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MAHOMETANS AND DOGS.

Men and Beasts Avoid Each Other When They Can, Yet the Canines Are Useful.

In Egypt dogs are never permitted to enter the dwelling houses of a Mahometan, and if one is found in a mosque he is immediately put to death. In consequence of this excommunication from the society which the animal seems so instinctively disposed to cultivate, says the New Orleans Times-Democrat, Egyptian dogs live, for the most part, in the open air, feeding upon garbage and any other filth that chance throws in their way. Yet they are found to be faithful protectors of the property and even persons of the very men by whom they are thus despicably treated, although, Sonhui remarks, it is extremely curious to see the pains taken by a Mussulman and a dog when they happen to meet to avoid coming in contact with each other. Notwithstanding this state of persecution, dogs are remarkably numerous in the large towns of Egypt. The species is a large one, about the size and make of the greyhound. As a proof of the Mahometan prejudice against this useful animal, it is sufficient to state that they regard the terms Christian and dog as synonymous—both, of course in the most opprobrious sense. As a singular contrast for their dislike for dogs, the Egyptians have ever held cats in the greatest veneration, and in ancient times even worshipped them. And historians tell us that Bubastis and Atribes, two towns in Egypt, the former a votary of cats and the latter of mice, contracted on that account so strong an antipathy to each other that the inhabitants were never known to intermarry, although only a few miles asunder. In some parts of India, too, we are told they have a similar reverence for Grimalkin, as the only crimes punished capitally there are the murder of a man and the murder of a cat.

GAGE WAS READY TO FIGHT

Late Secretary of the Treasury Was in the Mood to "Mix Up" with Anybody.

When Lyman J. Gage was secretary of the treasury he once gave evidence of his democratic willingness to forego the dignity of his office and engage in a "scrap." The incident occurred in Philadelphia, relates the New York Times, when the secretary was presiding at the auction sale of the old government mint in that city.

The room in the historic building was crowded to the doors, but the bidding was so low and so slow that the sale had become almost a subject for joking. Two millions had been set as the knock-down price, and it was rapidly becoming evident that no such figure was going to be reached.

During a moment's lull, some one in the crowd made a loud comment upon the administration's relations with Wall street, suggesting that a mistake had been made in not selling the mint there, and reflecting directly upon Mr. Gage himself. The secretary turned in the direction of the voice and answered: "You're a liar." The tone was as firm as it was quiet, and the brief conversation ended right there.

Later in the day, during a luncheon at the Union League, a gentleman seated next to Mr. Gage half-laughingly inquired what the secretary would have done if the man had answered back and invited trouble. "Well, if he really wanted trouble," was the reply, "I was perfectly willing to satisfy him then and there."

Automobile Consumption Cure.
Motor-car exercise will cure consumption, says Dr. Blanchet, of Lyons. He speaks from personal experience, having recovered his own health by regularly covering a hundred miles a day in an open motor car. He avers that by this remedy the cough of tuberculosis patients is gradually abolished or greatly diminished, and healthy sleep and appetite produced. It is most essential that the body should be duly protected from cold. The elements of the cure are the long stay in the open air and the increased atmospheric pressure due to the rapid motion, which expands and strengthens the lungs. —London Mail.

MINNESOTA FISH STORY.

River So Jammed with Sturgeon the Boatmen Couldn't Row Against Them.

E. F. Crawford, a prominent attorney throughout the northern half of the state, who practices at Bemidji, met with the most thrilling experience of his life while coming up the Big Fork river in a canoe, says a Ripple (Minn.) correspondence in the St. Paul Dispatch. He saw the river filled from bank to bank with sturgeon, the big lake fish that at this time of year ascend streams from Rainy river to lay their spawn in shallow waters. Not only was the sight appalling, but on several occasions his boat was in danger of being crushed by the countless monsters.

In company with two rivermen, Mr. Crawford was paddling up river in great haste to reach Big Falls on the day of its being incorporated as a village, which matter was in his charge.

To reach the town, a canoe trip was necessary, as a log jam at the mouth of the river prevented steamboats from passing upward. The river is full of rafts at various points, and some of them are so strong that their boat had to be carried over land along the banks. They came suddenly upon a splashing surface, which extended across the river and several hundred yards ahead. Here the slope was gentle and no such conditions were present as to hint that rapids should form at this point. The men were in the center of the river, but at once began to paddle their boat shoreward to avoid the rapids. Suddenly one of the boatmen cried:

"My God! This is not rapids, but a jam of fish!"

Mr. Crawford saw in startled amazement that they were, indeed, surrounded by big fish, some longer than a man. The sturgeon leaped and darted, showing the white gleam of their bellies, as they spouted along and churned the waters with head and tail. There were thousands of them, traveling up stream in a wedge shape, with a leader at the head. Except for a narrow streak on each side of the river, the fish made the river look like a bed of rapids. By striking with their paddles, the men managed to clear a path to the bank without their canoe being crushed by the sportive monsters. Then, by dragging their canoe cautiously along the bank for half an hour, they got ahead of this school, which was swimming at the rate of about three miles an hour up stream. Later another school like the first was encountered, and still another, although smaller. After that Mr. Crawford's party passed straggling bunches of five or six.

How Switchboards Are Packed.

The tests of electric switchboards packed in cases are thorough. A large marble switchboard, for example, enclosed in a leather case and then boxed with thick layers of excelsior, is attached to the chains of a crane and tumbled up and down on the floor. Sometimes it is attached to the end of a car and dragged along the ties in the yard. Recently, in an installation in Colorado mountains, material had to be hauled in wagons up to the plant. On the way up the horses which were dragging some switchboards tumbled over a cliff and fell some 60 feet on the rocks below. The horses and driver were killed and the wagon was torn to pieces. Literally the only things unharmed were the brittle marble switchboards shipped from the east.—World's Work.

Hot Meal Without Fire.

Readers of the war news will have noticed one or two references to the fact that tinned meats for the Russian troops are prepared by a process which enables the contents of each tin to be served hot without a fire. This boon is secured by having the ordinary tins filled with food "jacketed" in patent tins. The patent tin contains water, together with a chemical mixture, by means of which the water can be raised to the boiling point in ten minutes or a quarter of an hour. All that is necessary to do when it is desired to heat the food is to puncture the top of the patent tin, the chemical mixture being thereby forced into the water, which soon begins to boil.—London Truth.

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