

For a Pinch of Snuff.

Louis XVIII. of France, while reciting an ode of Horace to his chamberlain one day, suddenly stopped to take a pinch of snuff and was annoyed to find that he had left the box in his bedroom.

With a low bow the chamberlain handed him his own box, and the monarch took a good pinch from it, after which he recited the long ode to the end. He then said to the chamberlain:

"You have a poor niece, I believe. Well, I like your snuff so well that I propose, as a token of gratitude to you, to give her the right to open a toy store in the Tuileries. I will sign the necessary papers this evening."

Thanks to this royal grant, the chamberlain's niece conducted a small but profitable business until her death, in 1850. Her little store then became the property of the state, and ever since it has been rented for about 400 francs a year.

Thus the French republic of today owes a portion of its income to the fact that Louis XVIII. appreciated good snuff.

Voices of the Ice.

The winter of the far north is not wholly silent, although so little life is manifest at that season. A paragraph from Captain Koldewey's account of his winter's stay on the east coast of Greenland makes this fact very clear:

All these movements of the ice—the gradual crowding and pressing, bending and pushing, the breaking of the masses of snow lying at the "ice foot"—do not go on noiselessly, but are generally accompanied by certain sounds, which are called the "voices" of the ice.

Now we hear a low singing, splashing or grumbling, alternating with various other noises, cracking and snapping; now it sounds irregularly from a great distance, like a confusion of human voices, the changing din of a train or a sledding party, or you fancy you hear the steps and voices of all sorts of animals.

There is a charm in listening to these sounds on a still night.

Smells of Cities.

A famous English artist insists that each city has its own peculiar odor; that a stranger can smell a city—"the great, blended odor of the entire city." There is truth in his remarks. When a stranger enters Munich, there is a smell as of many breweries—a peculiar, sweetish, yet pungent odor of malt, not at all unpleasant to a beer drinker. After a day or two the smell is not remarked, but after the stranger leaves the city the smell is distinct in his memory; it exerts a spell; it urges him to drop his work, to take the next steamship. We have not been in Munich for seventeen years, but that sweet smell haunts us still. Paris has a peculiarly individual odor; so has London, so has Berlin, so has Dresden. Boston no doubt has its own smell, which is highly respectable, rather musty, with a suspicion of old family cockroaches.

How Coal Resembles Ice.

The Electrical Review calls attention to an interesting explanation of the burning of coal. Coal petroleum and illuminating gas are related to one another much as are ice, water and steam. For this reason perfect combustion of liquid fuel is already advanced a long step toward vaporization, just as ice is advanced toward steam when turned into water. The volatile elements of coal are locked up in solid form, or virtually frozen solid. Professor Dewar demonstrated how great an amount of heat must be taken from the so called permanent gases to make them liquid and how much more to make them solid. Yet nature has solidified gas into the form of coal, and solid coal, like solid ice, will only dissolve into vapor through the expenditure of heat.

His Great Pressure.

The German officer is nothing if not practical, so there may be an element of truth in the following amusing incident, which comes from Berlin, says the London Express:

A sergeant was perplexed how to deal with a bowlegged recruit. At last he bethought himself of a plan. Taking a one mark piece, about the size of a shilling, he ordered the recruit to put it between his knees and said, "Woe betide you if you let the money fall before I come back in five minutes!"

The unhappy recruit, with knees pressed together, remained in that uncomfortable position for a minute, and at last, struck by a happy idea, he took the coin from between his knees and put it in his pocket.

When the sergeant hove in sight, he hurriedly replaced what he thought to be the same coin. It was, however, a two mark piece, about as large as a florin. The sergeant smiled as he complimented the bowlegged recruit on the great pressure he must have exerted on the coin between his knees.

She Might.

"I wonder if she regrets her marriage."

"Why should she?"

"Well, you know they are both literary, and now her husband thinks himself entitled to every bright idea she has."

Why Savages Turn In Their Toes.

In the first place, the foot naturally takes that position when it has never been confined by boots or the ankle distorted by high heels. Convenience is also on the side of the natural position of the foot in the case of the savage, for he has to do much walking through long grass and undergrowth in forests. Consequently his progress would be much impeded if he turned his toes out to catch these obstacles instead of brushing them aside and outward, as he now does. Lastly, the savage uses his foot much more as a help to his hands than we do, and it is obvious that in doing this he must turn his toes in.

European Arithmetic.

At the custom house we were obliged to make a deposit of 8 francs 40 centimes on each wheel before entering Switzerland. Since that day faith in the advantages of higher education has wavered. There were nine bicycles, and the government official found the entire amount of our indebtedness by putting down 8.40 nine times and then adding up. Why should one vex one's self with the multiplication table when straight addition combined with unlimited time reaches the same result?—Caroline S. Donnett in Chautauquan.

All He Wanted to Know.

"My dear," he said softly.

"Well?" she returned, with some asperity.

"There is just one thing I desire to know in order to be contented with my lot."

"What is it?" she asked.

"Will you hold me up as a model to your third husband as you now hold your first husband up to me?"

Artificial Flymaking.

The trade of artificial flymaking is the lightest fingered business in the world, and it is not one man or woman out of 5,000 who can learn to tie flies. These tyers are remarkable for the beauty and delicacy of their hands, and only the cleverest of fingers can deal with the "niggling" work of knotting hairs that can hardly be seen.

Thoughtful.

"Well, he's a very thoughtful and good hearted fellow anyway."

"I can't see it. I was at his home yesterday, and it never occurred to him to ask me to stay to dinner."

"That's just the point: his wife is taking cooking lessons."

Willie's Query.

Little Willie—Say, pa, this book says nature never wastes anything.

Pa—I guess that's right, my son.

Willie—Then what's the use of a cow having two horns when she can't even play on one?

The first shipment of wheat from Chicago via the lakes was made in 838. The shipment consisted of seventy-eight bushels.

A Pleasant Interruption.

The following incident occurred at an entertainment in a large provincial town: On the programme a certain vocalist was down to sing "The Miner's Dream of Home," and to add special effect to the song he, having a friend a fireman at the fire station, about three minutes' walk from the hall, ran out and borrowed his top boots.

His turn on the programme came around. He appeared on the stage in all the glory of a blouse, slouch hat, white breeches and the fireman's top boots. His rendering of the song was a great success up to the middle of the second verse, when a commotion was heard at the entrance of the hall. Then a hot and eager fireman forced his way through the audience up to the footlights and bawled out at the top of his voice:

"Bill, you've got to come out of them 'ere boots if you value your life. I'm called to a fire!"—London Tit-Bits.

Why Many Children Are One Sided.

It is a well known physiological law that the use of a muscle causes an increase in its size, while neglect causes it to become smaller.

The steady use of the same arm in carrying a set of books to and from school, the propping of one arm on a table, or the excessive use of one arm or leg and the disuse of the other—each such habit slowly but surely brings about its own result unless constant effort be made to counteract it.

The growing age is more subject than any other to such influences, but every age is directly and powerfully influenced by any occupation or habit which tends to the exclusive exercise of certain muscles or to the habitual taking of a certain posture.

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Express for Quebec and Montreal...	19.30
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Express from Sussex...	9.00
Express from Montreal and Quebec...	12.55
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Express from Halifax and Pictou...	17.45
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