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PERPETUAL MOTION IDEAS.

Efforts of Inventors Who Strain After the Unattainable.

Perpetual motion, like the philosopher's stone, is one of those things regularly sought after. Years ago it was proved that the idea was absurd, yet only a week or so ago another inventor came forward with a new perpetual motion notion.

Some of these perpetual motion machines are certainly extremely ingenious. One man thought he had discovered a way to run omnibuses by themselves. He had cylinders of water placed just above the axles, and on these cylinders was supported the whole weight of the bus and passengers.

The more passengers there were the greater the pressure on the cylinders of water and the faster the flow of the water to the back of the bus. The faster, too, will the bus rush forward! At least, so said the inventor, who actually took out a patent for his idea.

Another ingenious idea was a wheel with narrow shelves instead of spokes. On each shelf was a lead ball, and the inventor claimed that once the wheel was started the balls on the falling side kept running toward the circumference and so outweighed those on the rising side, which toward the center. Once started the wheel should keep on forever. Unfortunately it always stopped after a few turns.—Pearson's Weekly.

BIRDS' NEST SOUP.

Getting the Material and Preparing it For the Feast.

Uninitiated people are apt to think of birds' nest soup as a most disgusting stew of twigs, feathers and what not. As a matter of fact, the nest used by the Chinese is a very delicate, semitransparent, gelatinous substance built by the swallow-like birds known as the salangane. The nests are found in the islands about Siam and the Malay archipelago, and the harvest in a year will be about 18,000 pounds, valued at over \$100,000.

The season for harvesting the nests lasts from April until September. It takes three months to build the first nest, and just before the eggs are laid the nest is stolen by the collector. The bird immediately sets about the building of a second nest, taking thirty days for the work. This is also stolen before the eggs are laid.

In preparing birds' nest soup the nest is washed in cold water and then cooked for eight hours in a closed vessel, after which it is mixed with chicken broth, seasoned and boiled for a quarter of an hour. Occidentals who have tried the soup find it palatable and much resembling chicken soup.—Chicago News.

Wooden Ammunition.

Some years ago civil war was raging between two Afghan tribes, the All Khel and the Mala Khel. The latter tribe built great hopes of success on a cannon of such a size that 100 men were required to draw it. A Sikh trained in a British battery was engaged to work the gun on the understanding that he received 20 rupees every time he hit the village fort of the foe. This did not prove remunerative, for, according to an eyewitness, the ammunition consisted of "olive wood balls bound with iron bands, which have a highly eccentric flight and are calculated to do about equal damage to friend and foe."

A Surprise For Her.

He returned to the automobile in triumph, bearing a big pitcher of sweet milk and two glasses, says the Cleveland Leader. It was more than the party was able to consume. When he returned the glassware and asked for his bill the good woman who seemed to boss the place said, "Oh, bount a nickel will be enough, I reckon." But the urbane figured that a quarter was much more commensurate with the service and produced the coin in evidence of his sentiment. The woman took it, not without some hesitancy. "Land sakes!" she exclaimed. "Did it taste that good?"

Putting It Mildly.

"That man seems to be proud of his stupidity," said the impetuous persona. "I wouldn't put it that way," replied the conservative friend. "I'd merely suggest that when it comes to a thirst for wisdom he's a prohibitionist"—Baltimore American.

Why Point It Out?

At the art museum the sign "Hands Off" was conspicuously displayed before the statue of Venus de Milo. A small child looked from the sign to the statue. "Anybody could see that," she said drily.—Ladies Home Journal.

Give and Take.

Howell—Does he take things philosophically? Powell—Yes, but he doesn't part with them philosophically.—Woman's Home Companion.

True merit is like a river—the deeper it is the less noise it makes.—Lizant.

COROT SAVED THE TILE.

He Turned a High Hat Tragedy Into a Work of Art.

An interesting relic of Corot is to be seen in the gallery of a picture dealer in the Champs Elysees. It takes the form of a wooden frame inclosing a gray high hat of a style "now forgotten quite." A card explains that "this landscape in the crown of the hat is guaranteed to be a genuine work of Corot."

One sees in the hat a rapid study of the artist. The artist has utilized the blue silk lining of the hat to improvise a beautiful sky of summer reflected in the peaceful water below. Upon the bank are three trees and a picturesque Saracen tower, while white clouds among the blue complete the scene.

Readers must not jump to the conclusion that this hat landscape is an example of the eccentricity of genius. It is the result of what appeared to be the tragedy of a "white" hat which belonged to a friend of the master. The friend, calling on Corot, happened to place his brand new hat near the easel. In extending the hand Corot's brush fell into the hat, leaving an indelible mark.

A cry of despair followed, not exactly that which a high authority has told us is uttered when husbands or lap dogs breathe their last, but nevertheless it was a despairing cry. "My hat is spoiled!"

"Not at all," said Corot, bursting into a hearty laugh. "I will soon put that all right." The painter brushed away the dab caused by the accident, and in a few minutes the picture was complete, and the owner of the hat left the studio with a much more valuable chapeau than that with which he entered.—London Globe.

CORAL REEFS.

They Cannot Form in the Line of a Fresh Water Flow.

Coral reefs surround many of the islands in the Pacific. They protect the lowlands from the washing of the waves, and the still waters inclosed by them are the only harbors of refuge for ships. The reefs themselves furnish the greatest peril to navigation, and if there were no inlet through which a vessel could enter their protected circle they would be a danger and nothing else.

But almost every reef has such an inlet. It is a necessary result of the laws under which the forces of nature work. To understand this we must see how these reefs are formed.

Chemically the reef corals are almost pure carbonate of lime, the substance of ordinary limestone and marble. The reef grows as the shell of the oyster or of any other shellfish grows. It is itself the common and undivided shell of innumerable polypi, or minute insects, which are being reproduced and are dying in successive generations. These tiny beings get all their living from the waters of the sea. It is from this source also that they derive the salts of lime from which they secrete the bony structure that remains after the animal is dead.

The coral polypi cannot live in fresh water. Their food supply is brought to them by the waves and currents of the sea. As a result, it is found that directly opposite the mouth of a stream from the island the reef does not grow. There will be the inlet to the inclosed waters.—Harper's Weekly.

The Matches We Burn.

It has been estimated that for each minute of time the civilized nations of the world strike 3,000,000 matches. This is said to be the average for every minute of the twenty-four hours of the day. Fifteen hundred billion is the number for the entire year, and those persons who live under the American flag are charged with the consumption of one-half of this amount. Small and insignificant as it is, the match demands as much attention in the choice of woods involved as any other forest product. Only the choicest portions of the best trees are suitable. Sapwood and knotty or cross grained wood will not do. Instead of being a byproduct the little match is turned out in mills where the byproducts are bulky objects like doors, sash, shingles, sidings, posts and cordwood. The pines, linden, aspen, white cedar, poplar, birch and willow are the most suitable match timbers.—Chicago News.

Preparing His Speech.

A reply very characteristic of the statesman and diplomat who made it is given in the "Autobiography of Alfred Austin." Lord and Lady Salisbury were among the guests at Hewell Grange. Lord Salisbury had come to speak at a public meeting. On the morning of the day when the speech was to be delivered, seeing Lord Salisbury passing into the study, I said to him:

"I suppose you are going to think over what you will say tonight?" "No," he said in his ironical way; "rather to think over what I must not say."

To Meet an Emergency.

"Madam, have you any old clothes to give away?" "I have a suit belonging to my husband, but I fear it is too big for you." "Oh, that will be all right! You just set me out a square meal and watch me eat enough so that I can fill it."—Washington Times.

Inference Easy.

Dixon—My wife is fearfully cross. It's a sign she's getting better, I suppose. Eupece (resignedly)—My wife is always in robust health.—Stray Stories.

It is easy enough to forgive your enemies if you have not the means to harm them.—Heinrich Heine.

SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Lesson X.—First Quarter, For March 10, 1912.

THE INTERNATIONAL SERIES.

Text of the Lesson, Mark i, 29-45, Memory Verses, 40, 41—Golden Text, Matt. viii, 17—Commentary Prepared by Rev. D. M. Stearns.

The events of this lesson, the healing of the fever stricken and all manner of diseased people and spirit possessed people and the healing of a leper, are all samples of the kingdom which was at hand, but which did not come because they would not have Him. Verse 39 of our lesson summarizes it briefly. "He preached in their synagogues throughout all Galilee and cast out demons." It is more fully stated in Matt. iv, 23, "And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people."

It was predicted by the prophets that in the kingdom the blind would see, the deaf hear, the dumb sing, the lame leap as a hart, and no one complain because of sickness, for iniquity would be forgiven (Isa. xxxiii, 24; xxxv, 5, 6). It was also predicted that in the kingdom wolves and lambs, leopards and kids, calves and lions, cows and bears and little children would all live in peace together (Isa. xi, 6-9; lxxv, 25). No one seems to expect these last mentioned things until Jesus shall come again, but many are wondering why they cannot be healed of all diseases even though the kingdom has not come. They ask often complainingly, "Is not the body as well as the soul included in the atonement?" Yes; the great atonement will reach the body, too, and in the resurrection these bodies of our humiliation will be fashioned like His glorious body, but till then we must wait patiently in strength or weakness, as He may in His infinite love and wisdom decide. Some are healed by His hand without a physician and some by His blessing upon the physician's skill and medicine, while some continue in weakness, and many are passing out from the mortal body. The truly devout soul says under all circumstances, "Even so, Father," and rejoices in the perfect will of God.

Our lesson verses 29 to 31 tell of His going from the synagogue to the home of Simon and Andrew, where Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever. He took her by the hand, rebuked the fever, and immediately she was well and ministered to them. Compare the ministry of angels in verse 13. Think of Samuel as a little boy ministering to the Lord (I Sam. iii, 1) and let all our service be "unto the Lord" and "before the Lord." Possibly more might be healed if He saw that they would minister unto Him, for He is seeking in every way to bring people unto Himself that He may fill them with His fullness (Ex. xix, 4; I Pet. iii, 18).

Verses 32 to 34 tell of all manner of diseased and demon possessed people being brought to Him to be healed, and it is written here and in the parallel accounts in Matthew and Luke that He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them (Luke iv, 40); that He cast out the spirits with His word and healed all that were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, "Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses" (Matt. viii, 16, 17; Isa. liii, 4). If they had only received Him as their Messiah the Lord would have made bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth should have seen the salvation of our God (Isa. liii, 10), but because He is still the despised and rejected one of Israel we continue in faith and patience to wait for His return. He needs no testimony from His adversaries, so He suffered not the demons to speak even though they said, "Thou art Christ, the Son of God."

Lesson verses 35 to 39 tell of His early morning praying a great while before day, having gone off to a solitary place. Since He felt the need of being away from even these few disciples that He might the better commune with His Father, how can we know much of real communion with God in the constantly busy life that so many lead? It is true that we can pray to God anywhere and at any time, but see how He went away alone. Simon and the others found Him and told Him that people were looking for Him; then He said: "Let us go into the next towns." "I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also." We must not forget that "the field is the world" and our orders are, "Go ye into all the world." The four lepers of Samaria should put us to shame with their words: "We do not well. This day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace" (II Kings vii, 9). Our lesson chapter closes with the record of a healed leper who published and blazed abroad the fact of his being healed so widely that Jesus had to stay away from the cities, and the people came to Him from every quarter. He is still the same Jesus, full of compassion as when He said to that leper, "I will, be thou clean," and as quickly as the leper was healed (immediately) just as quickly can a sinner be saved. Without money and without price He gives eternal life to all who receive Him. The strange thing is that those who profess to have been saved by Him have not the zeal of this leper nor gratitude enough to tell others the glad tidings.

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Grand Trunk Railway TIME-TABLE

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CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY TIME TABLE

Trains will arrive and depart as follows, until further notice:—

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