

CHINA TO KEEP OLD CUSTOM

Officials Refuse to Countenance the Spread of Western Ideas.

A Shanghai correspondent of a German paper writes: "The custom of arranging matrimonial contracts through agents or matchmakers has been practiced in China for ages...

"The empress dowager directs that further efforts in that direction should be punished severely, and we know what that means. She said that from what she had heard the French marriages were for the most part happy and that these were usually arranged by the parents."

HAS RESTING PLACE AT LAST.

Remarkable Vicissitudes Undergone by Stained Glass Window.

The east window at St. Margaret's, Westminster, England, wandered about for more than 200 years before reaching its present position...

The Power of Habit.

"The power of habit was strikingly illustrated not long ago in a Philadelphia shirt waist factory...

A Pioneer Orchard Maker.

"Johnny Appleseed," who was John Chapman of Ohio, while the middle states were still the far west, sought out the best way in which he could help his fellows...

Strict Sabbath Keeping.

Prescott, the historian, possessed a quiet and quaint humor. Mrs. M. S. Van de Velde gives an instance of it in "Random Recollections."

Love's Language.

Agnie he crushed her to him. "Darling," he breathed, "this kiss tells you all that I would say."

Fulfilling Expectations.

"Alas!" moaned the dejected backer of the show, "my cake is dough!" "Exactly," returned the star of the piece. "That is what angel cake is expected to be."

DID SERVICE AT BUNKER HILL.

Maine Man Owns Musket That Was Used in Historic Conflict.

Alonzo Smith of Skowhegan, Me., has an old gun, which was used in the battle of Bunker Hill, 131 years ago...

PORTABLE SOURCE OF WEALTH.

Little Gold Dust Factory in Each Man's Pocket Out West.

While the scarcity of currency caused the substitution in pay envelopes of gold coins for bills a pleasant and profitable habit which is said to be in vogue out west, where gold is always more in use than in the east...

An Excellent Waitress.

Nurses in training have many hardships to bear, but perhaps none is worse than having to appear cheerful under all conditions. A sense of humor is perhaps as great an asset as a nurse can have...

What It Was.

Young Bertie courted pretty Ann, and asked her for his wife. Said she: "I love no other man, so will be yours for life!"

A Plot!

"I have a great idea," said the amateur conspirator. "What is it?" asked the willing listener. "We will say no more about protecting trees."

A Great Difference.

"So you are going to resist the law compelling you to reduce fares?" "Yes," answered Dustin Sax. "So long as they went no further than to compel us to increase our revenues by charging everybody the maximum rate, we were deferential and submissive. But when they aim a blow like this, patience becomes impossible!"

BULLET NINE YEARS IN BRAIN.

Young Woman Dies After Fourth Operation to Remove Mistle.

New York—A bullet wound received nine years ago resulted fatally for Mrs. Helen De Prazzi, 24 years old. She died in the Kings County hospital after a period of insensibility lasting for two weeks...

TREASURES IN LONDON BANKS.

Sultan of Morocco Has \$5,000,000 Worth of Jewels There.

Abdul-Asis, sultan of Morocco, is taking no chances of losing his personal jewelry in the course of one of the frequently recurring disturbances in his country. Locked up in the vaults of a bank near Charing Cross, London, the jewels, valued at \$5,000,000, are guarded night and day...

POSTAL DEFICIT DECREASING.

Nearly \$4,000,000 Less for Current Year Than 1906.

Washington.—If the amount lost by fire, burglary, etc., is added to the ordinary excess of expenditures over receipts, including expenditures during the year on account of previous fiscal years, the gross deficit in the postal service during the year 1907 will aggregate \$6,692,031.

MADNESS IN MOLARS.

Cleveland Dentist Claims Tooth Pulling Will Cure Insanity.

Cleveland.—The cure of certain forms of insanity by the extraction of teeth is the announcement recently put forth by Dr. E. Ballard Lodge, a dentist of this city, who has been conducting experiments in the state insane hospital in Massillon.

Kaiser Buys Our Mules.

Hoboken, N. J.—When the steamship Patricia sailed for Hamburg the other day it had as a portion of its cargo 30 of those much-dreaded animals, mules, but these 30 are the kings of their race and the pick of over 1,000 of the best bred mules that the state of Kentucky produces...

Lucid, But Wrong.

When the steam engine was invented a learned Englishman wrote a book in which he set forth his theory that it would be impossible to propel a vessel across the ocean by steam power. The writing was lucid, the reasoning was correct, but the premises were wrong...

Charity's Biggest Achievement.

The highest achievement of charity is to love our enemies; but to bear cheerfully with our neighbor's failings is scarcely an inferior grace. It is easy enough to love those who are agreeable and obliging; but to love one who is cross, perverse, tire-some, is an unpleasant a process as chewing pills.

Negro Gives Race New Code.

St. Louis.—If the negro wishes to advance his race, he must behave himself in street cars, said Prof. Arthur D. Langston, the colored principal of the Dumas school, to delegates of the Missouri Negro Republican League.

SPENT FREELY IN PROSPERITY.

Speculator Scorped to Make Provision for Lean Years.

The late Townsend Percy, speculator and promoter, who made and lost more than one fortune in the course of his life, used to fond of repeating some of his mother's witticisms at his expense, generally brought about by his extravagances during his periods of prosperity. Once Percy had driven four-in-hand for a year, when an unfortunate "deal" made it necessary for him to reduce expenditures and sell his horses, on which occasion she said to him: "Townsend, don't you think that it would be better to drive one horse four years, instead of four horses one year?"

SHOULD BE THE "SIMMER ON."

Original Story of Naming of Cimarron River in Oklahoma.

Oklahoma City, Okla.—Many stories as to how the Cimarron river in Oklahoma was named have been told. It is claimed by some that the name is an Indian word and it means red. It is true the river looks red when it is high and the whirling water stirs up the red sand at the bottom. The most likely story, however, is thus related: Many years ago a band of explorers and hunters, probably from New York or Boston, were going over this country and came to this river, where they camped for several days...

GOLD IN FOUR-POUND CANS.

New System Adopted in Alaska Owing to Frequency of Thefts.

Fairbanks, Alaska.—Gold dust for the exterior is now being sent out in four-pound cans. This new system was adopted after the series of big thefts from the sacks of registered mail while they were being transported from Fairbanks to Dawson to be sent to Seattle. Three times the mail bags were robbed, and all told more than \$75,000 in gold dust was taken. Under the present system, the gold is carefully weighed after it comes from the assayer and put in separate gold boxes. The mailing clerk of the bank takes the gold, weighs out enough so that the entire package, gold dust, tin box, sack tags and all weighs exactly four pounds. He seals the box and package and puts on the package \$1.36 in postage. The package is then turned over to the registry clerk and a separate registry receipt is made out for each package.

POSSUM LIVES IN TOMB.

Burrowed into Grave and Made Home in Coffin.

Dickson, Tenn.—While some colored men were digging a grave at a burying ground out in the country from Dickson, an incident happened that has completely awared the friendship of people of their race and the Tennessee opossum in this neck of the woods. Some dogs that accompanied the diggers bayed at a nearby grave. Investigation revealed that a smoothly worn hole extended from the side of the mound to the interior. Into the hole a switch was thrust, and was answered by a hideous sepulchral growl. The switch was given a vigorous twist and withdrawn, and out with it came a big fat opossum. The old varmint had burrowed into the grave, gnawed through the coffin and there made his nest. The grave was a little less than a year old. The old fellow was almost white, and gave evidence of having been an inhabitant of the tomb for some time.

CAUGHT WHISKERS IN SAFE.

Manayunk Man Held Prisoner Until Locksmith Came.

Philadelphia.—In locking his safe prior to going home for supper, George Edgemont, a paperhanger, who lives at Jefferson street and Hermitage lane, Manayunk, shut the safe door upon his flowing whiskers and was held prisoner until released by a locksmith.

Wild Rides to Test Engines.

Limca, O.—Five men will be shot through space at cannon-ball speed in a test of locomotives to be made by the Pennsylvania railroad on the Port Wayne-Crestline division in a few days. The men will be placed in specially-constructed boxes on the pilots of the locomotives and will make observations while the engines are going at top speed. A call for volunteers for this service met with many responses from brave railroaders. Five locomotives of different types will be tested as to their respective merits as to speed, coal consumption and steam pressure.

Cactus Without Thorns.

Washington.—In the United States national museum has been placed on exhibition a specimen "leaf" of a thornless cactus, developed by Luther Burbank, of California. The perfecting of a cactus without thorns means the providing of a valuable forage plant which will grow as well in arid as in moist regions. The flattened stem of this novel growth often erroneously called a "leaf" is in some of the best specimens nearly three feet long, a foot wide, and very thick and its surface is very similar to that of a watermelon.

BEARD WORTH \$15,000

WHISKERS SOLE MEANS OF WINNING NICE FORTUNE.

Old Lady Who Forgot Name of Her Favorite Nephew Left Money to Twin with the Whiskers Appendage.

South Royalton, Vt.—Allen Pike, a former resident of this place, now living at Appleton, Wis., has a \$15,000 beard. At least Mr. Pike is that much richer because of his whiskers, according to a letter received here by one of his relatives. There is nothing particularly wonderful about Allen Pike's beard except the fact that it grew on his chin instead of upon that of his twin brother Hiram. This was what meant \$15,000 to Pike, for an elderly aunt with a poor memory left her fortune to the twin with whiskers.

The Pike brothers grew up near here. They were as much alike as two peas as far as appearance went, but when it came to dispositions that was another matter. The neighbors said that Allen was kindly disposed and easy to get along with, while Hiram was more assertive. Naturally the latter made more money than the former and when the brothers moved west Allen was in Hiram's employ. Among the many relatives of the Pikes was Mrs. Abigail Wilson, a frugal woman who inherited some property and who saved all of her principal, as well as considerable interest. Her one peculiarity was her inability to remember names and she was always mixing up Hiram and Allen. She openly confessed that she liked the assertive Hiram best and once confided to a friend that when she died her fortune should go to him. Allen was to be given the household furniture. As matters turned out, however, Allen became ill with throat trouble and upon the advice of his physician he grew a beard. This developed into the duplicate of Hiram's, and when the board got its growth folks who were not exceedingly well acquainted with the men got them badly mixed. This greatly troubled Hiram who, being the moneyminded member of the family, disliked being mistaken for his brother. He, therefore, cut off his beard.

PADEREWSKI FEARS WOMEN.

Nervous Disease Takes This Form and He is Closely Guarded.

Washington.—Ignace J. Paderewski is suffering from fear of women. It is a form of neurasthenia, a disease with which the pianist has been afflicted until recently. His managers say that Paderewski has recovered from the disease, but this one symptom remains unabated. When Paderewski is on a tour all in his retinue see to it that the stage entrances are kept guarded while he is on the platform so that no woman can enter. If at the completion of a performance he sees a woman in the wings or waiting to speak to him anywhere he will not come off the stage. Paderewski was in the city the other day, and this fact about him became known through inquiries made as a result of the extraordinary precautions taken to prevent his meeting any women.

Lucid, But Wrong.

When the steam engine was invented a learned Englishman wrote a book in which he set forth his theory that it would be impossible to propel a vessel across the ocean by steam power. The writing was lucid, the reasoning was correct, but the premises were wrong, and the first volume of this excellent work that came to America was brought over in a steamboat, thereby demonstrating that one fact may carry away a volume of theory.

Charity's Biggest Achievement.

The highest achievement of charity is to love our enemies; but to bear cheerfully with our neighbor's failings is scarcely an inferior grace. It is easy enough to love those who are agreeable and obliging; but to love one who is cross, perverse, tire-some, is an unpleasant a process as chewing pills. Nevertheless, this, the best way of practicing it, is to put ourselves in the place of him who tries us, and to see how we would wish him to treat us if we had his defects. We must put ourselves in the place of buyer when we sell, and seller when we buy, if we want to deal fairly.—Francis de Sales.

Wild Rides to Test Engines.

Limca, O.—Five men will be shot through space at cannon-ball speed in a test of locomotives to be made by the Pennsylvania railroad on the Port Wayne-Crestline division in a few days. The men will be placed in specially-constructed boxes on the pilots of the locomotives and will make observations while the engines are going at top speed. A call for volunteers for this service met with many responses from brave railroaders. Five locomotives of different types will be tested as to their respective merits as to speed, coal consumption and steam pressure.

Cactus Without Thorns.

Washington.—In the United States national museum has been placed on exhibition a specimen "leaf" of a thornless cactus, developed by Luther Burbank, of California. The perfecting of a cactus without thorns means the providing of a valuable forage plant which will grow as well in arid as in moist regions. The flattened stem of this novel growth often erroneously called a "leaf" is in some of the best specimens nearly three feet long, a foot wide, and very thick and its surface is very similar to that of a watermelon.