

PAPERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Botanical Gardens ONE MAN'S LIFE WORK

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have flattered themselves and the rest of society by the assurance that reversals, on strained and fanciful grounds are a thing of the past. Here, however, is a painful "modern instance" given in an article in Colliers.

POPULAR SCIENCE

By means of sounding-balloons, Telservic de Bort has collected specimens of the air up to an altitude of more than eight and a half miles.

One curious result of the recent study of the mural paintings and engravings on the walls of caverns in the Pyrenees anciently occupied as dwellings by men, is the evidence which has afforded that bows and arrows were already in use at that very early period.

At the June meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society in London, H. G. Tomkins offered a new explanation of the long-standing mystery of the bright rays emanating from some of the so-called lunar craters.

M. Camille Flammarion has published a most interesting little work on astronomy for children, and, in fact, for everybody who wishes to read the science in a plain form.

Last summer the city of Trenton, N. J., bought two thousand baseball uniforms, together with the necessary bats, balls, gloves and masks to equip that number of boys for playing ball on the public playgrounds.

Pablo Sarasate, who died at Biarritz not long ago, was one of the most noted violinists of his generation.

The lengths of absurdity to which a technical attachment to technicality and verbal perfection often carries one's mind is shown in an occasion.

"But," exclaimed the man of delicate sensibilities, "will your conscience permit you to do as you suggest?"

"Look here, friend," answered the New York politician, "I am accustomed to be bossed even of my own conscience."

"Sometimes," said the press humorist, "I think my jokes are rotten. I suppose that's my modesty."

DO PLANTS HAVE CONSCIOUSNESS?

By Prof. Francis Darwin.

If a sleeping plant is placed in a dark room after it has gone to sleep at night it will be found next morning in the light position, and will again assume the nocturnal position as evening comes on.

We are indebted to Keeble for an interesting case of apparent habit among the lower animals. A minute, work-like creature found on the coast of Brittany leads a life dependent upon the ebb and flow of the sea.

It is impossible to know whether or not plants are conscious; but it is consistent with the doctrine of continuity that in all living things there is something psychic, and if we accept this point of view we must believe that in plants there exists a faint copy of what we know as consciousness in ourselves.

ENDURING LOVE NOT EXACTING.

By Helen Oldfield.

The true philosophy of content is to make the best of what we have, which usually is better than we deserve, instead of arranging fate because the gods have not been more lavish of their gifts; to live in the sunshine rather than in the shadow, and in faith and patience to labor and to wait expectantly instead of making the gray day grayer by tears and repining.

My days have all been sunny, My sights all full of dreams; My garden sweet with dross; My groves with singing streams; My house, from floor to rafters, Delight forever fills; My life is joy and after— It shall be if God wills.

My friends have all been true ones— And many have I had; My thoughts—both old and new ones— Have evermore been glad; My heart is light with laughter And song that never stills; My life is joy and after— It shall be if God wills.

After the Wedding

The maid of honor settled herself in the carriage with a great flutter of lace and chiffon and gave a long sigh. "Wasn't Cora just the loveliest bride you ever saw?" she demanded breathlessly of the tall young man who climbed in after her.

"She was certainly a winner," admitted the young man. "I made me kind of blue, though, ushering for Tom's wedding. I tell you! He's the best ever and I hate to lose him!"

"I think it's perfectly hateful for a man's friends to act as if he had been snatched from them eternally by a cruel fate, just because he marries a nice girl and settles down. It's—"

"Oh, I don't mean it that way," protested the tall young man. "I'm not down on matrimony. I think I was blue because it wasn't my wedding."

"Aren't you frightfully tired?" broke in the maid of honor hurriedly. "I am—standing up at that reception for three hours straight! I can't imagine why Aunt Mattie went home without me!"

"I hope," said the young man, stiffly, "you don't think I forced myself on you! Cora's mother asked me to take you safely home."

"Oh," said the bridesmaid, with equal haughtiness, "I knew of course it was something like that! I knew you never would condemn yourself to an hour's ride with me unless you simply couldn't get out of it. I'm very sorry you should be so bored!"

WHAT ARE THE NECESSARIES OF LIFE?

By John A. Hobson.

Good air, large sanitary houses, plenty of wholesome, well-cooked food, adequate changes of clothing for the climate, ample opportunities of recreation—is there any one of these things that does not assist to lengthen the term of physical life? Yet most, if not all, of these things would be classed among comforts or even luxuries for laborers, though numbers of the well-to-do classes would readily admit that they were necessities for them.

In tracing the historical process of development of wants and satisfactions each earlier element seems more important than each succeeding one, the need of food and physical protection being more pressing and essential than the needs of "the higher culture."

The higher need and its satisfaction—the soul-saving or intellectual education—only seems important when viewed by itself, torn away from relations and conditions which attach it to other aspects of life.

CRITICIZES THE RAILWAYS.

The Rev. Patrick Quinn of Dublin Amused at Their Heedless Speed.

"In some respects the railroads in this country are behind ours," said the Rev. Patrick Quinn of Dublin, Ireland, in the Baltimore American. "One thing I have noticed that seems strange to me is the way the trains dash through towns. I never saw anything like it before, and I wonder people are not killed every day. In Great Britain there are iron fences on each side of the tracks through the cities and towns and guards are constantly on the watch to prevent people climbing over them or crawling underneath."

"In some places the authorities compel the railroad companies to put tunnels under crossings, and thus eliminate all danger. The trains here are so dirty, too. Why, I wash my hands thirty or forty times a day when I am traveling. The noise from the ringing of bells and the blowing of the whistles is almost enough to set one crazy. There is a perfect bedlam when a train starts from a station; a big bell clangs, the engine starts puffing and snorting, and all this, in addition to which shrill whistling is kept up for half an hour, while the train tears its way through the city. The appointments and the meals served I must say are pretty good. Our trains make better time than yours. You have nothing to equal the express from London to Glasgow or the one between London and Liverpool."

"This rush and dash in which you live all the time is enough to turn a man's head. Chicago is worse than any other city that I have visited in this respect, and the people there are almost criminals on the subject of speed. They rear around as if their time was worth hundreds of dollars a minute. It requires courage to try to cross one of the downtown streets. Automobiles, cars and wagons of all sorts tear up and down with an absolute disregard of human life. Several persons were knocked down and killed during the few days I spent in the city, and I breathed a sigh of relief when I got away."

Greatness is thrust upon some individuals, patriotism on others. When the patriot does not belong to one's own country the situation may prove embarrassing. Such it was in the case of Agostino Poldiro, the great-grandfather of Dante Gabriel Rossetti. The incident is given in a life of the poet by his brother, Poldiro, an Italian, was in Paris at the taking of the Bastille in 1789. He tells the story of his unexpected prominence and his extrication from the uncomfortable position.

I was passing by the Palais Royal while the populace was running to assault the fortress, and having encountered a highly powdered wig-maker, with a rusty sword held aloft, I, not expecting any such thing, and hardly conscious of the act, had the sword handed to me, as he cried aloud: "Take it, citizen! Fight for your country!"

I had no fancy for such an enterprise, so, finding myself sword in hand, I at once cast about for some way to get rid of it; and, bettering my instruction from the man of powder, I struck it into the hand of the first unarmed person I met.

"Take it, citizen!" I repeated. "Fight for your country!" Then I passed on and returned home.

Look yourself over candidly and honestly, and you will be surprised at the great amount of time you devote to foolishness.

Every Time. "News liked your paper," "Growth old State;" "But he makes a baller When it's late!" —Birmingham Age-Herald.

Few of the sightseers who visit the National Botanical Garden in Washington realize that this little walled-in patch of vegetation, which includes plants and trees from every corner of the globe, represents one man's life work. Perhaps this same is true of the majority of residents of the national capital, for beyond knowing that the gardens contain one of the most complete and representative collections of plants and trees in the world, they are comparatively ignorant of the interesting history of the institution and also of William R. Smith, who, appointed in his present capacity of superintendent more than half a century ago by President Pierce, has continued in that office ever since.

Probably there is no man living who has known intimately so many of the distinguished men of the country as Mr. Smith. He has been a close personal friend of all the Presidents since Pierce, and has been in close touch



WILLIAM R. SMITH.

with all the most noted statesmen and members of the cabinet since his appointment. He has shown all of them his gardens, and very many of them have returned, drawn not only by the beauties of nature, but also by the quaint humor and dry wit of this veteran employe of the government.

The Botanical Gardens were originally part of a grand scheme of George Washington for a national college and museum. He selected the present site in opposition to a landowner, David Burns, who, according to Washington, wanted to sell land of his own in another part of the city for the purpose. The place was formerly a swampy wilderness, and so it remained until 1822, when the Botanical

name Faber (French faire), one of the few cases in which the Latin translation of a trade name has become a common surname. The wryghts' trade, like that of the smiths, was specialized. The arkwright made the great arks or chests in which the clothes or meal were stored, and we find a plowwright, a wheelwright, two shipwrights, eleven cartwrights, and two glasswrights (glaziers), who were probably concerned with the windows of churches. Glass windows in houses were rare.

The bakers are few (fifteen), suggesting that families baked their own bread. There are twenty-six butchers (fleshewer, bocher or carnicer), whence Lalouchere, while the surname potter shows that this trade was in existence. The fishers (forty-three) were eminent, being taxed twelve times as much as laborers.—London Notes and Queries.

TO IDENTIFY POSTAGE STAMPS. The Postoffice Department has issued an order under which users of large quantities of postage stamps may have them perforated with letters to identify their ownership and prevent pilfering. The perforation must not be over 1-32 inch in diameter, and the perforated letters must not occupy space more than one-half inch square. Such a privilege, if taken advantage of, will make it impossible for office employes to steal stamps and sell them to stamp brokers, or dispose of them in other ways.—Popular Mechanics.

They Were the Commonest Trades in the Thirteenth Century. The manufacture of leather in the thirteenth century seems to have been important, showing that leather jerkins and breeches were commonly worn. We have 10 skynners, 40 barbers, 6 saddlers, 3 cordwainers, 167 souters (shoemakers) and 8 glovers. The surname feuster is a trade name denoting a maker of pack saddles.

The commonest trades are almost everywhere the same. The taylor's number 407, of whom 140 are called by the Latin name of cissor. In addition to 261 smiths, several are specialized. There are two armymyths, three loke-smiths, three goldsmiths, five fereours (shoering smiths) and six marshalls (shoers).

The wryghts wrought both in wood and metal. The number catalogued is 106, of whom 51 are called by the Latin

Society was formed, and planting was done on the dryer portions of the square.

To the visitor it seems hard to believe that this tower of beautiful flowers and shrubs, the artistic and carefully-arranged beds and the gracefully-falling ferns and tender tropical plants are thriving on what was at one time the most unencultivated and wildest plot of uncultivated ground in the District of Columbia. Such, however, is true. Previous to the reclamation of the tract now comprising the gardens, it was the lowest piece of ground in the city, and for this reason was often a basin which received the many overflows of the Potomac before the river was washed to its channel by the long sea wall which stretches from the upper wharves down to the farthest point of land included in the arsenal reservation.

It was just eighty years ago in Haddington, Scotland, that Mr. Smith was born. Early in life he decided to make the study of plants his vocation, and after spending some time in Lord Elcho's famous gardens in his native town he went to Kew, where he graduated in 1852. Having planned to try his fortune in the United States, he spent some time in Edinburgh in the study of American conifers, and refused a flattering offer in that city, entering instead Dundas's famous garden in Philadelphia.

From there he was called to Washington to reclaim eleven acres of swampy wilderness at the foot of Capitol Hill, and make of them a garden of which a nation might be proud.

Compared with botanical parks of other cities, these gardens seem small, until one realizes that, whereas the other parks usually comprise all the varieties of trees and miles of drives in the same inclosure with the conservatories and gardens, in Washington the trees are scattered over the mall and the grounds of the library, the Capitol and the Smithsonian Institution, and the parks are quite a separate affair.

Then if the hothouses also seem inadequate to represent a nation, it must be remembered that only the rare varieties are encouraged here and that every plant is interesting and worth a while from a scientific standpoint, while the common specimens and duplicates, together with the flowers are housed in greenhouses across the street.

In the garden conservatories the plants are grouped and labeled for research work, and many are the students and writers who have been benefited by the opportunities presented.

To the ordinary individual wandering through it seems a bewildering array of varied and curious things that is quickly seen, and that is all, but let Mr. Smith accompany you, and the magic of his knowledge and the charm of his description make of it a veritable fairyland.

NEW NAVAL SECRETARY. Truman H. Newberry, who has succeeded Victor H. Metcalf. Truman H. Newberry, who has succeeded Victor H. Metcalf as Secretary of the Navy, the latter having resigned owing to poor health, has been in public life only three years, having been appointed in 1905, vice Charles H. Darling, resigned, as Assistant Secretary of the Navy. He is a native of Detroit, where he was born in 1864.

T. H. NEWBERRY. and has always been interested in marine affairs. Prior to his appointment to the Navy Department he was prominent in the Michigan Naval Reserve. He was one of the organizers of the Michigan State Naval Brigade, in which he served as landsman in 1895, as lieutenant and navigator in 1897 and 1898. In the Spanish war he served on the United States ship Yosemite, which was attached to the Northern patrol squadron. Mr. Newberry as an acting ensign was one of the first to land with the marines at Guantanamo bay.

He is a graduate of Yale University. After his graduation in 1885 he entered the employ of the Detroit, Bay City & Alpena Railway and in 1887 became superintendent of construction, general paymaster and freight agent. From 1887 to 1901 he was president and treasurer of the Detroit Steel and Spring Company. He is a director of many financial institutions and a member of the Union, University, New York Yacht and St. Anthony clubs of New York and of the Yondotega Club of Detroit.

TAYLORS AND SMYTHS. They Were the Commonest Trades in the Thirteenth Century. The manufacture of leather in the thirteenth century seems to have been important, showing that leather jerkins and breeches were commonly worn. We have 10 skynners, 40 barbers, 6 saddlers, 3 cordwainers, 167 souters (shoemakers) and 8 glovers. The surname feuster is a trade name denoting a maker of pack saddles.

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