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### QUEER GREETINGS.

Tribes That Spit Upon or Weep Over Their Visitors.

Among the Masai and Ukerewe it is a mark of respect to greet an acquaintance or a stranger by spitting at him. Almost as strange is the custom ascribed to the Tibetans of sticking out the tongue by way of salutation. Rubbing noses is quite common; the Burmese and many tribes of Eskimos, Laplanders and Malays do so.

Stranger than any of these customs is the weeping salutation that has been observed among central South American Indians. This form of greeting occurs, too, in the Andaman Islands, New Zealand and Polynesia. A Portuguese explorer describes the custom as he saw it used among a tribe of South American Indians:

"Whenever a guest enters a hut he is immediately honored and made welcome by being wept over. Without a word being spoken he is led to the hammock. As soon as he is seated the hostess and her daughters and any of their girl friends who happen to be in the house at the time come and sit about the guest, touch him lightly with their fingers and commence to weep loudly and to shed many tears. During this ceremony, in a sort of connected discourse, they recite everything that has happened to them recently and talk of the hardships of the road that the visitor has suffered and of anything and everything that can arouse compassion and tears. The guest, his hand before his face, pretends to weep and does not speak until the crying has gone on for some time. Then they all wipe away their tears and become as lively and merry as if they had never cried in all their lives."—Exchange.

### ELEPHANTS IN A TEMPER.

When Enraged They Are Apt to Tear Their Victims to Pieces.

An elephant uses several original and effective methods of exterminating its victims. It may rush upon a man, seize him in its trunk, beat him to death on the ground and before leaving tear up the foliage for yards about.

There are many instances of elephants literally tearing their victims to pieces. The story is told of an English official in Uganda who on noticing a "safari" passing stepped to the door to inquire of the head man the whereabouts of his master. In response the black swung a human arm before the official and replied that a few days previous his master had been torn to pieces by an elephant and that he had brought back the arm in proof of his assertion.

Then again after knocking a man down an elephant will often continue on its course without stopping to learn how much damage it has done. A hunter who was within close proximity of a herd of elephants handed his rifle to the gun bearer and started to climb a tree to look about. At that moment an elephant charged from the tall grass and made for the gun bearer. As the man started to run he threw up his arms, and in some manner the elephant in reaching for him snatched the rifle from his hand and stopped to hammer it on the ground, while the black made good his escape.—J. Alden Loring in Outing.

### Gunpowder.

The explosion of gunpowder is divided into three distinct stages, called the ignition, inflammation and combustion. The ignition is the setting on fire of the first grain, while the inflammation is the spreading of the flame over the surface of the powder from the point of ignition. Combustion is the burning up of each grain. The value of gunpowder is due to the fact that when subjected to sufficient heat it becomes a gas which expands with frightful rapidity. The so called explosion that takes place when a match is touched to gunpowder is merely a chemical change, during which there is a sudden evolution of gases from the original solid. It has been calculated that ordinary gunpowder on exploding expands about 9,000 times or fills a space this much larger as a gas than when in a solid form.

### Mark Twain Liked Girls.

Mark Twain, although the creator of the most lovable boy in literature, Tom Sawyer, was really more interested in little girls, and it was through his interest and affection for my little daughter Helen that we came to know him so well and to share the last months of his life. He used to pretend that only girls were interesting, that boys ought not to exist until they were men. The fact was, he really was interested in any young creature. In one of the books he gave Helen he wrote, "It is better to be a young June beetle than an old bird of paradise."—Marion Schuyler Allen in Strand Magazine.

### Catching Cold.

Wet feet or clothes "give us cold" because the evaporation absorbs the heat so rapidly from the surface of the body that its temperature is lowered

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beneath the normal, thereby straining the organs of the body and resulting in what we call a cold.

### Water Safety.

In Massachusetts all streams of water unsuited for drinking must be marked so that the fact cannot be overlooked.

### His Status.

Mrs. Honk—Colonel Hook is a congressman at large, isn't he? Honk—Yes. They haven't arrested him yet.—Puck.

All that thou givest thou wilt carry away with thee.—Turkish Proverb.  
**RUINED THE PAINTING.**

Curious Fate of Burne-Jones' Favorite Water Color.

A very curious history is that of Burne-Jones' favorite picture, "Love Among the Ruins." The original picture was in water color and was sent to Paris by a firm of art publishers for reproduction and in that city forwarded to their photographic studios in the suburbs. The picture unhappily preceded the letter of instructions regarding it warning the photographer of the medium in which it was painted, so that immediately on its arrival it was brushed over with white of egg to bring out the colors for photographing—an excellent procedure in the case of oil pictures, harmless and very efficacious.

But, as to the Burne-Jones picture, Love was very soon among his own ruins, for every swish of the brush brought off the final touches and left a mere smeared ground. Sir Edward Burne-Jones was heartbroken at the loss of a work on which his reputation, he considered, would in great measure rest and on which he had spent many months of patient toil and the very perfection of his execution in the realization of one of the most poetic conceptions that had sprung from his fanciful imagination.

"Love Among the Ruins" was painted during the years 1870-3. In October, 1893, it was destroyed, and by the following year the oil version was finished, but was scarcely a consolation to the artist for the loss of his first and more spontaneous work.

### ANIMALS IN OPERA.

Some of Them Raised Up Their Voices With Weird Effect.

Few persons realize how many animals appear in opera. By this I do not mean such animals as the tenor who played the part of Lohengrin and was told by Von Bulow that he was the knight of the swine rather than of the swan, but real bona fide animals. They extend all the way from Monteverde to Wagner.

About A. D. 1600 it was not unusual to have lions or elephants upon the operatic stage. One can never tell what these animals may improvise in their parts. I know of a case where an elephant caused a most hasty exit of the orchestra in London long ago, when the father of B. E. Wolf, the Boston critic, was conducting.

The donkey in Leoncavallo's "Pagliacci" has not a speaking part, yet once that I know of he lifted up his voice and made Canio's great solo an unexpected duet. Balaam himself was not more astonished than was the tenor on that occasion.

In spite of the saying, "Thou shalt not yoke the ox and the ass together," Piere caused these two to sing a duet in "The Children of Bethlehem." On this occasion the ass was a tenor, but I do not believe that Piere meant any reflection upon the high voiced fraternity.—Louis C. Elson in Musical Observer.

### Couldn't Be Divided.

In Felix Moscheles' "Fragments of an Autobiography" occurs the following: Mme. Schumann was wanted to play at a little musical reunion, but she did not respond. Mr. Moscheles was deputed to approach her. "Was she inclined to play?" "Particularly disinclined," was the discouraging response.

The envoy tried again and mentioned her husband's "Carnival." "One part I particularly love, the 'March of the Davidshändler.' If I could only hear you play just that page or two!" This roused her. "Page or two, indeed!" she cried. "Wenn man de 'Carnaval' spielt, spielt man ihn ganz." (When one plays the "Carnaval," one must play it all.) And she played the whole.

### Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

After the first of January the milk dealers at Goderich will have to pay a tax of 25 cents per cow to dispose of their milk in Goderich.

### The Largest Apple

Weighted 32 1-2 Ounces—Casts Made of It to Keep Record

The largest and heaviest apple ever grown in the world has been raised this season in England at King's Acre, Hereford. It is a Gloria Mundi.

It weighs no less than 32 1/2 ounces and the announcement of its advent has created quite a sensation in the fruit world. This wonderful apple was grown in an 11-inch flower pot, the tree producing six mammoth fruits at the same time. It was this very tree which bore the giant apple of 1910. Coupling the advent of these monster apples with the fact that this season in one plantation in the south of England there were hundreds of trees carrying over 10 bushels of immense apples a tree, equal to over 800 bushels to the acre, it looks as if commercial fruit culture was a gold mine.

To show the importance attached to this latest colossal fruit six casts have been taken of it so that a permanent record may be kept of its phenomenal proportions. Britain has now the credit of producing the biggest, heaviest and highest priced apples grown.

### Dad's Dope

Recent discoveries in the Arctic have added another subdivision to Aurora Borealis city.

In the Chateaugay campaign dams were frequently mentioned. After the result was announced they were frequently heard.

The Mexican method of purging the voter lists is the most effective known. The simple process of shooting or imprisoning undesirable electors reduces duplication and confusion to a minimum.

A Chicago woman who has been married four times states that she has yet to meet an ideal husband. As her matrimonial ventures have been confined to Chicago, her failure is readily understood.

American pure food experts have discovered that petroleum is being used instead of butter and eggs in the manufacture of biscuits. Good cooks strive to have their cakes as light as possible and a little kerosene helps.

The origin of the slit skirt has been traced back to ancient Egypt. This may account for the stony stare of the Sphinx.

Dr. Wiley, the pure food specialist, states that whiskey having the maturity of four-year-old can be made in forty seconds. It is surprising the number of consumers who can not wait that brief period.

The trial of a prisoner in the Buffalo police court charged with stealing a roast of beef was delayed until the court saw the meat weighed. The charge was then changed from petty to grand larceny.

The good roads movement is not without its critics. Some farmers complain that the cement wears out the horses' shoes too fast.

### A Smile or Two

A well-known race horse owner said to a veterinary surgeon: "How is it you haven't called on me for your account?" "Oh," said the vet, "I never ask a gentleman for money." "Indeed? Then how do you get on if he don't pay?" "Why after a certain time I conclude he's not a gentleman, and then I ask him."

Of Albrecht von Haller, the distinguished Swiss physiologist, Voltaire once said: "Ah, he is a great man and a great philosopher." "What you say monsieur, his visitor replied, does you all the more credit because Von Haller does does not do you the same justice." "Alas!" replied Voltaire with a grim smile, "very likely we are both mistaken."

An old woman of enormous size hailed a tramcar, and with considerable difficulty managed to climb up and get a seat inside. When she was comfortably settled she looked round at a man behind her and said with great vigor, "If you'd been 'arf a man you'd a helped me hup." The man gave a weary-looking smile and replied, "If you had only been 'arf the woman you are I might 'ave 'ad a try."

She advanced to the cashier's window, and, handing in a cheque for \$50, stated that it was a birthday present from her husband, and asked for payment. The cashier informed her that she must first endorse it. "I don't know what you mean," she said, hesitatingly. "Why, you see," he explained, "you must write your name on the back, so that when we return the cheque to your husband he will know we have paid you the money." "Oh, is that all?" she said, relieved. Thus the endorsement: "Many thanks, dear, I've got the money. Your loving wife, Evelyn."

### Remedy For Ants

The following is a tried and true receipt for driving away ants of all kinds: Equal parts of tartar emetic and sugar. Mix dry, then moisten with water to the consistency of syrup and put in a dish in the runway of the ants. They will eat very freely of it and fail to return for a long time, or perhaps for the season.

The dish may be set away when dry. When again needed add water and a little more sugar, and it is ready for use. The one dish may be used several times. Great care should be observed in order that children do not get at the tartar emetic preparation, as it is poisonous.—Mary L. Bull.

The law of labor is equally binding on genius and mediocrity.

It is a good rule to be deaf when a slanderer begins to talk.