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The First Camera.

The camera was invented by an Italian named Baptista Porta, though it was not at first used for photographing. It was in reality merely a dark room, into which the light was admitted through a little round hole in one side. The rays of light coming from objects outside of this room entered it through this aperture, and made a picture on the other side of the room glowing in all the beauty and color of nature itself, but rather indistinct and upside down.

This dark room was contrived by Porta about the middle of the Sixteenth century. He improved it later by placing a glass lens in the aperture, and outside a mirror which received the rays of light and reflected them through the lens so that the image upon the opposite wall within was made much brighter, more distinct and in a natural or erect position. This was really the first camera obscura, an invention which is enjoyed to the present day, being situated often upon a hilltop, where a picturesque country surrounding may be reflected through a lens, which is placed in the center of the conical roof.

Now our modern photographic camera is merely a small camera obscura in its simplest form, carrying a lens at one end and a ground glass screen at the other. It is, however, often much more complicated in its construction.—W. I. L. Adams in Christian Union.

Test This, Everybody!

The listener observed a very curious and interesting thing the other night. He had occasion to wait for an evening train in a Cohasset avenue station. As he entered and sat down there were already eight men and two women sitting on the benches, and having nothing better to do the listener noticed that every one of the men had his left leg crossed over his right knee, while it was sufficiently apparent that in the case of the two ladies this state of things was exactly reversed. As the listener was meditating upon the reason for this curious circumstance a lady and gentleman entered and sat down, and immediately the gentleman put his left leg over his right knee, while the lady joined her sisters in the room in exactly their attitude.

By and by more men came and more, and every one of them put his left leg over his right knee, until there were actually seventeen men sitting in that position in the little waiting room. Only one more lady came, but she, too, followed exactly the example of the other women. Seventeen men and four women in one room, all with one knee over the other, but the women's and the men's crossed in reversed directions. Is there any physiologist who can explain why this should be so?—Boston Transcript.

Cocks Fighting Desperately.

A couple of gentlemen driving in Bloomfield had their attention attracted to a field near the roadside, where a couple of cocks were engaged in what looked like a deadly conflict. The birds flew at each other terrifically, coming together with a sound that could be heard for rods away, the feathers the while flying through the air and over the mow. Finally they clinched, seemingly by the beaks or upon each other's neck, and they hung on like a couple of bulldogs, turning over and over as they floundered about. Their angry screeches finally attracted a flock of crows which were loitering in the nearby wood, and these fellows took a hand, some fighting one and some the other, until the combatants separated. One of the birds was completely winded and might easily have been caught, but he must have rallied, as when the party returned cityward only the feathers were left to mark the scene of the struggle.—Hartford Courant.

A Twirling Stone.

There has been discovered about half a mile west of the Hargytown ledge a twirling stone of about five tons weight. It has always been regarded as a bowlder, and from the way it is poised on the rock beneath it no one could see why it should not rock. Hundreds have tried to rock it in vain, and the surprise of the man who first felt it move under pressure may be better imagined than described. It moves hard, of course, but it moves, the finder informs us, round as if it was placed upon a pivot. It has been carefully examined, and while it looks like a bowlder, several allege that it must be a ceremonial stone set there by some prehistoric race.—Norwich Bulletin.

His Idea of a Sermon.

Robert Morris, a man celebrated for the part he took in the American Revolution, was once asked by Dr. Rush: "Well, Mr. Morris, how did you like the sermon? I have heard it highly extolled." "Why, doctor," said he, "I did not like it at all. It is too smooth and tame for me. "Mr. Morris," replied the doctor, "what sort of a sermon do you like?" "I like, sir," replied Mr. Morris, "that preaching which drives a man up into a corner of his pew and makes him think the devil is after him."—San Francisco Argonaut.

The considerable series of chipped stone implements from the gravel beds in New Jersey, Delaware, Ohio and Indiana and from a certain deposit in Minnesota give unmistakable evidence that man existed previous to the deposition of these beds.

HOW SOME MEN PROPOSE.

Stories from Men Persons Who Is Interested Or Discussed in the Subject.

"I am a coward," said the club man, "on the subject of proposals. I would rather hear a story of how a man asked the woman he loved to marry him than to take a trip to Europe. I don't know why I take so strong an interest in this, unless it is that I had such a hard time to get my wife to accept me. I had been in love for years. I had proposed to her seven times and she refused me every time. Finally I went to her in despair and said: 'Well, Mollie, I've asked you to marry me seven times, and you have declined my name. I'm going to ask you once more, and if you don't marry me I shall go out west and stay there.'

"'Well, Jack,' she said, 'if you feel that way about it I'll marry you.' To this day she cannot tell me why she refused me so often to marry me after all.

"There's my friend, Congressman X——. He was a poor young man, and one day he went to a young woman whom he had known for a long time.

"'Nell,' he said, 'I have been waiting till I had enough money to get married. My salary was raised yesterday. Will you marry me next week?'

"'Wait until next month,' she said.

"'No, next week,' said they were married next week.

"Brown, the lawyer, was a careless young fellow. The woman whom he loved would not marry him.

"'You are the most reckless man in the world,' she said, 'about money affairs. When you get $5,000 in the bank I may marry you—if you still want me.'

"He went away and saved $5,000. She married him, and today he's a rich man. He learned economy while winning his wife.

"My friend Col. H—— enlisted at the outbreak of the war.

"'Joe,' he said to the girl he wanted to marry, 'I am going down south to fight. Will you marry me now or wait till I come back?'

"'Right now, Sam,' she said, and that afternoon he marched away.

"My brother proposed in a cool way. He hadn't been able to make up his mind what he was going to do in life, and one day the woman who is now his wife said:

"'Charley (they were second cousins), what in the world are you going to make out of yourself?'

"'Just whatever you make out of me,' he said; 'you've got lots more sense than I have, Mame.'

"Has any one here any stories to tell about proposals," continued the story teller. "I don't know of a single case where a man went down on his knees. I would like to hear of one. No one will tell one, eh? Well, I'm sorry. I like to hear about proposals."—New York Tribune.

Hume and Home.

"The two Humes" of whom Smollett wrote were unquestionably David Hume and John Home, the author of "Douglas," as both of them were often in his society in Edinburgh. It is said that the only approaches to a disagreement in the long and intimate friendship existing between these "two Humes" were regarding the relative merits of eland and port, and in relation to the spelling of their names, the philosopher in early life having adopted the orthography indicated by the pronunciation, the poet and preacher always clinging to the old and invariable custom of his family.

David carried the discussion so far that on his doubtless he added a codicil to his will, written with his own hand, to this effect: "I leave to my friend, Mr. John Home, of Kildaff, ten dozen of my old claret at his choice, and one other bottle of that liquor called port. I also leave him six dozen of port, provided that he attests, under his hand, signed John "Home," that he has himself alone finished that bottle at a sitting. By this concession he will at once terminate the only difference that ever arose between us concerning temporal matters."—Lawrence Hutton in Harper's.

A Man's Handkerchief.

In the problems to which the handkerchief has given rise man has but indirectly shared. There have been epochs when it has been a conspicuous part of his attire and one of his pet vanities, and even now it has some slight pretense to ornament in the form of embroidered initial, fancy hem or foreign color, but with the male being the nose wiper has allowed more or less closely to its traditional use. If it is allowed to peep in a suggestive way from the side pocket of his coat it is, theoretically, of course, that he may not be obliged to fumble about in all his pockets, but may be able easily to grasp and apply it in case of a sudden access or any unexpected emanation caused by the influenza. The vanity is consequently homeless.—San Francisco Chronicle.

A Problem for Modern Engineers.

Have any of our modern engineers pondered the contemporary descriptions of Alexander's dinner tent before Babylon? That appears to have had no central support. It was upheld, says Phylarcus, by eight pillars of solid gold. Of the glorious ploughing within we have not to speak, these are theme to enchanters. Around the throne and the great courtiers stood 100 Macedonian guards; in a circle beyond them 500 Persian guards; beyond these again 1,000 archers. To fix a tent which held 2,000 soldiers on duty, with arms and accoutrements, surrounding in successive circles the most gorgeous oriental court that ever was, with hundreds of satraps, counsellors, generals, eunuchs and slaves, would perplex a modern pelon of the Nineteenth century. He will reply that the story is false—must be because he cannot match it. Happily the awning of the Coliseum stands beyond dispute, and Alexander's tent is a small matter compared with that.—St. James Gazette.

Smoke Consuming Lamp.

A gentleman whose lungs are not strong enough for him to enjoy the fumes of tobacco after a dinner party took with him to a friend's home a little lamp, which he set down on a table when the cigars were lighted. Over the flame of this little lamp was a ring of platinum, which became red hot in a very few seconds, and which consumed the smoke of a dozen cigars as fast as it was made, so that the atmosphere of the room was as clear as it would have been had there been no smoking going on at all.—Pomphlegolia Parlor.

Too Much for Ned.

Governor Nicholls, of Louisiana, as most people know, has but an arm and a leg, but so deftly have the artificial members been fitted to the stumps that but few people are in the secret of his loss. His colored body servant was left behind on the occasion of a visit to Vicksburg, and they put at his disposal during his stay there a lively young lad, who was told to try and take the old body servant's place. That night, when Governor Nicholls was ready to retire, he stretched out one of his legs to Ned, the servant, and said, "Ned, unscrew that leg." Ned's eyes began to open with horror, but he obeyed, and took the leg off.

Governor Nicholls then, calmly stretching out an arm, "Ned, unscrew that arm." The boy rolled up his eyes until nothing but the whites could be seen, but he obeyed and unscrewed the arm. The governor, who now realized his condition of mind, determined to have a little fun with him, so, reaching out his neck, he said, "Ned, unscrew that head." But the boy never waited to see whether his head would come off or not, and no one ever succeeded in getting him to go near Governor Nicholls again. He said he was the worst "hoodoo" that he ever saw.—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Destructive Earthquakes.

In 1693 an earthquake overturned fifty-four cities and towns; Catania and its 18,000 inhabitants were wiped out of existence, and more than 100,000 lives were lost altogether. In 1702 Yedo, Japan, was ruined, and 200,000 people killed. In 1731 Peking, China, lost 100,000 by an earthquake. In 1751 100,000 were engulfed at Grand Cairo. The following year Lisbon was wrecked the second time, losing 60,000 people. The same year Kaschaut, Persia, with 40,000 people, was totally destroyed. In 1759 Baalbec, Syria, was destroyed, 20,000 persons being killed. The same number perished at Aleppo in 1822. In 1834 Modi, Italy, was laid in ruins and 14,000 lives lost. In 1857 in Calabria and elsewhere not less than 10,000 perished by earthquake shocks. One authority on the subject estimates that in the years between 1733 and 1857 the kingdom of Naples lost not less than 111,000 of its people by earthquakes.—St. Louis Republic.

Cat Bites.

"Cat bites," said Dr. Gibier, of the Pasteur institute, "are much more common in Paris than they are here. Since I have been in this country I have treated only two persons who I had reason to believe were bitten by mad cats.

"In Paris mad cats are almost as common as mad dogs. People are often bitten by them while returning from the theatre. The cats skim the light and take refuge in dark hallways. The noise of the people groping their way up the stairs late at night stirs the animals up, and often they fly at the faces of their disturbers. Before Pasteur many people died in Paris from hydrophobia, resulting from cat bites. But hydrophobia, whether caused by cats or dogs, is far more prevalent abroad than it is in this country."—New York Sun.

Editorial Musings.

Editor (meditatively)—How seldom we know what is best for us. How I've been pitching into the interstate commerce law for sixteen months. Heaven forgive me!

Assistant—Eh!

"I should have been on that train which plunged into that open switch last night if kind Providence in his inscrutable wisdom had not saved me. I could not get a pass."—Good News.

Entertainments.

Miss Gazwell—Pop, did you see the Prince o' Wales while you was in Europe, an' did ye talk with him?

Pop—I saw 'im, but the crowd was so big he didn't see us.—Demorest's.

It is stated that the muskrat is enabled to travel under the ice of a frozen river or lake for a considerable distance by respiring against the ice roof, where the bubbles of gas collect, and getting a fresh supply of oxygen.

A Good Reason.

Rose—I intend to take the concert out of Sidney Miller before I let him fall.

Pearl—You'd better not.

Rose—Why?

Pearl—Because if you did he would be too light to talk.—West Shore.

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DR. P. C. WEST'S NERVE AND BRAIN TREATMENT, a guaranteed specific for Hysteria, Dizziness, Convulsions, Fits, Nervous Neuralgia, Headache, Nervous Prostration caused by the use of alcohol or tobacco, Wakefulness, Mental Depression, Softening of the Brain, resulting in insanity and leading to misery, decay and death, Premature Old Age, Impotency, Loss of Power in either sex, Involuntary Losses and Spermatorrhœa caused by over-exertion, $1.00 a box, or six boxes for $5.00, sent by mail prepaid on receipt of price.

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At 8½c. per yd.—American Satines, 27 inches wide, value 15c.
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At 10c. per yd.—Outing Cloth in stock, plain and stripe, value 20c.
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