

FISHING FOR TREASURES.

THE DRAGONS THAT GUARD THE GOLDEN APPLES.

Exploits of the Native Divers in Cortez Sea-Battles With the Terrible Man-Eaters.

[Special Correspondence of the RECORD-UNION.]

LA VENTANA (L. C.), Mexico.

Pearl-fishing has its fascinations, even to the distant looker-on, although he knows there is little possibility that any of the treasures brought up will ever fall into his hands.

The best time of year for pearl fishing is between the first of May and the last of October, and the best time of days from sunrise until noon, the remaining hours until dark being employed in opening the oysters and searching them for gems.

It is a well-known fact that, though the pearls lie fathoms deep, the fishing season is most affected by rain. Through one of Nature's mysterious processes, the "sweet water" from the clouds kills the weeds and grasses growing at the bottom of the sea.

At the bottom of the sea. It is estimated that fully one-quarter of the entire population of Lower California is interested in pearl-fishing.

The vessels used are called "plungers," generally of two or three tons burden, each manned by a crew of six, including one diver.

I was so fortunate as to be possessed of a letter of introduction to the president of the fisheries in Ventana Bay, and there obtained my first view of the modus operandi, from first to last, without which I could never have left the spot with any degree of satisfaction.

One of the most successful fishers on the California coast is the owner of some pearl-oyster beds near Malaga, who employs only Indian divers.

Hearing sands, unprinted by human foot, broken here and there by precipitous cliffs, the eternal silence broken only by screaming gulls and the restless dashing of the waves.

Near the shore, which, with low undulations, stretches back to the unexplored mountains, lies the little village of La Ventana.

The oyster-beds facing Ventana cover a tract fifteen miles square, which for many generations has been in the possession of one family.

Our boat was a seven-ton affair, "manned" by four oarsmen, three divers, a cook, the telegraph-ropeman, the owner and his spouse and two boys.

With its bulging optics—the more numerous when dimly seen among the dozens of dead, through twenty fathoms of water! Imagine a stout six-footer, carrying 200 pounds of his own weight, covered with forty pounds of armor on his chest, twenty pounds on his back, plates of iron inclosing his arms and legs, massive leaden shoes on his feet, and a massive helmet on his head with great gapping lanterns for eyes—and you will no longer wonder why sharks are so afraid of him.

Through the clear, greenish crystal we could watch their downward course—one climbing hand over hand along the anchor chain, the other taking a leader straight to the bottom—till a sudden darkening of the waters announced that their leaden shoes were upon the soft sand of the ocean floor.

his wire with hand as steady as though its nerves were of steel, and soon the preconcerted signal announced that the divers were all right and the field was good.

Thus for three or four hours we waited, while the tropic sun beat pitilessly upon our blistering noses, consumed with fear for the fate of our late companions working the coral-paved avenues of that sunless city, fathoms below, which imagination peopled with maniacs and sea serpents and other fearful creatures.

At length the unseen operators below telegraphed to be brought to the surface, and being speedily hauled up, appeared not much the worse for their long submarine experience—except that the man's face, with their admirable breathing apparatus. Each had his basket full of shells, but whether it held tortoise or failure could not be determined until they were opened on land in presence of the proper authorities. The diver is expected to exercise

JUDGMENT IN SELECTING The oysters, leaving undisturbed the younger growth; while it is well-known that the oldest and largest shells seldom contain any pearls, though they are often brought up for the value of the shells. The native divers depend a good deal upon their signs and indications, and call devoutly upon Santa Cruzalpa and all the other saints and saintesses for miraculous evidence in the selection.

On rising to the surface, each empties his basket or bag into the nearest surf-boat, which, under careful guard, delivers the load to the waiting schooner, the latter discharging its accumulated cargo on shore, when the day's fishing is concluded. A very strict police system is maintained to prevent thieving, yet, in spite of all precaution it is constantly going on.

At the present time there exists no necessity for the actor to consume the midnight taper in studying a new part for the morrow evening's performance. All that is changed, during the run of the piece he has not, at the utmost, more than three hours' work before him out of the twenty-four. In this respect he enjoys a happy lot far in excess of the journalist, the lawyer, the physician, and almost all the other professions.

John Gilbert, instead of being "only one of several instances" proving that where actors take ordinary care of themselves they are long-lived in their calling, is one of the great majority that has established the rule beyond a doubt.

Apparently as much at home in the sea as are the finny tribes themselves. They are the finest swimmers, and the most graceful in a physical point of view, is not so laborious as that of the mechanic, they take as much, if not

MORE DILIGENT EXERCISE, And inhale daily a vast quantity of health-giving ozone. For the purpose of showing to what age the actor in general belongs, below is given a list of some of the best known and respected of the profession, with the dates of their birth and death, taking none less than 40 years:

Alra Aldridge, the negro tragedian, born in 1803, died in Lodez, Poland, August 7, 1867—64.

G. A. Amberst, born 1776, died August 12, 1841—75.

Geo. H. Andrews, born 1798, died April 7, 1860—68.

Thos. Archer, born 1776, died May, 1848—72.

Margaret Ayling lives in Boston, aged 70.

Andrew Jackson Allen, born December, 1776, died October 29, 1853—77.

Giles L. Barrett, born 1744, died November 18, 1809—65.

Geo. B. Bartley, born 1784, died July 22, 1858—74.

Charles Bass, born March 5, 1803, died May 5, 1869—66.

LONGEVITY OF ACTORS.

MANY OF THEM LIVE TO A VERY RIFE OLD AGE.

They Take Quite as Good Care of Themselves as Other People—Some Interesting Records.

[Boston Herald.] There appeared a few days since a brief article, which took the ground that the late hours into the night which it is necessary for the actor to keep, and the excitement attending the work of the profession, to say nothing of breathing the bad air of the theater in front of the stage, and being subjected, when heated, to the draughts on and behind it, would, in any ordinary process of reasoning, argue ill for long life to an actor.

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The writer has probably seen as much of actors and actresses as the next man living in Boston. He is familiar with their habits, and knows that they take quite as good care of themselves as do other individuals, and are to the full quite as solicitous as to the state of their health. They take constitutional walks daily, in all seasons and in all weather; they practice out-of-door sports, and though their calling, in a physical point of view, is not so laborious as that of the mechanic, they take as much, if not

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W. H. Bellamy, born August 5, 1800, died April 15, 1866—66.

John Bernard, born in 1756, died November 29, 1828—72.

Francis Blissit, born in 1773, died in 1858—75.

George F. Jervis, born in 1784, died March 25, 1851—67.

John Johnson, born 1759, died October 23, 1819—60.

George Jones, the Count Johannes, born in 1810, died at 70.

William Jones, born in 1781, died December 1, 1841—60.

Frances Anne Kemble (Fanny Butler), born in 1814, is still alive at the age of 75, and vigorous to 80.

Thomas Kliner, born in 1777, died January 2, 1862—85.

James Sheridan Knowles, born in 1784, died November 30, 1862—78.

Walter M. Leman is still alive, and is over 85.

William Charles McCreedy, born March 3, 1793, died April 27, 1878—85.

J. H. McVicker, still alive and an active manager at the age of 67, was born February 14, 1822.

Owen Morris, born in 1719, died November, 1809—90. His wife was the original "Lady Teazle" in the United States.

Lady E. Murdoch, born in 1812, is still active at 77.

Andrew Jackson Neale, born in 1815, is in the real estate business in New York City.

John E. Owens, born in 1823, died December 7, 1886—63.

Henry Placide, born in 1799, lived to be over 70, and his brother Thomas was something older.

John J. Porter, born July 25, 1797, died October 5, 1867—70.

Joseph Proctor, still in harness, can count fully 70 years.

Peter Richings, born 19, 1797, died at over 70.

John S. Saffron, born January 15, 1805, died September 19, 1868—63.

Edmund Simpson, born in 1784, died July 31, 1848—64.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Charles Kemble Mason, born in November, 1805, lived to be close on 70 years.

Charles Mathews, the elder, was born July 28, 1776; died June 23, 1835—60. His son attained to a much greater age.

Robert C. Maywood, born in 1796, died December 1, 1856—60.

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James William Wallack, born August 20, 1794, died December 25, 1864—70; his brother Henry, born in 1790, lived to a much longer age.

John Sinclair, born in 1793, died September 22, 1857—64.

Sol Smith, born April 20, 1801, died February 14, 1869—68.

William H. Smith, born December 4, 1806, lived to be 70.

George G. Spear, born December 19, 1809, lived to be about 75.

James G. Stoddard, born October 21, 1827, is still acting at the age of 62.

LOOK AT THIS

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TOWN SITE, The town site of Orangevale is but 13 miles from the city.

ORANGEVALE COLONIZATION CO., 214 J Street, Sacramento.

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Taylor & Holl, Or P. HEZOG, Fine Bargains in Land.

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James G. Stoddard, born October 21, 1827, is still acting at the age of 62. James H. Taylor, born August 24, 1825, is still in harness at the age of 64.

Edward N. Thayer, born in 1798, died upward of 70. Jacob W. Thoman, born January 8, 1816, died January 25, 1886—70.

Charles R. Thorne, born in New York in 1814, is still active at 76. John S. Tyler, born in 1751, died January 28, 1827—76.

John M. Vandenhoff, born in 1790, died October 4, 1861—71. John Lester Wallack, born January 1, 1820, died September 6, 1888—68.

William Warren, born May 10, 1777, died in 1832—55. William Warren, the younger, born November 17, 1812, died September 21, 1888—76.

Francis Courtney Wenys, born May 13, 1797, died January 5, 1859—62. John W. Weston, born May 26, 1779, died September 23, 1861—82.

THE ABOVE ENGLISH RECORDS. He has all appeared on the American boards, and many of them were familiar to the play-goers of the present day. Among the English actors of note who never visited this country may be mentioned: Thomas Betterton, born 1635, died 1707—72; William Henry Barry, born 1791, died in 1874—83; James Quinn, born 1693, died in 1766—73; David Garrick, born in 1716, died February, 1779—63; Michael Kelly, born in 1762, died in 1820—58; John Philip Kemble, born in 1772, died in 1833—61; his wife, Priscilla, an actress of note, died at the age of 99; Charles Kemble, born in 1775, died in 1854—79; Sarah Siddons, born 1775, died in 1841—66; Charles Macklin, born in 1690, died in 1757—67. He played "Shylock" in 1742, and it was in this character he excelled. Helen Faucit still lives at the age of 73, she being the wife of Sir Theodore Martin; Samuel Phelps, born in 1806, died November 6, 1878—72; Mrs. Charles Kean (Ellen Tree) was 65; Robert Keeble, born in 1783, died February 9, 1869—86; John Baldwin Brookstone was 75; Paul Bedford, born in 1793, died January 11, 1871—78; Maria Foote (Countess of Harrington), born in 1798, died in 1867—69; Alfred Wigan, born March 24, 1818, died November 29, 1878—60.

But the oldest of all actors was Jean Noel, who died in Paris January 13, 1829, aged 118 years. He entered his profession in his eighth year, and still acted when 100 years old, having represented in all 27,000 parts. He was a tall, thin, spindly old man, and his wife, Priscilla, was a king 130 times, an honest man 920 times, a villain and an unfortunate man 13,500 times, and he always preserved throughout these changing experiences a kind heart and the same cheerful disposition. His wife, Priscilla, cost him \$5,520, while his emoluments amounted to \$27,000. Why prolong the list? Enough has been shown to establish the fact that, in point of longevity, and devoid of any extraordinary circumstances before the public, the actor or actress will average to the full as long as those engaged in any other pursuits.

Pearl Fishing in Saxony. The town of Oesnitz, on the Elster, has been for many centuries the center of pearl fishing in Saxony. In no other parts of Saxony nor in all Germany, were the banks so rich as here.

In the early days every one had a right to gather mussels; in 1821 the sovereign assumed possession of the pearl fisheries, Prince Electoral Johann George appointed in that year Moritz Schmirler as electoral pearl fisher, at a salary of thirty florins (\$12) a year. An ordinance of 1701 administered severe punishment for pearl thieving.

The Schmirler family were always connected with pearl fishing. Moritz's parents are known to have occupied themselves with it. Their celebrity for skill and knowledge in this branch was so great that in 1740 one of them was summoned to Denmark in order to investigate the pearl fisheries in that country.

Not long ago three Oesnitz citizens, descendants of Moritz Schmirler, were salaried as sworn royal pearl fishers. Salary, 140 thalers (\$100), with wood and produce yearly. Therefore they had to deliver to the Government all the pearls found. The Schmirlers fill the same position to the present day.

When pearls were higher in price the largest lotteries of the pearl fisheries at 180 marks (\$45) were present the pearl production from the Elster is not so great in importance. Numerous factories on the Elster shores seem to have a damaging influence, their waste water mixing with the river.

At a meeting of the Poway Valley Horticultural Society, Dr. L. N. Hillery stated that he had been spraying one of our orange trees, which was badly affected with black scale, with a solution composed of 500 parts of water and one part of bichloride of mercury, the results proving thus far more satisfactory than from any other treatment he had tested.

SIMMONS Liver Regulator has never been known to fail to cure dyspepsia.