

Samson's marriage-feast lasted 7 days, and he told Delilah that 7 green withs would hold him bound, also that she could fasten him to a beam by the 7 locks of his hair. The loss of his 7 locks quite conquered him.

The Seven Churches of Asia were at Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. The seven Catholic or general epistles are the three of St. John, two of St. Peter and one each of St. James and St. Jude. The Lord's Prayer contains seven petitions, and the Apostles' creed has seven articles relating to the divinity and seven to the humanity of Christ. Christians are enjoined to make 7 additions to their faith, viz:—virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity. St John in the Apocalypse often groups 7 names together, as "*Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving and honour, and power, and might.*" Also "*Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.*" Solomon says seven things are an abomination to the Lord, viz: pride, lying, murder, jealousy, mischief-making, perjury and slander. It has been maintained that seven evils proceeded from the fall of man, and hence are seven sacraments as remedies, viz: original sin is to be taken away by baptism, mortal sins by penitence, venial sins by extreme unction, ignorance by ordination, weakness of spirit by confirmation, frailty of the flesh by matrimony, and the evil nature by the Eucharist. The seven virtues have been classified as three theological virtues, *faith, hope, and charity*, and the four cardinal virtues, *prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance*. The Catholic Church teaches seven corporal works of mercy, viz: to feed the hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to visit and ransom captives, to harbour the harbourless, to visit the sick, and to bury the dead. Also seven spiritual works of mercy, viz: to correct the sinner, to instruct the ignorant, to counsel the doubtful, to comfort the sorrowful, to bear wrongs patiently, to forgive all injuries, and to pray for the living and the dead.

The seven deadly sins are pride, covetousness, lust, wrath, gluttony, envy, and sloth, which have the seven opposite virtues of humility, liberality, chastity, meekness, temperance, brotherly-love, and diligence.

In performing the rite of *suttee* the Hindoo widow walks 7 times around the pyre, repeating *mantras* or prayers, scattering rice and sprinkling water on the bystanders. The corpse of the husband is carried round 7 times and placed in the lap of the widow, when the fire is kindled to consume them both.

Æneas lost all his vessels but 7, he saw 7 stags and killed them, and was afterwards told by the Cumæan Sibyl to sacrifice 7 bullocks and 7 unspotted ewes.

Seven witnesses were sufficient to prove a Roman nuncupative will, and after the Roman kings, farms of *septemjugera* or 7 acres were allotted to each citizen. Cincinnatus, Dentatus, Fabricius, Regulus, &c., found 7 acres enough for their wants.

Seven years' absence of a husband, without intelligence of his whereabouts, justifies the marriage of his wife à la *Enoch Arden*, without subjecting her to the charge of bigamy; also a child under 7 years of age is supposed to be without discretion. The seven champions of Christendom were St. George of England, St. Denis of France, St. James of Spain, St. Anthony of Italy, St. Andrew of Scotland, St. Patrick of Ireland, and St. David of Wales.

Solon the Athenian law-giver, Chilo the Spartan sage, Thales the philosopher of Miletus, Bias the Prienean, Cleobulus of Lindos, Pittacus of Mitylene, and Periander of Corinth, have for ages been known as the seven wise men of Greece.

Seven ancient wonders of the world are often spoken of, referring to the *pyramids* of Egypt, the *hanging gardens* of Babylon, the *tomb of Mausolus*, the *temple of Diana* at Ephesus, the *colossus* of Rhodes, the *statue of Jupiter* by Phidias, and the *Pharos* of Alexandria. In more recent times the coliseum at Rome, the catacombs at Alexandria, the Chinese wall, the altars of Stonehenge, the leaning tower of Pisa, the porcelain tower at Nankin, and the mosque of St. Sophia at Constantinople have been called the seven wonders of the middle ages. In former times there were reckoned 7 sciences, Grammar, Logic, Rhetoric, Arithmetic, Geometry, Astronomy and Music. The 7 hills of Rome, were the Aventine, Capitoline, Esquiline, Coelian, Viminal, Quirinal, and Palatine. The 7 Roman kings, were Romulus, Numa Pompilius, Tullus Hostilius, Ancus Martius, Tarquinius Priscus, Servius Tullius, and Tarquinius Superbus. In England 7 kingdoms called Kent, Northumberland, East Anglia, Mercia, Essex, Sussex, and Wessex constituted the Saxon Heptarchy, before the time of Egbert.

The seventh son, and especially the seventh son of a seventh son has long been popularly supposed to be endowed with wonderful powers of healing diseases by the touch, particularly on Good Friday. In France the seventh son without an intervening daughter

is called a *Marcou*, and sometimes in Holy Week a genuine *Marcou* will have hundreds of patients to touch.

There is a curious eastern legend of 7 sleepers who slept in a cave 187 years, a tale that perhaps suggested Rip Van Winkle, and to this day many Mahometans believe the names of the sleepers and their dog, posted on their doors will keep away ghosts and demons.

There are several curious coincidences of the occurrence of the number 7 in nature. Seven eclipses is the greatest number possible in a year, and 70 in 18 years. There are seven bones in the neck of all mammals, there are 7 true ribs on a side, and 7 bones in the tarsus. The great ocean currents are 7 in number, and meteorologists describe 7 forms of clouds. There are seven symmetrical forms of crystals, 7 kinds of attraction described by philosophers, and 7 general properties of matter.

The 7 notes of the musical scale and the 7 tints of the rainbow, suggest the idea of completeness. So also do the 7 recognized attributes of Deity, viz:—Wisdom, knowledge, goodness, power, justice, mercy and truth, and the 7 relations of the Creator to man, viz:—Creator, Lawgiver, Benefactor, King, Judge, Saviour and Father.

Ruskin has charmed the world by his pleiad-like grouping of the 7 Lamps of Architecture, and artists have told us that the foot of the renowned statue of Venus de Medecis is one seventh the length of the statue.

The Buddhists who embrace over 150 millions of the human race, believe in 7 gods who rule the 7 days of the week. They say *Hiru* rules Sunday, *Kandū* Monday, *Angaharu* Tuesday, *Budahu* Wednesday, *Braspati* Thursday, *Sicura* Friday, and *Henaharu* Saturday.

Chaucer devotes a verse of the *Canterbury Tales*, to a description of the seven metals of the alchemists.

"Sol gold is, and Luna silver threpe;
Mars yren, Mercurie quyksilver we clepe;
Saturnus leed, and Jubiter is tyn.
And Venus coper, by my fader kyn."

The old column of the 7 dials in London, faced 7 streets, radiating therefrom.

The partial constellation of the 7 stars has given the word *Sepentrional*, to be seen in the treasury seal on every "greenback."

Much interest has been taken by antiquarians to find the site of the "7 cities of Cibola," and the wonderful expedition of Coronado to find those Aztec or ante-Aztec wonders has recently been discussed in the publications of the Smithsonian Institution.

I will only remind the reader, that he is himself supposed to grow by *sevens*. At the age of 7 months the first teeth appear, to fall out in 7 years and give place to others; and that every 7 years appears to form a distinct week or period of his existence.

As Shakespeare has it, the players on the world's stage, have for their acts "seven ages," or as some seven-struck poet writes

The first seven years of life—man's break of day—
Gleams of short sense, a dawn of thought display;
When fourteen springs have bloomed his downy cheek,
His soft and bashful meanings learn to speak.

From twenty-one proud manhood takes its date,
Yet is not strength complete till twenty-eight;
Thence to his five-and-thirtieth, life's gay fire
Sparkles and burns intense in fierce desire.

At forty-two his eyes grave wisdom wear,
And the dark future dims him o'er with care;
With forty-nine behold his toils increase,
And busy hopes and fears disturb his peace.

At fifty-six cool reason reigns entire;
Then life burns steady, and with temperate fire;
But sixty-three unbends the body's strength,
Ere the unwearied mind has run her length;
And when, at seventy, age looks her last,
Tir'd she stops short, and wishes all were past.—Prof. N. B.

Webster.—Monthly Visitor.

18. PREPARING SKELETON LEAVES.

A correspondent of *Science Gossip*, after referring to the tediousness of the ordinary way of preparing skeleton leaves, which is enough almost to tax the patience of Job, and which most experimenters give up in despair before getting through with it, describes a new method, which is easy, cleanly, and takes but little time. It is as follows:

"First dissolve four ounces of common washing soda in a quart of boiling water, then add two ounces of slacked quicklime, and boil for about 15 minutes. Allow this solution to cool; afterwards pour off all the clear liquor into a clean saucepan. When the solution is at boiling point, place the leaves carefully in the pan, and boil