

BEST OF MODERN PAGANS.

The Japanese Are Deserving of Much Praise If They Are Heathen.

Thirty-four years ago, at the mikado's summons, Rev. William Elliott Griffith went to Japan...

Rev. David S. Spencer has been a missionary in Japan for 20 years. He agrees with Dr. Griffith that about the "yellow peril" is all foldier.

So does Rev. James H. Pettie, another veteran missionary. He says that the sympathy of Christendom should be given to Japan "unreservedly."

HIS IDENTIFICATION EASY.

Every Man in the Bank Knew the Saloon Keeper But They Couldn't Afford to Speak.

The saloonkeeper stepped into the bank to get a check cashed, but the paying teller gave him a cold stare.

"What?" cried the saloonkeeper.

"You'll have to be identified," repeated the teller calmly.

"Now, see here, Charlie," exclaimed the saloon man, "if you're joking—"

"Don't block the way please," interrupted the teller.

"Trouble! Identification!" the saloon man fairly yelled.

"Then you ought to have no trouble about identification," asserted the teller.

"Get the president to identify you," he said.

"But even at the farm we didn't find the man. He had gone to Chandlersville, four miles away."

"Over still rougher roads, found him, and started back for Virginia, getting there in time for six o'clock supper."

"The house wanted me to look up a man down here in the southern part of Illinois, and I left Chicago for Jacksonville at seven o'clock the next morning, and half an hour later caught a train for the little town of Virginia, where I thought my man lived."

"Then the teller leaned forward confidentially.

"Get the president to identify you," he said.

"A few minutes later the matter was straightened out, but, as the saloon man counted the money, he remarked rather bitterly to the teller:

"The next time you want something with a little bitters in it put on the slate you'll have to be identified. Don't forget that. I never saw you before myself!"

Ardent Pedestrians.

"Christopher North" (Prof. John Wilson), a giant over six feet high, whose tread seemed almost to shake the streets,

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WHY CHINESE DO WASHING.

Find the Work Easy and Can Get Along Without Learning Much English.

"It is certainly very strange that nine out of every ten Chinamen who have come to the United States have become laundries," said E. G. Simmons, of Seattle, to a Washington Star man.

"Another thing that is noticeable is the ingenuity of Mr. Chinaman displayed in the signs and checks used in the laundry business. Chinese is an ideographic language. It conveys the idea, not the word, for a thing."

"The Chinese have invented more than 40,000 marks for their writing, but it requires only about 3,000 for general mercantile purposes. For instance, there are no characters in the Chinese for letters of any such simple variations as Roman and Arabic numerals. It is therefore impossible to translate or transliterate into Chinese such common marks as A 1 or IV 6."

"A customer goes into a laundry unable to speak Chinese and gives his package to a man unable to understand English. He receives in return a check containing two characters. One represents the day of the week or the month and the second one of the facts mentioned, such as 'moon' or 'lion.'"

"Then upon the daybook of the laundry the proprietor enters under the day of the week or month the ideograph moon or lion assigned to the customer and beneath this the articles left to be laundered. He then takes down from a hook a lot of muslin tags, on which are written in indelible ink 'moon' or 'lion,' 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc."

DRUMMER TRIED TO SLEEP.

Went to Bed a Number of Times, But Was Still Looking for Another Chance to Snore.

"Talking about sleep," remarked the man with the tired rings around his eyes, relates the Chicago Tribune, "I'd like to remark that last night I slept in two hotels and two sleeping cars, and still had to get up outside of Chicago."

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KANSAS FIFTY YEARS OLD.

The Territory Was Organized Half a Century Ago Amid Stirring Scenes.

Kansas will on the 30th of May reach the fiftieth year of its separate identity. It was on the 30th of May, 1854, that President Franklin Pierce attached his signature to the bill piloted through congress by Senator Stephen A. Douglas, which measure organized the territories of Kansas and Nebraska.

At that time neither he nor anybody else realized that he was connecting his name with one of the most portentous pieces of legislation ever placed on the national statute book. This act started the armed conflict between the north and south on the Kansas prairies, killed the whig party, created the republican party to meet the new issue, split the democratic party in the Kansas Lecompton constitution fight in 1858, made the division broad and deep in the Charleston convention of 1860, rendered Lincoln's election certain in that year, precipitated secession and civil war, killed slavery and placed a negro issue in politics which is in it still.

It would seem that Kansas, after starting such a formidable chain of events, ought to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of its birth on an imposing scale. She will not do this, partly because the anniversary strikes in the world's fair year, when another big event in American history is to have its centennial. Lawrence, Topeka and one or two other cities, however, are to have local observances, and these, even in this international exposition time, ought to attract some attention from the country at large. Nebraska, which was yoked with Kansas in the initial stage of the catastrophe, will also hold some local celebrations.

The battle-born commonwealth—for Kansas deserves this designation even more than does Nevada or West Virginia, to each of which it is occasionally applied—which helped to make some very important history while it was in the territorial stage, has not been idle even in more recent times. It did more to shape the populist party than Ohio did to bring out the green-back party, and populism was green-backism, plus several ideas invented for the occasion. It was on the firing line in the turbulent canvass of 1896. Everything new in politics or sociology for the past quarter of a century has either been generated in Kansas or had its first concrete application there. But that state's ebullitions subside quickly and it swings back into conservatism, as it has done again in the past few years. Kansas is the country's most picturesque commonwealth. The eyes of every intelligent American will be on it on its half-century birthday on May 30, 1904.

ROYAL STORES OF POTASH.

The Only Known Deposit of the Article Is Owned by the German Crown.

Although potash is an article in almost constant use in families throughout the civilized world, few are aware of the fact that the only deposits of this chemical are found in the German empire and constitute one of the chief sources of revenue of the Teutonic royal family. These mines are located at Strassfurt, 90 miles from Berlin. Before the mines were discovered the best substitute that could be found for the product was wood ash, such as the southern plantations used in the old days for making lye soap. The Prussian mines are 27 in number, and were devoted to the production of salt before salt rock was discovered.

When the new variety of salt was given to the world about 40 years ago the Prussian mines were temporarily abandoned, and in a few years a search for rock salt was instituted. The salt was found, but in a badly adulterated condition, and an analysis of the adulterant revealed the fact that it was the most valuable part of the mineral. The potash was at once turned to use as commercial fertilizer, and establishments in Kentucky and other southern states take a large proportion of the production. It is an ingredient of the material in which the Tennessee and South Carolina phosphates is largely used.

The mines are controlled by a syndicate, and are under the supervision of William, emperor of Germany and king of Prussia. They employ 21,000 men, and yield 1,200 car loads a day of potash. Of the entire output 75 per cent is used for agricultural purposes, while the remainder is used for chemical purposes. It is largely utilized in the cyanide process of extracting gold from the ore.

A Chilly Mule Tale.

A correspondent with the Thibet mission tells a mule story: "Mules, apparently, do not die from any cause, and this mission has again proved the extreme hardihood of these animals. When the mission first crossed the Jelepa, a mule slipped the dusk and fell into the lake at the bottom of the pass. It was thought to be drowned. Next morning a convoy found it with its nose just above the ice, the rest of its body literally frozen in. Pickaxes were brought and the animal was dug out. It is now working as usual."—St. James' Gazette.

Danger in Handling Radium.

There is great danger in handling radium. A noted chemist states that he would not trust himself in a room with a kilo of radium, because it would burn the skin all off his body and destroy his eyesight. He said that one gram (one gram equals 0.1543 of a grain) would destroy the life of every person in Chicago if they were properly exposed to it. While it kills micro-organisms, it can be used to prolong life as well.

FAVORITE TOWEL MATERIAL.

Huckaback Is Now the Thing—Some New Ideas in Napkins and Dollies.

Patterns in linens vary each year, and fashion is as rigid in this regard as in matters of dress. Perhaps this accounts for the fact that the American woman does not spend so much consideration on the contents of her linen chest as does her sister across the water. She prefers to have less changes in this line and to purchase more frequently in order to keep up to date, says the Washington Star.

Take towels. Not long ago damask headed the list for favors, and the woman who could display a pile of glossy damask towels with long fringed ends was considered fortunate. Now the huckaback towel is the towel of fashion, probably because it dries quicker and is thus more practical.

The huckaback towels come 27 inches wide for best use, which is much wider than the ones to be seen even a year ago. They are fine in quality, and some are hemstitched and lace bordered. Combinations of huckaback and damask are also to be seen. Sometimes there is a medallion of renaissance lace in the center, an insertion of the same and a hemstitched border edged with renaissance lace.

There is a marked tendency, however, to favor plain towels. Many women argue that hemstitching is common, and that it pulls out quickly. The same can be said of drawn-work, which is pretty, but far from durable. A simple finish for towels, which is finding much favor, is the burtonhole scalloped border. Other towels are shown in the new cut-out embroidery, but these are too expensive for everyday use.

Hand-embroidered towels are also to be seen among the choicest linens. These are worked with white linen floss and show such blossoms as the shamrock and clover. Colored bordered towels are no longer considered in good taste, although plain white ones sometimes show tiny colored embroidered blossoms on the surface of the border.

Much individuality is displayed in marking towels. Interlaced letters are used in preference to the monogram. Block and script letters, as well as single letters, are also in vogue, and, as formerly, the marking is done at the end of the towel.

The crest makes a beautiful mark for linen, and is greatly favored. This is about two inches in size, instead of three, as in the case of the letters. The table cloths, napkins and bed linen will also be marked to correspond with the towels. Sheets are worked on the outside upper corner, or exactly in the middle of the hem. The former is more practical for identification.

Table cloth designs were never more beautiful. Leaf patterns are exceedingly popular, the favorites being maiden-hair ferns, oak and ivy leaves. A new design in the latter is of a worm-eaten leaf, which gives opportunity for delicate tracery.

The floral designs show poppies, tulips, roses, fleur-de-lis, magnolias, centaureas and all the larger blossoms, with their leaves. One with a rose garland is woven, so that the flowers give a bas-relief effect.

Another pattern shows a rose and Greek key border. Still another shows the Elizabethan ornament. These are in the choicest weaves of linens, and are so glossy that their surfaces appear polished.

Napkins, of course, come to match the table cloths. Napkin holders of linen embroidered in pure white have scalloped edges. They close with a button and a loop. The mercerized cotton used in embroidering the holders and monograms gives the appearance of silk, and will not wash yellow as the silk does.

Jellied Rhubarb Nests.

Cook one pound of rhubarb (cut in small pieces) with one cupful of granulated sugar, the thin rind of half a lemon cut in short, narrow strips, and a small piece of ginger root. Add only enough water to keep from burning. When tender, add one-half ounce of gelatine, previously softened in half a cupful of cold water. Stir over hot water until thoroughly dissolved, add one tablespoonful of lemon juice, and pour into small tea-cups which have been dipped in cold water. Fill them only two-thirds full and set away to harden. When wanted to serve, turn out carefully on little nests of candied orange or lemon straws, and garnish with a snow egg.—Country Gentleman.

Panchoe Cake.

Panchoe cake is worth trying. Make any good white cake, and bake in two layers. Make a filling as follows: Beat together two cupfuls of brown sugar and one-half cupful milk until they harden in cold water. Then add a teaspoonful of vanilla and a tablespoonful of butter. Stir while cooking. To half of this mixture add one-half cupful of English walnut meats; as soon as cool enough spread between the layers. Spread the remainder of the mixture on top of the cake, and decorate with half walnut meats.—Rural New Yorker.

PACKAGES BY WIRE.

SYSTEM OF RAPID TRANSIT FOR LETTERS AND PARCELS.

Invention of Italian Count to Be Put Into Use in London—Worked Through by Electricity.

Prof. Morse, of New York, discovered that messages might be sent by electricity over a wire; Marconi, the Italian, has found a way to send messages through the air without any wires. Count Robert Targui, an Italian, has just worked out a system of dispatching letters and parcels by wire; it is possible that some inventor of the next generation will show us how to shoot letters and parcels through the air from city to city without any wires?

Popular Mechanics, perhaps the most progressive and interesting monthly publication of mechanical and inventive progress in America, explains for the first time this most interesting system of rapid transit letters and parcels by electricity. Popular Mechanics says:

"The 'electric post' which may be the means of transmitting letters and parcels along electric wires at a speed of 250 miles an hour, is being promoted in England. American capitalists have their eyes on the venture, and it may not be long before we are sending and receiving letters and packages by electricity between the principal cities of the United States. Many in England believe the 'electric post' will prove the most important mechanical development since the first railway was built; that it will soon do away with railway mail trains, letter carriers, sorting clerks, etc."

"The 'electric post' is the invention of Count Robert Piscicelli Targui, of Naples. He has already formed a syndicate of English capitalists in London for the purpose of establishing the system in Europe. The Italian government has granted the inventor a concession for operating the 'electric post' between Naples and Rome.

"The system is worked throughout by electricity. By its means a letter could be posted in Chicago and a reply received from New York in the same day. A St. Louis draper could place an order for light goods with a Chicago dealer and have the goods delivered before night; for the 'electric post' can carry parcels as well as letters.

"To better explain the working of the system, let it be supposed that the dome of the new Chicago post office is the central station of the 'electric post' for service in the city of Chicago. From the top of the tower wires would converge in all directions, reaching throughout the city, supported at intervals by columns 50 feet high, called collecting poles. There would be a pole about every block along the principal business streets of the city. At the base of each of the poles there would be a box in which to post the letters. An automatic arrangement inside the box would deflect the stamps on the letters at the same time inscribing the letter with the number of the collecting pole and the date and hour of posting. Every five minutes there would be sent from the central station an empty box, with motor attached, which would run on wheels along the wires. The wires would not only fit the same purpose as rails, but would act as conductors of the electric current to drive the motor.

"On reaching the first collecting pole the box would stop and open itself. At the same time it would cause a collecting box at the base of the column to run up the center of the letter and empty its contents in the receptacle provided. The motor box would then resume its journey, calling at each city pole in turn. Having performed its circuit, the motor box with the letters would return to the central station. There the letters would be sorted, and those for other cities would be placed in similar wheeled boxes and dispatched along the wires to their destination.

"Practically speaking, the 'electric post' is an electric aerial railway, with letter boxes in place of carriages. Cities of the size of St. Louis, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Buffalo, Cleveland, Kansas City, San Francisco and New Orleans would be in direct communication with New York and Chicago. Smaller towns would be served from the nearest important center, to which letters would be transmitted in the first place. A great network of wires would be spread over the United States."

Newsboys Take the Lead.

The study of grammar, arithmetic and geography should be second to the study of industrial arts for boys between ten and twelve years old, according to the original effort committee of the Chicago Principals' association. The committee has been inquiring into the original effort on the part of pupils for some time, and is now at work preparing its report. The following principles are to be the basis of the findings: The average newsboy is smarter than the average schoolboy. The country boy of 12 years has a better practical knowledge than the city boy of the same age. The teaching of the principles of plumbing, constructing houses and street cars is better for obtaining original effort on the part of pupils than delving in books.—N. Y. Globe.

Disastrous Speech.

First Cossack—How came you to lose that fight? You had 'em outnumbered. Second Cossack—That's true, but the general insisted on making a speech, and while he was saying "We conquer to-day, or to-night Mollody-karup Knockannystiffak" is a wid-or, the Japs came up and licked us.—Puck.

TO MAKE SEWING HEALTHY.

Correct Position Makes of It an Exercise That Will Be of Great Benefit.

There is a right way and a wrong way to sew, and she who pursues the right way arises from her day's work greatly benefited. She may be wearied, but her weariness is that weariness brought on by healthy work, like the weariness which follows a game of outdoor sport, says the American Queen.

Sewing, as women usually sew, is injurious to the health and to the appearance. It makes the shoulders round, the chest hollow, the complexion muddy, and, furthermore, causes indigestion and headache. But there is no reason why this should be so.

Correct sewing is governed by a few simple rules, which, if followed out, make the plying of needle and thread an exercise which deepens the chest, improves the carriage, strengthens the back and shoulders, clears the complexion and brightens the eyes.

In the first place the sewing room should be well ventilated. The air in it should be as fresh and pure as the air out of doors. Three operations go on in the sewing room, viz., cutting, the seamstress standing at the table; stitching, seated at the machine; sewing, with the material in the lap. In cutting, the manner in which the seamstress bends over the table is everything. In order that she may bend over properly, she should first take for two or three minutes the following simple, easy and beneficial exercises:

Stand perfectly erect, the heels together, the chin and abdomen in, raise the arms, held stiff from the sides outward, until the hands meet over the head, and at the time the hands meet, the lungs should be filled to their fullest extent with air. Slowly exhaling the air, lower the arms to the sides again. Repeat this movement 20 times. This exercise straightens the back, develops the lungs and gives to the body the precise pose that it should have. The seamstress, having through it acquired the proper bodily pose, can set to work at her cutting table, taking care to bend over only from the hips. Working in this position is perfectly healthy. The chest is expanded, the back, neck and knees are straight, and the abdomen held in. Hence the longer the seamstress bends over the table the more good she does to herself, insuring a graceful carriage and straightening the muscles. She should, all through her work, breathe with long, deep breaths.

In sitting to sew with the material on the lap, a rocking chair should never be used. A rocking chair throws the body out of balance by pitching it backward at an unnatural angle. In it the muscles of the front of the body—the muscles of the chest and diaphragm—are contracted, the chest is made hollow, the ribs are pulled down, and the back is rounded.

A chair with a straight back or a stool should be used, and the body should be held in the same erect position that the cutting table requires—chin and abdomen in, back straight, chest out. Of course, it is necessary, when sewing on the lap, to bend forward, but the bending should be done from the hips—the back should not be rounded. Sewing at the machine properly conducted, is an admirable exercise. Let the seamstress sit erect, bending only at the hips, and the rapid plying will be beneficial as a healthful exercise.

WHAT IT PAYS TO BUY.

A Few Words of Advice Concerning the New Hats and Their Accessories.

In purchasing a hat this season, if it is going to be a high-priced one, look at the following points in the hat, advises the Brooklyn Eagle. They mark the new ways in fashion and buyers of hats should know them:

Is the trimming such that it can be used again? Is there a lace scarf upon it? Look to see if the scarf is cut up so as to be useless next time, or is it a folded scarf, which can be taken off and pressed and used many times? The corded lace scarfs, with rope cording, are the newest things.

Again, if it be a hat with draped brim notice if the fringe, or the lace, or the needwork which forms the drapery is of good quality. Unless it is really good it is a poor investment. The newest hat drapes are made of lace with very delicate silver embroidery.

Again, notice if the feathers upon the hat are long, thick, naturally curling feathers. There are many expensive hats which are trimmed with short, stubby feathers that are practically useless afterward. Avoid such hats and try to select one with a shaded feather, of long thick build, with a heavy tip, and a thick rib. Such feathers last forever and are well worth the investment.

Metal ornaments are being worn upon hats this year and here one can use a great deal of judgment. There are handsome rhinestone buttons which look very pretty upon a hat, but which are really very cheap. But, on the other hand, there come