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WITHOUT THE HOOK.

A Discovery That Produced a Sensation in Boston Colored Society.

The colored women of this city have learned that it is possible to take the kink out of their hair, and there is quite a sensation over the discovery. The rush to have crisp locks straightened is been the general, although but few of those who have successfully been smoothed out are willing to admit that their hair was ever otherwise than straight and glossy. The fad as yet has not reached the negro set, and at the Sunday evening meeting of the A. M. E. church one of the deacons warned the sisters against their sinful pride in attempting to improve on the Lord's handiwork. He was followed by a sister, who said:

"If God had intended us to have straight hair he would have given it to us in the beginning. Got never intended it, and I, for one, shall be content with what I've got. It's a sin for the Lord, and a vanity to have your hair straightened."

The idea was introduced by a young colored woman from Virginia. She herself has a glossy hang and black hair as straight as that of the late Sitting Bull. She says her own hair was formerly crisp and kinky, but that an old Canadian women told her how to make it straight, and this information she is now imparting for a consideration. The customer is told first to wash her hair and come with it well dried. She does so, and then the operation begins.

A preparation that is amber colored and of the consistency of cream is taken from a large jar and rubbed thoroughly into the hair, and where it was entirely lusterless before it begins to assume a gloss. This is rubbed so thoroughly into the scalp that none of the hairs can fail to have received a portion. Then vigorous brushing is resorted to, and the short hair begins to lengthen.

If it were an inch long before, it is now fully two inches long, and if before it had been done up in what old fashioned southern people term "ojalas," it is now ready to be rolled into a loose twist or a loose coil at the back. The operation takes about four hours and is permanent in its effects. It gives the colored woman a very Indian like appearance, and the few who will admit having been treated claim they did it merely to make the labor of combing their hair so much the easier. One of them said:

"One thing I know, and that is that it is terribly convenient to have straight hair. I never before realized what a blessing it was. Before I dreaded the task of combing it, and now I don't mind it at all."—Boston Globe.

Funny Things at a Theater Door.

All the funny things don't happen on the stage. Lots of them occur at the door. The other night two young people presented themselves at the door for admittance. The man at the door asked for their tickets, when one of them said, "We want to see the show before we give up our tickets." This was a new one on me, and I undertook to explain to them that they couldn't see the show unless they gave up their tickets first. Then the one who had made the break said: "We are strangers from the country. Ma said to us when we were leaving that Chicago was a great place for country people to get swindled, and for us not to pay for anything that we didn't get first, and we ain't got the show yet."

I undertook to explain to them that they had disregarded their mamma's advice in buying the tickets, but they couldn't see that, and as they persisted in seeing the show before they gave up their tickets I had to refund them their money.—Interview in Chicago Tribune.

Still the Old Books Hold Their Own.

"Did you ever ponder over the mistake fancy of the average fiction reader?" inquired a prominent Washington bookseller recently. "It is certainly astonishing how a book, by some trick of style or singularity of plot, will suddenly leap into the pinnacle of popularity, and after holding the position for a few months it will sink into obscurity just as suddenly as it became famous. The book which had the greatest run in its day from my counter was 'Lorna Doone.' For a long time everybody who came into the store wanted it, and I could not begin to supply the demand. Nowadays nobody seems to want it, and I seldom sell a copy, but the youthful contingent of the novel readers still cling to the older romances, such as 'Monte Cristo,' 'The Three Guardsmen' and books of that stamp. I sell a copy of Victor Hugo's 'Les Miserables' every ten days regularly."—Washington Post.

An early Greek writer on arithmetic says that "Agamemnon was so ignorant of the names of numbers as not to know that he had ten feet." This statement was, no doubt, too strong, but it is clear that the idea of number came slowly to the Greek mind as compared with the idea of form.

Amber comes from the shores of the Baltic sea. It is fashioned gems, and as it is only found in that one small locality, it is very expensive. It usually comes in 10 and 20 pound bags, although sometimes we get it in smaller way.

THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.

He Has Very Much More Control Over the Army Than Over the Navy.

The president of the United States is made by the constitution commander-in-chief of the army and navy. Curiously enough, his control over the two branches of the service differs materially. So far as the navy is concerned he has comparatively little executive authority, but his power in army matters is very great.

For example, he might, if the senate did not object, take any fresh graduate from West Point, and make him the general of the army. In fact, with this condition granted, he can turn Gen. Schofield out of his place of command, drop him from the list altogether, and replace him with whomsoever he chooses. Indeed, some, implying no contradiction from the upper house in congress, he has the power to take any private in the army, and make him the general.

The law in this regard seems to be a serious one, inasmuch as no like power is vested in the president with regard to the navy. The president, however willing the senate might be, could not take a sailor in the service and make him an admiral. Neither could he promote a midshipman just out of Annapolis to such a position. Nor would it be possible for him to advance to the dignity even a captain, for is is only the senior commodore on the regular list who can legally become an admiral, and throughout the entire navy promotions must follow this invariable rule of seniority.

That is one advantage possessed by the navy over the army. A midshipman entering the service at a given age has the absolute and comforting assurance that, with reasonably good conduct, he must arrive at a certain time in the future, supposing that he survives, at a definite rank. If he is graduated with high rank in his class he may count upon being at the head of the service before he is retired, as if it were a mere matter of mathematical calculation.

On the other hand, after the grade of colonel has been reached, appointments are made by the choice of the president, only restricted by the senate's indorsement. Gresly was made a brigadier general over the heads of a considerable number of those ahead of him on the list. In the manner the chief executive turns things about as he desires beyond the rank of the colonels, though he usually picks out for preferment the men whom he considers best qualified for command. But it will be seen that the young soldier in the line has no certainty to anticipate such as is held by the junior naval lieutenant from the start.

It has been maintained in contention that has been carried as far as the ripeness court that the president is granted authority by the constitution to appoint anybody to any place.—Washington Star.

Orthodox Hard to Find.

A Scotch elder, who did not believe that his own minister held strictly orthodox views, wished to have his babe baptized, but would not risk its spiritual welfare by having him perform the rite in any heterodox manner. So he walked to another town early to find the minister he sought was away fishing. The next one he was directed to had gone hunting. Filled with indignation he said to his companion:

"We'd gang to Maister Erskine. That godly man will no be fishing or hunting."

So he found the house, but as he approached it he heard the sound of music. When the servant lassie opened the door he remarked to her:

"Ye have company the night. I hear the fiddle going."

"No, no," she answered, blushing. "Robin could na play like you, but the minister aye fiddles a bit afore he goes to bed."

The good man went away without making his errand known. No minister who played the fiddle could baptize his bairn, so he went back to his own, who neither fished, hunted nor played forbidden music, and to him name the child.—Detroit Free Press.

Cautious.

There is such a thing as being too cautious about taking cold.

Mr. Simnikins was in the room lately when Mr. Longbow, a gentleman from the Black Hills, began an account of an encounter which he once had with an unfriendly Indian.

Mr. Simnikins rose and prepared to go.

"Why do you go?" he was asked.

"I never read or listen to stories of adventure," said Mr. Simnikins.

"Why not?"

"Because they might make the cold shills run down my back, and in that case I should be likely to take cold, you know."—Youth's Companion.

Not Easily Disturbed.

Mrs. Mason—I trust that we shall see a great deal of your friend when he comes to the city. My daughter will be back from Europe by the time he comes. She is a wonderful pianist, you know.

Mr. Hold—Oh, my friend won't mind that. He is as deaf as a post.—Harper's Bazar.

The Giving of Christmas Gifts.

The ascribing of Christmas giving has reached its height. The most beautiful festival of the year seems to depose of its former simplicity in the easy nature of things. The little girl who counts her presents and boasts of receiving thirty or forty will have to give way to the little girl who plans to get how many presents she can give to the sick and the poor. The small daughter of at least one well to do family lives in Boston is brought up to get the best good of Christmas in this way. Her mother even checks thoughtless friends who ask the child, "What do you expect for Christmas?" with the words, "She is thinking more about the little sick girls. I think she will give a great many presents."—Boston Transcript.

How the Stag Changes His Antlers.

With the loss of the antlers the stag changes his disposition entirely and becomes as docile and tractable as a lamb. He shows an inclination to court public petting rather than avoid it. He remains in this condition of temper until the beginning of March, when he shows a disposition to lark in secret forest spots of the glen and timidly avoid the presence of all, even of his kind.

During this period, on the spot where the late antlers were, a pair of protuberances make their appearance, covered with a soft, dark, velvety skin. These attain a considerable growth in a few days. The carotid arteries of these protuberances enlarge with them in order to supply a sufficiency of nourishment.

When the new antlers have attained their full growth, which is in ten weeks after the old ones have been shed, the bony rings at the base through which the antlers pass begin to thicken, and, gradually filling up, compress the blood vessels and ultimately obliterate them. The velvety skin that surrounds the bone, being thus deprived of nourishment, hens its vitality and is rubbed off in shreds by the stag on the edges of rocks or other hard substances.

As soon as the full size of the antlers is attained the docile disposition of the elk disappears, and he becomes more more for the year the fierce king of the glen.

The age of the elk, according to writers on natural history, is computed by the number of points on the antlers.—San Francisco Chronicle.

A Good Time A-Coming.

Men strive for earthly advancement. The poor boy, with scarce a shoe to keep the soles of his feet from contact with the rugged soil, looks forward to the day when he shall sit, enthroned as it were, in the senate of his country; he strives and he strives, and reaches the point but once there, he is content! No. There is a craving for greater honors—for further advancement. The monarch is restless under the burden of his supreme authority. He sighs for something else—he knows not what. No individual is satisfied with the present; we all regard the future as that which contains increased enjoyment, as that which embodies perfect happiness.

It is as when we reach the bed of death. The wheel of the human race feel, when the time for dissolution arrives, that there is yet something to be accomplished—that pleasures beyond a mortal doubt that life is but the inception and the precursor of a longer and better one, in which there are no tears, no bill collectors, no tight shoes, no hostile aldermen—nothing, in fact, except unalloyed happiness.—Texas Siftings.

A Face That Didn't Need Treatment.

"I should like to contribute my tale," said a coffin drummer. "I used to be an undertaker in Cincinnati. One day a German came in with eyes around his hat and a woe begone expression upon his face. 'You vos der undertaker?' he asked. I admitted the impeachment. 'I vos heere have your dad, and I would like to send him to his home in New York. Vot vos der bodys vog to ship him?'

"'You'd better freeze the body and send it on ice,' I suggested.

"'Vot you charge for freezin' my brudder?'

"'Twelve dollars,' I replied.

"'Twelve dollars! Don't that was a goot deal? Couldn't you done it for ten?'

"I replied that twelve was the lowest price.

"'Well,' replied the German, wiping away a tear, 'I gif you $10 to freeze poor Fritz aber you just freeze him to der cold. Dey don't need it for dey was been frozeblitzen fast whatever anyhow.'"—Exchange.

An Essex Wizard.

It would appear that superstition has not entirely died out in Essex. In the village of Stiste Bedingham there an old laborer who is popularly supposed to be a wizard. Recently he told a man in charge of a load of straw that he would not get far with it, and a little farther on the horse, an old one, fell, and was so injured that it had to be killed on the spot. The men called upon to assist were so convinced the horse had been placed under the influence of the wizard that they refused to move the carcass until a slice of flesh had been cut from the hind quarter of the animal and burned in a bonfire, the idea being that the person who cast the spell would suffer burning in a corresponding part of his body.—London Standard.

The Magician Times.

Mother—What is the matter, Clara? You look distressed.

Clara (a bride)—George has—has had to go off on a—a trip, and he won't be back for—for two days—too long!

Same Mother (same years later)—How long will your husband be away?

Same Clara—I forgot to ask.—New York Weekly.

Ex Rapport.

Mrs. Grumps—If that stranger you were talking to said nothing about his wife, how do you know he is married?

Mr. Grumps—Oh, he looked so sort of sympathetic when I told him I was.

Weird Mountain Notes.

A Montana prospector, while traveling through a mountain bridle path, was attacked by an elk. The animal first engaged his pack horse, and getting his antlers under him tossed him off the path and down a precipice 300 feet deep. He then attacked the miner, who shot him dead. The animal was found at the bottom of the gorge, not twenty feet from the horse. Both were mashed into a pulp.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Catarrh

Is a constitutional and not a local disease, and therefore it cannot be cured by local applications. It requires a constitutional remedy like Hood's Sarsaparilla, which, working through the blood, eradicates the impurity which causes and promotes the disease, and effects a permanent cure. Thousands of people testify to the success of Hood's Sarsaparilla as a remedy for catarrh when other preparations had failed.

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"I will say I have been troubled for several years with that worthy disagreeable disease, catarrh. I took Hood's Sarsaparilla with the very best results. It cured me of that constitutional dropping in my throat, and stuffed up feeling. It has also helped my mother, who has taken it for her sore throat of health and kidney trouble." MRS. E. D. HAYES, Palmyra, Conn.

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