

ONION WITHOUT ODOR

ACHIEVEMENT OF OLD OKLAHOMA HORTICULTURIST.

New Evolutions in Plant Life by David Jaggere, Known Among Indians as "Luther Burbank of Collinsville."

Collinsville, I. T.—David Jaggere, better known among the Indians as "Luther Burbank of Collinsville," conducts a ten-acre experimental station just on the outskirts of this city.

This grand old man worked for the last 20 years trying to get a perfect cross between a common cabbage and a turnip, and it was only by accident that his success was known.

The writer heard of the story and set about to learn the truth from the old gentleman. Upon being asked what discoveries he had made in plant life, and for a statement for publication Mr. Jaggere replied:

"I was not ready to give the news of my turnip cabbage combination to the public, but the boys stole them, and I guess the secret is out. I have been working along lines similar in many respects to Luther Burbank, but mine have been almost exclusively in vegetables and fruits. The Cherokee Indians have furnished me with money for nearly 58 years to carry on my experiments, and to-day they are among the greatest orchardists in the world. They are apt students and are enthusiastic over fruit and berry culture."

"My odorless onion and several crosses between the sweet and Irish potatoes are probably the greatest achievements yet made by me. The cabbage and turnip combination, as I call it, makes a most delicious dish, but I am not satisfied with it entirely. It has occupied many years of my time, but I hope yet to make it more pleasing to the taste."

"When I came among the Indians in 1850 they eyed my work with suspicion, but it was not long until they realized the importance of horticulture and plant life. They told me that fruits and berries were what they wanted, and later they would experiment with flowers and vegetables. I have found them a most delightful and honorable class of people to deal with, and I am sure the general reading public is not acquainted with them. If they were they would respect them for their true worth."

"No, I am not personally acquainted with Burbank, but I read of him often, and admire him greatly. I am a mere novice in plant life when compared to him, although much of my work is along the same lines, but on a very limited scale. I have never attempted to do more than assist my peckish friends and benefactors in horticulture, berries, and vegetables. Just how well I have succeeded can be determined by a visit to the many magnificent orchards scattered about over the Cherokee nation. The Indian peach, a large, blood red, and the Elberta are the most noted peaches in the southwest. The "Arkansas black" apple ranks first among the orchards in this country. These have been greatly improved by me, and I feel that my work has been well worth the time and trouble."

DUCK TIES UP PHONE SYSTEM.

Gets Wire in Its Mouth and Line is Short-Circuited.

Watertown, S. D.—One spoonbill duck was the cause of the suspension of the long distance telephone service east of this city for several hours.

All tests known to the management were applied but failed to locate the spot of trouble. A lineman was dispatched by team to ascertain the cause. He found that, just east of Almont, the third station from this city, on the Northwestern railroad, a spoonbill duck, in its flight from one lake to another, had evidently started to quack either a greeting or a warning to its mate and had caught the wire full in its mouth. The momentum had carried it against a second wire, the two forming a vicelike grip upon the bird's neck, the body making several revolutions around the wires and twisting them into a cable, thus short-circuiting the system. The duck, with a broken neck, was still suspended from the wires when the lineman reached the scene.

Iowa Has a 32-Inch Bean.

Des Moines, Ia.—Nate Thompson, a farmer living near Earlham, has "back, the giant killer" of beanstalk fame, beaten to a frazzle. Thompson has issued a challenge to the entire state to produce a bigger bean than he has grown on his farm. He claims to have one pod 32 inches in length, and growing at the rate of two and a half inches a day.

SWALLOWS SNAKE IN WATER.

Cincinnati Man Has Unpleasant Experience While Camping.

Lawrenceburg, Ind.—Shortly after he had taken a drink of water from a spring while camping in Kentucky, Thomas Jeffries, member of a Cincinnati club, became deathly sick, his moans and groans awakening the other members of the party. His distress soon alarmed his friends, and a messenger was sent to Petersburg, Ky., and returned with Dr. Ralph Tilley, who, after a careful examination, was unable to diagnose the case from the external symptoms.

The doctor finally decided to administer an emetic, which readily disclosed the cause of the sudden illness. Jeffries complained to the doctor, saying that he thought he had severed or wrenched some parts of his internal organs. Dr. Tilley found a garden snake about five or six inches long and alive. It is believed Jeffries swallowed the snake when he drank at the spring.

Jeffries said he was about half asleep when he went to get a drink of water, and he did not remember swallowing the snake, but in a few minutes afterward felt a peculiar sensation in his stomach, a jerking and twisting feeling. He was given a stimulant and he improved rapidly. Dr. Tilley jokingly remarked that it was the first time he knew or ever heard of a man having snakes from drinking water.

SEA GIVES UP BANK CHECKS.

Papers Drift 500 Miles and Puzzle the Finders.

London—A remarkable discovery of checks, which had drifted 500 miles at sea, has been made on the German coast at Wyk, in the island of Fohr.

They were drawn on the Dover branch of the National Provincial Bank of England, the manager of which was notified of their discovery through Lloyd's agency at Fohr. The German finders believed them to be valuable, and asked if any reward was offered for their recovery.

At first the whole affair was a mystery to the bank officials, but inquiries resulted in a peculiar explanation.

About six months ago a client of the bank, who had changed his address, placed a large number of old checks and other papers in a sack. He had the sack taken out into the straits of Dover and sunk.

In the drift of about 500 miles from Dover to the island of Fohr, off the German coast, the sack had burst, with the result that the checks it contained will probably be floating ashore on various parts of the European coast line.

HYACINTHS PROVE CURSE.

Rank Growth Chokes Navigation in Southern Louisiana.

New Orleans—The annual hyacinth curse is plaguing every manner of industry in southern Louisiana. The water lilies, now rank of growth and in full bloom, choke thousands of streams and prevent navigation, meaning an actual money loss of millions to transportation companies and their dependent customers. A vast number of cane, rice and lumber, and timber producers depend upon the complex water way system of Louisiana to get their wares to the railroads and milling industries. The damming of these streams with this luxurious plant cuts off the livelihood of thousands of people who are made idle by the shutting down of various manner of enterprises.

The sheer weight of the hyacinth at Franklin, La., was sufficient to burst 50 log booms held in Bayou Teche, and lumber manufacturers resorted to a fleet of powerful gasoline boats to tow the lilies—miles and miles of them—to deep water. This, however, afforded only partial relief.

PARDON AFTER THIRTY YEARS.

Man Sentenced for Stealing Two-Dollar Pig Now Free.

Montgomery, Ala.—William Pearson, who escaped from the Alabama penitentiary 30 years ago, while serving sentence for stealing a pig, and fled to Texas, settling at Palestine, where he has become a man of prominence and influence, has been pardoned by Gov. Comer.

The petition for his pardon was made by Gov. Campbell and Congressman Gregg of Texas, who say that Pearson is a leading and wealthy citizen of Palestine and that he and his wife and children stand high socially. The petition states Pearson has frequently refused political office because he knew he could not legally hold it.

Gov. Comer had the case looked up and found Pearson had been convicted in 1875 in Clay county, when he was 18 years old, of stealing a pig valued at two dollars and sentenced to two years in the penitentiary. After serving two months Pearson escaped by knocking down a guard and nothing was heard of him till the petition came from the Texas governor.

Coreans to Lose Topknots.

Tokio.—The coronation of the new Korean emperor took place here. The old and new emperors and the crown prince cut off their topknots. Three years ago the Japanese endeavored to have all the Coreans discontinue with their topknots, but did not succeed. The function at the palace may be taken as Corean's final act of submission to the Japanese. Hereafter the Coreans, following the example of the emperor, will cut their hair short, as do the Japanese.

WANTED MORE THAN MACHINE.

Widower Was After Something That Could Cook 'Taters, Etc.

He was an old-fashioned business man from the interior of Pennsylvania, and was in Philadelphia to buy goods. When he had given his order he said to the salesman:

"I've heard it has got to be all the fashion for business men to have typewriters nowadays?"

"Yes, that's the style now."

"And to marry 'em if they suit?"

"Yes, a good many do that."

"Haven't got one around the store, have you?"

"Oh, certainly."

The man from the interior was thereupon taken down to the office, where a typewriting machine sat on its table, while the girl was at her lunch.

"Well, what do you think of it?" was asked as he looked at it in a puzzled way and scratched his head.

"I guess I must be mistaken," he replied. "The machine seems to be all right, but how in thunder does a widower get married to it?"

"Oh, I see. He doesn't marry the machine, but the girl who operates it. You've got the two things mixed up."

"That's it, eh? Then I'll sit here till the gal comes in, and unmix 'em. If I'm going to get married again I want something that can cook meat and 'taters and do the housework."

"READING THE RIOT ACT."

Ceremony That Must Precede Dispersal of Crowd in Britain.

What is commonly meant by "reading the riot-act" is better known than the origin of the phrase. The historical riot act was passed by the British parliament in the reign of George I. in 1714. It enacts that felony is committed when 12 or more persons unlawfully, riotously and tumultuously assemble together, to the disturbance of the public peace, so to continue together for an hour after being commanded to disperse by the sheriff or under sheriff, or a justice or the mayor of the borough.

In the "reading" of the British riot act, which is a necessary preliminary to its being put into operation, it is not customary to recite the whole of the statute, which is rather a long one, but only the following proclamation, which is contained: "Our sovereign lord the king chargeeth and commandeth all persons being assembled immediately to disperse themselves, and peaceably to depart to their habitations, or to their lawful business, upon the pains contained in the act made in the first year of King George for preventing tumults and riotous assemblies. God save the king!"

Impossible Friendships.

"Almost all people, when one knows them well enough, are interesting, but there are a great many in one's circle of acquaintance that one can never know well. Year after year goes on, and we may never touch anything really human and vivifying in them or they in us—except for a mere outer shell of formal politeness, we do not know them, though we may meet them daily. It does not pay to try beyond a certain point—neither gains anything. They are not for your inner circle, nor you for theirs. And there are others who go through all the motions of recognition, yet who are intrinsically insincere. No matter how we may meet them in the larger social life, these have no place in the social life of the home, no matter how gifted or brilliant, or how much sought by others or how cordial seems their greeting to you. Those who are really insincere can neither get nor give any good thing—they cannot make for life in any sense, but only for confusion and the subtle loss of that fine spirit of mutual trust that should be the very basis of family living.—Lillie Hamilton French, in Harper's Bazar.

Found Nail in His Skull.

A remarkable discovery was made by the surgeons of Williamsburg hospital while they were operating on the skull of William V. Albright, who fell from the elevated structure being erected across the Brooklyn plaza of the Williamsburg bridge. The surgeon came across a hard substance imbedded in the skull and a closer examination disclosed it to be the head of a nail. It proved to be a nail fully three inches long, which had penetrated the brain.

Desiring and Attaining.

Between desire and attaining, all human life flows on throughout. The wish is, in its nature, pain; the attainment soon begets satiety, the end was only apparent; possession takes away the charm; the wish, the need, presents itself under a new form, when it does not, then follow desolateness, emptiness, ennui—against which the conflict is just as painful as against want. That wish and satisfaction should follow each other neither too quickly nor too slowly, reduces the smallest amount of suffering which both occasion, and constitutes the happiest life.—Arthur Schopenhauer.

Willing to Oblige.

"I am fired of these predictions and promises of a great epochal change in favor of the people," murmured the fair girl with social theories for her latest fad. "I want to see the great social cataclysm act."

Enlightened Eastern Potentate.

Of medium height, square shoulders, with the neatest of feet and pretty shoes, faultlessly dressed in the latest fashion, with a keen eye, and possessing a charming manner and delightful personality which sets those in less exalted station at ease, speaking English perfectly, but with a captivating accent, the king of Siam is one of the most intelligent and enlightened of oriental potentates. His desire is to see his country progress, and for this reason his heir has been educated at Eton and the University of Cambridge. The crown prince, Prince Chofa, was coxswain of his college boat.

Chance for a Test.

"Oh, my!" exclaimed Tommy, "see how dirty your clothes are. Won't your mother be mad, though, when you go home?"

"No, she won't," replied Willie. "She bought a box of Imperial Grease and Dirt Eradicator from a peddler last week and she ain't had a chance to use it yet."

EXPLORING THE UPPER AIR.

Scientists Have a Great Deal to Learn on This Subject.

Plainly, electricity has a great deal to do with the mechanism of storms. For this and other reasons the storage of it in the atmosphere interests in high degree the expert meteorologist, and it is not surprising that the weather bureau should contemplate an exhaustive investigation of the subject. What—it would like to know, to begin with—is a lightning flash? Whence does it come, and how is it generated? Do storm clouds serve as gigantic storage batteries? And does the electricity have anything to do with the making of rain?

Nobody can answer any of these questions. It is believed that a lightning flash has an extremely high voltage, with a low amperage; in other words, that it contains only a small amount of electricity at high pressure. But there is no certainty about it.

The weather bureau man sends up a scientific box kite with the help of a windlass, from a hill top, using piano wire in place of a string. Storm clouds come up and electricity begins to descend the wire, throwing off formidable sparks. It is interesting—in fact, it might even be dangerous—but it conveys no information.—Reese Baché, in The Circle.

WHY WOMEN ARE NERVOUS.

Austrian Surgeon Ascribes It to Incorrect Sitting Posture.

"No wonder your women are nervous," remarked Dr. Joseph Garzouka, a noted Austrian surgeon, to a newspaper representative the other day. And he added: "Such positions as they assume while sitting is to my mind sufficient to undermine their nerve health."

According to Dr. Garzouka the practice of crossing the knees, which he specially condemns, is peculiarly American. He declares that in no country on the continent can young women be seen in public with one leg crossed over the other, and he is astounded at the prevalence of the habit here.

In his home country, the physician—who is touring the world in the interest of science—says, the women sit up straight; they do not lean against things; they do not like rocking chairs. He notices that American women seem to like nothing but easy, lounging chairs, and he deprecates their habit of slouching down in them with their legs crossed in such a manner as to bring too much pressure on the spine.

Well Named Smoky City.

Pittsburg, the second city in size in Pennsylvania, which was named in honor of the prime minister of England, after Fort Duquesne, built on spot by the French had been captured by the English in 1758, derived the name of Smoky City from the immense consumption of soft coal, due to the great iron and steel industries centered there. It is told in the old days that a traveler to the west, when he passed through Pittsburg, supposed that he had gone through a long tunnel in the Alleghenies. There was much relief from the smoky conditions for a period when natural gas was used in the city furnaces, but the lack of supply in so great abundance of its use in place of soft coal led to a return to former conditions, and now the name Smoky City adheres more firmly than ever to the place.

Unfortunate Comparison.

One of the most charming writers in one of the most prominent newspapers, speaking of the hereditary but improving big feet of American girls, ventures the prediction that it will be many years "before our girls come up to the standard of the Venus of Milo in that respect." It would be interesting to know what the standard of the Venus of Milo is in regard to hands. The original sculpture is in the Louvre, but it is sans hands and sans arms, and all attempts at the vandalism of "restoration" have been most fortunately resisted.

Joining in the Game.

"What's all this racket about, boys?"

Electric Anesthesia.

Electric sleep, or anesthesia, produced by the action on the brain of intermittent electric currents of low voltage, has been a subject of special study for several years by Prof. Stephanie Leduc of Nantes and others. The application has been perfected until it is practicable to put dogs and rabbits quickly into a calm and regular sleep, with general and complete anesthesia.—Electricity.

Wanted More Speed.

De Style—Who was that fellow who complained that our pinwheels didn't go around fast enough?

Gumbusta—He's a gas meter inspector.

HAD USE FOR THE OIL.

Workmen Found It Good for Other Things Besides Medicine.

Some years ago a railway was being made in the west of Scotland, and it was arranged that each of the numerous navvies employed should pay 1d. per week to a medical practitioner, so that they might have his services in the event of accident, or medicine in the case of illness.

During the summer and autumn neither illness nor accident occurred.

But when a severe winter followed, all at once the "navvies" began to call on the doctor for castor oil.

Each brought his bottle, into which an ounce was poured, and the doctor was forced to scold to town for a further supply.

When that, too, was getting low, the doctor one day quietly asked a healthy looking fellow what was wrong with the men that they required so much castor oil.

"Nothing wrong at all, doctor," he replied, "but we grease our big boots with it."—London Tit-Bits.

LESS NEED TO WORK HARD.

New Methods Have Lightened Household Cares for Women.

Why should we worry over our household work, as the grandmothers of the long ago had to do?

We no longer sweep clouds of dust into the air to lodge upon the walls and settle on our draperies; we know better. We use a method which carries the dust to a closed receptacle or prevents it from rising.

We dust with damp cloths. We no longer scrub floors upon bended knees, we use boiling, soapy water, and let the hot water do the work, wringing the cloth with the mop wringer attached to the wall. We wash clothes with a machine; knead bread with a mixer; iron flat clothes with a mangle and starched ones with special irons over adapted boards.

We do many things better and easier, from window washing to cooking; and in it all and through it all, we do things in a more cleanly manner, and to the better that we do become more and more virtuous and housekeeping a greater joy.

The Weaning of a Baby Seal.

Hundreds of visitors at the aquarium the other day saw a novel sight when Edith, a baby seal, was graduated from home nursing on a bottle and partook of her first meal of fish, says the New York Herald. The little seal, now about six months old, arrived from Boothbay harbor, where she had been captured in a fish weir by a Maine fisherman. She was a pet of the children of Boothbay harbor until her owner gave her to the aquarium.

Mr. Spencer, superintendent of the aquarium, fed her a handful of killies, which were quickly swallowed, much to the delight of a crowd of children and adults. When a single herring, such as the other seals toss off at a gulp, was offered, the baby seal carefully held it between her flippers while eating it.

Swimmer's "Cramps."

"You often hear of people dying from cramps while in swimming," said James D. Rose of Martin, Tenn. "People don't die from cramps while in bathing. The water gets in the ears, floods the ear drum, and causes the nerves leading to the brain to become paralyzed. This naturally forces other vital nerves to cease performing their duty, and the result is death. If people who go in swimming would put cotton in their ears the number of deaths from 'cramps' would be much smaller. This information was imparted to me several years ago by an old German physician in the mountains, and who was an intelligent but queer individual. Whenever I go in swimming I always put cotton in my ears, and I'm never afraid of having 'cramps.'"

An Idea.

"An idea," said a fat man, "for the makers of underwear or socks, drawers and undershirts. Why do they put the thickest seams and knots and roughness inside, next the sensitive skin, instead of outside, where they would not be felt?"

Time to Wake Up.

A friend of mine has a little girl four years old, who has acquired the habit of calling her mother and father by their first names instead of "mamma" or "papa." The child sleeps in a crib besides her parents and is wide awake every morning when her mother wakes the father telling him it's time to go to business, the six o'clock whistle has blown, says writer in an eastern magazine. One morning the child heard the whistle but the mother did not, and after waiting a short time baby put her hand through the bars of her crib and pulling the father's arm cried: "Get up, Jack, the whistle blowed."

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