

MR. THOMPSON SETON TELLS OF "THE BEAUTIFUL MONOGAMY OF THE BETTER-CLASS FOX."

Like Many of His Brothers of the Wild, Reynard is Apt to be Maligned by Mere Man—A Type of Conjugal Fidelity that is Exceeded Only by the Goose, Who Holds Extreme Views on Marriage.

Whoever cherishes the notion that the fox is an altogether disreputable animal, that he is lacking in character and is quite immoral—or even more so—as his neighbors who indulge in the little pilfering expeditions among the barnyards that lure them to wickedness, is possibly destined to a rude awakening. Judged by the standards of human society the fox, it appears, according to the testimony of his latest biographer, is a very estimable individual indeed. He is possessed of a considerable degree of wisdom—but that has been accorded to him by a long line of nature students and folklore people—chicken forms a very small portion of his diet, and as a husband and, to a limited extent, a father he is a model of rectitude and propriety that it might be well for the degenerate human species to follow.

A new view of the fox, or the fox in the role of hero and uncompromising foe of polygamy, might be said to furnish the motive of a series of papers by Ernest Thompson Seton in *The Century*. "Domino Reynard of Goldur Town" is the title given to these papers, which have for their purpose, in the author's own words, "to show the man-world how the fox-world lives"—and above all to advertise and emphasize the beautiful monogamy of the better-class fox.

In the Sinawae Camp.

On the one hundred and fifty acres of lake and woodland which Mr. Seton's beautiful estate of Wyndygoul, Cos Cob, Conn., at least no foxes at present. About a Sunday Times reporter failed to discover the traces of any as he searched through field and thicket the other day in the hope of finding, not a fox, but Mr. Seton—and an explanation. There were plenty of primitive things in the wilds of Wyndygoul—deserted Indian tepees, totem poles with the totems still on them, prehistoric birds in wood and stone, bark canoes, abandoned treplices of a frankly aboriginal pattern—the remains, in fact, of the camp of the Sinawae, one of the tribes of the "Seton Indians," a race of outdoor devotees which maintains every summer something like two thousand camps scattered throughout the United States and Canada. And then there were wild geese, scores of them—at least they used to be wild before they struck Wyndygoul—shuffling and cackling among the autumn leaves that covered up the various Indian trails along which the Sinawae braves are accustomed to course their prey in summer. Of these wild geese, by the way, there is much to be said when it comes to an estimate of the polygamous and monogamous proclivities of animals.

Reynard, Hero of Fiction.

"The story of Domino Reynard," said Mr. Seton when the reporter finally found him among the intricate mazes of Wyndygoul, "gives the life history of a fox in the form of fiction. It is fiction founded on fact, on my own observations, extending over a period of many years. Domino Reynard, the hero of the story, is a composite of some twenty or thirty foxes that I have watched as they appeared either in a wild state or tamed in different households. Among other moral qualities which I have thus discovered in the fox is a strong monogamous tendency in his family relations, and that is something which I have emphasized in my forthcoming story."

To thoroughly appreciate Mr. Seton's position in regard to this subject of the marriage relation among animals one needs to recall a recent paper of his on the "National History of the Ten Commandments." In this paper he advanced the theory, which he supported by incidents taken from his own observations, that obedience to five at least of the Ten Commandments is a law of the lower animals. The promised Domino Reynard story will thus, in a way be a practical illustration in fiction form of what Mr. Seton believes to be the fox's innate respect for the Seventh Commandment.

"It is commonly remarked," he says, "that while the Mosaic law did not expressly forbid polygamy, it surrounded marriage with so many restrictions that by living up to the spirit of them the Hebrew was ultimately forced into pure monogamy. It is extremely interesting to note that the animals in their blind groping for an ideal form of union have gone through the same stages and have arrived at exactly the same conclusion. Monogamy is their best solution of the marriage question and is the rule among all the higher and most successful animals."

"There are four degrees of monogamy. One in which the male stays with one female as long as she interests him or desires a mate, then changes to another; for his season may be many times as long as hers. Thus he may have several wives in the season, but only one at a time. This is convenient for both parties, but it is open to the same objection as frank polygamy. It is the way of the raccoon. A second kind, in which the male and one female are paired for that breeding season only, the male staying with the female and sharing the care of the young until they are well grown, after which the parents may or may not resume their fellowship. This is admirable. It is seen in hawks. A third, in which the pair consort for life, but the death of one leaves the other free to mate again. This is ideal. It is the way of wolves. A fourth, in which they

pair for life and in case of death the survivor remains disconsolate and alone to the end. This seems absurd. It is the way of the geese.

Man's Bad Influence.

"In making observations one is hampered by the fact that association with man has always been ruinous to the morals of animals. There can be no doubt that the dog, now promiscuous, was originally a monogamous creature. One of the great difficulties besetting the growing of blue foxes for their fur on the islands of the Bering Sea, is what has been called the obstinate and deplorable monogamy of these animals. The breeders are working hard to break down this high moral sentiment and produce a blue fox that does not object to polygamy, promiscuity, or any other combination, and so remove all sentimental obstacles to their experiments."

"To sum up: there is evidence that in the animal world there has long been a groping after an ideal form of marriage. Beginning with promiscuity, they have worked through many stages into pure monogamy; and, other things equal, the species, owing to natural laws, are successful in proportion as they have reached it, and, therefore, have developed an instinctive recognition of the Seventh Commandment."

Top-Notchers in Matrimony.

The fox, the wolf, the goose, and the pigeon—these appear to have reached a top notch position in matrimonial matters, and one is not surprised to learn that the first of them has been selected as a hero of romance. "In my story," said Mr. Seton, "I trace Domino Reynard's career until he is in his prime, and there I leave him without recounting any possible tragic ending. For the basis of my incidents, as I have said, I used the observations that I made in the cases of many foxes. Thus, there is the fox's fidelity to one mate through life. Then there is his assiduity as a father to his young. The fox is an excellent father, and so as a rule are the male members of the dog family—excepting, of course, the domestic dog, whose moral character has been ruined through domestication. Unfortunately, however, in the case of the fox, the parental bond disappears entirely when the young of the family grow up. That was an exceedingly disappointing fact which I was forced, nevertheless, to recognize in making up my story."

"There is another curious domestic trait, as you might call it, in the married life of the fox. I have made it the subject of one of the illustrations accompanying the story of 'Domino Reynard,' the enforced absence of the male fox for a certain period surrounding the birth of his offspring. Curiously enough the same rule is observed among the lower orders of the human species—the mother gives birth to her child in secrecy, nor is the husband allowed to see it until it is several days old. In my story I thus picture the fox who is about to become a mother coming out to take a drink of water and there signaling to Domino Reynard, the husband, that he is to keep away. At such times I find the father of the family does not return until his newborn offspring have their eyes open."

"But their practice of monogamy, how have you been able to prove that?" was asked. "It must be impossible to follow one fox season after season through the woods and thus be assured that he always remains true to one wife."

Methods of Observation.

"In that matter I have trusted not only to my own observations; I have sought corroborative evidence as well from those who are thoroughly conversant with the lore of the woods as they have been able to gather it for themselves rather than from books. I have already given the testimony of the Bering Sea fox breeders who find themselves seriously hampered by the 'obstinate' devotion of the male fox to one wife. Then I ask Indians whom I meet in the woods as to what they know on the subject. For instance, I questioned recently an old fellow that I met in the Canadian woods.

"Weasel," I asked him, "did you ever see foxes going along many together in the woods?"

"No, not many together."

"Did you ever see a fox traveling alone?"

"Yes, sometimes."

"Did you ever see female fox alone at her nest?"

"Yes; but old fox close by."

"In fact, that is the burden of the testimony of all the woodsmen with whom I have talked on the subject. They have observed certain facts which, logically interpreted, illustrate and enforce the peculiarly monogamous nature of the fox. Moreover, like a good husband, as I believe him to be, the fox has other excellent qualities, which I have used in my story, as, for instance, what I call his 'storage habit.'"

Reynard Not a Thief.

"With us, of course, the fox has a bad name for the stealing of chicken. The blame that attaches to him for this habit is out of all proportion to what he actually does. Instead of being a nuisance to the farmer the fox is really a great help, since his chief prey, what he really lives on, is the field mouse. I have watched the foxes on the prairies through a long-range telescope catching the mice in their nests

in the long grass, and I know from other observations and testimony that mice are the chief article of food for the fox. Fancy what the result would be to our farmers and their crops if it were not for this fondness for a mouse diet on the part of foxes and wolves! The fact is that there are very few animals in our woods that are really noxious. We ought to preserve all our native animals from extinction, while banishing as much as possible such nuisances as the rat and the sparrow. The greatest nuisance of all is the domestic cat, which kills more small game than all the poachers put together—but it would probably be difficult to banish the cat from the United States."

Reynard is depicted, undoubtedly, as a thoroughly exemplary fox and husband in the story which will bear his name down to posterity. But a glimpse of the long-necked, brown-and-black geese amicably floundering among the leaves on the lawn in front of the picturesque house which forms the center of things at Wyndygoul recalled the claim for these birds to the possession of an even more monogamous monogamy than the fox. After all, if these claims are true, Reynard merely vows, like most mortals who undertake this particular contract "until death do us part." But the goose, according to his reported interpretation of the Ten Commandments, incorporates no limiting clause when he goes through the ceremony of entering upon the marriage state. It is "now and forever" with these dauntless animals when they do decide upon wedlock. Curiously as to the authenticity of this bit of avian sociology suggested a query.

"Yes," answered Mr. Seton, "family times are peculiarly strong in the case of the goose. Of course there may be individual variations from one main race-habit, as occurs among all animals; but as a rule I have found that the goose practices a more rigid monogamy than even the fox or the pigeon. Most of these geese at Wyndygoul, are descendants from one couple, brought here when I took the place eight years ago, and the original gander is still recognized as the grandfather of the flock by the others. They come and go as he calls them, and in order to insure the return of the flock from any place to which its various members might be tempted to fly I have clipped this patriarchal gander's wings—and his devoted grandchildren, never leaving him, never leave Wyndygoul for any appreciable distance or time."

The Ever-Faithful Goose.

"As for the extreme sentiments of monogamy which I have claimed for wild geese I can cite one clean-cut instance from this very flock. Three or four years ago the husband of a female goose died. For a year and a half after that event I tried to induce the widowed goose to take another mate, but without success. She remained single during that time and declined to enter upon any intimacies with any of her companions. Seeing that it was hopeless to overcome her fidelity to her dead mate I then gave her to the Bronx Zoo—and I have not heard from Mr. Hornaday since then as to whether she has persisted in her desire to remain single—but I can vouch for the year and a half of faithful widowhood."—New York Times.

COLLEGE NICKNAMES.

Some Popular With the Students—Objection Made to Others.

Some of the colleges have a great dislike to the way in which they are referred to commonly in connection with athletics. For instance, Wesleyan men don't like to be called "the Methodists," as they appear sometimes.

At the Naval Academy there is a strong prejudice against being called "Annapolis." The navy men aren't particularly fond of "midshipmen." They believe the proper name for their institution is "the Navy."

Columbia has a great distaste for the name of "Columbians" for their representatives in athletics or other public appearances. At the University of Chicago there is a dislike of the name "Chicago University," sometimes applied.

Although not so strongly opposed to it, students at Pennsylvania do not like the full title "University of Pennsylvania" as well as plain "Pennsylvania." "Penn" is preferred to either.

"Maroons" for Chicago men, "Gophers" for Minnesota, "Badgers" for Wisconsin students, "Cornhuskers" for Nebraska, "Wolverines" for Michigan, "Illini" for the men at Illinois—all are names that are popular at those colleges and are used by the men there in speaking of their own teams. Indeed to a man unacquainted with nicknames the average statement regarding a conference college is puzzling because of the almost entire lack of straightout names.—New York Sun.

As Courage Oozed.

The Pacific coast Congressman was starting for the capital.

"On one point I am resolved," he said to his admiring constituents, "I cannot be bulldozed. I defy him. We're after his scalp."

"I cannot have not in all respects been an ideal presiding officer," he told a reporter at Omaha.

"Cannon?" he replied to an interviewer; "well, perhaps he has not been without his faults, but..."

"Hello!" said the newspaper representative at Washington. "Glad to see you're back. Hear you're going to fight Cannon. Hoy about it?"

"Fight Cannon! Well, of all the ridiculous yarns! Why, he's the best presiding officer that..."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Twenty-five million squirrels are killed annually in Russia for their pelts.

SCIENCE

That the magnetic influence of the coast of Lapland drew his iron ship ashore and wrecked it was the sworn statement of the captain of the British steamer *Sandal* to the British Board of Trade.

Astronomers believe that the temperature of space, outside of the earth's atmosphere, is 459 degrees below the zero of the Fahrenheit scale. That inconceivable cold is what they mean by absolute zero.

A new method for welding steel pipes at high speed, a German invention, has been adopted by the Japanese navy for forming masts, and an English firm has secured the right to use the process in that country.

Experiments under a competent expert have been made in Prussia, during the last few months with Western Pennsylvania coal to determine its comparative value with German coals, and the results of the comparison are said to be highly gratifying and show the superiority of the Pennsylvania coal.

A new freezing device is being exploited in Germany, which is especially adapted for domestic purposes. The apparatus is quite inexpensive to make and operate. It consists merely of a double wall tin vessel with a capacity of five gallons. Hollow space between the two walls is about an inch across. By the gradual admission of carbonic acid into this hollow space through an opening at the bottom and from there to the vessel proper through a cross-arm tube, it is claimed that water may be converted into ice in the space of 50 seconds, and that meats, fruits and beverages, such as beer or wine, may be chilled or frozen in a few seconds.

This effect is produced by the sudden great reduction of temperature caused by the rapid expansion of the carbonic acid, which is admitted from an ordinary carbonic acid reservoir.

One of the newest pieces of electrical equipment for hotel use is a system of little lamps of the switchboard type, by which it is possible for a guest or the management to locate instantly the room in which chambermaids are working. This is a great convenience both to the guests and management, for the girl having charge of any particular room may be communicated with without any loss of time. Each maid is provided with a key which serves as a switch handle for lighting a small lamp at the doors as she enters a room and simultaneously lighting the indicating lamp at the desk of the chief of employes. By means of an illuminated sign in the room of each guest he is notified immediately when mail matter reaches the office for him. The placing of a letter in the post office box corresponding with the lamp which illuminates the sign in the guest's room.

Reinforcements from Another Source Apparently Needed.

One of the objections advanced to the attempt to get power from the tides is that it would be serviceable for only a few hours at a time, and is not continuous. Another point—a minor one—is that as the time of a high tide occurs about three-quarters of an hour later one day than the day before there must be a regular shifting of the daily program.

Expanding the first of these arguments, a correspondent of "The London Times" (engineering supplement) says:

"The chief difficulty as regards a public supply of power from tidal sources is the limited number of hours during which the water is available. The cost of a storage battery to meet these conditions would be prohibitive; hence gas engines must be installed to supply the demands for power when the turbines are shut down. These gas engines would have to be large enough to carry the full load under any circumstances; in fact, it would be necessary to lay down a full-sized gas power generating station just as if no turbines existed, and in all probability the plant would be situated at some distance from where the demand for power existed, thus increasing the cost of transmission."

"Looking at the problem from this point of view, the utilization of the tides for the public generation of power would appear to be commercially impracticable."

"A mill or factory needing a steady supply of power for twenty-four hours every day presents much more favorable conditions for the consideration of tidal power. The cost of fuel in such a case would form the major portion of the running costs, and, provided that a dam could be cheaply constructed, it is quite possible that some saving might be effected by obtaining a portion of the power from tidal action."

Anti-Sparrow Crusade.

At a meeting of Mendesham Sparrow Club it was stated that during this year 4,915 old birds, 2,807 young birds and 3,914 eggs had been destroyed, a total of 11,639. The local farmers pay a voluntary rate, based on acreage, from which payments are made for birds and eggs destroyed.—London Standard.

Electrically-heated plates, operated by levers, are the principal feature of a new clothes-pressing device.

Thompson's Who Suffer

from woman's ailments are invited to write to the name and addresses here given, for positive proof that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound does cure female ills.

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Cincinnati, O.—Mrs. W. K. Housh, 725 Westview Ave.
Milwaukee, Wis.—Mrs. Emma Line, 222 1st St., Green.

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Beath Bend, Ind.—Mrs. Fred Curtis, 1014 S. Lafayette Street.

Noah, Kentucky.—Mrs. Lizzie Holland.
Brookfield, Mo.—Mrs. Sarah Louisaquont, 207 S. Market St.

Petersburg, N. J.—Mrs. Wm. Somerville, 125 Hamburg Avenue.
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Altwater Station, O.—Mrs. Anton Muelhaupt.
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Chester, Ark.—Mrs. Ella Wood.
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Fendleton, Ind.—Mrs. May Marshall, R.R. 44.
Cambridge, Neb.—Mrs. Nellie Moslander.

These women are only a few of thousands of living witnesses of the power of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to cure female diseases. Not one of these women ever received compensation in any form for the use of their names in this advertisement—but are willing that we should refer to them because of the good they may do other suffering women to prove that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is a reliable and honest medicine, and that the statements made in our advertisements regarding its merit are the truth and nothing but the truth.

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Sometimes a widow's heart is tender when warmed by an old flame.—Milwaukee Journal.

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Mother Gray's Sweet Powders for Children. Home, N. Y., cure Feverishness, Constipation, Stomach Troubles, Teething Disorders, Destroy Worms, All Druggists, 25c. Sample FREE. A. S. Olmsted, Le Roy, N. Y.

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Itch cured in 30 minutes by Woolford's Sanitary Lotion. Never fails. At druggists.

Anger begins with folly and ends with repentance.—Pythagoras.

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