

NOTES AND COMMENTS

In spite of the detachment of his manner, which seems almost cold at times, no modern English writer has shown a more alert desire to help the "lost dog" than Mr. Galsworthy.

He is now urging another reform, which is attracting wide attention in Great Britain. The slaughtering of animals in England, he says, is accomplished with much needless barbarity.

As the London Nation points out, only a writer of established reputation could induce the public to take an interest in the fate of its dumb victims.

Protective vaccination against typhoid has been steadily advancing in favor among medical men since its first trial on a large scale by the British Army in the Boer War.

PEARL FISHING.

Japanese Women Make Better Divers Than Men.

Whereas in Australia and India pearl fishing is conducted by men, in Japan it is the women who dive for the precious pearl oysters.

They are recruited from the villages and towns upon the seashore, and before they adopt their strange vocation are well acquainted with the sea, and know something about the art of diving.

A boat, commanded by a man, is assigned to every five to ten women, and carries them to and from the fishing grounds.

These are fastened by a rope to the women's waists. When the tubs are about half filled the women pull them toward the boat, help to lift them in, and then return to the shore.

A Sure Sign.

Mrs. Newed—"And do you really and truly love me, George?"

Mrs. Newed—"But some people are saying that you married me just because my uncle left me a fortune."

Some men never make mistakes simply because they never do anything.

SOME OLD IRISH CUSTOMS

THE "STRAW BOYS" A FEATURE OF WEDDINGS.

Pipes Smoked at Burials, Then Broken and Thrown on the New Grave.

Of wedding customs the most peculiarly Irish is the coming of the "straw boys."

Although a great number of people can be happy dancing on a mid floor, says the Ave Maria, still space does not curtail the possible hospitality of a newly married pair.

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Now the wren is killed by boys who have never even heard the origin of the custom, and it is carried from house to house, tied to a furze bush, the bearers being disguised in any old rags they can lay hands upon.

The wren, the wren, the king of all birds, On St. Stephen's Day was caught in the furze.

Lighted Candles in Every Window.

Another Christian custom—but this is a custom of religious sentiment—is that of placing a lighted candle in every window on the night of Christmas eve.

The oldest and still most cherished customs are those that have gathered round deaths and funerals.

The custom of keeping a goat with cows and a bantam with hens may be traced to an idea of luck, though it is also maintained that goats eagerly seek out a pasture and soon clear it of all herbs that would be injurious to cows if they were left for them to eat when the grass began to fall.

The most interesting as well as the oldest and still most cherished customs are those that have gathered round deaths and funerals.

A Most Heartrending Will.

This keening is undoubtedly a relic from pagan days, and indeed the blind, unquestioning way in which so many customs are clung to make it easy to believe that they date back to remote times.

Obeying Orders.

The mistress came downstairs and tried the door of the sitting-room, only to find it locked against her, while the key, which was usually in the lock, was missing.

QUEER THINGS.

Great Variety of Matter Carried and Dropped by the Clouds.

How often we watch the passing clouds and wonder at their beauty. We compare them with great masses of snow or ice, or imagine them to be great mountains floating across the wide expanse of deep blue sky.

Clouds are simply masses of vapor of more or less density, and their different colors are produced by the light of the sun shining on and through them.

Clouds are supposed to carry nothing but moisture, but this is not always the case. A great variety of matter has been carried in the clouds and dropped to the earth, causing alarm and wonder among the people in various lands.

Some travellers in the far north say there is red snow at some points in that cold and dreary region. Others say it is a red moss that sometimes grows on the surface of the snow, and in a few instances red insects are said to have fallen with the snow, giving it a tinted appearance.

EARL GREY'S MEMORY.

When Earl Grey was Governor-General of Canada he never spoke in public without first memorizing his remarks.

When his Excellency arose, a burst of handclapping made him hesitate in his spoken introduction.

Most people are in the habit of looking up the articles of our accustomed diet, and especially upon salt, as necessities.

Abdul Hamid's Queer Prize.

Ex-Sultan Gets \$26,000 in Will to Build Peace Temple.

Abdul Hamid, ex-Sultan of Turkey, comes into possession of \$26,000, given him by a German admirer for the purpose of erecting a temple of peace in Constantinople.

Two years ago at Leipzig a Zouave died, leaving his fortune, \$26,000, to the ex-Sultan with the above stipulation.

Feeds Guests' Dogs.

The proprietress of a restaurant at Paulton Square, Chelsea, England, who found that many of her customers had their dogs at the same table, and in some cases allowed them to eat from their plates on the floor, has established a separate dining room for dogs.

Not Amiable.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDY

INTERNATIONAL LESSON. FEBRUARY 2.

Lesson V.—The Flood, Gen. 6. 9-22; 7. 11-24. Golden text, Rom. 6. 23.

The story of the flood begins with Gen. 6. 5 and extends through 9. 18.

Verse 9. Righteous... perfect walked with God—A threefold description of Noah's goodness.

Verse 10. All flesh—Here denoting mankind alone, though sometimes (as in 6. 17; 7. 21; and 9. 11), including both men and animals, or even animals alone, as in 6. 19; 7. 15, 16; 8. 17.

Verse 11. The second month—According to the Jewish calendar this would correspond to our month of May.

Verse 12. The rain—Literally, the heavy rain. Forty days—The parallel account mentions a hundred and fifty days (verse 24).

Verse 13. The selfsame day—The day specially mentioned in verse 11.

Verse 14. Every bird of every sort—Every winged creature, including insects. Birds are mentioned separately in the preceding phrase.

Verse 15. The ark—For a description of its construction, compare Gen. 6. 14-16.

Verse 16. The face of the waters—The upper surface.

Verse 17. Destroyed—Heb., blotted out.

Verse 18. A hundred and fifty days—In verse 12, above, forty days are mentioned as the time duration of the flood.

Verse 19. The dry land—Not, therefore, including fishes and other aquatic animals, which were thus exempt from the general destruction caused by the flood.

Verse 20. The ark—For a description of its construction, compare Gen. 6. 14-16.

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A SUCCESSFUL CHRISTIAN

The Fallacy that Success is Possible Without Work Plays Havoc with Many People

How can we be successful Christians, growing day by day in character and in influence? The one thing we need to realize is that there is no royal road to it, no potent method, no trick or knack to be acquired.

What is the way? Jesus pointed it out, the one sure way to success in being a Christian, when he said: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me."

Out from the whole saying rings a clear note to this effect, that the only way to be a successful Christian is through patient, unremitting, self-denying attention to it; that you simply cannot succeed in the Christian life without putting your soul into it.

Why should we expect to succeed in any cheaper fashion? Only because we are foolish and slow of heart to realize the great labor that that patient, self-denying labor is the only way to get anything worth having.

Only those who hunger and thirst after righteousness will be filled. Get Rich Quick Fallacy. There is no fallacy more harmful or more varied in its forms of evil working than the fallacy that the real goods of life can sometimes be had as bargains.

A judge who had passed sentence on many embezzlers said that he would like to set over the entrance to every penitentiary this motto: "The worst day in a young man's life is the day he gets his first dollar without earning it."

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TORONTO CORRESPONDENCE

INTERESTING BITS OF GOSSIP FROM THE QUEEN CITY.

Lieutenant-Governor's New Home—Cook's Church Pastor—Home of the Bishop—Indecent Shows.

The new Government House in Chorney Park North Road is not taking form and passersby can get some idea of what will be the general effect of the completed residence of Ontario's Lieutenant-Governor.

Police circles there are naturally some suppressed chinking at it as the result of the presentation. Consoling theatrical performances is not a job the police care much for, because it is to make their enemies whatever they do.

With the Council chamber overflowing with the wires of the wire of wire of wire, the City Council of 1913 started out in some thing like a blizzard.

It is hard to say whether Rev. John McNeil, the new minister of Cooke's Church, who was brought to Toronto to take the charge, is living up to his advance notice or not.

It is curious that there should come to Toronto almost simultaneously to impart ecclesiastical positions, two McNells, one from Liverpool, the other from Vancouver.

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OLD NOOKS AND ALLEYS.

Move—Being Made To Preserve Those of Old London.

A society to preserve the character of London has been formed, and under the chairmanship of the Lord Mayor a meeting is to be held at the Mansion House this month.

The society, the president of which is the Earl of Plymouth, aims at drawing into one movement all who have an interest in preserving the old charms of the capital or in shaping for good its future developments.

If those who live in London, or who often visit London and love to ramble around its nooks and alleys, its city streets and historic high-ways, would show their pride in the greatest and most interesting city in all the world by their collective effort to secure the best in the way of public and private improvements.

Among the notable personages who are taking an interest in the aims of the society are Sir E. J. Poynter, president of the Royal Academy; Sir William Richmond, Sir George Alexander, Mr. Frank Brangwyn and Mr. John Burn.

Teach Citizens to Be Clean.

In Australia the Lord Mayor of Sydney, stung by the reproach that his city is the "dirtiest in the southern hemisphere," has organized a "special patrol crew" of a hundred "special Australians" to capture citizens offending against the municipal laws for the preservation of good order, neatness and cleanliness.

He mustered them the other day in the yard of the city hall. "Act," he said, "without fear or favor. Never mind whether the offender is well dressed or shabbily dressed. Do your duty. Many of our citizens have fallen into dirty habits, and we have to teach them to be clean and tidy."

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