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A DECIDED NOVELTY

We have just received by express a shipment of real Indian Mocassins, as used for Boudoir Slippers, Fancy colors, etc., and very pretty. The shippers unexpectedly sent us a few dozens Indian Shopping Baskets, fancy colors and patterns. In other parts of Canada they have made a decided hit. The Baskets sell for..... \$1.25

Mocassins are, pair. . \$2.75 and \$3.00 If you would like a real novelty, typical of Canada, to send your friends abroad, this is your opportunity.

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LESSON FROM SKIES.

Suggestions Growing Out of Recent Flareup in Aquila.

What of the new star which blazed out the other day in the constellation Aquila? The astronomers are yet far from clearing up the mystery of it, and the man in the street may be pardoned for having raised questions regarding the luminary which should not be asked. Was the "nova" a "sign in the heavens," some kind of a portent or warning? The nearest approach to such an interpretation came when British experts were asked whether the new star was moving this way and if there was any likelihood of its getting into a head-on collision with the earth. These moments of alarm have now passed and the star, though diminished in brilliance from the first to fourth magnitude, is still shining at a safe distance.

In the interim, and without any unriddling of the puzzle, we have come to realize that the celestial visitor is "new" only in a Ptolemaic sense. It had been seen before; at least thirty years ago Harvard photographs of the constellation showed this particular star in exactly the same place which it occupies to-day. It was then a very faint object, even for the camera, and remained such in successive pictures until early in June last, when it took a turn for the brighter, and qualified as an astronomical sensation. Whether the star "exploded," or a tremendous jolt from a "dark sun," or simply ploughed its way through a nebula, nobody knows. It is easy to trace a fire to spontaneous combustion when the flames arise in the next street; it is much more difficult to decide between rival theories when your conflagration is anywhere between 6,000,000,000,000 and 6,000,000,000,000 miles away.

The distance was deceiving to say the least, and our happy-go-lucky method of thinking that everything we can observe is happening in the "now" led us to suppose that we were contemporaries of the "flare-up." Light does travel at an incredible speed—at the rate of 186,000 miles a second—and we get news of events in the sun in about eight minutes. But many of the stars are so bewilderingly remote that this particular outburst must have taken place not a week nor a month before it was seen, but hundreds, perhaps thousands of years ago. In studying the constellations that have become so familiar and dear to us we are studying not what is, but the things that once were—the vast antiquity which makes up so much of the bulk of our universe.

Tremendous changes, of which only our far-off successors can know anything, may even now be in progress in the skies. And if there be sentient beings far afield who scan our habitation with instruments immeasurably superior to ours, they also are anxious to get the distance. In one world, according to the observer might be witnessing the battle of Waterloo, in another the founding of Rome, in a third the fall of Troy, in a fourth scenes from ancient Egypt and its dynasties, deeper still in space we imagine some celestial inquirer to whom has just come the vision of earliest man at last on his feet and disputing with the cave bear for a place in which to lay his head. It is an impressive thought that there are star systems so remote that even the swift messenger of light could not reach them with the story of our war until long after this planet had ceased from its nurture of life and had been teased out into the cosmic dust from which new worlds incessantly come forth.

Some French in Max.

Prince Maximilian Alexander Frederick William of Baden, to give him his full name, though a member of a German reigning house and heir-presumptive to the Grand Duke of Baden, has quite a strong dash of French blood in his veins, for his mother, the Princess Maria Maximilianovna, was the granddaughter of Eugene de Beauharnais, the son of the Empress Josephine and her first husband, says the Manchester Guardian. Maximilian, Eugene's son, married the Grand Duchess Maria, daughter of the Emperor Nicholas of Russia, and on his marriage was created Prince Romanovsky, and it was their daughter who married Prince William of Baden, Prince Max's father.

The house of Zaehringen, which reigns over Baden, has a long history behind it. An ancestor early in the eleventh century was a count of the empire. The luck of the family really began in the first decade of the last century, when the bishopric of Constance, part of Rhenish Bavaria, and much other territory was added to the paternal possessions. By judiciously taking part with the winning side in the troublesome times before the Battle of Waterloo the grand duke was able to keep his lands intact. The present grand duke and Prince Max belong to the Hochberg branch of the family, which, though descended from a morganatic marriage, was declared capable of succeeding to the throne.

Canal Zone's Growth.

A census of the Canal Zone taken at the end of last June shows a total civilian population of 21,767, with a decrease of 1,588 as compared with the population a year ago. Of the total population 2,827 American men and 7,074 men of other nationalities (chiefly British West Indian negroes) are employed by the Panama Canal and railroad. There are in the Canal Zone, 1,776 American women and 2,040 American children and 3,073 women and 4,102 children of other nationalities. Of the 1,588 decrease in population, 757 are Americans and 831 of other nationalities.

Potatoes.

About three and three-quarter bushels of potatoes per capita were consumed yearly for all purposes in this country during the ten years preceding the war. The rate per family is almost seventeen bushels. About 10 per cent. of the consumption is for seed and starch, mostly for seed.

Sea-water freezes at 28 degrees Fahrenheit, and boils at 213 degrees.

Newfoundland each year exports codfish of a value exceeding \$1,000,000.

CANDY MANNERS.

It is a usual question for a young girl to write asking who should take the first piece of candy from a box brought to her by a young man caller. And when you come to think of it, there are a good many puzzling things in with a box of candy.

To begin with, if a man brings a girl a box of candy, she usually opens it while he is present. She then passes it to any women in the room, then to the man, and then she helps herself. If he, when she passes it, hoists it for her to take a piece she does so. If the candy comes by mail or messenger, she opens it, of course, even if she knows who the candy comes from before opening it, and knows likewise that the donor is coming shortly to call.

Perhaps the most important thing to remember in connection with the good manners connected with candy is that the person who always greedily eats candy and never buys it is very ill bred. It is the week-end custom for some men to bring home a box of candy. In some tallies there is one candy-loving member who lies in wait for this weekly sweet and eats as many pieces as she can get.

Now, it is quite all right to accept candy, if you like it, when it is passed. But you should not eat more than your share, and you should not eat even a tiny bit if you are not in the habit of occasionally standing by the window. You should provide a box full of your own occasionally.

Candy is one of the gifts that a man may give a woman—candy, flowers and books constitute the conventional trio. Nobody wonders if the donor of a box of candy to a girl is thinking of falling in love with her, and no girl need feel hesitant about accepting candy in this way. Of course, if she thinks a man can not afford it, but buys it for her because he thinks he ought to, she might suggest to him that he really should not indulge her sweet tooth so often. There are some girls who cannot pass a candy store window without casting longing glances at them, and sometimes even commenting on their fondness for candy. No man should feel rude in ignoring these symptoms.

It is not necessary to write a note thanking a man for a gift of candy if he follows the gift shortly with a call. The thanks should not be forgotten but they may be delivered verbally.—Bulletin, Philadelphia.

THE FLAGSTAFF IN KEW GARDENS

Three and a half years ago there could be seen on its way from the River Thames to the mound on which it was to stand a mighty flagstaff. Until the war was over it was impossible to get men to erect it. Now a firm of mast makers and riggers has been found to undertake the work and £1,500 has been specially voted in the House of Commons to defray the expense. During the intervening years it lay as if patiently waiting for peace, ready to be hauled up in the fallness of time. In that position its 18 tons weight, 215 feet of length and 2-foot-square butt have been an object of wonder and education to visitors. It is the stem of a Douglas fir and was specially cut in British Columbia and presented by the government of that Province to Kew. As the hoisting of the mast was taking place and only a single haul on the wire ropes to one side was necessary to bring it perpendicular, and just as the word to pull had been given by the manager of Messrs. Coutts and Scrutton, one of the riggers gave a shout of warning. Then a message came that a clip connecting the stay-ropes was slipping. This was serious, since failure by the clip to hold the mast would have meant its toppling over in the direction opposite to that in which it had been raised. But in a second a rigger had climbed the stay-ropes and tightened the clip. The mast was found to have attained true plumb and to be properly in position. It stands a landmark for miles around.



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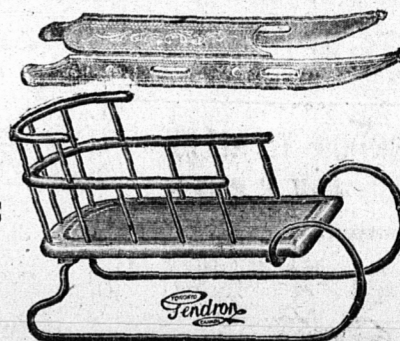
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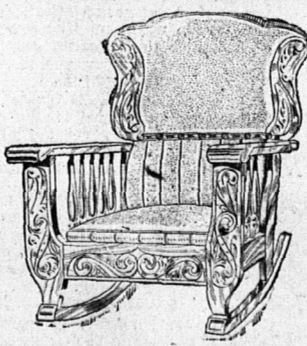


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