

FUNERAL FLOWER TRADE.

How Business in This Peculiar Line is Drummed Up by an Enterprising Pennsylvania.

Traveling men who pass through East Pennsylvania cities when looking over the local newspapers are frequently surprised at the quantity of flowers which are mentioned in the published accounts of funerals in the cities of public life. In many of the cities the business of drumming up the funeral flower trade is quite scientifically done.

"To get early information of deaths I stand in with the ordinary reporters of the daily papers. They cover all the deaths up to two p. m. and then get out to business. Of course, in these busy days most people haven't time to go to greenhouses for flowers. Hundreds of people are willing to send some dead friend a nice token of remembrance, but many don't think of it, and the others haven't the time. Now, I make it a business to do all that for them.

"I make out a complete list of the offerings, with full description of flowers, with names of flowers correctly spelled, all typewritten, and give it to the reporters. Then my customers see their names in the papers as having kindly sent in a beautiful floral donation, so when I call next day to collect my bill they cheerfully pay. I never lose anything."

AFGHAN NEW WOMAN.

Told the Ameer She Wanted Freedom and She Got It, Along with Male Dress.

The new woman has penetrated even to the harem of the ameer of Afghanistan, where she wears male attire and does as she pleases, says the Ladies' Pictorial.

The ameer picked her up on his return journey from the northern part of his dominions a good many years ago. She had been brought before him by an angry father and proposed husband for punishment. She would not conform to the usage of the country and enter the married state, though she had then reached the age when it was incumbent upon her to do so.

The girl declared she had run wild all her life, and did not wish to give up her freedom, to be shut up in a harem. She sought the ameer's protection and obtained it.

"All right," he said, "since you want to be free you shall be, but free you must also remain; that is your punishment. You wish to live like a man; you shall live like one, and for your own protection you must wear men's clothes."

On her arrival in Cabul she was given the title of older, or chief, and was made the harem's messenger. She comes and goes as she pleases or is ordered, both by night and day, and no one even in slandering Cabul has ever breathed a word against her fair name.

Costly Coal Business. A short time ago a newspaper man sat in the office of a prominent river coal operator, talking about current events. A messenger entered and handed the operator a telegram. He continued the conversation with the reporter while he leisurely perused the contents of the message. The newspaper man did not notice any change in the operator's demeanor, and inquired if there was an item of news in the message. "Oh, yes," said the operator, handing the reporter the message, which read that a certain boat owned by this operator had lost nearly all her tow by sinking in the Mississippi river. The reporter asked about how much the loss would be, and the answer was: "About \$10,000." The operator resumed his conversation as though nothing had happened. It was afterward learned that the receiving of such reports is a matter of such frequent occurrence in the coal business. Some men would have fainted at such news, but the river coal business is a great deal of a hazard, and one must have the spirit of the gambler to engage in it.

Accommodating Mourner. Here is an instance of his willingness to oblige: I was making a sketch of the village cemetery and wanted only a funeral procession to complete my study. I remarked to the old man: "What a pity there does not happen to be a funeral going on, so that I might put it in!" His reply took me by surprise; for, jumping up, he said: "There is a man ill in the village, and he must die soon; I'll go and hurry him up!" And, sure enough, he hustled them all so much that an hour later my sketch was complete and the man safely interred! And I believe that the bereaved family considered themselves especially honored by my interest in the ceremony!

Left Side Offense Lame. Eighty-five per cent. of the people who are lame are affected on the left side.

Where Running is Impossible. It is impossible to run at an altitude of 17,000 feet above the sea.

MATRIMONIAL LOTTERY.

The Curious Custom Which Prevails in a Russian Province—The Principal Prize.

In one of Gilbert and Sullivan's operas a much-sought young man proposes, when pursued by "20 lovesick maidens," that he be put up at a raffie. Cynics have often remarked that marriage is a lottery, and that grim Scotch librettist may have obtained inspiration from this statement. As a matter of fact, however, it is a real lottery in the province of Smolensk, Russia. A recently returned traveler has told us of the curious custom, which is observed every three months:

"Husbands and wives are chosen by the chance drawing of a lottery ticket. The tickets cost one ruble each. There is only one prize to be drawn, and it consists of the entire sum yielded by the sale of the tickets, amounting to 5,000 rubles, together with a lady described as of noble blood. The tickets are sold only to males, and the lucky winner of the prize will have to marry the damsel if he takes the 5,000 rubles. If, however, he be already married he is at liberty to turn over the money and the lady to any friend whom he may wish to put in for such a good thing. If the winner should be willing to marry but is not found to be to the damsel's taste, then they are to be excused from matrimony and permitted to divide the rubles. It is not hard to imagine a condition of affairs where the lady in the case refuses her chosen lord and prefers to take the cash, deciding that 5,000 rubles is more to be desired than a more or less doubtful happiness with a husband of whom she knows nothing."

ORIGIN OF PORCELAIN.

Invented by the Chinese; Perfected by the Japanese; Named by the Portuguese.

The word porcelain, as applied to china pottery, originated in Japan during the thirteenth century, writes Frank H. Vizetely in Woman's Home Companion. The Chinese, the potters of the art of porcelain manufacture, began to make it nearly two centuries before the Christian era, and so careful were they to guard the secret of the art that nearly fifteen centuries elapsed before their neighbors, the Japanese, got any inkling of it. But once in their possession the wily Japanese lost no time to profit by their knowledge. The few intrepid navigators of those days brought samples of both Chinese and Japanese ware to Europe, but not until early in the sixteenth century did a trade in it of any extent take place. Among the early importers were Portuguese traders who had settled on the Japanese coast, and to them it is claimed, we owe the word porcelain, derived from the Portuguese porcellana, or sucking pig. When the Portuguese traders first saw pieces of Japanese ware they were struck with its translucence, which somewhat resembled that of the cowry-shell. The cowry-shell, in turn, resembled in shape a small sucking pig, or porcellana; hence our porcelain.

DE WASH LADY.

She Gives the Lady of the House Moderate Terms for Eating All Day Long.

Every one finds it difficult in St. Louis to obtain reliable help. A colored woman named Matilda Snowball answered an advertisement which called for a woman to do day's washing, says the St. Louis Post Dispatch.

"So you will come to the house and wash?" asked the lady of the house. "Yes, mum."

"What are your terms for a day's washing?"

"When I comes in de mawning I gits er dram ob whisky, and about seven breaks, wid coffee an' cakes an' beef-steak an' sich, an' 'bout ten I has er pint ob beer an' some crackers an' cheese, an' dat does me ontill lunch; an' arter lunch I works erlong ontill dinner, when I has soup and rof' beef an' chickens an' pertaters an' erternat-erces an' inyuns an' sich, an' I alters has puddin' an' pies an' ice cream fur dessert. Erbout free o'clock I has coffee or tea and some fruits and cakes, an' dat does me ontill supper. Den when I leads I gits er two-dollar bill."

"Say," interrupted the lady of the house, "how much would you charge just to feed all day long?"

The Kaffir and the Month. At a dinner party in South Africa the hostess told the kaffir boy to "bring the champagne." The boy left and returned without the wine. She commanded him again to bring the champagne, with the same result. Then he whispered: "No wine." "Nonsense," said the woman, "there is plenty." "No," persisted the native, "me look at all the bottles; all say extra dry!" A second woman engaged a boy in September, and at the end of the month gave him his wages. At the end of October she again proceeded to pay him, when he surprised her by objecting to the amount. He wanted to be paid more for 31 days than for 30—not unreasonably. The woman remonstrated, and broke into poetry. "Thirty days hath September," etc. "No," said the kaffir cutely, "no month 31 day—all month 30 day. Your month 30 day, then 31, then 32. No, me no stop here!" and no logic could induce him to consent to an arrangement that seemed likely to progress indefinitely in favor of his employer.

Costly Butter. One of the Rochesterites is reported to have paid \$1,000 for a butterfly. His extensive collection of butterflies is valued at \$500,000.

Old Keys. Keys of bronze and iron have been found in Greece and Italy dating from at least the seventh century before Christ.

COMPREHENSIVE EPITAPH.

It is on the Dilapidated Stone at the Head of a Patriot's Grave in the Vermont Cemetery.

"I was up in Vermont not long ago," said a New Yorker, "and, being in the vicinity of the old Guilford cemetery, I paid it a visit. This cemetery has, from neglect, grown to be somewhat of a miniature wilderness, and the inscriptions on many of the ancient grave-stones are past all deciphering. On one stone that stands in picturesque obliquity at the head of a sunken and overgrown grave I managed to decipher what had been inscribed there generations ago and copied it. This is what the inscription says:

"Sacred to the memory of Hon. Benjamen Carpenter, Esq. Born in Rehoboth, Mass., A. D. 1725. A public teacher of righteousness, an able advocate lost for democracy and the equal rights of men. Removed to this town A. D. 1770. Was a field officer in the revolutionary war. A founder of the first constitution and government of Vermont. A counselor of censors in A. D. 1783. A member of the council and lieutenant governor of the state in A. D. 1779. An arm professor in Christianity in the Baptist church for 50 years. Left this world and 146 persons of lineal posterity March 29, 1804, aged 78 years, 10 months and 12 days, with a strong mind and full faith of a more glorious state hereafter. Stature about six feet, weight 200. Death had no terror."

"If there are any of those 146 persons of lineal posterity left, I think it would be something to their credit if they would drop along up that way some day and fix up that old patriot's and statesman's grave a little."

GIANTS OF PATAGONIA.

The Tehuelche Tribe Averages Nearly Six Feet for Each Man—Great Hunters.

The tribes to the east of the Cordilleras, in southern Patagonia, belong to Araucanian stock and are a superior race. The Tehuelches—as they call themselves—of southern and eastern Patagonia are the people whose unusual stature gave rise to the fables of early days to the effect that the natives of this region were giants, averaging nine or ten feet in height. It is a fact, says the Boston Transcript, that they are the tallest human beings in the world, the men averaging but slightly less than six feet, while individuals of four to six inches above that mark are not uncommon. They are in reality by no means savages, but somewhat civilized barbarians. They are almost unacquainted with the use of firearms, notwithstanding some contact with the whites, but they have plenty of horses and dogs.

Unsurpassed hunters, they capture the guanaco and the rhea, or South American ostrich, and from the skins of these and other animals they make clothes and coverings for their tents. They make beautiful "capas," or mantles, or furs and feathers, which are highly prized by Europeans and find a ready market, most of the proceeds being spent for bad whisky, which is brought into the country in quantities by traders.

TABBY ON PARADE.

Women in Brooklyn Who Take Pet Cats Out for Morning Constitutional.

The latest fad among Brooklyn women is to take tabby out for a daily constitutional. Various cats, accompanied by their mistresses or maids, and decorated with colored ribbons, were encountered by a stroller the other morning.

Not all were high bred angoras or marmals, either. On the contrary, they included some more closely resembling the ordinary wanderers that make night hideous with their fence-top melody. But all these Brooklyn paradars, whatever their birth and breeding, were evidently objects of pride for their guardians, says a New York exchange.

Two of the cats, meeting and passing on the same sidewalk, glared at each other as fiercely as would a couple of pet dogs under the same circumstances, putting up their backs ready for a spat. Their mistresses, of course, checked any such result. One animal was held in by a bright blue and yellow striped ribbon, and the other by an ordinary cord, and the owner of the former remarked with her companion that it was remarkable how well Fluffy could distinguish between cats of her own class and others. "She never offers to fight those as well dressed and well brought up as herself," she added.

COULD NOT BE RETURNED.

Little Tommy Thought the Article in Tommy Had Been Used Too Long.

This is one of the yarns of childhood: Six-year-old Tommie was sent by his eldest sister to the corner grocery by a pound of lump sugar. He played allis on his way to the store, and by the time he arrived there he had forgotten what kind of sugar he was sent for. So he took home a pound of the granulated article. His eldest sister sent him back to the store to get lump sugar. After the proprietor of the grocery shop had made the change for the little lad he engaged Tommie in conversation.

"Tommie," said he, "I understand there is a new member of your family."

"Yes, sir," replied the kid; "I've got a little brother."

"Well, how do you like that, hey?" inquired the groceryman.

"Don't like it at all," said Tommie; "rather have a little sister."

"Then, why don't you change him, Tommie?"

"Well, we would if we could; but I don't suppose we can. You see, we have used him four days now!"

Bulletin Financier.

Jouidi, 19 mai 1898.

COMPTOIR D'EGANGES (CLEARING-HOUSE) DE LA NOUVELLE ORLEANS.

J'ai qu'il cette semaine... \$6,043,935 00 \$517,952 00

MONNAIE.

Monnaie d'Or... \$4,800 00

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Bulletin Commercial.

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