

POWERFUL MECHANISM.

The Picking Up Machine Used in Grappling Ocean Cables.

A truly wonderful piece of mechanism is the "picking up" machine used in all grappling and cable hoisting operations. It is a powerful variety of the steam winch family, but also a most aristocratic and elaborate member, fitted with gear changing clutches, patent brakes and other ingenious appliances. To give some idea of its capabilities in dry figures it can at slow speed lift twenty-five tons at the rate of one mile an hour or at fast speed ten tons at the rate of four miles an hour. Moreover, it can be quickly altered and adapted to changing circumstances in speed or lifting weight.

All being made ready, the big grapple, attached to 700 or 800 fathoms of chain and rope, is passed over the bow sheave, or pulley, and as soon as it reaches bottom the ship is sent slowly ahead. Back and forward across the path of the cable, as pointed out by the friendly marking buoys, we steam. Several times the grapple catches something, only to lose its hold again, probably an inequality upon the bottom, although a beson's mate mumbles "mermaids' grottoes," but at last comes a steady strain. Every soul on board hangs over the bow, watching the grimy grapple rope come steadily up and over the well oiled pulley. At length the grapple itself appears, holding tight on to the truant.

May Day Custom in Belgium.

The most honored month of the year in Belgium is the month of May, known as the Virgin's month and consecrated to the Virgin Mary. In the province of Liege young maidens have a quaint way of predicting their love affairs this month. A group of girls arrange to meet at sunrise and start to walk through the fields until they come to a hedge, quite unobserved from the highway, where they generally choose a honeysuckle bush beneath the protecting branches of which to perform their mystic operations. Each maiden selects three blades of dew laden grass, the tops of which she cuts to equal length and to each of which she attaches a colored silken thread. Black represents a bachelor, red an unknown lover and green the secret desires of the maiden's heart. Ten days afterward they return to the same spot where they left the blades growing, and that blade of the three chosen which has surpassed the others in height reveals the lover the maiden is destined to have.

The Old Way of Passing Bills.

A document found among the Duke of Rutland's papers at Belvoir castle throws a curious light upon the mode of getting private bills through the house of commons in the days of King Charles II. The case in hand was the divorce bill of John, Lord de Roos, an affair that caused a great deal of gossip in its day. One of his lordship's agents wrote in January, 1667: "On Wednesday last I got six and forty of the house of commons to the Dog tavern, in the palace yard at Westminster, when were present Mr. Attorney General and Mr. George Montagu. As soon as they had dined we carried them all to the house of commons, and they passed the bill, as the committee, without any amendments, and ordered it to be reported the next day."

Shakes That Were Shakes.

Over on the eastern shore of Maryland there was a man who was suffering from a severe case of "shakes," as they call fever and ague in that country. One morning the local physician called on the patient and asked him how he felt.

"N—n—not a bit b—b—etter," was the shaking man's reply.

"Your case is a very peculiar one and hard to take hold of," remarked the doctor sympathetically.

"Yes, th—that's so," remarked the patient, trying to smile. "The c—case sh—sh—shakes so I don't w—wonder you c—c—can't get hold of it."

Their Words Stuck.

When Mark Twain was in Egypt, he one day arranged with a friend to meet him at one of the pyramids. The latter engaged two old but experienced Arabs to guide him to the place. He afterward complained that, although he had some knowledge of their native language, he could not understand anything that his guides had said to him.

"You should have hired younger men," Mr. Clemens told him. "These toothless old fellows talk only gum Arabic."

Captured.

Mabel—I suppose you have heard of sister Lou's marriage. She's taken a flat in Kensington.

Miss Jellus—Yes, I heard she had a flat, but I didn't hear where she had taken him.

The Pleasantest Route to Ruin.

"Prosperity has ruined many a man." "No doubt, but if I'm given any choice in the matter I'd rather be ruined by prosperity than by adversity. The process is more enjoyable."

A man is generally at his heaviest in his fortieth year.

Birds Made a Sieve.

In the mountains of Tennessee a stranger came upon a man who was shoveling coal upon a wooden sieve. Upon inquiry how on earth he got such a curious thing the old man replied:

"Stranger, I don't think you'll b'leeve me if I tell you."

"Oh, yes, certainly," said the man; "I will believe you."

"Waal," said the mountaineer, "it war this way: About five years ago I lived down on the side of the mountain whar woodpeckers and other kind o' birds is powerful thick. That 'ar thing"—pointing to the sieve—"war my door to my cabin. It 'ud mock any bird that flies. I'd jest sit thar some summer evenin' and jest move it, and every bird came that war imitated.

"Howsumever, one day I left my cabin to go huntin' and went preamblin' down the mountain. Waal, some wind come along and made that 'ar door imitate a woodpecker. First one come and then a whole pile o' the critters. They lit in on the door, and when I come it war jest like you see it."

The man thanked him and moved on. "I declar," said the mountaineer, "I don't b'leeve he thought I war tellin' the truth." And he resumed shoveling coal.

Thoughtless, Selfish.

Thoughtlessness of others is nothing more than downright selfishness, which is the curse of humanity. The man who on leaving an elevated train pauses at the head of the stairs to light his cigar is selfish. He incommodes all who are behind him. The woman who insists on passing up or down the stairs ahead of the eager crowd, slowly, indifferent to the haste of others, must be an awful thing at home. He who pauses to tie his shoe regardless of the interruption of traffic is a brute in his family. I see all these things a dozen times a day and wonder what kind of lives such persons lead in the family circle. One of the common evidences of thoughtlessness is seen in those who stand in the middle of the sidewalk to chat while multitudes are forced to deflect or make an offset in order to pass them. The more I see of men the greater is my respect for asses, dogs and mules.

A Roman Dinner.

A Roman dinner at the house of a wealthy man consisted chiefly of three courses. All sorts of stimulants to the appetite were first served up, and eggs were indispensable to the first course. Among the various dishes we may instance the guinea hen, pheasant, nightingale and the thrush as birds most in repute. The Roman gourmands held peacocks in great estimation, especially their tongues. Macrobius states that they were first eaten by Hortensius, the orator, and acquired such repute that a single peacock was sold for 50 denarii, the denarius being equal to about eightpence halfpenny of our money.

No Need of Assistance.

The father of the family had stepped into a bookstore to buy a birthday present for his fourteen-year-old son. "What kind of book would you like?" asked the salesman to whom he had confided his purpose.

"Something that would be useful for the boy," was his reply.

"Well, here is a very good one on 'Self Help.'"

"Self help!" exclaimed the father. "Ben don't need anything of that kind. You'd ought to see him at the dinner table!"

Vanilla For Mental Weakness.

Vanilla is one of the most powerful restoratives known in cases of weakened vitality, when a large dose is given. South America in general shows a much slighter tendency to madness than any of the countries which may be called civilized. Statistical authorities attribute this fact to the ignorance and thoughtlessness of the population, but they themselves give the credit to vanilla. At the first sign of mental disturbance they ply the sufferer therewith.

The Way to Catch a Porcupine.

The porcupine climbs the tree as readily as a squirrel would, provided you don't slip up and cut his tail off while he is going up. Somehow or other he can't climb the tree without his tail, and he won't come down without it. If you catch one of these porcupines climbing a tree and chop his tail off, he will stop right where he is and will stay there until he starves to death unless he is taken away.

A Truism.

When the undertaker is sent for, he generally comes to grief.—Philadelphia Record.

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Castoria is for Infants and Children. Castoria is a harmless substitute for Castor Oil, Paregoric, Drops and Soothing Syrups. It contains neither Opium, Morphine nor other Narcotic substance. It is Pleasant. Its guarantee is thirty years' use by Millions of Mothers. Castoria destroys Worms and allays Feverishness. Castoria cures Diarrhoea and Wind Colic. Castoria relieves Teething Troubles, cures Constipation and Flatulency. Castoria assimilates the Food, regulates the Stomach and Bowels of Infants and Children, giving healthy and natural sleep. Castoria is the Children's Panacea—The Mother's Friend.

Castoria.

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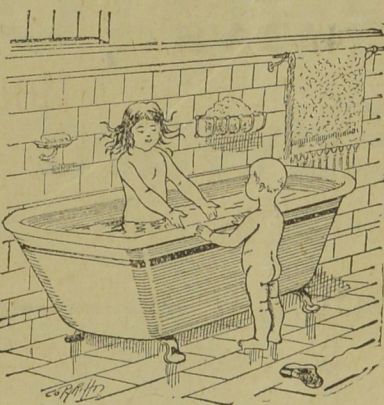
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Suburban train for Hampton...	13.15, 18.15 and 22.40
Express for Point du Chene, Halifax, and Pictou...	12.00
Express for Sussex...	17.10
Express for Quebec, and Montreal...	19.30
Express for Halifax and Sydney...	23.25

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN

Express from Halifax and Sydney...	6.30
Express from Sussex...	9.00
Express from Montreal and Quebec...	12.55
Suburban train from Hampton...	7.45, 15.30 and 22.00
Express from Halifax and Pictou...	17.45
Express from Halifax...	19.15
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