

Bellefonte, Pa., January 1, 1909.

Overlord of the Sea and the Daintiest Feeder That Swims.

The swordfish is the overlord of the sea. Neither the whale, the shark nor any other giant of the deep can conquer him in private fight or public brawl.

For the bold swordfish is still hunted in mode as primitive as that the Eskimo uses to kill the stupid whale, and often the sting of the harpoon changes this luxurious ocean gastronome into a raging water devil, quick to perceive his advantage, charging with the speed of a bullet and the accuracy of a swordsman up against the lone fisherman in the dory who tries to bring him to gaff.

CHANCES IN GAMBLING.

The Rule of the Unexpected at the Tables in Monto Carlo.

There are systems, some will say, that will defeat the bank at Monte Carlo. I have not found one. Two factors settle all systems. One is the bank's limit, which prevents the doubling system so often advocated; the second, the extraordinary odds, necessities of chance.

The Hog.

No other animal has been more modified by civilization and none reverts more quickly to the original wild type than the hog. Three generations of running wild suffice to turn the smooth, round, short snouted razor-back or hazel splitter thin, lank, leggy, lop eared, saarp snouted, an Ishmeal in bristles, running like a deer, if running be possible, fighting as only a wild hog can fight when battle is imperative.

Her Exercise.

Many readers think insufficient exercise is responsible for worrying moods. "Dare I whisper it," writes one correspondent. "Though I am a married woman, with two bonnie babies, when my worries and temper prove too much for me I shut myself up in my room and dance a wild Scotch reel. I always did it when I got in a temper as a child as a sort of vent to my feelings, and I do it still and probably shall continue to do so as long as I'm sufficiently energetic."

A Bad Quarrel.

"Why don't you try to get him to straighten up?" "He's his own worst enemy." "Well?" "It's pretty hard to patch up that kind of a quarrel."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Describing the Climate.

"Is your climate changeable?" asked the stranger. "Not very," answered Farmer Corn-tassel. "It keeps shifting around a little till it strikes a kind of weather nobody likes; then it sticks."—Washington Star.

Just Like Her.

Hewitt—I didn't know that you lived on the first floor. I understood your wife to say that you lived on the second floor. Jewett—If you knew my wife you would know that she always stretches a story.—Exchange.

They Married.

Trotter (who has been abroad)—So Maud and Charlie finally married? Miss Homer—Yes. Trotter—I suppose they are happy. Miss Homer—Undoubtedly; they each married some one else.—Chicago News.

A MEMORY OF THE PAST.

The Unalloyed Joy That Came With the Little Red Scarf.

"I was wondering the other day what one thing had given me the most pleasure in the world," said the village deacon. "I had to go back a long ways—clear back into the blessed Santa Claus days—but I recalled it. It was a scarf I found in my stocking one bright Christmas morning. I got a red one, and my brother got a blue one. I was a mighty proud boy that morning as I trudged downtown with the birds singing in the springtime and the kids were hunting up their marbles.

"Since the days of that little red scarf I have had things of far more intrinsic value. I have worn lodge emblems of high degree; I have had a gold watch and chain; I once had a pair of shoes that cost \$5 and a necktie that cost twice as much as the little red scarf. Nay, more, I once tackled a plug hat. But among these things do I recall none that gave me such genuine and unalloyed pleasure, such a swelled up feeling, as did that little red scarf way back in the days when the wolf sat out in the road and howled. 'Tis the little red scarf days that stir the memory with 'It might have been.'—Osborn (Kan.) Farmer.

PLAIN JOHN SMITH.

How His Name Changes in Various Parts of the World.

John Smith—plain John Smith—is not very high sounding; it does not suggest aristocracy; it is not the name of any hero in die away novels, and yet it is good, strong and honest. Transferred to other languages, it seems to climb the ladder of respectability. Thus in Latin it is Johannes Smithus; the Italian smooths it off into Giovanni Smithi; the Spaniards render it Juan Smithus; the Dutchman adopts it as Hans Schmidt; the French flatten it out into Jean Smeet, and the Russian sneezes and barks Jonloff Smitowski. When John Smith gets into the tea trade in Canton he becomes Jovan Shiamitt; if he clambers about Mount Hecla, the Icelanders say he is Jahne Smithson; if he trades among the Tuscaroras he becomes Tom Qu Smititia; in Poland he is known as Ivan Schmitrwielski; should he wander among the Welsh mountains they talk of Jihon Schmidt; when he goes to Mexico he is booked as Jontif F'Smitti; if of classic turn and he lingers among Greek ruins he turns to Ion Smilkton, and in Turkey he is utterly disguised as Yoo Seef.—Phrenological Journal.

Mystery of a Cookbook.

Somebody mentioned cookbooks. "It takes a good deal to make me wonder," said the publisher, "but I received a jolt in the culinary line the other day that set me thinking. In looking over the manuscript of a cookbook that had been submitted for our approval I was struck by this introduction to many of the recipes, 'Good for boarding house table.' 'Now, why that discrimination? Isn't anything that is good enough for a boarding house table good enough for any other table, and isn't anything that is good enough for any other table good enough for a boarding house table? Judging by the way those particular recipes read, they may result in some rather tasty dishes. Then why limit them to boarding houses?'—New York Globe.

His Successor.

Shortly after the death of one of England's greatest poets a devoted admirer of his visited the little Westmorland villages where the poet had lived and died to gaze reverently at his house, the little church and at some of his favorite haunts where some of his immortal poems were composed.

Seeing an old man a native of the village, the stranger entered into conversation with him, remarking sadly on the death of the poet, to which the old man answered kindly and encouragingly:

"Aye, aye, still I mak' na doot but t' wife 'll carry the bizness on."

Brief and Pithy.

An American law journal has quoted the charge to a jury delivered by a certain Judge Donovan as the shortest on record. The judge said:

"Gentlemen of the jury, if you believe the plaintiff find a verdict for plaintiff and fix the amount. If you believe the defendant find a verdict for defendant. Follow the officer."

But an English periodical caps this brief charge by quoting a shorter one delivered by Commissioner Kerr. He said to a jury:

"That man says prisoner robbed him. The prisoner says he didn't. You settle it."

Plagiarism.

At the literary club a sympathetic crowd surrounded the humorist, whose house had been robbed.

"They cleaned out everything," said the man—"everything, but, thank goodness, they didn't swipe from my desk, the manuscript column of jokes for next week's paper."

"Perhaps they knew," suggested a sonneteer cynically, "that the jokes had already been swiped."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Liberality.

Little Jimmie, who had just received a box of mixed candy, passed it around to treat the family, saying: "Help yourself to all the chocolates you want. I don't like them."—Exchange.

Southern Spoon Corn Bread. Pour two cupfuls boiling water over a cupful cornmeal; cook five minutes, stirring continually; add a tablespoonful butter, two eggs well beaten, a cupful milk, a teaspoonful salt; beat thoroughly, pour into a well greased baking dish and bake thirty-five minutes in hot oven. Serve from the dish in which it is baked.—What to Eat.

Overburdened With Memory. "Your son tells me that he is going to take lessons to cultivate his memory." "I hope not," answered Farmer Corn-tassel. "He can remember every fool tune that was ever whistled."—Washington Star.

Quite Light. Marie—I think Chollie is a delightful dancer. He's so light on his feet! Lillian—When you're better acquainted with Chollie you'll discover that he's light at both ends!—Town and Country.

An acre in Middlesex is worth a princely paltry in Utopia.—Macaulay.

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