Saluting After Sneezing.

When the king of Seunaar sneezed his courtiers immediately turned their backs on him and gave a loud slap on their right thigh.

It is probable that the custom of saluting after sneezing, which is still prevalent in some countries, originated in some ancient superstition.

It is attributed by some to Pope Gregory, who is said to have instituted a short benediction to be used on such occasions, at a time when, during a pestilence, the crisis was attended by sneezing, and in most cases followed by death.

The custom existed long prior to Pope Gregory. The lover in "Apulirus," Gyton in "Petronius," and allusions to it in Pliny prove its antiquity; a memoir of the French academy notices the practice in the new world on the first discovery of America. Everywhere man was saluted for sneezing.

The Rabbins, who have a story for everything, say that before Jacob men never sneezed but once, and then immediately died. They assure us that Patriarch was the first one who died a natural death; before him all men died of sneezing, the memoirs of which was ordered to be preserved in all nations by a command of every prince to his subjects to employ some salutary exclamation after the act of sneezing.

When the king of Menomotapa sneezed those near his person, when this happened, saluted him in so loud a tone that persons in the state-chamber heard it and joined in the acclamation in the adjoining apartment. They did the same till the noise reached the street, and became propagated throughout the city; so that each sneeze of his majesty a most horrid cry from the salutations of many thousands of his vassals resulted.

With the ancient sneezing was ominous; from the right it was considered auspicious; and Plutarch, in his life of Themistocles, says that before a naval battle it was a sign of conquest. Catullus, in his pleasing poem of "Acme and Septimius," makes this action of the deity of love from the left the source of his fiction. The passage has been verified by a poetical friend, who finds authority that the gods sneezing on the right in heaven is supposed to come to us on earth on the left.—*Pittsburg Dispatch.*

Of Gentle Breeding.

To a hotel in a neighboring city, says the Toronto *Globe*, there came a youth beautiful as to his face, and his overcoat was shorter than his undercoat, which showed him to be of gentle breeding. He addressed the hotel clerk imperiously, telling him that he must forthwith summon the chief of police in his presence. The chief of police was in bed, and he rose at the call of duty and hurried down to the hotel. He was ushered into the room allotted to the youth who greeted him haughtily, but not unkindly, and permitted him to seat himself. Then he told him, between the puffs of a cigarette, that some street youth had spoken to him rudely. "Am I to understand," he said savagely, "that a gentleman can not walk your streets without being insulted?"

As he paused for a reply he noticed a change coming over the face of the chief. His nostrils dilated, his eyes opened wide, and there was a wicked light in them. When he was able to speak he said: "You (mean thing) do you mean to say you got me out of bed to tell me that? Why, I'll kill you," and he laid a mighty hand on each shoulder of the unfortunate youth, shook him, raised him from the floor, and brought him down again, and when he had been "distilled almost to a jelly with the act of fear" he slammed the door, and the youth heard with relief his heavy footsteps on the hotel stairs. The young man believes to this hour that the police of that city are in league with the roughs.

Cock-Fighting Near the Pole.

A few days ago, as the writer in company with a gentleman was passing down Smithfield street their attention was attracted by a handsome game rooster on exhibition at a bird fancier's establishment. The gentleman remarked:

"I never see a chicken but I think of a queer sight I once witnessed on shipboard in the arctic regions. We had on the ship a number of fowls, among them two roosters better fitted to grace the pit than the banquet board. Story-telling with the crew being exhausted, the men looked around for some other form of amusement. A cock-fight was proposed, a ring formed, and the two roosters were soon at bill and spur. So evenly were the birds matched that they were not allowed to fight to a finish, but the sport was prolonged long after their less sanguine companions had been sacrificed and passed, by the chicken-pie and palatable-fry route, to land where it is to be hoped pullet necks are never wrung. Well, as we approached Greenland and entered the arctic circle, into that mysterious region where nature wears mourning for six months for the death of day, we observed that the roosters Billy and Jim seemed to forget the combination for the proper hour for crowing, and to be troubled with insomnia. They would crow at all hours of the day or night, as though anxious to awake the drowsy aurora from her cloudy bed and bring her blushing above the crimsoned horizon. One morning they were let out of the coop to have the usual set-to, but they seemed melancholy and dispirited, and after a few weak attempts at combat both, as though seized with a common impulse, flew over the vessel's side and were drowned."—*Pittsburg Telegraph.*

Eels That Scale Precipices.

One of the most novel sights in the spring of the year, at the rocks of the Willamette Falls, is the swarms of gyrating eels. They are friskiness itself, and show a low order of intelligence. If you put your hand in the water over the eels, or spit on it, instantly they are gone. But poke a stick down among the snaky things and they do not notice it. The sense of smell seems to be their main guard against danger. Like salmon, they do their level best to dart up the rocks in order to ascend the river, and with good success. Says a fisherman:

"I have seen as many as a hundred bushels of eels hanging on the rocks at one time by the suckers of their mouths. They would wiggle and flutter their tails, and by the momentum thus obtained, letting go with their suckers jump up about six inches higher. I caught about forty barrels last seasun that I salted and sold to the Columbia fishermen for bait. I picked them off the rocks with a fish hook tied to a pole. I started at the bottom row of hanging eels, and would silently pick off barrel after barrel. The upper rows hadn't sense enough to perceive the enemy. I have caught eels in the headwaters of the Santiam, in the Cascade Mountains. Supppose they had swum up from the Willamette.—*Oregon City Courier.*

There is a dog at Seymour, Ind., who will look at a clock and then put his paw on the exact hour as marked on a card.

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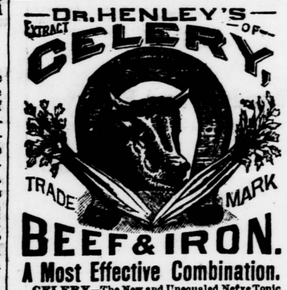

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