

A Mystery of Indo-China.

The great mystery about Indo-China and one which must ever be insoluble is the story of the lost race and the vanished civilization of that strange country. The mighty walls of Angkor-Wat, rising in the midst of sparsely settled jungles, remain as the memorial of a great empire which has utterly disappeared and is altogether lost to history. No one will ever know who planned this gigantic temple or what tyrant hounded on his myriads of people to build up those immense blocks of stone and cover them with the most elaborate of sculptures. Angkor-Wat was one of the most astonishing monuments in the world, and this forgotten temple was built so as to endure as long as the earth itself were it not for the irresistibly destructive effect of plant life on the strongest walls that man can raise. Only a highly civilized and very wealthy people could have erected Angkor-Wat, a very different race from the Anamite of modern days. The whole nation has disappeared as utterly as the busy myriads who once populated the wastes and solitudes of Memphis.

He Got the Trout.

A story dealing with a large trout that was rising regularly and frequently is told in "How to Fish: A Treatise on Trout and Trout Fishers." This is the story:

"He was going up and down, up and down, up and down; not as the insects offered themselves, but as it suited his composure that he should take a midge from the abundance. One youth was casting at the trout; another was looking on. Said the angler, 'I'll have that fish whether he takes it or not.' 'How?' his friend asked. 'I'll throw the fly into his mouth.' The trout went on rising; the angler went on casting. I perceived the angler's notion. It was that if he kept casting accurately and the trout continued to rise in the regular manner mentioned, the fly would ere long fall at the very moment when a midge was being taken. This reckoning was justified. The large trout was hooked and landed by a fly that had been cast into his mouth."

Old Fashioned Oratory.

"We don't have no sich forensic oratory as we used to have," said the old settler. "Lawyers nowadays don't orate. They only just talk."

"Take old Bill K. Simmons of Eau Claire. If Bill was defendin' a lowly chicken thief he'd speak with the tongue of angels. I'll never forgit the peroration of his impassioned philippic in the Clay Bull case about the poisoned cat. It runs like this here."

The little, thin old man rose, reared back in a defiant attitude and shouted in the cracked treble of age:

"Restin' upon the couch of republican liberty as I do, covered with the blanket of constitutional panoply as I am and protected by the aegis of American equality as I feel myself to be, I despise the buzzin' of the professional insect who has just sot down and defy his attempt to penetrate with puny sting the interstices of me impervious coverin'."

The Log Driver.

The life of a river log driver is a life that seems to get hold of one after a year or two. You are generally wet through for twelve hours out of the twenty-four. Ten of you sleep in a 12 by 15 foot shanty; you live on fried everything, "black strap," treacle and stewed tea. You go to bed at 10 and get up at 3. You are everlastingly cursed and never praised by the foreman. Your life is in danger more or less all day long, and you never get more than \$35 a month for work that is worth \$100. "Then why stick at it?" you say, and all I can answer is, "Just give it a fair trial for a year, and then you'll know."—Wide World Magazine.

Superlatives.

Dr Johnson says in his "Grammar of the English Tongue," "The comparison of adjectives is very uncertain and, being much regulated by commodiousness of utterance, is not easily reduced to rules."

Then he quotes passages from "Paradise Lost" in which the words "virtuous" and "powerfullest" are found and a passage from "Samson Agonistes" which contains the word "famous."

Surely Milton had an ear.—Notes and Queries.

Tough Fare.

In a New Zealand town one of the municipal candidates, a pronounced Scotsman, had received a present of a huge Scotch thistle, which at the moment happened to be lying on the table of his committee room. A friend, entering, withdrew suddenly, with the remark: "I beg your pardon. I didn't know you were at luncheon."

Too, Too Much.

"Thank you, son," said old Tightfist to the boy who had run several blocks on an errand for him. "Here's a penny for ye."

"Don't tempt me, guv'ner," said the bright boy. "If I was ter take all dat money I might buy a auto wid it an' git plucked for scorchin'."

A Kind Examiner.

Sir John Stainer was dearly loved by the students when he was professor of music at Oxford. "As an examiner he was most considerate," said one who studied under him, "and would always do his best to get you through." I remember his asking me a poser in a viva voce examination. He waited patiently for the answer; but, partly through my nervousness no doubt, I could not think of it. At length he exclaimed testily, 'Dear me, how stuffy this room is, to be sure,' and he went and began tugging at the ventilator cord. It was quite two minutes before he got the thing open, and by the time he had sat down again and rearranged his gown I had the answer ready. Comparing notes later in the day with a man who was examined quite soon after me, I told him how the ventilator had served me. 'How remarkable,' he replied. 'Why, when I was stuck he said, "How extraordinary drafty this place is," and spent quite two minutes in shutting the ventilator.'—Manchester Guardian.

The Razor in Disrepute.

"And he told her all his heart, and said unto her, there hath not come a razor upon mine head, for I have been a Nazirite unto God from my mother's womb; if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak and be like other men."—Judges xvi, 17.

Hair on man or brute is a sign of strength. He who desires to keep at a safe distance from dentists, let him keep also at a great distance from the knife of the barber. To shave is an act against nature. Provoke nature, and in return nature will provoke you.

Said Daniel Webster:—"the razor! It has taught me to curse. It has cost me more time and more trouble than all my speeches."

Rufus Choate, the lawyer, called the razor an instrument invented by Lucifer to fill up hell with barristers.

Edward Everett never used profane language, but before shaving he would invariably give vent to all sorts of French barbarisms.

Jordan Water.

There is a general impression that the Jordan water which is used at royal baptisms is taken from the sacred stream, put into a bottle, hermetically sealed and left untouched until the bottle is opened by the officiating priest. As a matter of fact, the water which flows out of the lake of Galilee and descends a rocky gorge to a level far below that of the Mediterranean is full of organic substances. If a bottle be filled with the water and kept tightly corked for a few days it turns perfectly black and offers to the nostrils all the odors of the tropics. The precaution is therefore taken of boiling the water and straining it before it is sealed up, and this is why the baptismal water always possesses the crystal clearness which one notices on these ceremonial occasions.—Modern Society.

The Undertaker's Shop.

"The one thing in New York that I can't get used to," said the country visitor, "is the manifold uses to which undertakers put their shops. I used to be of the opinion that the only possible errand a person could have at an undertaker's was to purchase funeral supplies, but in this town I find that people go there for all sorts of purposes. They go to vote, to get married and to transact all the legal business that a notary public is capable of transacting. Yesterday I even saw a party eating luncheon in an undertaker's establishment. They had come into town apparently to attend a funeral and instead of patronizing a restaurant they calmly munched their midday meal in the midst of those lugubrious surroundings."

Irascible Carlyle.

A lady who lived near Thomas Carlyle kept Cochon China fowls, and their crowing was such a nuisance that the philosopher sent a complaint to her. The owner was indignant upon hearing the appeal.

"Why," said she, "they crow only four times a day, and how can Mr. Carlyle be seriously annoyed at that?" Upon hearing of her attitude upon the subject Carlyle replied, "The lady forgets the pain I suffer in waiting for those four crows."

Once Too Often.

"What's all this excitement about?" "Nothing worth mentioning. Man got knocked down."

"Accident?"

"Not exactly. One of these men who always catch hold of you and push you out of their way when you happen to meet them at a crowded corner grabbed the wrong man just now. That's all."

Dead Cities.

"What became of Nineveh?" asked the Sunday school teacher.

"It was destroyed," said Johnny promptly.

"And what became of Tyre?"

"Punctured."

Misunderstandings and minding other people's business cause most of the trouble in this world.—Manchester Union.

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