

BOSTON BEANS IN CHINA.

American Progress Filling the Orient With Labor-Saving Noise and Clatter.

A returned traveler from the Orient says of American push: I saw advertisements for the sale of the Waterbury watch filling whole columns in newspapers and large spaces on the outer walls of buildings in all the great cities of India. I heard the hum of the American sewing machines in the by-ways and broad streets of Bombay and Calcutta and Rangoon. I saw American lamps for burning American petroleum hawked about the streets on wheelbarrows for sale in Yokohama and Tokio and Shanghai.

He heard the clatter of the American typewriter in Chefoo and Tientsin and Swatow and Aintai. He heard American dentistry praised as the best in the world, and he traveled with an American dentist who was on his way to practice his profession in the city of Peking. He afterward received his printed circular announcing his arrival in the great imperial city, and his readiness to extract the molars of mandarins or fill the cavities of Confucianists in the most approved style of American art.

"I was glad when I saw American tram-cars running in the streets of Tokio," he said, "and the American windmill pumping water on the bluffs of Yokohama. I was glad when I heard the click of Connecticut clocks keeping good time for Orientals, who are always behind. California canned fruits and Oregon salmon and Boston baked beans in hotels all over the East made me feel at home."

PRETTY FINE WRITING.

All the Old Testament Written on a Single Sheet.

In a book dealer's place in Broadway, not far from Eighth street, New York, curiosity seekers and men who can afford to indulge their love for queer manuscripts can find perhaps the strangest bit of writing known. On a piece of parchment-like paper, five feet wide and six feet five inches high, are written all the books of the Old Testament, forming the design of a window in King Solomon's temple. No lines are used. Written words form the whole design. The writing is very minute, but legible to the naked eye. Ink of three colors was used, but principally black ink. It is a very intricate piece of work, marvelous in its way, and must have taken considerable time and patience.

The work was executed by one David Davidson, apparently in a mood of religious fervor. He was blind of an eye, and his manner of writing was to lie at full length upon the floor, on his stomach, with his eye (he was near-sighted) very close to the paper. He died some twenty years ago. Each chapter and verse is numbered. The writing is not running script, but each letter is separate, nor are the letters much, if any, larger than a thirty-second of an inch high. The work is for sale, but a high price is set upon it.

LINCOLN AN INVENTOR.

In His Early Days He Got Out a Patent for River Boating.

Abraham Lincoln was a patentee. A patent was issued to Abraham Lincoln in 1846. It was issued for a device to enable a river boat to relieve itself from a sandbar whenever it should run aground on one.

The model was certainly an ingenious contrivance. Abe had evidently made his own model and prepared his own papers.

The device was a large bellows-like apparatus made of leather and iron, which would be attached to the bottom of the guards on either side of the river boat. When not in use it was folded and formed part of the guard.

His idea was that when a boat was grounded the pilot, by pressing a button, could open air chambers, which in turn would inflate with air the arrangement attached under the guards to an extent sufficient to raise the boat and allow it to be driven to deeper water.

In his youth Abe was on the rivers in Illinois to a considerable extent, and was familiar with all the inconveniences of river travel, and his invention was the result of spending considerable time on a grounded boat on a sandbar.

Why a Father Wept.

The young son of a Boston police officer is an attendant at one of the South end schools, says the Globe of that city. His father has always told him to excel in something, and if he could not be the smartest boy in school he should make every effort to be the dullest. One night his father asked him how he stood in his class.

"Only one from the end, and I'll soon beat him," was the reply.

"And how many are there in the class?"

"Twenty-six."

"So you have beaten twenty-four of them. You are a good boy, and if you will beat the other I'll get you a new watch."

"You are wrong there. I must beat the other twenty-four, for I am next to the foot of the class."

And the father wept for joy at the precocity of his offspring.

The World's Largest Ruby.

The biggest ruby in the world is found in the Czar of Russia's crown.

which has the distinction of being the finest ever worn by any sovereign. In shape it resembles a bishop's mitre, and on its crest is a cross composed of five superb diamonds, which support the "biggest" ruby. A foliated arch, composed of eleven magnificent diamonds supports this cross, and on each side of the arch is a hoop of thirty-eight pearls, than which there are none handsomer in the world.

MISS OR MRS?

The Former Should Be Confined to Girls Not Out of Their Teens.

All women out of their teens are entitled to be styled "Mistress," says the Lady. "Miss" is merely a diminutive, and is properly confined to young girls just as "Master" is commonly confined to school-boys. In the days of Pope "Mrs." was the common appellation of unmarried ladies. Sir Walter Scott, too, speaks of Joanna (unmarried) as Mrs. Joanna Baillie. There are nowadays plenty of spinsters—and young spinsters, too—who insist upon being addressed as "Mrs.," and at one or two places in Sussex, curiously enough, the married lady is "Miss" and the unmarried lady receives the title of "Mrs." The same custom is found in many parts of Ireland. The form "Mrs." was at one time applied indifferently to persons of all ages. Nowadays our servant girls expect to have their letters addressed as "Miss," though there are a few who have more sense. There is a story told of a certain maid-of-all-work who transferred her savings, upon the advice of her mistress, to the postoffice savings bank, and she was asked how she did it. "The young lady gave me a book, ma'am," she said, "to write my name in, and he wrote my name in another book; and her says to me: 'Are you Miss or Mrs?' 'Neither, ma'am,' I says; 'I am a servant.'" That young woman respected herself and her calling. She had not been educated at a boarding-school. Among servants generally the cook, whether married or unmarried, expects to be called "Mrs." So do housekeepers, though unmarried. In point of fact, Mrs. or Mistress is a title of respect that the plain "Miss" is devoid of. Why actresses who are married should seek to disguise that fact by allowing the misleading prefix "Miss" to be attached to their names is a mystery that admits of no intelligible explanation. Are they ashamed of their husbands? There are many well-known exceptions to this habit of disguise and masquerade, but 50 per cent of the theatrical "Misses" are entitled by law and custom to the term generally recognized as distinguishing the married women. Only about 5 per cent of the entire profession admit that they are married and are not ashamed to publicly own it on the theatrical program.

SUNLIGHT A TONIC.

Disease Lurks in Darkness—People Much Like Plants.

Sunlight being indispensable to the preservation of the health, it is none the less indispensable to the sick in order to regain their health. Exclusion of sunlight from the sick room, unless it is imperatively necessary, is very unwise. The sick-room should always be so located that the sun will shine into it as many hours daily as possible.

A good illustration of the injurious effects on the sick of deprivation of sunlight is given by Dr. Hammond in his treatise on hygiene. He says:

"I shall never forget the appearance presented by the sick of a regiment I inspected in Western Virginia. They were crowded into a small room from which the light was shut out by blinds of India-rubber-cloth. Pale and exsanguined, ghostlike-looking forms, they scarcely seemed mortal. Convalescence was almost impossible, and doubtless many of them died who, had they been subject to the simplest laws of nature, would have recovered."

In convalescence from almost all diseases sunlight acts, unless too intense or too long continued, as a most healthful stimulus both to the nervous and physical systems. The evil effects of keeping such invalids in obscurity are frequently very decidedly shown, and cannot be too carefully guarded against by the physician.

The delirium and weakness which are by no means seldom met with in convalescents kept in darkness, disappear like magic when the rays of the sun are allowed to enter the chamber. Wounds heal with greater rapidity when light is allowed to reach them than when they are kept continually covered.

Enough instances of the beneficial effects of sunlight have been given, it is hoped, to induce people to open their blinds and let the light into their houses; even if it does fade the carpets, it will brighten the cheeks of the inmates and gladden their hearts.

In School.

Teacher—"Can you tell me the population of Wurttemberg?"

First scholar—"1,881,506."

Teacher—"Very good; still not quite correct. Does any one else know?"

Second scholar—"1,881,505."

Teacher—"That's right."

First scholar—"Why I know that; but we got a little sister yesterday; I thought it would make one more."

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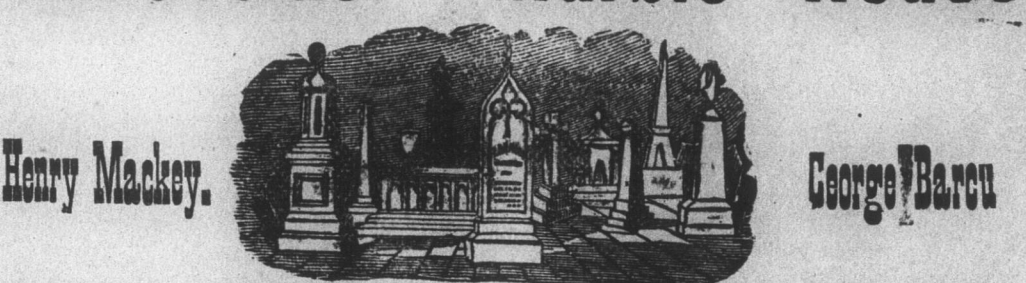
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