MC2465 POOR DOCUMENT

Plate Glass.

The first plate glass was made in 1688 at St. Picary, France, where the process was found out by accident.

The World's Water.

The surface of the sea is estimated at 150,000,000 square miles, taking the whole surface of the globe at 197,000,000, and its greatest depth supposedly equals the height of the highest mountain, or four miles.

Highest Average of Life.

Statistics show that the highest average of life is found among agricultural workers.

Free Lances.

After the crusades a great many knights and their esquires found themselves out of employment. Wandering from state to state, selling their services to any lord who was willing to pay them their price, they were given the very appropriate name of "free lances"—men who were at liberty to fight for any one who wanted them.

Lake Islands.

Lake Huron contains 3,000 islands. Loch Erne, in Ireland, has 365. The Lake of the Thousand Isles is only an expansion of the St. Lawrence river and has 1,700.

Air Cleaned Paintings.

In some of the European art galleries the dust is removed from the paintings and statuary by means of an air pump, a jet of air being thrown with great force against the article which needs dusting.

Origin of Fire.

So far as actual knowledge goes we find that the possession of fire and the art of making it by one method or another have belonged to the vast majority of mankind as far back as we can trace. A fireless race has never been found. The original method of making fire was undoubtedly by the simple friction of two pieces of wood rubbed together. With his "stick and groove" the present day Tahitian can produce fire in a few seconds.

Cromwell's Eyes.

In one of Carlyle's private letters sold in London he says: "Oliver Cromwell had no squint, stare or deficiency of any kind in the eyes of him. One eye, probably the left, but I am not sure, was considered bigger than the other."

The Yeomen.

The first permanent military force in England was the king's guard of yeomen, established in 1486.

Whistling Cure For Stammering.

A most effective cure for stammering is the method adopted by the British army council, a half hour's whistling practice daily, regularly, with the cheeks inflated only. Numbers of soldiers have been cured by this method.

Preserving Terraces.

If there are terraces where heavy rains cause the sods to slip off, a good and permanent remedy is to set common barberry bushes rather closely on the terrace. The roots will hold up the terrace and keep it safe from freshets. The lawn will be beautiful the year around with the shrubs.

Brushing a Hat.

A hat should always be brushed in the direction opposite to the hands of a clock. Otherwise the pile of the felt is taken out and the hat given a cheap, poor appearance.

Brooms.

A heavy broom should always be selected in preference to a light one for thorough sweeping, as the weight aids in the process. In buying a broom, test it by pressing the edge against the floor. If the straws bristle out and bend, the broom is a poor one, for they should remain in a firm, solid mass.

Peruvian Silver Mines.

The old Cayllomа silver mines in Peru are situated higher than any other in the world, being between 14,000 and 17,000 feet. It is believed that they were first worked by the Incas.

Channel Islands Dialect.

The old Norman dialect, or a corruption of it, is still spoken in the Channel Islands.

Washing Decanters.

After washing decanters turn them upside down and allow water from the cold water tap to run over them. In about five minutes' time they will be beautifully dry inside, and if the outside is carefully wiped and rubbed they will sparkle beautifully.

The Japanese Bath.

The Japanese bath is always heated to 110 degrees.

Norway's Wooden Churches.

Some of the wooden churches of Norway are fully 700 years old and are still in an excellent state of preservation. Their timbers have successfully resisted the frosty and almost arctic winters because they have been repeatedly coated with tar.

Freak Newspapers.

One of the most remarkable freak newspapers ever printed was the Luminara, published at Madrid. It was printed with ink containing phosphorus, so that the paper could be read in the dark. Another curiosity was called the Regal, printed with nonpoisonous ink on thin sheets of dough, which could be eaten, thus furnishing nourishment for body as well as mind. Le Bien Etre promised those who subscribed for forty years a pension and free burial.

AMAZING REVELATIONS.

How Government Money Is Thrown Away by Bungling Officials.

The stupidity of officials, ranking from Cabinet Ministers to subalterns of the army, costs Great Britain a nice thing annually. It is very amusing, but the jokes are of the most expensive pattern. The reports of the Committee of Public Accounts give particulars of these matters. That committee is a sort of watch-dog of the spending departments, and its insistent bark draws attention to any irregularity or extravagance in the expenditure of public moneys. The report issued by the committee contains some incisive criticism of the War Office. It will be remembered that the gross expenditure on the Army Votes during the year 1905-6 fell short of the estimate by £1,334,136. The actual surplus on March 31, 1906, was almost double the amount (£691,000) anticipated by the War Office in a forecast submitted to the Treasury as late as nine days previously. To the committee's demand for an explanation of this astounding discrepancy reply was made that there had been a complete upheaval of the War Office. Indeed the change in personnel was so thorough that it can be best realized by quoting the words of the Director-General of Army Finance. "All those who had had life-long experience in dealing with the finance of the army disappeared." The committee recognize the difficulty created by these circumstances and say they are glad to learn that "there is the most extraordinary desire on the part of the Military Headquarters Staff to effect reductions." As regards the future, the committee are without assurance that a more satisfactory result may be expected. For, it has been explained to them that the military directors (who now frame estimates and control the progress of expenditure) "are transient officers who come to their post with very expensive notions, and only get to know their work thoroughly by the time they have got to go." The Committee of Public Accounts next turns its vigilant gaze on South Africa. It appears that the general officer commanding in South Africa made a contract with the municipality of Standerton in 1904 for a supply of water to the troops at the minimum of 80,000 gallons per diem, the contract to run for twenty years. As the garrison has been so much reduced, and the daily requirements of the troops are already much below the fixed minimum, efforts are being made to obtain an equitable reduction of the annual payment. The committee inquire wonderingly how it was within the competence of any officer with a local command to bind the country to pay a large sum of money for a long term of years without referring the question to the home authorities for confirmation. The evidence before the War Stores Commission disclosed bribery in connection with various contracts for supplies. In accordance with the bribery clause inserted in all military contracts a fine of 10 per cent. is recoverable in such cases. In every established case of bribery the name of the firm is automatically removed from the list of Government contractors. In connection with expenditure under the Military Works Loan Acts, the committee's attention has been drawn by the comptroller and auditor-general to the following instances of the loss of public money due to successive changes of policy.

(i) At East Bulford there has been a loss to the public of between £140,000 and £150,000 in erecting a Mounted Infantry School, which was closed on July 1, 1906.

(ii.) At Tidworth nearly a million pounds has been expended in building barracks for eight infantry battalions, though only four are needed. The surplus barracks are being altered at considerable additional cost, so as to house a cavalry regiment and certain other troops.

(iii.) Near Fermoy, a sum of £35,000 was expended in 1905-6 for the purchase of Moore Park (843 acres, with mansion and grounds) as a site for barracks and for training mounted infantry. The idea of a Mounted Infantry School in Ireland has now been dropped.

(iv.) At Stobs, "the original idea was that it was going to be a great training ground for troops, but it has been given up." the War Office having "only spent £56,000 out of the £725,000, which had been intended, . . . at a time when it was anticipated to have six Army Corps." The land purchased is used "mainly for volunteer camps and things of that sort."

Famous Lilac Tree.

Chief among the many objects of interest in the gardens of Eastern Lodge, Dunmow, Eng., the residence of the Earl and Countess of Warwick, is the magnificent lilac tree which occupies a conspicuous position on the terrace. This tree is the finest specimen of its kind in the United Kingdom. It has a circumference of 120 feet and a height of 16 feet and it has so dense a growth and blooms so profusely that when in flower it forms a huge bouquet of lilac blossom. The lilac is that commonly known as the Persian, and described by the botanists as the Chinese; but it is not a native of either Persia or China, but was raised in the Rouen Botanic Garden in 1795 by the hybridization of the true Persian lilac and the common lilac of British gardens. It was of noble proportions at the middle of the last century, and produced such a magnificent display of blossoms that in the flowering season Viscount Maynard, Lady Warwick's grandfather, used to make a special journey from London to enjoy the beauty and fragrance of the flowers.

Wouldn't Lose Two Days.

A young man who dropped into the recorder's office for a marriage license, finding that a license had just been issued containing the name of the young lady who was to figure in the document sought, purchased his license all the same with the name of another girl inserted. That was his day for getting ready to be married, and he didn't propose to let small matters bar the way.

THE GREAT WRITERS.

Ideas and Inspiration Taken by One Author From Another.

BUT GENIUS BORROWS NOBLY

The Crude Ore Is Refined and the Raw Material Fashioned Into a Thing of Beauty—Shakespeare as a Most Brilliant Example.

Our great writers are not great robbers. Literature is not a repository of stolen goods. What seem like stealings by the steel pen are rather the output of the lapidary or a reissue of the mint or, better still, the borrowings from a bank repaid with interest.

"It is wonderful," says Charles Reade, "how genius can borrow." "All literature," remarks Oliver Wendell Holmes, "lives by borrowing and lending," and, he adds, "A good image is like a diamond, which may be set a hundred times in as many generations and gain new beauties with every change." This is not a question of originality. "The lighting a candle at a neighbor's fire," observes Dean Swift, "does not affect our property in the wick and flame." "Genius borrows nobly." The transference is often a transmutation. For brass, the borrower brings gold, and for iron, silver, and for wood, brass, and for stones, iron. The crude ore is refined and the raw material fashioned into a thing of beauty.

It has been pointed out by Mr. Huth in his "Life of Buckle" that there is a kind of pedigree in literature. Dante avows his indebtedness to Virgil, as the latter himself was under obligations to Homer.

Ariosto owes much to Virgil, and Spenser borrows frequently from Ariosto. Spenser's "Faerie Queene" gave birth to Fletcher's "Purple Island," and this to Bernard's "Isle of Man," and this in turn to Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe" and Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress"—all like so many blossoms rising from the one stem.

Shakespeare has been called "the great Warwickshire thief," so inveterate is his borrowing habit. He invaded literature like a Napoleon and brought back the rarest art treasures to enrich and beautify his verse. One is surprised to learn that our dramatist has no original plots, that he has given to poetry no new rhythm or stanza and that "he ran not only in the old road, but in the old ruts." His "As You Like It" is taken from an old romance. The characters of his "Julius Caesar" are old Romans taken from Plutarch. But what borrowing! Dry bones are turned into living men. The commonest materials are taken into the lambent flame of his genius and transmuted into airy beauty.

Milton, too, is a free borrower. It is this fact, indeed, that makes his verse so rich in learned reminiscence and so gorgeous with "barbaric pearl and gold." He owes much to Shakespeare. Some critics think Milton's Eve is borrowed from Shakespeare's Miranda. In the "Taming of the Shrew" occurs the line:

As morning roses newly washed in dew.

While Milton in "L'Allegro" speaks of—

Fresh blown roses washed in dew.

Milton is a very mine to many. Pope is his debtor. Milton's "Smoky Sorceress"—a woman to the waist and fair, but "ending foul in many a scaly fold voluminous and vast"—is made to say, "They call me sin and for a sign portentous hold me; but, familiar grown, I pleased and with attractive graces won the most averse." Pope sings:

Vice is a monster of so frightful mien
As to be hated needs but to be seen;
But seen too oft, familiar with her face,
We first endure, then pity, then embrace.

Tennyson must have had in mind Milton's

Hanging in a golden chain
This pendent world

when he wrote:

The whole round world is every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God.

Tennyson, indeed, derives much of his exquisite imagery and felicitous phrasing from authors whose names, even many literary men do not know.

Pope borrows his "Vital Spark" idea from an old poem by Thomas Flatman.

Byron gets his "Eagle Feather" image in his "English Bards and Scotch Reviewers" from Aeschylus, who flourished in the fifth century before our era.

Coleridge owes his "Ode to Mont Blanc" to a German poem by Friedrich Brown.

Bishop Ken is indebted for his thought in "The Evening Hymn" to Sir Thomas Browne in his "Colloquy With God."

In his own characteristic manner Rudyard Kipling has met the question of unconscious thievery with a bit of verse which commences:

When 'Omer smote 'is bloomin' lyre
'E'd 'eard men sing by land and sea,
And wot 'e thought 'e might require
'E went an' took the same as me.

Let Shakespeare's lines close this paper:

I'll example you with thievery:
The sun's a thief, and with his great attraction
Robs the vast sea; the moon's an arrant thief,
And her pale fire she snatches from the sun;
The sea's a thief, whose liquid surge resolves
The moon into salt tears; the earth's a thief
That feeds and breeds by a composture stolen
From general excrement; each thing's a thief.

—S. B. Dunn in Circle Magazine.

Mercy to him that shows it is the rule.—Cowper.

USED BIBLE AS CIPHER

A Verse From Solomon Told of a Marriage Engagement.

When she left her home in the small town to come to New York to take up a special course of study her pet sister was fast reaching the crisis of a love affair. The pet sister was a most winsome young lady and had long kept a goodly train of suitors a-sighing. Was this affair to be the grand affair? The older sister hoped so, for she liked the young man cordially—thought he was just the sort to make a proper brother-in-law.

But the weeks passed, and not a bit of definite news about the progress of the affair did the older sister receive in her city boarding house. She became anxious. Louise, she thought, must not go on recklessly trifling in such important matters.

Then one night about 10 o'clock, just as she was going to bed, came a telegram. The servant brought it up. The elder sister was country girl enough to be thoroughly frightened by the pale manila, black inked envelope. How ominous it looked! At length she gathered courage to open it. This is what she read:

Solomon six three. LOUISE.

Solomon six three! Whatever in the world! Oh, why, yes, stupid, it of course meant the Song of Solomon, sixth chapter, third verse! But—and her cheeks flushed with shame—she had no Bible!

There was a great scurrying about the boarding house to find a copy of the sacred book. The girls were routed out in vain. On all sides the cry arose, "Who's got a Bible?" Just think of the sister trying to sleep that night without knowing what that verse was. It would have been just like a woman to lie down to pleasant dreams, content to know that she could satisfy her curiosity in the morning—not!

The landlady, good soul, came to the rescue. She was no heathen. She had a Bible. Up to her room with it flew the sister and shut the door. Such a turning over of pages by eager, nervous fingers! Solomon six three. She found it, and then she cried "Hurrah!" and laughed, for the verse was:

I am my beloved's, and my beloved is mine.

THE SPECTER SWIMMER.

A Legend of the Sea That Still Appeals to Sailors.

The sailor as a class still holds fast to the superstitious that have been his especial heritage throughout all ages. To him the sea is still peopled with phantoms. Men there are still who sail the sea believing in the power of the Swimmer, men who believe in the Walrus of unholy fame and in the existence of the specter bark Lucy to be seen at any time dodging in and out of the creeks and bays of the South Carolina coast. This is the tale of the Swimmer:

Near Cape Finisterre there lived a fisher maiden in days when the world asked fewer questions than now, and with her lived her fisher sweetheart. On their wedding night, runs the yarn, smugglers came down on their village, a thieving, drunken band. When they left, having done all the damage they could, the fisher maiden's sweetheart had disappeared, whether with them or through them was never known. Instead of pining uselessly, as would most women, she dressed herself in men's clothes and started to find him, dead or alive.

For years she wandered over the earth and ocean, and, though her disguise was penetrated several times and she passed through a host of troubles which vary with each telling, she succeeded in keeping up her hunt. Finally after escaping from an English prison the vessel she was on was lost at sea, and the simple Breton fishermen enshrined her in a legend which has her forever swimming the seas still in search of the man she loved and hailing each craft she nears. A sailor, be he Yankee or Portuguese, matter of fact in all things else or grossly superstitious, believes firmly that if you hear the hail of the Swimmer on a dark night at sea and answer it not woe follows swiftly.

The Perfect Servant.

The thoroughly trained English servant is in his way the most perfect kind of servant to be found anywhere, and in his station and for his duties he is not to be matched in the world. Where will you find any men so competent in their work, so completely trained and apparently emotionless in manner, so punctual, so clean, so smart, as an English butler, coachman, footman or valet? Certainly not on the continent of Europe, in the United States, in Canada or in Australia.

A LONDON MYSTERY SOLVED.

Death of Thomas Wakley Recalls a Dramatic Episode.

The death of Thomas Wakley, joint editor of The London Lancet, recalls a dramatic and almost tragic episode in the life of his father, the founder of the paper, and for many years prominently before the public as Coroner for Middlesex.

The circumstances arose out of the terrible sentence passed on the Cato street conspirators, Thistlewood, Ings, Brunt, Davidson and Tidd, a sentence which prescribed that after being hanged their heads should be cut off and held up to the crowd, the executioner shouting, "This is the head of a traitor!" To carry out this sentence the sheriffs of London were in a considerable difficulty. The ordinary hangman was not equal to the task, and it was doubtful whether anybody could be found to wield an axe for such a purpose.

However, eventually the obstacle was overcome, and the enormous crowd gathered in front of the Old Bailey burst into roars of execration when a man, dressed in a sailor's jacket and trousers, and with a black silk handkerchief tied over part of his face to serve as a mask, stepped forward. An axe was brought forward, but he refused to use it, and, drawing out a large knife, he removed the heads in succession, very skilfully and rapidly.

At that time Thomas Wakley had just commenced to practice as a surgeon, and was living in Argyle St., Regent street. Immediately after the execution he received several anonymous letters containing vague threats, but, being a courageous man, he took little notice of them.

About 1.30 in the morning a man knocked at the surgeon's door. The servants were in bed, and the surgeon, being indisposed, was at that moment applying some leeches to his temples. Hastily bandaging his head, he opened the door, and the visitor, in a hurried manner, asked the doctor to go to a patient (whom he named) who was dangerously ill. The messenger said he had come a long distance, and would like something to drink. The doctor went into the cellar, and during his absence other men were admitted. On his return the surgeon saw something rush toward him, and at the moment he received a tremendous blow, which knocked him down. Almost at the same moment he was stabbed. He received other injuries, and while lying on the ground was kicked senseless.

He remained thus for three-quarters of an hour, when he was aroused from his stupor by flames, immense volumes rushing down the staircase. The ruffians had set fire to the house. The surgeon, with difficulty, arose and crawled through a skylight into the adjoining house, where he was found. The house was completely destroyed, and no clue was ever found to the perpetrators.

At first it was thought Mr. Wakley could not recover, but his strong constitution save him. He was, however, not at the end of his misfortunes, for the insurance office refused to pay the insurance money, and he was forced to bring an action to clear his character, for the insinuation was that he had himself set fire to the house.

He won the day, and the truth of the story of the murderous assault was proved; but the mystery as to the cause of the outrage was as great as ever. All that could be found out was that the young surgeon was supposed to be the man in the mask who had executed the Thistlewood gang. There was, of course, not the slightest foundation for such a statement, and a letter from the sheriff of London put an end to the slander.

It would not have been safe at the time to say who the man really was, as it would have cost him his life; but the secret may now be divulged. The masked headsman was a man named Tom Parker, the head dissecting room porter at a school of anatomy known as Grainger's.

A Soldier's Memorial.

The grim humor of soldiers is not often displayed on tombstones, but here is an inscription from the cemetery at Winchester, revealed on a walking tour in those parts:

"In memory of Thomas Thetcher, a grenadier of the North Regiment of Hants Militia, who died of a violent fever contracted by drinking small beer when hot, the 1th of May, 1764, aged twenty-six years.

"In grateful remembrance of whose universal good will toward his comrades this stone is placed here at their expense as a small testimony of their regard and concern.

"Here sleeps in peace a Hampshire grenadier,
Who caught his death by drinking cold small beer.
Soldiers, be wise from his untimely fall,
And when ye're hot drink Strong or none at all."

"This memorial being decayed, was restored by the officers of the garrison, A. D., 1781.

"An honest soldier never is forgot
Whether he died by musket or by pot.

"This stone was placed by the h Hants Militia when disembodt Winchester on April 26, 1802, in sequence of the original stone bedestroyed.—London Tribune.

Princess Royal's Health.

ere is still a great deal of anxiety it the health of the Princess al, who is again leaving England a long cruise with her family. A -known specialist is a constant tor at her house, in Portman are, London, and he feels very erned about Her Royal Highness. princess makes an admirable pa- t. She conscientiously carries out the instructions of her medical iser. Every morning she holds a g conversation on the telephone ced in her bedroom with the een. Since her illness, Her Royal ghness has become an omnivorous der. Travel and history are her orite subjects. Like the late Queen, has a great partiality for langes. She now passes much time this study.

Shake Up Boiled Water.

The flat taste of drinking water which has been boiled is due to the fact that the dissolved air which it contained has been expelled in the process of boiling. By putting the boiled water in bottles until they are only three-quarters full and shaking well enough air will be incorporated with the water to restore its palatability.

Physical Giants Only.

The giants of Tierra del Fuego, the Ona Indians, are stunted in intellect.

Elihu Burritt.

An early American peacemaker was Elihu Burritt, the blacksmith scholar of Connecticut. It was mainly by his efforts that the Paris peace congress of 1849 practically owed its existence. Though now almost forgotten, the same principles were discussed and the same propositions laid down as obtained at The Hague in 1899.

Mail Charges.

Fifty years ago the transportation of a letter cost about twenty times as much as it does now.

Impaling in Turkey.

Impaling was used as a punishment in Turkey up to 1855. The last men so executed were four Arab sheiks who had rebelled. They were impaled at the four corners of the Bagdad bridge. One of them lived for nine days.

Manitoba's Soil.

In Manitoba you can turn a furrow 100 miles long and not encounter a stone as large as your fist. The earth for a distance down from three to five feet is a rich black loam made by centuries and centuries of decaying vegetation.

The Kinetoscope.

The kinetoscope was invented in 1893 by Thomas A. Edison, the first series of photographs being of the strong man Sandow at New York, March 7, 1894.

Java.

It used to happen in Java that, owing to want of transportation facilities, the inhabitants of one part of the island might be starving while those of another had as much rice as they could eat. Railways have remedied that state of affairs.

The Sycamore Tree.

The sycamore has been called the Egyptian fig tree. The date of its being planted in England is not known, but it was very early. Mary, queen of Scots, brought over from France a young sycamore, which she planted in the gardens of Holyrood, and from this have sprung all the beautiful groves of sycamores now to be seen in Scotland.

Uncle Sam's Twigs.

The biggest job of gardening undertaken by the government is the planting and growing of little trees, 5,500,000 of which are now being produced every year for setting out in the various forest reserves.

Slot Machines.

The first coin in the slot machine dates back to Egypt's halcyon days. It was an automatic receptacle which sold holy water and was placed at the doors of the temples in which the Egyptians worshiped daily. A tiny coin was dropped into the basin and immediately a certain amount of water was ejected.

The King.

King is the most ancient of titles. It or its equivalent is found in every known language.

Water as a Tonic.

Water is said to be one of the best nerve tonics, and physicians frequently recommend patients suffering from nervous prostration to drink plenty of water between meals. To some persons water is as bracing as wine, and it is distinctly soothing when sipped slowly.

The Classy Chow.

One of the most reliable and best behaved breeds of pet dogs is unquestionably the Chow, whose perfect manners in the house have raised him above his competitors in the estimation of dog lovers. His Chinese origin is obscured in antiquity, the type being known centuries before the Christian era and recorded in ancient Chinese manuscripts.

Private Soldiers.

It will surprise most persons, says the Army and Navy Journal, to learn that the cost to the government of maintaining a private soldier is but a trifle more than it was thirty years ago. It was about $830 then and is about the same now.

Papers of America.

To the census authorities of 1900 there were reported 18,226 publications. Of these 2,226 were dailies, 62 triweekly, 637 semiweekly, 12,979 weekly, 1,817 monthly, 237 quarterly, 268 semimonthly. Out of the 18,226 publications, 17,194 were printed in English. Aggregate circulation, 114,000,000.

Mending an Umbrella.

To mend an umbrella from which the handle has become detached from the steel rod fill the hole in the handle with powdered rosin, heat the end of the rod almost red hot and put it back in the handle.

Berbers of Morocco.

The Berbers of Morocco are an interesting blond race dispersed along the Atlas range. In the central Atlas they still call themselves Berber (plural Berebber), but the meaning of the word is uncertain. Perhaps it is the source of our word barbarian.