

by emigrants from Italy; but it was brought to Italy from the East. It is astonishing how many of the cultivated trees of the Riviera have the same kind of history—the vine came from India in prehistoric times, the fig tree and the peach tree more recently from Persia, the lemon from India, the orange from China—all of them were introduced in very ancient times to the eastern parts of the Mediterranean basin, and so gradually were carried to the shores of the Ligurian sea, and would die out here were they not to a certain extent under the care of ownership.

GERMAN RED TAPE

The widow of a German officer presented herself at the office in Berlin for the purpose of drawing the pension due to her. She handed in the necessary certificate from the mayor of the village in which she lived, to the effect that she was still alive. 'This certificate is not correct,' said the officer in charge. 'What is the matter with it?' asked the lady. 'It bears the date of December 21,' was the stern reply, 'and your pension was due on December 15.' 'What kind of a certificate do you wish?' asked the disappointed applicant. 'We must have a certificate stating that you were alive on December 15,' said the officer, with great firmness.

THE BASKET OF WATER

'My son,' said an Arab chief, 'bring me a basket of water from the spring.'

The boy tried and tried to fill the basket, but before he could get back to his father's tent the water leaked out. At last he returned and said:

'Father, I have tried to fill the basket, but the water will not stay in.'

'My son,' said the old chief, 'what you say is true. The water did not stay in, but see how clean the basket is. So it will be with your heart. You may not be able to remember all the good words you hear, but keep trying to treasure them and they will make your heart clean and pure.'

ODDS AND ENDS

'Pa, what is a guillotine?'

'It's an instrument bearing some resemblance to a shirt collar that has been three or four times to the laundry, Tommy, but it is much quicker and more merciful in its operation.'

'No, sir; I respond only to the appeals of the deserving poor.' 'Who are the deserving poor?' 'Those who never ask for assistance.'

FAMILY FUN

The Pin Piano.—Have you a cigar-box, a bit of tissue paper, a paper of pins, and a tack hammer? Well, that is all you need to make a pinnetta, and I am sure the pleasure and amusement it will afford you and your friends will amply repay you for the trouble. First, you take the box and nail down the lid, then cover the whole box with bright-colored paper, so that it will look pretty. Then tack the pins along the edges of the bottom of the box. You must be very careful in the pounding of the pins, for this is the difficult part of the work. Have your sister or somebody sing the soprano part of any song you like, note by note. Perhaps, unless the singer has a perfectly true voice, you had better use some instrument to tune your pinnetta by. Use new, straight pins, and pound them in until they sound exactly like the singing, just as a violin is tuned with a piano. The deeper the pins are driven the higher the sound. If a very high note is desired, small black pins are best, and for bass notes large needles are best, but common pins can be used for all. A very little difference in the depth of the driving makes a great difference in the sound. Holding the box firmly in your left hand, or, better, placing it on a table, you take a long pin in your right hand and run the point along the middle of the pins in the box as they stand upright. You should run the pin in your hand according to the time the piece is written in. The pinnetta can be made in perfect tune, played in perfect time, and has a clear, sweet sound, like water running over stones. If you possess any musical talent, you can make the accompaniment of chords on another box, and have a very pretty duet.

All Sorts

Papa: 'Yes, my son, you must always begin at the bottom to learn anything.' Willie: 'How about swimming, pa?'

Tenant: 'This month I shall have to owe you my rent.' Landlord: 'That is what you said last month.' Tenant: 'Well, didn't I keep my word?'

Lawyer (examining witness): 'Do you understand the difference between character and reputation?'

Witness: 'Reputation is the name your neighbors give you; character is the one they take from you.'

'What pleased me most,' said the man who had been abroad, 'was the wonderful clock at Strasburg.' 'Oh, how I should like to see it!' replied the untravelled youth. 'And did you see the watch on the Rhine, too?'

Lady (giving a little advice): 'And always be careful of your associates. A boy often becomes like what he associates with.' Fishmonger's Boy: 'Go on! Why, I've bin with fish all my life, and can't swim a stroke.'

An architect remarked to a lady that he had been to see the great nave in the new church. The lady replied: 'Don't mention names—I know the man to whom you refer!'

'As the boat left the dock I waved my handkerchief, and then a most curious thing happened.' 'What was it?' 'The ocean waved back.'

Benevolent Lady: 'What has brought you to this destitute condition?'

Applicant: 'It's my wife, mum.'

'Your wife! How is that?'

'Well, you see, mum, I've got her three good situations cleaning out offices, and I'm blessed if she could keep one of them.'

Englishmen form the vast majority of the 232,154 non-commissioned officers and men on the regimental strength of the British army. This not generally recognised fact is shown by the report just issued on the British army for the year ended September 30, 1907. A table of nationalities is given which shows the following figures:—England, 178,240; Wales, 3588; Scotland, 18,129; Ireland, 22,836; India or colonies, 9014; British subjects in foreign countries, 248; foreigners, 25; not reported, 74.

All through the continent of Africa the natives have a very perfect system of signalling with drums, by which means they rap out messages from village to village, and it is quite wonderful how swiftly and how far they are able to spread news. The drumming is always done at night, when sound travels farther, and, as one lies awake on a still, clear night, the ear is often gently assailed by the low, musical roll from a drum in the village near, and one waits with pleasant expectancy till the answering echo comes, muffled by distance, from a village sometimes two miles away.

The present year will long be remembered as the most prolific strawberry year known in England; the fruit has so far been picked and marketed under the most propitious conditions, not one wet spell having interfered with the business; the total output is expected to exceed 50,000 tons, and this, estimated at 2d a pound net, represents to growers something like £1,000,000. The Hampshire strawberry growers say that they have enjoyed the best season for strawberries for the past twenty years, the average exceeding two tons an acre.

There are but three mats of ivory in existence. The largest one known measures eight by four feet; and, although made in the north of India, has a Greek design for a border. It was used only on state occasions, like the signing of important State documents by the Rajah. The cost of this precious mat was almost incalculable, for more than 6400 pounds of pure ivory were used in its construction. Only the finest and most flexible strips of the material could be used, and the mat is like the finest woven fabric. There will never be another like it; for the greed of man is swiftly exterminating the picturesque and useful elephant.

When Autumn comes with golden ripening sheaf,
With low'ring skies, and days becoming brief,
If from the asthmatic pains you'd find relief
Take Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.
When Winter's chills are at our very door,
And daily falls of rain give mud galore,
If consequential ailments you'd ignore,
Take Woods' Great Peppermint Cure.