Home Chats

By

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"Do not hang all your mottoes on the wall. Hang some of them in your heart and in your life."

How Would You Like Dessert For

Your First Course?

Many families in England have their dessert first. In fact, "Those people who eat Yorkshire pudding with meat and potatoes are all wrong. We eat it always at the beginning of our meal," said the Yorkshire lady from England with nature's real complexion of peaches and cream.

Then by a strange coincidence advice comes from Baltimore with the same instructions. "How would you like your apple pie smothered in ice cream first and then finish with beefsteak smothered in onions?"

In China, too, the people start a meal with dessert. Then after the sweets have taken the edge off the appetite as much meat and vegetables may be eaten as desired.

The Rev. W. A. Crawford of Frost Emmorton, Md., Rector of St. Mary's church, says:

"I am persuaded that this Chinese custom was adopted centuries ago as a food conservation measure, for families are common and people run into millions in small areas. These Chinese customs are more rational and less animal than ours, and it is also more healthful, for when one ends a meal with sweets and acid reaction occurs in the mouth which is bad for the teeth and system generally."

Twilight Hour Story

Chicks and Other Little Friends

Fluffy was a funny puss that day up in the attic, wasn't she? She just sat on the floor and wouldn't do anything but sit and pretend she was sleeping.

"Can't you guess, Billy boy, what that little scratching noise was?"

"No, I can't guess. Do you know?" said Billy, giving up guessing.

"Yes, I know," said Mamma Lady. "Fluffy had her kittens and has hidden them away. I fixed up a nice box for her to have them in, but, as I told you, she was afraid Rover would come and poke his nose in the box some time when he was snooping around and she just wouldn't have that, so thought she'd hide them where Rover couldn't come."

This was wonderful news to Billy to know Fluffy had kittens, and he laughed and laughed. "Oh, Mamma, won't they be cute? Do you think their fur will be long like hers? Oh, I can hardly wait till we find them." Then he got quite excited, and getting down on the floor close to puss, he coaxed, "Fluffy, where are they? Oh, do tell us, please, Fluffy."

But Fluffy just sat there and purred and put her paws under her body more comfortably and wouldn't tell a thing. They hunted and hunted but couldn't find them. If they went down stairs and listened sometimes they heard a little scratching noise. Oh, a very little noise, but that was all.

"Well Billy, I believe Fluffy has her kittens away underneath the floor. However did she get there? She must have gone away back in the attic where there is no floor and then walked along underneath between the floor and the downstairs ceiling util she got to the chimney. She chose a nice warm spot, didn't she? But how are we going to get them out is the question," said Mamma Lady, thoughtfully and quite puzzled. "If Daddy were here he'd soon get them out by taking up the floor, but he won't be back for three weeks. If we should leave them there all that time they would be so shy we couldn't get near them. We want them tame and cute, don't we?"

"I should say we do," he sighed. "What can we do, Mamma? We must think up a way." Billy was feeling pretty disappointed. "Why did she go and put them away in there?"

"Well, you see, Rover is pretty big looking to Fluffy, and sometimes a little rough. I guess she remembered how he used to run after her when she was just little. So now she thought he might hurt her babies."

They walked slowly back to the attic door leading downstairs and when they looked for Fluffy she wasn't there.

Mamma Lady laughed. You see, dear, Fluffy went to her kittens when we weren't looking. She seems to want to tease us, doesn't she? Now that she is with them, perhaps if we go back we can hear them when she starts washing them all over like Topsy used to do with hers out in the barn. They are always so glad to see her they begin to meow, which means, 'Hello, Mamma, I'm glad you are back'."

So back they hurried for the spot where they though the kittens might be, and put their ears to the floor and listened.

A World Language

Cairo Sphinx: One of the anomalies of Egypt is the fact that Egyptains take more time and trouble to learn English than any other foreign language, and yet fail to insist on its full use as a secondary language. English is the administrative language of five hundred million—one-third the world's population. It is the language of the sea and of commerce, is taught in practically all the secondary schools in most civilized countries, and is the language in which 65 per cent. of foreign businesses are conducted. Nearly the whole world's literature is in English, as some amazing statistics have recently shown. English is spoken all over the world except in Slavic Eastern Europe, Asia Minor and South America, but even there is gaining ground. It is the second language of the Mohammedan world.

The Advantage of Co-education

Lord Lytton in the New Era (London): I am a firm believer in the general principle that boys and girls should be educated together as far as possible. Family life is the natural environment for the child till adolescence. School life is an inevitable departure from the natural, but this departure should be made as little as possible. The segregation of boys and girls in separate boarding-schools produces conditions which make the widest possible divergence from those of the family. The size of the whole community, the existence of large numbers of approximately the same age, and finally the presence of only one sex, produce an environment which is wholly unnatural and artificial. If children must be boarded together in order to be taught, the schools should be kept as small as possible, and should include children of different ages and both sexes.

World Radio Parley Will Be Held in 1932

Copenhagen, Den.—At the International Radio Conference, at which about 40 nations were represented, a number of proposals were drafted for submission to the world congress, which is scheduled to be held in Madrid in 1932.

The question of the distribution of wave bands, which occupied much of the time of the congress, was referred to a committee which will collaborate with representatives from the United States for further discussion of the problem.

Britain's Export Trade

London Times Trade Supplement: Too many firms have been content to await orders from merchant houses and to make no efforts to keep in touch with changing conditions in the countries where their goods are consumed. The latest and most authoritative warning of the inevitable result of neglecting to make personal visits to foreign markets has come from the Prince of Wales, and in confirmation of what he has said is the fact that during the prolonged depression of recent years nothing has been more remarkable than that certain businesses which have made a practice of keeping in touch with their foreign markets by frequent visits, paid by important and responsible members of the firm, have suffered less acutely than others.

British Goods Are Best

Truth (London): The Prince of Wales, whose energy and willingness to pull his weight entitles him to our warm gratitude, and whose common sense is quite uncommon, has been telling Manchester that British goods are too good for the modern world, and advising Lancashire to turn out more shoddy. When we remember Carlyle and Plubson of Undershot, we were at first inclined to shudder at this advice. But the Prince of Wales "a bien etudie sa bete." He has travelled and studied business in all countries. He is perfectly right. This is an age of artificial silk and sham jewellery. British goods are too solid and wear too well. They must be made more cheaply.

Amusement Taxes Raised in Russia

Moscow.—The cost of entertainment has gone up in Russia. The Central Executive Committee of the Republic of Russia issued a decree recently raising all taxes on amusements from 10 to 80 per cent.

No reason was given for the increases, but they followed the boosting of the prices of basic commodities on an average of 50 per cent.

Building Growth in Calgary

Calgary, Alberta.—Building permits issued by the City of Calgary for the first two weeks in May called for sixteen new homes each costing $4,000 and more, twelve of which are to have garages. In addition, permits have been taken out for fifteen other garages. Which is taken to indicate progress and stability of growth.

Tests "Death Ray"

B. Johnson, inventor of radio "Z" ray, called "death ray," demonstrating its power. He is melting bar of steel with this new current, ray passing through his body. Johnson demonstrated this to show that deadly ray has no effect on human body when the current passes directly through it.

Explorer Finds Vast Field Of Ice in British Columbia

Montreal—Discovery of an immense and accessible ice field of about 350 square miles in the Bridge River district of British Columbia is reported by Major F. V. Longstaff, of Victoria, B.C., who, wiht two Swiss guides, explored the region. He believes it will become an important scenic attraction. In his opinion it surpasses the famed Columbia ice field.

It provides the source of several large rivers, among them the Squamish, Bridge, Whitewater, Lillooet, Tobamand and Southgate. On or near the ice field the explorers noticed a dozen mountain peaks about 10,000 feet high.

The distance from the nearest point of the motor road in the Bridge River valley to the gravel flat of the main glacier is forty-five miles by the river trail, the explorer said.

A Valuable Wood

In the sitka spruce Canada possesses one of the most valuable woods used in aeroplane construction. There are few woods of its great lightness to equal it in strength, toughness and resiliency and there is no other wood with these combined qualities which is available in large sizes and quantities, comparatively free of knots and other defects.

The real progress of humanity probably depends far more on the conception of duty than on the conception of rights.—Lord Hewart.

The Green Bank of England

Have you seen the gold in the Green
Bank of England?
Wonderful, beautiful, lovely to behold—
Aconite and coltsfoot, buttercup and
daffodil,
Crocus and celandine, and dandelion bold!

Have you found the gold in the Green
Bank of England?
You may go and take it—none of
it is sold.
Gorse, broom, and ragwort, bedstraw
and cowslip,
Kingcup and pansy, and silverweed gold.

Yours is the gold in the Green Bank
of England,
Yours for the asking—treasury untold;
Potentilla, primrose, yellow vetch,
and trefoil,
Pimpernel and hawkweed, and
pussywillow gold.

—Florence Hoatson, in "The Little White Gate."

A Windy-Day Task

It is well to select a warm day for washing quilts, and a bit of wind is helpful in hurrying the drying process. A generous suds is made in soft water, or water softened with borax, using a mild soap or soap flakes. The quilt is immersed in this soapy bath and allowed to soak for 30 minutes before the washing proper begins.

Dip the quilt up and down in the soapy water to force out the loosened dirt, but do not rub, because that loosens the cotton filling and forms lumps in it. The washing machine may be used for the heavy work, and if there are still badly soiled places, they can be removed with a brush dipped in soapy water.

Rinsing is done in two waters, both of the same temperature as the wash water. Then the dripping quilt is hung outdoors between two lines. Wringing is also to be avoided, since it forms lumps in the cotton filling. Careful squeezing is allowed if there is no twisting.

When the quilt is partly dry, beat it lightly with a rattan carpet beater, or a small branch stripped of its leaves. This gentle beating helps to make the cotton filling fluffy. The quilt, when dry, may be pressed with a warm iron. It will then be just as attractive as a new one.

A Case in Camera

The police officer was put in the witness box.

"Well, constable," said the magistrate, "what is the accused charged with?"

"He's a camera fiend of the worst type, sir," said the constable, "and——"

"But surely," interrupted the magistrate in surprise—"surely you didn't arrest this man simply because he had a mania for taking pictures?"

"Oh, no, sir!" explained the witness. "It isn't pictures that he takes—it's cameras!"

Farm Hand: "Artist gentleman, sir, wants permission to sit in first meadow and paint." Farmer: "No, let'm sit in the field we've just sown—'im'll keep crows off fine!"—Passing Show.

High Noon in Camp

Boy scout rings eight bells—the noon hour—in the scout camp at Gilwell Park, near London, England. Sea time has been used in the scout camp since 1889.

Argentine's Hope

Jose Jurado, Argentine golf champion, equalled course record with a 71 in second round of British open golf championship at Carnoustie, Scotland. Nevertheless he bowed in the final to Tommy Armour, Canadian open championship.

June

What is so rare as a day in June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days;
Then Heaven tries the earth, if it be
in tune,
And over it softly her warm ear lays.
Whether we look, or whether we listen,
We hear life murmur or see it glisten.

The cowslip startles in meadows
green,
The buttercup catches the sun in its
chalice,
And there's never a leaf or bud too
mean
To be some happy creature's palace.
The little birds sits at his door in the
sun,
Atilt like a blossom among the leaves,
And lets his illumined being o'errun
With the deluge of summer it receives.
His mate feels the eggs beneath her
wings,
And the heart in her dumb breast flutters and sings;
He sings to the wide world, and she
to her nest,—
In the nice ear of Nature which song
is the best?

—James Russell Lowell.

Uses Stage Magic To Reclaim Boys

Columbus, Ohio.—Stage magic is being used to control and help wayward boys and make them useful members of society. J. Harry Messersmith of Harrisburg, Pa., attending the International Brotherhood of Magicians' convention, disclosed how he utilizes his tricks to arouse the interest of wayward youths and direct them to the straight path.

He has 200 boys under his charge in Pennsylvania. 'Fifteen minutes of magic and sleight-of-hand tricks bring better results with a wayward boy than could otherwise be accomplished in a month," he says.

He shows them tricks, and they want to know just how they are done Some of the lads have decided to devote their lives to studying stage magic, and are recognized by the profession as" magicians of unusual ability."

Messersmith takes the boys camping for weeks at a time, teaches them his art and in some cases gives them money to get a start in life.

Water Sterilized by Beads; Harmful Germs Electrocuted

Harmful germs in water are electrocuted by a sterlizing process developed in England that uses neither chemicals nor filters. Instead the water is purified by simply immersing specially treated silver beads in it, explains "Popular Mechanics Magazine." It has long been known that certain metals, including silver, gold and palladium, have the property of destroying bacteria, when brought in contact with them, and the sterilizer accelerates what is called the "oligo-dynamical" action so that water is made germfree in one or two hours. Water so treated has powerful sterilization properties of its own and may be used for washing nursing bottles, cooking utensils and surgical instruments. The life of the device is virtually unlimited, one set of beads being capable of dealing with 250,000 gallons of water before deteriorating.

Mummy's Name for Him

A four-year-old boy was asked by an elderly visitor what his name was.

"Jinky," replied the boy.

"But have you no other name?" asked the visitor.

"No," replied the boy.

"But what is your father's name?" she persisted.

"Daddy," came the reply.

"No, no," she went on; "hasn't he another name? What does your mummy call him?"

"Fathead," the boy replied.

Sunday School Lesson

July 5. Lesson—The Gift of the Holy Spirit—Acts 1: 6-9; 2: 1-8. Golden Text—Ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.—Acts 1: 8.

ANALYSIS

I. THE PROMISE, Acts 1: 6-12.
II. THE PREPARATION, Acts 1: 13, 14.
III. THE FULFILMENT, Acts 2: 1-13.

INTRODUCTION—This week we begin a study of early Christianity and its spread into the Gentile world. The movement was definitely launched in that glowing experience on the day of Pentecost. On several previous occasions the disciples had assurances that their crucified Lord was alive. But these moments of illumination were not long continued, and eventually they ceased altogether. "Jesus was parted from them" at the Ascension. Then, ten days later, came this new experience—"The Gift of the Holy Spirit."

I. THE PROMISE, Acts 1: 6-12.

The disciples were met together for what turned out to be the Risen Lord's last appearance. Their minds were occupied, not with dreams of the promised Spirit (v.), but with dreams of a restored national independence. The kingdom of God which they had in mind was material, national, and to be won by force. Their Master brushed asiue their questioning about this kingdom. The kingdom he was going to establish would not be a Jewish State, but a spiritual kingdom, not national, but universal. They looked for political power; he promised them, instead, a Power different from, and greater than, that of which they were dreaming.

That power would come when the Holy Spirit came upon them. That is, when the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of God, which is the Spirit that was in Jesus of Nazareth, would be in them also—when their ideas and attitudes and purposes would be in harmony with his ideas, attitudes, and purposes. Then they would possess, not the political power which they had in mind, but a moral, personal, spiritual power. With their new vision and driving power they would witness for him in Jerusalem—and far beyond the boundaries of Palestine. But they still held inadequate ideas of God and his purposes. They still lacked the courage necessary for witnessing. Therefore, until the illumination came, which would reveal him and his plans more truly, until they could speak with boldness, they were to wait in Jerusalem.

II. THE PREPARATION, Acts 1: 13, 14.

The disciples where were in Jerusalem kept together. They knew that the time must be close at hand when they must face the world as witnesses for their Lord and his kingdom.

They realized now that their old idea of that kingdom was wrong, but they felt themselves inadequate to the proclaiming of the new. So, with one accord they gave themselves to prayer and supplication. "With one accord"—they were agreed among themselves. Prayer-meetings to be effective must be made up of people who are on good terms with each other. An atmosphere of symapthy, unity of mind and purpose is essential. Thus agreed, they continued in prayer. They placed themselves, mind and heart, unreservedly at God's disposal. They had one overwhelming desire; to come to fuller knowledge and be the channels through which God's grace and power could flow. In this mood of expectancy and consecration they waited for the fulfilment of the promise.

III. THE FULFILMENT, Acts 2: 1-13.

God does not fail lives so consecrated and expectant. While the believers were met for prayer, they experienced a vision—a sound like a mighty rushing wind, tongues, not of fire, but like fire, lighting upon each one present. To the waiting believers there were impressive and significant symbols. They were an assurance that the beliefs to which they had been growing concerning their Lord and his kingdom were true. God was indeed speaking to them, commanding them to go forth with his message, assuring them of his sustaining power. The signal to launch the evangelistic movement had been given.

The believers' joy expressed itself, first, in that exuberant emotional demonstration—"speaking with tongues." This was the confused exclamation of hearts overflowing with sudden joy and thankfulness and praise, and which, as yet, had no "language but a cry." See Acts 10: 44-46; 19: 6; 1 Cor. chap. 14. At first these ecstatic utterances and exclamations were so unrestrained that they attracted the attention of passers-by. Soon a crowd gathered—citizens of Jerusalem and pilgrims from all parts of the Empire who had come to the Holy City for the Feast of Pentecost. "Pentecost means the feast on the fiftieth day after the offering of the first sheaf of the first grain crop, barley. At the end of that harvest came the Jewish thanksgiving of Pentecost." Some of them thought they were witnessing a drunken orgy.

These strange occurrences, however, were but the "externals" of the Pentecostal experience. The essential importance of Pentecost lay in the fact that these men and women became vividly conscious of God. Their Master was no longer the absent Jesus of Nazareth. He and God were now, as Stanley Jones says, merged in one. That One was universal, spiritual, ever-present. They knew now that they were in harmony with him. They had one passion—to share him with others.