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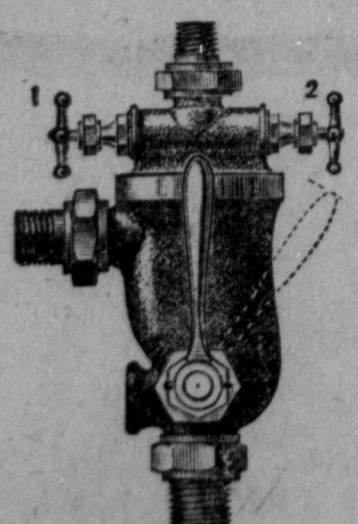
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A Nation of Stilt-Walkers.

A boy's idea of using stilts is to find a method of walking that is difficult and requires skill. That a community of people should be compelled to use stilts, in order to do their work and get about the country, is almost unknown. It is not singular that these people become so expert that they can knit while walking on stilts. The stilt-walkers live in the south of France, on the shores of the Bay of Biscay, and near the borders of Spain, so near that they have acquired many habits of the Spanish people. The country of the stilt-walkers is Landes. Very many years ago the people were driven to stilt-walking. The wind from the Bay of Biscay blew the fine white sand far inland, making what we call dunes, which are waves of sand that remind you of the motion of high waves. They look like waves suddenly turned to sand. It was impossible to walk over this sand; and all the grass and other vegetation suffered and was choked by it. The people were shepherds, but it became harder and harder to find feeding-ground for the sheep. Then the government made the experiment of planting pine forests. These grew, and prevented the sand drifting in as before. Still, walking is very difficult and almost impossible for women, except by the use of stilts. When the people walk on the ground they walk in their bare feet. The leg is covered with a footless stocking. The foot-rest of the stilt is covered with sheep-skin, with the wool uppermost, making a soft rest for the foot. The pine forests not only saved the land from utter desolation, but it gave the people employment. The collecting of resin is the most profitable industry in this section. The wool of the sheep is of such a poor quality that it brings a very poor price in the market.

The people are a happy people and have an interest in sports. They have stilt-races, and some races have national reputations. One, recently, was a long distance race from Paris to Bordeaux, which aroused interest among scientists. The distance was 300 miles, and it was covered in 76 hours and 55 minutes. The stilts used in this race were 65 inches in length, but the ordinary walking-stilt is 45 inches. The stilts weigh about five or six pounds; the pole, which is always carried and used for balancing, weighs about five pounds. —Onward.

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A Scotch Collie

John Todd, a Scotch shepherd, had a good collie, for which he had refused forty pounds, as the dog was worth more than that to a 'herd,' seeing he did the herder's work for him. Robert L. Stevenson, in an essay on the 'Pastoral,' tells how it happened that John received such a liberal offer for the collie.

John had bought some sheep in Edinburgh, and on their way out, the road being crowded, two were lost. This was a reproach to John and a slur on the dog, and both were alive to their misfortune. Word came after some days that a farmer about Braid had found a pair of sheep, and thither went John and the dog to ask for restitution.

But the farmer was a hard man, and stood upon his rights. 'How were they marked?' he asked.

As John had bought right and left from many sellers, he had no notion of the marks.

'Very well,' said the farmer; 'then it's only right that I should keep them.'

'Well,' said John, 'it's a fact that I canna tell the sheep; but if my dog can, will you let me have them?'

The farmer was honest as well as hard, and besides I dare say he had little fear of the ordeal; so he had all the sheep upon his farm driven into one large park, and turned John's dog in their midst.

That hairy man of business knew his errand well. He knew that John had bought two sheep and he had looked on while the purchase was made and (to their shame) had lost them about Boroughmuirhead. Without pause or blunder he singled out, first one and then another, the two wails. It was that afternoon the forty pounds were offered and refused. —Youth's Companion.

MOTH ACCUSED OF MURDER.

Singular Defense Advanced To Exculpate An Accused Prince.

Recent murder mysteries serve to recall that of Princess Caravella, a singularly lovely woman, who met with a violent death at Naples.

The princess had been entertaining a party of friends at dinner at the Caravella palace, and as she had promised to attend a ball toward midnight she went to her bedroom to lie down for a few minutes' rest to refresh herself for the dance.

At 11 o'clock her maid entered the room to awaken her, whereupon the princess asked her to return a little later, and twenty minutes afterward, when she returned, the girl found her mistress still lying on her bed with scarcely a muscle of the face changed, but stone dead, with the mark of a tiny bullet in the region of the heart.

The maid's shrieks quickly brought the prince and the whole household to the room, and within ten minutes the judicial and police authorities arrived. It was clear that no stranger had fired the shot, since the bedroom was situated on the third floor, and no one had entered the gates of the palace between the hour of 10 and midnight.

At length the prince was arrested on a charge of having murdered his wife with the little pistol which lay by her side on the table and one chamber of which was empty, color being lent to the accusation by the fact that he was notoriously jealous.

His trial resulted in acquittal, partly in consequence of an extraordinary piece of testimony which was produced in court by one of the police officials. The story he related was this:—

A couple of days after the murder, on the removal of the seals from the doors of the bedroom, he had made a careful investigation of the apartment and had found on the floor by the bedside one of those enormous night moths, the bodies of which are almost as thick as a man's thumb and which abound in Italy.

He declared that the moth's wings were badly singed, as if it had flown against the candle that stood on the table by the bedside.

He produced the moth in court, and then proceeded to point out to the judges that some of the powder of the insect's wings was apparent on the black ebony and gold stock and trigger of the little revolver which had been found on the table and with which the shooting had been done.

He then called the attention of the judges and jury to the phenomenal facility with which the trigger yielded, and advanced the extraordinary argument that the princess had been murdered by the night moth, which, he alleged, must have flown into the room, attracted by the candle light, and falling with singed wings onto the table had discharged the revolver in the violence of its contortions.

A Wonderful Memory.

An old Russian woman some time ago made a great sensation in St. Petersburg by the display of wonderful feats of memory. Irina Andrejevna Fedosova, the woman in question, is 70 years of age, and can neither read nor write, but knows by heart over 19,000 legends, folk-songs and poems. These she has rehearsed at public recitals, which attracted audiences representing the "best society" of the Russian capital. A writer describes one of these recitals as full of picturesque interest. "A little bent figure appears, hobbles on the platform, sits down on a chair with hands folded and withered face, quite expressionless. Amid a hush of expectation she begins to speak; then her face brightens, her eyes open widely and sparkle, while her voice grows clear and penetrating. She looks ten years younger in her enthusiasm, as she half speaks, half sings, the legends of her youth, tales of great wars, old fairy tales, long-lost tragedies or tender love stories; while the audience, carried away by her strange magnetism, listens spellbound, laughs and weeps at her will." We can well imagine that such an entertainment has in it infinitely more of realistic charm than any theatrical show ever put upon the stage. —Leslie's Weekly.

Miss Pullman's Employment.

If report is true Miss Florence Pullman is one of the most richly-paid in the country for her labors. She is the daughter of George M. Pullman, and is said to draw a salary of \$10,000 a year from the Pullman company for naming cars. Miss Pullman evidences a preference for euphonious names. The selections do credit to her education and taste. Many of the names of the cars are of Spanish origin. They are the names of countries, rivers, historic towns, battlefields and flowers. Such names as Brazil, Peru, Chili, Mexico, Guatemala, and other Central American states, are frequently seen. There is a fine discrimination displayed in the naming of cars for special service. For example, dining cars are in most instances named after celebrated cooks, as Savarin, and the cooks of famous men and women. Smoking cars are given names which suggest luxury, as Sultan, Khedive and Mussulman. Observation cars are called Yellowstone, Yosemite, Appalachian, Watkins Glen, and Niagara. —New York Home Journal.

Renouncing Sin.

There is a great temptation to excuse your sins to yourself. None of your excuses are such as you would dare to offer on the day of judgment. Instead of excusing your sins and trying to palliate them, strive earnestly to break off from them. Make the resolute attempt upon the very first sin to which you are tempted. Set yourself against sin, and call for the Spirit's power to help you conquer it. Conversion means renouncing of sin, and no one has even begun to serve Jesus Christ until he has declared war upon his favorite appetites and lusts and passions. —Rev T. L. Cuyler.

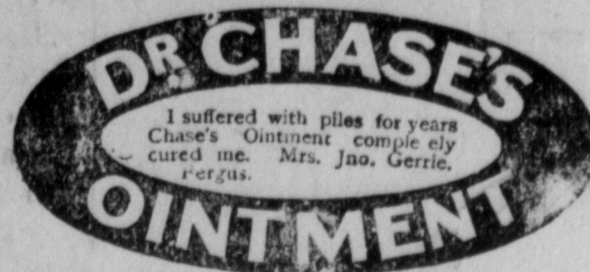
Enough of a Task.

Marston—Society people do not seem to make as many summer trips abroad as they used to.

Stacy—No; it keeps them too busy going to and from Dakota to think of indulging in other luxuries.



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JAMES STARRAK.