

### BEER CREATURES.

and peculiarities of the Bat and the Whale.

Only one species of featherless animal that can fly exists in all the world, and it is one that you probably have often seen. Properly speaking it has no wings, nevertheless its flying apparatus is more nearly perfect than that of any bird. It flies with wonderful rapidity, darts about with such quickness that it is difficult for the eye to follow it, and its sense of touch and smell are something marvelous.

In watching its rapid and eccentric flight in the twilight you have, no doubt, thought that this strange animal is a bird. But its bird-like appearance ends with its ability to fly. Its young are born and nurtured just as are puppies and kittens. This strange flying animal is the bat, says a writer in the Philadelphia Times. In one of Aesop's fables it is related that the beasts and the birds once engaged in battle, and the bat hovered above, changing from one side to the other, as the chances of victory changed. For this treachery the bat was doomed to the queer life he now leads, that of an apparent bird, but a real mammalian animal.

The structure of the bat is very peculiar. An eminent naturalist says: "If the fingers of a man were to be drawn out like wire to about four feet in length, a thin membrane to extend from finger to finger, and another membrane to fall from the little finger to the ankles, he would make a very tolerable bat." Yes, the whole skeleton of the bat is very similar to that of man, with the exception of the great elongation of what we may call the arms and hands.

When you see the bat darting about in the evening he is taking his supper. He lives as the swallow does, on insects in the air, and, although his sight is very poor, his touch and smell are so sensitive that he has no difficulty in catching his prey, even when flying so very fast.

When cold weather comes on the bat ceases to fly about in search of food. He doesn't need to. He seeks a well sheltered nook, where he is not likely to be disturbed, and quietly takes a nap till next spring.

Somewhat analogous to the bat, the mammalian of the air, is the whale, the mammalian of the sea. The whale is no more a fish than the bat is a bird. Its young are born like the kittens and the puppies, but only one at a time. The young whale takes its nourishment at its mother's breast, just as the human baby does, and it is just as carefully watched and guarded by its parents.

Although whales grow to enormous size, sometimes eight or even ninety feet long, the throat is so small that the animal couldn't swallow a bite as large as a tea biscuit. This applies to the common whale; the sperm whale has a mouth large enough to swallow a man.

The whalebone that the dress-makers and others find so useful is what may be called the jaw of the common whale. It has no teeth, and it lives on animals—little animals—that float in great numbers on the surface of the water. The whalebone is used as a sieve through which the food is strained. Therefore the whale that kindly took Jonah "in out of the wet" must have been a sperm whale, which has a big throat and jaws with about one hundred teeth in each.

### POCKET-MONEY FOR BOYS.

The Evil Attendant Upon Supplying Them With Cash.

If you want to ruin an impulsive boy, give him plenty of pocket-money. The recipe is infallible. It has often been tried, and always with the same unhappy result.

Rich parents are too liable to indulge in this killing species of kindness. By the time he is eight years old, the little scion of wealth begins to understand the soft side of pa and ma, if both have a soft side, and, if not, the weak spot in the weaker of the twain. If an only son, he is usually irresistible.

Alas! how many only sons have the way to destruction made smooth for them by blind partiality. Young gentlemen of large expectations are accustomed to carry bank bills in their portemonnaies at the ripe age of ten in these days of prematurity. At fourteen they are content with nothing less than well-stuffed pocket-books, which "the governor" is required to refill as fast as they are emptied, or, if he demurs to the requisition, the wherewithal must come out of "the old lady's" pin money. "You, a must be served," especially precocious youth.

All this is wrong. Every father and mother knows it is wrong, and yet such things are common, says the New York Ledger. Say what we may about the harsh, austere, uncompromising old Puritans, their stern family discipline was better than the domestic indulgence by which children are "spoiled" in these modern days. Boys need the curb as much as fiery young colts, and of the two extremes it is wiser to bit them heavily than to throw the reins on their necks and let them gallop at their own wild will. There is a middle course, however, which conscientious trainers of youth find no difficulty in pursuing. Would there were more of them.

### Color Balls in Italy.

A young woman who had just returned from abroad said that color balls are frequently given at Nice. "I attended two there," she said, "one red, the other white. The red was the more brilliant, but the white was exceedingly beautiful, too. At the former, the men appeared in red-satin coats, white-satin breeches and red-silk stockings and shoes. The ladies wore white, with red roses. All the decorations and hangings were red, lamp-shades and all, and the supper ornamentations were all of the same bright color. At the white ball every thing was white. The men wore suits of white satin, with white shoes, and the ladies, of course, white dresses and flowers. Both were given by the nobility and were very gay and attractive. As a novelty, I was told, a black ball was once given, white shirts for the men and white flowers for the women being the only relief."

### FOREIGN SUITORS.

What Makes Them so Attractive to American Girls.

One reason why American girls wish to marry abroad is that foreigners have, as a rule, a certain enamel of manner which is very attractive to women. The hand-kissing, the flattery, the deferential manner, all these are the most agreeable beginnings of an acquaintance. It is, to an idle girl, a great pleasure to find a man who has all his day to devote to her.

The European man has made a study of how to amuse himself all day long, and no doubt he has picked up education and much that is very agreeable along with this effort to get rid of time.

The American man has had no such difficulty in disposing of the golden hours; he has worked hard to make his living; he has had a terrible struggle for it, and his love-making has been a thing apart, an interlude in the busy life, writes Mrs. John Sherwood in Harper's Bazar. He has had no time to enamel himself with foreign manners, and to an idle and a selfish girl he is far less agreeable than a man who can take her to picture galleries, to races, to the Bois, to dine, who knows all about dress-makers, their prices, their degree of style and their costumes.

A European man is a gazette, a newspaper, among other things, and he is full of delightful anecdotes. He knows all the gossip about the Prince of Wales, about Lady Agatha and the Duchess of Nowhere; he is selfish in every thing else, but he is not selfish in this. He does try to make himself amusing and agreeable, and, to do him justice, he generally succeeds. If he goes to theater or opera with a party of ladies, he knows the history—and it is apt to be a piquant one—of every prima donna, every tenor, every basso. He remembers what happened at Nice two winters ago, and he has an amusing story about the grand Duchess of Pimpernickel.

We all know that there is no more fascinating reading for the idle and cultivated than stories in which titles abound. And perhaps, when treated with the genius of "Ouida," they are very good reading for anybody who has nothing else to do.

### THE ANGELUS IN THE TYROL.

Every Thing is Quickly Dropped When the Church-Bells Ring.

The wide-spread interest in Millet's masterpiece, the Angelus, lends especial interest to the following brief but graphic description of the solemn observance from which it takes its name. It is from the pen of a recent traveler on the continent:

I know nothing that saddens me more than to return to our country after having been a little while in Belgium or Tyrol. There the poor people seem so wonderfully to live in the presence of God.

If you were to go through a Tyrolean village at six o'clock in the evening, you would hear from every cottage a hum like that of a hive of bees, every one, father and mother and children and servants, saying their prayers. It is much the same at noon, only then many of the people are out of doors in the fields, or in their gardens. The church-bells ring at twelve, and the movers put down their scythes, and take off their caps, and fold their hands in prayer for about a minute, and then go on with their work.

One market-day at Innsbruck I was dining, and there was a party of farmers at another table having their dinner. The church-bell rang the Angelus. Then they all rose up, and, standing reverently, the oldest man in the party began the prayers, and the rest responded. And the women shopping were standing still in the market, and those at the booths selling stool also with folded hands, and the men had their hats off, and instead of the buzz of bargaining, rose the murmur of the prayer from all that great throng.

### MENTAL LAZINESS.

The General Disposition to Shift Responsibility.

The great enemy to individualism is laziness, and those who know any thing of human frailties will, I am sure, bear me out when I say that "mental" laziness is far more common and far more difficult to overcome than that of the body, says a writer in Popular Science Monthly. It is so much easier to accept dogmatic teaching, and to shift the responsibility of our views on to others, rather than to concentrate our thoughts and work out the lessons of our own observations; it is much more pleasant to butterfly from theory to theory than to seek truth with patient tenacity; why trouble ourselves to learn self-reliance, when natural indolence protests against the sacrifice?

It is easier to imitate than to originate; plagiarism and mimicry are such prominent features in our lives that their presence might also be quoted as an argument in favor of our evolution in past ages from Simian ancestry. How plausible are the excuses we make for our want of this individualism! We are so dreadfully afraid of being thought bumpkins, we are so delightfully humble, we really do not wish to intrude our opinion, and yet all the brightest lights of our profession have been men of strong individualism.

### They Were Afraid of Bombs.

A curious incident occurred a short time ago in the town of Volkhoff, in Southeast Europe. The stoves in the school building were ordered to be repaired by the common council; the workmen were about to commence when, to their horror, they saw two bombs standing on the school-mistress' writing table. The proprietor of the house was immediately communicated with, and promptly took the men to the municipal council, the members of which came in a body to view the destructive bombs. Next came the police, who took a cautious view of the situation from a distance, and formed a strong guard round the house. An old soldier was sent for, at the suggestion of one of the workmen. He entered the room and found two empty bombs, which the school-mistress had inherited from her father many years ago, and had used as candlesticks ever since.

### STRANGERS IN AFRICA.

The Hospitable Manner in Which They Are Treated by the Natives.

"A stranger traveling in Africa with only two or three attendants can go about without much fear of molestation. A great armed body like the Stanley expedition will be obliged to fight at times, of course, but I never had any use at all for a weapon of any kind in Africa," writes Bishop Taylor, in the Boston Globe.

"There are some things that a solitary traveler can find out about Africa which a large expedition will never learn. I observed one custom that I never saw mentioned in any traveler's accounts. I noticed that every village had set apart a field for the use of strangers. The chief wife of the tribal King cultivated this field and stored away the product in the upper half of her hut. No man of the tribe was permitted to touch of the food thus stored. The King's wife had her share of this and made her living out of it, but all over and above the amount actually consumed must be set apart and preserved. This field is known as the 'Stranger's' field.

"Whenever a stranger comes into the village he makes known his want to the King, and he is immediately relieved. The best hut in the village is set apart for him; he eats of the food of the stranger's field, and the best wife of the King prepares the food for him with her own hand. He remains a week or a month, or any reasonable length of time and his time is never hastened. Sometimes he stays long enough to become a member of the tribe, and he marries into the King's family.

"An amusing feature of this custom is the fact that indigent members of the tribe sometimes leave their village and go to other villages and become strangers, so that very often when a familiar face has been missed from a certain village, and I have asked where So-and-so went or what became of him, some one has gravely informed me that So-and-so had grown poor and become a stranger. Subsequently I have run across lazy So-and-so in a distant village living on the fat of the land as a stranger and being treated to royal hospitality.

"There are no beggars in Africa. When a man or woman becomes too poor to get along comfortably, he or she makes the circuit of the adjacent villages as a stranger."

### A NEW USE FOR WATCHES.

They Can Be Utilized as Compasses as Well as Time-keepers.

A correspondent of London Truth relates that, meeting an American gentleman, he had occasion to ask him which point was the north. The gentleman said he could soon tell him, and pulling out his watch he did so. He then explained that all watches are compasses, and described the way in which they could be used as such. The hour hand is pointed to the sun, and the south will be exactly half way between the hour and the figure XII. on the watch. Supposing, for instance, it is 4 o'clock, the hand indicating IV. will be pointed to the sun and II. on the watch will be exactly south. If it is 8 o'clock the hand indicating VIII will be pointed to the sun and the figure X. on the watch will be due south. The correspondent further states that, meeting Mr. Stanley shortly afterwards, he asked the eminent traveler whether he was aware of this simple mode of discovering the points of the compass. He said he had never heard of it, but he had a good word to say of the American who was thus the means of making generally known this ingenious method of "making the bearings."

### Effects of Sea Air.

The conversation in a little gathering up-town on a recent evening, says the New York Tribune, passed to the effect of sea air on various things, including, of course, the human body. One man told rather curiously that he is often sent from England on sea voyages to India and back, and its flavor remarked: "A thereby. Another man lived in this country who has always had good tea really is. No matter how tight boxes of tea are closed before being shipped here from China, the sea air always manages to get at the leaf and cause its flavor to deteriorate materially. Any one who has drunk tea in Russia, which has been transported overland appreciates the damage done by the sea air. In England, also, tea that comes from China over Europe and has to undergo only a brief sea voyage is prized much more highly than that which makes the entire journey in a ship."

### False Teeth Prolong Life.

Very few people realize how much the dentist has done for mankind. To mention one thing only, says a prominent dentist, the perfection to which the manufacture of false teeth has been carried has practically abolished old age—that is, old age in the sense that I used to know it. You see none of the helpless, mumbling old men and women that you formerly did. This is not because people do not attain the age their parents and grandparents reached, but because the dentist has prevented some of the most unpleasant consequences of advancing years. Men of seventy no longer either look or feel old because they are not deprived of nourishing food at the time when they need it most. Estimates have been made showing that the average length of life has been increased from four to six years by the general use of false teeth.

### Use for Old Cables.

On the large ranches in this State, especially those where numbers of horses are pastured, says the San Francisco Chronicle, a use has been found for old cables discarded by the cable lines of this city. The barbed wire cuts stock so badly that the cables are bought up by the ranchers for about twelve and a half to thirteen dollars a ton, and then unraveled and the wires of the strand used for fencing purposes. About seven good strands can be obtained from a worn cable, and usually seven or eight wires of each can be utilized. All of the lines do not use the same standard, so that the number of wires to be obtained varies. The great ranches of the San Joaquin valley are using large quantities of discarded cable for this purpose.

### PROFIT FROM PATENTS.

Rich Returns Received by Ingenious Inventors.

Articles of Usefulness and Convenience Which Have Made Large Fortunes for the Men Who Thought Them Out—The Value of Ideas.

"There is," says an eminent authority, "scarcely an article of human convenience or necessity in the market to-day that has not been the subject of a patent in whole or in part. The sale of every such article yields its inventor a profit. If we purchase a box of paper collars a portion of the price goes to the inventor; if we buy a sewing machine the probability is that we pay a royalty to as many as a dozen or fifteen inventors at once." Lord Brougham often said that he would gladly have exchanged his honors and emoluments for the profits and renown of the inventor of the perambulator or sewing machine. We are not wishful, says the Chicago Herald, to lead our readers to covet what are termed "large fortunes" as really conducive to happiness or usefulness. "Fortune" is itself a heathen and not a Christian word. But "invention" is another thing, and the remunerative results are a fitting element for consideration in these days. Howe, the originator of the sewing machine, derived £100,000 a year from it, and from their mechanical improvements the celebrated Wheeler & Wilson are reputed to have divided for many years an income of £200,000, while the author of the Singer sewing machine left at his decease nearly £5,000,000. The telephone, the planing machine and the rubber patents realized many millions, while the simple idea of heating the blast in iron smelting increased the wealth of the country by hundreds of millions. The patent of making the lower ends of candles taper instead of parallel, so as to more easily fit the socket, made the present enormous business of a well-known firm of London chandlers. The "drive-well" was an idea of Colonel Green, whose troops during the war were in want of water. He conceived the notion of driving a two-inch tube into the ground until water was reached, and then attaching a pump. This simple contrivance was patented, and the tens of thousands of farmers who have adopted it have been obliged to pay him a royalty, estimated at £500,000. A large profit was realized by the inventor who patented the idea of making umbrellas out of alpaca instead of gingham, and the patentee of the improved "paragon frame" (Samuel Fox) lately left by will £170,000 out of the profits of his invention. The weaving, dyeing, lace and ribbon-making trades originated and depend for their existence upon ingenious machinery, the result of an infinity of inventive efforts.

The discovery of the perforated substance used for bottoming chairs and for other purposes has made its inventor a millionaire, George Yeaton, the inventor in question, was a poor Yankee canteen-keeper in Vermont. He first distinguished himself by inventing a machine for weaving cane, but he made no money out of it, as some one stole his idea and had the process patented. After a number of years' experimenting Yeaton at last hit upon this invention, which consists of a number of thin layers of boards of different degrees of hardness glued together to give pliability. He formed a company, and to-day he has a plant valued at \$500,000, and is in the receipt of a princely annual revenue derived from this invention. Carpet beating, from being an untold nuisance, has become a lucrative trade through inventive genius and mechanical contrivance. Even natural curiosity has been turned to account in the number of automatic boxes for the sale of goods of all kinds, and fabulous dividends have been paid by the companies owning the patents. The most profitable inventions have been the improvements in simple devices, things of every-day use, that everybody wants. Among the number of patents for small things may be mentioned the "stylographic pen," and a pen for shading in different colors, producing £40,000 per annum. A large profit has been reaped by a miner who invented a metal rivet or eyelet at each end of the mouth of a goat and trousers pocket to resist the strain caused by the carriage of pieces of stone and heavy tools. In a recent legal action it transpired in evidence that the soles and heels of boots from protect upward of 12,000,000 plates in wear sold in 1887, the number reached 143,000,000, producing realized profits of a quarter of a million of money. Another useful invention is the "darning weaver," a device for repairing stockings, undergarments, etc., the sale of which is very large and increasing. As large a sum as was ever obtained for any invention was enjoyed by the inventor of the protected glass bell to hang over gas to protect ceilings from being blackened, and a scarcely less lucrative patent was that for simply putting emery powder on cloth. Frequently time and circumstances are wanted before an invention is appreciated, but it will be seen that patience is well rewarded, for the inventor of the roller skate made over £200,000, notwithstanding the fact that his patent had nearly expired before it was ascertained. The gentleman than most has produced more wealth than any American who silver mines, and the copper tips to first thought of putting all off as if his children's shoes is as well off as his father had left him £400, £2,000 a year States bonds. Upward of 100 of the company made by the inventor of the foregoing mon needle threader. To of trifling might be added thousands which hand-some incomes are derived.

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