

HOPI BLACKSNAKE DANCE.

A Frightful Ceremony in a Subterranean Temple.

The Skill of the Arizona Indians in Making Images That Counterfeit the Form and Activity of Living Serpents--Snakes the Emblems of Rain Gods.

Away off in northern Arizona, in one of the most desolate regions of North America, live the primitive Hopi or Moqui, a most interesting people with a religious ritual full of strange ceremonies that have been handed down unchanged for centuries.

One of their strange ceremonies is that commonly spoken of as the Snake Dance, which occurs every alternate year, usually about the end of July, on some of the three mesas on which their villages are built.

In this dance, which is an invocation or propitiation of the rain gods, the performers carry living rattlesnakes, their mouths as they circle about in step with the songs.

The whole ceremony occupies fifteen days and nights, and is participated in by all the various sacred orders, but the leading of the snakes, which takes place three days before the culmination, is performed at night in the kiva or subterranean chamber.

After several days of preliminary in the preliminaries--one of which was a ceremonial race by the priests around the entire circuit of the mesa--notice was given that the snake dance was to be held on the night of the 15th of the month.

Among the Tenement Sections of Great Cities. It was some years ago that I came upon a fugitive newspaper story of two mice in the tenement stricken section of New York.

It was a pathetic little tale at the best, but almost unparaphrased by its inference, which I shall believe was incorrectly drawn; for life in its fact is pitiless enough to those tenement dwellers, without the aid of such a fancy.

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There recently died in Macon, Ga., a man who was truly one of the heroes of the Civil War. Though he never bore arms, he was a brave soldier.

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COMMERCIAL.

Movement in Wheat of Fair Volume, While Prices are Steady.

Spot Trading in Feed Descriptions of Barley Tame, Prices Having an Easy Tendency.

The wheat movement of fair volume, while prices show steady tone. Offerings are, perhaps, not quite so free as they were a short while ago, but so far exporters have been able to promptly satisfy all wants.

The Commercial News reviews the Hopi situation as follows: "Pleating is now general on every point, and it is evident from reports that the crop is being harvested in a satisfactory manner."

The market is steady, with a firm tone. Eggs are in good demand and prices well sustained. The poultry market is overstocked and prices are weak.

Produce Market. Flour--Net cash price for Family Extras, \$3.60. Wheat--Quoted at \$1.06 1/2 cwt for No. 1.

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