

FIRST OF ENCYCLOPEDIAS

It Was Published in Queen Anne's Reign and John Harris Was Its "Onlie Begetter."

Encyclopedias are an English invention. I hasten to add that they owe a great deal of their early and later development to Scottish brains.

PATCHWORK AN ANCIENT ART

It Had Its Origin Many Ages Ago But Now Is Distinctly An American Institution.

The idea that patchwork had its origin in America is not founded on fact. A thousand years before the Christian era a queen of Egypt went down the Nile to her last resting place under a wonderful canopy of skins that were dyed and placed together in a mosaic pattern.

RUNNING GREAT STEAMSHIPS

Immense Modern Liners of 50,000 Tons Have Automatic Machinery Controlled by Single Hand.

In the hands of a skillful marine architect much more has been accomplished with steel structure than the mere economy of space. The safety of vessels at sea has been enormously increased, until in the highest type of modern ocean liners the element of danger is virtually eliminated.

SELECT AMERICAN ARTISTS

They Are the Best Ones to Paint Portraits of Americans, as General Sheridan Discovers.

Americans are learning that the men to paint portraits of Americans are American portrait painters, although the number of foreigners who come over here and succeed in getting commissions, mainly through dealers who exploit them shows no signs of diminishing.

HITITE DEITY IN BRONZE

Statuette of Goddess Is Discovered in Egypt Which May Be of the Time of Joseph.

From Cairo comes news of the discovery of a bronze statuette which may be of the time when Joseph was sold into Egypt. It seems to be the first discovered specimen of a Hitite deity executed in the round.

GIRL POPPED THE QUESTION

Misses Find and Weds Fiance After Long Separation—Favorite Muslim at Russian Court.

Thousand Island Park, N. Y.—The marriage of Miss Lots Baldwin of Atlantic City and George Rogovoy, a Russian violinist, at the Methodist Episcopal parsonage here by the Rev. E. J. Davis, ends a romance covering a period of seven years.

NATURE'S WONDERFUL COLOR

Their Shades and Tints Never Yet Have Been Duplicated by the Manufacturers of Paints.

Nature paints in the most striking colors and shades and tints with a delicacy never achieved by the brush in the hands of the artist. The highest ambition of the manufacturer of paints is to produce colors which look like nature's. They have never succeeded.

NOVEL FRAUD ON A JEWELER

How a Clever French Swindler Obtained Jewels, Paying for Them With Tradesman's Own Money.

A novel method of defrauding a jeweler was successfully carried out by a Paris thief. He drove up in a carriage to the jeweler's shop with his right arm in a sling, and was ostentatiously attended by a footman carrying a rug.

PRINCE AS BANK WRECKER

How the Famous Regent Tried to Close the Coutts Institution by Trick That Didn't Work.

The Gentlewoman of London recalls the following story of the prince regent and Coutts' bank: "When George IV. was a regent he had a grudge against Coutts' and determined to play a trick on the authorities. In those days even the great banks kept very small reserves of cash and the playful prince thought out a plan to close Coutts'.

REFUSED TO CUT HIS RATES

Kentucky Livery Stable Proprietor Wouldn't Rent a Rig to Any Man for Less Than a Quarter.

William D. Campbell is a business man through and through. Coupled with his business instincts is a horror of being charged extortionate prices by country livery stables.

FAMILY BIBLE OBSOLETE

Publisher Says the Trade in That Once Popular Form of the Sacred Book Is Dying Out.

A Philadelphia publishing house that makes a specialty of the sacred book says the family Bible trade is languishing. The Bible continues to be the best seller, but it is no longer the immense volume that stood on the parlor center table, and contained marvelous steel engravings of the tower of Babel and the fall of Nineveh.

AROUSE INTEREST IN GAELIC

Two Officials Arrive From Ireland to Pursue Nine Months' Campaign in United States.

New York—Fiona MacColum and Rev. Michael O'Flanagan, official envoys sent by the Gaelic League of Ireland to America to arouse interest in the revival of the old Gaelic language and literature, have opened headquarters in New York and are preparing an active propaganda.

INTERMINABLE JOB

The new pastor was a stickler for ceremonial observances. He could read his share of the responses with one eye and watch the congregation with the other.

BISHOP'S BUSY DAY

Discarding his horse and buggy Bishop Abrams, Herr of New Danville, Lancaster county, found it necessary to procure the services of an automobile in order to marry five pairs who lived in different sections of the county, according to a correspondent of the Philadelphia Record.

HOW IT FEELS TO BE RUN OVER

"When I was run over," writes a correspondent, "I had not upon the car approaching. The first thing I knew was that I was on the ground, kicking upward with my legs in an effort to get from under the car. Then I felt a wheel going over my chest, which bent as it passed over me, the intervening second or two I went through several minutes' worth of feelings. I had the sensation of astonishing at being on the ground, of wanting to roll aside and away, of bracing myself and my chest especially—still to resist something, whatever it might be, while a lightning flash of fear was dimly there and a subconscious query, 'What on earth next?' Yet it was hardly fear, because there was no time for such a durable sensation. It was rather a sense of being suddenly confronted with a grave reality of doubtful, obscurely terrible import."

RUFFS AND REEVES

A nurse told a child of mine some time before the middle of the 60's of the last century, that her mother had seen fairies dancing on Brumby Common in the northwest of Lincolnshire, near the Trent, says a writer in Notes and Queries. When this fanciful story was repeated to me I had no difficulty in supplying its interpretation. The woman had assuredly not told a willful falsehood, but what she had seen, and felt sure were fairies, were ruffs and reeves dancing on a dry hillock in a solitary place, where they were almost sure to be free from interruption. They have, I believe, often been seen engaged in this sport; but now these beautiful and interesting birds are almost if not entirely extinct, though they were common before the days of the great inclosures, when there was a long stretch of uncultivated land on the eastern bank of the Trent, which wild birds and mammals had nearly to themselves.

THAT DID IT

"The hardest audience in the world to play to is an audience of typical first-nighters," said the theatrical manager. "The first-nighters are mostly deadheads, and those who pay their way are of the blue type, hard to enthrall. I have in mind one man in particular who never misses a first night, and who, to hear him talk, gets about as much enjoyment out of it as he would out of an attack of mumps. I put on a comedy last season that was one of the big money muffs of the year. The first-night audience regarded it as mourners attending the obsequies of a dear departed. I met this particular one I speak of in the lobby after the performance.

THE MARSHNESS OF NAPOLEON

In the service and in the intercourse with his officers he was cold, almost repellent, severe and inflexibly just. One day Gen. Guvion Saint-Cyr, afterwards marshal, appeared at the emperor's morning audience at the Tuilleries. Napoleon said quietly to him: "You come from Naples, general?" "Yes, sire, I relinquished my command to Marshal Perignon, whom your majesty sent to relieve me." "And no doubt you have leave of absence from the minister of war?" "No, your majesty; but I had nothing else to do, sire." "Unless you are on your way to Naples within two hours, you will be shot on the plain of Grenelle at 12 o'clock precisely," said the emperor, returning his watch to his pocket.—Kjelland, "Napoleon's Men and Methods."

TREASURE ADDED TO ART WORLD

The lost Velasquez, discovered lately to the Castle of Schwartzau, near Steinfield, Austria, has been identified as the Fraga portrait, painted in 1644, which it had been supposed had perished. It is now in London, where it is to be exhibited shortly at the rooms of the Agnews, who bought it. The Times of London says of it: "It is a marvel of portraiture and a marvel of color and, absolutely, untouched as it is, it shows at every point the unmistakable hand of Velasquez himself. . . . When this has been done (relying and vanishing) this portrait of Philip IV. will impress all who see it as being one of the most complete and also one of the most attractive of the pictures left to the world by the founder of modern portraiture."

A RARE PRIZE

The securing of the pelt of a black fox is of such interest among trappers and buyers of fur that the event is widely heralded throughout the trade, but it is rare indeed that one of the valuable animals is seen alive in captivity, yet a Farmington man has the distinction of having a live black fox in his possession. The animal was captured by Stanley Savage of Avon, who has a line of traps set in the vicinity of Mount Blue. The animal was not injured materially by the steel trap in which he was caught and Savage, after a lively tussle, succeeded in putting a collar around the fox's neck and attached a strong chain to it. He then took the animal to his home, where he has him confined in a firmly built cage.—Kensbec Journal.

CERTAIN AMERICANS ABROAD

There are Americans who live abroad and speak of their native land in shameful whispers. Another kind is an explainer. He becomes fretful and involved in the attempt to make it clear to some Englishman with a cold and fishlike eye that, as a matter of fact, the lynchings are scattered over a large territory, and Tammany has nothing whatever to do with the United States senate, and the millionaire does not crawl into the presence of his wife and daughters, and Morgan never can be king, and citizens of St. Louis are not in danger of being hooked by moose. After he gets through the Englishman says, "Really?" and the painful incident is closed.—George Ade in Century.

GLADSTONE AND THE HECKLER

Mr. Gladstone was altogether intolerant of the heckler. During his last Middlethian campaign he was questioned by Sir, then Mr. John Usher of Norton, who had once been Gladstone's chairman of committee, on the subject of the Irish proposals, which sundered so many political friendships. To one or two inquiries a curt reply was given. "Am I to understand"—Mr. Usher was beginning. "Understand!" The old statesman leaped to his feet. "I am responsible for the understanding that the Almighty has put in this skull of mine," tapping his forehead. "I am not responsible," pointing his finger at the questioner, "for the understanding that he has put in that skull of yours." The effect of this rebuke was overwhelming. Mr. Usher sank speechless into his seat.

SAVING THEM FOR HER FUNERAL

The wife of a prominent southern statesman tells a story of her ancient colored cook, who took a liking to every article of apparel in her mistress' wardrobe. It was "please give me this" and "please give me that," until the lady took a trip to St. Louis and laid in a generous supply of hosiery and underwear and outer garments for the old mammy. The gifts were received with gratitude, but presently the cook was at her old tricks, asking for stockings, aprons and wrappers. "What did you do with all those things I brought you from St. Louis?" demanded her employer. "Why, missie," answered the woman, "I couldn't use them things. Now for nothing, I am saving them all to be buried in."

STOW

Inskeeper—Going to make an early start to see the glacier today, I see. Do you know, it moves at the rate of only one foot an hour? "Four"—Yes, but my wife is so slow going, really that I'm afraid I'll miss it after all!—Puck.

A FUTILE SCHEME

"I always have to quarrel with my husband in order to get him to buy a new suit of clothes. He never thinks I can afford it." "I should think he would learn after a while that it is useless to try in that way to get you to quit spending so much for dress."

THE OCEAN

Of all natural stores of water the ocean is, of course, the most abundant, and from it all other water may be said to be derived. From the surface of the ocean a continuous stream of vapor is rising up with the atmosphere, to be recondensed in the upper regions and precipitated as rain, snow and sleet. Some eight-elevenths of these precipitates return directly to the ocean; the rest, falling on land, collects into pools, lakes, rivers, or else penetrates the earth, perhaps to come to light again in springs and wells.

NAMES IN SAMOA

Travelers visiting Samoa are puzzled at first by the fact that many boys bear feminine names, while girls as frequently have masculine names. The visitor learns after awhile, however, that this confusing use of names is in reality the result of a native custom which is highly poetic. Thus if a girl is born soon after the death of a brother the latter's name is given to her in the belief that his spirit and all his good qualities have been transferred to her. On the other hand, if a boy is born after the death of a sister he takes the latter's name and, as the Samoans believe, all her lovable traits become his.

GIVES HOBBLE SKIRT PARTY

Hostess Makes Women Guests Try Virginia Reel and Three Fall in Heap—All Men Are Barred.

New York.—Curious swains of Glenwood, L. I., who were anxious to see how their young women friends would look at a hobble skirt party given by Miss Lillian Hahn were barred from the Hahn home by the hostess' own orders. Several tried to gain admittance to the house while the party was in progress, but the hostess stationed two women at the front door, with orders to repel all attempts at entrance by any man. Miss Hahn, who is socially prominent, sent out invitations to her hobble skirt party a few days ago. She furnished games for her guests until they had become accustomed to traveling from one side of the room to the other in their skirts. Then dancing commenced. Young men who gathered outside the house, waiting to accompany the guests home, say they heard many a "thud" accompanied by laughter. When the music of the Virginia reel was heard one youth peeped through a window and saw three young women lying on the floor in a heap. Whistles for the Blind. Cleveland, O.—Blind persons in Cleveland are to be supplied with whistles to warn policemen at street crossings. This innovation was decided upon by Chief Kohler at the instance of the Federation of Women's Clubs. The whistles will be especially constructed so as to be easily recognized by the police.