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WHAT A QUEEN CANNOT DO.

SHE RECEIVES ONLY SECOND-HAND NEWS OF FRINGED SILK.

Queen Victoria is not allowed to handle a newspaper of any kind, or a magazine, or a letter from any person except from her own family, and no member of the royal family or household is allowed to speak to her of any piece of news in any publication. All the information the Queen is permitted to have must first be strained through the intellect of a man whose business is to cut from the papers each day what he thinks she would like to know. These scraps he fastens on a silk sheet with a gold fringe and about it and presents it to her unfortunate majesty. The silken sheet with gold fringe is imperative for all communications to the Queen.

Any one who wishes to send the Queen a personal poem or a communication of any kind (except a personal letter, which the poor lady is not allowed to have at all) must have it printed in gilt letters on one of those silk sheets with a gold fringe, just so many inches wide and no wider, all about it.

These gold trimmings will be returned to him in time, as they are expensive, and the Queen is kindly and thrifty, but for the Queen's presents they are imparative.

The First University.

[Philadelphia Bulletin.]

The first university! In what age, upon what soil, and under whose influence did it arise? The "University" to which all the world might come and learn of the then existing knowledge! Its foundation dates from a period a little more than two thousand years ago; the soil is Egyptian; its name is Alexandria, and its founder Alexander the Great. For Alexandria was the first city to deserve the name. Athens might have won it, but when Athenian politics had become a thing of the past, and the field was open to other pursuits, Alexandria had already forestalled her. Hundreds of years anterior to the foundation of Alexandria, priestly schools existed at the ancient Egyptian cities of Thebes and Memphis, at the Assyrian city of Babylon, and at the Persian Persepolis; and another to those at the Turanian or early Chaldean cities of Ur and Agade, where the kings of Assyria sent their subjects to be instructed in the science and mysticism of the day. Still none of them deserved the title of "University"—i. e., as I have already said, "a place where all mankind might come and be instructed in all the learning then in existence."

Among the Greeks, Athens was never a "University." Her practical citizens were shamed in politics by philosophers in metaphysical speculation. The true Schools of Science—the Inductive Schools—never flourished at Athens; the observatories of the Greek astronomers were at Cnidus, on the south coast of Asia Minor, or at Cyzicus on the Hellespont; the School of Medicine was maintained by one illustrious family on the island of Cos. The Peripatetic school was as unscientific as the Platonic. Aristotle, though he lived at Athens, was never one of its citizens. He disliked it and left it, and was never able to command an audience at Athens for anything except metaphysics. Alexandria was the first school to deserve the title of a "University." On the site of the village of Rhacotis, Alexander founded, in the year 332 B. C., when he returned from Palestine into Egypt, that city which was to be the *entrepôt* of the commerce of the East and the West, and where, in after years, the intellectual glory made conflicts with the war waits has given an all-enduring luster to her name.

Her long career of commercial and intellectual prosperity and her commanding position, as regards the material interests of the world, well justified the statesmanship of her founder.

The site was chosen, the ground plan drawn, and the mode of colonization directed, it is said, by Alexander himself. The building of the city, entrusted to Dinocrates, the architect of the temple of Diana at Ephesus, was not, however, completed until many years afterwards. When completed it was divided into three districts—the Greek, the Jewish and the Egyptian; for Alexander was before everything cosmopolitan, and deliberately attempted on one occasion to break down the barriers of race and creed. The travels and exploits of Alexander had excited throughout the civilized races a new and burning desire to see and know more of each other and of the world, and Alexandria was the place where this curiosity could best be satisfied. On the death of Alexander and the breaking up of his empire in the year 323 B. C., Egypt, and in consequence the magnificent city of Alexandria, fell into the hands of Ptolemy, the son of Lagus.

Ptolemy was a man who had caught much of Alexander's own enthusiasm, and he it was who created the University of Alexandria, the importance of whose foundation—although it has been hitherto but little understood—admits of no exaggeration as far as the intellectual advancement of Europe is concerned. It gave, as a writer has observed, to the works of Aristotle their wonderful duration; it imparted to them not only a Grecian celebrity, but to their translation into Syriac by the Nestorians in the fifth century, and from Syriac by the Arabs into their tongue. Four hundred years later they exercised a living influence over Christians and Mahommedans indifferently, from Spain to Mesopotamia. Dominus Phalaeus was commanded by Ptolemy to collect all the writings in the world, and so great was the success of his patient and laborious exertions that two great libraries were collected—the last prize and boast of antiquity.

The larger contained, in the time of Ptolemy Philadelphus (about 283 B.C.), 400,000 rolls, representing about 90,000 distinct works; and there was another library in the Egyptian quarter, containing about 43,000 works. Both these were, in after years, greatly increased, and were always under the care of some distinguished scholar. Adopting as this university did under the Ptolemies, for nearly two hundred years, a profound peace, both external and internal, it is no wonder, I think, that to this haven every student resorted, and that to this same University of Alexandria we owe whatever is best in the science of antiquity. Mathematics, astronomy, medicine, geography, natural history, jurisprudence, criticism, were for nearly 1,000 years taught in her schools. It is said that at one time nearly 14,000 students were assembled there, thus surpassing, in point of numbers, all universities of more modern times.

STRAW PLAITING.

How the Material Is Sorted, and the Method of Braiding.

The raw straws are purchased by the "straw factors," and they are then treated in the following way. The factor takes a shed between his knees, and drawing out the straws by handfuls at a time he cuts off first the wheat ears, next the two upper joints of the straw, these alone being used for plaiting, and the them into bundles weighing from about eighteen to twenty pounds. These straws are cut into lengths of nine inches, and are then sorted into sizes, the pipes of straws being held in an upright position so that they may fall through holes of a uniform size in a sort of sieve.

These sorted straws are then steamed in fumes of sulphur, which improves their color and luster; they are again finally sorted, when any spotted straws are thrown out to be used in dyed plait, and the remainder are tied into bundles, each containing about as many as two hands will span. The average price of these bundles, according to the fineness of the straw, is about four pence to six pence a bundle, each bundle being calculated to make about three score yards of plait.

The straw then treated is now ready for plaiting, and is purchased in these bundles from the factor by the plaiters. There are usually one or two factors in each village, who generally, however, pursue some other occupation. The plaiter, having her bundle of straws, next proceeds to divide each pipe by means of an instrument also sold by the factor into four, five, seven or nine pieces; the point of the instrument being inserted into the pipe of the straw and pulled through it divides it neatly and exactly into the required number of strips. The plaiter next places her bundle of straws strips, usually tied in paper to prevent soiling, under her left arm and starts her plait, passing each straw first through her lips to moisten it and thus make it bind better in plaiting.

Every plaiter generally carries two or three straws in her mouth ready for work, for the straws being only nine inches long are soon used up, so the plaiter is constantly inserting fresh straws, the ends of which stand out on one side of the plait while it is being made, but are carefully cut off when the piece of yards is finished. The plaiter holds the plait inside toward her as she works, and when a sufficient quantity is done carries it rolled around her left arm. Some of the women and older girls are exceedingly rapid workers and can make over a score of yards of plait during the day, but this is only the result of continuous work, the plait being hardly ever out of their hands. The action of plaiting of course soon becomes purely mechanical, and the plaiter seldom looks at her work unless she is learning a new twist.—Good Words.

Intelligence and Affectation.

It may be said that intelligent mankind is naturally subject to affectation. Purists may object that these ideas are antagonistic, since nature is essentially opposed to falsehood; but in the human character we many contemplations side by side. Without affectation they agree to differ. Babies must be natural you would think, yet, so soon at least as male observers have a chance to study them they are a mass of affectation. Simplicity of manners is the fruit of years and hard experience, amiable or the reverse, for years and hard experience kill the ideal.

A busy man has no time to fancy himself somebody else. He is never allowed to forget exactly who he is and what he has in hand. So the real character asserts itself. But you shall see men not busy or not engaged in that hourly struggle with fortune which absorbs the imagination, cherishing ideals to the last. Thus, the likeness of a great noble of the Eighteenth century may be identified in our modern house of peers. An interesting and pleasing likeness it is, too, generally, though the flesh and blood original would be as much an anachronism as an Eighteenth century bishop.—National Observer.

Sealing Wax Is Made of Shellac.

In olden times common beeswax was used for sealing envelopes. The wax was mixed with earthy materials to give it consistency. It was difficult to preserve it, however, as even a little heat tended to soften it. Later gum was introduced for this purpose, and then came sealing wax, which is made chiefly of shellac. The sealing wax that comes from India is the purest and is made almost entirely of shellac, vermillion or some other pigment being mixed with it for color. All of the varieties of shellac are translucent, and some of the finer varieties are in sheets as thin as writing paper.—Boston Globe.

A Short Career.

"My newspaper career ended in a million pieces," said Michael E. Moore. "Some years ago I was reporting for the St. Paul Globe, and was sent up to Monte Ada to do the Northwestern Chautauqua. The thing dragged and my soul yearned for excitement. A wealthy man from St. Paul owned a summer cottage at Monte Ada, and was the proud possessor of a cow called Anna. One night Anna succeeded in hanging herself with her halter. I seized on it—hoist at once, wrote it up as 'the suicide of Saha Frost,' and sent it by express, inclosing a note to the editor stating that Saha was a cow. The note was mislaid, and the telegraph editor 'killed' the Saha. The next day the paper came out with a column account of the mournful event, under a three column 'wave' head, 'Saha Frost, the charming daughter of a well known citizen of St. Paul, commits suicide.' The article entered into all the details, and gave unrepulsed here as the moving cause of the rash deed. The afternoon papers thought they had been grossly 'scooped,' and to make amends sent special reporters and artists to the scene of the tragedy. There they mooted The Globe, and the editor tried to get even by giving me the grand bounce."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Electricity Makes Beasts Nervous.

A lion tamer named Lorange, who was giving an exhibition of his skill in a wild beast show at Le Vallois-Perret, some time ago had a very narrow escape. The man at the time was heavily laden with electricity, and the animals were in consequence sullen and morose. Lorange entered the cage nevertheless, but when he endeavored to put a lioness through her tricks the beast flew at his throat. He succeeded in hurling her off, but she took a second spring and fastened on his arm, burying her teeth in his flesh. Smelling blood the other lions became irritated, but Lorange succeeded in keeping them at bay for a few moments, during which he seized the lioness' throat with his two hand and extracted the other arm. He then beat a hasty retreat, and was fortunate enough to get out of the cage without further injury.—London Telegraph.

A Impatient Precious.

One of the most slaughter looking creatures that ever walked the earth or "swam the waters under the earth" is the world famous man faced crab of Japan. Its body is hardly an inch in length, yet the head is fitted with a face which is the perfect counterpart of a Chinese coolie—a veritable missing link, with eyes, nose and mouth all clearly defined. This curious and uncanny creature, besides the great fierceness it bears to a human being in the face, is provided with two legs, which seem to grow from the top of the head and hang down over the side of its face.—Detroit Free Press.

A Remarkable Case.

Perhaps the most remarkable case of a catalptic trance on record is that of Colonel Townsend. This gentleman could induce an attack of catalepsy at will. When he did so he assumed every appearance of death. The pulsations of the heart became imperceptible, and it was impossible to discern any respiratory action. His face became cadaverous and his entire frame rigid, in which state he would continue for several hours, when all the symptoms would wear away.—Yankee Blade.

Proving Himself.

"Let me see, Mr. Johnson; you are not of the very old family, the Browne-Johnsons, are you?"

"No. I'm of the new family—the green Johnsons, as it were."—Harper's Bazar.

The Poison of Rattlers.

"Out of a thousand people bitten by rattlesnakes," said E. D. Bourne, of Palm Springs, the other day, "I am sure that not fifty ever really recover. So far as I know, and I have posted myself thoroughly upon the subject for over twenty years on the subject, there is no known remedy. There is no known cure for rattlesnake poison, in spite of the fact that many people have said that they were cured by whisky. You may depend on it that when a man says he was cured of a rattlesnake bite, though not necessarily a liar, he is at least laboring under a misapprehension of the facts.

"There is a small snake similar to the rattlesnake in appearance whose poison is not so venomous, and no grass bitten by it gives lines upon the spot or else drink enough whisky to counteract the poison. Whisky, if taken in a large quantity, goes directly into the blood and counteracts the poison of the snake. But the regular Arizona rattler, from five to seven feet in length, is a deadly enemy to meet. It does not give any warning, but strikes the moment it sees a human being. I think an object almost twice as far distant as it is long."—Pomona (Cal.) Progress.

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For all eastern points.....
For Ogden and intermediate points.....
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RIO GRANDE WESTERN. Standard Gauge. CURRENT TIME TABLE. In Effect August 28, 1892.

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No. 4—For Ogden and points north.....
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No. 8—For Ogden and the West.....

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No. 5—From Provo, Payson, Nephi and points south.....
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