AMERICAN PIE.

It Is an Indigenous Product Which No other Nation Can Imitate.

A gentleman of New England ancestry, who lives on West Vine street, recently asserted to the reporter that pie is largely responsible for many of the mental peculiarities of the American people.

"It is a fact scientifically established," he said, "that different kinds of food have distinctively different effects on the mental traits and tendencies of men. For instance, those whose diet is chiefly meat are always of a bloodthirsty, sanguinary disposition, while those who confine themselves to grain and vegetables are nearly always mild and merciful.

"Persons who eat highly spiced and seasoned food are apt to be peppery and irritable, and so on. People whose depend on the condition of their stomachs, and their stomachs depend on what they eat. Now pie is the only kind of food native to America that is not eaten by others at the Columbian now. It is a distinctively American dish. When it is considered that nearly 1,000,000 pies per day are eaten in America it seems to be our national food.

"And I do not think it unreasonable to infer that pie may be the inspiring source of many of our great achievements and sublimest thoughts. At any rate all our great men have been very fond of pie. Abraham Lincoln used to go out of his way to get a good, old-fashioned piece of cherry pie, such as had stained his youthful lips and fingers in the good old Kentucky days. George Washington was so naturally fond of mince pie that the Quaker housewives used to send them to him with their humble respects, even after he had become president. The Marquis de Lafayette is said to have pronounced the pies of Mount Vernon "exquisite," and he attempted to introduce them to the best tables on his return to Paris. The attempt failed, because the marquis forgot to take an American cook back with him, and no French chef has until recently conquered the mysterious pie. It is a remarkable fact that complete pie has recently become very popular in Paris. It is the pioneer, but it will undoubtedly become the avant courier of all our delicious poetry.

"The French have nothing approaching our pie. They make all sorts of delicate and creamy puffs and meringues that are dreams of the culinary art. In many respects they excel our efforts in similar directions. But they have never attained to the sublimity of pie. The English have nothing that will compare with it but Gaul. While those are pleasant little fripperies of fleet, they do more compare to pie than a last year's bird's nest does to the Capitol at Washington. The nearest the Germans get to pie is the pretzel. Think of it! Pretzel versus pie! The Italian is still worse. Though he is a past master in the art of paste making, and has given to the world that marvel of culinary ingenuity, macaroni, he never thought to combine the results with the grapes and berries of his sunny alleys. No lazy person can make pie, and so the Spanish have none. It seems as if the peerless dish had been reserved by the gods from men until the banner of freedom had been unfurled and treasury defied."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Superstition About Salt.

If at the table a little salt is spilt between two people the way to avoid a quarrel is for each to take a pinch and throw it over his left shoulder. Salt always has seemed a wonderful preventive material from the time when we were small. Which of us, when a child, did not firmly believe in that old joke about putting salt on a bird's tail? I remember a curly headed little boy in Kilts who went out into the garden with a handful of salt, resolved upon catching a bird. He was very patient, and cautiously tiptoed around for a long while. Finally, a little discouraged, he went in to his mother and said mournfully, "Mamma, they all flew away." His mother didn't laugh at him.—Harper's Bazar.

The Demand in Mexican Mines.

In the mines of Mexico forms of the descent and ascent of the shafts were made by the aid of two planks, with notches cut out of them, in which the laborers rested the great toe as they stepped from one to the other. The demand in such places was believed to have on each big toe a large nail or claw, with which he would gouge out the pieces on which the foot of the laborer rested. According to other legend the first ladders were but the inventions of the devil, after having demanded their useful use, to facilitate the unfortunate men who were thus ingenious.—Interview in Washington Star.

Harlequin Snakes Are Not Dangerous.

The harlequin snakes inhabit America, and are very beautiful reptiles, their bodies being encircled by black, red and yellow rings, as are also some of the American snakes which are not venomous. The harlequin snakes are not large, rarely exceeding three feet in length, while both their mouths and poison fangs are small. They need be but little dreaded, as they only bite under great provocation.—Quarterly Review.

While there are differences of opinion in regard to the effectiveness of the precaution afforded by lightning rods, the best authorities favor the view that a faulless system of conductors insures absolute protection.

"The number of impositions curb in the world," said Hicks, "is proof to me that the early bird doesn't catch the worm these days."

SECONDHAND BARRELS.

Grave Dangers Lurk in the Use of These Common Receptacles.

Secondhand barrels play a more important part in the storage of the food products used in the city and its environs—in Brooklyn, on Long Island and throughout an considerable portion of the state of New Jersey—than most housekeepers, or for that matter most people, are aware.

But few if any new barrels are made in this locality. New barrels are made and exclusively used in the west. It is western made barrels recooped that are used hereabout. These recooped barrels are used for packing biscuits, sugar, flour, eggs, butter and other kinds of food products.

The newly made barrels come hither from the west filled with flour and other food stuffs, from the packing houses contained with enormous quantities of the dead and from other places laden with domestics intended to tempt the appetites of citizens of the Empire State. When they are emptied, the usual purchasers dealers who purchase their contents sell them barrels constantly to all comers willing to pay the price, which is generally from ten to fifteen cents or upward for each barrel.

The wholesale of the recooped barrels in the eastern district of the city are among the largest purchasers. The goods living in the power houses on the west side are also large purchasers. It is from the epidemic condition, particularly those on the east side, owners of cooperages in this city and Brooklyn buy a large proportion of the secondhand barrels they rejuvenate. But it is not only the proprietors of cooperage shops who are liberal purchasers of empty barrels. Biscuit manufacturers and representatives of sugar houses do likewise.

The cost of barrels sold to the inhabitants of tenement houses are used for holding dirt, ashes, dead rats and other kinds of vermin, cast off clothing and rubbish holders that often contain germs of enfeebled disease, and would not have been parted with by their impecunious owners except through necessity.

Recooperage of these secondhand barrels is carried on to a large extent in this vicinity. Five firms alone recooper over 22,000 barrels daily, and in sugar houses and biscuit bakeries probably 4,000 more are daily recooped.

One twenty two years ago a Brooklyn assembly man—Sam ed Medical—introduced a bill into the state legislature to prohibit the packing of food products in secondhand barrels. The bill was withdrawn owing to circumstances. Tradition says that over $10,000 was put up to defeat it.

The price paid journeymen for recoopering is 35 cents a barrel. Experts say that careful washing and dressing would be sufficient to purify secondhand barrels for the use of food products.—New York Advertiser.

The Best Protection.

The marked and sudden changes of temperature to which our climate is subjected during the winter months are not to be combated by changes of clothing, for this would be absolutely impossible.

The thing to be done is to keep the body in a condition to resist the changes. This condition is best maintained by having the skin and all the organs active. The degree of sensitiveness of the skin in regulating heat loss is the largest factor here concerned, and a sound condition of the skin is to be expected from a proper system of exercise and bathing.—Youth's Companion.

Crying Before a Pope.

Mr. George Healy, an American portrait painter, tells an interesting anecdote regarding Pope Pius IX. His holiness was sitting for his portrait and becoming tired suddenly stood up and came over to see what Mr. Healy was about. Mr. Healy was annoyed at this and exclaimed somewhat sharply:

"I beg your holiness to sit down."

The pope laughed and said: "If an accountant is also a widow, and is a relative then—" But you see, Mr. Healy, that I also have lost my mother." With this he submissively went back to his chair.

The Cheapest Sight in Paris.

The cheapest sight in Paris is to see the boys in the gallery at the Hippodrome. These and the crowd are usually held up their footings in a position of equilibrium and, with wide open mouths, lay for hours, their eyes rapidly blinking in the intense light from above. They never seem to have anything in their mouths anything that they can munch without stopping of their labors.—New York Sun.

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For Dyspepsia.

A. Bellanger, Props., Stove Foundry, Montmagny, Quebec, writes: "I have used August Flower for Dyspepsia. It gave me great relief. I recommend it to all Dyspeptics as a very good remedy."

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C. A. Barrington, Engineer and General Guide, Sydney, Australia, writes: "August Flower has effected a complete cure in my case. It acted like a miracle."

Geo. Gates, Corinth, Miss., writes: "I consider your August Flower the best remedy in the world for Dyspepsia. I was almost dead with that disease, but used several bottles of August Flower, and now can enjoy myself well man. I sincerely recommend this medicine to suffering humanity the world over."

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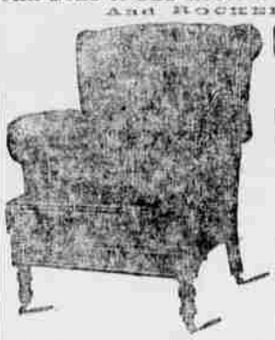

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