

ANTIQUITY OF THE VICES.

Recently Translated Babylonian Letters Reveal the Evils of Financial Schemes.

The letters and inscriptions of Hammurabi, a king of the Babylonian dynasty, dating back to 2300 B. C., which have recently been translated, throw most interesting light not only upon the antiquity of vices of a financial kind, but also upon the manner in which they were punished in those far-away days, says the Chicago Tribune.

These two letters, over 4,000 years old, show not only the antiquity of the vices of greed but also the excellent manner in which justice was administered sometimes in the early days of the race.

The second letter bears upon the question of money lending in those ancient days. A scribe had informed the king that Anu-elish, a notorious usurer, had laid claim to certain lands which belonged to him, and had appropriated his crops.

MONEY ON OCEAN LINERS.

Enormous Amounts Stored Away in the Treasure Rooms of Big Steamers.

A French steamship that left New York lately carried in its strong box more than \$4,000,000 in gold. It was rumored, says the Chicago Tribune, that the sum would have been much larger if the insurance companies had not objected, but the bankers say this story is absurd, calling attention to the fact that \$3,000,000 was exported on a single steamer at the time of the recent British bond award to subscribers in this country.

Settled a Dispute.

At a recent meeting of the Entomological society in London the president G. H. Verrall, told an amusing story to prove that a knowledge of insects may even be useful in settling questions in literary history.

Mice Saved Lives.

Mice played an important part recently during a serious fire which broke out in a Pennsylvania colmine. Several mice were lowered down one of the shafts in order to discover whether the air was sufficiently pure to allow men to descend.

DANGER IN SIPHON BOTTLES.

Those Used for Effervescent Drinks Are Under Heavy Pressure and Liable to Explode.

Few persons realize, when they are handling an ordinary siphon bottle, what a dangerous thing it really is. The siphon bottles commonly used for vichy, soda water and other effervescent drinks are generally charged with a pressure of from 130 to 150 pounds to the square inch, says the Chicago American.

That means, in plain language, that if a bottle so charged is allowed to slip from your hands, if only for a few feet, the jar is liable to cause a dangerous explosion.

By the exercise of a small amount of care in the handling of the siphon, however, it will be unnecessary to exclude it from the house. Many accidents might be averted if the fact that siphons won't stand any sudden jar nor extraordinary exposure to heat, nor even any sudden change of temperature, would only be remembered.

WE CAN CHOOSE OUR ENEMIES.

But When It Comes to Choosing Our Friends It Is Somewhat Different.

An open enemy is better than a gossiping friend. The story is told of a man in public life in Washington who once found himself surrounded by a host of self-appointed counselors, continually advising him, "as friends," of many astounding things, which a valued and lifelong intimate, also in public life, was alleged to be doing against him, says the Boston Globe.

Strangely enough, the friend was also grieving, for he had received tales which filled his heart with doubt of the loyalty of his lifelong friend. "The dog that will fetch will carry," says the old proverb; and the "friends" who had told tales to one of these men told the same sort to the other. They were politicians, place-seekers, hangers-on, who for their own ends employed gossip, and malicious gossip at that, to keep apart these two men.

But the plan did not work. The two men met, charged each other with coolness and finally learned that they had been the victims of tale-bearers. Then one of them said: "We can choose our enemies, but not our friends," and in saying it he enunciated a truth.

AMERICA'S SCHOOL ARMY.

Standing of the Larger Cities in the Number and Cost of Educating Children.

In respect to the number of children in regular attendance at its public schools New York stands at the head of American cities, with a total of 450,000, exclusive of 60,000 pupils who attend parochial schools, says the Sun.

The number of school children in Philadelphia is 150,000, in Chicago 230,000, in Boston 90,000, in Baltimore, which has a large colored population, 68,000, and in New Orleans, which has a still larger colored population, 35,000.

There are 55,000 in Cleveland, 40,000 in Cincinnati, 80,000 in St. Louis, 50,000 in San Francisco, 50,000 in Washington and 40,000 school children in Pittsburgh.

The Search for Shipwrecks.

There are men scouring the seacoast and the harbors of this country all the year through in search of abandoned wrecks. If the wrecks are wooden vessels sheathed with copper, the men offer good prices for them, but if they are iron vessels, or merely unsheathed wooden ones, they are passed by. Wood sheathed or painted with copper gradually absorbs the copper, these wreckers say, and it is then admirable for burning in an open fireplace. It gives a green flame that is very beautiful, a flame in which, sitting in the dark alone and gazing long in it, every man may behold his heart's desire. Naturally, such a wood is valuable.

Coffee and Biscuits in Cuba.

An eastern man who has just returned from Cuba was impressed by two things during his stay in Havana—the strength of the coffee that is served and the vast quantities of soda biscuits of American manufacture consumed by the natives. "It took me some time to get accustomed to the coffee," he said. "At first I used to water it, but gradually I fell into the Cubans' way of drinking it, and learned to like the strong, aromatic flavor. Our own coffee now tastes weak and insipid to me. The poorer classes of Cubans will make a meal from coffee and soda biscuits."

GROWTH OF OCEAN TRAVEL.

Large Increase in the Number of American Passengers on the Trans-Atlantic Lines.

The marked increase in the volume of ocean steamship travel of late years has occasioned extended comment among agents of trans-Atlantic lines. It is said that many Americans make six or more trips a year to the other side, where formerly they did not cross at all. Englishmen and Germans who are engaged in the manufacturing trades, industrialists and even food raisers, visit this side much oftener now. Quite a few come to look around with an idea of ascertaining how Americans have made such gigantic commercial strides in such a short time, but the great majority, realizing the necessity for adopting American methods where practicable, come here to purchase machinery and the like without which it would be impossible for them to copy Yankee thrift and industry, says the Chicago Chronicle.

Not nearly so common on the ocean ships as he was five or ten years ago is the English ranchman bound for the far west. He is now in the mining or engineering business in Mexico and Central America, although there are still many Britons engaged in the cattle raising business out west and throughout Canada. Some of the older vessels of our line shipped a large number of the mules and horses that were sent to South Africa from New Orleans for English army service. It was surprising to discover what a big percentage of these animals came from the ranches of Englishmen who had settled in the north and west.

Yet another reason for the increase in the number of travelers across the ocean is the renewal of the good feeling between the two continents, particularly between England and the United States. There was a time, not long since, when neither cared to buy from the other. England was then in a superior position commercially and industrially and Americans were not making locomotives, steel rails, cars, heavy machinery or other expensive creations for the export trade. Since we began to send whole railroad trains to not only England, France and Germany, but to Australia, Russia, China, Japan and the East Indies, our drummers, merchants, engineers and artisans have broken through the foreign rush line like a champion football eleven and a display of their wares and samples in every cubby hole of the globe has caused buyers to come in person to look us over more fully.

Where ships in the past were satisfied with 60 or 75 cabin passengers each trip at this season they are carrying from 125 to 225 now, if not one way, certainly the other. The number of buyers who are constantly on the deep has become enormous. Naturally Canada has benefited by this eagerness to patronize American methods and manufactures and she is sending drummers abroad. The ideal drummers' lair is no longer the American Pullman car, but the smoking saloon of the big trans-Atlantic liner.

BURIED TREASURE FOUND.

Negro Finds Hatful of Gold Coins Near Spot Made Famous by Poe.

Poe's famous story of buried treasures—"The Gold Bug"—whose scenes were located on an island off the Carolina coast, has a realization in actual life in that same region, reports the Philadelphia Press.

Recently, near Burlington, N. C., a negro found a hat full of gold double eagles buried under a live oak tree. He was a very ignorant fellow, and did not know the value of them until some negroes had taken some from him. The coin which he found was worth \$1,250. The excitement in that district has become very great, and boys and men are out in the fields with hoes, sticks, shovels—anything to dig with—trying to find some more of the hidden wealth.

One farmer has had to plant his corn three times in the past week, and is now sitting out in his field on a stump with a shotgun in his lap to keep off intruders. There is great curiosity to know where this money came from, and the date of the coin. It is now found that the gold is all dated 1857. Just before Sherman's famous march to the sea the Bank of Newburn hid a \$55,000 in gold and \$700 in jewelry in a vault near Burlington. Sherman's army camped near this spot, and some of the men, hearing that money had been buried, looked for some signs of it.

They found the earth disturbed, and pitched a tent over the place where the treasure had been deposited, and got it all. It is now thought that the soldiers in turn buried it, in small amounts are being found in and about the place where the \$1,250 was found. They evidently intended to return later and get it after the war.

Not the Usual Destination.

An amusing story is told which bears upon a case of mistaken identity. A man went up to an acquaintance and began to talk to him. In the course of conversation he said: "I heard your father make such an excellent speech in the house of lords." "I am so glad," was the reply; "we lost him about ten years ago; and I am highly gratified to hear that he has gone to so respectable a place."—London Globe.

Two Forces.

"Binks—What makes a rabbit wiggle his nose?
Binks—Give it up. What is it?
"Why, centrifugal force."
"Ha, Ha! Well, what makes a rabbit wiggle its tail?
"Give it up."
"Centripetal force."—Judge.

GLUTTONY AS A CURE.

Vacations in Bed and Stuffing with Food for Dyspeptics.

Gradual Increase in the Amount of Sustenance Aided by Vigorous Massage Said to Accomplish Wonders.

Overeating, almost gluttony, in fact, is urged as the newest, and consequently, the best, cure for that deep gloom that settles over the man that has gained business at the price of dyspepsia and other ailments. The cure really consists of three parts—complete rest, massage and over-feeding, says the Cincinnati Enquirer.

Perhaps the most important of these is overfeeding, although stress is laid by the physician on both the other portions of the treatment, and it is said by some that if any part is ignored the result is unsatisfactory. It is well, therefore, that they should be described completely, for the system can be carried out simply at home.

The rest is insured by putting the sufferer to bed and keeping him there, no matter how objectionable he finds it. Indeed, it is declared by many people that the rest should be so thorough that the patient should even be fed rather than be allowed to feed himself.

The massage is given because it is a substitute for exercise, and therefore helps to keep the patient in good health. Thus, gradually, the tissues, which are wasted by the process of rubbing, acquire strength, just as the muscles acquire strength by dumb-bells and other exercises, and the patient puts on flesh.

To the question of food and feeding the greatest care is to be given. At first the patient is fed entirely upon milk. A quart of a pint is given every two hours, and nothing else. The milk may be hot or cold, but no bread, meat or vegetables must be taken—only milk.

After a day or two the quantity of milk is increased. Half a pint is the usual allowance, and regularly morning, noon and through the night the patient must be made every two hours to swallow his half pint of milk. The only meals of the 24 hours which may be dispensed with are those at one and three o'clock in the morning, so as not to disturb the night's rest unduly, for such patients frequently suffer from sleeplessness.

After about a week or ten days of this pure milk feeding the patient's eyes begin to get brighter, the cheeks lose their hollowness, the complexion is sallow and begins to take on color. Then more food is added, say a little brown bread and an egg.

After two or three days more some chicken with green vegetables and a potato and a little milk pudding are given for dinner, but this does not mean that there must be any let up in the milk, for the half pint has to be drunk with the meal. After a few days more, as the digestive organs accustom themselves to dealing with the increased quantity of food, a chop or a cut from a joint is substituted for the chicken at the midday meal, and that is relegated to the evening repast.

Then, two eggs are added for breakfast, and the patient is at the end of three or four weeks eating three square meals in addition to taking five or six pints of milk a day, and in some cases even more than that.

Little by little the muscles, under the influence of the massage—which, beginning by half an hour a day, is increased to half an hour twice a day, and then to an hour morning and afternoon, and in some cases to an hour three times a day—gain strength, and the hollows take on a roundness.

The depression of the spirits vanishes, brightness takes the place of gloom, and the tired brain which, before the treatment, seemed unable to concentrate itself on any work at all, becomes alert and full of vitality, and the patient is able to go out and take his place once more in the world and its work, to his own delight and the joy of his friends.

Conveying a Mild Rebuke.

"That is ungrammatical," said Mr. Uppery, a smart young man much given to criticism. "What is?" asked his business partner, an elderly, blue-eyed man of a sly humor but unfailing good nature. "That sentence you just now uttered."
"Perhaps it was. I did not notice how I spoke it. By the way, suppose you look in Webster's dictionary and see if you pronounced that word 'ungrammatical' correctly."
"I am quite certain I did," returned Mr. Uppery, taking the volume down from the shelf and opening it.
"Why," he exclaimed, after a moment's search, "I can't find it in Webster!"
"I thought perhaps you couldn't," rejoined his partner, with a twinkle in his eye.—Youth's Companion.

Pleasant Prediction.

Bridegroom—I'm afraid we shall look so happy that everyone will know that we are just married.
Best Man (consoling)—Don't worry, old chap, it will only be for a day or two, you know!—Stray Stories.

Heartily Approved.

Suddenrich—What do you think of college education for a young man?
Friend—What do you think of making of your son?
"O, nothing in particular."
"Just the thing."—Smart Set.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

Dr. de Brun, of Bayreuth, has obtained some remarkable results in the treatment of leprosy by administering ichthyol by the mouth.

Celluloid is manufactured by dissolving nitrocellulose in camphor, that is to say, forming a mixture of nitrocellulose, camphor and alcohol.

The Academy of Science at Vienna has resolved to establish a novel station for the observation of earthquakes, in a silver mine, 100 meters below the surface.

A painstaking meteorologist has succeeded in measuring the dimensions of rain drops. The largest, he states, are one-sixth of an inch in diameter, and the smallest 1-500th.

A new form of sealing wax has recently been devised. It differs from the ordinary stick wax in that it is inclosed in a glass tube, from which it may be poured by heating the cylinder.

A large gasholder has recently been built of cement concrete. Several tanks have been built on this system, one of them 53 feet in diameter and 25 feet deep (both inside measurement), with its upper part ten feet above the natural surface of the ground.

In less than 20 years England has fallen from first place in the production of iron and steel to third, America and Germany now leading in the order named. America's increase in production from 1899 to 1899 was six times greater than that of England's, while Germany's was four times greater.

OUR SECRET SERVICE.

American Government the First to Officially Acknowledge the Employment of Secret Agents.

In the last estimates of the government an expenditure for spies was duly and candidly reported, says the Saturday Evening Post. The conventionalists of the European nations opened their eyes in amazement. Of course, every army had spies, but nobody was supposed to acknowledge it officially. They said the Americans were really a most extraordinary people. It was in its way the same kind of revolutionary work that this government did in diplomacy—it made the traditional diplomacy ridiculous by making the modern diplomacy truthful.

Few realize the extent of secret service work in the modern trade of war. The books of instruction and the whole education in the naval and military life impress the importance of knowing everything possible about the geography, the habits, the resources and the conditions of every nation strong enough to fight. Thus the world is mapped in every war office, and representatives of every army are looking around to see what the other armies are doing. Sometimes there are discoveries and scandals—but, scandal or no scandal, the work goes steadily on.

In fact, the spy, whether he be after the plans of a fortification in an era of peace or in the ranks in the enemy in the midst of war, is being developed not only in keenness and intellectual accomplishments, but in his standing before the world. When caught he is still a hero, but there is less disposition to shoot him over night than there used to be. Thus the most hazardous part of the war business is much safer than it used to be.

The Manchester Guardian, which in some respects is the most influential paper in Great Britain, called Funston's exploit in the capture of Aguinaldo shabby, and thought that the United States was lowering itself to indorse such methods. Of course, it might have thought differently if the little Kansas had captured De Wet and presented him to the British army, and it really makes no difference, because the other English papers, with few exceptions, recognized the full size of the act; but it is useful in showing the spirit of competition and jealousy that still remains between the nations—even between nations that talk of union of interests.

This is one of the unescapable effects of war progress as well as of war making. Great navies and great armies stimulated to the limit of equipment and expenditure create deep jealousies that wonderfully help the iron and steel interests, but place an awful handicap on the brotherhood of man.

The Hanging.

We explained at great length that much depended upon the hanging of a picture; indeed, unskillful hanging might spoil the whole effect.
Uncle Hiram deemed this altogether reasonable; he recalled an instance in point.
"Back in '49," said he, "when I was in California, they was a chap in our camp by the name of Bill Saffles. Now, Bill was the picher of health the fust time I see him. Everybody said he was. But he got sawter p'miscuous like with other folks' prop'ly, an' one night 'bout art took him out an' hung him, an' after that Bill wasn't no picher of health 'tall. Everybody 'see him said he 'w'n't. Jes' you say, the hanging's the main thing."—Detroit Journal.

In Kentucky.

The Judge—Now, which horn of the dilemma shall we take?
The Colonel—I don't know. But, while we're considerin' it, let's take a horn!—Puck.

CAN BLEACH NEGROES

Kansas Professor Discovers Bacteria That Makes Albino.

Inoculation with Serum of a Harmless Disease Bleaches the Skin—Singular Fact Concerning Albinos.

That they might be rid of their color has been the dream of the black race since their emancipation, and at last it appears that the negro's dream is about to be realized. Prof. Marshall Johnston, of the University of Kansas school of medicine, has discovered a means whereby he claims to be able to make the negro white, reports the New York Journal.

Briefly set forth, Prof. Johnston's method consists in inoculating the negro with the serum of leucitis or Albinism, a harmless disease which produces those strange oddities of nature known as Albinos. The fact that albinism is the result of a disease is a discovery in itself, the credit of which belongs to the professor.

Albinos have been regarded for centuries simply as anomalies of nature, but it has remained for Prof. Johnston to discover that their condition is the result of a disease—the white blood disease or leucitis, as the professor has named the affection.

Leucitis is a disease only in that it is not a normal condition. As diseases go, the affection could hardly be called one. It resembles baldness somewhat, being only a local condition and in no wise affecting the general health.

Transmitted to a white skinned person, leucitis checks the deposition of dark pigmentary matter in the cuticle and gives to the skin a pale and sickly hue, while the eyes assume a pinkish color.

But upon the darker and thicker skin of the negro leucitis operates with great difficulty, and while a colorless skin is the result of its work in a light-skinned person, its effect upon the negro is to bleach the skin only to a healthy "flesh color."

The odd whitish aspect of the Albinos' skin is due, according to the professor, to a deficiency of pigmentary matter, or coloring substance. For a long time, however, it was supposed that this lack of coloring matter was merely one of the vagaries of nature. By chance one day while examining under the microscope a sample of the blood of an Albinos who was detained in the university hospital with a severe case of typhus fever, Prof. Johnston discovered that in addition to the typhus bacilli in the blood there were specimens of a strange bacillus, the like of which he had never seen before.

The discovery set Prof. Johnston to wondering what the bacillus might be, and when the Albinos had recovered from the fever he secured another sample of blood. There were none of the typhus bacilli in this sample, but the specimens of the strange bacillus were still there.

A number were taken from the blood and placed in a gelatine culture and incubated. The colony multiplied, and in a few days a young guinea pig was inoculated with a serum made from the bacilli. There was no change in the general health of the animal, but inside of a month its pink rosy skin had turned white and its eyes had taken on a decided pink hue.

The conclusions were easily drawn, and the professor announced to his colleagues, who had been watching the experiments with great interest, that the bacillus which had produced this condition in the pig was the cause of the Albinos' color.

The next subject was a patient in the hospital, an Irish mechanic named Wilder, who was dying of an incurable disease. It took two months to effect Wilder, but within 90 days after inoculation the man had become an Albinos with pink eyes, white hair and colorless skin.

A negro was the next to offer himself for experimental purposes. He was inoculated, but the doctors found that the leucitis bacilli had a very different effect upon him. His kinky head covering was unaffected. This, however, was not wondered at, as the negro's hair is in reality entirely different in structure from that of the Caucasian. But the negro's eyes did not change color, and although his skin bleached out, it did not assume the pale color of the Albinos. When it had bleached to a color which in a white person would be a light brunette tint held that color, and a heavy post-inoculation of the serum produced no effect. The deep pigmentation of the negro's skin is held accountable for his by the professor.

Deficient in Dead Language.

Cardinal Pedro (Gonzalez) was a pious man who believed in the gospel of peace. He noticed one day that a priest in his train carried a short sword under his cloak. The cardinal reproved him, saying that a cleric should not carry arms.
"True," answered the priest, humbly, "but I carry the weapon only to defend myself should I be attacked by a dog."
"In that case," said the cardinal, "and if I saw a dog running toward me, I should begin to recite the Gospel of John."
"That," returned the priest, "would be a wise thing indeed, but may it not be that there are some dogs that do not understand Latin?"—Youth's Companion.

Retort Courteous.

"I never get angry with a fool," remarked a man who wanted to crush his antagonist.
"That," rejoined the other, "accounts for your always being on good terms with yourself."—Chicago Daily News.