

He is Hospitable, but Deeply Loves the Vendetta.

To listen to a Bulgar singing is to make one's flesh creep or want to weep. The centuries of cruel oppression are only too manifest in Bulgarian music and words, but a Montenegrin grows restless over his songs and curses the powers that forbid him to emulate his forefathers' deeds en masse across the frontier. He does so whenever he can, but only in twos and threes.

When the Montenegrin goes raiding across the border it is really a more sporting affair than the well equipped and organized outtings of the Bulgar "Comitachis." With him it is usually a private act of revenge or vendetta to which he invites one or two friends. Then they steal across the border at night, find their man, do their best to kill him and then make tracks homeward with the whole district at their heels. Perhaps the method of killing is not up to the standard of western sport, for they shoot their victim "sitting," so to speak, and do not give him a chance, but as it is the recognized system on both sides little can be said.

This custom makes men very wary, and the stranger can appreciate the reason when he sees a plowman, for instance, attending to his duties with a rifle slung over his back. But in spite of this they are the essence of honor and hospitality. As their guest no one can come to any harm, and they will do all in their power to make his stay among them pleasant and safe.—Wide World Magazine.

His Appeal to His Master For Humane Treatment.

To thee, my master, I offer my prayer. Feed me and take care of me. Be kind to me. Do not jerk the reins. Do not whip me when going uphill.

Never strike, beat or kick me when I fail to understand what you want of me, but give me a chance to understand you. Watch me, and if I refuse to do your bidding see if there is not something wrong with my harness.

Do not give me too heavy loads. Never hitch me where water will drip on me. Keep me well shod. Examine my teeth when I fail to eat. I may have an ulcerated tooth. That, you know, is very painful. I am unable to tell you in words when I am sick, so watch me, and I will try to tell you by signs.

Pet me sometimes. I enjoy it, and I will learn to love you.

Protect me in summer from the hot sun. Keep a blanket on me in winter weather, and never put a frosty bit in my mouth, but hold it in your hands a moment first.

I carry you, pull you, wait patiently for you long hours, day or night. I cannot tell you when I am thirsty; give me clean, cool water often in hot weather.

Finally, when my strength is gone, instead of turning me over to a human brute to be tortured and starved, take my life in the easiest, quickest way, and your God will reward you in this life and in heaven. Amen.—From the Swedish in "Our Dumb Animals."

Birds' Eggs.

Ostriches lay the largest eggs of all birds now extant, according to a writer in the Scientific American, but the ostrich's egg would have appeared small beside that extinct Madagascar bird, the epyornis, which measured more than thirty inches in its smallest circumference. The smallest birds' eggs are those of the minute species of humming birds, which are smaller than the eggs of certain kinds of tropical beetles. But the cuckoo lays the relatively smallest egg—that is to say, while the jackdaw and the cuckoo are about equal in size, the former's egg is five or six times larger than the latter's. The fact that the cuckoo is wont to deposit its eggs in the nests of birds which are usually much smaller than itself doubtless accounts for this. The relatively largest egg is laid by the kiwi, a strange, wingless New Zealand bird. The egg is no less than five inches long, although the extreme length of the bird itself is only twenty-seven inches.

Tommy and the Worm.

There were only two pieces of cake and three hungry boys upstairs throwing their clothes on in the race to get down first. Tommy won out and rushed into the dining room breathlessly.

"That's a good boy, Tommy. The early bird gets the worm. Take a piece of cake," said his mother.

Tommy looked at the cake quizzically, inspecting it from all sides.

"What's the matter, Tommy?" asked his mother. "What are you trying to do?"

"Say, ma, which piece has the worm in it?" he inquired soberly.—National Monthly.

The Judge in Danger.

"Prisoner at the bar," said the portly, pompous and florid magistrate, "you are charged with stealing a pig, a very serious offense in this district. There has been a great deal of pig stealing, and I shall make an example of you or none of us will be safe."—London News.

Cause Enough.

"What made him angry when he was telephoning to the lawyers about his father's will?"

"He was cut off."—Buffalo Express.

The Kind It Was.

"Waiter, this chuck steak I ordered is like wood."

"Yes, sah. Dat am woodchuck steak."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Party's Fate on One Vote.

Instances are common enough in elections when a single vote turns the scale, but for that vote to decide not only the fate of a candidate, but of a party as well, is rare. Yet a majority of one in parliament, which may logically depend on a majority of one in the country, has worked some of the most momentous results possible. The classical example is the act of union of 1799, certainly among the largest, most important and most remarkable changes ever accomplished by a legislative body. One hundred and six voted for it and 105 against. Then a majority of one carried the great reform bill in 1832.

Majorities only a little bigger have again and again been responsible for far-reaching consequences. A majority of five threw out the Melbourne government in 1839. By the same figure Lord John Russell's government was defeated in 1856. Gladstone went out of office in 1875 because he lacked three votes, and the public education act, one of the most important ever passed, was placed on the statute book by a majority of two.—London Chronicle.

Wild Dogs of Asia.

The whole tribe of wild dogs, which in closely allied forms are to be found in the wildest jungles and woods of Asia, from the Himalayas to Ceylon and from China to the Taurus—unless the "golden wolves" of the Roman empire are now extinct in the forests of Asia Minor—show an individual and corporate courage which entitles them to a high place among the most daring of wild creatures. The "red dogs," to give them their most characteristic name, are neither large in size nor do they assemble in large packs. Those which have been from time to time measured and described seem to average some three feet in length from the nose to the root of the tail. The pack seldom numbers more than nine or ten, yet there is sufficient evidence that they are willing and able to destroy any creature that inhabits the jungle except the adult elephant and perhaps the rhinoceros, creatures whose great size and leathery hide make them almost invulnerable to such enemies as dogs.—London Spectator.

London's Big Ben.

Why is the large bell in the tower of the house of parliament in London called Big Ben? The average Londoner himself seems to have no idea how it got its name. When the building was designed Sir Benjamin Hall had a great deal to do with carrying out the plans of the architects, being high commissioner of public works, and his coworkers appreciated the fact that to him the city of London was largely indebted. So when the question came up in parliament as to the name of the enormous bell that was to be hung in the tower a member shouted, "Why not call it Big Ben?" This suggestion was received with much applause as well as with roars of laughter, for Sir Benjamin was an enormous man, both in height and girth, and had often been called Big Ben. From that day on the bell whose peal every Londoner knows has been known only as Big Ben.—Harper's Weekly.

Mighty in Titles.

The ruler of Turkey, in addition to the titles sultan and kha-khan (high prince and lord of lords), also claims sovereignty over most districts, towns, cities and states in the orient, specifying each by name and setting out in each of his various titles "all the forts, citadels, purlieus and neighborhood thereof" in regular legal form. His official designation ends, "Sovereign also of diverse nations, states, peoples and races on the face of the earth." All this is in addition to his high position as "head of the faithful" and "supreme lord of all the followers of the prophet," "direct and only lieutenant on earth of Mohammed."

The Great Eastern.

The dimensions of the one time world famous Great Eastern were as follows: Length, 692 feet; width, 83 feet; depth, 60 feet; tonnage, 24,000 tons; draft when unloaded, 20 feet; when loaded, 30 feet. She had paddle wheels fifty-six feet in diameter and was also provided with a four bladed screw propeller of twenty-four feet diameter. She had accommodations for 800 first class, 2,000 second class and 1,200 third class passengers, 4,000 in all. Her speed was about eighteen miles an hour. The Great Eastern was finally broken up for old iron in the year 1889 after a checkered career of some thirty years.

Fair, but Stormy.

A gentleman boarded the Karori car at Kelburne avenue. Recognizing a friend on one of the seats, he nodded pleasantly and then said, "Well, what do you think of the weather?" "Oh, horrible!" was the reply. "And how is your wife today?" "She's just about the same, thank you!"—New Zealand Free Lance.

No Ear For Music.

"How do you like the music, Mr. Judkins?" said Miss Parsons. "I'm sorry, but I have no ear for music," he answered. "No," put in Mr. Jasper. "He uses his for a pen rack."

An Even Score.

"What is your objection to him, papa?"

"Why, the fellow can't make enough money to support you."

"But neither can you."

No Use For Theory.

Wigwag—it is a pet theory of mine that two can live as cheaply as one. Youngpop—Hub! It's plain to be seen you were never the father of twins.—Philadelphia Record.

Why Smoke "Beats Down" When it Leaves a Chimney.

"It's getting ready for a storm. See how the smoke beats down just as soon as it comes out of the chimney? That's because the air is so heavy it pushes the smoke down before it has time to rise."

One often hears this stated as fact concerning that most generally talked of subject on earth, the weather. The speaker was probably right under those conditions in prophesying a storm, but he was scarcely right in assigning as a reason that "the air is so heavy it pushes the smoke down."

Nearly everybody knows it is easier to swim in salt water than in fresh water. As salt water is heavier than fresh water it is evident that the heavier the liquid the greater the buoyant force.

The atmosphere exerts a buoyant force upon the smoke from chimneys in exactly the same way that water exerts a buoyant force upon a swimmer. Therefore when the smoke "beats down" as soon as it leaves a chimney it must be concluded that the buoyant force exerted upon it is relatively small and that the air is not heavy, but light.

A light atmosphere, or, rather, a sudden lessening of the pressure of the atmosphere generally, takes place before a storm. Therefore the smoke from chimneys, if observed intelligently, furnishes a pretty good weather indicator.—Chicago Record-Herald.

A Custom That Can Be Traced Back to the Earliest Ages.

Cremation has been practiced by most of the nations of the earth from the earliest ages, and, although in pagan countries it may have taken the form of fire worshiping, there can be no doubt that its adoption by the ancients was for the most part prompted by other than religious reasons. Greeks ascribe its introduction to Hercules, who, having sworn to transmit the body of Argus to his father, thought this the most convenient way of fulfilling his promise. According to Homer, the burning of the dead was a common practice among the Greeks long before the Trojan war, but the earliest record of it is among the Scythians, who inhabited the vast region known under the name of Tartary. Slender accounts handed down concerning the manners of some of the ancient natives of Hindustan also allude to the custom. The idea of purification by fire was in all ages universal, and with good reason. Some believed that the body was unclean after the departure of the soul, and it was therefore deemed necessary that it should be purified by fire. Ovid expressed the general opinion of his time when he said that the soul was not completely separated from the body until the latter was consumed on the pyre. The Athenians invariably after a battle burned the slain.

JUST HOLD OFF

a minute and wait for the big

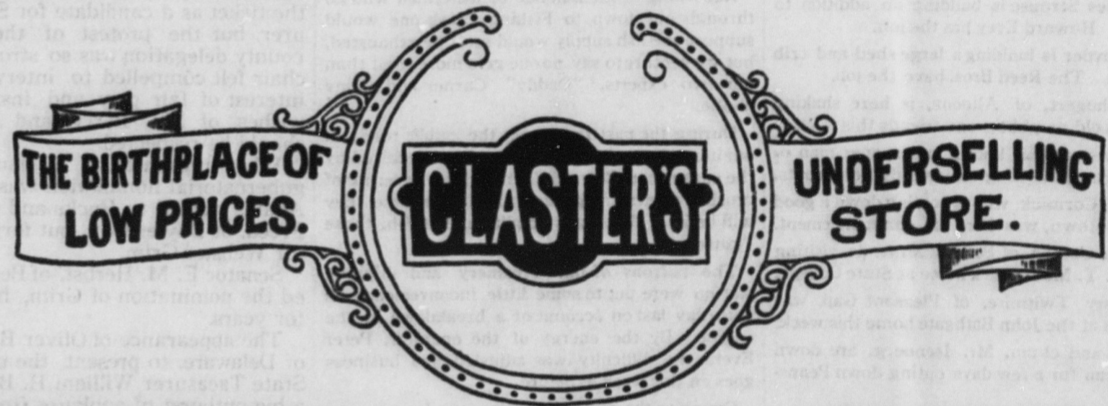
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