat up on a window post in the sun.

Success.
 The flower of true success may be gathered only by discerning persons who want it more than they want any other thing and who seek it through all the days of all the years. It has no imitation, is of but one variety and may not be pressed and dried between the leaves of any book, even the Bible. Its name is character. It is not a rare flower, accessible to only the few, but it is modest, of quiet mien and hue and is often hidden by the foliage and gorgeous blossoms of more spectacular plants, so that the merely casual eyes of those who hurry along the life path seem to miss it altogether. It grows indoors and out, in all seasons and weathers, and may be plucked by the black hands of the miser as well as by the hands of those whose time is given to less rugged and daintier tasks. The man who gathers character gathers success, no matter how he may be rated by the commercial agencies.—Richard Wightman in Metropolitan Magazine.

Locked In With a Maniac.
 The writer was once closeted with a patient whom he had no suspicion of being mad until the latter got out of bed, turned the key of the door and preferred a mild request to the writer to have his throat cut, handing him at the same time an open pocketknife, which he produced from underneath his pillow. I objected to the knife as being too small for the purpose and begged to be allowed to go for my case of amputating knives, with which, I explained, the operation could be performed with greater neatness and dispatch. He unlocked the door at once, binding me over to secrecy and urging me to lose no time in returning. I drove home, reported the case to the authorities and came back with assistance. He was secured with great difficulty and sent to the asylum.—London Tit-Bits.

The Woman in Russia.
 "Love your wife like your soul and beat her like your carpet." This is a Russian proverb. Another of the same spirit, "Not long hurt the bumps from a loved one's thumps." Wives have undoubtedly been subjected to much ill treatment in Russia, where most husbands have always held to the opinion that "liberty spoils a good wife." Some Russian proverbs are cynical as to the delights of matrimony, and most married men know how to say, "Wed once, wall always."

His Chance.
 Young Wife—Yes, dearest. I'm going to favor you at dinner tonight with a new cake that I invented all by myself. Young Husband (gloomily)—Say, I guess this will be a good night for me to bring Jim Taggart home to dinner. I don't like Jim.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Volcano Ashes.
 The ashes, so called, from volcanoes are simply lava that is finely pulverized.

A Courtier in Blue Flannel.
 A fine yacht lay at anchor awaiting a favorable breeze for her mission of pleasure. The crew idled about the deck, and a happy group of guests was aft conversing pleasantly. In the group was a handsome mother. Her romping boy of five years broke from her hand, clambered to the rail, rolled over it and was whirled down the tide. The mother's shrieks roused a dozing, lounging sailor, who at once comprehended the situation and plunged after the child. Others promptly manned a boat and soon overhauled the sailor, who was now swimming with the little fellow in his grasp. As soon as they returned to the yacht's deck the mother, with streaming eyes, threw her arms around the neck of the dripping rescuer and fervently exclaimed: "Oh, oh, sir, how can I ever repay you? Name your own reward for giving back my son and saving me from a broken heart!"

Then she pressed a half score of kisses on the tar's weather bronzed cheeks.
 "Lady," answered he as she released him, "let the youngster go overboard again!"

The Test of a Wedding Ceremony.
 A certain young pastor was planning with a young couple the steps in a marriage ceremony when the bride suddenly remarked, "Don't you make me promise to obey him."
 "You ought to have some head to your family," replied the minister.
 Then, turning to the groom, he asked, "Will you promise to obey her?"
 "Not much, I won't!"
 "What then? Do you expect me to tie you two together and leave you to fight it out afterward?"
 "Isn't that the way they generally do?"

After a moment's thought the clergyman answered: "I will tell you what I will do. I will use the same ceremony that was used at my wedding. Neither party promises to obey the other in that, and it has worked well in our case."

"I don't know," said the young man, doubtfully gazing at the top of the minister's head, already becoming bald. "If it is going to work on my head as it has on yours I don't believe that I want to try it."

The First Great Bank.
 The first great bank in the world was the bank of Venice, established in 1157 when the queen city of the Adriatic was the head of the commerce of the western world. At that time the great current of the trade between Europe and Asia passed through the Persian gulf and the Red sea to Alexandria, Egypt, and was carried in ships across the Mediterranean sea and through the Adriatic to Venice, where it was distributed to various parts of Europe. Venice was a sort of autocratic republic, founded and supported by its merchants, who were famed throughout the world for their wealth and reliability. They founded their bank, which was guaranteed by the government and was held in high credit in all the great cities on the routes of trade. The word "bank" was derived from the Italian word "banco," a bench or counter over which the business was transacted.—Argonaut.

A Giant Among Dwarfs.
 The intellect and genius of Franklin were perhaps never more manifest than when, as the colonial agent of Pennsylvania, he appeared before the British house of commons in order to undergo an inquisition into the taxation questions which were brewing the trouble which subsequently resulted in American freedom. Not fewer than 300 questions were propounded to him by some of the acutest legal and political minds of the old country. To each and every one of them he replied in a masterful manner. Edmund Burke in commenting on the matter said that Franklin reminded him of "a man being examined by a parcel of schoolboys," while Charles James Fox remarked that his inquisitors were "dwarfs in the hand of a giant."

The Unknown World.
 Notwithstanding the rapid advance of exploration in various parts of the globe it is estimated that about 20,000,000 square miles of the earth's surface remain yet unexplored. The largest unexplored area is in Africa, 6,500,000 miles, but even North America contains 1,500,000 square miles of virgin territory. Most persons will be surprised to learn that there is three times as much land awaiting the foot of the pioneer in North America as in South America.—Chicago Tribune.

A Domestic Convenience.
 Garson—Have you hot water in your house? De Long—Yes; my wife's mother lives with us.

Neighborly.
 "So you don't like that crowing rooster?"
 "I haven't anything against the rooster personally. But every time he crows he reminds me that I don't like the people he belongs to."—Washington Star.

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One Glean of Joy.
 Johnny had two presents at the same time—one a diary, which is kept very carefully, and the other a pea shooting popgun, which he fires indiscriminately on all occasions. One day his mother found the following terse record in his diary: "Monday cold and sloppy. Toosdy cold and sloppy. Wensdy cold and sloppy shot granma."—Youth's Companion.

In Legal Terms.
 She (after a tiff)—You will admit you were wrong?
 He (a young lawyer)—No, but I'll admit that an unintentional error might have unknowingly crept into my assertion.

Not the Only One.
 "Sir, I heard you using the word 'jackass.' Did you apply it to me?"
 "No, sir. Do you think you're the only jackass in the world?"—Cleveland Leader.

Resolve to wait in weakness and to walk in power.—Charlotte Stetson.

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Wheat and the Boy.
 Willie—Pa, what does "good as wheat" mean? Pa—Don't bother me. Willie—Pa, would you say I was as "good as wheat?" Pa—I might after you were properly thrashed, and that's what will happen to you if you don't stop asking questions.

Shoes.
 The earliest mention of shoes is in an Egyptian papyrus about 2,200 years before Christ.

The Demon of the Air
 is the germ of lagrippe that, breathed in, brings sufferings to thousands. Its after effects are weakness, nervousness, lack of appetite, energy and ambition, with disordered liver and kidneys. The greatest need then is Electric Bitters, the splendid tonic, blood purifier and regulator of stomach, liver and kidneys. Thousands have proved that they wonderfully strengthen the nerves, build up the system and restore health and good spirits after an attack of grip. If suffering, try them! Only 50c. Perfect satisfaction guaranteed by Allison & Macfie.

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