

The Fiercc Caterpillar

A more harmless, inoffensive creature does not crawl than the common garden caterpillar, yet this small worm will put up an appearance so fierce upon occasion as to frighten its enemies away. Soft and pulpy, with no defensive or offensive weapons, this destroyer of cabbages and lettuces will bluff itself into a veritable armored cruiser and frighten many more formidable insects into ungovernable flight. Its method of procedure is like this: Immediately anything approaches, the slow moving, fat caterpillar raises its hairy body, wags a formidable looking head and looks the essence of strength and defiance, so much so that it requires a bird of a particularly vallant disposition to attack it.—Chicago Record-Herald.

House Without a Chimney

The only man in modern times who owns and occupies a house without a stove or chimney—H. W. Hillman of Schenectady, N. Y.—entertainingly describes his experiences in Technical World Magazine for July.

"We entered the new house in September, 1905. The electric kitchen equipment was connected within two minutes from the time the table was taken off the wagon; and there was no waiting around for the stove man to come and connect up the stove, fit the stovepipe, build the fire, etc. For nearly three years we have cooked and baked by electricity daily, and the new kitchen, therefore, has no coal or gas range.

"As regards costs of operating, the most intelligent way to explain this item is to draw comparisons with monthly cost of operating with coal and gas. The writer has had ten years' experience with kitchen range, with coal at \$6.50 per ton on the average; also six years' experience with

gas at \$1.30 per thousand. Our gas bills would average about \$3 per month. We used the coal range Monday and Tuesday for washing and ironing, and burned a little less than a half ton of coal a month at a cost of about \$3. The average monthly cost of operating was therefore about \$6 for kitchen coal and gas, with an additional cost for carting away the ashes.

"Many readers will be surprised to learn that my average monthly cost for electricity for two years has been \$6.69 a month, or only 10 per cent higher than coal or gas. There are no ashes to cart away, no fires to build, and the electric system offers a neat, clean, healthy kitchen."

Barefooted Waiting Maids in Japan

Unless there are ladies among the guests the wife and daughters of the host do not appear at dinner in Japan. Before the meal begins it is customary for them to bring small cups of tea and dainty confectionery, when they take their survey of the party. If gentlemen only are present the Japanese hostess disappears after the greeting is over and does not return until the guests are taking their departure. At a signal from the host barefooted waiting maids, dressed in graceful and prettily tinted kimonos, bring in lacquer tray, bearing tiny covered bowls. Before setting the trays on the table the maids sink gracefully to their knees and bend forward till their foreheads touch the floor. Then they serve dinner, which is of several courses.—Smith Weekly.

Dandies of Papua

Even the natives of Papua have their fine gentlemen, their dandies. To rank in this class the young man is compelled to lace his waist and to have a nose ornament of polished

shell. But, as an explorer says, "very few young blades can afford to possess one, and accordingly it may be lent either for a consideration, or as a very special favor. The possessor of one of these ornaments could easily buy a wife for it, and sometimes it is paid as a tribal tribute by one should he have to pay blood money or be unable to give the statutory pig as atonement for a murder." Papuan husbands, too, have a primitive way of dealing with their recalcitrant wives. A man named Gedon had a shrewish helpmate whom he attempted to take according to this method: "He would pick up a billet of wood when she was halfway through a tremendous scolding and give her a terrific blow over the back. Thereupon ensued pandemonium. The other men and women would gather round, jabbering, but they would make no attempt to stop the beating once it had begun."

Precept Upon Precept

Cavalry Drill Sergeant (who has just been thrown from his horse)—Here, what are you fellows laughing at? I was only showing you how it should not be done.—Fliegende Blatter.

Development of Abyssinia

King Menelik has caused a start to be made on the second section of the Abyssinian railway, and a host of men are engaged in preparing the track for the rails, says the Glasgow Herald. No one European power claims at present a privileged position in the Ethiopian kingdom, and all protest their respect for its independence and the open door of commerce. Germany, who is sending over a remarkable expedition to Abyssinia, says that the equality of commercial opportunity is all that she desires, while

King Menelik is prepared to welcome the attention of all the powers, concludes the Herald.

A Paris newspaper announces the departure of a commercial mission to Abyssinia, organized by the French government and carrying a collection of samples forwarded by the various French chambers of commerce.

Different Now

First Gentleman (entering the apartment of second gentleman): "About a year ago you challenged me to fight a duel."

Second Gentleman (sternly): "I did, sir."

First Gentleman: "And I told you that I had just got married, and I did not care to risk my life at any hazard."

Second Gentleman (haughtily): "Well, my feelings have changed; any time you want to fight, let me know."—Human Life.

A Yielding Disposition

"Do you think that the railways will yield anything?"

"Yes," answered Senator Sorghum. "I am confident that whatever happens they will continue to yield a profit."—Washington Star.

Naturally

Boy—What's time, mister? The Major (thinking to inculcate good manners)—If what? If what, my boy?

Boy—If you've got a watch.—The Tatler.

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