

THE SCOTTISH TARTANS.

Wards Which Carry in Their Folds a Thousand Years of Scotland's History.

When our conception of a soldier is a composition of high courage, bloused hat and ill-fitting blouse, we find it difficult to accept seriously the warrior covered with gold lace and innumerable medals...

On the plains and kops of South Africa the Boers have found themselves in this year of grace, 1960, confronted by the identical tartan that met the Roman on his invasion of Britain...

England's story, for two centuries, has been illumined by the colors of Scotland's plaids, and upon no other page has there been a broader spread of tartan than the one whereon is being written the valiant death struggle of the South African republics.

The tartan that has furnished a large part of the fabric composing the military history of the British empire and the one most familiar to aliens and our news columns is the sober black, green and blue of the Royal Highlanders...

We have a young San Francisco in our midst, and she is homesick as homesick can be for that city of uncountable hills and innumerable heliotrope hedges.

An industry in which France has maintained a supremacy for nearly two centuries is the production of wools, as the French material is peculiarly rich in the oxides of iron, and considerable care is exercised in its preparation.

PITH AND POINT.

Fortune often knocks at the door, but the fool does not invite her in.—Danish Proverb.

Many a man isn't worth the market value of the phosphorus in his bones.—Chicago Daily News.

Lots of men are called pessimists who are nothing more than rag-chewers.—Washington (Ia.) Democrat.

A Sad Story.—"My boy," said the great man, "I used to shine shoes myself." "Well," replied the bootblack, "they're a hell lot of de guys what is led astray."—Philadelphia North American.

The Ruling Passion.—First Enthusiastic Golfer—"I say, will you play another round with me on Thursday?" Second Enthusiastic Golfer—"Well, I'm booked to be married on that day—but it can be postponed."—Punch.

Askit—"I suppose Henpeck was glad when his salary was raised, was he not?" Tellit—"Not much. He said his wife would take advantage of that to increase their expenses by twice as much as the raise."—Baltimore American.

"What do you think is the saddest work of fiction you ever read?" "The cookery book," answered the young woman who has not been married very long. "Not more than one in ten of those recipes come out right."—London Answers.

The wolf related several instances of having escaped being shot in virtue of wearing sheep's clothing. "So far as my own experience goes," concluded the wolf, "this talk of wool being unsanitary to wear next one's skin is largely fad!"—Detroit Journal.

Brown—"They have a good deal to say about women searching their husbands' pockets. Do you suppose there is anything in it?" Greene—"I don't know. Why shouldn't they? A woman, having no pocket of her own, naturally must have some curiosity about the pockets of other people."—Boston Transcript.

THE SHOING OF HORSES.

A Farrier Should Know the Animal's Habits to Fit Its Feet Correctly.

Among the visitors to the recent horse show who were attracted to it by their interest in the horse and things pertaining to the animal there were many who paid attention to the subject of shoeing.

In the course of a conversation on the subject, the paper read by Robert Bonner on "Horse Shoeing" before the New York Farriers' association, held at the Metropolitan club in 1895, was referred to.

R. F. Carman said: "I have my own blacksmith shop at Carmandale, and supervise the shoeing of all my horses. The shoe must be put on so that the foot comes level on the ground, and the weight must be in keeping with the horse's gait and balance."

But every man cannot keep his own farrier, and all horse owners are not competent to give instructions as to how their animals should be shod.

"It takes just as much skill to shoe a dray horse as a fine carriage animal," said a blacksmith, "and the man who owns the dray horse is just as particular and knows as much as the owner of the fancy stock."

The price for a set of shoes ranges from \$3.50 to \$5, and blacksmiths charge no more for shoeing "fancy" horses than they do for the ordinary animals.

Most Musical Town in the World. Do you know which is the most musical town in the whole world? It is Desterd, in Brazil.

"I'm your oyster!" announced the convivial individual whom the policeman had requested to be quiet.

THOUSAND ONE-DOLLAR BILLS

They Conquered the Old Man When One Big Banknote Failed.

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"I'll just hypnotize him," I said to myself, and, going to a bank, I got a brand new \$1,000 bill. Then I hurried off in my boarding house, found him in a dirty little back room, and made my proposition for settlement.

"A few days after this discouraging experience," the lawyer went on, "Mr. Andrews, the claim agent of the line, happened to be in town and dropped in to inquire about the case."

But, alas, this single house is exclusively a house of landlords, exclusively a house of hereditary legislators. The people of the island are not allowed to elect their representatives.

There are now, therefore, not more than about 30 actual sitting members of the chiefs plaid, they represent a population of some 570 souls and an extent of about 1,275 acres.

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The fewer airs some musicians can play the more they put on.—Chicago Daily News.

SIBERIAN GOLD PLUNDERERS.

How Illlicit Mining is Carried on in El Dorado East of the Urals.

The illicit extraction and robbery of gold in Siberia has long been one of the greatest difficulties with which the Russian officials and mining authorities east of the Urals have had to contend, says a St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Times.

They had all the necessary tools and appliances for working the precious metals, and also large stores of provisions, which had been brought thither partly on rafts and partly by reindeer across the mountains, and which were being sold at enormously high prices.

The other day I attended the opening of the as yet unreformed parliament of Sark, says a writer in a London paper. There is but one house, and it is called the chefs plaid.

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ASTROLOGY THEN AND NOW.

The Fakir of the Middle Ages Was Not in It with the More Modern Variety.

"Astrology as a profession is in a vastly more flourishing condition today than it was in the middle ages," declared a well-known cotton future broker of this city, says the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

"My attention was first directed to the subject in '98, through the peculiar orders I began to receive from an old customer who had been taking an occasional flyer in cotton ever since I had been in business."

"I tried to point out the gross absurdity of the whole proposition," continued the broker. "This fakir," said I, "is talking about planets that are thousands of times larger than this little earth of ours. They are billions upon billions of miles away, and rush through space in orbits of immeasurable vastness."

"Later on I had a clerk in my office who had formerly worked for an astrologer of some note in New York city, and he told me many amusing things about the business behind the scenes. His boss was an ex-medicineman, who for years had managed a big tent show in the west for a liver regulator company."

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FOREIGN GOSSIP.

The Bank of England has usually about £25,000,000 to £30,000,000 of its notes in circulation.

Only citizens of Canada will in future be employed on government work or on government works by contractors in that country.

A brisk trade in fox skins is springing up between France and Italy. The latter country last year exported 4,000, mostly from around Rome. Foxes are plentiful in Italy.

Germany sends out a postal card on which is printed a red strawberry. When the strawberry is exposed to heat the color of the fruit blanches and disappears. It can be brought back to its original red color by blowing upon it.

Bituminous coal costs \$20 a ton in Mexico, but \$80,000 worth of it was shipped into the sister republic from this country last September, bringing up the total for the first nine months of 1960 to the value of \$1,500,000.

Rotterdam, from its favorable situation, has gradually pulled ahead of Amsterdam, and is now the most prosperous harbor in Holland. It has captured most of the German trade, and does an immense business with the United States.

According to a French commercial report, the export of tanned sheep and goat hides from France to Egypt has materially decreased, owing to the keen competition of Germany and Austria. Owing to Swiss competition, the export of shoes from France to Egypt has likewise fallen off.

Married men in Sweden and Norway are as much labeled as their wives. They wear wedding rings, thereby proclaiming themselves to all and sundry as appropriated blessings. And not only do they go shackled after matrimony; directly they become engaged they proclaim the fact to the outside public by sporting a ring, just as do their fair fiancées.

LIFE IS GROWING LONGER.

Statistics Show Considerable Increase in the Span of Human Existence.

From statistics and the result of certain changes in the methods of living we can safely affirm that the span of life is steadily lengthening. Three thousand years before the Christian era the average duration of life was said to be three score years and ten. This would make middle life come at 35. Dante considered that year the middle of life's arch and Montaigne, speaking for himself at the same period of life, considered his real work practically ended and proved that he thought he was growing old by falling into the reminiscent age, says the Royal Magazine.

At the present time 50 years is considered as middle age. In the days of the revolutionary war prominent men at that time, were looked upon as old at 50 years. We are justified in supposing that the span of human life will be prolonged in the future because the possibility of living to an older age has been demonstrated by the great advances made in medicine and hygiene during the past ten years.

We have attained a vast amount of knowledge as to the causes of disease, and new remedies for their successful treatment have been discovered. We have no new diseases, at least, of any serious character, and we are better able to treat the old ones, which, like old foes, appear to us with new faces.

One of the most interesting and trustworthy statements in respect to old age is the report of the habits of centenarians, made some years ago by a commission appointed by the British Medical association. Without going into particulars of the different cases, it is valuable to note, generally, the result of this investigation.

It seems that most of the old people were small or medium of stature and of spare habit of body. Most of them had lost their teeth, but nearly all of them enjoyed good digestion, one old man of 98, a clergyman, placing his hand on the organ in question and saying that he never knew what it was to have a stomach. Nearly all of them had enjoyed uninterrupted good health, and many had never known what it was to be sick.

They were all very moderate in eating, most of them using little animal food. Few indulged at all in intoxicating drinks and those only in notable moderation. They took considerable outdoor exercise and nearly all possessed the good-natured placid disposition.

Japanese Lover for Children.

Now that the Japanese are coming to the front with such amazing leaps and bounds, some of their more salient characteristics are sure to be noticed, if not adopted by the westerners. Take their love for children. It is phenomenal, and it is doubtful if any Japanese child ever got a beating. An American lady who got acquainted with a Japanese matron noticed that she allowed her little children to ramble through the streets at will, and one day commented on it. "Why," said the Japanese lady, "what harm can come of it? Our children never quarrel, and no grown person would harm a child."

"But," said the American, "the child might get lost." "That would make no trouble," was the smiling reply. And then she showed how in little children's apparel there were detailed cards containing their name and address, and explained that should they stray any person finding them will first give them a full meal and then bring them home.—Golden Days.