

NOISY AFRICANS.

Slaughter seldom heard in the uproar of the natives.

Among the African natives there can be nothing done without noise, according to a Pittsburg man who has lived extensively in Africa.

It is simply appalling, the rush, the roar, the chatter and the bustle, like a madman's, the traveler said. The principal object of conversation said to be money, and the hubbub, twirling and uproar in all sorts of ways from shrill and screaming to soft and growling, accompanied by all sorts of gesticulations, with tongue, hand and feet, are beyond description.

"It is rather odd, but laughter is almost never heard in this uproar, and for whistling it is a lost art. If there are any quarrels they are not heard in public, although when a company of natives gets to carry on an animated conversation it appears to be observed as if the next act would be a melee.

"In addition to these natural sounds there are others of an artificial character that are equally familiar to the traveler. Such is the noise of the drums called tomtoms, which are beaten on every occasion, and a kind of pipe about eighteen inches long, with holes like those of a flute and breathed through in a way that produces a variety of notes of a wild, discordant character. A frightful noise is made by the kaffa men blowing on a big bell."

THE WITCHES' TREE.

Superstitions Regarding the Influence of the Elder.

Country people speak of the elder tree as "the witches' tree" and planted near farm buildings and dairies to keep off witches. They also say that the roots should never come near a well, still less grow into it, or the water will be spoiled. Evelyn's opinion is also unfavorable. The diarist says: "I do by no means commend the cent of it, which is very noxious to the air.

"We learn from Blesius that a certain house in Spain, seated among any elder trees, diseased and killed early all its inhabitants, which, when last they were grubbed up, became very healthy and wholesome place."

Cattle scarcely touch the elder, and the mole is driven away by the scent. Farmers often placed branches on their oxen's heads to keep off flies. Nothing will grow well in the company of the elder, and when it has been removed and all its roots carefully grubbed up it is some few years before the ground becomes perfectly sweet and good for anything.

The berries, besides feeding the birds, make excellent country wine, delicious with soda water in summer or taken hot in winter. The wood is particularly good for skewers, and a curious red fungus grows on elder tumps. A species of elder in the Tyrol is covered with beautiful scarlet berries.—Selborne's Magazine.

Look After Your Property. It is a safe rule in this world to look carefully after the details of your own property. Be sure your title deeds are recorded, that your insurance is kept up, that you alone have the key to your strong box in the safety vault. Do not leave your securities with your broker. If he is doing a conservative business he has no need of them. If he isn't you don't want him to handle your property. The wonder is that with all the confidence reposed in financial matters there are so few defalcations. There is no use in making it easy for some one to get your property. In this world it is hard for most persons to acquire anything, and they should be careful to the last degree in seeing that they are fully protected in it.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Britain's Greatest Precipice. Writing to the Newcastle Journal in regard to the drowning of three bird catchers at St. Kilda, a correspondent says the wild fowls of St. Kilda find nesting places that enable them to bid defiance to the sportsman and to the most daring of bird catchers. There is, for example, the precipice called Conagher, the same being far and away the greatest precipice in the British Isles, the deepest perpendicular precipice. It rises from the sea level to a clear height of 1,220 feet. Consider that a man might jump from the top of Conagher into the sea without getting a scratch by the way.

Breaking the News. Marion, who had been taught to report her misdeeds promptly, came to her mother one day, sobbing penitently. "Mother, I—I—broke a brick in the fireplace." "Well, that is not very hard to remedy. But how on earth did you do it, child?" "I pounded it with father's watch."—Success Magazine.

Accessories. "I'm going in for poetry," hisped the sweet young thing. "Real, heartfelt poetry," thundered the man of letters, "is only written in a garret." "Yes; I've heard that. So I've fitted up a beautiful Turkish den in ours."—Washington Herald.

Quite Warm. "I understand there was a hot time in the Bangs household the other day." "Yes. When he went home he found his wife simply boiling, and she gave him a roast."—Baltimore American.

His Knitting Work.

Aunt Alvira Fifer was what her neighbors called a "regular driver." Possessed of untiring energy and unflinching strength herself, she made little allowance for idleness on the part of any one, and she declared that she could "put up with a mean man easier than with a lazy one."

Aunt Alvira's husband, Uncle Ethan, was a small, wizened, weak looking man, whom Aunt Alvira declared to be "mighty wiry, if he did look so spindlin'."

One day a summer boarder who chanced to be staying at a farmhouse near the Fifer homestead wandered over to the little brown farmhouse and sat down for a chat with Aunt Alvira. The visitor took note of the enormous quantity of stove wood piled up in the back yard and overflowing from the great woodshed. The whole yard was strewn with it. The caller estimated that there were not less than twenty-five cords.

"What an enormous quantity of wood you have!" he said to Aunt Fifer. "Yes, there is considerable," she replied. "I calculate on sellin' most o' it in the fall."

"Who cut it?" "Oh, Ethan did it as sort o' knittin' work. I think it's a good thing for a man to have some kind o' knittin' work to do when he's restin', and that wood pile has been Ethan's knittin' work."—Youth's Companion.

George I. and the Stage. George I. was a lover of the stage, and, as his predecessors had done, caused his "servants" to play before him at court. In 1718 his majesty ordered the great hall of Hampton Court to be converted for the time into a theater. There, under the direction of Steele, "whose political services had been poorly recompensed by granting him some theatrical privileges" seven performances were given. Among the plays were "Hamlet," "Sir Courtly Nice," "The Constant Couple," "Love For Money," "Velpone" and "Rule a Wife and Have a Wife." Among the players were Colley Cibber, Pinkethman, Johnson, Thurmond, Booth, Mills, Mrs. Porter and Mrs. Younger. In former times the fee paid by the sovereign to his servants for a play acted at Whitehall had been £20. For these plays at Hampton Court King George, besides paying the actors their ordinary day's wage and traveling expenses, gave £350 and added £200 for the managers. The players were required to act at any time upon receiving a day's notice.

The Modest Scot. Love of country is so fine a virtue that it seems difficult to carry it to excess. A resident of a small village in the north of Scotland paid a business visit to London the other day. He happened to call on a merchant who unknown to him had once made a stay in his native place. In the course of conversation the visitor made use of an expression that led the other to exclaim, "Surely you come from Glen McLuskie?" The assertion, however, was denied. Presently, to the merchant's surprise, another Glen McLuskie expression was heard. "My dear Mr. MacTavish, I feel convinced that you are a Glen McLuskie man after all," insisted the merchant.

"Weel," returned the other, "I'll no deny it any longer." "Then why didn't you say so at first?" demanded the Englishman. "Weel," was the calm response, "I didna like to boast o' it in London."—London Chronicle.

Her Souvenir. "Why did you hurry so?" he asked her when he had finally caught up with her at the foot of the stairs of the cafe. "Do you remember how the waiter prepared to put a clean tablecloth on our table for fresh guests," she asked, "before we got through listening to the music?" "Yes," said he.

"Well, then, here," she said and showed him a large white tablecloth that had been hidden under her coat. "This is it. He laid it on the window, all. Serves him right." He gazed upon it in amazement. "Why didn't you let me know," he queried, "and I might have taken the table and walked out with that?"—New York Press.

Halcyon Days. The term "halcyon days" is derived from a pretty little fable of the Sicilians, who believed that during the seven days preceding and following the winter solstice, Dec. 21, the halcyon or kingfisher floated on the water in a nest in which her young were deposited and that during this time of her brooding the seas were calm. Our Indian summer corresponds to the halcyon of the Sicilians.—New York Telegram.

Persons Grata. The Old Bulldog—They're going to chain us up on Sunday nights now. The Young Bulldog—How's that, governor? The Old Bulldog—The new fellow that's started calling on Miss Mamie has got money.—New York Press.

The Hidden Part. "Oh, mamma," exclaimed four-year-old Flossie as she observed the moon in its second quarter, "come and look at the moon. Half of it is pushed into the sky, and the other half is sticking out."

Witty Dolly. He—I say, Dolly, may I take your photograph? You look so pretty that I feel I could eat you. She—Oh, I see, that's why you want me on a plate, eh?

Precaution is better than repentance.—Greek Proverb.

The Donkey on the Stage.

"It's curious," said a theatrical manager who had experienced many ups and downs, "how the stage develops jealousies. I once had a show on the road in which it was necessary to make use of a horse and a donkey. We got the animals well trained for their parts, and on the opening night they gave a first class performance. On the following night, however, we were unable to get the donkey to move out of the wings. Prince, the horse, went on without any trouble whatever, but Jack—that was the name of the donkey—could neither be coaxed nor driven out before the footlights. We finally had to go on with the performance with the donkey left out. After the show was over we got together and tried to find out what had been the matter. Nobody could offer an explanation until one of the stage hands happened to pick up a program, which showed that Prince's name was printed in the same kind of type we used for Jack. We got a new lot of programs the next day with the donkey's name printed in type which was nearly twice as big as that which we used for the horse. After that we never had the slightest trouble."—Chicago Record-Herald.

The Great Videoq.

Videoq, the great French detective, was born in Aras in 1775. He began life as a baker and early became the terror of his companions by his athletic frame and violent disposition. At the same time he was a notorious thief, and after many disgraceful adventures he enlisted in the army. In 1796 he returned to Paris with some money, which, however, he soon squandered. Next he was sentenced at Lille to eight

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years' hard labor for forgery, but repented escaped, and in 1808 he became connected with the Paris police as a detective. His previous career enabled him to render important services, and he was appointed chief of the safety brigade, chiefly composed of reprieved convicts, which purged Paris of the many dangerous classes. In 1818 he received a full pardon, and his connection with this service lasted until about 1823, when he settled at St. Mandé as a paper manufacturer. Soon after the revolution of 1830 he became a political detective, but with little success. In 1848 he was again employed under the republican government, but he died penniless in 1857.

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Condensed Time Table effective June 17, 1908.

Table with columns: READ DOWN, Stations, READ UP. Rows include No. 1, No. 5, No. 3, No. 6, No. 4, No. 8. Stations listed include Jersey Shore, Wm's Port, Harrisburg, etc.

BELLEFONTE CENTRAL RAILROAD

Schedule to take effect Monday Jan. 6, 1908.

Table with columns: W. BELL, W. BELL, STATIONS, E. BELL, W. BELL. Rows include No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, No. 4, No. 5, No. 6, No. 7, No. 8, No. 9, No. 10. Stations listed include Bellefonte, Harrisburg, etc.

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