

In describing the Chinese cavalry, a correspondent asserts that horses in finer condition do not exist in any army in the world. He says that the Chinese is a born horseman, who has nothing to learn from Europe or America in the handling of horses, though he is ignorant of veterinary science.

The cinders from the waste burned in English municipal destroying plants are made into building material by crushing, mixing with cement and moulding into great wall slabs. These have door and window openings and even an interior iron framework for holding them in place, and some weigh as much as eleven tons. The frames are bolted together, the joints being closed with cement.

In France a wife's earnings belong to her husband. If a woman earns a dollar by washing and ironing, or hundreds of dollars by a great painting or a popular novel, every cent of it belongs to her husband. If she should happen to want to get possession of the money and put it in a bank, she could not draw it out without his written consent. It belongs to him to do with as he wills.

Natural soap baths are not an unmixed blessing. The curious soap spring that forms a wonder of a village in Timor, East Indian Islands, consists of a small elevated mud cone, from which bubbles up water heavily charged with alkali and radium, the discharge giving the appearance of a miniature volcano. A disadvantage of such a washing place is that vegetation is ruined for miles around.

In the time of Catherine de Medici and her famous daughter, Marguerite of Valois, the face was covered at night with a fine linen cloth dipped in milk, into which slices of lemon and orange, with sugar and alum, had been laid, or into a distillation of snails and lemons; but the beauties of the court of Charles II. of England went further and applied crude quicksilver to their skin so that a new one might come in its place.

Gulls are especially fond of long clams, and many gulls spend their feeding time on the sand flats at low tide getting the clams. The gull takes the clam in its bill, then flies high up in the air, over a rock, and drops the clam so that the shell will smash on the rock. The gull then descends and enjoys the dainty. In winter a gull will drop a clam on an icy place, if convenient, instead of a rock. The gull seems wiser than his name implies.

Penny-in-the-slot postoffices are the latest thing in London. The busy man who wants stamps or a packet of postcards has only to drop his money in the slot indicated, press the button and his wants are supplied. Two automatic machines for supplying penny stamps and six-penny packets of postcards have been placed in the portico of the General Postoffice. The mechanism is controlled by the weight of the coin, and is so delicate that it rejects all spurious money.

Nearly all bats have the faculty of hibernating. Their hibernation, however, is not perfect—that is to say, that when the warm days occur in the middle of winter they wake up, together with the insects which are their food. Still, theirs is a true hibernation trance, differing from sleep, with very low rate of pulse, heart action and respiration. Probably they would endure immersion in water for an hour or two without drowning, as other hibernators have been found to do.

A Pennsylvania man has devised a machine to date hen's eggs, so that the purchaser may ascertain their age at a glance. His scheme is to provide a nest to which is attached a rubber chute, which conveys the egg to the dating appliance. The chute is arranged with rubber stops to lessen the speed of the egg as it rolls merrily on its way. The dating attachment is operated by clockwork, and one winding will keep it running a year. As the eggs reach the dater it is caught in a clutch and held in place while the stamp is applied. The egg then runs into basket.

There are no onions in Bermuda for the visitor; they are all exported. No tobacco is grown in Egypt; the Khedive has forbidden its cultivation. There are no olive trees on the Mount of Olives; the Turks and tourists have destroyed them. The French do not eat frogs; the Parisian restaurant may be searched for days without finding a single frog. Irish whiskey is drunk in Scotland and Scotch whiskey in Dublin. The Holland cheese is seldom seen at The Hague, and Neufchatel cheese is made in New York. The chief justice of the Supreme Court of Egypt is a citizen of the State of Florida, and the head of the anti-Armenian party in the Turkish Empire is an American.

Where the World's Knowledge of the Deaf is Housed.

On a quiet street in Washington's once fashionable neighbor, Georgetown, there is a building whose peculiar appearance arouses the curiosity of all strangers who see it. It is something like a library, something like a mausoleum, and something like a small Chris-

tian Science church, with a roof garden on top.

It is none of these. If you know what it is, even after you are told its name, you may step right along to the head of the class. Persons who know about the Volta Bureau are not plentiful enough to get in your way.

The story of the Volta Bureau is interesting. The beginning of it lies back in Italy more than 150 years ago, when Alessandro Volta, who was to make a study of electricity, was born. Later Napoleon had a great opinion of the Italian scientist and established the Volta prize.

This prize, a great reward for inventions or discoveries, is not conferred at regular intervals. In fact, it has been given only three or four times. In 1880 it was voted to Dr. Alexander Graham Bell in recognition of his service to the world in producing the telephone.

The prize amounted to about £2,000. The original £2,000, through investments, became £20,000.

The curse of the impure heart is that it can only see the things of the night.

You cannot expect meaty sermons on a dry-bread salary.

Hawaiian Myths.

The Hawaiian Islanders have developed some beautiful nature myths. Certain phenomena have been observed, and the imagination has fitted a story to the interesting object which has attracted attention. The rainbow maiden of Manoa, a valley lying back of Honolulu, is the story of a princess whose continual death and resurrection were invented to harmonize with the continual formation of a series of exquisite rainbows which are born on the mountain sides in the upper end of the valley and die when the mist clouds the plains into which the valley opens.

The fish of the Hawaiian Islands vie with swarms of butterflies in their multitude of combined colors. How were the fish painted, A battle between two chiefs was either invented or taken as a basis. They fought on the mountain sides. Finally one was driven into the sea and compelled to make the deep water his continual abiding place. He found a unique and pleasant occupation in calling the various kinds of fish to his submarine home and there painting them in varied hues according to the dictates of his fancy. Thus we have a pure nature myth developing from the love of the beautiful, which was one of the highest emotions dwelling in the heart of the Hawaiian of the long ago.

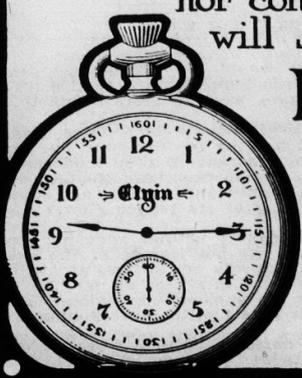
Another side of Hawaiian folklore is just as worthy of comparison with the European standard tales of Jack the Giant Killer and the other wonder workers who dwelt in the mist land. Civilized nations would enjoy reading also the marvelous record of Maui, the skillful demigod of Hawaiian legends. He went fishing with a magic hook and pulled up groups of islands from the depths of the ocean. The story is told in a way as matter of fact as if it were a fishing excursion only a little out of the ordinary course. Maui also made snares, captured the sun, and compelled it to journey regularly and slowly across the heavens. Thus the day was regulated to meet the wants of mankind. He lifted the heavens after it had rested so long upon all the plants that their leaves were flat. There was a ledge of rock in one of the rivers. Maui tore up a tree and pushed it through, making an easy passage for both water and man. He invented many helpful articles for the use of man, and meanwhile frequently filled the days of his friends with trouble because of the mischievous pranks he played upon them.

Fairies and gnomes dwell in the woodland, coming forth at night to build temples or massive walls, or fashion canoes, or whisper warning. The birds and the fishes were capable and intelligent watchers over the households which had adopted them as protecting deities. Birds of brilliant plumage and sweet song were always faithful guardians of the chiefs of long ago, able to converse with those over whom they kept watch. Sharks and other mighty fish of the deep waters were reliable messengers for those who gave them sacrifice—sometimes even carrying them from island to island and saving them from many dangers.

Sometimes the gruesome and horrible creeps into Hawaiian folklore. A poison tree figures in the legends and finally becomes one of the most feared of all the gods of Hawaii. A cannibal dog, cannibal ghosts, and even a cannibal chief, are prominent among the noted characters of the past. Praying to death with the aid of departed spirits is believed in even to the present time.

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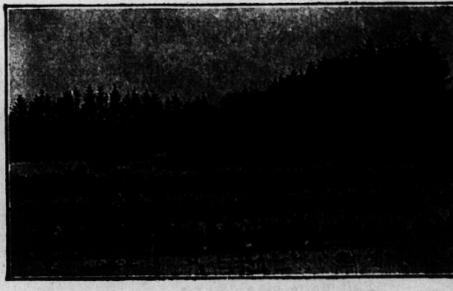
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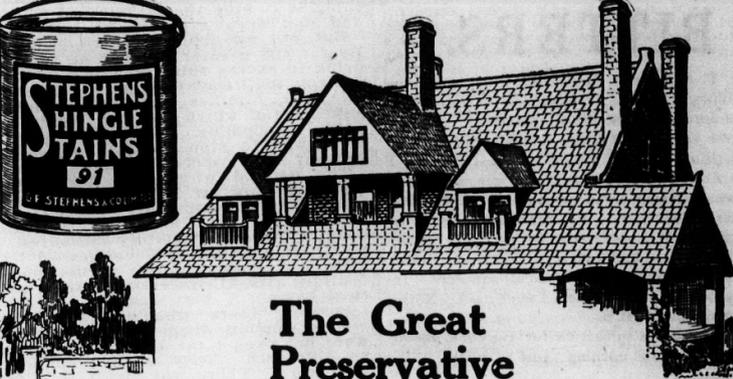


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