

BEGINNING OF THE IRON AGE

Excellent Reason for Believing It Originated in Central Europe— Its Use in China.

The iron age is commonly believed to have begun in Africa and Asia. The latest investigations prove that it was first worked in Egypt until the ninth century before the Christian era; or in Libya until 450 B. C.; that the Semites adopted its use still later, and that it has been known in Uganda only with the last five or six centuries. In China iron is mentioned in 400 B. C. Bronze weapons were employed in China until 100 A. D., and in Japan until 700 A. D.

According to a Mr. Ridgeway, who has investigated this subject, the metallurgy of iron must have originated in central Europe, especially in Noricum, which approximately represented modern Austria and Bavaria. Only at Hallstatt and in Bosnia and Transylvania, from which countries the Achaeans and Dorians are supposed to have migrated to Greece, are found evidences of a gradual introduction of iron, at first as an ornament applied to the bronze, which it ultimately displaced. Everwhere else iron was introduced suddenly, a fact which implies a foreign origin.

Meteoric iron was known in Egypt in remote antiquity, but not doubt it was worked as flints were worked, by cutting or chipping, and was not smelted. In other words, it was the metallurgy, not the knowledge of iron, that originated in central Europe.

FINANCES IN THE NURSERY

Real Wisdom in Making Children Realize the Actual Value of Their Money.

"I do not see why a parent should not say to a girl: 'Here is so much a year; you have to pay your school bills, your dress, your laundry, your traveling expenses, and the cost of your games and your sweets out of it,'" was the startling suggestion advanced by a public speaker in a lecture on "Woman and Her Money," given to a large gathering of women recently in London.

In his capacity as a lawyer, the speaker has seen much misery and unhappiness for which extravagant wives and daughters, reared in total ignorance of the value of money, have been responsible, and in his opinion many disasters could be avoided if women were more wisely educated in the handling and investing of money.

"The ideal father and mother give their children an allowance," he went on to say, "even if it is only a penny a week. This allowance should be increased as time goes on, and a girl should gradually be allowed to pay all her own bills and expenses."

The Duration of Dreams.

Something regarding the duration of dreams can be gathered from this experience of a man who, on sitting down for a dental operation, took gas and dreamed. He saw himself finish his work, go to the club, leave for the station, run for the train and miss it. He returned to his club and reclined on a settee in the library. There he passed a miserable, restless night, getting gradually colder and colder as the fire died down, and with a pain gradually growing about his head and face from the hardness of his couch. Five o'clock in the morning came, and the steward roused him to say that the club must now be closed. The sleeper got up feeling very stiff—and found that the steward was his dentist, and that the night's adventures had lasted exactly 42 seconds.

Didn't Want to Go Too Far.

Joseph Jefferson had a favorite story concerning a small boy whose cherished bulldog got into frequent fights. After one such encounter troubled Jimmy sought the aid of the late family physician.

"Why, yes, I can fix your dog up," said this gentleman, kindly, "but I thought your family had accepted Christian Science. Why don't you try one of your own healers? Don't you think they could cure him?"

"Yes, sir," hesitated the lad, nervously stepping from one foot to another. "We have, an' they could, an' I would only—I'm afraid they'll take all the fight out of him, that's all."

Fox Committed Suicide.

During a run of the Gedworth (Eng.) foxhounds recently the fox in order to escape from the hounds jumped down a 20-foot well, and it is presumed that he committed suicide. After being told the story an official of the Zoological society said that no animal ever intentionally ends its life. "I can only recall two creatures," he said, "who are supposed to commit suicide, and they are the scorpion and the wasp. I have never quite satisfied myself as to these creatures. They both appear to kill themselves by their own stings, but I have always thought the death was accidental."

A Jam Thief in Court.

Little Willie, nine years old, was noticed by his stepmother to pay many quiet visits to his bedroom. She followed and found him eating from a jar of jam. She beat him until he told her he had stolen it, so she took him and the jam to a nearby shop. Willie was charged at Oldstreet with stealing the jam, but the magistrate said it was perfectly ridiculous to bring such a little boy when his father, if not his stepmother, could deal with the matter himself. The boy was discharged.—New York Press.

AS THE "DUKE OF DURHAM"

American Dealer Sat in Chair Once Occupied By Hero of Waterloo

The late Mr. Washington Duke, of Durham, North Carolina, at home known as "Uncle Wash," who manufactured tobacco products so extensively for a quarter of a century, used to tell a quaint little story on himself. "The first time I traveled abroad," he said, "I visited Brussels and went to see all its sights. In one of the public buildings I found an ordinary-looking armchair carefully railed off and with a chain across its front. Being tired with a hard morning of tramping, I stepped over the fence, let down the chain and, with a big sigh of relief, dropped into this chair, the only one I had seen in the building. A guard in lace and buttons was on me at once.

"No sitting in that chair!" he blustered. "See the card on the back? The Duke of Wellington once occupied that chair!"

"Well, and what of it?" I returned, cool as a cucumber. "I'm Duke of Durham, and alive at that!"

"This settled the matter. Down to the floor went that funky, brushing the dust from my American shoes with his handkerchief of real European title. A way-up English title catches them every time. I had my rest out in that solid old chair of the Waterloo hero."—The Wasp.

THE PROPER IDEA IN READING

How to Get the Best from the Authors Who Have Enriched the World's Literature.

It was Oliver Wendell Holmes, was it not, who owned up to his preference for reading in books to reading through them? "When I set out to read through a book," the Autocrat wrote, "I always felt that I had a task before me—but when I read in a book it was the page or the paragraph that I wanted, and which left its impression and became a part of my intellectual furniture." If we were only franker, most of us would confess to being like Holmes in this matter of our reading. To be sure, we have an old-fashioned disinclination to set down a book in the middle of it; we feel it our duty to finish whatever we have once begun at the beginning; yet if we yield to our New England conscience herein, we are only deterred from beginning very many books. And by "beginning" books I mean neither reading straight through their tedious opening pages, nor hastening like a woman, to learn by the concluding chapter how it all "turns out." Open your book in the very thick of it; that is the true way of getting at its soul.—The Atlantic.

Engineering in Hospitals.

Practically all the important infirmaries and hospitals in England have their own electric generating stations, and the size of the installations would surprise the majority of engineers. The equipment has to be designed with unusual care, owing to the special conditions which prevail in hospital work. Even where a public supply is available, the use of an independent system is justified on account of the security which it gives against failure of current at a critical moment. The installations are used for lighting, heating, ventilating, telephoning and other purposes, and many hospitals have laundries operated electrically. One county asylum has its own private electric railway for conveying supplies from the nearest railway station.

Greatness.

In olden times great men existed at the expense of others. Alexander and Napoleon were great by despising ordinary humankind. That will be no more. Greatness will be pure, moral, intellectual. In olden days contempt of humankind was necessary to become great. I do not share the common ill will against conquerors. Those who think Alexander a madman, who set Asia on fire for his pleasure, are fools. Where would the human spirit be if Alexander had not undertaken this marvelous expedition? No, wars and conquest were the instruments of progress. But this will be so no longer when the whole world will have become rational.—Ernest Renan.

His English Income.

"Once you make American money," said the man who had lived in England, "you are forever spoiled for life in England. You can't go back, that's all. American money is so much more reckless than English money. You must make so much more of it. Now, when I lived in London I made the magnificent sum of \$35 a week, and had a valet on it. I was pointed out as the man who made seven pounds a week. I was a wonder, a marvel! Tell me, how far would seven pounds go here in New York? Could you keep a valet on it? No. You couldn't keep a yellow dog in the style in which a New York yellow dog expects to be kept."

To the Pearl Buyer.

"For every pearl you wear you will shed a tear," says an old adage; but the modern woman who knows the worth of the button pearl or the baroque is undaunted. The value of a pearl depends largely upon its tint, but there is a process of staining which often produces the pink of the oriental pearl. Only a connoisseur should invest in pearls alone. The good pearl is large, very round, smooth and iridescent.

JEWES IN UNITED KINGDOM

Number Under a Quarter of a Million and Are Mainly in the Big Cities.

According to statistics there are at the present time about 230,000 Jews in the United Kingdom, mainly in London and the other large cities of England. The Jews being rated among the greatest merchants in the world, it is but natural that they should flock to the cities where the widest field for their industry is to be had.

In England there is a popular saying that there are no Jews in Scotland. Although this is not literally true, it is a fact that there are not many of them in that part of the United Kingdom. Mark Twain is authority for the statement that in the last half hundred years only one Jew has lived in Scotland. He says that one moved to Edinburgh, and before he realized it the canny Scots had him so well trimmed of his worldly goods that he never afterward had enough money to escape from the country. It is feared, however, that the humorist has slightly exaggerated the story.

There are comparatively few Jews in Ireland, the large majority of the 230,000 being in London, Liverpool and two or three others of the largest English cities.

Just as they do in this country, the Jews of England ask no other race to assist them in the maintenance of their own poor. Through well-organized charities they take care of all the poor and destitute, raising nearly \$1,000,000 annually for religious and benevolent purposes.

DANGER IN LICKING STAMPS

Practice Has Been Known to Cause Acute Inflammation of the Tongue.

Do the people who leer at the cautious ones who refuse to lick a postage stamp as "cranks" know that there is a defined disease known as "the postage stamp tongue?"

This is an acute inflammation of the tongue, directly traced to the germs to be found on the gummed side of stamp or envelope.

Other and more serious diseases have been caused by this habit that is so universal and seems so harmless. One throat specialist in a hospital declares that many chronic affections of the throat are found among persons who have as their livelihood the addressing and stamping of envelopes.

Bad skin diseases have been known to follow this habit, and it has even caused pulmonary troubles.

It is after all but a habit, and a bad one. It takes no more time and is quite as easy to moisten the stamp with a damp sponge or rag.

Where many letters must be stamped and sealed there are good patent inventions by which the sponge is kept moist.

Hanging on the Wall.

"The way pictures are hung makes such a lot of difference in the appearance of a room," said an interior decorator a few days ago. "That fact is thrust upon me nearly every day. I go into some parlors where the pictures are hung so high that all perspective is lost, and the ceiling seems to be hopelessly high. Other folks hang theirs so low that it hurts your spine to look at them, in addition to straining your eyes, spoiling the beauty of the room and taking from the value of the picture.

"All pictures should not be hung on the same level, as they so often are, yet all should be as nearly on the level with the eyes as possible. If square and oblong pictures are alternated irregularly with round and oval ones the best possible effect is gained."

Being Natural.

Can you, if you be the gentler sex, walk down the street behind an elegantly gowned woman and restrain the impulse to imitate her poise of head, her carriage and the fascinating ways she possesses? Have you ever been in a crowded room where one woman was the center of attraction and seen someone trying to imitate her? A woman is most charming when she is natural. A woman who is natural, even in her erratic moods, does not give offense. One cannot imitate the ways, manners and style of another without appearing ridiculous. The nicest women we meet are those who do not pose or seek to imitate some one else.

A Humble Queen.

Queen Adelaide, the wife of King William IV, was a woman of unaffected piety and humility. These qualities were conspicuous in the directions left in her will:

"I die in all humility, knowing well that we are all alike before the throne of God, and I request therefore that my mortal remains be conveyed to the grave without any pomp or state. I die in peace, and wish to be carried to the tomb in peace and free from the vanities and the pomp of this world."—Home Notes.

Her Fruitless Search.

Mrs. Slimdlet—"You are not eating your meat, Mr. Hallroom." New Boarder—"Er—the fact is, Mrs. Slimdlet, my—er—teeth are not very good, and this meat seems a trifle tough to me."

Mrs. Slimdlet—"Well, that's too bad. Such a time as I do have getting good meat. I have tried every place I can think of." Mr. Hallroom—"Have you tried any places near the loins?"

WANTED TO PURCHASE BABY

Small Girl Willing to Spend the Money, but Was on Lookout for a Bargain.

The shrewd small daughter of a clever Chicago business man not long since exemplified at once her faith in her father's judgment and her budding sense of commercial values. She and her brothers long had been clamoring for a sister, and the father, at Christmas time, had laughingly presented the mother with a generous check, explaining that she could buy a baby with it if she so desired. The children listened seriously, talked the matter over and decided that the dear mother had displayed unwonted selfishness when, upon Christmas morning, she announced that she had purchased, not the longed-for little sister, but a diamond brooch. A little later Jennie, representing the juvenile members of the family, asked for a private word with her father and handed him three little bank books.

"Oscar an' John an' me have saved up our money," she explained, "until we've got \$100.16 between us, an' we want you to buy us a baby, if mother won't. An' daddy, you can have all this money to buy the baby with if you need it, but we thought maybe you'd watch the market and save out enough to get us that new swing we've been wanting so long."

WORLD'S SUPPLY OF IVORY

Ten Thousand Elephants Slaughtered Yearly to Meet the Demand for the Product.

In spite of the great demands of the arts and trades for ivory, the quantity imported at Antwerp, London and Liverpool, the principal markets of the world, remains almost constant. The total was 484 French tons in 1888 and 469 tons in 1908. In the years between it has been as high as 688 tons, in 1900.

Antwerp was unknown as an ivory market 20 years ago, but now surpasses London in the size of its trade, owing to the opening of the Congo region.

Occasionally tusks are found weighing 150 pounds, but one of 50 pounds is considered a fine specimen. The law in both India and the Congo forbids the export of tusks weighing less than six pounds.

But even allowing 100 pounds a pair, the amount taken to Europe in a year means the death of more than 10,000 elephants, probably twice that number, for many elephants are killed that yield no ivory, females, for instance. The price varies from \$1 to \$3 a pound, according to quality.

Illusions.

It is true we labor under many illusions, but if these were to be done away with we should hardly deem it worth our while to labor at all.

Almost none of the things which man so ardently pursues in the belief that they will make him happier is really capable of doing so, and yet it is needful that he keep up the pursuit for the sake of what he incidentally achieves in behalf of destiny.

The illusions we labor under partake, in fine, of the nature of sanitary conditions, though they chiefly affect the health of the spirit, and by that have no municipal functionary appointed to look vigilantly after them. Nor, in fact, do they need any such, since providence has been so kind as to see to it that illusions we shall always have.—Puck.

Civilization and Eyesight.

It is sometimes mistakenly supposed that primitive races have naturally better eyesight than civilized ones. That is not exactly true. Nature works more slowly than that, and in the records of power or acuteness of eyesight some French artillerymen proved to be as well furnished as the most keen-sighted Arabs. Native races often appear to have been eyesight simply because they know what to look for and where to look for it. But as soon as reading is introduced to a race short-sightedness begins to appear with progressive frequency, and some striking instances of this relation to cause and effect have appeared among the school children of Egypt.

Bananas.

Fruit men say that one of the big troubles with bananas is that of the "hotroom." They keep up a too high temperature until the desired yellow color comes to the skin without bringing any sweetness or ripeness in the meat of the fruit. In this shape bananas are almost exactly like the plantains that are cooked in the tropics, unfit as raw food. This quick ripening not only saves a lot of time and expense—turning money over quicker—but the bananas are firmer and harder, stand shipment better, and can be pulled greener than the old style, regularly ripened banana.—New York Press.

What is Education?

"Education," says Professor Huxley, "is the instruction of the intellect in the laws of nature, under which name I include not merely things and their forces, but men and their ways; and the fashioning of the affections and of the will into an earnest and loving desire to move in harmony with those laws. For me, education means neither more nor less than this. Anything which professes to call itself education must be tried by this standard; and if it fails to stand the test, I will not call it education, whatever may be the force of authority, or of numbers, upon the other side."

WAGE WAR ON THE SHARK

People of the Tropics Have Somewhat Cruel Way of Dealing with Detested Enemy.

For many years the question as to whether sharks will attack living human beings when in the water has been hotly debated by scientists, sportsmen and laymen in general.

Practically none of the dissenters lives in the tropics. Put the direct question to an inhabitant of tropical countries who lives on the seashore and he will unhesitatingly reply in the affirmative.

The average Panamanian would consider the question foolish. The bay on the Pacific side abounds in sharks, and none of the natives will ever take a swim in the deep waters of it. Some foreigners used to do so until one of the engineers working on the canal during the French regime, a young Colombian named Jules Patterson, was killed by a shark a number of years ago. When his body was recovered it had been almost entirely stripped of flesh.

This incident led to a war of reprisal on the sharks. Many of the natives are content with simply catching and killing them, but the favorite method is called "crucifying." The shark is hooked and drawn on deck, care being taken to see that he cannot use his terrible mouth for biting. He is laid down on boards and his fins securely nailed thereto in such a way that he cannot use them. The tail is then cut close off, and the unfortunate animal thrown overboard. He cannot swim and he cannot steer himself. He is helpless and the other members of his own family attack and devour him.

SAT IN VICTORIA'S PRESENCE

But Two Men, Calling on Official Business, Have Been Known to Do So.

Few men were ever allowed to sit in the presence of Queen Victoria—in fact, it is said that probably not more than two ever enjoyed that privilege when they called formally or on official business, and these two were Gladstone and Sir James Alexander Grant, M. D., of Ottawa. During one of his journeys to England he was called to the royal palace to see the queen, who was not in very good health.

The visitor was ushered into the presence of her majesty, who was seated. Unfortunately for the distinguished physician, it was a little difficult for him to hear and understand his hostess, so he went nearer and drew a stool close by her side and seated himself upon it, thus being able to hear her voice perfectly. It was an unconventional act in a royal presence and may have been termed unceremonious, but the delightful physician apologized later and explained why he had sat down before England's queen.

The Beet as Food.

The beet beats all. It is one of the most valuable of cultivated plants. The sugar beet is a main source of sugar and alcohol. The large forage beet supply an excellent food for cattle and the red garden varieties provide savory table vegetables. The usefulness of this valuable food has now been increased by the production of an edible flour from sugar beets. The dedication of sliced sugar beets is practiced in Germany on an extensive scale, but the product is employed exclusively as fodder for cattle.

In Belgium a meal is made from dried beets. It is entirely free from the distinctive flavor of the beet and is suitable for cakes, puddings and pastry. As it contains about 65 per cent of sugar it can often be substituted with advantage for sugar in somewhat larger quantities.

The processes of desiccation and grinding not only cost less than the extraction of sugar, but preserve all the sugar of the beet, part of which is rejected in the form of molasses in the process of sugar making.

Not in Stock.

A Boston sportsman, who has just returned from the Maine woods, tells of an incident which happened in one of the small country stores in the Pine Tree state. Laid up with a cold one day, and consequently forced to remain indoors, the hunter went to the village store in search of something to read. Robert Browning he held as his favorite author, so he promptly asked the rather elderly shopkeeper to look over his shelves and see if he had Browning's works among a small array of books tucked away in an obscure corner.

"None," replied the storeman, running over his shelves; "we've got blueing, blacking and whitening, but I don't see no browning anywhere."

Satisfactorily Explained.

Actor-playwright—I have been told sir, that the Corot you sold me is not genuine!

Art dealer—Who said so?

Actor-playwright—The art critic of the Daily Whirl.

Art dealer—Do you believe what their dramatic critics says about your plays?

Actor-playwright—I never thought of that! What have you to show me to-day?—Smare Set.

Accounting for It.

Art Lover (standing before "The Bath")—"Did you ever see such color?" Philistine—"No wonder. You must remember that the lady ain't through washing herself yet."—Judge.

OUR FEAR OF CONSEQUENCES

Writer Thinks It Deters Us from the Commitment of Deeds as Well as Bad Acts.

Perhaps the fear of consequences keeps us from a few bad acts, but I am convinced that it also deters us from many good ones. It keeps us from being as disagreeable to people as we should sometimes like to be, but it also prevents us from being as nice to them as we now and then have the impulse to be.

I often think of this as I stand beside the track in the country and watch a train rush past. The engineer is usually leaning out of his window. I wave to him, he waves back, we smile in most friendly fashion, and the train flashes by. I am the better for the greeting, and I hope he is. Once I stood on a bridge and watched a slow freight creep along under me. The train men stood or lay on the tops of the cars, and as they passed they bowed salutations up to me. I caught them all. It was great fun. But afterwards I reflected, what would have happened if that freight had suddenly stopped under the bridge, as freights sometimes do, or if the engine had blown out a cylinder or something, so that the intercourse of the moment threatened to be prolonged for an hour or two? I fancy all those genial men would have suddenly stiffened into solid automatons, and I should have a pressing engagement elsewhere.—Atlantic.

HE RETAINS ONE FACULTY

Convivial Gentleman Never So Far Gone as to Be Unable to Distinguish Colors.

The door was left open for the oldest son to come in late at a home near Carlisle street and Synder avenue, a few nights ago, but before the son arrived a neighbor who had been out with "the boys" invaded the home and selected nothing less than the parlor, where he seated himself in a large rocking chair and began singing.

A little daughter of the family was the first to hear the music and she ran to her mother, informing her after she had succeeded in arousing her that she heard some one singing. It was only after the mother listened several minutes that she, too, heard and was convinced that it was in their house. The husband and father was aroused and he headed the procession down the stairs with a lighted candle. As he reached the door to the parlor he made a rush at the man and was about to strike him when he recognized the intruder as his neighbor.

The next morning the unfortunate fellow hired a man to paint his door and window frames a color different from that neighbor's home. He added that regardless where he spends his evenings, he never becomes color blind.—Philadelphia Times.

Train the Girls for Wifehood.

The crying defect of this age is that the average girl will learn only a smattering of the manifold and complicated details of housekeeping. She expects to marry a man who will be able to "hire a girl." Domestic servants now get wages which average—all things included—more than the average mechanic, and they are not as a rule, well trained, but are wasteful and extravagant. The wife leaves most of the household management to the servants, not only because it is easier to do so, but because she does not know how to do anything else. It is like taking a tracklayer, and without any preliminary training, making him superintendent of a railroad. The girls need to be trained to become better wives and mothers. At present they get, in many instances, almost no training, save some of a kind which is worse than none at all.—Lippincott's Magazine.

Blackstone's "Commentaries."

The first publication, the "Commentaries," was made by Blackstone to protect himself, for some students took notes of his lectures and these notes traveled into mercenary hands. The British museum possesses copies of all the editions of Blackstone with the exception of the third, so here is a chance for possessors of old libraries to search for the lost edition. Blackstone saw eight editions published, and a ninth was in the press at the time of his death. The "Commentaries" enjoy the distinction of having become the subject of a toast. Professor Dicey recommends the study of the "Commentaries" in their original form. This, we believe, is the method adopted by American lawyers.—Law Magazine.

For the Scandalmonger.

The Orleans museum has just been enriched with a curious relic of the past which some workmen in making excavations in the city came across. It is a stone representing a grinning figure, showing the teeth, the countenance being repellent enough. In this way the loquacious woman, the scandalmonger, was brought to her senses. The stone, suspended by a chain, was placed round her neck, and so accoutred she was compelled to walk round the town in which she lived. The stone is supposed to date about the sixteenth century.

Spilled the Story.

Tattered Terry—I'm a newspaper man, but I can't get a job.

Lady of the house—Indeed! Why not? Tattered Terry—Yer see, I saved a train from a terrible accident once, and all de editors have been sore on me ever since.—Puck.