

NIAGARA'S MIGHTY STRENGTH

Hard to Estimate Power That Has Been Wasted Since Hennepin First Described the Falls.

In the autumn of 1678 a Franciscan friar, Hennepin, set out alone—the first solitary figure of the expedition, a gray priest—from the gray rock of Quebec, in a birch canoe, carrying with him the "furniture of a portable altar."

Along the way up the St. Lawrence he stopped to minister to the habitants, too few and too poor to support a priest, saying mass, exhorting and baptizing. Early in November he arrived at the mission at Fort Frontenac, which he had two or three years before helped La Salle to establish in the wilds.

Soon La Salle's lieutenants appeared, with most of the men, and while some were dispatched in canoes to Lake Michigan to gather the buffalo fleeces against the coming of the ship whose keel had not yet been laid, the rest (La Motte, Hennepin and sixteen men) embarked for the river by which the upper lakes empty into Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence.

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Really the mechanical violin consists of three instruments. The bow is a circular hoop of horsehair which travels around continually. Standing on end inside the hoop are three violins.

Along the neck of the instruments stretch a row of uncanny fingers that run up and down the strings just like real fingers.

The hardest tones to play present no difficulties to this marvelous fiddle. It is not likely to replace the human player in the orchestra for some time, at least, as the cheapest kind costs \$2,000.

Like most machines, however, it lacks one thing; it cannot tune itself. When any of the notes get flat the strings have to be tightened by mere man in almost the same way as an ordinary violin.

Still There. Robert had just received a whipping from his mother, who afterward angrily burst in upon his father as he was quietly reading the evening paper.

"I don't know where that child got his vile temper from," she exclaimed, throwing down a book; "not from me, I'm sure."

Her husband looked sadly and responded: "No, my dear; you certainly haven't lost any of yours."—Harper's Bazar.

Too Swift. Billy—If you'd have me I'd marry you in a minute. Milly—in a minute? Why, the very idea! It takes at least three months to get a trousseau ready.

TOO ELABORATE A SYSTEM

Mr. Spiegelhausen's Idea of Postal Cards, However, Worked Very Well for a Time.

Mr. Spiegelhausen found it hard to remember at home certain things he had thought of in business hours, and conversely matters that occurred to him at night would escape his mind before he reached the office next morning.

For a time this served the purpose, but presently his precise and far-sighted mind began to anticipate and work more and more in advance, so that on a Monday night he would draft a card from home saying: "Be sure to send card from office tomorrow to remind yourself of dinner engagement Tuesday."

One evening his wife asked him whether he had thought to attend to the season tickets for the opera, and he replied with a sheepish attempt at laughter: "I suppose that was on the pile of cards on my desk this morning. I saw the postman bring them but I forgot to turn them over as we both they said."

RECORD OF CRIMINAL LIVES

Book Which Would Be Condemned Today Read by Men and Women a Few Generations Ago.

One of the scarce books which has to be sold at an approaching auction sale in this city bears this fascinating title: "The Lives of the Most Remarkable Criminals, Who Have Been Condemned and Executed for Murder, Highway, House-Breakers, Street Robberies, Coining or Other Offenses; from 1720 to the Present Time."

An odd thing about that time, too, was that hundreds of books were printed which contained full and harrowing details of murder and robbery, and that almost everybody, including clergymen and delicate ladies, read these books eagerly as fast as they came out.

Muscles and Brain. Experiments conducted by Mosso of Turin indicate that physical education and gymnastics serve not only for the development of the muscles, but for that of the brain as well.

Muscular fatigue exhibits phenomena identical with intellectual fatigue. Nerve cells show a tendency to rest every ten seconds. It is probable that only part of the brain is active at a time.

Tea Was Not Popular in 1753. A description of a model country, rector's household in an issue of the London World for 1753 shows that tea-drinking was then far from general.

Blind Potatoes. Everyone knows, of course, that potatoes have eyes, but it may be new to them that they are sometimes afflicted with blindness.

Her Version. "I was talking with Harold last night and he says he has completely reformed since he has become engaged to you," said the elder lady as she reclined in a luxurious armchair.

THEN HE UNDERSTOOD

REVELATION CAME SUDDENLY TO MAN OF WEALTH.

Plain Old Countrywoman Had Possessed Something Greater Than the Riches He Had Spent His Life in Gathering.

John Hull found the telegram at his office. As he read the words, the busy scene about him faded away, and he saw himself once more a little, ragged, frightened boy, who heard with terror the word "poorhouse" whispered by the neighbors.

It was an odd "caretaking" in some ways. Aunt Rachel was an old maid, and knew nothing of a boy's heart. And yet—how good she had been—how good and patient! In the last ten years, although he had seen her only twice, there had been no word of reproach, only the same unchanging love and faith.

Later, they were very few, but among them were her account books, and John Hull realized that in those careful figures he was reading the story of her life. He was amazed to know how tiny her income had been. And of what she had had, a tenth had gone to her church, a fifth to her missionary society, and nearly all the rest for a boy who was not even related to her.

And he had thought her life pitifully poor and narrow! Now in his hour of vision he saw that his was the poor and barren life—with its careless and spasmodic giving, its absorption in "the game." He understood at last the generous and unselfish investment of this life and all its possessions.

The Rostands Stood Tract. All the stories now arriving from Cambó, where the family of Edmond Rostand is sojourning, have the character of the heroic legend.

Children's Deafness. Dr. Helen Macmurchy of Toronto says that deafness is more frequent among school children than is usually supposed.

Will the Films Stop War? The cinematograph as an institution has come to life since the last important war. It remains to be seen how a battle, or the awful fringes of a battle, will look upon the screen.

No Nose for News. The new reporter turned in his story about the church bazaar, his first assignment. It was the usual story, with the usual names of committee women.

Her Fervor. "So you have won the American heifer, after all," observed the friend.

MISTAKE THAT IS GENERAL

Too Often Time Is Wasted Considering Difficulties Instead of Performing Allotted Task.

When a hard thing is to be done the natural inclination of most of us is to allow ourselves to think on the effort necessary to do it, instead of going ahead and doing it.

When one is confronted by a severe task of duty which seems almost beyond one's powers, it is fatal to pause to consider its difficulties. Never mind how hard it may seem, nothing can be tolerated in the mind except the consideration of ways of accomplishing it.

It is a wise economy in daily life to train the mind to take the attitude of determination in the beginning; to be deaf to the self which insists upon dwelling upon difficulties, and at once to bring into action the self that is determined to succeed.

Most persons have had the experience of looking back over an accomplished task with amused surprise at the exaggerated idea they entertained of it beforehand. Do the thing first and consider its difficulty afterward.

NEW IN THE TEXTBOOK LINE

Italian Meant Well, But His Knowledge of American Schoolbooks Was Small.

One morning, just as a teacher up in Harlem was entering her school, she was met in the hall by an Italian leading his little daughter by the hand.

"She wan' go school," said he politely, indicating the little girl. He pushed the child forward. "She wan' go school," he repeated, with many bows. "She has book," pointing to the book under the girl's arm.

The only response from the father was a shake of his head and a reiterated, "She wan' go school." Whereupon the teacher took the book and looked at it. It was old and worn, and neither a reader nor an arithmetic. It was a social directory of the year 1909.

Floral Death Legends. By the Mexicans marigolds are known as death-flowers, from an exceedingly appropriate legend that they sprang up on the ground stained by the life-blood of those who fell victims to the love of gold and cruelty of the early Spanish settlers.

What Alaskan Dogs Eat. Dogs in Alaska, when on the trail, are fed once a day, after the day's work is done. They are never fed in the morning, for if they were they would be lazy all day.

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TEARS ALWAYS CLOSE

SEEMED STRANGE MINGLING OF HAPPINESS AND PAIN.

How the Tiniest Bridesmaid and the Athletic Usher Came to an Understanding in Just 2 Minutes 21 Seconds.

He was the very largest and most athletic of the ushers, and she was the tiniest and most feminine of the bridesmaids. He was very tall, very self-assured and very strong. She was very slight, very shy and full of trembles. She had trembled all through the wedding, from the time the pink chiffoned maid of honor took the first step, at the organ's signal.

That is like a woman, especially the kind who are very slight, very shy, and full of trembles. The biggest usher had not trembled during the ceremony. He had occupied himself chiefly in wondering why in thunder people have church weddings in July, and calculating as to whether or not his collar would last until he got back to his room.

But when the ceremony was over and all the other bridesmaids had paired off and began pacing down the aisle, the tables were suddenly turned. As his arm felt the touch of the smallest bridesmaid's hand he suddenly realized that she was trembling.

As soon as the smallest bridesmaid felt this trembling her own stopped and she no longer felt like crying. She realized this dimly and wondered if it were not on the principle of homeopathy—"like cures like." But no—she was the other kind of a doctor.

It is so sometimes with women who are very slight, very shy and full of trembles. The master of ceremonies, who had been timing everything with his watch in hand, afterward stated that the procession from altar to door took just 2 minutes and 21 seconds.

And yet, what took place during that 2 minutes and 21 seconds was so very insignificant when one tries to set it down. It consisted of a few breaths, some in the form of sighs and others subvocalized; a slight movement of a black coat sleeve against a sleeve of white mousseline de soie; an almost imperceptible movement of the muscles of two pairs of eyes; a few nerve quiverings—and that was all.

Library of Artemus Ward. As we sat on the old-fashioned porch at Waterford, Me., and talked with "Uncle Daniel" Browne, a cousin of "Artemus Ward," he revealed many quaint glimpses of his own career as village justice of the peace.

So you have won the American heifer, after all," observed the friend. "Yes," fervently replied the foreign toleman, "she is mine—a gold mine."

KING HAS FIFTY YEARS' REIGN

George of Greece, Welcomed Half Century Ago to Throne, Has Guided Nation Well

Athens.—King George of Greece, who again looms large in the public eye by reason of the flame of war which appears to be spreading rapidly over southeastern Europe, recently entered upon the fiftieth year of his reign.

When the future king arrived in Athens, forty-nine years ago, he was welcomed by a little nation of a million people. He has more than two million subjects now, and Greece has progressed very creditably under his rulership. Though Greece has been overtaken by severe political storms during the last half century, the throne of King George has never once been seriously threatened.

WHAT RATS COST IN FRANCE

Statistics Show Damage to Crops From Rodents Reaches \$40,000,000 Yearly.

Paris.—Forty million dollars yearly is the estimated figure of the damage done by rats to crops and property in France. The publication of these statistics by the Incorporated Society for the Destruction of Vermin has given an impetus to the campaign for the extermination of the rodent, which is also known to be a transmitter of disease.

Seven Hundred Candidates for Aerobics Must Undergo Rigid Examinations in Paris. Paris.—The 700 candidates for France's flying corps are to be subjected to very severe tests at the physical examination ordered by the ministry of war.

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GIRL COEDS DIG POTATOES River Falls, Wis.—Digging potatoes, washing windows, splitting wood and doing family washing are some of the modes of occupation employed by thirty girl students of the River Falls Normal school. They clubbed together and voted to accept any kind of work so their earnings might be pooled and the lump sum used to defray their expenses to attend the football game between the local Normal and the Superior Normal schools, that was held recently.

MAD DOG SPREADS RABIES

Horses, Cattle and Hogs Are Bitten by Rabid Animal Near Holden, Mo.

Warrensburg, Mo.—A mad dog in the farming community south of Holden bit hogs, cattle, horses and mules and infected them with rabies. Six head of cattle belonging to one farmer have since died of hydrophobia and another reports the loss of ten hogs. A score of other farmers report the loss of horses, hogs, cattle and mules. The animals show unmistakable signs of hydrophobia and have to be shot in order to protect other animals from infection. The farmers are also exterminating all the dogs.