

THE FRENCHMAN'S DINNER.

Happy and Care Free in the Evening... The Frenchman, with all his politeness and little niceties, is not a good dresser.

As a rule, however, there are other things that mean much more to him than mere clothes. For instance, he likes to dine. Every Frenchman, in the proper sense of the word, dines in the evening.

He is not, perhaps, so passionately fond of music as the German, but still he likes it and will have it if he can afford it. He is gay and happy in the evenings; is the Frenchman, and his habits, whatever they are, he dismisses temporarily. He rises late, and he dines late.

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THE FATE OF CAPTAIN LEE.

A Debt of Gratitude That This Country Owes to Spain. During the summer of 1776, Captain John Lee of Marblehead, commanding a commission from congress, had been taken and sent home five valuable prizes, captured the port of Bilbao in Spain.

In the decision of the Spanish ministry depended not alone the fate of Captain Lee, but whether some of the most important ports in Europe should be opened or closed to American cruisers and privateers. The English minister in Spain brought all his influence to bear against Captain Lee.

Spain, like France, also helped the United States with 1,000,000 francs and with cargoes of military stores. Boston Globe. The "Longest Resident."

The poverty of the English language is exemplified by a circular which is making the rounds of a suburb and invites subscriptions to a testimonial to the station master. It comes from one who styles himself "the longest resident," the sad physical fact being that he is probably the shortest, although in bulk and rotundity he makes up for the inches he lacks in height.

One of the most intimate friends of M. Dumas was a retired naval officer who lived in a distant corner of Normandy. As soon as the author of "Camille" died the officer went over all the letters which he had received from Dumas and destroyed every one which referred to any private affairs of the author.

According to a member of the candy loving sex, there is no sadder evidence of age in a woman than being able to pass a bobbin shop without being tempted by the wares. "When a woman can do this," she says, "she is frankly middle aged. During your school days chocolates are a recognized necessity of existence. During the early bud period of matinee hero worship they are indispensable to the enjoyment of a performance. When your mouth does not water at the mere idea of a caramel or a marshmallow begin to search for the first gray hair."

There are some people who turn gray, but do not grow hoary; whose faces are furrowed, but not wrinkled; whose brows are more wrinkled in many places, but are not dead. There is a youth that bids defiance to old age, and there is a kindness which laughs at the world's usage.

The first, last and closest trial question to any living creature is, "What do you like?" and the entire object of true education is to make people not merely do the right things, but enjoy the right things. John Ruskin.

Man believes himself irresistible at all ages, and I believe that the older he grows the more fascinating he thinks himself. -London World.

LOST AND FOUND.

In England 10 Per Cent is the Recognized Reward. "If you lost a watch worth \$100 what reward would you give the finder for its return?"

"Oh, ten or twelve dollars." "Ten per cent, eh? Well, that is about right," said the detective. "It is more, though, than the average person would give. Here in America in lost and found cases there is no recognized percentage of reward, but in England there is such a percentage, namely, half a crown to a pound; that is to say, about 10 per cent. Ten per cent is what the finder must be paid in England provided he takes his find to a police station or to Scotland Yard. He always does so, as otherwise the owner is apt to give him less than the legal 10 per cent. I lost in a London cab a kit bag worth \$20. The kit bag was returned by the caddy to Scotland Yard and I left there for him gladly a reward of \$2 if the bag had been worth \$2,000 I'd have been charlier of handing out \$20, but that is what I'd have to do before the Scotland Yard folks would have given me my property. When you lose anything be prepared to give at least 10 per cent to the finder. Ten per cent is the recognized reward in lost and found cases abroad, and it should be the recognized reward here. To my mind it is little enough, and they who give less are to my mind dishonest." -Philadelphia Bulletin.

THE GAME OF CHESS.

Finest Mental Drillmaster the World Has Ever Known. When the Romans placed over the door of the temple of Janus "Ex Oriente Lux et Luxur Scacchorum" (Out of the East Came Light and the Game of Chess) they spoke of the two greatest bequests that the world had ever made to the young and aggressive west—the light of religion and the greatest mental achievement of man since he came through Eden's frowning portals.

In the middle ages, when the monks and abbots watched from afar the brutal soldiery of Christendom swooping down like a pestilence on the sunny plains of the south, they chanted "A ferre Normannorum libera nos, O Domine" (From the fury of the Northmen, O God, and returned to cheer all that was left a noble soul in a sad and turbulent world.

Chess is the finest mental drillmaster the world has ever known. As a mind trainer it ranks above Greek and dialectics. But, above all, it is the science of battle. It is war without bloodshed. It is strife on equal terms, which all the race loves and to which from the cradle to the grave all mortality is subject. -Charleston News and Courier.

The Prim Dutch Girl. The etiquette of Holland is exceedingly strict in all classes. The young girls most carefully chaperoned, and she never goes anywhere, even to church, unless accompanied by her parents, some male relative or other equally trusted attendant. At a dance the parents sit round the walls sipping their coffee or wine, and the young men must make the best of their chances in the opportunities afforded by the dance, for when it pleases the guardians to depart there is no help for it, the girls must go too. An unmarried girl always takes the right arm of her escort, while the matron takes the left, perhaps because it is nearer the heart.

An Example. One of the most intimate friends of M. Dumas was a retired naval officer who lived in a distant corner of Normandy. As soon as the author of "Camille" died the officer went over all the letters which he had received from Dumas and destroyed every one which referred to any private affairs of the author. Where letters also contained literary and philosophical discussions he carefully blotted out the personal parts in order that nothing of a personal nature might ever reach a publisher. This is an example not often followed.

Avoiding the Doctor. Dr. Sanderson, an old Scotch physician, was a queer character, but a clever doctor. So roughly did he handle his patients that the ignorant were chiefly anxious to escape him. The story goes that as he was passing along the street one day a sweep rolled from the top to the bottom of a staircase outside one of the houses.

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TENNYSON'S MOODS.

Severe Notice to Which the Poet Received Some Visitors. It was an eccentric reception that Sir Henry Roscoe was given when he visited Lord Tennyson. The former had been unwilling to intrude on the poet, but consented to accompany a friend, William Summers, who had a note of introduction from Sir Lewis Morris.

"And thereupon he produced a small vial containing saccharin, on the outside of which was an advertisement containing a few lines of some appreciatory remarks respecting saccharin which I had made in a lecture at the Royal Institute. This notice I had never seen, and on my return home I wrote to the proprietors requesting them to stop issuing such notices, as I could not have my name used for advertising purposes, and this they did. In a few minutes, without further conversation, Tennyson rose and said: 'Well, I must bid you goodby, for I must now lie down. I am going to smoke a cigar and go to sleep.' Upon which he walked out of the room, giving a distant nod to my disconsolate friend, Will Summers, who had come on purpose to interview the poet, but with whom he had not exchanged a single word."

Mr. Smoker, see to it that your Uncle Samuel don't catch you striking a match on one of his mail boxes. He'll surely make trouble for you if he can prove that a certain scratch on the metal of one of those gray boxes on the corners was made by your drawing the tip of a lucifer across it.

That's about what the mail carrier told the fellow who, in landing you this advice, it was given just after the adviser had stopped, feeling "smoky" after coming out of an office where they wouldn't let him puff the stogie he had in his pocket, to scratch a match on the mail box. He was rather surprised when the mail carrier, coming up to unlock the box, said: "Don't do that!"

How the Great Penguin Hatches. It may interest you to know that the great penguin of the southern circle standing with its head as high as a man's waist, hatches its eggs in a peculiar manner. These are not laid upon the ground and brooded on after the manner of most birds' eggs. The female lays two large eggs. The first she hands over to the male bird, the other she keeps. The egg is held on the upper surface of the large fat feet, and is pushed up under the waistcoat of thick feathers. It is there held close to the body, whose warmth gradually vitalizes the young bird. So tenacious are the parent birds of this grip that if you knock one of them over it will fall on its back with its feet stuck stiffly out, still clutching the egg to its body. -Saturday Review.

Tommy and His Pets. The British soldier is inordinately fond of his animal pets and has also the reputation of coveting those of his neighbors, particularly dogs and mongrels. Parrots he simply adores, and it is calculated that their strength in the service is in the proportion of at least six birds to a Tommy. He is supposed to teach them to be personal in their language, but as a matter of fact Tommy is for some unaccountable reason a very emotional man, and his birds as often as not have to submit to a sound musical education, hymns being as often taught them as the comic songs of the day. -Allababad Pioneer.

Two thousand years ago the chaffing dish was used by the Greeks and Romans. It was so popular that it was used for a table ornament, just as floral pieces are used now. Pliny relates that the tragic actor, Esopus, had a dish worth 1,000 sesterces. No doubt then, as at the present time, the actor enjoyed his hot midnight meal filled with grateful appreciation of the chaffing dish.

An Inspiration. "Of course," said the new rector, "you hope eventually to reside in a heavenly mansion where?" "Oh, yes," interrupted Miss Uppisch, "and I do hope it won't be too close to the heavenly huts of the poor." -Catholic Standard and Times.

A Good Example. Generous Uncle-I will make you a monthly allowance; but, understand me, I will pay no debts! Nephew-All right, uncle. Neither will I. -Mergendorfer Blätter.

Believe that every longing of you, soul contains its own prophecy of fulfillment. -Bradbury.

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FIGHTING THE SEA.

Holland's Continuous Performance in Preventing Floods. Holland is a country of wooden piles and dikes, for the people are perpetually fighting against the encroachments of water. One building in Amsterdam rests on no fewer than 13,850 piles, though the dikes around the town, which have been erected at enormous expense, effectually prevent any chance of a flood.

The lead of Holland is really of four distinct levels, and from ten to twelve feet between the highest and the lowest. To make the land dry, the water is pumped from the lowest level to the one immediately above it, and so on, until the water has been returned again to the sea. A large number of engineers are specially engaged to look after the dikes, and no less a sum than \$2,500,000 is expended every year in keeping these fortifications against the sea in proper repair.

After shedding the New Shells Hard on With Great Rapidity. The supply of soft crabs for market is obtained by catching hard crabs and keeping them until they shed their shells. For this purpose large rectangular floats, made of laths and plank, are employed, and three or four times every day the stock on hand is carefully inspected, all the soft crabs being picked out and packed without delay. They are put into shallow boxes of moist seaweed, from ten to thirty five dozen in a box, according to the size of the animals. When the packing is done carefully the occupants may be kept alive from sixty to seventy hours after leaving the water.

Crabs have been shipped all the way from the Chesapeake to Canada, arriving at their destination in good condition. In summer, of course, ice is used. But where soft crabs are concerned it is necessary that they shall reach the market quickly, because their new shells harden with great rapidity. At the end of twelve hours the shells are like parchment, and in three or four days the crab is as hard as iron. Hence unfit for use in the form most highly approved by epicures. -New York Herald.

They were on their honeymoon. He had bought a cat and had taken her out to show her how well he could handle a boat, putting her to tend the sheet. A puff of wind came, and he shot in no uncertain tones, "Let go the sheet." No response. Then again, "Let go that sheet, quick." Still no movement. A few minutes after, when both were clinging to the bottom of the overturned boat, he said: "Why didn't you let go that sheet when I told you to, dear?" "I would have," said the bride, "if you had not been so rough about it. You ought to speak more kindly to your wife." -New York Post.

Long and Short Days. At Hamburg, Germany, the longest day occupies seventeen hours and the shortest seven. At Stockholm, in Sweden, the longest has eighteen and a half hours and the shortest five and a half. At St. Petersburg the longest has nineteen and the shortest five hours. In Finland the longest has twenty-one and a half hours. In the northernmost parts of Norway the longest day lasts from May 21 to July 2, the sun not sinking below the horizon during this period, but skimming along very close to it in the north. At Spitzbergen the longest day lasts three months and a half.

"Privilege," seen so often of late in the phrase "special privilege," has been used commonly to signify a right, immunity or benefit enjoyed by a person beyond the common advantages of other individuals. Primarily, however, the word signifies an ordinance in favor of an individual, and this is in keeping with its derivation—"privus," one's own, private, and "lex," law. It is in this old sense that Chaucer uses the word.

Man has to be lumbugged if one would command him, and he has no use for the burlesque person. The way to get into a publisher's or editor's office (or indeed any other with a man at the head of it) is with a tremendous show of bounce and swagger. -A Spinster in M. A. P.

There is not the remotest connection between dog days and rabies; indeed, the records show that the fewest cases of rabies occur in July and August. There are more cases in April, November and December than in any other months. -Springfield Union.

Zabin—How's this for a neat little week of art? It's worth over \$10, but I managed to get it for \$1. Zabin—Where's the art in it? Zabin—In getting it for \$1, of course.

What men prize most is a privilege, even if it be that of chief mourner at a funeral. -Lowell.

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THE TABLES OF STONE.

A Curious Calculation From the Talmud and the Bible. Did you ever figure on the probable size and immense strength of Moses, basing your calculations on the dimensions of the tables of stone, as given by the Talmudic writers? In the Talmud (folio 38, column 8) it is said that the tablet of stone upon which the commandments were written were six ells long, six ells broad and three ells thick. In the Bible, Exodus xxiii, 15, we are told that "Moses went down from the mount and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand."

"Hand," mind you, not hands, though it must be admitted that it would have taken a strong pair of hands to perform the task of carrying them, even on the level. Now, we will put the Talmudic and the Biblical accounts together and apply the mathematical rule. The Hebrew ell or cubit was, at its least estimate, a measure of eighteen inches, which would have made each of the tables a stone block nine feet long, nine feet wide and four and one-half feet thick. If common stone weighed as much to the square foot then as it does now the tables would tip the beam at about twenty-eight tons! Was Moses one of the giants of those days or has some one made a mistake in calculations or in the statement of supposed facts? -Exchange.

SARDINES. The Way They Are Cooked and Preserved For Market. Sardines are caught in nets, and after being well washed the heads are cut off and the fish are sprinkled lightly with salt. After lying for a few hours they are placed on grids in rows almost perpendicular. The frames are then placed in pans containing boiling olive oil. The oil is changed as soon as it becomes too black and dirty for continuing the cooking process.

As soon as the fish are considered sufficiently cooked, they are withdrawn from the pans of oil and the grids are placed on the tables covered with zinc. The surface of the table inclining toward a groove in the center. The fish is thus carried to a vessel prepared to receive it. Round the table stand the women whose business it is to pack the fish closely and uniformly in boxes.

The boxes being full, the fish are covered with fresh oil and the lids are then soldered down. Thus hermetically sealed they are placed in iron baskets and immersed in boiling water. The smaller boxes are thus boiled for half an hour and the larger ones somewhat longer, in proportion to size of box. The fish are then ready for the market. -Pascion's Weekly.

The Wearing of Hats. More or less of a modern habit is the constant wearing of hats. Even as late as 1750 Horace Walpole mentions as a matter of course that he never wears a hat. "Remember," he says, writing to a friend notoriously careless about his dress, who was expected, some, from Holland, "everybody that comes from abroad is supposed to come from France, and whatever they wear, at their first reappearance immediately grows the fashion. Now if, as is very likely, you should through laziness, or a Dutch smack in a week's time, shall all be equipped like Dutch skippers. You see, I speak very disinterestedly. For, as I never wear a hat myself, it is indifferent to me what sort of a hat I don't wear."

A contributor to the "Transactions of the Devonshire association" says that when he came to a certain place as vicar he asked whether there were any sick to be visited. "Oh, no, sir," was the answer. "Nobody is ever ill in Berryarbor." There is an old man, to be sure, or elderly, who has taken lately to his bed, but there hasn't much the matter with him that I know of."

"I thought to myself," added the vicar, "of the story of the Scotchman who said to his doctor: 'Ye pu' a vara long face, doctor. Dye think I'm dangerously ill?' 'Na, na,' was the reply. 'I don't think ye're dangerously ill, but I think ye're dangerously old.'"

One telegraph operator was telling another of a quarrel he had had with another at the other end of a wire. "I gave him fits over the wire for about two minutes."

"What did he say?" "Did not give him a chance to say anything. I just opened the key and he could not come back at me."

"Goodness," put in a bystander, "wouldn't it be fine if we could work a scheme like that in matrimony? Just open the key and that would be the end of it." -New York Tribune.

Authorities on forestry say that seventy-five years are required for the oak to reach maturity; for the ash, larch and elm, about the same length of time; for the spruce and fir, about eighty years. After this time their growth remains stationary for some years, and then decay begins. There are, however, some exceptions to this, for oaks are still living which are known to be 1,000 years old.

But, protested the first dear girl, "I haven't got the face to ask a favor, of him."

"Well," rejoined dear girl No. 2, "you might visit a complexion specialist and have your face remodeled." -Chicago News.

NAPOLEON'S ACCOUNT BOOK

Some Entries Made During His Exile at St. Helena. There was recently sold in London the last book of accounts of Napoleon at St. Helena, from 1818 to 1821. The expenses are classified by month and were kept by Pierron, the ex-emperor's maitre d'hotel, with entries by Montholon.

There are many corrections in pencil by the august exile himself, for he verified all the accounts and changed English money, where it was used, into francs. Some of the entries are highly interesting. Thus, on Aug. 15, 1819, the fetes of the emperor, here is one by Montholon: "Artificial flowers, 15. Extraordinary expenses, 15."

Napoleon's resources at St. Helena were very modest, but his tradesmen, as regarded their prices, never forgot that he was an emperor, though an exiled one. Among other occupations to while away the time that hung so heavily on his hands, Napoleon went in for gardening, and among the entries are found: "Four watering cans, 11 8s.; 2 pairs of pruners, 13; 2 axes, 14 10s." prices which look as if the exile was simply regarded as a subject for feeding: "For mending the emperor's bed" 12 is charged.

Toward the end of his life Napoleon's nourishment consisted almost entirely of chickens, pigeons, and eggs, and there are numerous entries for medicines. In March, 1821, for instance, thirty bottles of strup, one case of prunes, two cases of Burgundy plums; in April, ten bottles of strup, eight dozen oranges, eight dozen lemons. -London Globe.

When birds and animals do not mate at the mating season, it is a sign that a bad year is coming," said a farmer.

Quails, hoppers, rabbits and squirrels all refuse to mate in certain seasons. These pairs afterward turn out to be failures. The quails are particularly weather-wise. In fact the little wild creatures know that for lack of rain or for some other reason there is to be a grass famine, and a seed famine, and instead of pairing off and mating and setting up house-keeping in little families of two, they remain unmated in the large flocks in which they have flown all winter. By this, as it were, a kind of apartment house life. That year inevitably turns out a bad one, though the bachelor and spinster quails, with a good deal of picking and scratching, manage to get enough to eat. But to feed families of three ones in such a famine year would be impossible.

In California the squirrels in a famine year not only do not mate, they do not even live. They become dormant. As by a miracle, they remain dormant until a season of plenty comes with the next winter's rains. Exchange.

For Her Welfare. Mrs. Goodheart had made up her mind that most of the so-called charity of the present day was not, strictly speaking, charity at all. Whoever gave, she had concluded, did so for the pleasure and sensation of seeing his or her name figure on subscription lists, and she did not agree with this estimation.

"How, my good man," she said one day last week to a man who had begged alms of her, "there is a threepenny piece, and please to understand that I do not give this because I hope to be rewarded for my charity some day, but because it gives me pleasure to do so."

The burly beggar looked dubiously at the tiny silver coin. "Look here, mum," he said. "In this 'ere wicked world we don't often get the chance to enjoy ourselves. Why not make it a shilling, 'ave a real good time?" -London Tit-Bits.

Under the terror in France people learned to be excessively cautious in all they said and still more cautious in what they wrote. An old letter is said to be in existence of the revolutionary period in which the author had at first written to a friend, "I write under the reign of a great emotion."

Then, apparently reflecting that it was dangerous to speak of "ragas" at such an epoch, he amended the sentence thus: "I write under the republic of a great emotion."

"That fellow Mulkey you were engaged to at one time may have some of your old love letters, may he not?" asked the husband. "And aren't you afraid he might be cad enough to?" "Not a bit," replied the wife decisively. "He knows I've got a trunkful of his love letters to reciprocate if he ever does." -Judge.

Mrs. Peagreen is 13 always an unlucky number? Not when you hold all of the trumps; is a game of what. -Kansas City Independent.

Knicker—My wife says she feels like an old rag. Bocker—Then the only cure is to buy her some new ones. -New York Sun.