

A REAL SNAKE STORY.

The Serpent Got Into the Hornets' Nest to Catch the Fly.

A citizen of Fredericksburg, Va., claims that while traveling to Tappanhook he saw a large blacksnake slowly crawling among the branches of a tree that stood by the roadside.

Following the snake with his eye the observer saw an unusually large hornets' nest attached to one of the branches of the tree, and toward which the snake was advancing.

When close to the nest the snake coiled itself about a limb, releasing its tail, and with it gave several hard raps upon the exterior of the nest as if knocking for admission.

The noise of the blows and the swaying of the nest caused the hornets to leave their home and prepare for an attack upon the intruder.

Presently the snake's head was seen to peer out, and its bright black eyes glistened as he anticipated a feast from which the bravest man would shrink with fear.

The snake drew his head within the entrance hole to the nest until nothing was seen of it except an occasional forked tongue that darted in and out with lightning rapidity.

Thinking the coast clear the hornets began to return to their nest, when the snake took them in as fast as they could enter.

Watching the proceedings for some time our informant concluded that all the hornets had been safely hived, and he stood up in his buggy, tapped the nest with his whip, and awaited the result.

No hornets appearing, the nest was then knocked to the ground, opened, and his snakeship found in a torpid condition, with his size greatly increased.

The snake was killed and a post-mortem held with the following result: Stomach stuffed with dead hornets.

ESQUIMAUX IN SUMMER.

What Will Be Done to Keep Them Clean and Healthy.

Considerable anxiety is expressed by exposition officials concerning the effect the Esquimaux village at the world's fair will have on the reputation of Jackson park as a health resort.

The Esquimaux themselves, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, are not the cleanest people in the world, and unless they are very closely watched they are liable to assume a condition not pleasing to the fastidious.

They delight to dab themselves with oil, which often becomes rancid and very offensive. The attempt to reproduce the conditions that surround these peculiar people in their native land induced the company owning the concession to erect huts that are impossible to ventilate.

Then, too, there are the hounds maintained in the village. These animals are neither beautiful nor clean, and unless given better quarters than they now occupy will prove a nuisance.

Even now the atmosphere that surrounds the village is not so sweet. When the hot days of July arrive it will be difficult to keep it from giving offense.

Should an epidemic break out in the village it will, at least, give the officials a good scare, and prove more serious to the Esquimaux themselves. Those who are in charge of the village, however, declare that they can keep it as clean and healthy as any other portion of Jackson park.

They guarantee their wards to breed neither the cholera nor the smallpox. At present the attendance at the village is quite liberal.

SOME SUBJECTS FOR DEBATE.

English University Students Discussing a Curious Variety of Questions.

The college debating societies at Cambridge, England, seem to discuss a curious variety of questions.

OLE MAKES A GOOD CITIZEN.

The Scandinavian Readily Adapts Himself to American Institutions.

There is no nation in Europe that is more adverse to violence and has less sympathy with Utopian aspirations than the people of Norway and Sweden.

A writer in the North American Review. They have been trained to industry, frugality and manly self-reliance by the free institutions and the scant resources of their native lands.

The moderation and self-restraint inherent in the cold blood of the north make them constitutionally inclined to trust in slow and orderly methods rather than swift and violent ones.

They come here with no millennial experience, doomed to disappointment, but with the hope of gaining, by hard and unremitting toil, a modest competency.

They demand less of life than continental immigrants of the corresponding class, and they usually, for this very reason, attain more. The instinct to save is strong in the majority of them, and save they do.

When their neighbors of less frugal habits are running behind. It is therefore a fact, which all students of the social problem arising from immigration have remarked, that the Scandinavians adapt themselves with great ease to American institutions.

There is no other class of immigrants which is so readily assimilated and assumes so naturally American customs and modes of thought.

And this is not because their own nationality is devoid of strong characteristics but because, on account of their ancient kinship and subsequent development, they have certain fundamental traits in common with us, and are therefore less in need of adaptation.

The institutions of Norway are the most democratic in Europe, and those of Sweden, though less liberal, are developing in the same direction.

Both Norwegians and Swedes are accustomed to participate in the management of their communal affairs, and to vote for their representative in the national parliament; and although the power given them here is nominally greater than that they enjoyed at home, it is virtually less.

The sense of public responsibility, the habit of interest in public affairs, and a critical attitude toward the acts of government are nowhere so general among rich and poor alike as in Norway and Sweden, notwithstanding the fact that the suffrage is not universal.

NOT SO VERY REMARKABLE. Army Officers Have Made Harder Rides Than the Germans.

The recent test of speed of horses and that of the endurance of officers and men in which a hundred German officers engaged from Berlin to Vienna, and a hundred Austro-Hungarian officers from Vienna to Berlin, have been freely commented upon, but are not considered by army officers as so very remarkable.

In 1877, says the New York Tribune, Capt. Ezra Fuller, of the Seventh United States cavalry, during the pursuit of Chief Joseph, was sent out by Gen. Miles from Fort Keogh to ascertain and give warning as to the route which Chief Joseph was taking over the mountains.

Capt. Fuller rode his own private horse, his guide had two Indian ponies, and an extra horse was taken along to carry the rations for the party.

They were gone twelve days, during which they rode more than six hundred miles—not over the king's highway, but through an unknown mountainous wilderness.

During this twelve days Capt. Fuller was unable to procure more than three feeds of grain for his horses. The Indian ponies gave out on the third day, and the guide then rode the extra horse.

Capt. Fuller once rode sixty-six miles in nine hours in search of deserts.

BORING IN THE SEA FOR OIL.

American Drillers at Work for the Mikado's Government.

The Japanese government has had in its employ for over a year past two expert oil drillers from the Pennsylvania oil region, who are superintending boring for oil in the waters of the Japan sea, one hundred and fifty yards from shore, just outside Idzmozaki, a city about thirteen thousand population on the northwestern coast of Japan.

and about fifty-five miles southwest of Niigata. They have met with success. This venture is regarded by the Pittsburgh Dispatch as promising some important developments, especially as, instead of that government importing the refined oil from this country in the quantity they have been doing, they have now erected four or five refineries.

With these they are refining their own oil, the producing of which is yet largely inadequate to their demand, and also beginning to refine the crude which they import from the United States and Russia. The most of the refined oil which they import from this country comes from Philadelphia.

Their native oil is similar to the Pennsylvania oil, but a little darker and of forty-three gravity. The present price of oil there is from three dollars and twenty-five cents to three dollars and twenty-nine cents a barrel, or in their native currency from four yen and ninety sen to five yen.

A yan varies with the price of gold, but these drillers said it was worth sixty-five and three-fourths cents in gold when they left.

At Idzmozaki, which is noted as a fishing town, the available shore line is very narrow, it being occupied by the city, immediately back of which the "mountains," about two hundred and fifty feet high, rise. The wells are crowding out into the waters of the sea, much as they have been doing at St. Mary's reservoir in the northwestern part of Ohio.

About four hundred and fifty feet out the water is only some three and one-half feet deep. They usually put down a cribbing of logs or timber, which they fill in with earth and thus obtain the necessary though somewhat limited space upon which they can proceed with their operations and boring.

They run out to the derrick from shore a narrow walk; upon which the natives carry to land on their backs the oil, a few gallons at a time. Labor is very cheap there, and natives work for seven yen a month and "find" or board themselves, a yan being, as before stated, about sixty cents. They are not organized, have no such things as labor unions, and strikes are unknown.

They have no set time for a day's work, which is practically during daylight, frequently beginning work at the wells at four o'clock in the morning.

A DIG CLAM MINE. Thousands of the Bivalves Stored at the Mouth of Delaware Bay.

A clam mine, full of live clams, and of great breadth and depth, has been discovered at the mouth of the Delaware bay, off the Fishing creek shore. This has proved a valuable find, and recently about one hundred boats, containing from three to five men each, were at work on the mine, says the Trenton Free American.

The product of the great bed is shipped daily to Chicago, a speculator of that city agreeing to take the entire output of the mine at about thirty cents per hundred delivered at Bennett's station, on the West Jersey railroad. There has recently been a corner in the clam market, and choice articles have been sold at as high as one dollar per hundred to restaurant keepers.

The pocket of clams covers a wide area just beyond the low-water mark, and, consequently, all who wish to may dredge without fear or favor. It was discovered some days ago by William Harper, of Green Creek, who found dozens of prime clams imbedded deeply in a small cake of ice washed ashore close by Highland and Arlington beaches.

Marking the spot carefully he waited until the ice was entirely out of the bay, and then taking a boat he patrolled the byside from end to end until he located the mine. For a day or so his liberal finds attracted no attention, but one by one the little fishermen and farmers rowed out to the mine and helped themselves. The find being located beyond the low-water mark the mine is public property, and is being worked for all it will bear.

The other day over fifty thousand clams started on their journey west from Bennett's station. The barges were piled to high as to almost hide the station house.

Every now and then a discovery something like this is made, but the present mine is the most previous find near the Atlantic coast. About three years ago a party of elements to grow properly and with a marketable size and flavor, the oil is said by experts to be about as good as old.

Why Lord Herbert Did Not Die Down. The late Lord Herbert was an albino, and to this defect in his eye-sight a peculiar accident in the house of commons was due, where he became a peer. He was a member of unusual brilliancy, and came into the house of commons to make a slashing speech against the ministry.

His friends, however, gave promise of a notable speech, but he hardly opened his mouth when he was reduced to utter helplessness by the discovery that there was some confusion in his notes, which owing to his weak sight he could not rectify.

ONE OF WATTERSON'S STORIES.

A Defaultion Case in Louisville and Its Remarkable Sequel.

"That was a queer story Henry Watterson told in his lecture about a defaultion case at Louisville," said a gentleman who heard the eloquent journalist to The Man About Town of the St. Louis Republic.

"He said that several years ago a gentleman holding a commanding commercial and social position in the Kentucky metropolis had used the funds of the corporation of which he was the trusted financial head, and when the day of accounting came he found he was short in his accounts. The time was too brief to make the deficit good and his own funds were in such shape that he was inextricably entangled.

He was an honest man, but in a moment of overconfidence had permitted himself to deviate from the narrow path just enough to use the firm's cash as a temporary loan, promising to return it at once and promptly. As is always the case, he failed to keep his promise, and the delay was dangerous—when the time came he could not. Instead of waiting the inevitable discovery, he called a meeting of the directors, made a straightforward confession, resigned his position, threw himself upon the mercy of the court, so to speak, and pledged himself to pay every dollar if he were not exposed and prosecuted.

An animated discussion followed, and a large majority were in favor of giving the delinquent a chance. His hitherto high standing and undoubted business ability were in his favor, not to mention that he might have skipped if he had desired. Two of the directors held out. They thought it would be compounding a felony, and it was an awful thing to let such a man loose upon the unsuspecting community. But they were outvoted, and the defaulter was given another chance.

He is now a prosperous and wealthy business man of Louisville. Two years after his misfortune one of the two men who had objected to his release was a fugitive in Texas charged with embezzlement, and at the end of another year the other fled to Canada to escape arrest on the same charge. In the whirligig of time this prosperous merchant, whose early misfortune these two men had endeavored to turn into disgrace and calamity, said Col. Watterson, was the foreman of the grand jury that indicted the two fugitives. Beware the false step, continued Col. Watterson, but don't always condemn the victim without giving him the benefit of the doubt."

MESSAGES TO THEIR DEAD. Beautiful Custom in Siam of Sending Audies Out to Sea.

At full moon in October and again at full moon in November the three days' show is held, says the Saturday Review, and for some time previously the houses of grandes and peasants, the markets and bazars show signs of preparation for the coming event. The humblest style in which the ceremony can be performed is yet pretty enough. The broad, strong leaf of a plantain is bent or folded into the shape of a boat or raft. In the middle of this simple structure a tiny taper is fixed upright. The "floatong," or raft, of which this is the simplest form, is then kept ready in the house until the auspicious moment—predicted by the family priest—has arrived.

Then at this moment, when the water is silvered over by the beams of the broad rising moon, the taper is lighted and the tiny raft is launched upon the waves. Very slowly at first it makes its way along the edge of the ebbing tide; then, wafted gently by the still evening air into the swifter current, it drifts further and further away until only a bright speck of light distinguishes it from the rippling surface all around. When the night is fine thousands of these little stars of light may be seen twinkling on the broad bosom of the Menam, all winding their silent way toward the boundless sea, all bearing silent messages to departed friends who have already gone to the great unknown land.

Scientific journals in England speak approvingly of a new method of manufacturing caustic soda, chlorine and other chemical products directly from sea water with the aid of electricity. There is an immense saving of time, labor and material in the process. It is readily seen that man gets a fresh grasp on the hoarded treasures of nature through such a discovery. Perhaps the most interesting suggestion made in connection with this new method of manufacturing chemicals is that of Science Gossip to the effect that electricity may yet enable us to purify sea water as to fit it for drinking purposes. One of the greatest terrors that confront the shipwrecked would be banished by such a discovery, provided that the electrical apparatus could be made portable enough to be taken off in a boat.

Aliquity of the Pump. The common water pump of to-day is but an improvement on a Grecian invention which first came into general use during the reign of the Ptolemies, Philadelphes and Energetes, 283 to 231 B. C. The name, which is very similar in all languages, is derived from the Greek word "pempo," to send or throw. The most ancient description we have of the water pump is by Hero of Alexandria. There is no authentic account of its general use outside of Egypt previous to its introduction into the German provinces at about the opening of the sixteenth century. Pumps with plungers and pistons were invented by Morland, an Englishman, in 1674; the double-acting pump by De la Hire, the French academicien, some twenty years later.

Six Ways Around the World. The time required for a journey around the earth by a man walking day and night, without rest, would be 438 days; an express train, forty days; sound, at a medium temperature, 32½ hours; cannon ball, 31½ hours; light, a little over one-tenth of a second; electricity, passing over copper wire, a little less than one-tenth of a second.

HEREDITARY FOES.

The Intense Hatred of the Pimas for the Apaches.

The memory of the Pima nor do his traditions run so far back that a mortal enmity with the Apaches did not exist. The first thing the Pima child is taught is to hate the Apache, the vandal of the great American desert, and he seldom forgets his teaching. Though it is not so bad now that the Apaches have surrendered to the United States government, still the hatred exists, and when the opportunity is presented the Pima spits at and heaps all kinds of contumely upon the heads of the Apaches.

As is known, the Pimas seldom leave their valley homes, and as the Apaches are now on the reservation under the surveillance of troops, it is rarely that they meet, though last winter a company of the Apache soldiers were brought through this city under a United States officer. Before they had been here an hour their old enemies, the Pimas and Maricopas, all knew of it, and by the middle of the afternoon fully two thousand were in town to see them. The Apache sentinel had been taught enough military discipline to know that he must not resent the insults heaped upon him by the Indian onlookers, but it must have been a hard trial to his wild nature.

Years ago the Apaches and the Pimas often settled their differences by single combat or pitched battles, and there is now one Pima living who killed six Apaches in one day in single combat near where the Sacaton agency is located. The Pima used his ironwood club, about two feet in length, and the Apaches their spears and war clubs. It is wonderful how skillful these Pimas are in the use of their clubs, fencing with them equal to the exhibition of a French master of the foils.

A STRANGE FRIENDSHIP. Dickens' Account of a Cobbler's Love for His Dog.

"My father's love for dogs led him into a strange friendship during our stay at Boulogne," writes the famous author's daughter in Ladies' Home Journal. "There lived in a cottage on the street which led from our house to the town a cobbler who used to sit at his window working all day with his dog—a Pomeranian—on the table beside him. The cobbler, in whom my father became very much interested because of the intelligence of his poodle, was taken ill and for many months was unable to work. My father writes: 'The cobbler has been ill these many months. The little dog sits at the door so unhappy and anxious to help that I every day expect to see him beginning a pair of top boots.' Another time father writes in telling the history of this little animal: 'A cobbler at Boulogne, who had the nicest little dogs that always sat in his sunny window watching him at his work, asked me if I would bring the dog home as he couldn't afford to pay the tax for him. The cobbler and the dog being both my particular friends I complied. The cobbler parted with the dog heartbroken. When the dog got home here my man, like an idiot as he is, tied him up and then untied him. The moment the gate was open, the dog (on the very day after his arrival) ran out. Next day George and I saw him lying all covered with mud, dead, outside the neighboring church. How am I ever to tell the cobbler? He is too poor to come to England, so I feel that I must lie to him for life, and say that the dog is fat and happy.'"

IT IS HER NOSE THAT SUFFERS. What a Man Goes Along Trying to Warm His Ears.

"Speaking of cold weather, I have discovered that the cold affects men and women differently," says a writer in the New York Herald. "I mean that despite the fact that both sexes are of the human kind they have not the same vulnerable points for Jack Frost to nip. 'You may have noticed as I have, that a woman when outdoors in a cold day goes along apparently comfortable except for her nose. She covers it with her mittened or gloved hand, or if she is very nice she holds her handkerchief in front of it. 'It is the tip of her nose that the cold takes hold of and won't let go. Her cheeks and her chin never seem to suffer, but her nose always gets red and cold and frosted. 'I believe that physicians say the vulnerability of the feminine nose is caused by corsets, or rather by the lacing which the wearing of corsets implies. At any rate it forces the blood to the nose and makes red noses as well as tender noses. 'And the only moral I can see in it is that if the girls would shed their corsets they might not in course of time be forced to the undignified proceeding of holding on to their noses. 'Now, with man it touches him on the ear. There's where a man feels the cold first. It's his ears that tingle when the mercury slips down toward the zero notch; it's his ears that freeze when he stays out in the winter weather long enough.'"

Engagements in Germany. When a maiden is betrothed in Germany she is called bride by her sweetheart, who addresses her thus until it becomes time to call her wife. Immediately upon betrothal the lovers exchange rings, which, if the course of true love runs smooth, are to be worn ever afterward until death parts them. The woman wears her betrothal ring on the third finger of her left hand until she is married, and then it is transferred to the third finger of her right hand. The husband continues to wear the ring just as the wife wore hers when she was bride, so that one can tell easily at a glance if a man be or be not mortgaged as to his affections. A young German matron on being told of the careless American custom of allowing the man to go unfettered exclaimed: 'Oh, how dreadful! How unjust to the young wives! How could I expose my Wilhelm—so young—only twenty-five—so the temptations of the world, if he were not to wear a marriage ring. The girls would make love to him. I would not live in America for the world.'"

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