

KEEPING HIS BALANCE.

A Story With a Moral That is Told Among the Tartars.

There is a story told among the Tartars which has a moral for the civilized men of the present day. It is to this effect: Robo, cousin of the great mogul, was condemned to death for participation in a rebellion. The most skillful swordsman in the empire was provided for the execution, and the great mogul and his court were present as spectators.

The thin, keen blade flashed in the sunlight and descended upon the bare neck of Robo, who stood upright to receive the stroke.

The executioner's work was so deftly done that, though the head was severed, not a vital organ was disturbed. Robo remained standing.

"What, Robo, art thou not beheaded?" exclaimed the great mogul.

"My lord, I am," replied Robo, "but as long as I keep my balance right my head will not fall off."

The great mogul was placated. A hand was put on Robo's neck, and he recovered. He afterward became a loyal subject and was made cashier of the empire because, as the great mogul remarked:

"He knows that if he keeps his balance right his head will not come off."

MAKESHIFT COMPASS.

Float a Magnetized Sewing Needle in a Bowl of Water.

If a thoroughly dry and clean sewing needle is carefully laid on the surface of water in a basin the needle will float in spite of the high density of steel—seven or eight times that of water. On close inspection it is found that the surface of the water is depressed under the needle, much as if there were a thin film stretched over the water and slightly indented by the weight of the needle.

This property of liquids of offering a certain resistance to a force exerted upon their surface is termed "surface tension." The magnitude of the force of surface tension varies from one liquid to another. It is greatest in the case of mercury. The cause of the phenomenon must probably be looked for in the attraction of the liquid molecules to one another.

A sewing needle thus floating upon water may be used as a compass if it has previously been magnetized. It will then point north and south and will maintain this position if the containing vessel is moved about. If the needle is displaced by force it will return to its position along the magnetic meridian as soon as the restraint is removed.—Chicago Tribune.

Locating a Broken Wire.

When a telegraph wire is broken or damaged, say, several hundred miles away, how does the operator, sitting in his office, know exactly where the accident occurred?

The explanation is simple. It requires, as every one knows, considerable force to send electricity through a wire. The longer the wire the greater, of course, must be the force required. This force is measured in units called by electricians "ohms."

Let us suppose that a wire between a New York office and a point 150 miles away has broken somewhere. The telegrapher knows that when the wire was intact there were required, say, 2,100 ohms to facilitate the current, or fourteen ohms to the mile. He now finds that he can send a current with only 700 ohms. Dividing 700 by 14, he finds that the break in the wire is fifty miles from his end.—New York Tribune.

Foresight.

Little George, who was four years old, had been told many Bible stories. Among them was the story of the flood and the building of the ark by Noah. One day a storm threatened. The clouds grew darker, the wind arose, and suddenly the rain began to fall.

"Auntie," said George, "do you think it is going to storm?"

"Yes, I think it will," was the reply.

"Do you think it will be a hard storm?" asked the little fellow.

"Yes, I think it will be a hard storm," the aunt replied.

"Well, don't you think some of us had better begin building an ark?" he asked.—Los Angeles Times.

The Man and the Mummy.

"This," said the guide who was piloting a bunch of tourists through Egypt as he pointed to a mummy, "was a high priest, the wisest man of his day. He lived to a great age."

"Was his last illness fatal?" queried the wag of the bunch.

"Of course it was," answered the guide, with a look of pity at the other.

"That's queer," rejoined the waggish person. "His present appearance would seem to indicate that he was permanently cured."—Chicago News.

Like One of the Family.

Wing-Bjones says that when he is at your house he acts just like one of the family. Henpeckle—Yes, he seems to be just as much afraid of my mother-in-law as I am.—Philadelphia Record.

When death has come it is never our tenderness we repent of, but our severity.—Elliot.

ALL NIGHT BAKERIES.

Where New Yorkers Can Have Wants Supplied at Any Hour.

Among the many places of business of one and another sort that in a great city are kept open all night are bakeries.

The bakery is a peculiarly domestic business establishment, supplying mostly home wants, and as most people work days and sleep nights it might be supposed that there would be no occasion to keep bakeries open nights, but here, where with the city's manifold industries there must be a large number of people working at all times to keep things going, there are bakeries that do keep open and find trade at all hours.

Some of these all night bakeries have lunch room attachments, where people stop in to eat going to or from work, while others do a bakery business only. At either customers come in at all hours of the night to buy things to carry away, just as people do at any hour of the day, for the people who go to work at midnight or at 1, 2, or 3 o'clock in the morning want bread and bakery stuff before they go, just the same as do those who begin their labors at 7, 8 or 9, and there is likely to be in their neighborhood an all night open bakery where they can regularly supply their wants.

From 2 to 5 a. m. are the hours that mark low ebb in the all night bakery trade, but customers are dropping in all night long.—New York Sun.

ANCIENT GUNS.

Remarkable Weapons That Were Used by the Turks and Chinese.

At the siege of Rhodes the Turks constructed mortars by hollowing out cavities in the solid rock at the proper angle, and in the arsenal at Malta is a trophy of the long and glorious defense of Valetta in a Turkish gun, about a six pounder, composed of a copper tube coiled over with strong rope and "jacketed" with rawhide. In the same collection are some antique "quick frasers," breechloaders, with small bores and immensely long barrels, like punt guns. The Malay pirates put great trust in the long brass swivel guns called "ela," and in Borneo these elas were used as a kind of currency, large sums being estimated in guns.

The Chinese cast excellent bronze guns (there is a fine specimen of them in Devonport dockyard), but so little did they understand gunnery that in the so called "opium war" the forts of the Bocca Tigris, defending the Canton river, had the guns built immovably into the walls. The Sikh gunners opposed to England in the two Punjab wars, though they loaded with amazing recklessness, shoveling in the powder from open boxes, stuck to their guns to the last. The blood of the first man killed was smeared on the gun, and the whole detachment died beside it sooner than retreat.—Chambers' Journal.

Too Much of a Tonic.

When Mr. Chinchin returned home from Chinchin & Chinchin's the other day he found his wife lying worn out upon the sofa.

"Nothing wrong, I hope!" he exclaimed.

"I'm afraid I shall have to stop that tonic the doctor prescribed for Tommy," Mrs. Chinchin faintly murmured.

"Why? Isn't he any better?" asked Chinchin.

"Oh, yes, but I think the tonic must be too invigorating. Why, he has slid down the banisters six times this morning, broken the hall lamp, two vases, a water jug and a looking glass, tied a tin can to the cat's tail and scribbled his name on the drawing room paper. Of course it's very gratifying, but I don't feel I could stand much more, so I think I'll stop the tonic."

Bats Inside Bamboo.

The cutting down of a clump of bamboos in the royal botanical gardens, Singapore, shows that the hollows in the stems of these plants may afford a dwelling place for bats. On the splitting of a joint three bats flew out, and it was perceived that others were within. Care was taken to prevent further escape, and later examination of the joint revealed the presence of twenty-three bats in the hollow. Four of these were adult females and nineteen young ones. Other bamboo joints were also found to contain a number of bats. The species is known as *Vesperugo pachypus*.—London Scraps.

The Proper Question.

The man with the glassy eye and preternaturally solemn demeanor put down a sovereign at the booking office at Charing Cross and demanded a ticket. "What station?" snapped the booking clerk. The would-be traveler steeled himself. "What stations have you?" he asked, with quiet dignity.—London Globe.

A Criticism.

"He said this skirt of mine was a perfect symphony."

"Maybe, but it's not well conducted."

"What do you mean?"

"It drags."—Cleveland Leader.

In the world's great workshop, knowledge is master mechanic.

The Troubles of the Ledger.

Much as we regret to say, it will yet be necessary to get out two more newsless issues of the Ledger after this. We are rushing things all we can, the building is going up fast, and our new linotype is being built rapidly.

One of the editors is in New York where he is hurrying up matters. Just as soon as our landlord gives a roof over our head and when the new machinery and equipment comes, we will begin to give the best, newsiest, and neatest-looking Ledger that has ever been gotten out; it will be in the very front rank among weeklies.

On account of the torn-up condition and the lack of room and force reduced through sickness, we are not attempting to give any news at all for this and the next two issues. Were it not for the legal notices we would have stopped publication for four weeks; to keep these advertisements legally sound, we must run the four pages.

All advertisements, except the legal, are charged for at but half rates.

Our friends shall have but two, certainly not more than that, poor issues; and when we do get straight, we will more than make up for the lost time.

Just as soon as we can get our rooms and get our equipment, both old and new, together we will begin a new era. We propose to have as good a weekly as there is to be found anywhere, in this or any other state.

Remember, please, Mr. Subscriber, that we are cramped up in a small space, with scant protection from the weather; part of our old machinery even, cannot be set up for this reason; none of our new equipment has come in yet; we are short in help; we are changing from gasoline power to electricity; much stuff is piled up too closely together to admit of its use; and until recently, the quarters now being used are so open that for days at a time it was almost impossible to work in the dust and confusion. We are now, so to speak, housecleaning, and preparing for the future.

Be good to us just a little while longer. You will not regret it. THE EDITORS.

Why he Does It.

"It is often that I have faith enough in the medicines put up by other people to be willing to offer to refund the money if it does not cure," said druggist J. G. Hall to one of his many customers, "but I am glad to sell Dr. Howard's specific for the cure of constipation and dyspepsia on that plan."

"The Dr. Howard Co., in order to get a quick introductory sale authorized me to sell the regular fifty cent bottle of their specific for half price, 25 cents, and although I have sold a lot of it, and guaranteed every package, not one has been brought back as 'unsatisfactory.'"

There are sixty doses in a vial that can be carried in the vest pocket or purse, and every one has more medicinal power than a big pill or tablet or a tumbler of mineral water.

I am still selling the specific at half-price, although I cannot tell how long I shall be able to do so. Any person who is subject to constipation, sick headache, dizziness, liver trouble, indigestion or a general played out condition, ought to take advantage of this opportunity.

Let me repaint and repair your old buggy. H. H. CALLIS, Next to King Buggy Factory.

Well Equipped to Your Repairing and Repainting.

I am now well equipped for repairing and repainting buggies and phaetons at short notice in the best possible manner and earnestly solicit your work.

Also prepared to do all kinds of blacksmith work by a skilled workman of seven years experience.

If you should need a new body or wheels I can supply you with them at lowest possible prices.

All work guaranteed, and will strive to please my customers.

Don't forget me when you need any work done in my line.

Several second hand buggies for sale at low prices.

HENRY H. CALLIS, Hillsboro Street, Oxford, N. C.

Next door to King Buggy Co.

Announcement.

I take this means of announcing to the people of Oxford and vicinity that I will on Aug. 1st, 1909 begin the practice of medicine. My office will be in the White building over the post office. Office hours from 10 to 12 and 4 to 6. Phone No. 67.

JAMES EDWARD HOBGOOD, M. D.

MATHEMATICAL SIGNS.

Origin of Plus, Minus, Multiplication and Division Symbols.

The sign of addition is derived from the initial letter of the word "plus." In making the capital letter it was made more and more carelessly until the top part of the "p" was finally placed near the center; hence the plus sign as we know it was gradually reached.

The sign of subtraction was derived from the word "minus." The word was first contracted in m. n. s., with a horizontal line above to indicate that some of the letters had been left out. At last the letters were omitted altogether, leaving only the short line.

The multiplication sign was obtained by changing the plus sign into the letter "x." This was done because multiplication is but a shorter form of addition.

Division was formerly indicated by placing the dividend above a horizontal line and the divisor below. In order to save space in printing, the dividend was placed to the left and the divisor to the right. After years of "evolution" the two "d's" were omitted altogether and simple dots set in the place of each. As with the others, the radical sign was derived from the initial letter of the word "radix."

The sign of equality was first used in the year 1557 by a sharp mathematician, who substituted it to avoid frequently repeating the words "equal to."—St. James' Gazette.

UNCLE SAM.

The Way Our Nickname is Said to Have Originated.

This familiar nickname for the United States is said to have come about in the following manner:

During the war of 1812 the United States government entered into a contract with Elbert Anderson to furnish supplies to the army. Whenever the United States buys anything from a contractor it appoints an inspector to see that the goods are up to the specifications. In this case the government appointed a man by the name of Samuel Wilson. He was a jolly, whole souled man and was familiarly known as Uncle Sam.

It was his duty to inspect every box and cask that came from Elbert Anderson, the contractor, and if the contents were all right the cargo was marked with the letters "E. A.—U. S.," the initials of the contractor and of the United States.

The man whose duty it was to do this marking was something of a joker, and when somebody asked him one day what these letters stood for he said that they meant Elbert Anderson and Uncle Sam.

Everybody, including Uncle Sam himself, thought this a very good joke, and by and by it got into print, and before the end of the war it was known all over the country, and that is how the United States received the name of Uncle Sam.—Des Moines Register and Leader.

Worshipping a Turtle.

At a place called Kotron, on the French Ivory Coast, the natives believe that to eat or destroy a turtle would mean death to the guilty one or sickness among the family. The fetish men, of which there are plenty, declare that years ago a man went to sea fishing. In the night his canoe was thrown upon the beach empty. Three days afterward a turtle came ashore at the same place with the man on its back alive and well. Since that time they have never eaten or destroyed one of that species, although they enjoy other species.

If one happens now to be washed ashore there is a great commotion in the town. First the women sit down and start singing and beating sticks; next a small piece of white cloth (color must be white) is placed on the turtle's back. Food is then prepared and placed on the cloth, generally plantains, rice and palm oil. Then, amid a lot more singing, dancing and antics of the fetish people, it is carried back into the sea and goes on its way rejoicing.

Too Much Expense.

"Yes," said Mr. Tyte-Phist, "I was just stepping on the car when the conductor gave the motorman the signal to go ahead, and the car started. My foot went out from under me, and I sat down on the muddy crossing, ruining a twenty-two dollar suit of clothes."

"Then you sat there, swore like a trooper and gnashed your teeth in rage, I suppose," remarked the sympathizing listener.

"No," said Mr. Tyte-Phist. "I may have sworn a little, but I didn't do any gnashing. My teeth are new and cost me \$30."—Chicago Tribune.

Waked Them Up.

Dr. Hans Richter, the famous conductor, while supervising a rehearsal in a London theater once was much annoyed at the calm way the players were taking the impassioned music. "Gentlemen, gentlemen," said he, suddenly stopping short, "you're all playing like married men, not like lovers."—Westminster Gazette.

See W. S. Gooch at Stem before buying fuses. July 9.

Sunset in "the Red City" of Bavaria.

The numerous entrances to the old town of Rothenburg are guarded by beautiful watchtowers, which are inhabited by impoverished old women, who rent their airy lodgings for a nominal sum. The red twinkle of their lamps high over the dusky streets of Rothenburg at night—for it is as mediaeval in its lighting as in many other ways—is very charming in effect. The walls of Rothenburg are a constant delight to visitors, who, by dint of much squeezing through narrow passageways and groping in darkness, are able to make a circuit of the city, getting glimpses on the way through loopholes of the green country outside. Wondrous views of the town are also to be had from many of the distant hills. At sunset the sight of its graceful towers and clutter of red roof tops is like a fair vision of romance. The city blazes for a moment in a fiery mist, then suddenly melts, mirage-like, in the gathering dusk, leaving a sense of something born of dream; the illusion of an enchanter's wand.—Rothenburg Letter to Vogue.

Thought She Had Arrived.

"I have moved into a perfect gem of an apartment on the sixth floor of one of those new houses," said the woman who paints china, "and am reveling in its liberal supply of fresh air and sunlight."

"But don't you find the stairs an overbalancing disadvantage?" asked an acquaintance.

"The thought of the cozy quarters at such moderate cost colors my climb with the rosette hue of optimism," laughed the artist, "but one of my customers, middle aged and filled with good food and the joy of living, evidently found it a harrowing experience."

"It seemed ages that I waited in the hall after the ringing of the lower bell, and upon hearing the labored breathing of my ascending visitor I ran back for the smelling salts."

"When I had administered all the means of resuscitation at hand she managed to articulate between gasps: 'I thought St. Peter always opened the door.'"—New York Times.

Food of the Chinese.

In the Revue d'Hygiene Dr. Malegnon, who lived for many years in China, gives some curious details of the food of the Chinese. This is what he says of the sons of heaven and the way they eat eggs: "The Chinese are great eaters of eggs, which they take hard boiled. One finds them in all the roadside places for refreshment. The Celestials have an expression, 'Eggs of a hundred years.' The eggs are not always a century in age, but one is able to get them of many years' standing. The Celestials have a preference for the egg of the duck or goose. They are placed with aromatic herbs in slaked lime for a period, the minimum time of treatment being five or six weeks. Under the influence of time the yolk liquefies and takes a dark green color. The white coagulates and becomes green. The product of the eggs, which has a strong odor, from which a stranger betakes himself quickly, the Chinese eat as hors d'oeuvres, and it is said to have the taste of lobster."

Expense No Object.

During an inclement spell of weather a lady of the order of the newly rich was so unfortunate as to contract a painful affection of the throat, and she accordingly accepted the advice of a friend that she consult a great London specialist noted for his expensive fees.

"Your ailment is not a serious one," said the specialist after examination. "You'll soon be all right. I'll just indicate to your family surgeon precisely where to touch your throat with nitrate of silver, and I think that will meet the case exactly."

"Oh, doctor," protested the wealthy matron in a tone of mingled surprise and indignation, "do order him to use nitrate of gold! Expense is a matter, I assure you, quite immaterial to me!"—London Answers.

Spontaneous Combustion.

Spontaneous combustion can only occur when oxidation causes the temperature to rise to the ignition point of the material. Spontaneous combustion of the human body is impossible on account of the heat regulating effect of the 75 or 80 per cent of water contained. The enormous heat necessary to dry the tissues sufficiently would destroy life long before ignition could take place. An old idea was that the alcohol in a confirmed drunkard might promote combustion, but Liebig showed that even if the body could give off inflammable vapor and this could become ignited the body itself would not be set on fire.

Warning Not to Hire

This is to notify all persons under the penalty of the law not to hire or harbor one Maud Brack who has left my employment without cause.

C. W. BRYAN,

This Aug. 11th, 1909.