

ORDERING SUPPER UNDER DIFFICULTIES.

Among the humorous situations described in "A Yankee on the Yangtze" is the following, when the traveller tried to get a meal in a Chinese town at the end of a hard day's journey:

"I ordered supper by drawing a picture of a pig, but they went off and returned with a piece of sooty meat which once belonged to some wild animal and had been hanging by a string in some smoky place. Was it tiger, leopard, or coo? I know not. Then my artistic pride was aroused. The very idea that I should draw a picture of a pig and not have it recognized by 'Pigtail' was 'enthusing.' Then I gathered myself together and drew another picture of a pig. I was getting hungry, and in my despair I did my best, and I am no mean artist; but they were perplexed more than ever. Then I pointed to it and grunted, but of no avail.

"By and by I crowed like a rooster, or as nearly like it as possible, but I struck a new species which they had never heard. I next tried drawing an egg and crowing, but that failed, too; so I returned to the picture of a pig, and made motions as if rooting in the ground. Whereupon a man ran off and came back with a chunk of pork.

"But how much did I want. I made signs by pointing to the table where the visitors would sit. They understood there would be three, but would they eat as much as natives? Then off a fellow ran, and came back with scales. All this in my private room. With a knife they indicated whether it should be cut latitudinally or longitudinally; so I made a gesture, and the knife went through after a long discussion. It was weighed, and signs made how much, but I failed in reading their well-meant antics. All the while the greatest humor and desire to help me prevailed."—Ex.

TREES CAN TALK.

A tree is all ears and tongues, and by means of every leaf and twig and root it may receive or transmit messages by air or earth.

The discovery that trees can talk was made inadvertently by army officers signaling officers in the course of some experiments for improving the field telephone system of the army. In laying some telephone wires it was found that a tree was an especially good conductor of an electrical current. The idea of utilizing trees in wireless telegraphy instead of the tall masts that had heretofore been used was thus hit upon. There are better able to catch and send the electric waves, in that they have a multitude of antennae in the twigs and leaves of their outspreading branches. As a consequence of these experiments a wireless system of tree telegraphy has been introduced into several armies, compelling, other and issue commands and take orders, if need be, even in the midst of battle.

The signalling man can thus rush to the nearest big tree and communicate his message. He needs only to pierce its bark with a nail and to connect the nail with his instrument to be able "to speak into the tree;" and as he flashes word after word into its great heart he sets every woody fibre pulsating and every twig and leaf shouting. In this way the tree which he has made his confidant proclaims his words to all the other trees for miles around, and sets their fibres throbbing with the same electrical vibrations.

If any other tree, therefore, is equipped with a receiving instrument for wireless messages, this apparatus will immediately begin to tick off the words of the message and thus tell to a trained human ear that may be listening what all the tree tops are chattering about.—Science Siftings.

ORIGIN OF THE NAMES OF FABRICS.

Muslin is named for Mosul, in Asia, Serge comes from Xerga, the Spanish for a certain sort of blanket.

Bandanna is derived from an Indian word signifying to bind or tie.

Calico is named for Calicut, a town in India, where it was first printed.

Alpaca is the name of a species of llama from whose wool the genuine fabric is woven.

The name damask is an abbreviation of Damascus; satin is a corruption of Zaytoon, in China.

Velvet is the Italian vellute, woolly, and is traceable farther back to the Latin vellum, a hide or pelt.

Shawl is from the Sanskrit sala, which means floor, shawls having been first used as carpet tapestry.

Cambrie comes from Cambrai, gauze from Gaza, baize from Bajaz, dimity from Damietta, and jeans from Jean.

Blanket bears the name of Thomas Blanket, a famous English clothier, who aided the introduction of woollens into England in the fourteenth century.—Phila.

WHAT SHE WANTED TO DO.

Little girls sometimes wish they were princesses, and nothing to do. Little princesses sometimes wish they were just ordinary little girls, and could do common-place things.

One day, Queen Victoria, when a little girl, visited her aunt, the Duchess of Clarence. Her aunt, wishing her to have a good time, said: "What would you like to do? What will be the greatest treat I can give you?" The little princess showed the tiresomeness of her royalty by answering: "Aunt Adelaide, if you will only let me clean the windows, I'd rather do that than anything else I can think of now."

The sister of Joy is Patience. Patience always ends in bringing Joy, but Joy will not stay where Patience is not. An impatient spirit spoils the sweetest possibilities of happiness, for, as Ruskin truly says, "Patience lies at the root of all pleasures, as well as of all powers."

A WORD TO THE PRAYER MEETING LEADER.

No! we don't like that either. Don't like what? We don't like anybody to ask a brother to offer a word of prayer. To ask a man to say a hasty word to the Lord belittles prayer. If you want a man to pray a short prayer, then pick out a short-prayer man. If the time is limited, excuse the long-winded brother for that occasion, or else, take your own medicine, and do the short prayer part yourself. When a brother asks us to make a short prayer, we get scared at once lest we go beyond his notion of shortness, and we feel that the congregation is watching us to see how long we will take. It gets to be a habit with some preachers to ask for brief prayers, or "a word of prayer"—we do not like it. At the same time, dear long-winded supplicants, take not this as a vindication of you.—W. E. H. in Baptist Argus.

Glasgow, the second city of the British Empire, is at a standstill so far as her population is concerned. According to Dr. Chalmers, the Medical Officer of Health for Glasgow, the population in the municipal area in June last stood at 785,474, as compared with 785,465 in June of 1904, showing an increase of only 9 persons within the twelve months. The number of inhabited houses has also decreased by 114, the figures being 162,888 for last year, as compared with 163,002 for 1904. In other words "Suburbia" is attracting a large percentage of the city's toilers. Men are beginning to find that, while Glasgow is a fine place to work in, it is more pleasant, and even less expensive, to reside in the suburbs.

BABY'S HEALTH.

"When a child is well, give it no medicine," is a wholesome adage. But at the first sign of trouble the careful mother will give Baby's Own Tablets, which promptly cure indigestion, colic, constipation, diarrhoea, simple fevers and teething troubles. They contain not one particle of opiate or poisonous "soothing" stuff, yet they give refreshing sleep because they remove the cause of sleeplessness and the child awakens bright and well. Mrs. F. McIntosh, Wabigoon, Ont., says: "Baby's Own Tablets wrought a wonderful change in my little one. When he was two months old he began to fail and cried almost night and day. But after giving him the tablets he grew well and is now a bright, laughing baby, who scarcely ever gives any trouble. The Tablets are sure. All druggists sell these Tablets or you can get them by mail at 25 cents a box by writing the Dr. Williams Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

FICKLE AND FOND.

Once when a gentleman named Murray was crossing the Pyrenees, his guide's dog took such a fancy to him that it refused to go back with its master. At the inn where the traveller intended to spend the night, a boy arrived, sent by the guide to claim the dog. The creature followed the boy for a few yards and then returned to the inn. This happened again and again, and at last a strong cord was fastened around the dog's neck, so that the lad might lead it home. This he did for some distance, but when the dog found it could not get away, it jumped on the boy, knocked him down, dragged the cord from out his hand, and bolted back to Mr. Murray. In face of such marked signs of attachment, the traveller bought the dog, which at last reached Scotland, where it became a great pet in the Murray household.

GRAND TRUNK DINING CAR SERVICE.

A prominent M.P., who lately returned from an extensive trip in the west, when leaving a Grand Trunk dining car last week, said: "This is the best meal and the finest service I have had since I left Canada."

When you next visit Montreal, Detroit, Chicago, Buffalo and New York try the luxury of a first-class meal, served in first-class style, in a beautiful car, while travelling at a sixty-mile gait over a splendid double-tracked modern railway, such as the Grand Trunk.—Kingston Whig, Nov. 22, 1905.

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