

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

Abdil and the Python

"We'd been sailing before a clever breeze around the Cape of Good Hope," said Martin Lester, a deep sea sailor, as he stood in front of the New York Maritime Exchange watching the brokers.

"A stop had been made at Madagascar and we laid up there for a week, taking on stores and some freight that the captain was anxious to get to Liverpool."

"It was Saturday night when most of us were in the forepeak around a deck of cards and a tallow candle stuck on a beam."

"We were occupied with our little game and we'd forgot about Abdil when suddenly we heard a great noise on deck."

"Well, when Hawkins and Simpkins, Jones and Malby came out on deck with me, we saw Abdil crouched in a corner near a water barrel, pointing to a coil of rope that lay in the centre of the amidship section of the deck and which looked ordinary enough at first glance."

"I made a step toward the rope, when Abdil gave a shriek or two and shouted 'Sahib! Sahib!' I knew when a Malay shouts 'Sahib' in the way Abdil did there was something wrong and for a minute I had visions of the Hindoo running amuck on board the Dorothea with a native knife and a desire to kill."

"Suddenly, as we stood waiting for Abdil to do something, the coil of rope moved over to the further corner of the deck near the after cabin. Hawkins gave one yell and moved as if to get back to the fore peak, but I grabbed him, having in mind the four aces."

"Then Simpkins gave way to a fit of hysterics and Jones, the cook, ordinarily an Englishman of hardened demeanor, showed signs of weakening around the knees."

"It all came to me in an instant. What Abdil told us later showed me I was right. The Malay had gone to clean up the deck and had found what he thought was a coil of rope on deck where it should not have been. He picked it up and started away with it to the forward deck when the rope began to slide out of his arm. He dropped the 'rope' and looked and saw that he had held the coiled figure of a huge python for at least three minutes before the brute woke up and uncoiled himself."

"As soon as it was quite clear to me we decided on action and for half an hour tried to get a decisive blow at the snake which seemed ready for a fight."

"The skipper came out on deck, and after we had had a whack at the python with bars and staves the captain got his revolver and indulged in some pistol practice. A minute later one of the shots took effect and I have the finest snake skin in my kit that you ever saw."

Australian Boy's Military Training. All children in Australia are drilled, but the elder boys are attached to the Australian military forces, by means of the cadet corps.

Conundrums. When were there only two vowels? In the days of a (Noah), before u and i were born.

Well Trained Ones. "My son is exceedingly fond of trained animal exhibitions."

Suspicious. "Will ye accept a years subscription in advance?"

Pat's Visit to the Minister. The minister, knowing how fond Pat was of wine, offered him a small wine-glass full and said, "Pat, that wine is one hundred years old."

A Thoughtful Family. "Does your father know I love you?"

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TO EXTERMINATE THE RAT.

50 Cents a Head for Female Rats Killed and 25 Cents for Males.

In the Middle Ages with their Pied rippers of Hamelin and other wizards who followed rat-plagued communities of their scourge through the pleasing agency of music, which has charms for the rodent as well as for the human ear, they managed things better and certainly more picturesquely, but for present day conditions Little Denmark is acquitting itself with honor and efficiency in the campaign against rats, by which the kingdom where once there was "something to it" has been convulsed for the last four or five years.

San Francisco has also entered on a battle royal against the pest. Since the devastating earthquake of April, 1907, the city has been fairly over-run by rats, and so unbearable has the situation become in its menace to health, chiefly because of the spread of typhoid plague, that the municipal authorities recently offered a bounty of 50 cents a head for female rats killed and 25 cents a head for males.

It was Mr. Zueschlag, a distinguished civil engineer, Copenhagen, who first described the rat peril and in eloquent accents warned his fellow countrymen against the danger to their pockets and their persons of longer supinely submitting to pay the enormous rat tribute. He pointed out that the rat kingdom yearly raised a tax of two million dollars upon the industries of the country, while the indirect losses, the exact figures of which cannot be ascertained, are, as he demonstrated, clearly enormous.

It is no longer as it once was, a crusade of individuals, but one which has received the sanction of law and of parliament. A State grant for a large sum was voted out of which two cents is paid for every rat-tail produced. An extra levy of about a dollar upon every community of one hundred inhabitants has also been ordered to enrich the crusade and this they will each and every one have to pay until the headmaster of the rat control service declares the neighborhood free of rodents.

The figures by which Mr. Zueschlag has at last proved to the satisfaction of his countrymen and the law makers of his native land that the loss by rats in Denmark alone amounts to over two million dollars should prove mighty interesting reading in these days of hard times and urgent retrenchment. To begin with, Mr. Zueschlag makes no attempt to estimate the damage to the field crops, but merely seeks to find out the damage done to the grain after it is housed in the granaries and man calls it his own.

If the same conditions of rat depredations obtain in America, and Mr. Zueschlag thinks they do, the American rat is not eating us out of house and home, but he is costing us a sum of sixty million dollars a year, which might to better advantage be diverted into other and more profitable channels.

Insects that Eat Lead Pipe.

The astonishing fact that in the Vienna mint the leaden walls of reservoir containing sulphuric acid, although about 1.7 inches thick, were eaten through by an insect; that the leaden gas pipe in the cafe was also damaged in a like manner, and that also in the sulphuric acid factory in Nussdorf the wall of the lead chamber was found to contain defects from the same cause, has recently attracted attention to the damages done by insects both to wood and to metal, says a writer in the scientific American.

Such damages are due to a sort of wood wasp, of which there are many sorts in central Europe. The largest of these, the black and yellow giant wood wasp, resembles the true wasp, which is so feared because of its sting; but close observation shows it to be very different. Its breast and belly are joined by a wide connecting piece, whereas in the case of the real wasp the "waist" is proverbially small. On the under side of the elongated belly, the female has a very hard boring device, and three-fourths of an inch long. Ordinarily this borer is directed backward; but when in use it is turned about its base, so as to make a considerable angle with the axis of the body and is used like a rat-tail file until it makes a hole about seven-eighths of an inch deep in the wood which it usually chooses to perforate. The egg which the female lays in the wood develops into a caterpillar-like creature with six short legs, and without eyes.

With its sharp, hard jaws, it bites into the trunk of a tree tubular channels, which increase in diameter as the wasp grows larger. It swallows the wood which it gnaws off, digesting the nutritious portions and discharging the rest in a meal-like form. In two years it eats its way for ward in this manner. In the third year the insect creeps out, cutting with its jaws through the thin wall which separates it from the outer world, leaving the home of its childhood to enter upon a short life in freedom. Should a tree trunk which has been perforated by such a wasp and in which an egg has been laid be employed when insufficiently seasoned for building purposes, it may happen that some day the insect which has been two years working its way through the piece, will suddenly appear in the building. If a piece of such timber which contains a larva, is surrounded by a leaden plate, the insect will not stop at this, but will bite its way through just as though it were of wood.

Busy Youngstown's Busiest Store. You Know Why.

IF YOU BUY IT AT THE STROUSS-HIRSHBERG CO. 132-136 W. FED. IT'S ALWAYS GOOD YOUNGSTOWN, O.

Start Your Holiday Buying Early This Year.



THANKSGIVING Sale of Table Linens Consisting of Yard Damasks, Napkins, Matched Sets, Towels, Crashes.

The Very best Linen Sale. It's true we hold yearly Thanksgiving Linen Sales, but we earnestly urge you to compare and examine, and then tell us if our claim is right--that this is the very best Linen Sale.

When the markets had sagged to their lowest point we went into the market with every confidence. We were in position to buy and did buy the best linens of Germany, Belgium, Scotland and Ireland far below last year's prices. We didn't overbuy, but even if we wanted to we could not now duplicate the great values we secured. These superb selections are now offered to you on a basis similar to our purchasing. In this Thanksgiving Sale you can buy your linens from 25 per cent to 35 per cent lower than their real value.



The Sale Continues Until Thanksgiving Eve. But the Wise Ones Will be Here at the Beginning.

Table with 3 columns: Cream Damask, Linen Sets, Fancy Towels, Lunch Cloths, Separate Napkins, and Crash. Each column lists various items and their prices.

The Strouss-Hirshberg Company

The November Clearance Sale of Dress Goods

November Clearance? Sounds early, doesn't it? But the Dress Goods section sees so many Christmas Goods coming in that require counter and shelf room that it is taking heed of the usual signs that mean "crowd up, crowd up, Christmas is coming."

The greater than usual Xmas lines, will demand so much room now occupied by the dress goods, that we simply must dispose of thousands of dollars worth of our high grade dress goods and silks. We've got to sell the goods in the next two weeks, for after December 1, attention must be given holiday articles. Radical reductions were therefore decided upon, and now you have your opportunity to secure the materials for your winter clothes at surprisingly large savings.

The Sale Begins Coincident With the Great Thanksgiving Linen Sale.

Table with 3 columns: Black Dress Goods, Colored Dress Goods, Silks, Imitation Fur Fabrics, and Linings. Each column lists various items and their prices.

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—A pupil in a village school, who had been requested to write an essay on the human body, handed in the following: "The human body consists of the head, thorax, abdomen and legs. The head contains the brain in case there are any. The thorax contains the heart and lungs, also liver and lights. The abdomen contains the bowels, of which there are five—s, e, l, o, u, and sometimes w and y. The legs extend from the abdomen to the floor, and have hinges at the top and middle to enable a fellow to sit when standing or to stand when sitting."—Exchange.