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County Court.

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BIG SNAKES IN BRAZIL.

Anacondas Forty Feet Long Which Can't Be Kept at a Distance. Whatever the possible dimensions of the India and African boas, there can be no doubt, says the London Spectator, that the anaconda of Brazil grows to a size which would make this species as much the scourge of the Brazilian forest and of the waterway of the Amazonas as the shark is of tropical harbors were its ferocity equal to its strength and astonishing power of speed, whether on land or in water. It could kill and probably devour every creature, including man, which is found in the Amazon delta. The late Mr. Bates, in the eleven years spent in the Brazilian forests, saw and heard more of the habits of the anaconda than most travelers, though, like other great serpents, the individuals of this species are so little common that they appear in any one district but infrequently to make a special study of their habits part of the day's work of a busy naturalist. Bates' first personal experience of the creature shows how impossible it is to avoid the python by the ordinary means of isolation sufficient to keep other dangerous creatures at a distance. He was at anchor in a large boat, in deep water, in the port of Antonio Malagueta. An anaconda swam out to the boat, lifted its head from the water, broke in the side of a fowl house on deck, and carried off a couple of fowl. It was found that this snake had been stealing ducks and fowls from this part of the river for months, so a hunt was organized, miles of river bank were searched, and the serpent at last found sunning itself in a muddy creek and killed. It was "not a large specimen, only 18 feet 9 inches long." But Mr. Bates measured skins of anacondas which were 21 feet in length and two feet in girth, and he adds, "there can be no doubt that this formidable serpent grows to an enormous bulk, and lives to a great age, for I have heard of specimens having been killed which measured 42 feet in length or double the size of the largest which I had the opportunity of examining." We must add a correction here. They were double the length; but the size of these great reptiles, like that of fish, increases enormously with every addition in longitudinal growth. A snake 20 feet in length would be probably four times the weight of one 10 feet long, and the bulk of a 4-foot anaconda would approach that of the largest crocodile. Since the publication of "The Naturalist's Voyage on the Amazonas" an anaconda of 29 feet has been brought to the Natural History Museum at South Kensington. A neighbor of Bates, in Brazil, nearly lost his 10-year-old son by the attack of an anaconda. He had left the boy in his boat while he went to gather fruit, and on his return found him encircled by the snake, whose jaws the father seized and actually tore them asunder.

Victualling an Old Navy. The unwieldy Armada was beaten with quick-firing small guns, mounted in ships which could be turned with ease. Though the men in them were (fortunately) sea dogs of the toughest breed, their condition seems to have been an exceptionally hard one, as compared with that of other sailors at the time. "This arose not by reason of the severity of discipline in the navy, but because they were specially ill fed. In the section of Sir Walter Raleigh's treatise "On Victualling," he complains that it was "very scant and dishonorable, to the great slander of the navy, to the discouragement of all them that are pressed thereunto, and to the hindrance of his Majesty's service. For that many times they go (though the going was compulsory, by the way) with a great grudging to serve in his Majesty's ships, as if it were to be slaves in the galleys, so much do they stand in fear of penury and hunger; the case being clean contrary in all merchant ships." Their "due allowance," he says, was very large and honorable in his Majesty's ships, and would be great to the encouragement and strengthening of the mariners and soldiers that serve in them if it were faithfully distributed. * * * and therefore the purveyors and victualers are much to be condemned, as not a little faulty in that behalf, who make no little profit of these peelings, which is cause very lamentable, that such as sit in ease at home should raise a benefit out of their hunger and thirst that serve their Prince and country painfully abroad, whereof there hath a long time been great complainings but small reformation."

In his section "Of Beer Casks," Sir Walter gives a specimen of the way in which those who fought the Spanish Armada were treated, so far as their feeding was concerned. He says that much of the men's beer was "ever lost and cast away," because "the victualers, for cheapness, will buy stale casks that have been used for herrings, train oil, fish and other such unwholesome things and thereafter fill the beer that is provided for the King's ships." Besides, he adds, "the cask is commonly so ill hooped as that there is waste and leaking made of the fourth part of the drink, were it never so good."—Good Words.

Rise and Fall of Pegasus. Unto the editor's room he went, with bias; He strode up stairs; He An interview, a word or two— He came down stairs like a [?]

Artificial Cotton. An artificial cotton, said to be much cheaper than the natural, is reported from France. It is made from the wood of the pine, spruce or larch, which is debarked and then disintegrated and bleached with a hot solution of bisulphate of soda and chloride of lime. The resulting pure cellulose is treated with chloride of zinc, castor oil and gelatine, and the paste is passed through a perforated plate. This gives a thread, which is woven into a presentable fabric.

Yes! She Clamors for Suffrage. "I am sure Jack will get the letter in time," said one pretty girl to another, as they stood at the stamp window. "He always goes to the postoffice in the evening, and you see I've put a special delivery stamp on it."

Impudent Little Rascal. Impudence seems to be the leading characteristic with the weasel in his relations with man. Perhaps the creature has confidence that his long, slender body can always be snatched away into safety before the ordinary human being can do him harm. At any rate, the weasel will coolly sit in the chink of a stone wall and watch the doings of men within a stone's throw of his asylum, and after nightfall the beast will crawl about fearlessly within a yard or two of any human being that may approach its haunts.

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AN ALAMO HERO.

Col. Bowie, After Whom the Bowie Knife Was Named. It is a safe wager that nine out of every eleven boys who are proficent in the use of a bowie knife have not the slightest idea where the instrument got its name.

Col. Bowie, of Texas fame, gave the knife its title. And when one writes of the Texas hero, one must needs think of the battle of Alamo, that heroic fight of which our American boys and girls seem to think so little, and half of them know nothing whatever. They read how the brave soldiers fought and held the pass of Thermopylae, but they seldom think of how a mere handful of men defended the Alamo mission. How they dropped fighting on their knees and then died facing the foe.

If you should go to the historical city of San Antonio, in Texas, you will see the old mission building standing with battered, bullet-pierced walls, a monument to the 172 heroes of '36. Behind these walls the most important battle in the war between Mexico and Texas was fought. That was when Santa Anna was President and the Texans were fighting for their independence. Here it was that Col. Bowie ended his brave life, dying with his boots on and fighting under the most terrible odds. The story is this, and every American child should know it by heart, that he may tell it with pride when other nations are talking of their great deeds:

One hundred and forty-five men under Captain Travis, a young man of 28, were holding the town of San Antonio against General Santa Anna and 4,000 men. They were the only defenders of the town and were encircled in the old mission of the Alamo. Davy Crockett was also with them and Colonel Bowie, who was wounded and stretched out on his cot. Of artillery they had only fourteen pieces.

Santa Anna demanded surrender, but the little garrison held out for ten days, skirmishing secretly for food and water. Every shot sent out of the mission house told, but not one of the Alamo heroes was hurt. Patience and strength, however, were being rapidly exhausted. Some of the little band were falling sick, others were desperate. Reinforcements had been appealed for, but none had come. Col. Lamela with 300 men and four pieces of artillery had started in answer to the appeal, but had put in somewhere for fresh water and food supplies.

At last Captain Smith joined the exhausted band with thirty-two men. Three days after, General Santa Anna ceased the bombardment, and taking advantage of this Captain Travis called his men into line and frankly owned that there was no earthly hope for them; that he had led them into this, thinking that re-enforcements were on the way. He does not utter one word against Lamela for falling into the snare. They give them their choice of deaths. They can surrender and be shot down, or be killed fighting out their revenge. The Captain drew a line and said: "Every man who is determined to remain here and to die with me will come to me across that line." Every soldier but one crossed at once. When they finished Colonel Bowie looked up with his arm in a sling and cried: "Boys, don't leave me. Won't some of you carry me across?" And the only backward step they made was to go over the line and carry the Colonel to the young Captain's side. The man Rose, who was a coward, dropped over the wall into a ditch to tell the tale. And then came the terrible day.

Santa Anna brought all his forces to bear on the fortress. The scaling ladders were again and again raised, but those who placed them were shot down into 175 seemed easy enough, but it soon reduced the 4,000. At last numbers conquered and the Mexicans climbed over into the Alamo. The little band of defenders were trampled on and beaten, but they dropped to their knees and backed and shot and pierced until the pile of the dead was awful. Colonel Bowie, too weak to rise from his cot, leans on his well-bowed and marks his man every time he pulls the trigger. Cut, bleeding, he continues to kill until the pistol drops and the breath leaves his body. Davy Crockett, standing in a corner, fights like a panther, and the young Captain, backed against the wall, surrenders only when run through and through.

The great battle is over. The Mexicans have won. Out of the 172 Texans are 172 dead. No Spartans were braver or more tenacious, for they killed 823 of their enemies, and wounded 500 more. Texas, though, was finally freed, and whenever great deeds thrill young boys' hearts they should think of that splendid piece of American daring and say, as Houston said to his men, "Remember the Alamo."—St. Louis Republic.

Where Woman Is Boss. A woman's paradise exists in the Indian Ocean. The tiny island of Mini-coy, midway between the Maldives and Laeandive groups, is entirely under female rule. The men humbly taking the second place on every occasion. The woman is the head both of the Government and the home, and when she marries her husband takes her name and hands over all his earnings throughout his married life. Silk gowns are the universal wear, the upper classes donning red silk and earrings, while the lower tier appear in dark striped silk of coarser quality.

Just the Thing. This is an expression the traveling public generally use when they find something that exactly what they want. This expression applies directly to the Wisconsin Cottage, which is now being sold by all the "Route" from Chicago to St. Paul, Minneapolis, Ashland, Duluth and all points in the Northwest. Their double daily train service and fine equipment offers inducements which cannot be surpassed.

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GOV. RICH IN A PULPIT. Michigan's Executive's Ideas Upon "Applied Christianity" in Politics.

At the Lansing (Mich.) Universalist Church recently, Gov. Rich discussed "Applied Christianity." It was declared to be the duty of every citizen not only to attend caucuses and vote at the polls, but to use his influence in favor of good government and the enforcement of the laws. A law, in the opinion of the Governor, should either be enforced or repealed. It was also declared to be the duty of every citizen to openly and publicly encourage officers in the discharge of their official duties. After a citizen has done all in his power to select a proper man for office, he is as much obliged to acquiesce in the result, whatever it may be, as he is to aid in the choice.

As those who possess the most of this world's goods are required to contribute most from their substance, so may they who, by reason of natural ability or education, are able to accomplish the most good, be required to make the largest contribution of effort and influence. The Governor maintained that the college professor or president owes more to society than the man who has none of the advantage they have enjoyed.

Gov. Rich maintained that any person who in any unfair or improper manner attempts to influence voters, or who, upon any pretext whatever, makes an incorrect canvass of votes cast at an election, is morally as much guilty of treason as he who gives aid and comfort to the public enemy. There is something wrong in public sentiment, he declared, when men who are the personification of honor in any business transaction will do or permit to be done in politics that, which under the very laws which give them the protection of every right they hold dear, is a misdemeanor, and in many cases a felony. Attention was called to the fact that it is difficult to convict anyone of what is popularly known as a political offense, although these offenses strike at and undermine the very foundations of the Government.

The voter is sometimes met with the alternative of voting for the principles represented by a man personally objectionable, while the opposing candidate, although personally unobjectionable, represents principles antipathetic to his views. In such cases no rule of action can be laid down, but that each individual must decide what his duty is for himself. It was advocated that even in a campaign only respectful language should be used, and when the election is determined the successful candidate is entitled to the loyal support of all good citizens. "To speak disrespectfully of the President of the United States is to speak disrespectfully of the country and the Government, and the tendency is to create disrespect for all law."

In conclusion the Governor said that everything possible should be done to improve the condition of those who must labor for their living. They should be permitted to organize in accordance with law, and if labor organizations demand things impracticable or unwise they should be met by fair argument and convinced that all is done for them that is possible. No man should surrender to any organization his rights and obligations as a citizen.

Hair Powdered with Diamond Dust. A peculiar mode of hair dressing is in vogue among the ladies of certain wealthy Jewish families. The coiffure is dressed very high and liberally powdered with diamond dust. At a dinner party given recently by a banker three ladies had their hair treated in this manner. The white powder had turned the hair, naturally black, to a grayish white, forming a striking contrast with their youthful features and black eyes. To complete the resemblance to the fashion of other days each lady had a speck of black court plaster on her face.

If misery loves company, we will all at least have one thing we love in hell.

Luther Laffin Mills, ...LAWYER...

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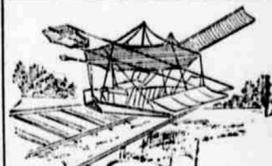
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MAXIM'S FLYING MACHINE. It Has Been Given Its First Public Exhibition in England.

Hiram S. Maxim's flying-machine made its first public appearance in England recently, when it was exhibited at Baldwin's Park, Hoxley, in aid of the funds of the Hoxley Cottage



Hospital. Mr. Maxim's experiments have been so far perfected on the basis of his observation that while small birds, such as sparrows, are able to move in any direction through the air, it is quite impossible for very large birds, such as the condor and some other forms of vultures, to rise in the air in a vertical direction. To use Mr. Maxim's own words, these latter "can only rise by taking a long run, and then, springing into the air, work their wings very vigorously for a short time, and raise themselves in the air at an incline." "In studying the question of a flying-machine," says Mr. Maxim, "I came to the conclusion that it would have to raise itself after the manner of the large birds; that is, it would have to run along the earth until a certain speed was attained, and then, as its sails or aeroplanes were forced forward on the air, the weight on the ground would become less and less, until the velocity would be great enough to raise it completely off the earth, and like the condor, it would run up an incline instead of directly up as the sparrow is able to do." The machine as it appeared, standing on a short railway of very wide gauge, presented a curious spectacle, says the Westminster Budget.

On the platform which stood on the rails was a peculiarly formed steam engine, and from the platform sprang a series of what looked like very thick wires, reaching up to and supporting the great aeroplanes which covered the whole like an awning, while midway appeared two huge propellers, the rapid rotation of which furnished the motive power of the machine. When Mr. Maxim was ready to begin the performance the propellers were set in motion, rapidly generating a powerful current of air; and on the machine being "let go" it scudded along the track at a great rate—but without quitting the ground. Precautions indeed were taken to prevent the machine from falling in any degree its proper purpose, though it was not fitted with its full flying rig, which includes, in addition to the central aeroplane, a pair of "wings" on each side and smaller aeroplanes before and aft. So, for the present, we must perforce be content with Mr. Maxim's declaration that his machine will fly if it is allowed to, though he admits that he has yet to solve the problem of controlling it when it is once off the ground.

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