

ABOUT THE MOSQUITO.

FACTS ABOUT THE MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S PEST.

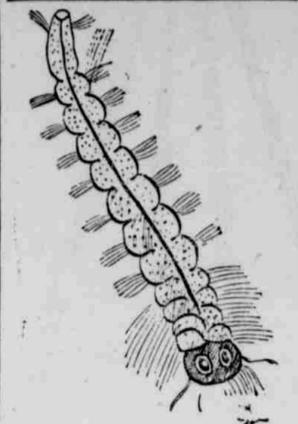
Mosquitoes, as seen under the microscope, with an account of the manner in which they are to be avoided. Savage Females and Their Frivolous Males.



Is there anything but general "mosquito," "musketo," "mosquito," "moschetto," "moschetto," "moschetto," "moschetto," or "moschetto," or "moschetto," is abroad. For such a very little pest the "mosquito" has more names and in more languages than any other living thing. Scientists variously call her the *Culex pipiens*, *Aedes Americanus*, the cousin, the *moschero* and the "humming gnats." The *Century* dictionary describes the insect of many aliases as "one of many different kinds of gnats or midges, the female of which bites animals and draws blood." Persons who are given to attribute to the female sex all the gentleness and amiability there is in the world will bear this in mind. Mr. Mosquito is an easy-going, gorgeously arrayed creature, with neither the disposition nor the ability to bite and draw blood. He is a sort of a Turveydrop in the insect world, who seems to have no higher object during his brief life than "to show himself about town."

has penetrated. About thirty species are known in the United States.

In the human family the female is the more ornamental as well as the more amiable animal in the insect world, particularly among mosquitoes, the re-



THE LARVA OF THE MOSQUITO—(Highly magnified.)

verse is the case. There are mosquitoes which confine their activities to the daylight hours, and which will lavish their caresses principally on the tender foliage of trees and aromatic plants. These

may be said to complete the second stage in the existence of the mosquito.

From ten to fifteen days after the appearance of the larva the substance enters the pupa state. They take on a thin skin, almost completely covering the larva, and roll around in the water, their motions being directed by a fin-like contrivance at the end of the tail. The quick, seemingly irregular, movements of the pupa give them the name of "tumblers." They, too, are familiar to persons residing in the rural districts in the spring and summer. The change of the larva into the pupa completes the third stage in the mosquito's existence.

Between five and ten days after the pupa appears the last and most critical stage in the entire metamorphosis of the egg into the perfect insect arrives. About this period the pupa skin bursts open, and the mosquito takes its first look at daylight. The pupa shell is in the form of a boat, the opening appearing on the surface of the shell which is farthest from the water. The insect rises slowly and deliberately until it at length balances itself on its tail. A small gust of wind now or a slight eddy, and the shell boat would tip over, when the mosquito's active existence would end before it began.

If the gust of wind or eddy fail to appear—and it is certain that they often do fail to appear—the insect slowly extricates its front pair of legs, and places them on the surface of the water, still clinging to the shell boat. Then it slowly and deliberately spreads its wings. They at first strike the water, but are raised above it again, and the sun—for these affairs invariably take place on sunny days—and air dry them. The hind legs are then slowly drawn from the shell until their ends rest on the edge of the boat, the body is stretched out, the wings expanded. A moment afterward the wings flap, the shell is tipped over, the head is turned shoreward, and the mosquito is ready for business.

Electric Mosquito Net.

One of the most singular uses to which electricity has been put in this electric age is announced from Paris. A French savant has invented an electric mosquito bar, which is, he believes, destined to replace all other means of defense against flying insects. Making use of the principle of electric execution, he has constructed a sort of screen or wire-work cage, with a small electric light in the center. The mosquitoes, attracted by the light, attempt to fly through the interstices of the cage; but if they so much as touch the tips of their wings—and they cannot fly through without doing so—they are struck by the current of electricity with which the screen is kept constantly charged.

This mosquito-trap, which, under a test, is said to have killed innumerable victims, can be maintained only by the aid of a small electric apparatus, so arranged as to send alternative currents through the wire network.

It is supposed that the person to be protected takes refuge on the interior of the netting, with the little electric light and the generating apparatus. It is not too much to say that there are some people who would rather have the mosquitoes.

Inasmuch as, if the electrified netting will keep out the mosquitoes, a netting made a little closer would keep them out without any electricity, it does not seem likely that this invention is destined to any great usefulness.

It reminds one somewhat of the story of a Dutchman who went about selling a preparation for poisoning a certain kind of troublesome insect.

"You take de insect mit de finger an' de dumb of von handt," said the peddler, "an' den mit de odder handt you put de pizen in his mouth."

"But," said a farmer, "if you've got to catch them and hold them that way, why can't you smash 'em and done with it?"

"Veli," said the Dutchman, "dot's a good way, too!"

The electric netting also suggests the story of Patrick's experience with an ordinary mosquito canopy. He found one in a room he was to sleep in one night, and, after studying it for a time, made up his mind how it was to be used. This was the way he related his experience the next day:

"It's an illeggal thing I found in me room lasht night. There was a kyoid of a fishing-nit for minnows over me bid. I made a hole through it wid me knife, an' iver mosketer in the room went into the nit through the hole. Thin I shtopped up the hole wid me hat, an' slept on the flure all night, comfortable-loike, wid niver a boite at all!"

Good Quailies in an Afr'can King.

King Khama, of Bangwato, Bechuanaland, Africa, is one of the most noted rulers in the dark continent. A long time ago he adopted the Christian faith, and lives consistently with his belief. He cultivates the friendship of the whites and encourages their influence in his country. Knowing the evils of strong drink he prohibits its entry into his dominions and is thus doing much to detach from civilization one of its greatest evils. As an instance of his energy it may be said that in the fall of 1889 he moved the town of Shoshong, with its population of 30,000 souls, to a more favorable site. The new town is called Palapye and is twenty square miles in area. King Khama's people are prosperous and happy.

Whine or Whistle, Which?

A small boy was chasing a somewhat bigger one the other day, when the bigger of the two stumbled and fell. The other tumbled over him and was hurt as much as the bigger one. But the bigger boy was the biggest baby and began to whine and cry. The smaller one got up, brushed off the dirt, rubbed his barked knee and began to whistle.

The other one looked at him a moment and then blubbered: "Jimmy, how can you whistle when it hurts so?"

"It doesn't hurt so if you whistle," said philosophical Jimmy. "It's when you whine that it hurts so."

Whistle and whine begin alike, but they end differently.

This is a world of compensations—snow comes down in the winter and ice goes up in the summer.

THE SEAL QUESTION.

Professor C. H. Merriam and Professor Mendenhall, Commissioners to Go to Alaska.

In order that the Government may be fully prepared with all necessary technical information respecting the actual state of the Behring Sea seal fisheries in the probable event of early arbitration of the United States' rights in those waters, the President has decided to send two agents to Alaska to gather the necessary information.



C. H. MERRIAM.

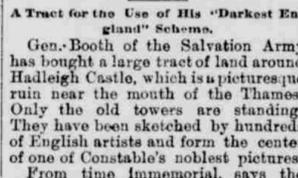
He has had under consideration for some time the names of Professor Mendenhall, Chief of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, and Professor C. H. Merriam, Ornithologist of the Department of Agriculture, and has at last named them. This mission will be similar to that with which Sir Baden-Powell is charged on behalf of the British Government, and if Professor Merriam accepts the place he will be instructed to leave for Alaska at once with Professor Mendenhall, who has already accepted.

Professor Mendenhall was born near Hanover, Ohio, in 1841. He received a common school education. At an early age he developed a fondness for the study of mathematics and the natural sciences. He was professor of physics and mechanics in Ohio University from 1873 to 1878. Later he went to Japan as professor of physics in the Imperial University at Tokio. During his stay he organized the general meteorological system of the Imperial Government, and he was also one of the organizers of the Seismological Society of Tokio. In 1881 he returned to the United States and resumed the chair of the Ohio State University. He organized the Ohio State Weather Bureau Service in 1882, and subsequently devised a system of weather signals for display on railroad trains. Mr. Mendenhall became professor in the United States Signal Service in 1884, and established stations in the United States for the systematic observation of earthquake phenomena. He resigned from the Government service to accept the presidency of the Rose Polytechnic Institute of Terre Haute, Ind. Besides membership in other scientific societies, Professor Mendenhall has held the office of Vice President of the physical section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and President of the National Academy of Sciences.



C. H. MERRIAM.

Gen. Booth's Castle. A tract for the use of his "Darkest England" scheme. Gen. Booth of the Salvation Army has bought a large tract of land around Haddleigh Castle, which is a picturesque ruin near the mouth of the Thames. Only the old towers are standing. They have been sketched by hundreds of English artists and form the center of one of Constable's noblest pictures. From time immemorial, says the *New York Herald*, the castle and the sylvan glades surrounding it have been



CATHEDRAL OF HAVANA.

free to the public; but Gen. Booth, it is said, intends to devote the property to the uses of his "Darkest England" scheme exclusively, and therefore the purchase is unpopular in England. The peasantry of the neighborhood are particularly sorry that the estate has changed hands, for they have been in the habit of earning a small income by gathering blackberries and other wild fruits from the ground.

He Was a "Foolish" Man.

After a railroad accident in a New England State, a poor farmer's wife was taken out, bleeding and unconscious. The doctor and a kind woman were working over her when her husband came in and stood a moment, looking on in disturbed silence. His cheeks were drawn in, his eyebrows lifted, his hands in his pockets. Presently, with some effort, he cleared his throat to speak, and, as the doctor looked up, he asked: "Ye didn't see a new tin dipper lyin' round where ye picked her up, did ye?" He got no answer from the indignant doctor, and presently strayed out again in search of his dipper. Meanwhile, his wife opened her eyes and at once asked for her husband. "He's safe," said the doctor, shortly. She felt his arm tone, and, faint as she was, she divined what it meant. "He's a dreadful feelin' man," she said, "but he don't never say much!"

A Carrier Bat.

William Hester, of Spring Hill, Pa., has a large brown bat which he has trained to carry messages like a carrier pigeon. Mr. Hester took the uncanny bird to his place of business in New Castle, and having made arrangements at home to note the exact time of its arrival let it loose. The bat flew a mile in 27 1/2 seconds.

The Siberian Railway.

The Siberian railway will be commenced this year, beginning at Otdioostok, the further end of the line. Our advice do not state whether or not the constructing engineers have determined to bridge over, or tunnel under such names as are given Russian settlements.

REMAINS OF COLUMBUS.

Where They Rest and How Jealously They Are Guarded.

J. B. Rose, of Chicago, during a visit he paid to Havana, was granted the rare privilege of viewing the remains of Christopher Columbus. It is in the Cathedral that the remains lie. As one enters the great Roman doorway the eye is struck with the apparent



BONES OF COLUMBUS.

vastness of the interior. Far away in the distance was the high altar. The tall images became blurred and indistinct masses of masonry when viewed from the entrance. Beneath the vaulted roof lay the remains of the great discoverer, and it is with feelings of awe and reverence that one approaches the chance to gaze upon the bones of the man who did so much for the new world. Eight men were necessary to bring the moldering bones to view, as each one possessed a key to certain locks which the others could not open. On the gospel side of the altar, or the left side as viewed from the church entrance, is the tomb of Christopher Columbus. The heavy fastenings were unloosed as each priest or official stepped to the tomb. The leaden casket was taken out and opened. Only a few bones left of all that was mortal of the great discoverer! As the lid was pressed back an inscription could be seen on the inner side. There appeared the words, "Ill tre y Es de Varon dn. Christoval Colon"—"Illustrious and Renowned Man, Christopher Columbus."

As is known, Columbus died at Valladolid in 1506. About twenty-five years after the death of the immortal



CATHEDRAL OF HAVANA.

navigator his bones were removed from Seville, Spain, whither they had already been removed from Valladolid, and transferred across the seas to the cathedral in San Domingo, Hayti, whence, on the cession of that island to the English, they were again exhumed from their resting place of two centuries and a half, and in 1795 buried for the third time with great pomp in Cuba in the Cathedral of Havana (named for Columbus—San Cristobel de la Habana).

For a long time the sounds of almost all English vowels were, as the makers of dictionaries explain at length, in a state of transition. In different words we now have the same vowel pronounced in almost all the various ways known to European languages, and in several that are peculiar to English speech. Probably the pronunciation of more than half the words of the English language has been changed.

There can be no doubt that English vowels originally had the same sounds they now have in most continental languages. Thus a was pronounced as it still is in father, e as ei in rein, i as in ravine, and u like oo in school.

But the English people, having a way of changing the sounds of vowels in speech, gradually converted each one of them into something quite different.

The change is going on still. The vowel a, in London speech, is gradually receiving the sound of long i. An American in London is asked if he wishes to "take in a piper"—and is puzzled until he discovers that this is English for "taking a daily paper."

This tendency has become so marked that the "pipers" themselves have begun, at least in a whimsical way, to print words which have a long a with a y instead. The *Pall Mall Gazette*, in an article on "Primrose Day," devoted to the memory of Lord Beaconsfield, fancies Englishmen singing:

But who will syve old Eszand from the rhyme,
And her sons and daughters who will syve?
For in vyme, alas! in vyme we deplore the
honoured nyme
Of Lord Beckingsfeld now lying in his
grave

This vicious pronunciation has begun to creep into a limited circle in America, whose members affect English ways. It should be rejected and resolutely discouraged by every one who wishes to speak good English.—*Youth's Companion*.

A new glass is said to have been invented which is as hard and tough as cast-iron. It is proposed to employ it in the manufacture of stairs, street lamp-posts and gas and water pipes. If it can be used for the last named purpose, and thus do away with the dangerous lead pipe, it will be an acquisition indeed. It is thought that these and similar articles can be made of this new glass thirty per cent. cheaper than they can be made of cast iron.

OUR BUDGET OF FUN.

HUMOROUS SAYINGS AND DOINGS HERE AND THERE.

Jokes and Joke-lets that Are Supposed to Have Been Recently Form—Sayings and Doings that Are Odd, Curious and Laughable.

Too Emphatic. "Good morning, Parson Limberlip! How did your congregation like the minister who preached for you yesterday?"

"Dey tell me, sah, dat he war charge' ter de muzzle wid gospel fac's an' dat he war flush wid de parts er speech, but dat his intellecturum faculties wuz sorter handicap' by dat wooden laig he mernipulated his gestur's wid. Yer see, de noddin' gredien's of my fol' hain't 'customed ter bein' roused outer deir Sabbathday dreams eb'ny now an' den' wid a racket dat soun' like a mernagerie let loose in er lumber yard, an' if he war gwine ter be chronic wid dat flock, an' spresserly his fervorim wid dat wooden un'erstan'in' dey'd sist on his war'iner oner deze yere boxin' gloves or a poltice on de hickory 'jint, 'deed dey would."

The Shad Sea on. Waiter—I expect you to pay in advance.

Guest—What do you mean, sir? Waiter—No offense, sir, whatever; but the last gentleman who ate shad here got a bone in his throat and died without paying, and the boss took it out of my wages.

At the Smiths' man. McCauly—Oh, say, Dan; hadn't yez better check yer face? Yer mouth break somethin' wid it.



A Fine Send Off. Gotnix—Well, I've just asked old Cashbox if I could marry his daughter.

Wooden—What did he say? Gotnix—Oh, he promised me a fine send off.

Wooden—A house on Commonwealth avenue and a place in his office, I suppose? Gotnix—Well, no; he said if I ever came to see him again he'd throw me down the elevator shaft.

Preposterous. Gray—I feel like a new man to-day. Briget—Do you? Glad to hear it. Perhaps you can see your way clear to pay that little bill?

Gray—I'm a new man, I told you. You can't expect me to assume the liabilities of the old concern.—*Boston Transcript*.

She Wasn't Surprised. "Your husband is not looking well, to-night, Mrs. Rhymer."

"He isn't, and I'm not surprised at it."

"No? Has he been overworking himself?"

"It isn't that so much; it's his originality. Why, that man is struck by so many original ideas that his mind must be one mass of bruises."

Looking Ahead. "Young man," said the stern father, "do you realize that my daughter is in the habit of wearing dresses that cost all the way from \$50 to \$100?"

"I do," replied the young man firmly, "and sir," he continued, an exultant ring in his voice, "it was only the other night that we took an account of stock and found that she had enough of them to last three years ahead."—*Cloak Review*.

Always Ready. "Did the plumber come down to inspect the pipes this morning?"

"Yes."

"What did he say?"

"He said there was nothing the matter, but he could very soon remedy that."—*New York Sun*.

The Font of Knowledge. Mr. De Science—the officers of the Smithsonian Institution are having the chatter of monkeys photographed, in the hope that their language may be understood, and it may be possible to converse with them.

Mrs. De Science—Isn't that grand? I hope they'll ask the monkeys the very first thing whether we are descended from them or not.—*New York Weekly*.

So Much the Better for Her. A gentleman and his wife, the latter with a 6-months-old infant in her arms, were about to enter the Austin Opera House to see the performance one night, when the doorkeeper suddenly said:

"Beg pardon, madam, but you can't take infants inside!"

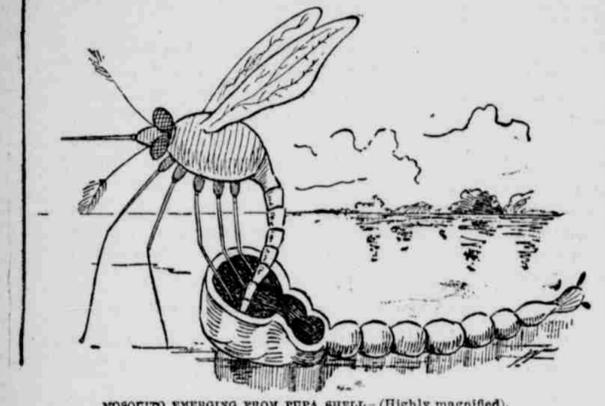
"Very well," said the lady, "so much the better for me. You just take care of the little fellow till the play is over—and, by the way, there's a milk-bottle in case he should cry."—*Texas Siftings*.

Art Note.



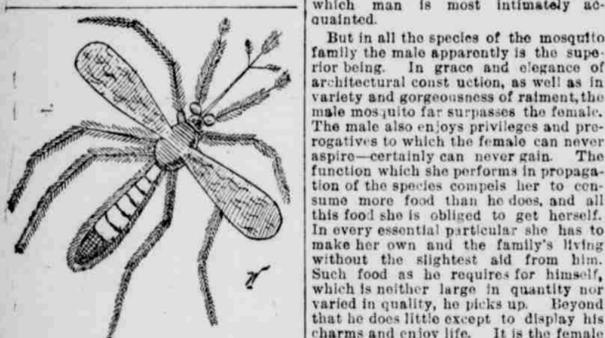
A head of Julius Caesar.—Life.

Of the 11,000,000 square miles of Africa only 2,500,000 remain in the hands of the native rulers.



MOSQUITO EMERGING FROM PUPA SHELL—(Highly magnified.)

His life, to be sure, is a short one, but then it is full of indolence and luxury. He is expected to pay certain delicate attentions to his infinitesimal spouse, which she rewards when tired of him by giving him a short, sharp, and fatal



THE MALE MOSQUITO (NEW JERSEY SIZE).

prod of the remarkable lance which she carries concealed in her proboscis. He is not provided with such a weapon, and is as much at her mercy as a boxer at that of a skilled swordsman. He is of gentle and perhaps amiable character. He lives on a strictly vegetable diet, which may account for the absence of the bloodthirsty and ferocious spirit of his spouse. She can at a pinch live the life of a vegetarian, but what she wants is gore, piping hot gore, human if she can get it; but never overlooking any chance.

The toughest hide that ever covered a horse or steer does not intervene between the lady mosquito and her vampirish thirst. It is even doubted that Col. Mosquito is given to vocal efforts. If he ever does join his consort in a nerve-drovering duet, he sings very low, and his performance is entirely overlooked, when the restless human appreciates the ease with which my lady takes high C and holds it until driven out of the room by the exasperated wailer of a wet towel.

Less is known about the origin of the mosquito's name than of his habits, and Americans have no monopoly of information upon this latter phase of the subject. All climates claim the mosquito as pest in chief. On the upper waters of the Missouri mosquitoes, after a rainy season, are the greatest impediment to navigation met with. They swarm by millions. Cattle are driven in the river, and they stand with their muzzles alone held above the water, which are black with the pests. Pilots on the boats are forced to burn smudge fires. They are of every conceivable degree of minuteness, and no veil has fine enough texture to exclude them. Arctic explorers all write of sufferings at the hands, or rather stings, of mosquitoes.

In England mosquitoes are called gnats, and on the continent of Europe



THE FEMALE MOSQUITO.

cousins, *moschero*, and other names. The gnat belongs to the genus *Culex*. It is found in most of the temperate and tropical portions of the globe where man