Durability of Leather Shown by Recent Find

The durability of leather was proved by the discovery, in the course of excavating for the foundations of the new Bank of England, of soles of Roman shoes, one of which bore clearly the impress of the official Roman eagle.

The soles evidently were those of the sandals worn by women and children. Bronze rivets were used to hold together two or three thicknesses of leather and no doubt accounted in part for the life obtained from the footwear, which must have been much greater in weight than present-day shoes. The old leather was in about the same state of preservation as might be expected of a modern shoe that had been on a rubbish heap for a couple of months.

Although nowadays leather is produced with more speed and less mechanical crudity, the processes of preserving, toughening, and softening it are not materially different from those practiced by the Romans in England about 2,000 years ago.

Perfect Mother-in-Law

She has a marvelous talent for timing her visits. She always arrives the day you need her and never stays a day too long. She always brings cheer and helpfulness and a big basket of things from the old farm. She gets along beautifully with her sons and daughters-in-law. She knows how to please her grandchildren without spoiling them and ruining their digestions. She knows how and when to write a check and when to make beaten biscuit and fry a chicken. She has perfect health and a young mind. She is the perfect mother-in-law.

There is always the chance that you will get her if you marry often enough. —Kansas City Star

Stonehenge Has Been Saved

Stonehenge, the English relic of prehistoric days, has been saved from real estate dealers and purchased for the public. It being generally accepted that the original structure was of the Bronze age, the purpose of the stones has been a subject for much theory, and it is thought that the place was at some remote time used for sun worship. When complete, the stones formed two circles, with an opening to the northeast. The stones are located on Salisbury plain, near the city of Salisbury.

Do Plants Get Sunburned?

That plants as well as people get tanned from exposure to ultra-violet rays is the view of a committee of English botanists. When a plant was exposed to the glare of a quartz mercury vapor arc the surface turned brown.

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The Wedding Gift

By MARTHA M. WILLIAMS

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THOMAS M'BEAN GRADY caroled as he leaped the party wall separating his home domain from that of the Elmores. The Elmores were childless, yet avidly fond of youth, and it was the youth irrepressible of Thomas McBean that had made captives of them in his very first day at Elmholt.

"Sing on, Tommy," madame entreated, after a quick look behind her. "And then sing something Irish. I'm music hungry today."

"She sha'n't be—bless her heart!" Thomas McBean half chanted, dropping the ghost of a kiss upon her still smooth brow. But instantly he started upright. Stooping, he had seen, in the window behind, a girl's face of merry mischief, laughing of eye, with a mutinous, small mouth and the dearest of all chins. He looked reproachfully down at madame, saying loftily: "So, you've broken sanctuary. Here at least I felt safe from snares and pitfalls."

"Oh, pshaw! Why did you turn, Peeping Tom? I wanted 'Vieve to hear you before you saw her—so she'd know the love you're so good at singing had nothing personal about it. Come out, 'Vieve! Tommy is a gentle lunatic, warranted harmless."

"That is, if not crossed," Thomas McBean supplemented, striding toward 'Vieve, taking both her hands and staring down into her eyes a long, silent minute. Dropping the hands, he murmured as though to himself: "The substance of my dream! Say, oh say, where do you come from?"

"Ah, ha! I knew she'd take your breath," Madame Elmore cried in delight. "Where she comes from doesn't matter; nor her name, nor anything except that she is here."

"I will not be a mystery!" 'Vieve cried. "I am very material; an everyday, workaday working girl; a little reduced in circumstances, to be sure, but ready and willing to prove my worth. Here I am Genevieve Deforest, for life or good behavior. Don't you tell anybody else. I tell you only because I know you're in the family."

Mr. Elmore broke in seriously: "Nothing wrong about our girl, Tommy—her father was lost at sea in a great storm coming over, her mother died when she was born—so the good sisters took care of her. Then, coming fourteen, she went into a shop—cash girl. It was there we found and rescued her. We told nobody—changed her name, but made her our legal heir after a year. Now we shall show her to our world as a young relative. It will doubtless accept her for what she is—but we wanted you to know the whole truth."

"Thank you both more than words can say," Thomas McBean replied, not taking his eyes from 'Vieve's face. "I hope I am worthy of your trust."

Thus the stage was set for a lovely idyl of summer. Thomas McBean and 'Vieve played at the game of love-making like adepts, but somehow Madame Elmore was not sure there was anything real under all the froth and sparkle for a full month. Then, coming upon the young pair, locked in each other's arms, with eyes that seemed to be looking straight into heaven, she was happy indeed. Even though Tommy, suddenly coming to earth, said in lofty reproach: "Now, see what you have done, fairy godmother! Turned a poor young butterfly into a family man!"

Madame Elmore seized Thomas McBean's hand and shook it hard, saying, "Game in spite of everything, sonny. Now, the rest is easy."

He thought he spoke truth—but the wisest may be mistaken. Next day the course of this true love ran plump on the rock of family pride. The Grady pedigree had grown into an obsession with its possessors who sincerely felt that Thomas McBean, sole son of the house, needs must match with a person of descent, though he might not hope to find one matching his own! 'Vieve was, they admitted, utterly lovely, utterly delightful—but they had the future to consider—with so many millions to prop and shield it, that family tree must flourish as though it were a green bay.

Truth would be fatal—but how evade telling it? Mr. Elmore was in despair when his wife took the helm—oddly enough—by asking down for a week-end a venerable bachelor friend whose hobby was genealogy. A fortnight later he wrote a letter that ought to have won him an ambassador's post—in effect it ran that 'Vieve's beauty had so impressed him he had ventured to look up her family history—and research had confirmed his suspicion that she was nearly related to the highest aristocracy English and Irish, and notably the beautiful Ladies Duncombe, one of whom had become duchess of Leinster. He inclosed his rough notes—allying her to eminent families, either through cadet branches or main lines unhappily now extinct. She was not to know anything about it—but his wedding present would be the full pedigree, with crest and lozenges—albeit as a good American he held such things far from vital, there was a certain satisfaction in owning them.

He kept his word. The wedding was something wonderful. But after it the health drunk in strict privacy by bridegroom and fairy godparents was: "To the kindliest liar in all the world."

Why Word "Won't" Is Good

The word "won't," universally considered a contraction of "will not," is a contraction of an old form, "woll not."

Why Dead Birds Disappear

The Department of Agricuture says that birds' bodies disintegrate rapidly. Dead birds are eaten by predatory animals and insects.

Why Abbreviation "Cwt."

The "C" is the Roman symbol for 100 and "wt." is a shortened form of "weight."

Nothing Shocking in Jap's Change of Attire

In the West we have a gentleman's agreement that disrobing should be confined to the bedroom and bathroom, or at any rate to some place behind closed doors. Not so in Japan! One hot day in a train traveling from Kobe to Kyoto I witnessed an incident that showed the Japanese can adopt a really common-sense attitude to clothes, writes Harold Butcher in Cassel's Magazine.

It was in a third-class carriage. A few seats ahead of me was a Japanese passenger who was beginning to feel the heat. His silk shirt was wet and clammy. Something must be done about it! One could read his mind.

He had his remedy. He stood up and removed his shirt. Then he found that his undershirt was also soaked. He removed that and dried his naked torso. From his suitcase he produced a clean undershirt and a clean, cool shirt, which he proceeded to don with perfect unconcern and irreproachable modesty. As far as I could judge he changed every stitch of clothing with never a quiver, and finished triumphantly—a reclothed, revived, rejuvenated human being. In this hot train in Japan the whole affair seemed the most natural and sensible thing to do in the circumstances.

Few People Make Best Use of Their Muscles

Practically every one has from 10 to 20 per cent more muscular strength than he is trained to use, Donald A. Laird says in an article in Hygeia, the health magazine published by the American Medical association.

Take the simple matter of lifting a heavy weight above the head with one hand for example. If a person understands how to use his muscles the amount that can be raised can be almost doubled. Suppose that when the arm is hanging at the side 26 pounds is the maximum that can be raised by bending the arm at the elbow. As soon as the forearm is raised so that it is at right angles with the upper arm the weight is handled much more easily.

When the hand carrying the weight is further raised so that it is almost on a level with the shoulder the same muscles have an added advantage and can handle more than 40 pounds. There is an increase from a 26-pound pull to more than a 40-pound pull simply by a utilization of the knowledge of how the arm muscles and bones work as mechanical levers and forces.

Education in America

Compulsory education in the United States occurred first in Massachusetts. As far back as 1642 the selectmen were enjoined to compel parents to teach their children themselves or to procure teaching for them. The following list shows the dates at which the several states enacted compulsory education legislation: Massachusetts, 1852; District of Columbia, 1864; Vermont, 1867; New Hampshire, Michigan, Washington, 1871; Connecticut, New Mexico, 1872; Nevada, 1873; New York, Kansas, California, 1874; Maine, New Jersey, 1875; Wyoming, 1876; Ohio, 1877; Wisconsin, 1879; Rhode Island, Illinois, the Dakotas, Montana, 1883; Minnesota, Nebraska, Idaho, Colorado, Oregon, Utah, 1885-1890; by 1908 almost all states.

Salvation Army Titles

It is to Elijah Cadman, a humble chimney-sweep of Coventry, to whom the credit for the military ranks and titles of the Salvation army must really go, writes a contributor in London Tit-Bits. Once known as "King of the Roughs," Cadman was converted and became an ardent Salvationist. He was given charge of a mission and began to call himself a "captain in God's army to fight the devil." To mark William Booth as his superior officer, Cadman called him "general." And because William Booth knew well the value of a dramatic appeal to the popular mind, the titles, after some hesitation due to modesty on William Booth's own part, were accepted.

Court of Dusty Feet

What is a Pie-powder court? It seems that as long ago as the Norman conquest, says E. S. Marten, in Harper's Magazine, and even earlier, trading was done considerably in England, as also in Normandy, in fairs that were licensed and lasted a week or more. Of course there were disputes between sellers and buyers, and to settle them there were instituted courts of prompt and final decision, which were called Pied Poudreux courts; that is, courts of the dusty feet, a name which English tongues inevitably transmuted into pie-powder. Wasn't that a pretty turn of language?

Destructive Locusts

When agriculture began to be established generally in the great plains region of the United States lying west of the Mississippi river and east of the Rocky mountains, during the decade 1870-80, a migratory species of grasshopper, commonly known as the Rocky mountain locust, frequently swooped down from its breeding grounds on the benches of the mountain range in such great swarms as to destroy practically all cultivated crops over vast areas of country, reducing thousands of families almost to starvation.

John Did Not Eat Insects

The locusts eaten by John the Baptist were probably not insects, but the fruit of the carob tree, the dried pods of which are the locust beans sold as food for cattle. The carob tree is sometimes called the honey tree, from the sweet pulp contained in its pods while they are fresh.

Why Scraped Ice Whitens

Ice becomes white when scraped because the scraping leaves a multitude of small irregular surfaces which reflect the light in all directions, giving the white appearance

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