

POPULAR SUPERSTITIONS

It is very wise to set our faces against superstitions, but who in his secret heart does not encourage a favourite one? I never met the person that did not.

There are many people who hate to see the new moon over the left shoulder; if they do, "somehow something always goes wrong," they declare. They do not believe such things, of course; but so it is.

Another cannot endure a stranger who parts him from a companion with whom he is walking in the streets: others will not rise umbrellas over their heads in the house, and there are men who turn pale if they spit salt.

A dry good merchant of great wealth believed that his fortune would depart when he ceased to patronize an old apple woman on a certain corner, and there are many who would fear for their lives if they lost a certain trinket or jewel.

It is said the mother of the Rothschilds always lived in her queer little house, in a crooked street, "to keep her sons their luck." Every morning servants took her to their splendid house in a sedan chair, but she always slept in the house where they were born.

Most people have a special dream that forebodes evil; and I know many who declare that it is a fact that one who boasts of being "so very well" to day, finds himself ill on the morrow. There may be some good reason for this; it actually happens so often.

To tumble up stairs is supposed to postpone a wedding. "You'll not be married this year," cries some one, and to turn back three times is regarded by many as a warning to remain at home.

Terror seizes a bride's heart if it rains on her wedding morn, and to wear the marriage ring for a moment before it is put on for good is believed to bring very ill-luck indeed.

As for on opal—the prettiest stone possible, though a very minor jewel—I confess to being superstitious about that. It is the silliest fancy in the world, but I would not put one on my finger for anything. Its baleful way of changing from red or blue to stone colour is fiendish and its fire, that glows and grows dim by turn is uncanny.

I believe a superstition or two to be as natural to every human being as are those little sparks of vanity which we refuse to acknowledge, but which, after all, help to keep us alive.

POPULAR SCIENCE NOTES.

Photographs have been taken of the corona of the sun when the sun was visible. Heretofore they have only been secured when the sun was in eclipse.

From tests made by Dr. Fisher, the German chemist, it appears that in ordinary stoves not more than 20 per cent of the fuel consumed is utilized in warming the rooms.

Experiments on the sleep of fishes have been made in London by Mr. W. August Carter. He has found that the fresh water fishes observed—the roach, dace, gudgeon, carp, tench, minnow and catfish—sleep periodically, like terrestrial animals. The same is true for some marine fishes, such as the wrasse, conger eel, dory, dogfish, bass and all species of flat fish, but the gold fish, pike, and angler fish do not appear to sleep at all, although they rest periodically.

A French geologist, Mons. de Lapparent, lately called the attention of the Paris Geological society to the effect gravitation has in heaving up sea water about the land. The continents are thus all situated at the tops of hills of water; and in crossing the Atlantic the ship has first to go down hill, then to cross a valley, and finally to climb another hill. The calculation has been made that in mid-ocean the surface may be more than a half a mile (1000 metres) below the level it would have if the continents exerted no attraction.

A French photographic review L'Amateur Photograph, announces that the Brothers of the Christian School have made an ingenious application of photography in teaching deaf mutes to speak. The Brothers choose one of their pupils who is able to pronounce perfectly all the letters, diphthongs and syllables, and photograph him as the very moment of pronouncing the various sounds. All the moment of the mouth necessary for the pronunciation have been thus accurately photographed; and in this manner the deaf mute pupils, through not able to hear words pronounced, are enabled to see them, and study their lesson of pronunciation from the photograph; as we learn it by the ear.

HOW TO VALUE MONEY

No man really understands the value of a dollar until he has worked hard to obtain it. Scores of boys have become miserably spendthrifts from the lack of such knowledge. Their fathers were more or less wealthy, but their sons were not put into the office, or mill, or shop, and made fairly to earn their money by tiresome labor, either physical or mental. Their fathers said to themselves—"My sons shall never have to drudge as I did," and the boys did not labor, bore no responsibility, and never learned how money was fairly and honorably earned, and, of course never knew its value or its proper use. Thus hard earned fortunes have been ruthlessly squandered. All young people should be taught the full value of money—how to save and how to spend it. If born to a heritage of wealth they should be taught that its possession brings greater responsibilities, and its proper management when they grow up will bring even a heavier tax on their mental and moral powers and faculties than would the earning of a livelihood. If born to labor they should be taught that work is not disgraceful as long as they labor well; and that their earnings should not be squandered but invested wisely in reference to the future.

CONTENTMENT

On a beautiful gate leading to a large and highly cultivated flower garden was posted the following inscription; "this property is offered as a present to a contented person." A man passing said "So, I will take it," and forthwith sought the owner, declaring that he had a right to it, according to the inscription. "Certainly not, sir, answered the proprietor, 'for whoever wants more than he has, is not a contented person."

VIOLENT EXERCISE.

The cow eats the grass and lies down to chew her cud; the man bolts his dinner and rushes to his business. The cow usually lives her allotted time, unless carried off by some acute contagious or infectious disease the man becomes a martyr, first to dyspepsia and secondarily to some disease of mal-nutrition and dies very prematurely. In the Lancet is reported the case of a healthy boy (belonging to a robust, healthy family), who had never suffered from rheumatism scarlet fever, indeed, from any disease save chicken pox, who died suddenly under the saddest circumstances, because his death was so thoroughly preventable. After coming home from school one day he ate a hearty dinner, and immediately commenced to play cricket. Finding the time drawing near for the afternoon sessions, he ran to school, a quarter of a mile and as he entered the yard fell unconscious to the ground. In a very few minutes he was dead, notwithstanding the faithful and persistent practice of artificial respiration. At the post-mortem all the organs were found healthy, but the stomach was found full. Here clearly was a death due to exercise, the loaded stomach being the needed exciting cause. We have here this sounded the warning against violent exercises; iron muscles generally indicates a hypertrophied heart the athlete is not destined to become a long lived, respectable, and useful citizen; he is all right in his place, and is a popular beast, but he is doomed to an early dissolution. It may be accepted as a general truism that any nature or amount of exercise that will cause the heart to jump against the chest wall is exercise carried to an excessive and alarming extent.

ONE SOCIETY HE HAD FORGOTTEN

"John, I would like to invite in my friend, Mrs. Smalley, this evening? Will you be able to be in?"
"No, my dear I must attend the meeting of the Ancient Order of Foresters to night."
"Well, to-morrow evening!"
"I have the Ancient Order of United Workmen, and you know."
"What about Wednesday evening?"
"Oh the Odd Fellows meet that night, and on Thursday I have a meeting of the Knights of Labor to attend: on Friday the Royal Templars of Temperance: on Saturday there's a special meeting of the Masonic lodge and I couldn't miss that and then Sunday night—let me see—what is there on Sunday night, my dear."
"The Grand and Ancient Order of Christian Fellowship."
"Why, I had forgotten. Am I a member of that—let me see—"
"But you have forgotten another society John, of which you were once a member."
"What's that?"
"Your wife's!"—Toronto Grip.

CHUNKS OF WISDOM FOR WIVES.

Always remember that you are married to a man and not to a god; be prepared for imperfections.

Once in awhile, let your husband have the last word; it will gratify him and be no particular loss to you.

Do be reasonable; it is a great deal to ask under some circumstances, reasonable women are rare—be rare.

Anticipate the discovery by your husband that you are "only a woman" if you were not he would not care about you.

Remember that servants are made of the same material as you are; a little coarser grained, perhaps, but the same in essentials.

Let your husband read the newspaper at breakfast table; it is unsociable but then it is only a trifle after all, and he likes it.

Try and forget yourself; for your husband; forget that you married him and remember that he married you; he will then probably do the reverse.

Be a company to your husband if he is a wise man, and if he is not, try to make him become your companion. Raise his standard, do not let him lower yours.

NOTICE.

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Inland Revenue Department, Secretary.
Ottawa, Feb 24th, 1882.

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