

Hamlet's Island.

WILLIAM E. CURTIS has been visiting the Island of Elsinore, the scene of the tragedy of Hamlet, which stands off the northern point of the Danish peninsula. He says that although the present castle of Kronborg was not built for five hundred years after the time of Hamlet, the numerous graves will point out the platform where Hamlet played before the king, and the rampart upon which the ghost walked. The fact that Ophelia does not appear in the account of the monk named Sato-Grummatius, who first told the story of Hamlet and from which Shakespeare took his plot, does not interfere with the imagination of the poets and guide-book writers. They point out the place in the moat of the old castle where she was drowned, and in the park there is a spring which is christened in her honor. Near by is another spring that bears the name of Hamlet, and in a beautiful sequestered dale is his burial place, marked by a cairn of stones, partially grass-covered, and a rude shaft of granite which bears the inscription, "Hamlet's Grave." It is the favorite joke of scoffers to ask the guides "where the grave used to be," because, according to traditions that are said to be well founded, it has disappeared its present site less than a century, and was originally in the private grounds of a merchant at the other end of the town. This gentleman became so annoyed by the pilgrims who came to see the spot, that he told the town council he would pay the entire expense of fixing up a more appropriate grave for Hamlet if they would designate a proper location in one of the parks. He did as he promised. The result has been satisfactory all around. He is not annoyed by eight-seers, and the present location is much more convenient to the public. But, upon the other side of the coin, the guides will point out the original grave. However, Hamlet's tomb, Ophelia's drowning place, the rampart where the ghost walked, and the grassy plain which Hamlet used as a stage for his celebrated outdoor performance, are a great attraction to tourists and support several hotels. They have brought much money to Elsinore, and public interest in them still continues. Notwithstanding the doubt that has been cast upon their authenticity, all of the great tragedians have been there, including Bernhardt, Irving, Forrest and Booth, and largely through contributions from the dramatic profession a statue has been erected by Nielsine Petersen, a Danish artist. Everything which has been named after Hamlet or Ophelia, just as everything at Stratford-on-Avon is named after Shakespeare. There is a Hamlet-bicycle and a Hamlet hotel, a Hamlet biscuit and a Hamlet cigar, Hamlet perfume and Hamlet hams, Hamlet butter and Hamlet dressing-cases and traveling-bags. Ophelia does not fare so well, although there are several places named in her honor. The ghost has his promenade, but the king and queen are entirely ignored. They have a very bad reputation.

Diary of an American Abroad.

Monday, 10 a.m.—Reached England. Country half asleep.
4 p.m.—Reached London. Village awake, but not really spry.
4.30—Reached Hotel Magnificent.
4.45—Went all over it. Nice house. Do as a pied-a-terre for our directors when over here.
5—Bought it.
5—Dinner. Arranged to turn dining-room into apartment for callers. Tired. Counted checks. Bed.
Tuesday, 9 a.m. Read "Times" at breakfast. Leader disparaging our company. Must see to this.
10—Saw proprietors of "Times."
11—Bought "Times."
12—Heard of difficulty with staff. Editor resigned.
1 p.m.—Bought some editors.
1.05—Lunch.
3 to 4—Interviewed the company's competitors, three minutes each.
6 to 7—Wrote checks.
8.30—Theater. Play, The Ironmaster. Don't like the sound; suggests rivalry; must see if rights are to be had.
Wednesday. Curiously unglucky morning. Admiralty wouldn't sell fleet. War office refused to scrap guns. Colonial secretary declined to let me have Jamaica as a tip for our ashes. At this rate no use staying on. Picked up Thames steamboat fleet for an old song on way back. Will do to run on the canal inside our fitting shop.
Thursday, 5 p.m.—Things have been humming today. Steamboat deal evidently leaked out. Bought the P. and O. Cunard, White Star, Orient, Union Castle, and North German Lloyd. Bought the Liverpool docks. Bought the London and Northwestern. Cabled to my company that they might begin making.
Friday, 10 a.m.—Cable from company asking me to buy less and sell more. Nonsense. Plenty of time for selling. Much best policy to buy up all our customers first; sell to ourselves then and make sure of orders.
4 p.m.—Bought Holyhead harbor. Made an offer for St. George's Channel.
Saturday, 9 a.m.—Cable from home. "Rival trust formed. Underselling. Return at once."
10 a.m.—Returning—London "Punch."

The Subtle American Joke.

An American once said to a German who claimed that he had the real New England sense of humor, "Did you ever hear the joke about the guide in Rome who showed some travelers two skulls of St. Paul, one as a boy, and the other as a man?" "No," said the German, beginning to anticipate a good story. "Tell me at once, mein friend, dat joke."

F. A. Minakoff has made an exhaustive study of the nails of the hand, some of the results of which he regards as of medico-legal importance. Among other things, he asserts that the nails of the right hand in a right-handed person are wider by from one-half to two millimetres than the corresponding nails on the left hand; while in left-handed persons the reverse obtains, and in the ambidextrous the nails are of equal size on the two hands. The thickness of the nails diminishes progressively from the thumb to the little finger.

Callisthenics

Are a benefit to healthy women. But to women who are suffering from diseases peculiar to their sex they are an injury. When there is weak back or bearing-down pains, headache or other indications of womanly weakness, exercise can only aggravate the condition. The womanly health must be first restored before strength can be developed by exercise.
Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription makes weak women strong and sick women well. It does this by healing the womanly diseases which undermine the general health. It stops the drains that weaken women, heals inflammation and ulceration and cures female weakness.
When I first commenced using Doctor Pierce's medicine, writes Mrs. George A. Strong, of Garscott, Saratoga Co., N. Y., "I was suffering from female weakness, a disordered bearing-down pains, weak and tired feeling all the time. I dragged around in that way for two years, and I began taking your medicine. After taking first bottle I began to feel better. I took four bottles of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, two of 'Golden Medical Discovery,' one of 'Pleasant Pellets,' also used one bottle of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy. Now I feel like a new person. I can't thank you enough for your kind advice and the good your medicine has done me."
"I have a sister who is taking your medicine and it is helping her."
Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets promote regularity of the bowels, and assist the action of "Favorite Prescription." No other laxative should be used with Dr. Pierce's Medicines.

Proverbs From China.

Many of the following Chinese New Year and other proverbs have a familiar sound; others are not quite so familiar. They are all worth quoting:
Time flies like an arrow, days and months like a weaver's shuttle.
Our daily bread depends on heaven.
Foremost thou not God; be still, O soul, and listen to the thunder roll.
If one does good, heaven will bestow on him a hundred blessings.
All things are according to Heaven.
If one does bad, Heaven will send upon him a hundred evils.
To eat one's rice looking toward the heavens. No sound can startle in the darkest night him who has kept his conscience clean and white.
The kettle of him who has a wicked heart is full of rice.
The kettle of him whose heart coincides with the doctrine of Heaven has none the first part of the first month no one has an empty mouth.
To make a man of yourself, you must toil; if you don't you won't.
Diligence has its reward; play is without profit. Do good regardless of consequence.
To persuade one not to gamble is to win for him.
Better take 800 than give credit for 1,000 cash.
Correct one's self; then others.
Think of your own faults the first part of the night (when awake), and of the faults of others the later part of the night (when asleep).
An upright heart does not fear demons.
He who does according to Heaven will be preserved.
He who opposes Heaven will perish.
True doctrine can't injure.
True gold fears no fire.
A stick's a stick, whether short or tall.
A man's a man whether great or small.
You can't open a book without learning something.
No pleasure equals that of study.
Youth is for learning, manhood for action.
Learning is far more precious than gold.
Empty is gold, and silver, too, is vain, since neither can the hand that's dead retain.
Of a hundred virtues filial piety is the worst.
Within the four seas all are brethren.
You can't carve a rotten stick.
When the Emperor is victorious millions will rely upon him.
Heaven has not two sons, the people have not two Emperors.

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FOR CONSTIPATION.
FOR SALLOW SKIN.
FOR THE COMPLEXION.
CURE SICK HEADACHE.

A Day's Fishing.

THE fishing season having now positively begun, I think I will go down to the deep waters and try my luck. The great mistake made by so many fishermen is that they are lacking in the necessary patience for success in their hobby. Very often, after a man has sat for two or three days waiting in vain for a bite, he begins to feel the monotony a little tring, and wants to throw up the whole enterprise. The enthusiastic angler, however, never allows himself to grow weary. He will wait three weeks for a bite, and when the exciting moment comes, he wrenches his prize out of the water and feels that he has not lived in vain. When you have once cast your bread for whatever you are using for bait upon the waters, you should be prepared to stand by and see the thing through if it takes all summer.

No angler expects to be landing fish all the time. As a matter of fact, the biggest fish are never completely landed at all. If you have ordinary luck you will land a few small ones, but you can't very well make them any bigger than they are, and your friends can size up their dimensions at a glance; whereas the fish that you hooked out of the water, but couldn't manage to finally land, grows every time you talk about it. This fish is well known to expert anglers. Its dimensions are only limited by the powers of imagination possessed by the operator. Most anglers will let it go with a weight of about twenty to thirty pounds avoirdupois; and the man who insists upon anything bigger than that must choose his audience very carefully in these knowing times. I have no sympathy with the man who hooks a fish that tries to wrestle him on to his back as it flies off the water, and then, almost crushing it at his head with its off-side fin. And when that kind of man tells you that he fought three rounds with his prize in the endeavor to down so that he could bring it away with him, you should not trust yourself to a comment on the narrative. That kind of man is wasting his talents on a modest job like angling. He ought to have been a politician.

When you have cast your line, you should sit quietly and wait for the results. That delightful old prig, Isaac Walton, laid it down as a rule that anglers should avoid swearing, lest they be heard and catch no fish. It is not very clear to me why a man who has settled down by the water's edge for a day's fishing should want to swear. I don't see, in any of the hand-books on the craft, any hints that swearing has ever been considered half as useful as a wriggling worm for fishing purposes. As far as I can see, a man might as well use a strong and profane swear for several hours without getting any more bites in consequence. If a fish will not bite at a tempting hook, I should doubt whether much whether it will do so because somebody on the bank is referring to its ancestry in disrespectful terms, and is casting rather red aspersions on its moral character. The injunction as to swearing appears quite unnecessary, but dear old Isaac couldn't help preaching a little in between the bites.

After waiting a little while and looking at your float, you will probably see it begin to bob up and down. This either means that something is biting at the hook, or else that an empty sardine tin has got mixed up with your line. You must let the bobbing go on till the float is dragged under water, and then you pull in with both hands, and land the upper portion of a dilapidated boot which someone has left in the stream by an oversight. Fishing is called "the contemplative man's recreation," chiefly, I believe, on account of the very weird things that the average angler is called upon to contemplate in the course of a day's skirmish with the wonders of the deep.

Many anglers, however, do not recommend the practice of sitting down and fixing the eye on the bobbing float. After you have got the bobbing go on, you open the lunch basket and take out the first bottle. Then you light a pipe and take a glance or so at your float to make sure that it isn't bobbing. By that time you will be ready for the second bottle. When the second bottle has been properly and truly dealt with, the float will bob a good deal oftener than might be expected; but you don't need to take notice of low conduct like that. If a gentleman can't sit down by the water's edge and take a little light refreshment without being grieved by a mere decorative quill, it's hard luck, that's all.

By the time you have got on to the fourth bottle, you will begin to realize what a thoroughly enjoyable sport this angling business is. You will begin to wonder at first what you have been and thrown his line alongside yours, as there are two floats to be distinctly seen. You need not, however, bother about that. After all, you didn't come down to the water for what you could catch; but for the jolly sport of thing. Well, there's the fifth bottle ready anyway, and it's thirsty work looking on and waiting for a bite.

The Real Difficulty.

Apply Title—If we only had some lines, now, we might do a little fishing. Shady Bowers—Fishin', eh? Who's goin' ter dig de bait, bait de hooks, t'row in de lines, haul out de fish, and take 'em offen de hooks? Apply Title—Dat's so; we'd have to hire somebody to do dat part of it—Leslie's Weekly.

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