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DAVID STOTT,

Superintendent

G. W. LeMESSURIER

Deputy Min. Posts & Telegraph

April 19, 25



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## Do You Know Why

Why the Bow of a Man's Hat is on the Left Side

Did you ever notice that the bow of a man's soft or stiff hat is always on the left side? If you have thought about it at all you probably decided that it was to show which end was the front. It does serve that purpose, but that is not the reason for the adoption of the custom. This is one of the many things in life which we take as a matter of course, but which if we investigate we find had their origin away back in the life of bygone ages.

This particular custom is a relic of the days of old when men fought with swords and had always to be prepared to fight at any moment. It was necessary that no part of their dress should interfere in any way with their weapons consequently their plumes and feathers and tassels were worn on the left side of the hat so as to leave the right side free for the arm that used the sword. Otherwise the sword might have become tangled in the hanging ends. Modern hat-makers have simply followed this old custom, though the reason for it has long since disappeared, probably knowing no more about why they did it than the average wearer does.

### Why We Use the Word Dunce

In the middle ages the learned doctors were very fond of holding long discussions and arguments with one another upon very peculiar subjects which seem to us of little importance. Thomas Aquinas was the most famous of these great doctors, and he had many admirers, who did not do any original thinking for themselves, but followed him in everything he said or wrote. At last, there arose a Scottish scholar who would not follow Thomas Aquinas and thought things out for himself. The disciples of Thomas were greatly annoyed and hurled all kinds of ridicule and abuse at the new doctor and his followers. The Scottish doctor was born in Dhnse, and he was named Dhnse Scotus—His disciples were called in ridicule by the followers of Thomas Aquinas Dhnsemen and then Dunces, and so that is why, even now, if we want to say that a man has no real knowledge in his head, we call him a dunce.

### IF YOU WERE RICH

The majority of young people are anxious to be wealthy, and have the idea that if they possessed riches their happiness would be secured. This mistaken notion would not be

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THE GUARDIAN OFFICE

BAY ROBERTS

## So serious were it not so very general.

It is a common thing for young people to indulge in a sort of reverence as to what they would do if they had wealth. Those whose tendencies are selfish will tell of the houses they would live in, the number of servants they would employ, the entertaining they would do, and the automobiles and victorias they would buy. Those of a more chivalrous and benevolent disposition are led to think of the poverty they would relieve, of the struggling youths they would be able to help educate, and of the many aspiring to know more about the world whom they would be pleased to introduce into the delights of travel and research. Unfortunately the trouble with this kind of mental excursioning is in the fact that if we were rich we would probably not be inclined to do any of the things which we have pictured ourselves as doing. The process of getting rich usually warps and withers men's minds, so that they are scarcely able to do large benevolent things for others. It is through the making of wealth that men become narrow and avaricious. The only safety valve against greed is to cultivate generosity in youth, and to practice it more and more as prosperity increases. We are the products of our habits. If we are not generous and public spirited in early life we have no reason to believe that we will be in later years.

### MAGICAL WEAPONS.

A woman and her husband were camping out in a rather unsettled part of Palestine, but as there did not appear to be any Arabs about, the rest of the party, all men, thought she might safely be left for an hour or so while they climbed a hill not far off. They had been gone only a short time, however, when, to her dismay, two horsemen appeared as if by magic close at hand, and with threatening countenances rode straight toward the tent where she sat. "What do I know not," she related, "but my heart beat in my throat as I realized that no help was to be had from without, and that if I were to escape from the dilemma I must turn myself to do it. I was desperate."

"All at once an idea came. I arose and confronted my visitors. I looked straight in their faces and deliberately took out my false teeth! I have a complete set," continued she, laughing, "and as I held it solemnly toward the amazed horsemen it did the trick. One yelled, and they were off like the wind. "No doubt I was held to be an enchantress and the teeth to be my magical weapons, for the men were out of reach in a few moments and never returned."—Exchange.

### MASTER OF HIMSELF.

A merchant needed a boy and put the following sign in his window: "Boy Wanted—Wages \$4 a week; \$6 to the right one. The boy must be master of himself." Many parents who had sons were interested, but the latter part of the

## notice puzzled them. They had never thought of teaching their boys to be masters of themselves.

How- ever, many sent their sons to the merchant to apply for the situation. As each boy applied, the merchant asked him: "Can you read?" "Yes, sir," was the frank reply. "Can you read this?" asked the merchant, pointing out a certain passage in the paper. "Yes, sir." "Will you read it to me steadily, and without a break?" "Yes, sir." The merchant then took the boy into a back room, where all was quiet, and shut the door. Giving the boy the paper he reminded him of his promise to read the passage through steadily and without a break, and commanded him to read. The boy took the paper and bravely started. While he was reading the merchant opened a basket in which were a number of lively little puppies, and tumbled them around the boy's feet. The temptation to turn and see the puppies and note what they were doing was too strong. The boy looked away from his reading, blundered, and was at once dismissed.

Boy after boy underwent the same treatment, till seventy-six were thus tried and proved failures to master themselves. At last one was found who, in spite of the puppies playing around his feet, read the passage through as he had promised. When he had finished, the merchant was delighted, and asked him, "Did you see the puppies that were playing around your feet while you were reading?"

"No, sir." "Did you know they were there?" "Yes, sir." "Why did you not look to see what they were doing?" "I couldn't, sir, while I was reading what I had to read." "Do you always do what you say you will?" "Yes, sir, I try to." "You are the boy I want," said the merchant, enthusiastically. "Come to-morrow. Your wages will start at six dollars, with good prospects of increase."

How this incident points home to a great neglect in the training of our boys and girls; only one boy in seventy-seven trained to be a master of himself.—The Christian World.

### WELL-BALANCED EGGS.

In recent years a good deal of work has been given to the construction of boxes or other round things that would not roll off the shelf and break. We have to-day all sorts of round things so ingeniously constructed that they cannot roll off. They simply roll round and round in the same spot, and therefore they are perfectly safe, laid anywhere on a flat shelf or table.

But nature knew all about that of the sea-bird called the murre on trick years ago. She built the egg this principle. Place one of these eggs on the edge of a table and it will not roll off. If disturbed, it simply rolls round and round in nearly the same spot. Nature evidently designed the eggs of the murre in this way because the bird has a

habit of laying them on shelving rocks, where a slight wind might easily blow them off. It was a protective precaution that saved the birds many unpleasant tragedies.—Exchange.

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## NOTICE

### To Owners and Masters of British Ships

The attention of Owners and Masters of British Ships is called to the 74th Section of the "Merchant Shipping Act, 1894."

75.—(1) A Ship belonging to a British Subject shall hoist the proper national colors—

(a) on a signal made to her by one of His Majesty's ships, including any vessel under the command of an officer of His Majesty's navy or full pay, and

(b) on entering or leaving any foreign port and

(c) if of fifty tons gross tonnage or upwards, on entering or leaving any British Port.

(2) If default is made on board any ship in complying with this section the master of the ship shall for each offence be liable to a fine not exceeding one hundred pounds.

At time of war it is necessary for every British Ship to hoist the colours and heave to if signalled by a British Warship; if a vessel hoists no colours and runs away, it is liable to be fired upon.

H. W. LeMESSURIER, Registrar of Shipping

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