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Valley City is 50 miles west of Fargo, on the N. P. and Soo railways.

TEA ROOT CARVINGS.

Fantastic Wooden Objects That Are Fashioned in the Orient.

The fantastic wooden objects which come from the far east and are known as tea root carvings have long been the basis of a prosperous industry in the populous city of Fuchau. Strictly speaking, the name is a misnomer. Some of the carvings are made from old tea roots and tea trunks, but the vast majority, nine-tenths at least, are made from the roots and trunks of hardwood trees.

The carvings are almost invariably made in two parts, a pedestal and one or more human figures fitted to the latter by pegs and holes. The former is made from a root and the latter from a trunk. The roots are selected with considerable care. They must be comparatively free from dry rot, decay and worm holes and must possess a rude symmetry. They are cleaned, scrubbed and scraped and sawed to about the desired size; then the artist with chisel, gouge, knife and pliers removes rootlets and roots until the figure is completed.

The simplest design is a three legged pedestal, of which the base is a rough cylinder of weas and knobs. Any number of legs may be used. A curious specimen seen by the writer in the Grand hotel, Yokohama, has fifty legs, while the body has been so treated as to suggest a horny centipede. A second type of pedestal is the mushroom. A third type is an animal form, such as the buffalo, tiger, unicorn, elephant or dragon.

Nearly always the chisel is guided by humor or satire. If it be a saint who is depicted, the look of piety or suffering is replaced by a leer or drunken grimace; if it be a warrior, every limb and muscle is molded so as to suggest decrepitude or a desire to run away. Quang Ti, the invincible soldier prince, is frequently portrayed standing on one leg, with the other extended like a professional rope balancer.—New York Post.

WATERFALLS IN JAPAN.

They Are Almost Countless and Are Used as Shrines.

The waterfalls of Japan are almost countless. There is one at every turn, and where there was not one in the beginning the Japs have made one, for it is their passion. Every little garden has a fall or two, and it would not be considered a garden at all without it. There are many very beautiful ones in various parts of the country, and they are all of them shrines visited by thousands of pilgrims every year. They do not pray to them as to a statue of Buddha, but they first pass up a little paper prayer on a convenient rock and then sit down in rapt attention and gaze at the falling water for hours, taking an occasional cup of tea at a little teahouse which always stands close at hand.

The Japs are great at making pilgrimages anyway. When a man has reached the age of forty-five, he is supposed to have raised a family which will in the future take care of him. About the first thing he does on retiring is to start on a series of pilgrimages. Sometimes he joins a band of fellow pilgrims, or, if comparatively wealthy, he sometimes takes his wife and a minor child and makes the pilgrimages by himself. These pilgrim bands can always be seen moving about the country. They carry little banners with the name of their city and district marked on them, and when they have received good entertainment at a teahouse or hotel they hang one of their banners up in a conspicuous place as a testimonial. Often a band of pilgrims will travel from one end of the country to the other, visiting every temple and waterfall in the land.

A Thoughtful Man.

M. M. Austin, of Winchester, Ind., knew what to do in the hour of need. His wife has such an unusual case of stomach and liver trouble, physicians could not help her. He thought of and tried Dr. King's New Life Pills and she got relief at once and was finally cured. Only 25c, at H. H. Bateman's drug store.

OUR FIRST FREE SCHOOL.

It Was Established in Massachusetts in the Year 1641.

The first free school established in the United States was in the province of Massachusetts Bay in the year 1641 by order of the general colonial court. In 1647 the same authority declared that free schools should be established within every town having fifty householders under penalty of a fine of £5. This fine was doubled by a declaration made in 1671 and again doubled in 1683. Connecticut established free schools in 1644 and levied a tax for their support. Maryland established free schools in 1694 and levied a tax on negroes, pelts, furs and beef and pork for their support. Governor Berkeley declared in 1649 the hope that free schools would never be established in Virginia, but the towns of Charleston and Elizabeth did establish them in that year, and Elizabeth set aside 200 acres of land and eight cows, the increase from which was applied to support the schools. Four years later the number of cows had increased to forty. Pennsylvania was settled by Penn on the Delaware river in 1681, and the same year a school, which is still conducted under the auspices of the Friends, or Quakers, was established in Philadelphia. Among the declarations of Penn in his "frame of government" he asserted this immortal truth, long since forgotten by the men who have been responsible for the government of the commonwealth: "Any government is free to the people under it, whatever be the frame, where the law rules, and the people are a party to those laws. More than this is tyranny, oligarchy and confusion." This sentence is inscribed in a bronze tablet in the walls of Independence hall.

Older Still.

Major Pond, the lecture manager, was negotiating with John Kendrick Bangs for the latter's talk on "The Evolution of the Humorist." The major made some inquiries as to the scope of the lecture, and Bangs replied that it began with Adam and Eve and came down to the present day.

"Can't you give 'em something older than that?" the manager asked jokingly.

The funny man reflected for a moment and then said, "I might work in some of your jokes if you think the audience will stand it."

Opprobrious.

Mrs. Nuritch—Mrs. Betterdaze told me she was going to send her boy to you for a job.

Mr. Nuritch—Yes, she sent him, and I turned him down proper. You'd oughter seen the high handed letter she sent with him; said she sent him to me because he "must have work of some kind, even if he had to work for a mere pittance." The nerve of her callin' me names like that!—Philadelphia Press.

Not True to Nature.

"How did you like that play of rural life?"

"It's a fraud," answered Mr. Trullural. "Tain't true to nature. I understand all them farm folks on the stage stays up till 11 or 12 o'clock every night of their lives."—Baltimore Herald.

A Fish Story.

"There are as good fish in the sea as were ever taken out of it," remarked Small to Young, who had been refused by Moneybag's daughter.

"Yes, I know, but they are not goldfish."—New York Times.

Greatly Reduced.

"Well, well, old man! This is quite a change! Last time I saw you you were among the Four Hundred. And now?"

"Now I am clean back in fractions."—Baltimore American.

Makes a Clean Sweep.

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THE CITY OF MEKINEZ.

One of the Royal Residences of the Sultan of Morocco.

There is no more interesting city in Morocco than Mekinez. Founded and built by Mulai Ismail, the tyrannical sultan who reigned through the middle of the eighteenth century, it still displays the extraordinary buildings which he caused to be erected, largely by the aid of Christian slaves. Today it is impossible even to guess the purposes for which many of these masses of masonry were constructed. Walls of great thickness, some wide enough to drive a carriage and pair along, are met with in the most unexpected places, running here parallel, here at right angles to one another, and seeming as though built for no purpose except for the employment of the vast number of forced laborers that Mulai Ismail always kept at his court. Here and there are gateways of great beauty, such as the delicate tiled gate of "Mansur el-Ali," with its large marble columns and Corinthian capitals, supporting buttress of gray stone and arabesques, but on the whole it is rather the vastness of the buildings than any artistic value that is remarkable.

The old palaces of Mulai Ismail are in ruins today, and each sultan in his turn has erected new residences till the imperial palace today consists of a collection of buildings of every shape and size, scattered among gardens enclosed by high walls. A tower, which was uncompleted at the time of the late sultan's death, remains today just as the workmen left it, with the scaffolding still standing. Adjoining the palace is a large park, in which are kept a number of mares, ostriches and gazelles.

The city itself is tolerably clean, and possesses no particular features that are not common to all Moorish towns. The entrance of the principal mosque is striking, with great bronze doors said to have been brought by the Moors from Spain. The shops are comparatively few, and the trade never large.—London Times.

The Columbine.

There are some good reasons adduced by those who favor the claims of the columbine as a national flower. The colors of the wild varieties are red, white and blue. The flower is purely American, quite widespread, hardy, graceful, beautiful. The petals are perfect "liberty caps;" reversed they are "horns of plenty." Columbine comes from the Latin *columba*, a dove; the peaceful derivation of the word accords well with our national policy; the name also recalls Columbus, the great navigator and discoverer. The dove also lends itself well to a conventional architectural decoration.

Esau and His Copyright.

Once a month it was the custom of a clergyman in a neighboring town to catechise the Sunday school. Among the questions asked was, "Who was Esau?" Several responded, but none of the answers was satisfactory, and, as the pastor was about to tell them, one little fellow said, "I think I can tell you what he did."

"Well," said the pastor, "tell me what Esau did."

"Esau was the fellow who sold his copyright for a mess of potash."—Philadelphia Ledger.

A Hint For the Future.

"It is a source of great happiness to me, my dear," remarked Mr. Baxter to his life's companion, "that no one can ever with truthfulness point to you as a woman with a past."

"Yes, James," replied Mrs. Baxter, "it should make you happy, and as tomorrow is my birthday it will make me happy to have everybody point to me as a woman with a present."—New York Herald.

Up in the World.

"Are they progressive people?"

"Well, a few years ago they were not bodies, and now they can snub whom they please."—Detroit Free Press.

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