

from a period which reaches back over fifty years. Not over twenty-five of the existing English weeklies were published prior to 1875.

The Pigeons of St. Mark's.

In front of the Church of St. Mark, where fair Venice smiles over the lagoons, lies the Piazza, an open square extending to the water's edge (says a writer in the 'Ave Maria'). Here the people gather at sunset to see the beautiful view across the water, and to watch the pigeons of St. Mark's at their evening meal.

The Church of St. Mark was built many years ago, and it looks like a Turkish mosque, with its dome and many little cupolas. Beside it stood the campanile, before that wonderful bell-tower fell to the ground; and at the other side is the Doge's Palace. The Doges were the old rulers of Venice before the city became a part of Italy. Some of them were great men, although others were very stern and cruel. One seems to have been kind and full of gentle thoughts, and it is due to him that we have to-day the pretty pigeons of St. Mark's, fluttering like white-winged angels over the great square.

The story tells how there was a terrible war between the brave people of Venice and the cruel Turks, who captured many Christians and made them slaves, whipping and beating them; forcing the women to marry heathen men, and killing such as would not become Mahomedans. The Venetians sent out a great fleet under the command of Admiral Dandolo, and he fought and captured the island of Candia. Great was the rejoicing in the fleet, and loud cries of joy were heard from all sides; for Candia was then a most important island. All desired to send home word of the glorious victory, but knew not how; for no ship could be spared to sail away to Venice with the news. At last they hit upon a plan.

There were with the fleet two pigeons—lovely, snowy things—belonging to a young officer who had thought to send them to his beloved wife, and these he offered to the Admiral. A letter was tied about the throat of each pigeon—one to the officer's wife and one to the Doge—and they were tossed into the air. All watched eagerly to see what they would do. A moment each hovered aloft, poised over the ships; then, with a glad whirr of wings, away they flew toward their home upon the sapphire Adriatic, bearing the glad news of the young officer's safety and of the great victory. Then great was the rejoicing of all the city. Flags and banners were unfurled in every square, houses and palaces were decorated, and a crowd of happy people sought St. Mark's Square to hear the Doge make his proclamation.

The splendid old fellow stood forth upon the Piazza, robed in red velvet, wearing a massive golden chain and the Doge's cap, and said to the people: 'By a white-winged bird of peace learned we this gracious news, and henceforth it is our good pleasure that such be called forever the pigeons of St. Mark's. To them we tender the hospitality of our city, Queen of the Adriatic; and every day shall they and their descendants be fed at public expense. Their home shall be the Palace of the Doges; their dining-hall, Venetia's Piazza; their title, Friends of the Queen of the Adriatic.'

All the people shouted lustily, and rejoiced greatly; and men, women, and children vied with one another as to who should throw corn to the little messengers whose flight had brought so much happiness.

The pigeons nested in the caves of St. Mark's; the chirps of little broods chimed in with even-song and Matins, and there they grew and thrived. When their young sought to nest, some built in the Doge's Palace and some in the Lion of St. Mark's; and so careful was the city of them that no one was allowed to hurt or kill them, and every day they were fed at the public expense.

That was nine hundred years ago, and still the pigeons hover and flutter above the great square. Each evening they are fed—men with baskets of corn selling it to the bystanders, who love to feed the pretty creatures. So tame are they that they will crowd about the square and light upon the shoulders of the passer-by, whole flocks of them fanning his face with their wings. One of the prettiest sights in Venice is St. Mark's Square, white as snowdrift with the fluttering snowy wings of the columbi (doves).

Messrs. Devlin and Donovan, the Irish delegates, addressed a crowded meeting at St. Benedict's Hall, Sydney, on October 8, when his Grace Archbishop Kelly presided. A sum of over £200 was contributed at the meeting.

Domestic

By 'Maureen'

To 'Dry' Boots and Shoes.

Never expose leather to the extreme heat of the fire, or it will become hard and liable to crack. Shoes and boots should be dried at a safe distance from the fire, but to expedite the process they may be filled with oats. The damp of the leather will be absorbed by the oats, which may be dried and put away again for future use.

To Renovate Venetian Cloth.

Venetian cloth which has worn thin in parts can be renovated in the following manner: The garment should be rolled up tightly in a wet cloth, care being taken that the glossy parts will get damp, and it should be left thus for three hours. Then unroll, and hold a hot iron about an inch above the garment, so that the steam will rise thickly from it. This will raise the nap.

A Good Egg Shampoo.

The hair, especially children's hair, should be washed once a week, but not with ordinary soap and water. Take the yolk of an egg, beat it up till frothy, add one pint of warm water and a pinch of borax. Rub this well into the head and hair, and afterwards rinse several times in clear, warm water. This shampoo will leave the scalp beautifully clean, and the hair soft and glossy. If your hair is inclined to fall, put a little lemon juice in the last rinsing water.

Cementing Brass on Glass.

A resin soap for cementing brass is made by boiling one part of caustic soda, three parts of common resin, in five parts of water, and kneading into it half the quantity of plaster of Paris. This cement is used for fastening the brass tops on glass lamps. It is very strong, is not acted upon by petroleum, bears heat very well, and will harden in half an hour or so. If desired to have it harden more slowly, substitute zinc, white lead, or air-slaked lime.

Moths in Furs.

If we wish to secure furs from the inroads of moths, this is the time of year to take the trouble. When the genial warmth and bright days of spring advance, furs are put aside and allowed to hang untroubled for some time. Now this is just the period when the winged moth is busy in its destructive way. The eggs are laid and are safely embedded in the furs. Here they remain quite snug until the advancing summer hatches the worms which eventually eat their way through. To prevent this, furs should be hung out in the air, and thoroughly brushed, and at the same time carefully inspected so as to discover any eggs that may be deposited. This should be done regularly, and the trouble will be well repaid, when furs are again required to find that they are not dropping to pieces.

How to Keep Young.

Keep in the sunlight; nothing beautiful or sweet grows or ripens in the darkness. Avoid fear in all its varied forms of expression. It is the greatest enemy of the human race. Avoid excesses of all kinds; they are injurious. The long life must be a temperate, regular life. Don't allow yourself to think on your birthday that you are a year older, and so much nearer to the end. Never look on the dark side, take sunny views of everything. A sunny thought drives away the shadows. Cultivate the spirit of contentment; all discontent and dissatisfaction bring age furs prematurely to the face. Don't live to eat, but eat to live. Many of our ills are due to overeating, to eating the wrong things, and to irregular eating. Form a habit of throwing off before going to bed at night all the cares and anxieties of the day—everything which can possibly cause mental wear and tear, or deprive you of rest. To reduce weight by dieting is quite possible. Avoid all spongy bread, potatoes, and substantial puddings, also sugar in large quantities. Eat freely of meat, dry toast, and fruit. Drink nearly a pint of boiling water between meals. Do not drink much with your meals. Take plenty of exercise, and live with open windows night and day if possible.

Maureen

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