

## TRIALS FOR ANIMALS

Curious Custom That Prevailed In the Middle Ages.

### PROSECUTED FOR HOMICIDE.

**A Bull That Killed a Man Found Guilty, Sentenced to Death and Executed—Fate of a Cock That Was Charged With Having Laid an Egg**

Among the many curious customs of the past is recorded a singular feature of the jurisprudence of the middle ages, when animals were indicted for injuries inflicted upon human beings. The custom was not abolished in France until the middle of the eighteenth century, and the French court records show that at least ninety-two trials took place between 1120 and 1741.

There is some Biblical precedent for these proceedings, for in the twenty-first chapter of Exodus one finds, "If an ox gore a man or a woman that they die, then the ox shall be stoned and his flesh shall not be eaten."

An early instance of the custom was in 1314, when a bull escaped from a farmyard in a village in France in the duchy of Valois and gored a man to death. The Count of Valois, being informed of the case, directed that the bull be captured and formally prosecuted for homicide. This was done, and evidence was given by persons who had seen the man attacked and killed. The bull was thereupon sentenced to suffer death, which was inflicted by strangulation, after which the carcass was suspended from a tree by the hind legs.

In 1386 a sow was executed in the square of Falaise for having caused the death of a child, and three years later a horse was condemned to death at Dijon for having killed a man. In 1457 a sow and her six young ones were tried at Lavegny on the charge of having killed and partially eaten a child. The sow was convicted and condemned to death, but the little ones were acquitted on the ground of their extreme youth and inexperience, the bad example of their mother and the absence of direct evidence of their having partaken of the atrocious feast.

One of the most grotesque of these trials took place in Basel when a farmyard cock was tried on the absurd charge of having laid an egg. It was contended in support of the prosecution that eggs laid by cocks were of inestimable worth for use in certain magical preparations, that a sorcerer would rather possess a cock's egg than the elixir of life and that Satan employed witches to hatch such eggs, from which proceeded winged serpent-most dangerous to mankind.

The prisoner's advocate admitted the facts of the case, but contended that no evil intention had been proved and that no evil result had taken place. Besides, the laying of an egg was an involuntary act and as such was not punishable by law; also there was no record of the devil having made a compact with an animal. The public prosecutor stated in reply that the evil sometimes entered into animals, as in the case of the swine which drowned themselves in the sea of Galliee.

So the poor creature was convicted not as a cock, but as a sorcerer or perhaps the devil in the form of a cock, whereupon the bird and the egg that was attributed to it were solemnly burned at the stake.

Even stranger than this were the proceedings instituted in 1445 and 1487 against certain beetles which had made havoc in the vineyards of St. Julian. Advocates were named on behalf of the vine growers and the beetles respectively, but by a singular coincidence the insects disappeared when cited to answer for the mischief they had done, and the proceedings were in consequence abandoned.

That was in 1445. In 1487, however, they reappeared, and a complaint was thereupon addressed to the vicar general of the bishop of Maurienne, who named a judge and also an advocate to represent the beetles. A compromise was finally agreed upon, wherein the vine growers consented to cede the beetles certain fields to their exclusive use. Some time after the beetles, through their attorney, protested that there was a right of way through these fields which would be to their detriment. Consequently the case had to begin again, but how it ended is not known, owing to the mutilation of the records.—F. C. Evans in New York Post.

#### Lotteries.

The first scheme for the distribution of prizes by chance in modern times is generally attributed to one Benedetto Gentile of Genoa, who established his lottery in 1620. The proper lottery, in which each person takes part by means of tickets costing each a fixed sum of money, had its origin in more ancient times, being known even in the middle ages. Such a lottery was established at Florence as early as 1530.—New York American.

#### Ladylike.

"You say you acted like a perfect lady throughout?" "Sure, yer honor. When he tips his hat to me an' me not knowin' him, I ups with a rock an' caves in his face."—Houston Post.

#### Habit.

Action repeated becomes habit. Habit long continued becomes second nature. We are today what we were accustomed to do yesterday and the day before.—Lyman Abbott.

Evil comes by talking of it.—Irish Proverb.

## NIPPING A CAREER.

Young W. S. Gilbert's Brief Interview With Charles Kean.

At the early age of fifteen, according to the author of a biography of Sir W. S. Gilbert, the future dramatist showed his theatrical bias to his own undoing.

Enraptured with a splendid performance of "The Corsican Brothers" at the Princess theater, then under the management of Charles Kean, young Gilbert packed up a few clothes in a hand bag and actually succeeded in making an entrance to the theater with a view to going on the stage.

Greatly elated at receiving the message that Kean would see him in his room, the boy lost courage when he was face to face with the great actor. "So you would like to go on the stage?" said Kean.

"Yes, sir," replied Master Gilbert, trembling in every limb.

"What's your name?"

The boy's imagination failed him at a critical moment in his life. "Gilbert," he faltered, seeking refuge in the truth.

"Gilbert, Gilbert!" reiterated Kean, with a sharp glance at the embarrassed boy. "Are you the son of my old friend, William Gilbert?"

"Yes."

Kean turned to an attendant. "See this young gentleman home," said he.

## THE UPPER AIR.

**Danger in the Chill That Comes With the Fall of Night.**

Few people who visit Denver realize that it is located only a few feet short of a mile above the sea level. At such altitudes the climate is always treacherous. The midday sun may be broiling hot, but after dark the air is soon chilled and one is liable to contract a cold.

Several of the Spanish cities stand upon the crests of tall hills, where such climatic changes occur after nightfall. When, as a boy at the grand opera, I saw Spaniards in "Carmen" or "The Barber of Seville" toss their long cloaks or capes about their faces I assumed that the act was intended to disguise them—to hide their faces. Nothing of the sort. The Spaniard, like the Italian of the Alpine regions, always covers his mouth after sundown to minimize danger to his lungs from the night air.

Curiously the women haven't any fear of the chill that follows the darkness. They may be seen in low cut bodices at all hours of the evening in the cafes, at balls and on the streets. The men, however, are in terror of cold night winds. Pneumonia and tuberculosis carry off a great many victims in Spain and northern Italy.—Julius Chambers in Brooklyn Eagle.

#### Not a Dead One.

The hour was long past midnight, but the young girl had not yet retired. Moaning, wringing her hands, she walked the room distractedly.

"Oh, father!"

A stately, white haired figure in evening dress had entered.

"Father, speak. Has Winterbottom Hance killed himself? I heard a commotion without at midnight—a crack as of a revolver, a fall as of a heavy body. I refused Winterbottom early in the evening, and as he staggered from the room, despair writ large upon his pale brow, he swore wildly to take his own life."

The old man's eye gleamed as with some secret joy.

"Refused him, did you?" he chuckled. "Refused Winterbottom, eh? Well, I'm glad you did. He's just cleaned me out of \$7 in a poker game at the club."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

#### Legend of Moses.

The story of the cause of Moses' slowness of speech is given in the Talmud and runs as follows: Pharaoh was one day sitting on his throne with Moses on his lap when the child took off the king's crown and put it on his own head. The "wise men" tried to persuade the king that this was treason, for which the child ought to be put to death, but Jethro replied: "It is the act of a child who knows no better. Let two plates be set before him, one containing gold and the other red-hot coals, and you will find he will prefer the latter to the former." The experiment being made, the child snatched up one of the live coals, put it into its mouth and burned its tongue so severely that it was ever after "heavy and slow of speech."—New York American.

#### Bee Economics.

The organization of bee life is a fascinating study. The workers in a beehive may be divided, says the University Correspondent, into (1) harvesters, who bring in honey and pollen from flowers, wax from buds of pines and poplars, water to mix with pollen and honey to make the pasty food for the larvae; (2) scavengers, who in early morning carry out debris, including dead, sick or injured workers; (3) ventilators, who stand erect and keep their wings in continual movement in order to ventilate the hive; (4) guards, who defend the hive from wasps, robber bees and other enemies.

#### Her Baseball Idea.

Elsie—What are goose eggs in a baseball match? Harry—They are innings when no runs are made. Why did you ask? Elsie—Oh, I thought maybe they were laid by the fowls in the game.—Chicago News.

#### They Have Horns.

Teacher (giving a lesson on the rhinoceros)—Now can you name any other things that have horns and are dangerous to get near? Sharp Pupil—Motor cars.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

## TRAIN SCHEDULE.

Passenger trains leave Winchester as follows:

O. & O. EAST BOUND.	
No. 26, Daily Ex. Sunday...	8:42 a. m.
No. 23, Daily.....	11:57 a. m.
No. 28, Daily Ex. Sunday...	6:30 p. m.
No. 24, Daily.....	9:25 p. m.
C. & O. WEST BOUND.	
No. 27, Daily Ex. Sunday...	6:22 a. m.
No. 21, Daily.....	8:03 a. m.
No. 25, Daily Ex. Sunday...	2:50 p. m.
No. 23, Daily.....	4:38 p. m.
L. & N. SOUTH BOUND.	
No. 29, Daily Ex. Sunday...	8:55 a. m.
No. 33, Daily.....	11:59 a. m.
No. 9, Daily Ex. Sunday...	6:27 p. m.
No. 31, Daily.....	11:09 p. m.
L. & N. NORTH BOUND.	
No. 34, Daily.....	4:48 a. m.
No. 10, Daily Ex. Sunday...	7:13 a. m.
No. 32, Daily.....	2:50 p. m.
No. 28, Daily Ex. Sunday...	4:38 p. m.
L. & E. EAST BOUND.	
No. 2, Daily Ex. Sunday...	3:05 p. m.
No. 4, Daily.....	8:13 a. m.
L. & E. WEST BOUND.	
No. 1, Daily Ex. Sunday...	9:12 a. m.
No. 3, Daily.....	5:20 p. m.

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Time Card, in Effect June 21, 1908.

Stations	No. 2		No. 4	
	East Bound	Daily P.M.	Daily A.M.	Daily Sun.
Lv. Lexington	2:25	7:35	6:10	2:20
Winchester	3:05	8:13	6:15	2:25
L. & E. Junction	3:20	8:26	6:40	2:52
Clay City	3:50	9:02	7:07	3:20
Stanton	3:58	9:10	7:30	3:41
Campton Junction	4:30	9:38	7:45	3:55
Natural Bridge	4:35	9:43	7:48	3:57
Torrent	4:47	9:54	8:15	4:26
Beattyville June.	5:10	10:17	8:25	4:35
Athol	5:37	10:45	9:00	5:07
O. & K. Junction	6:05	11:15	9:12	5:20
Ar. Jackson	6:10	11:20	9:55	6:05

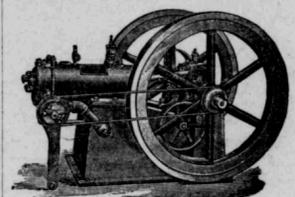
Stations	No. 1		No. 3		No. 5	
	Westbound	Daily Ex. Sun.	Daily	Daily	Sun.	Only
Lv. Jackson	6:10	2:20	6:15	2:25	7:05	7:00
O. & K. June.	6:15	2:25	6:40	2:52	7:30	7:25
Athol	6:40	2:52	7:07	3:20	7:54	7:54
Beattyville June	7:07	3:20	7:30	3:41	8:15	8:15
Torrent	7:30	3:41	7:45	3:55	8:26	8:26
Natural Bridge	7:45	3:55	7:48	3:57	8:28	8:28
Campton June.	7:48	3:57	8:15	4:26	8:54	8:54
Stanton	8:15	4:26	8:25	4:35	9:02	9:02
Clay City	8:25	4:35	9:00	5:07	9:34	9:34
L. & E. June.	9:00	5:07	9:12	5:20	9:46	9:46
Winchester	9:12	5:20	9:55	6:05	10:25	10:25
Ar. Lexington	9:55	6:05				

## THE FOLLOWING CONNECTIONS ARE MADE DAILY EXCEPT SUNDAY.

L. & E. Junction—Trains Nos. 1 and 3, will make connection with the C. & O. Ry. for Mt. Sterling.  
Campton Junction—Trains Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4, will connect with the Mountain Central Ry. for passengers to and from Campton, Ky.  
Beattyville Junction—Trains Nos. 2 and 4 will connect with the L. & A. Railway for Beattyville, Ky.  
O. & K. Junction—Trains Nos. 3 and 4 will connect with the O. & K. Railway for Cannel City, Ky., and way stations.

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