

A Good Surveyor and One of Our First Roadmakers.

The buffalo was a good surveyor. It did not reason out why it should go in a certain direction, but its sure instinct took it by the easiest and most direct paths, over high lands and low, to the salt licks and water courses which were its goal.

As soon as the explorer landed on the southern shores of Lakes Erie, Michigan and Superior he came upon buffalo roads or "traces." Sometimes these were narrow ditches, a foot wide and from six inches to two feet deep, trodden down by the impact of thousands of hoofs as herd after herd of buffaloes had stamped along in single file behind their leaders.

When the first path became too deep for comfort because of repeated travel the buffaloes would abandon it and begin a second path alongside the first, and thus the frequented traces would be gradually widened.

Again, an immense herd of these heavy animals would crash through the forest, breaking in their rapid progress a broad, deep road from one feeding ground to another. As this route would be followed again and again by this and other herds, it would become level and hard as a rock, so that there was great rejoicing in pioneer settlements when the weary road-makers, struggling with log causeways and swampy hollows, came upon a firm, solid buffalo trace.

The line of many of these roads is followed today by our railroads and canals, as it was followed by our log roads and turnpikes.

The buffalo followed the level of the valley. He swerved round high points whenever it was possible, crossing the ridges and watersheds at the best natural divides and gorges, and he crossed from one side of a stream of water to the other repeatedly in order to avoid climbing up from the level, after the fashion of our modern loop railways.

ONE OYSTER ENOUGH.

He Swallowed It Alive and Had to Kill It After It Was Down.

A farm laborer from the interior on his first visit to London dropped into a small oyster shop where a number of men were eating raw oysters. The extreme satisfaction displayed on the faces of those about him created longings of a gustatory nature in the new arrival, who edged his way up to the counter in anticipation of eating a real live, juicy oyster.

It was the first time he had seen an oyster, and he became at once interested, and when the shellfish had been finally unsealed he proceeded to balance it on the end of his fork, then, with a look of extreme satisfaction, gulped it down.

"Great Scott!" shouted a man standing near him. "You haven't swallowed the oyster alive, have you?" There was a horrible pause.

"That critter will eat right through you!" shouted another. By this time the poor countryman was shaking with fear and horror. He commenced to have terrible pains in his abdomen and was soon doubled up in his agony. He begged some one to go for a doctor to get the thing out.

He continued to grow worse, when some one suggested that he take a dose of tobacco sauce, which it was claimed would kill the object that was creating such terrible commotion in his internal arrangement. He grasped the bottle with avidity and took a draft. His condition, which before had been alarming to the victim, now assumed a serious phase to the perpetrators of the hoax.

The man gasped and choked. He became black in the face, and tears were running down his face, when some one thrust a bottle of oil into his mouth, and he was forced to drink copious drafts.

The effect was magical. The oyster was evidently "dead." He became more composed, and when he finally recovered his breath he said: "We killed it. But when that darned stuff got into my stomach that oyster rushed around as if a shark was after it."—London Scraps.

Spoiling the Show.

Showman—I don't know as we can give any kind of a show this afternoon. Assistant—What's the matter? Showman—That fresh kid's been in the cage of the man eating lion having a romp, and the critter is as playful as a kitten, the farmer we rented the sacred cow from India from says the money ain't payin' him for the loss of his milk route, and the wild man of Borneo says he's got to have a day off to register and see the police parade.—Baltimore American.

Convincing His Chum.

Johnny (in the garden)—Father, father, look out of the window! Father (putting out his head)—What a nuisance you children are! What do you want now? Johnny (with a triumphant glance at his playfellow)—Tommy Brooks wouldn't believe you'd got no hair on the top of your head.—London Tit-Bits.

Only Luncheon.

"Have luncheon today?" "Nope." "Thought I saw you going out." "You did, but I had lunch, not luncheon. I only had 15 cents to spend."—Exchange.

AMERICAN WANDERLUST.

A Habit Which Strengthens the Cohesive Unity of the Nation.

Less than half the members of the United States senate and house of representatives are native born in the states which they represent. Nothing could more clearly show the alert activities of the American people and that constant intermingling of the inhabitants of the several states which adds so much to the cohesive unity of the nation. The boy who goes to a distant state often accomplishes more than the one who goes straight on in the footprints of his father in the home village. Even Daniel Webster was not born in the old Bay State, whose influence and dignity he so well sustained and whose people mourned him so sincerely when his great life closed.

This wandering from state to state has resulted in the organizing in New York city of many state societies, which aim to gather together the natives of their respective states annually to revive the pleasant memories of the old home days, with their thousand clinging ties.

What would happen if the American people should cease to wander about the country? Is a question often asked. It is said that an eastern man never amounts to anything until he goes west and that a western man has to come east in order to attain his full stature mentally. The northern man is advised to go south to learn gentle courtesy and chivalric bearing, the southerner to go north to add more iron to his blood. There can be no doubt that this constant evolution has encouraged the birth of new ideas, just as the whirling of the kitescope developed a toy into our present wonderful moving pictures, which gives a glimpse of life in motion all over the world.—Joe Mitchell Chappie in National Magazine.

THE HURRYING BARBER.

Speed Manifested More in the Motions Than in the Results.

"Barbers," remarked the man with the short hair, "we're born unable to hurry. Just you go into a shop, as I did the other day, wanting a hair cut, and ask the barber how long it will take. He told me, 'Oh, about twenty minutes' and I said to go ahead."

"That barber honestly believed he was hurrying, but he couldn't leave out those little snip-snips about the back of the neck they are all so fond of doing, and he had to cut the hair as if he were chiseling priceless marble. When it got to be about half an hour I said to him, 'You're a pretty bad judge of time, aren't you?' He came back with something about not wanting to turn out a poor job."

"I've known it to happen often in the case of shaving. When you tell a barber to hurry he dashes around on the tiled floor at imminent risk of falling, and he splashes the lather into your eyes and your mouth, but the fact remains that he takes as much time as usual to rub the lather into your face and as much time to shave you."

"I begin to believe there is some sort of rule regarding time that all barbers observe, because I have timed them. Once I asked a barber to hurry shaving me, and he had all the motions, but took up just as much time as when he went along at his usual gait."

"I imagine they believe the customer will be satisfied with the appearance of speed, and that's the reason they run around so and breathe heavily as if winded when changing from one side of the chair to the other."—New York Sun.

Children of Criminals.

It is a curious fact—one all at variance with the doctrines of heredity, but borne out by police records—that the children of crooks, of all classes, rarely turn out to be crooks themselves. Deeper study of the subject might reveal that they are possessed of the criminal instincts, but that the tragically close example of the punishment and wretchedness that attend a criminal career has been a terrifying deterrent. The fact, at any rate, remains. The rogues' galleries of Scotland Yard, New York and Chicago may be studied in vain for the photographs of a father and a son.—Argonaut.

He Did His Part Thoroughly.

In order to avoid an argument with a woman suffragist on the subject of her hobby a happy bachelor gallantly acquiesced in the truth of her assertions.

"But, sir," sternly remarked the spinster, "your admission is anything but creditable to you. What, for instance, have you ever done for the emancipation of woman?" "Madam," responded the gentleman, with a polite smile and a bow, "I have at least remained a bachelor!"

Seemed All Right.

"Mamma, why don't you want me to play with that Kuder boy?" "Because, dear, I know the family. He hasn't good blood in him." "Why, mamma, he's been vaccinated twice, and it wouldn't take either time."—Ladies' Home Journal.

Making and Earning Money.

"What is the difference between making money and earning money?" asked the youth. "Sometimes the difference is a trip to the penitentiary for counterfeiting," answered the home grown philosopher.—Chicago News.

Enlightening Rollo.

"Father," said little Rollo, "what is an egotist?" "An egotist, my son, is a burnt match that thinks it is the whole fire-works."—Washington Star.

The Amateur Laundress.

"If I were you," he said, as they started out to dinner, "I'd get me another wash-woman. That dress of yours is very badly ironed. What's the matter? It's suddenly he saw a tear in the eye of the imperious girl.

"I ironed it myself," said she. "Do you know where to get the finest teas, coffee and spices, Seehler & Co."

"Your glasses," she said, "have made a great difference in your appearance." "Do you think so?" he asked. "Yes. You look so intelligent with them on."

Children Cry for Fletcher's Castoria.

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