

ANCIENT TRICKSTERS

QUEER CONJURING FEATS OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY.

Little Experiments in Which Boiling the Heads of Living Animals Was a Necessary Adjunct—How They Killed a Horse and Cured Him Again.

Conjurers in ancient times were not very respectable members of society—when successful, they enjoyed the reputation of having sold their souls to the evil one, and when of inferior ability they gained notoriety by being either drowned or burned. The medieval magicians as well as the Egyptian magi and the Chaldean sages were only a strange mixture of chemist, conjurer and charlatan, and as these gentlemen were in the habit of using their supposed occult powers to their own advantage they were naturally unpopular. The feats of jugglery performed by these craftsmen were intended for the mystification and not the amusement of the public, and for centuries conjuring had to it only a black side.

The amateur conjurer of today is not always a popular individual, save with children and the unsophisticated yokel. To the general public he is merely a bore of greater or less magnitude, whose performance is so obvious as to deceive no one. It is hard to realize that this person is no mere mushroom growth of modern society, but in point of fact his role is one of a respectable antiquity, for he is to be found treading close upon the heels of the magicians and in the days when witchcraft was still rampant. This is significant of his reputation even in those early times, for had any one taken his tricks seriously he would doubtless have been run to earth and done to death as a wizard.

In the middle of the seventeenth century, in the earliest years of the restoration, a number of tricks were published in one of those facetious books which seem to have occupied the press to a great extent at this time, but which, owing to their popularity, have for the most part perished. The chief recommendation to the greater number of these tricks is that no apparatus beyond the utensils of everyday life is necessary. Also it is suggested to the performer that he can make some small profit out of his entertainment by prevailing on his audience to bet with him on the result of the trick.

"To set a horse's or an ass's head upon a man's head and shoulders" seems impossible out of the land of Faery, but we are informed that, by boiling the head cut off from a living animal, "the flesh boy'd may runne into oyle," and then by mingling the hair beaten into powder with this oil and anointing the heads of the standers by, "they shall seem to have horses' or asses' heads"—a costly experiment and fearsome if successful.

But, besides this, one can "make people seem headless," and this without bloodshed and by the following simple receipt: "Break arsenick very fine, and boyle it with sulphur in a cover'd pot, and kindle it with a new candle, and the standers by will seem to be headlesse." Doubtless a strong imagination is necessary for success.

Some of the tricks are such as would nowadays cause the performer to be disliked, to put it mildly. For instance, "have a nut filled with ink, and give this unto another and bid him crack it and see what he can find in that," which being done "will cause much laughter."

"To keep a Tapster from frothing his Pots" must have been an amusement to the wags of the period, and for this "provide in readiness the skin of a red Horing, and when the Tapster is absent do but rub a little on the inside of his pots, and he will not be able to froth them, do what he can, in a good while after."

"To counterfeit a diamond with a white saphir" is a most useful accomplishment, but the fraud is likely in these days to be discovered, and is more a chemical experiment than a trick.

Several tricks are recommended which have animals as their subject and are for the most part brutal to our modern ideas. Perhaps the least objectionable is "to seem to kill a Horse and cure him again," which may be thus accomplished:

"Take the seed of henbane and give it the Horse in his Provender, and it will cast him into such a deep sleep that he will seem dead. If you will recover him again, rub his Nostrils with Vinegar, and he will seem to be revived." The "seem to be revived" sounds rather ominous, and it is to be noted that the correct quantity of henbane is not mentioned, so that it might be best to try this experiment on some one else's horse.

"To make a shoal of Goslings draw a Timber logge" sounds interesting, but unfortunately the directions are vague.

"To make a shoal of Goslings or a Gagle of Geese to seem to draw a Timber logge is done by the verie means that is us'd when a Cat draws a fool through a Pond, but handled somewhat further off from the Beholders."—London Standard.

Whitehead Torpedoes.

A Whitehead torpedo carries 220 pounds of wet gun cotton and weighs ready for service 1,160 pounds. Its maximum length is 16 feet 5 inches and its greatest diameter is 17.7 inches. At a speed of 25 knots per hour it has a range of about 850 yards. The torpedo is driven by compressed air at a pressure of 1,350 pounds per square inch, which operates a three stage engine.

The men of Berlin have an odd habit of brushing and combing their hair and whiskers in public. In the restaurants and cafes men pull out their implements and "spruce up" while waiting for their orders to be filled. They do not take the trouble to leave the table, either.

Dodson's Scheme.

"I say, old man," said Dodson, as he loaned his friend Elobson a nickel to pay his car fare, "why don't you try my scheme?"

"What scheme?" growled Elobson, as he mentally tried to figure out how much his wife had realized in her midnight raid.

"Why a scheme to break your wife of going through your pockets when you are asleep."

"I say, old man," cried Elobson eagerly, "if you have any scheme by which I can break my wife of going through me, for heaven's sake put me on to it, and I am your friend for life!"

"Well, you see, I used to suffer from this thing until I discovered means by which I broke my wife of the habit. I gathered together all the counterfeit money that I had accumulated in 20 years of business and filled my pockets with it. The next morning I discovered that it was gone. That same day my wife went shopping and was arrested for passing counterfeit money. It looked very black for her when they found the rest of the stuff that she had, and she was just ready to faint when I arrived on the scene. Of course I played the indignant husband and threatened to sue the whole outfit for damages. But the scheme worked. Since then the only thing my wife will accept is a check."—Detroit Free Press.

Vicious Bluefish.

The greatest enemy to the best species of fish is found in the vicious, voracious and dangerous bluefish. In size ordinarily as long as your arm, with teeth like larks, he can snap in halves a fish of his own size, and nearly all fish stand in mortal dread of him. Generally traveling in schools—sometimes as much as five miles in length—they will in short order decimate a school of shad, spot, menhaden or such like. In his stomach can be found numbers of smaller fish, according to size.

We have opened one which contained a trout of almost his own size, while another contained a shad nearly as large. Still others are found having within themselves one or more of their own species of smaller size. But their destructiveness does not end here. We have seen them behind a school of shad, spot or menhaden, and sometimes schools of mackerel and cod, snapping and slashing their prey until the water was all a foam. They eat until they can hold no more, but their voraciousness is not abated. With a snap a shad is snatched and spit out, and the next shares the same fate. They never tire, and the fish destroyed, but tubenon, cover the surface of the water.—Exchange.

CAWDOR CASTLE.

How Macbeth, Who Founded It, Happened to Select Its Site.

The late Earl of Cawdor was the owner of two charming residences in Wales—Stackpole Court, Pembroke-shire, where he died, and Golden Grove, Carmarthenshire—but these were mere pleasure houses by comparison with the ancestral home of the Campbells, Cawdor castle at Nairn. This fine north British dwelling remained almost undisturbed from the death of Sir Hugh Campbell in 1716 for a period of nearly 150 years, when it was conscientiously restored by its late owner. Cawdor castle itself had its rise in a fierce and wild age, around which traditions of a hazy nature cluster. It is a legend in Nairn that the murder by Macbeth was committed in an old chamber of the castle tower, and visitors wishing to conduct themselves with gravity and respectful reverence are expected to receive this story with an expression of solemnity not untinged with awe. That the "silver skin" of King Duncan was "laced with his golden blood" in this particular apartment is a fable that need not now be enlarged upon.

Cawdor castle by its outward aspect is, however, strongly suggestive in its giant and minatory massiveness of the fierce and treacherous times of the ambitious Macbeth. The story goes that the theme who founded it was much concerned about the choice of an abode and was warned in a dream to place his worldly wealth in a coffer and to bind it upon the back of an ass and wherever the animal should halt to set about his work. The ass "came to a sundial at the ruseburn at the third hour from the starting point" and lay down. Curiously enough, as if to confirm this tradition, to this day in the dungeon beneath the tower a hawthorn grows. The other two trees have disappeared, the last one as lately as 1836. Many stirring tales are told of the later history of Cawdor castle, which came to be left untenanted for long years owing to the Campbells departing for Wales, where they married young ladies with ample fortunes.—St. James Gazette.

Monitors and Torpedo Boats.

A monitor is a peculiar battleship, having a low freeboard, light draft and fish deck and guns mounted in heavily armored revolving turrets placed on the deck. A monitor is a floating battery more than a ship and derives its name from the first of the class ever constructed, which battled with the

Confederate Ironclad Merrimac in Hampton Roads.

The original Monitor was described as resembling a great cheesebox on a plank, but it did valuable service and revolutionized naval warfare.

Torpedo boats are the racers among the war vessels. They are swift, small craft, designed to launch torpedoes near large vessels. In order to do its work properly the torpedo boat must go close to the object of its destructive designs, and having placed the instrument of destruction in position its next object is to get away and out of the reach of the enemy. A torpedo boat must be small, and the men who form its small crew must be absolutely fearless.

A torpedo boat catcher is designed expressly to catch or to destroy torpedo boats. In order to be fitted for the work the boats are larger than the torpedo boats. They can make better time and carry heavier armament.—New York Tribune.

His New Leg.

In a city not many miles from Troy is an organization which believes in cures by faith. The president is a woman, zealous of good works. For some weeks she had observed a worthy appearing elderly man daily going by her home, and noticed that he walked considerably lame. She thought him a subject of prayerful consideration and began daily prayers in his behalf. One morning soon after she noticed him going by, apparently free from any lameness, and ventured to speak to him of this fact.

"Yes," he responded, "I do get along a good deal better today than for many days past. My old cork leg had got somewhat out of good motion, and yesterday I obtained a new one."—Troy Press.

The Nervous Preacher.

In preaching his extemporaneous sermon before Bishop Tait and Dean Stanley a candidate for priest's orders grew very nervous and stammered. "I will drive my congregation into two—the converted and the unconverted."

This proved too much for the bishop's sense of humor, and he exclaimed, "I think, sir, as there are only two of us, you had better say which is which."

Greedy.

Office Boy—Please, sir, can't I go to dinner now? It's almost an hour past my time, and I'm awfully hungry?

Employer—Hungry? Well, I wonder if anybody ever saw such a greedy boy. Here you have been licking envelopes and postage stamps all the forenoon and yet you complain of being hungry!—Pearson's Weekly.

WHERE THE JOKE CAME IN.

The Boys Bowed the Professor Back, Much to Their Chagrin.

A very good story is told of the head of a college who was the possessor of a very clumsy, old-fashioned vehicle to which he was very partial and which he constantly used in riding through the streets of the town, to the disgust of most of the students.

A plan was formed among some of the boys that on a certain night they would remove this offensive vehicle from the coachhouse to a wood about half a mile from the college. Their intention was to run the carriage into the thickest of the woods and underbrush and leave it there.

But the principal by some means learned or suspected their intention.

Accordingly, in the evening, he quietly went out to the coachhouse, and well wrapped up, crouched in a corner of the carriage and waited.

Soon the boys came, very stealthily, and, without looking into the vehicle, began their operations very quietly, and in whispers, and with many a "Hush" and "Take care" and "Look out," they succeeded in getting it out of the house and yard and into the road.

There they were all right, but they were puzzled to find the thing so heavy to haul, and amid grumblings and puffings and pantings, varied occasionally with a strong expression of disgust, they succeeded in reaching the woods, the principal listening to their complaints and rather enjoying the situation.

Having with some difficulty backed the carriage into the brush, they began to congratulate each other on the success of their maneuver. The old gentleman, letting down the window, to their utter surprise and alarm, very quietly said:

"Now, young gentlemen, just take me back very carefully, if you please."—Spurs Moments.

Cigars and Nervousness.

"You're nervous," said the doctor.

"Quite right," admitted the patient.

"That's why I sent for you."

"The only thing for you to do," explained the doctor, "is to give up smoking entirely."

"I don't smoke at all," answered the patient.

"Ah!" said the doctor. "Then the thing for you to do is to smoke a good cigar or a pipe occasionally. It has a very soothing effect."

"It's easy to prescribe when you know how."—Chicago Post.

The Roman penny was valued at about 15 cents.

"IRONING MADE EASY"

Advertisement for ELASTIC STARCH. Features an image of a starch box and text: 'A GREAT INVENTION REQUIRES NO COOKING. MAKES COLLARS AND CUFFS STIFF AND NICE AS WHEN FIRST BOUGHT NEW. ONE POUND OF THIS STARCH WILL GO AS FAR AS A TON AND A HALF OF ANY OTHER STARCH. MANUFACTURED ONLY BY THE J.C. HUBINGER BROS. CO. KEOKUK, IOWA, NEW HAVEN, CONN. COPYRIGHTED.'

This starch is prepared on scientific principles by men who have had years of practical experience in fancy laundering. It restores old linen and summer dresses to their natural whiteness and imparts a beautiful and lasting finish. It is the only starch manufactured that is perfectly harmless, containing neither arsenic, alum or any other substance injurious to linen and can be used even for a baby powder.

For sale by all wholesale and retail grocers.

Advertisement for DR. MOTT'S PENNYROYAL PILLS. Text: 'They overcome Weakness, Irregularity and omissions, increase vigor and banish "pains of menstruation." They are "Little Sisters" to frighten womanhood, and remedy for women equals them. Cannot do harm—life becomes a pleasure. \$1 per box by mail, sold by druggists. DR. MOTT'S CHEMICAL CO., Cleveland, Ohio.'

For sale by M. F. Bahnsen, druggist, cor. Fourth Av. and Twentieth St.

HOBSON'S CHOICE

whether he went into Santiago de Cuba harbor or not with his 7 brave followers, and resulted as we know in a grand success. So it is with Young & McCombs grand offering this week. If you have confidence in yourself to take advantage of these grand offerings we are sure you will not regret as these are for you, so take them away.

Gents Furnishing Dept. This is one of the best sections of the store east side main entrance.

25 doz. Men's Soft Shirts made of a No. 1 material, with set on band collar, cuffs attached. Tie with each shirt, would be cheap 69c, for 46c

A much better line of Gent's Soft Summer Shirts made in the correct style, perfectly fast colors, cheap 75c, for 49c

Gent's Blue Chambray Shirts for hot weather, cuffs and collars attached, guaranteed fast colors, always 39 and 42c, for this once 25c

20 doz. Gent's Soft Cheviot Shirts, with set on band collar, cuffs attached, with side pocket, made on a twin needle machine, guaranteed fast colors, would be cheap 50c, for this sale 39c

60 doz. Men's Fast Black and Tan Hose, full regular made, seamless, a bargain 12c, for this sale 8c a pair 8c

Gent's 4-PLY All Linen Collars, up-to-date styles, turn down and standing 15c, for 9c

Telescopes and Traveling Bags, all shapes and sizes. We start telescopes at 29c each 29c



Lipton Genuine West India Teas

Millinery Dept. Knox Style Summer Hats, the only correct sailor hats 98c

For Monday Only 25 per cent or marked price on all millinery for Monday only. All new and fresh up-to-date goods.

Parasols and Umbrellas Misses' and children's Parasols all colors, a wide range of styles and prices, satons, Satin's China silks, etc., and up 12c

Ladies' Silk Gloria Umbrella Paragon frame, congo and celluloid handles, mounted with sterling silver with tassel and cover, cheap at \$2.25, for this sale \$1.42

A manufacturer wished to unload his fancy parasols, consisting of all new up-to-date spring, '98, styles which we purchased 50c on the \$1, and we will offer the entire line at less than first cost. This is a rare opportunity at this season of the year, 98c and up 98c

Ladies' All Silk Changeable Sun Umbrella, consisting of green, garnet, brown and navy, cheap at \$3, choice 3.25

Ladies' 26-inch Silk Gloria Umbrella, Paragon frame, fancy handles with pearl mounting, cover with tassel, worth \$4, for 2.25

28-inch Gent's Silk Gloria Umbrella, Paragon frame, cover and tassel, sterling silver trimmed, France Wales handles, cheap \$3, for this sale 1.98

Sporting Goods. Hammocks, Croquets, Base Balls and Batts Fishing Tackles, etc.

Notice We rent crockery and glassware for festivals, excursions, etc., at very low rates.

Wash Dress Skirts. A White Duck Skirt, nicely stitched seams, 6-inch hem bottom, perfection in hang. For this week at 98c

Ladies Pique Dress Skirt, 6-inch hem bottom, seams felled, a very desirable skirt for summer at 2.18

Ladies' crash Dress Skirts, wide hem bottom at \$1.25 and 75c

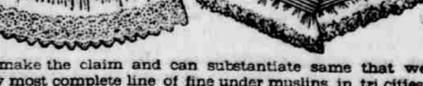
Under Muslins for Hot Days. Cambric Corset Covers, made plain and perfect fitting, this week 1 00

Fine Cambric Corset Covers, neat lace finish, felled seams, usually sold at 28c, this week as many as you wish 19c each 1 00

Extra strong values in Lace or Embroidery trimmed, high or low neck Corset Covers, this week 68, 58, 50, 45, 39 22c

Length Ladies Cambric Umbrella Style Underskirts, wide double ruffle bottom, yoke band 42c

Ladies' 5-inch ruffle Umbrella Drawers, yoke band, and nicely stitched 25c



We make the claim and can substantiate same that we carry most complete line of fine under muslins in tri cities.

RUGS. From the Smith Auction Sale. RUGS. In New Spring Patterns. RUGS. Cheaper than ever before.

Our eastern representative attended the mammoth yearly auction sale of the celebrated "Smith Rugs." Come and share our "good luck." Beautiful line Moquette Rugs at 98c

Carriage Lap Robes. 48x62 Lap Duster, mixed colors, early "snaps" very serviceable and choice design center, fancy wide border, ends fringed, well worth 75c, going fast at 49c

YOUNG & M'COMB'S 1723-1728 Second Avenue, Rock Island.

Crockery Dept. Do not use impure water when you can get one of our Monarch Water Filters for \$2.49. These filters are in every respect equal to any of these filters for which you pay \$4.50 and \$5. Dark muddy water is at once changed to a clear, crystal fluid, pure and sweet.



Water Filters. Medium size 2.49 Large size 2.75

House Furnishing Dept. 500 Ice Tongs, special, worth 15c, sale price 5c

Tin Tea Kettle 1 00

Galvanized Refrigerator Pans 1 80

10 quart Galvanized Pails 1 00

2-burner Oil Stove 49c

Galvanized Iron Wash Tub, family size 39c

26x66 Screen Doors 50c

26x66 Screen Doors 50c

Baby Carriages. A complete line of Carriages ranging in price from \$3.95 and up, positively the biggest bargain we have ever been able to offer.

Wall Paper. Great June Clearing Sale, good strong paper, 5c quality 1c a roll

Heavy Gold Embossed Paper, worth 20c, sale price 9c

Wash Goods Dept. Irish Linen Skirting, the up-to-date quality, for this sale 17c

36-inch All Linen Skirting Cloth, worth 42c, for this sale 30c

Plain India Linen, a fine sheer quality, always 20c, this sale 12c

36-inch White Cambrics cheap 12c short lengths, and short price 6c

58-inch Bleached Table Damask, new patterns, for this sale 29c

72-inch Satin Damask, half bleached table linen, double thread and double twilled, always 75c, for this sale 59c

52-inch all linen Unbleached Table Damask, cheap at 39c, for this sale 25c

12-4 Fringe Turkey Red Table Covers, imported, guaranteed fast colors, \$1.50, for 89c

12-inch Turkey Red Fringed Napkins, guaranteed fast colors, 1 dozen lots at 23c

25 doz. 20x40 Bleached Satin Damask, knotted fringe Towels, assorted colored borders, 25 and 30c each, all in one lot 19c

Sole Agents for Floor-Shine. 50 feet 3-PLY Garden Hose, coupled complete 2.19

50 feet 3-PLY Garden Hose, coupled, guaranteed for one year 4.13

50 feet Garden Reels, hardwood, round top, special price 45c

The Genuine Gem Spray Nozzle 25c