

CLING TO ANCIENT METHODS

Many Egyptian Farmers To-Day Use Tools Such as Ancestors Had Centuries Ago.

"Use of the curious sights in the Egyptian harvest season is a modern threshing machine noisily working in a field adjoining that in which a native thresher is treading out the grain," said a Chicagoan, who has made a tour of the world in the interests of American farming implements. The brown-skinned tiller of the soil, clad in his flowing robes of white or the favored dull blue and yellow combination sitting on the high seat of the crude thresher, which is dragged over the fields by a yoke of patient oxen or perhaps a camel and a donkey or a couple of buffalo cows, appears to the stranger who sees this for the first time like the principal actor in a scene worked out by an ingenious mind for stage effect.

MARINERS' FEARS OF FOGS

Numerous Safeguards Devised for Protection Against Dire Peril of the Ocean.

Probably the greatest menace to the safety of navigation at sea is the fog. Modern steamships are seldom endangered by the severest storms, but when the impenetrable envelope of mist encloses a vessel, she is exposed to the most terrible of perils—a collision at sea. A single ship may be comparatively safe even in a fog, but when there is a fleet of vessels the danger is greatly multiplied. In addition to the customary fog-horns and sirens a fleet of warships often will keep informed of their relative positions by the firing of signal-guns from the flagship. Another excellent method generally employed is the use of the fog-horn. Each vessel in a warship fleet carries a fog buoy, a large cask painted a bright red. This is cast overboard at the first sign of any fog and floats from the stern of the vessel attached by a rope of grass fiber which does not sink beneath the surface of the water. Sufficient rope is paid out by each vessel, so that its fog buoy floats at the bow of the ship next stern—two cables' length (400 yards) when in close order and double that distance in open order. By this means the exact stations of the individual ships of a fleet are maintained, even though proceeding at a moderate rate of speed.

Suppressing a Nuisance.

When Professor Taft went up to Cambridge he had to live outside the college and was located next door to a musical family. The lady practicing her scales disturbed his equanimity very much indeed. So much so that he remonstrated with her father. The result was a curt reply: "Mr.—regrets that his daughter's musical education cannot be neglected." The future collaborator with Lord Kelvin was "cast down, but not destroyed." He sent away to Edinburgh for some bagpipes, and, not knowing a note of music, he started practice whenever the young lady played the piano. It was then her turn to sue for peace. Then came the future professor's triumph. His reply was that Mr. Taft much regretted that his musical education could not be neglected. Terms were soon arranged.—London Globe.

Cure for Chewing Gum Habit.

In one of the West Philadelphia public schools is a little mite of a teacher who has a mighty way of preserving discipline. Her pupils being unamenable to all injunctions barring the use of chewing gum during school hours, the instructor determined to make a horrible example of a couple of the most willful boys. She accordingly announced that she would decorate the school room a little, and thereupon stationed the boys on one corner of the platform where they would be conspicuous. Then she gave each lad a roll of clean white paper and told them to chew it.

Suffocated in Church.

Owing to the defective means employed in heating the Church of Geneva, in Upper Bavaria, 30 men and women and all the school children in the gallery were rendered unconscious by poisonous gases during the sermon.

Different.

"Miss Angela, may I kiss you—or don't you like to be kissed by a man?" "No, it would give me the horrors to see a man to kiss me, but you may kiss me, Cholly."—Houston Post.

CURIOUS CUSTOMS OF ASSAM

Not the Least Peculiar Among Them Is That Known as Doing "Genna."

Among the inhabitants of Assam there are curious customs described by a recent traveler: "The local nobleman who had consented to help the cook in return for his food plus pay had complained in the morning of a stomach ache, the result, probably, of a too liberal diet at my expense. I had dosed him with strong ginger, but evening found him still in pain, and he refused to take more. He expected one dose to effect a magic cure, and if it did not he considered the medicine was not worth taking a second time. An evil spirit had got hold of him, he confided to me, and the only sure remedy was to propitiate it by sacrificing a white fowl. To do so, with full ceremonial three whole days apart from the world were necessary, and therefore he had to tender his resignation.

"He came to see me a few weeks ago in Sadiya, and was much hurt at my mildly suggesting that the 'evil one' had been a surfeit of pork. The custom of shutting one's self off from contact with one's fellows is common all along this frontier, on such occasions as a birth, a death, sickness or some other unusual occurrence. It is called doing 'genna,' and takes place whenever the slightest ground can be found for it.

HAD CHOICE BETWEEN EVILS

Bachelor Could Not Save Rug and Be in Time for the Theater—Still Has the Rug.

A theater party waited half an hour the other evening for one belated individual, who arrived breathless and profusely apologetic. Apologies entailed explanations, and explanations revealed some of the exigencies, as well as the humor, of bachelor make-shifits.

Good Letter Writing.

"Authors, my altogether dear woman, can't write letters. At best they squeeze out an essay now and then." James Russell wrote to this effect precisely 40 years ago in addressing Miss Norton, and he added: "They are thinking of their punctuation, of crossing their t's and dotting their i's, and cannot altogether forget themselves in their correspondent, which I take to be the true recipe." The assertion of fact is true enough; the author is seldom a good letter writer. He is apt to be like Dr. Holmes, only "a very good correspondent as a reader of letters." But with Lowell's explanatory principle one is tempted to quarrel. The best letter writer does not forget himself in his correspondent; he leaves it to his correspondent to do the forgetting.

We Make Ourselves.

In the east, writes Frances Campbell, I have heard a woman say: "Oh, I cannot do that; I would be born next time a hunchback!" That may not be true. On the other hand, he would be bold who would say it could not be so—for even in this life we make ourselves. The miser, the evil speaker, the drunkard and glutton, and those who deny the claims of humanity, those who ignore the poor, the suffering, the outcast—see how they have made themselves!

A Musical Burglar.

An ingenious burglar was recently committed in a fashionable jeweler's shop in Vienna, the thief having entered by a hole he had made in the ceiling while playing the flute. The flat above was let in lodgings, and the landlady informed the police, when the burglar was discovered, that she had let a small room to a well-dressed young man, who played the flute all Sunday morning and afternoon. In the evening he went out and did not return. A jommy and other burglar's implements were found in his luggage, and the man must have made the hole in the floor with one hand while he played the flute, in order to draw the noise, with the other.

Insufficient Data.

Blotbe—What is Gussler like when he's sober?
Blotbe—I don't know. I've only known him about nine years.

VARIOUS KINDS OF COURAGE

Individuality Among Lower Animals as Marked as It Is Among Human Beings.

"I believe that there are as many different kinds of courage among animals as among men," said John Traylor of Richmond, Va. "There are men who can wade into a crowd of husky opponents, and, as long as fists are the weapons, fight to the last gasp. Some of these same men may dodge around the corner as soon as a revolver shows up. On the other hand, a gun fighter, deprived of his weapon, may get out of the way speedily before the fists of an angry enemy.

"There is just about the same sort of difference between the courage displayed by a possum and a coon. I've just come back from a little hunting trip in the mountains of Virginia, and I heard more than one story which proved this assertion. When a possum is treed or 'dened' he never pretends to show fight. He just hugs the limb and calmly waits for one of the hunters to climb up the tree or into the den and pull him out. Of course, he will bite if he is not seized behind the neck, but he never puts up a fight.

PERILS OF OVER-POLITENESS

According to This, Sudden Changes Are Things That It Is Well to Avoid.

Following is an extract from a lecture delivered recently at the Battle Creek sanatorium by Horace Fletcher: "Never have a scrap at the table; never discuss bills at the table; never argue politics, religion, or the suffrage movement, because it is inimical to digestion. What you should do is to prepare yourself to pass compliments across the table, for that is the best sauce for digestion.

The Shah's Highway.

It is true we have some bad roads, but most of our highways compared with those of Persia would be as a paved street to a plowed field, says a correspondent of Harper's Weekly. You would think that the keeping of the shah's highway would be one of the first cares of a state, yet so little attention has been given to this subject by the Persian government that there are not a dozen good wagon roads throughout the whole country.

English Woman Visitor.

An English visitor in this country is Lady Coleridge, widow of the late lord chief justice of England, who died in 1894. She was Miss Amy Augusta Jackson Lawford, and she was entrusted to his care returning home in England after a visit in this country. They fell in love with one another on the trip across the ocean and the marriage resulted. She has not visited the country since.

A Bird Census.

The department of agriculture is taking a census of the birds of the United States, and even before its completion is able to estimate that there are 1,414,000,000 of them about. The census is also for the purpose of finding out what birds help and what birds harm the crops with a view to distinguishing the insect-eating varieties.

NO MARKET FOR UMBRELLAS

United States Consul in Peru Has Post in Country Where Rain Is Unknown.

Former Secretary of State S. M. Taylor of Urbana, now United States consul to Peru at Callao, is home on the first leave of absence from his post since he was assigned to Callao three years ago. "We like life in Peru," said Mr. Taylor. "While my office is in Callao, I live in Lima. Callao is the seaport, a place of about 35,000 population, while Lima, seven miles distant, has a population of 150,000. We are 11 degrees south of the equator, so that this is their summer, but it is never very hot there. They get the sea breeze and it rarely gets over 85 degrees Fahrenheit, while the lowest temperature is about 65. Of course, frost never occurs there.

LOOKING AT IT IN TWO WAYS

Pertinent Remark Ex-President Roosevelt Is Credited with Making to Admiral.

At a recent banquet of the alumni of the Virginia Military Institute in New York, Harry St. George Tucker, of Lexington, Va., whom the gallant men of that state love to call "Governor" because he came within distance of the chair shortly before he was made president of the Jamestown exposition, recounted a story Admiral Harrington told to him. The admiral was showing President Roosevelt the things at the Norfolk navy yard not marked by pathway signs, when they came upon a view commanding some battleships lying peacefully in the late afternoon of an Indian summer day.

Young, but Has Traveled Far.

Just two years old, Sarah Clarkson already is so widely traveled it would trouble many a grown person who thinks himself something of a globe trotter to catch up with her. She has traveled almost 50,000 miles in the course of her short life and was paying her first visit to New York when the steamship Inverness, of which her father is the captain, put in there recently. Capt. Arthur Clarkson hails from Boston. He is looking forward to introduce his daughter to his home for the first time before she is many days older. For Sarah was born at sea on the way from Calcutta to Bombay, and she has not visited America before. But there are few important seaport towns in the far east that she has not looked on with her baby eyes, and in every one of them, avenging hundreds of her sex who have mourned the faithfulness of Jack sloop, she has left behind a trail of sweethearts among the big, wind-tanned men who go down to the sea in ships.

One Trip Nearly Paid for Schooner.

Dealers at T wharf were given a surprise when Capt. Horace Hillman of the 14-ton schooner Eliza Benner of Edgartown offered 20,000 pounds of fish to buyers at the exchange. No one believed that a schooner the size of the Benner would attempt rounding Cape Cod at this season so deeply loaded. But the captain had recently purchased the vessel and thought if he could reach Boston at a time of high prices he might be able to nearly pay her purchase price.

At the Tomb of Rachel.

Writing from the Holy Land, a correspondent of the Philadelphia Exponent has this to say about the tomb of Rachel, which is marked by a memorial the funds for which came from Sir Moses Montefiore: "Two hours' journey to the south of Jerusalem, on the road toward Hebron, stands a small fortress called Barak, beside the gate of which are three tanks for the reception and preservation of rain water. Near this fortress, beside a spring, stands a house said to have been built by King Solomon, and a mile and a half farther south is the tomb of Rachel."

Mistake of Australian Colonists.

In the early days, colonists, thinking to make their surroundings more homelike, introduced rabbits. The rabbit, coming to Australia, increased and multiplied at such a rate that it overspread the whole continent, and became a nuisance, to keep which in check has cost many millions of pounds, and will yet cost many millions more. The Australian rabbit brings forth its first family—of up to nine or ten—at the age of three months. Thereafter, the doe produces the same litter every month.

TOOK HIS OWN PHOTOGRAPH

Clever Method by Which British Hunter Got Good Snapshot of Lion in Jungle.

Penetrating the wilds of British East Africa with a camera and a cinematograph, Mr. Cherry Kearton, the skilled "nature photographer," has brought back to England some amazing pictures of strange beasts. Mr. Kearton had one great disappointment. The lion eluded him so far as the cinematograph was concerned. For a week on end, night and day, the photographer fixed his apparatus in a tree and waited for a lion. But he found the lions extraordinarily wary. The nearest he ever got to one with the cinematograph camera in daylight, was 150 yards. Then the lion, not the photographer, bolted. At this distance the lion appeared so small upon the photographic films that the picture was useless.

MOSTLY MADE IN TEN YEARS

Harriman's Immense Fortune Absolutely Without Parallel in History of Self-Made Men.

The final appraisal of the late E. H. Harriman places it at a value of \$149,000,000. This is more than \$50,000,000 over the most liberal estimate made when it was a matter of speculation. As a rule, when an appraisal of an estate of great wealth, which is much talked of, is made, the public estimate is found to be greater than the fact. Estates shrink under careful examination. But in the present case the contrary has been the fact. It is much larger than even his intimates supposed.

Steel Superseding Wood.

The substitution of steel for wood goes steadily on. Beginning with January 1, or thereabouts, the National Lead Company will pack its white lead in steel kegs, having decided to abandon the use of wooden kegs. This innovation is made because the company has concluded that steel kegs will have many advantages over the wooden kegs. In the first place, the steel package does not absorb the oil from the lead as porous wooden packages do, and there is, therefore, no drying and caking of the lead around the edges, making it possible to remove every particle of white lead easily from the steel keg. The new steel kegs also will be much lighter, as well as being stronger than the wooden ones, and this will effect a saving in freight charges. Taking up less room than the wooden kegs, the new steel package also will save storage space.

Courtship Class for Jap Girls.

Japan has killed the last doubt as to its modern progress by the organization of a "class of courtship" for girls in each of the secondary schools. The Japanese maidens are taught that if they "should be so unfortunate as to fall in love before becoming engaged they must conceal the fact. Above all they must remember that women never propose. Another thing, they are warned that well-bred girls do not exchange photographs with their admirers. In Japan until now there has not been any trouble about courting, and this is the first evidence that the Japanese maidens need instruction in affairs of the heart.

Stanley's Estimate of Leaders.

In his recent published autobiography Sir Henry M. Stanley says: "The civil war only developed two first-rank men, and those were Grant and Lee, but in the second rank there were many who might possibly, with opportunities, have rivaled the first two. I believe if it were put to the vote of the military class as to which was the greater of the two greatest captains of the war the vote would be cast for Robert E. Lee. Nevertheless there was something in Grant which, though not so showy as the strategy and dash of Lee, makes me cast my vote for Grant."

Restless Royalty.

"Before their marriage he said she should be treated like a queen." "Well," answered Miss Cayenne, "she has kept his word after a fashion. His household is very like one of those little European monarchies."

NO NEED FOR AN ARCHITECT

But for Demijohn School Board Might Have Found Out Earlier What Was Wanted.

Mayor Edward Schwabenland of Riverside, N. J., and Henry Tesnow, one of the most popular residents of that thriving little borough, were talking the other day on queer sayings and doings, when Eddie told of a motion that had once been made in a school board of which he was a member.

LAUGHED IN FACE OF CARE

New York Artists Turned Eviction Tribunal into a Time of Joyous Merry-making.

The trials and tribulations of the large number of clever young men and women who are struggling for recognition as writers and artists in New York city are lightened in considerable degree by festivities in the studios.

Hopeful Sign.

That the war on tuberculosis pays immediate dividends in human life is proved by a report of Dr. Bosley, health commissioner of Baltimore. In the monthly health bulletin for July it is shown that the number of deaths from tuberculosis occurring in the city was 93, as compared with 123 for the same month last year. Dr. Bosley says that he attributes the decrease in the number of deaths to the educational campaign that those interested in the fight against the "white plague" are making. "The interest of the public has been aroused," he declares, "and there is a general tendency on the part of the people to heed the warnings and to observe the hygienic rules being promulgated." In ten years, if the present progress is kept up, Dr. Bosley believes that tuberculosis will be stamped out.

Haakon Follows the Hounds.

King Haakon of Norway is fond of telling his first appearance with his regiment, when he headed it at parade. It was the King's Own Norfolk Yeomanry.

Yarn That Fetched a Quarter.

Sad-eyed party—Say, boss, won't you give me a few cents toward getting my wife into the Old Ladies' home? Householder (dubiously)—Why doesn't your wife come here herself? S. E. P.—Well, you see, boss, she's a woman an' you kin hardly expect her to go around admittin' she is old enough for that.—Boston Transcript.

Must Have.

"Who was 'The Woman with the Serpent's Tongue'?" "The Woman with the Serpent Tongue?" That must have been Cleopatra.—Houston Post.