

DISCOVERY AT POMPEII.

A discovery has been made at Pompeii, consisting of a number of objects of gold and silver, and close to them the carbonized skeletons of two men, who would seem to have been borne down in the storm of ashes while endeavouring to escape with their valuables or plunder. Among the articles found are eight rings, six pieces of money, two pairs of earrings, two large armlets, each ornamented with thirteen pairs of half globes, with little shells upon them, held together by chainwork, and a necklace of chainwork, all of gold; a silver ring, 332 pieces of silver money, a *casseroles* of the same material broken in pieces, and three large bronze coins.

The city of Pompeii, it will be remembered, was completely buried up in the year 79, nearly 1,800 years ago, by ashes from the neighbouring volcano of Vesuvius. The ruins of the city were rediscovered in 1748.

OLD SAYINGS AS TO CLOTHES.

It is lucky to put on any article of dress, particularly stockings, inside out: but if you wish the omen to hold good, you must continue to wear the reversed portion of your attire in that condition, till the regular time comes for putting it off—that is, either bedtime or ‘cleaning yourself.’ If you set it right, you will ‘change the luck.’ It will be of no use to put on anything with the wrong side out *on purpose*. It is worthy of remark, in connection with this superstition, that when William the Conqueror, in arming himself for the battle of Hastings, happened to put on his shirt of mail with the hind-side before, the bystanders seem to have been shocked by it, as by an ill omen, till William claimed it as a good one, betokening that he was to be changed from a duke to a king. The phenomenon of the ‘hind-side before’ is so closely related to that of ‘inside out,’ that one can hardly understand their being taken for contrary omens.

The clothe of the dead will never wear long.

When a person dies, and his or her clothes are given away to the poor, it is frequently remarked: ‘Ah, they may look very well, but they won’t wear; they belong to the dead.’

If a mother gives away *all* the baby’s clothes she has (or the cradle), she will be sure to have another baby, though she may have thought herself above such vanities.

If a girl’s petticoats are longer than her frock, that is a sign that her father loves her better than her mother does—perhaps because it is plain that her mother does not attend so much to her dress as she ought to do, whereas her father may love her as much as you please, and at the same time be very ignorant or unobservant of the rights and wrongs of female attire.

If you would have good-luck, you must wear something new on ‘Whitsun-Sunday’ (pronounced Wissun-Sunday). More generally, Easter Day is the one thus honoured, but a glance round a church or Sunday-school in Suffolk, on Whitsunday, shews very plainly that it is the one chosen for beginning to wear new ‘things.’

While upon the subject of clothes, I may mention a ludicrous Suffolk phrase descriptive of a person not quite so sharp as he might be: he is spoken of as ‘short of buttons,’ being, I suppose, considered an unfinished article.

COMPOSITION FOR COVERING BOILERS, &c.—Road scrapings, free from stones, 2 parts; cow manure, gathered from the pasture, 1 part; mix thoroughly, and add to each barrowful of the mixture 6 lbs. of fire clay; $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of flax shoves or chopped hay, and 4 ozs. teased hair. It must be well mixed and chopped; then add as much water as will bring it to the consistency of mortar,—the more it is worked the tougher it is. It may either be put on with the trowel or daubed on with the hand, the first coat about 1 inch thick. When thoroughly dry, another, the same thickness, and so on, three inches is quite enough, but the more the better. Let each coat be scored like plaster, to prevent cracks, the last coat light and smooth, so as to receive paint, whitewash, &c. The boiler, or pipes, must first be brushed with a thin wash of the mixture to ensure a catch.

RULE FOR SIZE OF CYLINDER.—The requisite diameter of cylinder for a 25 horse beam engine is 28 inches, and about 5 feet stroke. The nominal horse-power of any sized cylinder can be found by the following formulæ:—For low pressure or beam engines, divide the area of cylinder by 25, which will give the number of horse-power. For high pressure horizontal engines divide the area of cylinder’s diameter by 12.5, which will give the number of horse-power, including all friction.

SCRAPS.

THERE are no small steps in great affairs.

WEAK men never yield at the proper time.

CREAM OF TARTAR. — The Czar. — *Punch*.

WHAT fruit is the most visionary? — The apple of the eye.

AN INTELLECTUAL FEAST. — The entertainment of an idea.

A MAN who distrusts himself never truly confides in any one.

WHEN is an umbrella like a person convalescent? — When it is re-covered.

IT is impossible to love a second time what we have once really ceased to love.

THE prosperous man who yields himself up to temptation bids farewell to welfare.

OUR CONSTRUCTION.—Indispensable qualifications in ironclad.—To “wear” well.—*Fun*.

A GENTLEMAN, having engaged a bricklayer to make some repairs in his cellar, ordered the ale to be removed before the bricklayer commenced his work. “Oh! I’m not afraid of a barrel of ale,” said the bricklayer.—“I presume not,” said the gentleman; “for I think a barrel of ale would run at your approach.”

IT was once, says Chitty, in his work on “Contract,” a mere matter of choice whether one paid or did not paid his doctor’s bill. Down to the present reign the physician could not sue for his fees unless charged on special contract, the service being purely honorary. Hence the use of the term *honorarium*. A high view of professional life and duty!

LORD CHESTERFIELD happened to be at a ball in France where Voltaire was one of the guests. The former was gazing about the brilliant circle of ladies, when Voltaire accosted him with, “My Lord, I know you are a judge; which are the more beautiful—the English or the French ladies?”—“Upon my word,” replied his lordship, with his usual presence of mind, “I am no connoisseur of paintings.”

SHARP PRACTICE.—Limb of the Law: “What do you mean, sir? You said distinctly, when I asked you the price of your ducks, they were any price I liked. Well, half-a-crown a pair’s the price I like, and there’s the money; and they’re legally mine, as you’ll find to your cost if you’re foolish enough to summon me.” (Puts ducks into bag, and walks off, leaving worthy tradesman dumbfounded.)

KEEPING FAITH.—Parents are apt to ignore the importance of keeping faith with children; but one of the world’s talented men was fortunate in having a father who never broke a promise. On one occasion, he told his little son that he should see a condemned wall demolished. But it chanced to be thrown down when he was absent. To keep his faith with the child, the father had the wall rebuilt, and the lad was present at the second demolition.

IT is said that the great pianist Liszt found himself recently in the company of a number of ladies, who begged him to produce for them “the ecstasies, the artistic raptures which his artistic talent inevitably produced.” He obligingly seated himself at the piano and played. When he had finished some of the admirers had fainted. “Well,” said Liszt, “I played wrong notes all through, intentionally; so badly, indeed, that I should have been turned out of doors at any elementary school of music.”

LET the winds and waves of adversity blow and dash around you, if they will; but keep on in the path of rectitude, and you will be as firm as a rock. Plant yourself upon principle, and bid defiance to misfortune. If Gossip, with her poisoned tongue, meddles with your good name, heed her not. Carry yourself erect; let your course be straightforward, and by the serenity of your countenance and the purity of your life, give the lie to all who would underrate and belittle you.

THE LONGEVITY OF TOADS is again under discussion, owing to a discovery made near Orta. In digging up a garden some workmen unearthed two terra-cotta vases, which they at first supposed to contain treasure. On breaking them, however, two live toads were found clad in green velvet. This strange attire showed that they must be at least 200 years old, as an ancient treatise on magic and demonology mentions that, at the beginning of the 17th century, sorcerers dressed up toads in this manner for the achievement of certain charms. The same treatise tells the fate of an unlucky citizen of Soissons who baptized a toad, which he had gaily caparisoned for the ceremony, and was burnt alive for the sacrilege.—*Graphic*.