

SLIPPERY ELM TIME.

Man of Middle Age Recalls One of the Great Days of His Boyhood Days in the Country.

"About this time of the year, when I was a boy, and the first warm days began to start the sap flowing in the trees," said the man with the white mustache, "we boys used to swarm out in the woods after slippery elm bark, or 'slippery elm' time was as much of an epoch in the year of a boy of those days as marble time, birch time, winter-green time, sassafras time or swimming time, says the New York Sun.

"After picking out a suitable tree, preferably a small one, as the bark on the smaller trees was the more tender, we'd line out with our jackknives an oblong as large as we cared to, cutting through the bark to the wood. Then we'd loosen up one corner and with a tug or two the whole oblong would strip off as slick as a whistle.

"The bark required little preparation. All it needed to be fit for use was a judicious scraping off of the rough, scaly outer bark from the smooth, white layer of inner bark. Afterward it was cut up into strips lengthwise of the oblong. There's nothing nicer in the world to chew than a bit of fresh slippery elm bark. Our mothers would generally levy a contribution upon the spoils and dry it for medicinal purposes, such as slippery elm tea, which was first-rate for a sore throat, while as for a soz finger or a boil or anything like that a slippery elm poultice couldn't be beat.

"We boys overlooked these useful characteristics of the humble slippery elm bark, however. All we cared about was to get it to chew. It took the place of gum, which was ranked with candy and other like luxuries."

PROOF AGAINST FOOTPADS. The Timid Man Had a Queer Way of Concealing His Money.

When the timid-looking man got out of the barber chair after being shaved he fumbled in one pocket after another while the porter dusted his clothing, says the Kansas City Journal.

"What do you carry money in that way for?" asked the barber, as he handed the man change for the five-dollar bill.

"Footpads," was the laconic reply of the stranger.—Kansas City Journal.

THE ARMY OFFICER'S TRUNK. It is Made More Especially for Use in Times of Peace, But is Brought to Notice Now.

The army officer's trunk, which is an article of limited but regular sale in peace times, being sold chiefly to regular army officers, is a stout, well-made trunk of rather generous proportions, so divided inside as to afford spaces for both military and civilian attire.

According to the American Primary Teacher, the following answers were recently given in a written examination to the question, "What causes rain."

"Fog." "Faucet." "God." "The ocean." "Heaven." "Pipes from the ocean." "The sun gives it."

God Save the King. The first use on record of the expression "God Save the King" occurs in the Bible, in II Kings, where the crowning of the king of Juda is described.

His Riches is Real Estate. The grounds in the vicinity of the Bank of England is estimated to worth not less than \$10,000,000 per acre, and in Paul Mall has changed hands at \$2,400,000 an acre.

"BELLS" ON BOARD SHIP.

How the Sailorsmen Keep Track of the Time of Day Without Having Clocks.

Everyone who has read stories of the sea has wondered why sailors keep time by "bells" instead of by hours. The "sea dog" of the tale says: "It's eight bells, and all's well," and the tender wonders why he calls them "eight bells," instead of the hour. There are people who think "eight bells" is eight o'clock, and so with all the hours told off by bells.

THE SMALL GUNS. They Play a Most Important Part in Harbor Defense in Time of War.

Much has been written of the big guns that are to defend the harbors. In the system of defense the smaller guns play a most important part, both to supplement the work of the great rifles and to be used against bodies of men who otherwise might carry the works by assault.

UNDER SEALED ORDERS. Why Ships of War Are Thus Sent on Errands by the President of the United States.

The custom of having warships sail "under sealed orders" has arisen from the desire of maritime powers to prevent their plans from becoming known to the enemy.

BIRTHDAY OF POCKETBOOK. This Indispensable Article is Still Comparatively an Infant in Point of Age.

The organ of the German leather trade, Der Ledermarkt, regrets that last year was not duly observed as the "jubilee of the modern pocket leather purse."

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"FRONT" IN WASHINGTON.

Hotel Hall Boys with Monumental Gait Who Expect the Guests to Do Part of Their Work.

The colored "front" of the Washington hotel is like no other hotel boy, white or black, in the United States. He doesn't hesitate to ask the guests to do part of his work. Oldsters at these hotels do not appear to think it strange, but folks accustomed to hotels in other parts of the country are at first rather surprised at the requests made of them by the colored "front" of the Washington hotels.

ON A TOMBSTONE. The Queer Inscription Erected Over the Grave of a "Long-Boat" Man.

"The queerest tombstone I ever saw was in Hays City," said a man who has known Kansas for a good many years, and during the times when the short grass sections were, as easterners say, "wild and woolly," lived in Hays City, says the Topeka State Journal.

"Where is the tombstone? He ought to have something," said one of the party. All the boards that were kept for such use had been used, so a member of the party rustled around and came across a railroad signboard about two inches thick that had the corners cut off and looked like a head-on board. It was painted white and seemed to be just the thing.

WANTS TO GET AWAY. A New Style of "Panhandler" Appears in Newspaper Offices, But Fails to Connect.

He did not seem in good health. If the war with Spain had not been going on it is not certain that he would have felt any better. In fact, he was of the great army of "touchers" whom the printers denominate "panhandlers," says the Chicago Chronicle.

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