

Clock That Struck Too Soon

A clock that gains or loses is generally regarded as a nuisance and of questionable value, but a noble family in Denmark has just gained £10,000 because a certain clock was one minute fast.

According to Danish law an increased scale of death duties—that is, taxes on fortunes left by rich people—came into force at midnight between December 19th and 20th in the year 1918.

About that time a Danish nobleman, Count Moltke, lay seriously ill in his estate at Lystrup, and a second or two after the great clock in the castle tower had struck twelve he passed away.

Naturally, when it came to collecting the death duties, the authorities had no doubt that they could charge on the higher scale, for the Count was still alive when the clock struck midnight. Obviously, they said, he had lived for a few seconds on December 20th.

But this the heirs stoutly denied, declaring that the castle clock was one minute fast, and that, therefore, the Count had passed away on December 19th, so that his estate was liable only for the old and lighter tax.

For two years the dispute continued and it has just been settled by the judge at Copenhagen. Many lawyers

were engaged on both sides and the case was argued at great length; but, after hearing the evidence, the Court decided that the clock was fast, and that the Count died on December 19th. The fact, therefore, that the clock was wrong gives the heirs of the rich man an extra \$50,000.

This is a reminder of another instance where a mistake in the striking of a clock proved of great advantage. In 1770 a man named John Hatfield died in London at the age of one hundred and two. He had been a soldier in the reign of William and Mary, and during his military career was tried and condemned to death by court-martial for falling asleep while on duty on the terrace of Windsor Castle.

But the soldier firmly maintained that he had never slept, and in proof declared that he had heard the clock of St. Paul's Cathedral, in London, strike thirteen at night. Of course, he was disbelieved by the judges.

A number of people in London, however, came forward and swore that the clock had actually struck thirteen on the night in question, and the King pardoned the condemned soldier.

Another famous clock that has struck incorrectly is Big Ben. On the morning of March 23rd, 1861, it struck twenty at three o'clock, and continued erratic for some time.

How the Duchess of Wellington Learned of Waterloo.

Unrequited love always excites our sympathy. A striking instance of it is told in an unpretentious book of reminiscences by a little-known Englishwoman, Miss C. L. H. Dempster. The story is all the more interesting because the unappreciative gentleman in the case is no less person than the Duke of Wellington.

Mrs. Stewart Mackenzie, writes Miss Dempster, was on terms of the most intimate friendship with Kitty Pakenham, the girl whom the Duke of Wellington married but did not love. At the time of which I speak all Europe was on the qui vive, for Napoleon was already in Belgium, and the duke was in Brussels with eighty thousand men. Everyone felt that the campaign must be decisive. Rumors were rife, and the duchess was wretchedly anxious. Mrs. Stewart Mackenzie happened to be engaged on that evening to dine with her cousins, the Prolys. At six o'clock in the evening she stepped into her chariot and left Bruton Street. She had not got three streets farther before she fell in with a great crowd, shouting and apparently mad with joy. The mail coach came in sight. It was covered with flags and laurel branches and with people, who cried, "A great victory!"

Mrs. Stewart Mackenzie pulled the checkstring and told the coachman to drive back to Bruton Street. Running upstairs, she found the duchess eating a melancholy cutlet in the back drawing-room.

"I congratulate you, my dearest Katherine! Your hero is safe, and he has won a glorious victory."

"Oh, tell me! How do you know?"

"Half London knows by this time. I have seen the Portsmouth Mail. It is covered with flags and laurels, and the people are out of their minds with joy."

"But how can you tell that the duke is safe?"

"My dear woman, let me tell you that I saw the Trafalgar Mail come in to London. There was shouting enough then; but the laurels were all shrouded with crepe! Victory was ours at Trafalgar, but Nelson was dead! To-night there is not an inch of crepe to be seen anywhere; your hero of a hundred battlefields, who has defeated Napoleon, is alive!"

The duchess sat down and wept. She cried tears of excitement in which there was an element of pain.

"My dearest Mary," she said, "I know too well how it will be. He will not write to me, though he ought to know that I could not survive his death or his disaster."

Mrs. Stewart Mackenzie said as many kind and reassuring things as she could think of and then went to dine at Lord Proby's. In bed that night she promised herself to be even with the duchess's husband and to apply a salve to that ever-rankling wound in the heart of the unlamented wife. The next morning she wrote to the duke a letter full of congratulations on the victory of Waterloo. She expressed anxiety about the fate of a young friend, Capt. —. Was he killed? Was he wounded? Was he safe? She would be so grateful if the duke would in one line set her mind at ease.

"But write it rather to the duchess and to Bruton Street, for I go to Brighton to-morrow, and my movements are rather uncertain. In this way your report (whether good or bad) cannot fail to reach me."

Mrs. Stewart Mackenzie kept her secret and went to Brighton or a pretty long visit. When she returned, the duchess met her. "Congratulations, my dearest Mary; my hero is all that is kind. You said that he would write. He has written! and I am such a happy woman. By the way, there is a message for you in the letter. He bids me tell you that young — never had a scratch and never was better in his life." That was how the good news came to Bruton Street.

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HELGOLAND ISLE RISES TO PROTEST

AGAINST THE TREATY OF VERSAILLES.

Natives Who Are German Subjects Petition British Government for Protection.

When in 1890 Lord Salisbury, the British Foreign Minister, announced in Parliament that his government had first turned over the islet of Helgoland to Germany in consideration of the latter's cession of Uganda and other East African territory to Britain, Sir Henry Stanley, the great African explorer, declared in a newspaper interview that the English had acquired a new suit of clothes, indeed a whole wardrobe, in exchange for a trouser button.

The remark was greeted with an outburst of merriment in England and an outburst of wrath in Germany. The prevalent notion in both countries was that England had by far the better of the bargain. Lord Salisbury was congratulated by his friends and doubtless congratulated himself on his business acumen, and Count Caprivi, the German Imperial Chancellor, was called all sorts of names by irate Prussian patriots for giving away territory worth millions for a wave-bitten rock in the North Sea.

England Wins After All. Twenty-five years passed, and in the summer of 1915 all Germany was wildly celebrating the silver jubilee of the Helgoland bargain, while in England the memory of Lord Salisbury was cursed for what Englishmen called the worst mistake in British history. For the barren crag in the North Sea was in the quarter century that passed in between turned into one of the strongest fortresses of the world, the base of German naval operations in the North Sea and the principal obstacle in the way of the British fleet to attack on the German coast.

And to-day? To-day it seems again that after all the English had the better of the deal. For, Helgoland or no Helgoland, Germany lies prostrate at the feet of her victorious enemy, and the colossal effort and expenditure that the Germans have invested in the "Gibraltar of the North Sea" are lost forever. For all the \$50,000,000 spent by the imperial government on the Helgoland fortifications not a single shot was fired by the Helgoland cannon in the entire course of the war, and in accordance with the peace treaty all the fortresses of the island must be dismantled.

That means the end of Helgoland as a factor in world history. Like the German navy, it proved, after all, but a bugaboo and a splendid plaything; it may have somewhat delayed, it certainly did not alter the outcome of the war for which it had been planned and built with so much care.

Injured by the Treaty. But there is another aspect to the Helgoland question. By an oversight—possibly of the framers of the peace treaty—a grave injustice is being done to the inhabitants of the island, perhaps the smallest nation in the world—at least so they style themselves. The fact is that the Treaty of Versailles, which eliminated German control over non-German peoples, deprives the Helgolanders of certain privileges which they had enjoyed under the old order and which virtually amounted to a kind of autonomy. The Prussian government now takes the stand that the Treaty of Versailles abrogates all previous international agreements, and as a consequence Helgoland has been shorn of the last vestiges of its special status.

Thus the curious situation has arisen that the natives of Helgoland who are German subjects, have petitioned the British government for protection and expressed preference for British sovereignty.

The Helgolanders speak a distinct dialect of Frisian, not easily understood by inhabitants of other islands. From 1674 to 1807 they were living under Danish sovereignty. Then England seized the islet and held it until 1890, the time of the Salisbury deal.

On July 1 of that year the agreement was signed between the two governments, and on August 10 Kaiser Wilhelm landed on the island and took formal possession.

The inhabitants of the island, who were not consulted about the transaction—self-determination was not yet invented—never liked the transfer. Under English rule the island was a quiet thriving place frequented chiefly by prosperous North German families. The English never fortified the place beyond equipping it with an obsolete battery of naval guns. With Prussian rule all that changed. The island was practically put under military control. To be sure, the Germans have done a good deal in the way of improvements. Thus they have built an excellent artificial harbor for merchant and fisher craft.

Probably Saved the Island. Most important of all, they have probably saved the life of the island itself. Originally several hundred miles long, by the beginning of the last century Helgoland's length was reduced to something short of a mile—the rest was eaten away by the sea. Nothing was ever done to stop the destructive work of the waves until the Germans came and reinforced the

Working the Earth to Death

If you told any one of the men now unemployed through shortage of raw materials that he is suffering owing to the unscientific exploitation of Nature, he would probably laugh you to scorn.

Yet such is the fact. We have been working the world to death, and we are now beginning to pay the penalty.

In the eager, reckless quest of skins and other products, man has cleared wide areas of certain animals. Gone is my lord the elephant from many of his former haunts, and the American bison has been so mercilessly hunted that it is extinct on its native plains, the largest herd in the world surviving in a park on our own north-west coast.

With equal prodigality is the world's supply of timber being worked. In one year a single newspaper uses up a whole forest, the steady product of forty years.

From the bowels of the earth the riches of ages are squandered in a day. We consume them as if they were limitless, whereas the time is near when they will be exhausted.

A striking instance is mineral oil. It seems only the day before yesterday that it was loudly proclaimed as a substitute for coal and yet every "played out" with measurable rapidity. Some of the fields will be dry thirty years hence, and probably many of us will live to see the day when all will have ceased to yield.

So, again, with coal, the chief source of Britain's power. It is mined and used in gross defiance of scientific facts.

In the winning of the precious mineral little regard is paid to economy. Thanks to improvements in mining

methods rather than to a desire to conserve Nature's riches, a field is no longer exploited as it was in the old days, when the easiest and cheapest seams to work were torn out ruthlessly and the others left, to remain practically inaccessible for ever.

In the same wasteful manner are other minerals being won. The best is taken and the rest left. By 1920 all the high-grade ores in the world will be nearly exhausted, and another will have to begin to make shift with those of inferior quality.

The soil has likewise suffered through get-rich-quick methods. After the wonderful fertility virgin land has been exhausted, the world was accused for fertilizers. In common with other countries, we drew without limit or limit on the huge deposits of guano, nitrates, etc., till at last their exhaustion was in sight.

Then—and this was only a few years ago—it seemed as if the overworking of the world would result in the starvation of the entire human race. Sir William Crookes, indeed, predicted that this would be the fearful consequence of the using up of the stores of nitrogen.

Fortunately, however, that point is now averted, as ample supplies of nitrogen can, owing to recent discoveries, be extracted from the air by chemical means. Britain started a factory for the purpose during the war, and this and its successors will form an insurance against the starvation of British soil.

Still, if we count on chance for the supply of essential commodities, we shall live in a fool's paradise. It is certain that mankind will have to suffer to some extent for overworking the world.

foundations of the crags with walls made of a special kind of concrete.

One of the most famous jokes of the Peace Conference attaches to this fact. At one of the sittings the fate of Helgoland came up for discussion, and one of the innumerable experts duly explained that the preservation of the island was due chiefly to the construction of more and more seaworks and seawalls. When the expert finished a silence fell upon the assembly, a silence due partly to deliberation and partly to boredom. Then some innocent person, who merely wanted to keep the wheels of discussion proceeding and meant no harm, asked whether any one had any concrete proposal to make.

"I thought you said," quoth Lloyd George, "that it was all concrete."

Meat From the Northlands. The completion of the Hudson Bay Railroad will open up a territory, within 25 years, which would take the place of ranching districts of Alberta and would give the remainder of Canada a large supply of its meat and hides, according to Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the noted explorer. Plans for the formation of his own reindeer ranch on Baffin Island have been completed, and sufficient capital has been raised. Importation of a breeding herd from Norway will take place early next summer, the explorer stated.

While many people have not realized the possibilities of the north, Mr. Stefansson believes that herds of hardy animals, such as reindeer or bison, would prove more satisfactory than other enterprises. The whole stretch of the Canadian northlands, where not too thickly treed, would be ideal for such ranches. The district surrounding the Hudson Bay Railroad, which is still under construction, is desirable for such a project, according to the explorer, who stated that he expected within the next 25 years to see large ranches throughout the north of Canada. He drew attention to a shipload of 118 tons of reindeer meat having been shipped in December from Alaska to the United States.

Isn't It Strange? There are 14,000,000 Smiths in the world.

The largest island in the world is Greenland, 827,300 square miles in area.

In 1792 there were twenty evening papers in London. Now there are six. Canals of a total mileage of more than 3,000 are in efficient use in England.

At least two reprieved and converted murderers have afterwards served as churchwardens.

A French expert declares that the chances of mistake in identification with finger prints are one in 17,000,000,000.

Identification by finger prints was employed in Korea 1,200 years ago, having been commonly used in deeds for the sale of slaves.

If man's organs had been formed on the same plan as those of a canary, he would (barring accidents) live for 300 or 400 years.

The glass towers of the Crystal Palace, London, which are 270 ft. high, are kept in position by the force of gravity acting on tanks at the tops of the towers. Each tank holds 1,200 tons of water.

Thunder can be heard at no greater distance than eighteen miles, and generally not more than nine miles. The duration of the longest roll of thunder that has been accurately noted was forty-five seconds.

The manufacture of yeast from buckwheat is a new industry for Denmark.

Fortunes from Flukes. A watchmaker's apprentice was one day holding some spectacle glasses between his thumb and finger when he was startled by the suddenly enlarged appearance of a neighboring church spire. This accidental discovery led to the invention of the telescope.

The art of etching upon glass was discovered by a Nuremberg glass-cutter. By accident a few drops of aquafortis fell upon his spectacles. He noticed that the glass became corroded and softened where the acid had touched it. Acting on this hint he drew figures upon the glass with varnish, applied the corroding fluid, and then cut away the glass around the drawing. When the varnish was removed the figures appeared raised up on a dark ground.

A process of whitening sugar was discovered in a curious way. A boy that had gone through a clay puddle went with her muddy feet into a sugar house. He left her tracks on a pile of sugar. It was noticed that wherever her tracks were the sugar was whitened. Experiments were instituted, and the result was that wet clay came to be used for refining sugar.

The origin of blue-tinted paper came about by a mere slip of the hand. The wife of William East, an English paper-maker, accidentally let a blue bag fall into one of the vats of pulp. The workmen were astonished when they saw the peculiar color of the paper while Mr. East was highly incensed at what he considered a grave financial loss. After storing the damaged paper for years, Mr. East sent it to his agent in London with instructions to sell it for what it would bring.

The paper was accepted as a novelty and disposed of at quite an advance over the market price.

The Honeymoon Habit. The custom of referring to the time immediately after one's wedding as a honeymoon descended from the ancient tribes of Central Europe. Newly-married couples drank and dined to their friends a wine made from honey gathered during the first thirty days (or lunar month) after the performance of the wedding ceremony.

After persisting for several hundred years, this custom finally died out, but its significance remained, particularly as the serving of the honeyed wine was succeeded by the practice of married couples leaving their home for a varying length of time. For this reason the trip which follows the marriage ceremony is now known as a honeymoon, though it has nothing to do with wine, and generally lasts less than a month.

A Pencil Clock of Paris. Paris is a city of curious clocks. Perhaps the most original one serves as the signboard of a pencil manufacturer, who aimed, as the sign on the clock shows, at conquering many markets. This clock keeps good time, says the *Wide World Magazine*, despite its square face and the necessarily rectangular arrangement of the hours, which are formed by pencils arranged as Roman numerals. You can see this clock on one of the main boulevards, high above the heads of foot passengers. It has been constructed on a very big scale, so as to be clearly visible from the street.

A Railway Quarrel. "Conductor!" shouted a passenger on the back-country train. "That was my station, sir! 'Why didn't you stop?'"

"We don't stop there any longer," said the conductor. "You see the engineer is mad with the station agent!"

The Polar regions are the only sections of the globe free from rats.

PERFUMERY FOR MILADY CANADA

COMES FROM ALGIERS, CHINA AND INDIA.

Isles and Lands Along the Mediterranean Also Grow Sweet-Scented Flowers.

When you pay the apothecary a sum that seems like a dollar a whiff for something that delights your senses, or if you are especially fastidious, have him compound the scent that "suits" your personality, did you ever stop to wonder where his precious ingredients came from? The sunny isles and lands along the Mediterranean probably grew some of the flowers, others perhaps were plucked by dark Moorish hands in Algeria, and mayhap an animal in the brooding hills of western China gave its life to furnish one constituent of the perfume.

The vegetable kingdom is necessarily the most fertile source of perfumes. From its flowers, such as the rose and jessamine, and from its seeds, woods and barks, such as the spices and sandalwood, even the most fastidious connoisseur would be able to select either some simple odor or a complex bouquet. Nor are they for perfumes alone, but for scenting soaps, cream, pomades, and in making flavorings and extracts.

Rosemary, thyme, sweet basil and marjoram are found in great profusion in Mediterranean countries, and here the chemist can distill the whole plant and not bother about picking the flowers. Shakespeare, the unfailing naturalist that he was, made no error when he chose for Ophelia the flowers she scattered.

The Lavender of England.

The old-fashioned lavender flowers, in which our grandmothers used to pack the household linen and their rich old laces, grew best in France and England. A temperamental flower it might be called, too, for unless the climate, soil and altitude suit it refuses to breathe forth its usual fragrance. Fine grades of the plants are grown in the Drome region, France, at an altitude of 2,500 feet, while the flowers generally considered to have the most agreeable fragrance come from the Mitcham district of England, where the conditions of soil and altitude are decidedly different from those in France.

The rose geranium, which has such an exquisite odor, is also grown and distilled in France, but Spain, Algiers and the Island of Reunion engage in the industry. Unlike the lavender, however, the perfume of the rose geranium comes from its leaves and not from the flowers.

But the country that will might be known by its scent is Bulgaria, for its rose crop is second only to its tobacco. More than 12,500 acres of land in the provinces of Philippopolis and Stara Zagora are given over to the growth of roses from the petals of which attar of roses is distilled. In the wonderful gardens at Kazanlik, Karlovo, Kilsouira and Stara Zagora the best of the flowers are grown. The fields are arranged much after the fashion of the vineyards of France and Italy, and the vineyards, dew-laden buds, which have very few petals, are snipped off by diligent girls, boys and women in the early morning of May and June.

About 4,000 pounds of roses are produced on an acre of land, but it takes about 200 pounds of petals to produce an ounce of oil for an attar, which before the war cost about \$250 a pound.

Roses are grown in other parts of the Balkans as well as in Asiatic Turkey, where they were introduced by Ahmed Veli, the noted Turkish statesman and man of letters, in the latter half of the nineteenth century, and in India, Persia, the Fayum province in Egypt, and in France. The industry lately has been introduced into Germany.

Spice Isles of Europe.

Many of the countries of Europe have for centuries successfully distilled oil from such seeds as caraway, anise and fennel for flavoring and scenting purposes, and the citrus fruits of Italy and Sicily yield quantities of valuable oil. In fact, so fragrant are the flowers and shrubs of some of the islands of the Mediterranean that they are called the Spice Islands of Europe as the Molucca Archipelago in the Dutch East Indies are known as the Spice Islands on account of the nutmegs, mace and cloves that they produce. Napoleon said that he would know his native land, Corsica, with his eyes shut by the odor of the white-flowered citrus.

Frankincense, which is one of the chief aromatic constituents of the incense burned in churches, is the gum resin of a tree found in East Africa, Arabia, and on the island of Socotra, in the Indian Ocean.

Ladies and gentlemen in the time of Napoleon used the tonquin bean, a native of Guiana, to scent their snuff-boxes.

The animal perfumes are extremely limited in number. Ambergris is secreted by the sperm whale, civet by the animal of the same name, and musk by the muskox, the muskrat, and the musk-deer, which is found in the high Himalayas, Tibet, and eastern Siberia. Musk has one peculiar and almost inexplicable characteristic. One grain of it kept freely exposed to the air of a well ventilated room, will impregnate the atmosphere for ten years without sensibly diminishing in weight.

Snapshots of the Heart.

Recent discoveries have shown that the X-rays can pass through steel and iron, and many engineering firms are using the X-rays to photograph flaws in the castings of important parts of machinery.

This new work has been made possible by the wonderful X-ray invented by an English scientist, Dr. Coolidge, which gives out immensely powerful rays that can pass through four inches of steel plate.

Now another wonderful invention has been described to the Rotgen Society of England. It is a new photographic plate twenty times as sensitive to the X-rays as the plates ordinarily used, and is likely to revolutionize X-ray work, as it will make it possible to take snapshot photographs of the heart, the lungs, or, indeed, any part of the body, and even cinematograph "radiographs" showing the heart beating, or the lungs at work breathing.

Only a few years ago it took half an hour to photograph the thicker parts of the human body with the X-rays; with the new invention a small fraction of a second will suffice.

Where Cats Score.

Strictly speaking, cats cannot see in complete darkness any more than human beings can. But owing to a peculiar construction of their eyes they can make much better use of whatever light there is and find a way through a room which appears to be very dark.

The pupils of a cat's eyes are capable of being enlarged or distended to a great extent, thus letting in every particle of light. Moreover, this enlargement of the pupil takes place almost instantly, and there is little apparent hesitancy on the part of a cat entering a dark room after being in the bright light.

The same principle holds good, to a lesser extent, in the case of the human eye, for after we "become accustomed to the dark"—or after the pupils of our eyes become sufficiently distended to allow the rays to enter—we are able to see much more distinctly than formerly. This, however, takes an appreciable time, while it occurs automatically in the eye of a cat.

Our blankets are named after a Flemish weaver called Thomas Blanket, who lived in Bristol in 1340.

London has adopted Verden, as well as several villages in the Meuse Valley.

Moon's Mighty Mountains.

For a small body, the moon has some astonishingly big mountains. They are bigger than any we have on earth.

By the manner in which massive rocks overhang dizzy precipices many thousands of feet high, they are thought to be of much harder material than ours.

Many of them differ also in their color, some glowing like an opal. One of them, indeed, can be seen shining on the dark part of the moon, and this led to its being mistaken for a volcano in full blast.

There is a mountain range in the extreme south of the moon whose peaks are said to be from 30,000 ft. to 36,000 ft. high. Mount Everest can boast only 29,140 ft. Altogether, the moon has nearly forty peaks which are higher than Mont Blanc. If the earth had mountains in proportion to its much greater size, they would be very many miles high.

As it is, they are mere pigmies in comparison. The loftiest peak of the Himalayas is but 29,002 ft. high. In the Rockies 14,000 ft. is about the limit, and 16,000 ft. in the Alps. The Caucasus are content with a maximum height of about 15,000 ft.

True, there is a great volcano on the island of Hawaii which rises to a height of nearly 14,000 ft., and which, if the sea were drained away, would be more than 30,000 ft. high. But the sea remains—and the moon mountains are easy winners.

Of the 1,500,000,000 people in the world, one-half are still only partly clothed, and 250,000,000 wear no clothes at all.