

HUMAN SACRIFICES.

MODERN RELIGIOUS FANATICS WHO BELIEVE IN THEM.

Many Peculiar Sects in the Old World, Particularly in Russia, Whose Members Kill and Crucify That Salvation May Be Attained.

That human sacrifices have been made even in the nineteenth century, and by professing Christians, too, is brought out by The American Journal of Sociology in a striking article:

The Convulsionists, a sect existing in Paris about 1760, were wont to crucify members of their order, in emulation of the crucifixion of the Saviour, in the belief that the souls of the surviving members would be saved by the sacrifices of their fellows. In 1817 the "Paschellans," an Austrian sect, murdered a man, his wife and daughter under the delusion that the trio, who refused to go with the fanatics, were possessed of the devil. On the following day they crucified one of their own number, a girl of 19 years, who had suffered herself for the death, in imitation of the death of the Saviour, in order to save the souls of her fellow believers.

In 1823 the leader of a Pietistic circle in Switzerland, after having dispatched her sister, who gave her life as a means of saving the souls of her relatives, was crucified by her followers at her own command in order that she might die, rise again after three days and restore to life the sister she had slain. In 1835 two mothers, adherents of the "Holy Men," slew their sick children, believing them to be victims of demoniacal possession. In 1875 a Hungarian miller, belonging to the "Nazarenes," killed his son as an offering for his own sins after the fashion of Abraham. In 1870, in Irkutsk, Russia, one of the "Schismatics" convinced himself by prayer and fasting and much Scripture reading that to save his soul he must be crucified. Accordingly he attempted self crucifixion and succeeded so far as the circumstances of the case would permit.

In 1830, in the government of Perm, Russia, a peasant killed his child as an offering for sin and buried the body in an ant hill. Likewise, in the government of Vladimir, another peasant killed both his children in due Abraham form, and while the babes died under the father's knife the devout mother celebrated the service by reading aloud selected portions of the twenty-second chapter of Genesis. In 1854, in the government of Tambov, Russia, a peasant, convinced that to save his soul a man must have a sin to repent of, killed a neighbor with an ax in order to satisfy this highly imperative condition.

It is a part of the creed of the "Wanderers," a Russian sect, that anti-Christ rules in high places there and that accordingly good men must have naught to do with governmental affairs of any sort. In conformity with this belief a man murdered in various ingenious ways 25 men, women and children, including his own wife and babies, in order to free them from the danger of losing their souls by suffering the contaminating contact of the government census taker. This occurred in 1897.

The "Deniers," another quite interesting Russian sect, believe that evil taints all earthly good and that the only escape is death. In 1825 60 of these men, strong in the faith, after having murdered their wives and children, permitted themselves to be put to death, one by one, by their leaders. The "Scourgers," who also form a widespread and influential sect in Russia, in obedience to the behests of their "saviors," are in the habit of indulging in human sacrifices, cannibalistic feasts, erotic dances and other lewd procedures as an extremely efficacious method of keeping the hand of evil from off their immortal souls. So the "Muckers" of Konigsberg and the celebrants of the black mass in Paris afford further examples of the use of a ritual of eroticism, coupled with a practice of the most abandoned and obscene behavior, to promote the eternal welfare of the soul.

She Had Read About It.

One day a boy was missing from a schoolroom in one of the up town public school buildings. The teacher looked around and failed to see the familiar face.

"Does any pupil know why Tommy McGregor isn't in school today?" she inquired.

There was no answer. The teacher repeated the query. Then a little girl slowly lifted her hand.

"Please, ma'am," she said, "I know." "And why does he stay away, Mary?"

"Please, ma'am, it's 'cause he's got measles inside."

Mary had read the contagious disease card that was tacked on the front of the house.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The Truly Happy.

"Of course the only truly happy man is the man who devotes his life to doing good for others," said the corn fed philosopher. "That is the only occupation a man can engage in in which people will let him have his own way."—Indianapolis Journal.

Willing to Help Him Out.

Mr. Borem (11 p. m.)—My motto is "Pay as You Go." Miss Cutting—Well, I'm willing to lend you a small amount if it will help you out.—Chicago News.

The silkworm was originally found in China, and fabrics of this material were made in that country about 2700 B. C.

Coffee was not known to the Greeks or Romans.

THE LOWER SHELF.

When from the chatter I retire And close my study door behind, A chair is wrenched before the fire— A thoughtful hand has drawn the blind. Then o'er the shelves I range my eye, Where volumes mix with pipes and delf, The stately pompous fellows—high; The ragged—on the lower shelf.

They line my study's narrow wall, These friends to whom for rest I come, I cannot say I know them all, But this I'll swear—I worship some. And would you know the gods I serve With love that's well nigh worthy self, Glance, stranger, o'er the shabby curve That bulges on the lower shelf.

You mount a somewhat shaky chair; You point to princely tomes above, With, "This is fine!" and "This is rare!" But where's the book a man can love? Ah, leave the grand ones, I beseech! They do but conjure thoughts of pain, While these untidy beggars reach To heaven from the lower shelf.

—Fall Mall Gazette.

A CURIOSITY OF ALASKA.

Benches Formed by Driftwood From All Over the World.

One of the greatest curiosities noted by travelers in Alaska is the wonderful haven of driftwood on the coast between Yakutat and Kyak islands, some 1,200 or 1,500 miles northeast from Seattle. The constant deposit of logs and driftwood in this particular spot, which has been going on for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years, is due to the phenomena of the tides, the Pacific gulf stream, the mysterious ocean currents and the peculiar formation of the shore lines at that point.

Logs and timbers are readily identified there as having come from Japan, China, India and other parts of Asia, as well as from California, Washington and other parts of the American continent. There are fine logs of the camphor tree, the mahogany, the redwood and the pine in this driftage. Some of those from the state of Washington contain the names of the men who felled the trees and of the sawmills for which they were destined, but never reached. Logs eight feet in diameter are in this novel woodyard, and some entire trees 150 feet long are there, unlifted by the roots, cast into the sea by some terrible tempest and sent floating round the world. Other persons on the beach descried big trees floating shoreward, with fantastic roots above the waves like some sea monster. One beach after another has been formed by the floating timbers, and a little distance back from the shore the deposits are so old that the wood in some places is petrified, while a little deeper in the earth it has turned into coal. The newer logs are without bark and as hard as stone. Due, it is thought, to their long immersion in salt water. They have all taken on a whitish appearance. In places the timbers are piled 20 feet high; at other points they rise to a height of only four or five feet.

Under this wonderful beach are found large quantities of dark, ruby sand, rich in fine particles of gold, for the separation of which no successful process has yet been discovered.—Chicago Times-Herald.

A Lost King.

In olden times, when European kings were as plentiful as Kentucky colonels are today, it was not an exceptional occurrence for a king to disappear and never be heard of again. In ancient times, however, the people have been more careful of their kings.

So when King Sebastian of Portugal disappeared in battle July 29, 1578, while fighting the Moors at Alcanzar, there was great commotion. The Moors surrendered to the Portuguese a body said to be that of the king, but it was rumored that the Moors had the king alive in custody.

The surrendered body was buried with royal honors at Belem, but the faithful Portuguese persisted in waiting for the return of their king. Long after he would have died in the course of nature his countrymen longingly awaited his coming.

Even up to this day the legend of the return of King Sebastian is believed by many, and on stormy nights credulous Portuguese citizens will wrap their cloaks about them and go outside and watch the storm, thinking that the king may appear in a cloud of fire again to rule.

What is a Sleeper?

Here is a definition which is as difficult to read rapidly as "Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers" and yet is more sensible. In fact, it is an actual statement of facts, as you will find if you read it slowly:

A sleeper is one who sleeps. A sleeper is that in which a sleeper sleeps. A sleeper is that on which the sleeper sleeps while the sleeper sleeps. Therefore while the sleeper sleeps in the sleeper the sleeper carries the sleeper over the sleeper under the sleeper until the sleeper which carries the sleeper jumps the sleeper and wakes the sleeper in the sleeper by striking the sleeper under the sleeper on the sleeper, and there is no longer any sleeper sleeping in the sleeper on the sleeper.

No Woman May Reign.

The question has been asked why none of the daughters of the czar was to be a successor to the throne on which the great Catherine proved her capacity. The exclusion rests only on an edict of the Emperor Paul, the son of Catherine the Great, issued to discredit his mother's memory.

France has as many as 45,000 families, with 130,000 individuals, claiming a title of nobility; but, as a matter of fact, only about 450 families can prove their claim to descent from a noble family in feudal times.

Near the city of Durban, South Africa, is the Place of Death, a funnellike cleft in the coast rocks, into which in times gone by the Zulu chiefs were accustomed to take the victims of their wrath to die.

THE HOTEL BELLBOY.

He Plans to Have One Day of Fun and Revenge.

"Some day when I have accumulated a stake," said one of the bright bellboys at the Blossom House the other day, "I am going to have some fun."

"What are you going to do?" a bystander asked.

"I am simply going to some big hotel in Chicago or St. Louis and live for a day," and the boy paused to let the remark soak in.

"And that's your idea of a good time, is it?" queried the curious listener.

"Hold on! I am not through yet. I am going to a big hotel with three big grips, and I am going to make the bellboy carry all of them up to the room for me. I won't carry even the smallest one. Then as soon as I am in my room I am going to have some ice water. I will not ring for ice water, but for a bellboy, and after he has climbed to the fifth floor—bellboys are not permitted to use the elevator, you know, and I shall not take a room lower than the fifth floor—when he has climbed up there I will tell him I want some ice water.

"I will drink all the ice water I can and pour the rest in a cuspidor. Then I will ring for more ice water. After that I shall order a cocktail served in my room. I don't drink, but there must be variety in my scheme. Then I will decide to take a Turkish bath and will call a boy to carry my grip down to the bathroom. When I return, I will ring for more ice water.

"I will insist on having the same bellboy serve me all the time, and I'll keep him chasing around until he will curse me at every step. Then when I get ready to leave and he is happy to think he shall never see my cursed face again I will give him a dollar. You know I couldn't think of putting a boy to all that trouble without rewarding him, because I have been through the mill myself. What I have just described happens to a bellboy every day of his life—all except getting the dollar when it is over."—Kansas City Times.

TRAINING HORSES.

Preparing the New Animals For the Circus Ring.

All through the winter circus men are training the animals for new tricks for the next summer. The winter is by no means an idle time. Training horses for the ring is interesting work. The first thing done is to put the new horses in the stables with the old circus horses to get them used to their new company, and a queer thing noticed is that the old horses are jealous of the newcomers.

A great deal of patience and time is required to train the horses to run around the ring. They are blindfolded and taught to run around the ring in a circle. The natural tendency of the horse is to run straight, and it is a hard thing for him to learn. A system of checks and lines makes the training easier than formerly.

The horse is an observant animal and apt to do what he sees another horse do, so when the blindfold is removed he is placed alongside an old trained horse, and the man who is to ride the new animal does tricks with the old ones, then tries them on the pupil. A good, intelligent horse soon learns and actually helps his rider.

Horses are very sensitive to applause and with that stimulus will do twice as much work as without. They are just as likely to lose their heads as human performers and have to be carefully watched. A well trained ring horse is easily worth \$1,000, and riders who are stars usually own their horses. The most careful attention is given these animals. Before each act their backs are rubbed with resin, which has to be washed off afterward.—San Francisco Chronicle.

The Foundation of Woman.

A small boy in the mission Sunday school of Bishop Fallows' church pronounced an entirely new theory of creation last Sunday.

"Who made man?" asked the teacher, beginning as in the good old days when orthodox used catechisms.

"God," was the prompt reply.

"And how did he make him?"

"Out of dust, ma'am; nothing but dust."

"And who made woman?"

"God made her, too, ma'am."

"How?"

The small boy hesitated and then replied cheerfully, "He caused a deep sleep to fall upon man and then took out his backbone and made the woman."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

A New Arabic Notation.

There is a city magistrate living up town who is possibly raising a mathematical prodigy in the person of his 3 or 4 year old daughter. She has only recently begun to attend the kindergarten and yet meditates changes in the system of enumeration now in vogue which, while startling, are certainly suggestive.

When asked the other day to count, she hesitated some and then lisped: "None, some, one, two, free, fore."—New York Times.

Too Much Sugar.

Dr. Patchen of New York says, "If every living person were to diminish by 50 per cent the amount of sugar he now consumes and maintain its use at this standard, in less than one generation the number of physicians now practicing would be diminished by one-half, and two-thirds of the present number of drug stores would be closed."

Will Power.

"As a lawyer Quillb's success is due largely to his great power of will." "Yes, I understand he has broken more wills than any other man at the bar."—Philadelphia North American.

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