

NATURAL HISTORY OF JOKES

Originally Twenty-Five in Number, They Were Imported to This Country From the Orient.

Jokes were first imported to this country several hundred years ago from Egypt, Babylon and Assyria, and have since then grown and multiplied. They are in extensive use in all parts of the country, and an antidote for thoughts are indispensable at all dinner parties.

There were originally 25 jokes, but when this country was formed they added a constitution, which increased the number to 26. These jokes have married and intermarried among themselves and their children travel from press to press.

Frequently in one week a joke will travel from New York to San Francisco.

The joke is no respecter of persons. Shameless and unconcerned, he tells the story of his life over and over again. Outside of the ballot box he is the greatest repeater that we have.

Jokes are of three kinds—plain, illustrated and pointless. Frequently they are all three.

No joke is without honor, except in its own country. Jokes form one of four staples and employ an army of workers who toll night and day to turn out the often neatly finished product. The importation of jokes, while considerable, is not as great as it might be, as the favor is lost in transit.

Jokes are used in the household as an antiseptic. As scene breakers they have no equal.—Life.

FEATHER FOR CAP OF TEXAS

Unclaimed Package From That State Sells for More Than Any Other, Says the Auctioneer.

"If Texas has room for any more feathers in her cap here is one she is entitled to wear," said the unclaimed baggage auctioneer. "In this lottery a trunk or suitcase that is stamped 'Texas,' or with the name of any town that is known to be in Texas, has its value doubled and trebled in the estimation of bidders. Among people who frequent these sales the opinion prevails that luggage that has been deserted by a Texan contains property of greater value than that belonging to a man from any other part of the United States. Baggage comes into this room with its contents absolutely unknown, and goes out that way, so the auctioneer has no means of knowing whether Texas bargains sustain their reputation, but the way people fight for them year after year indicate that they do.

"After Texas Ohio baggage is most popular. New York hasn't much to brag about in these grab-bag sales. The initials 'N. Y.' on a trunk did not boost its value one cent. Apparently bidders are of the opinion that no New Yorker is going to skip out leaving anything of value behind him, and they refuse to grow enthusiastic over his baggage."

Architects War on Sky-scrapers

The Pittsburg Architectural club is anxious that Pittsburg's skyline in the future shall not resemble a comb which has been in use for many years; that is, a comb from which many teeth have departed, leaving it very irregular and broken up. The Architectural club believes that a skyline can become congested just the same as a street. Tall buildings cause this new kind of congestion and instead of adding to the city's beauty have a contrary effect.

The club has declared war on skyscrapers. Resolutions recommending that a city ordinance be passed regulating the height of all buildings in proportion to the width and importance of the streets on which they face have been adopted. The architects declare that they appreciate the efforts now being made by the city officials toward beautifying Pittsburg and relieving congestion in the city streets, but in the opinion of the club, tall office buildings are detrimental to this project.

Just Cause for Anger

"Mrs. Timmore is so angry with her dentist she vows she never will pay his bill," says the neighbor.

"Why in the world?" asks the caller. "Well, she got him to put in a bridge for her and she complained to him that it did not feel right, but he said it was all right and would not be noticed when she got used to it; and so she kept it, of course, although it seemed to make it hard for her to talk—kind of made her voice thick, you know. And yesterday she called up Mr. Timmore and asked him to bring home some shoes and shirts for their little boys, and Mr. Timmore kept her repeating it over and over to him the longest time, until he thought he knew what she wanted. And what do you suppose he brought home? A bottle of soothing syrup."—Judge.

Not From Dublin

A squad of raw recruits was being drilled by an irritable drill sergeant. The command "Double!" was given, and all the men obeyed with the exception of one, who remained standing still and gazing vacantly around. "My man, you don't seem to know anything about 'double,'" roared the sergeant.

A gleam of comprehension passed over the face of the recruit, as he replied: "No, sir; I'm a Cork man."—Tit-Bits.

RASPING AMERICAN VOICE

Medical Writer Says It Is Worse Than All Other City Noises in Its Effect on Nerves.

The American voice is not what it ought to be, according to the Interstate Medical Journal. Here is what the writer says on the subject:

"We are now speaking of the American voice, which has a chromatic scale no other voice possesses, and so many irritating qualities that, were a nerve removed from the healthiest body and subjected to the pricking of its many stridencies, we are sure it would wriggle at once with an activity that could not be interpreted as anything except a mild protest.

"Surely, the American voice as it falls upon our ears must make so tight a clutch on our nerves that the combined effect of all other noises dwindles into comparative insignificance.

"Just why in our few moments of relaxation it has never occurred to us that our nervousness might be traced to its undoubtedly disturbing elements is a problem whose solution would require deeper cogitation than the present writer is capable of. But the glaring fact remains that we have made light of a matter fraught with importance, and in marshaling our full strength against the defects in our civilization have missed out just where our severest condemnation was necessary."

PUTS HIS QUEUE IN CASKET

Ling Sung of Omaha Obeys Imperial Decree but Carefully Preserves His Precious Pigtail.

After forty years of the closest companionship Ling Sung has parted with his queue in obedience to the imperial decree of the Emperor of China.

The queue, which is tied at one end with yellow ribbon, reposes in a silk lined casket under his cot and will be his companion to the grave when he is called to join his ancestors. Mr. Sung is one of the few Chinamen of Omaha who have clung to the Chinese custom of centuries and continued to keep the adornment carefully protected from the dismantling customs of the modern west.

Immediately after the formality of snipping off his queue Mr. Sung was barbered by one of his countrymen, and on Monday he gave an ante-queue chop chop suey dinner to a few of his friends. There will be another chop chop suey dinner to celebrate the event. When asked if the emperor's decree caused him to cut off his queue Mr. Sung said:

"No, my friend. Him barber, use just shears, same's anybody. Me save him in box to look at when not feel velly good."—Omaha World-Herald.

American Influence in Canada.

During the last 10 years over one and a half million immigrants have entered Canada. Of these 600,000 have come from Great Britain and as many from the United States. During this fiscal year 300,000 immigrants will enter the Dominion. Of these 150,000 will come from the neighboring country and 140,000 will enter by ocean ports.

The western settlers in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta are of the classes which interest themselves in local, state and national government. When they get their patents and become naturalized they will have almost a decisive influence in many constituencies. They have no natural affection for Great Britain. Probably they have been educated in contempt of kings and monarchical institutions. There are places in Saskatchewan where there is a hearty celebration of Independence Day by the American settlers and a dull, routine and uninteresting observance of Dominion Day by Canadians.

Ancient Suffragettes.

The suffragette is not new in England. As far back as 1641 "several gentlemen and tradesmen's wives from the city" wanted to present a "no popery" petition. The commander of the guard, in obedience to the commons' command, "spoke them fair" and advised them to go home. They replied that they would return next day, and that "where there was one there would be 600." They proved as good as their word. Pym, the leader of the house in those days, did not prove so unyielding as Mr. Asquith, for it is related that he came to the door, thanked the women for the petition, and promised that it would have attention.

Seek Their Old Land.

A deputation of the principal Maori chiefs of New Zealand has interviewed the premier and asked for the return of certain reserves near Patea, or for compensation. The natives are particularly anxious to get the reserves back, as they are closely connected with ancient tradition and myth, and are almost sacred ground, as at Patea was made the first permanent home of the immigrants who came to the Dominion from Hawaii the canoe Aotea, under the chief Turi.

Sentenced to Idleness.

Doctor—It is especially important that you refrain from all headwork for a few weeks.

Patient—But, doctor, it's by headwork that I earn my living.

Doctor—Are you literary man?

Patient—No, sir; I'm a hairdresser. —Stray Stories.

WHAT WOMAN LIKES IN MAN

Pleasing Manners, Deference, Courtesy and a Vigorous, Healthy and Well-Groomed Appearance.

A woman likes pleasing manners in a man. She likes deference and courtesy and attentiveness in small things. Manners often make more of an appeal to her than sterling worth. That's the reason foreigners make such headway with American women. They never forget to be deferential and courteous, to say the little things and to do the little things that warm the cockles of the feminine heart. This may be all wrong. Perhaps she ought to appreciate the character more than the veneer. But she doesn't. The average woman isn't practical. She's romantic. She likes foses and bonbons. Many men give her cabbage and beefsteak. Cabbage and beefsteak are all right, but as a steady diet they are tiresome. She'll take less cabbage and beefsteak if thereby she may have some roses and bonbons.

A woman likes a man to look healthy and to be well groomed. She likes a vigorous body, a healthy skin and a look that betokens a daily acquaintance with the bath tub, not merely because she likes beauty, though she does, but because these things betoken good habits.

A woman, if she is a wife or a sweetheart, likes expressions of love. She gets tired of taking a man's love for granted. It grows faint and far away, and life is cold and commonplace, when he does not tell her in actual words he loves her, and show her by actual caresses, how much. To some men, this seems all foolishness. They think that paying bills is the best proof of their love. But again, most women are not practical, and bills are uninteresting things, not half so enjoyable or warm and vital as a kiss or a caress.

QUEER THING IN BIRD LIFE

Fantail Pigeons Hatch Out a Bantam Chick but Have Trouble in Feeding It.

The following experience, says a writer in the Strand, I have recently had may be of interest to your readers. I have two fantail pigeons, both male birds, and I noticed one day that they built a nest and then were sitting on it alternately, as if they were going to hatch eggs. It struck me that it might be a good idea to put an egg of my bantams into the nest to compensate the pigeons for the trouble they had taken in building it. Apparently they appreciated my doing so, as from that time they never left the nest for about three weeks. When, to my great surprise, I found a little chicken peeping from the pigeon's nest, it was touching to see how the pigeons tried to feed the chicken by opening their beaks, like pigeons do, and having the youngster to help himself to the contents of their crops, which, of course, it refused to do, because it is a chicken and not a pigeon. The pigeons are very fond of the little one, and take it under their wings to keep it warm whenever it wants it, exactly as a hen treats her chickens.

The Women of Brittany.

To the casual observer the Bretonne is not attractive or even supremely interesting. As a femme de chambre she is clumsy, slovenly and rough of speech, lacking the grace and neatness of her Parisian sister. She shuffles about in felt slippers, her voluminous black skirts catch in everything, and if she waits at the table d'hôte her method of handling cutlery is strongly calculated to sever one's jugular vein. She has no regularity in her work, and at the hour that she ought to be making beds she is probably sitting on the public staircase nursing her baby. She is generally married and, conversely, often ten years younger than you take her to be. To English eyes she is rarely beautiful. Her hair is strained tight under her cap, her cheeks have seldom any delicacy of tint and her figure and motions are ungainly and awkward.—Wide World.

Queer Marital Relations.

Curious marriage customs prevail among the people dwelling in the Tang Valley in India. Here it seems that the women are polygamous, and that several brothers possess one wife in common. The custom is said to be due to the poverty of the people. The children bear the names of all the husbands of the mother. How such a custom as to name works out in practice it is difficult to comprehend. The divorce customs are very simple. If the husband establishes that his wife is a bad cook it is a sufficient ground; and on the wife's side, if she can show that her husband fails to provide for the upkeep of the house she obtains relief.

Shock Alarmed Glasgow.

Severe earthquake shocks are rare in Scotland and therefore the districts surrounding Glasgow were thrown into a state of considerable alarm last week following a sudden jar and upheaval which lasted for a few seconds. The inhabitants rushed from their houses into the streets, thinking at first that the shocks were caused by an explosion at a gasworks. No serious damage was done, although the earth tremors caused many gas mantles to break. Buildings in Glasgow were shaken, crockery was rattled, and the girls in the telephone exchanges were alarmed by many bells being set ringing. The same area was shaken in 1888.

BARN DOOR WORTH SAVING

Farmer Dockridge Rescued It From the Flames, for It Bore His Accounts for Six Years.

Farmer Dockridge was hastily awakened in the dead of night by Alf, the farm servant, who told him the barn was on fire. Instructing Alf to blindfold the horses and lead them out through the back door if there was time enough, he hurriedly donned his trousers, rushed into the kitchen, grabbed up a screw driver and ran out to the barn.

The roof was burning fiercely, but he flashed into the building and began with frantic haste to unscrew the hinges of the smooth pine door that opened into the corn bin.

Alf had succeeded in getting the horses out safely, and the sparks were falling round the old man, but he stuck to his task until he had finished it, and emerged from the burning barn carrying the door just as the roof fell.

"That's a good deal of risk to take for the sake of saving a bit of firewood," commented a neighbor who had been awakened by the flames and had run over to see if he could be of any use.

"Firewood!" exclaimed Farmer Dockridge, pointing to the pencil marks that covered the door. "See them figgers? There's all my business accounts for the last six years. That door's worth more than the whole barn!"—London Telegraph.

SPEAKING VOICE IMPORTANT

When Its Correct Use Has Been Learned the Development of the Singer Is Easier.

Few singers, students, or even teachers of singing, pay enough attention to the speaking voice. The teacher and his pupil are together so little—a brief half-hour or two each week—and there are so many things demanding attention that there seems almost no time for consideration of the speaking voice. Yet consistency demands that a habit of voice use in speech shall be corrected so that the use of the voice in conversation shall not retard the perfection of the singing voice.

I am often asked if the process of tone production is the same in speaking and singing. I answer that it should be the same. When the voice is correctly used in speech it will require no different, but merely amplified treatment for singing. Unquestionably the young person who has a correct use of the voice in speech will find it less difficult to develop a good singing voice, than one who has an incorrect habit.

Deep breath control, pliable organs of articulation, and full, or complete, vowel pronunciation, are the fundamental requisites of correct speech and correct singing alike. When the speaking voice of a singer is not so produced, its use in conversation is sure to retard the perfection of the singing tone.

Dog's Faithfulness.

The story of a dog's fidelity was told when the coroner for North West moreland (Eng.) held an inquest on the body of William Wharton, a Westmoreland old age pensioner, who dropped dead after recording his vote in the Parliamentary election. Wharton, who lived alone at Shap walked to Morland to vote, and set off home again late at night. Next morning half a dozen woodmen found the body by the roadside in a gutter. The old man's dog was lying over the body and guarding it. The body had lain there all the night in stormy weather. Information was given to the police, but when an attempt was made to touch the body the dog became so ferocious that no one dared go near it, and before the dead man could be removed the neighbors had to send for the old man's neighbor, who knew the dog, and succeeded in coaxing it to quietness.

The Siamese Cat.

Siamese cats, with their curious markings and loud, discordant voices, are favorite pets.

In many respects these animals of Siamese breed are unique among felines. They follow their owners like dogs; they are exceedingly affectionate and insist upon attention, and they mew loudly and constantly, as if trying to talk. They have more vivacity and less dignity than usually falls to the lot of cats.

In color they vary from pale fawn through shades of brown to chocolate. There are two varieties, the temple cats and the palace cats, the principal difference between the two being that the palace breed is darker in color.

A Few Words on Leafing.

Don't loaf. Idleness is the root of much evil, and uncheerfulness is one of the shoots from the root. There is no such thing as idleness in nature. The worlds that glitter in the arch of the heavens are ever moving. The moon never stays in one place. The restless sea moans in and out over the harbor bar. The rivers gurgle and splash as they journey to the sea. The trees change their costumes twice a year, and grow a little throughout most of the year. The birds never roost at noonday, and man is the only animal who ever sleeps himself.

Quite In Keeping.

"Queer, wasn't it? It was at the mouth of the river."

"Yes?"

"We ran into the teeth of the gale."

YAH DRIVER WAS DISGUSTED

Thought Magistrates Should Wear Their Gowns on Street, So They Could Be Dodged.

Magistrate O'Connor was picking his disgruntled way through the rain the other day, says the New York correspondent of the Cincinnati Times-Star. He had hailed a street car from the pavement, and, sheltered under his umbrella, made for the rear platform, when a four-ton furniture van whirled on him, drawn by three bristly trotting horses. Magistrate O'Connor escaped demolition by a brisk sidewise leap. He called a remonstrance to the driver. As far as he could see, that personage had his head thrust around the corner of the furniture van, while he called back interesting items to the magistrate. Magistrate O'Connor chased him in the street car, caught him at a blocked corner and had him arrested. The driver appeared before Magistrate O'Connor himself, when the latter had gotten into his silk robe of office.

"I could send you to the workhouse," said the still angry magistrate, "but I will let you off with a fine of \$5. I intend this as a warning to all reckless drivers." The driver looked at Magistrate O'Connor sullenly, and thrust his hand into his pocket. He peeled off five ones and started for the clerk's desk to pay.

"Hold on there," said Magistrate O'Connor, gathering up a bunch of his silk gown in nervous hands. "Haven't you anything to say for yourself?"

"Yes," said the driver, sourly. "They ought to make you guys wear them Mother-Hubbards on the street, so's a feller could dodge yuh."

"THIRSTY CANE" THE LATEST

Invention of Clever Frenchman That Makes Man Temperate by Drinking for Him.

A French inventor has hit upon a peculiar device for combating the drink evil. This is the "thirsty cane." Why do men drink? Because other men insist on standing them drinks. Many a big business deal is done over a glass, nowhere more so than in French cafes, and drummers would lose half their custom if they refused an appetizer offered by a customer, to whom they must of course stand another in return. The cane makes them temperate by drinking for them. Here is the inventor's description of it:

"The cane is hollow. The handle is pierced with several holes and a rubber tube inside forms a siphon. The air being expelled, the liquid is sucked up. The cane is emptied simply by turning a valve and the liquid absorbed can be poured into the street on leaving the saloon."

The cane is warranted to hold from six to ten appetizers, according to size. It is simple to use, as the top need only be put into the liquid at intervals when the other man is not looking. The hollow cane reminds one of the "yards of ale" of medieval England. The word was a glass measure three feet long. At one end was a built holding about half a pint, at the other was a trumpet-shaped mouthpiece and the two were connected by a tube. The task, no easy one, was to drink the vessel dry without spilling a drop and at a single draught.

Got Useful Information.

"There's no place like a pawnshop for picking up useful hints," said the improvident man. "Every time I happen into one I glean some item of general information that almost reconciles me to the necessity for being there. On my last visit I saw another man redeeming ostrich feathers. Our uncle brought them out tightly sealed in a glass jar."

True Consistency.

A prominent Chicago Sunday school worker and club woman went into one of the Michigan avenue china studios to make some purchases. After examining different pieces on one table the customer turned to the artist and said: "I think I will take everything that is on the table. But what is this jar for? I never saw anything just like it before," pointing to one done in pearl lusters, about four inches high and having a fluted cover.

"That is a potpourri jar," answered the artist.

"Oh, is it?" she queried, then she turned to the artist and said in a decided manner, "I will take everything but that, and I have always made a point never to buy or have a thing to do with anything pertaining to pokers."

Probably.

Sunday School Teacher—After he heard the people shouting "Saul has slain his thousands!" what did Saul do then?

Wylie (whose father "also ran")—I suppose he got right up an' hollered for a recount.—Puck.

Probably.

"Mrs. Pufferly is tickled to death with the way she fooled the customs inspectors."

"How did she do it?"

"She didn't buy a thing abroad."

HOTEL'S GREAT PIPE ORGAN

Largest Musical Instrument of the Kind in America Is in the Astor, New York.

The Hotel Astor, in New York, boasts the largest pipe organ in the United States and one of the largest in the world. A pipe organ is an innovation in hotel fixtures, and as such is of more than usual interest.

The great organ represents all orchestral instruments, and its many speaking stops, nearly 100, make the total resources of the instrument almost inexhaustible. It is divided into four distinct divisions, the main organ occupying two chambers on the east and west sides of the ball room. The other two divisions are arranged on either side of "L'Orangerie" room. Completely hidden from view by the decorations of the walls and ceilings, the music comes as a surprise.

The pipes, varying from 32 feet in length to only a fraction of an inch, are hundreds of feet away from the playing cabinet containing the keys and stops, and each one is operated by its individual train of electro-pneumatic action. The pressure of a key gives current to a wire that finds its way through various cables and switches to a magnet, which operates pneumatic mechanism that opens a valve and gives pressure to the pipe.

HAYTIAN CUTLERY SALUTE

Steward of Naval Vessel Put Knives and Forks in Gun and Hotel Was Punctured.

Discipline aboard men-of-war belonging to tropical countries is not as strict as that obtaining on the vessels of colder countries. Indeed, in some instances, it is very lax.

The Defense, a Haytian naval vessel, was lying in the harbor of Port-au-Prince. One day a mess cook for some reason, cleaned about a peck of knives and forks on the gun deck, and, being suddenly called away, and not wishing to spend time to go to the galley, he seized the mess-pot full of knives and forks and stuck it in the muzzle of the ten-inch gun, putting the tampon in after it. About an hour afterward the admiral came aboard, and, as the gun was loaded with blank cartridge, they used it to fire a salute.

It happened that the gun was aimed toward the town, and almost point blank at the Grand Hotel. The guests assembled on the porch to witness the ceremony when they were saluted with a rain of knives and forks, which stuck against the wooden walls like quills on a porcupine. Fortunately no one was hurt, although there were many narrow escapes.

Need for Two Collars.

Having bought a dog that he admired a Washington Heights man undertook to buy a dog collar. The dog had a neck nearly as big as his head and the dealer advised the man to buy two collars.

"What for?" said the man. "He's got only one neck, so I guess he can get along with only one collar, can't he?"

"Maybe so," said the dealer, so the man went away leading the dog by his new collar and chain.

In less than a week he brought the dog back.

"I'm afraid I can't keep him," he said. "He is too obstreperous. I can't keep him tied up. His neck is the biggest part of him and he is as strong as an ox, therefore it is a sinch for him to slip his collar off."

"That is why I wanted you to take two collars," said the dealer. "Put both on and fasten the chain to the back collar and he can tug away all night without getting loose. He may commit suicide, but he won't get loose."

Plague of Monkeys.

Awaking from her sleep to find that 15 monkeys had taken possession of her house and were deporting themselves in her parlor and dining room, was the recent experience of Mrs. Lippman, Los Angeles. Mrs. Lippman tried to dislodge the monkeys, but failed. The following day she appeared at the prosecuting attorney's office and demanded a warrant for the arrest of Antonio Ryder, her next door neighbor, who she asserts instigated the invasion. Ryder is a trainer of monkeys and dogs. Two of his canines, which preferred Mrs. Lippman's clothes basket to their own kennel as sleeping quarters, were poisoned recently. Ryder suspected Mrs. Lippman of administering the poison and she asserts he sent his band of monkeys into her house in an effort to be revenged.

The Gordian Knot.

The famous Gordian knot was made of leather taken from some part of the harness belonging to the chariot of Gordius, king of Phrygia. It seems that this knot was so tied that the ends of the leather thong was not visible hence the difficulty in loosing it. Many must have tried to untie it for its fame as a "stickler" at last reached the great Oracle, which declared that the lucky experimenter should be rewarded by the kingdom of Persia. Alexander, trying his hand and meeting with no better success than the others, drew his sword and cut into the knot until he found the ends of it.

Clever.

"Mrs. Pufferly is tickled to death with the way she fooled the customs inspectors."

"How did she do it?"

"She didn't buy a thing abroad."