

TRUTHFUL JONAS EXPLORES WHALES

Poetical Tar Makes a Trip Into the Interior and Corroborates Tale of Jonah

PROCURES SOME INSIDE FACTS

Pink Pajamas Bearing the Letter "J" Prove the Scriptural Character was Previous a Tenant—Evicted Eventually and Picked Up by His Mate.

Savannah, Ga.—If higher critics must expose the myths in Holy Writ they'd better make another guess before they think they're it. For yesterday, when Jonas Horne, of the barkentine Belle White, had heard a parson say the tale of Jonah wasn't right he left his new without a word and went away from there. He said he couldn't stand to hear a lie right after prayer.

"It's downright sacrilege," he said, "the way these parsons talk. The truth, my boy, should aye prevail—it's a winner in a walk. It happens I was swallowed once by the very self-same whale that swallowed Jonah. (Have a drink?) This ain't no phoney tale. And being swallowed thus I found good evidence inside, that the Jonah story was O. K. and that the parson lied.

"I was just a youngster at the time, a greenhorn on a whaler, but thought I knew most everything, just like your brand new sailor. Our ship, the Molly Brown, one day was bein' put about to start for home when up aloft the lookout gave a shout:—

"A whale as big as Noah's ark! Great fish hooks, pipe the spout!"

"We dropped the boats and started out to get him mighty quick. We pulled to windward, sneaking down upon him nice and silek. Old Jerry threw the harpoon in and then we pulled away. And was there somethin' doin'? Well, maybe. Somethin' gay!

"I was standin' at the tiller, thinkin' I was mighty big, when Mr. Whale shoots up beneath and gives our boat a dig. I landed head down in the drink, and, feelin' quite romantic, I tried to yell goody; instead, I swallowed some Atlantic. I feels a sort of suction then, and—gee, it turned me cold—I knew that I was on my way into the critter's hold.

Then came a bump, and then kerunk! But nothin' couldn't stop us. I knew as I went by that bump it was a splottis. At last I hove to in a place that was as dark as night. I sat awhile to catch my wind and get my bearing right. A funny roar was in my ears, like tons of rushin' water; which meant, thought I, we're travelin' much faster than we'd oughter. I tried to get upon my feet, but every time I rose that turned fish turned a corner quick and tosed me on my nose. Then when I tried to fool that whale by risin' slow and soft, I'd no more got me half way up when the bloomin' monster coughed.

"It threw me, cussin', on my face, and then I feels within my fingers' grasp a bottle that I knew must carry gin! I pulled a match and tallow dip from out my starboard boot, and, lightin' up, set out to make a search for further loot. And when I takes a careful squint at where I found the flask, I spies a pair of sandal shoes. Now, sonny, let me ask:—What was them sandals doin' there, in the inwards of that whale? And how about that pint of gin? It plainly showed the tale of Jonah's bein' swallowed by a whale was surely true, and that the whale that swallowed him had taken me in too.

"I'm from Missouri when I hear theology expounded, but as for them there Bible tales, I guess that they're well founded. For facts is facts, and when I'd made another find that day of a pair of pink pajamas labelled with the letter 'J' I knew that Jonah was no fake, but truthful to the core, and that I stood where he had stood ten thousand years before.

"I was sittin' feelin' peevish, like a martyr in a pit, when somethin' happened sudden and the critter threw a fit. My light went out, and holy smoke! the very next I knew I was shooting through his thorax at a rate I call skidoo. I must have disagreed with him the way he chucked me out. I came a-bobbin' through the waves and took a look about. I was tickled when I noticed that my mates was close at hand. They picked me up and every man just cheered to beat the band.

"Now, any one who don't believe the Jonah story's true can come to me. (Well, I don't mind. I'll have another too.)"

VOICE AT OWN FUNERAL.

Clergyman Makes Phonograph Records for Use at His Grave.

Fairfield, Ill.—The Rev. Daniel Bassett Leach, an aged clergyman of Bone Gap, near here, was told that he was going to die. He asked that his graphones be brought to his bedside. Into the machine the venerable parson talked. Besides an address he spoke some prayers and a benediction.

When Mr. Leach had finished he had the records repeated. Then he asked that they be used at his funeral. His relatives assented, and this his relatives, congregation and friends had his own voice as they stood beside his grave. Mr. Leach was born in Washington County, N. Y.

WATERPROOFING MATCHES.

Simple Method That May Be of Use to Campers.

Perhaps some of your readers would be interested to know that I have found a simple, inexpensive way to waterproof matches.

Into some melted paraffin (care being taken that it was as cool as possible) I dipped a few ordinary parlor matches. After withdrawing them and allowing them to cool it was found that they scratched almost as easily as before being coated with the wax. Several were held under water for six or seven hours and all of them lighted as easily as before immersion. When the match is scratched the paraffine is first rubbed off and the match lights in the usual way.

Matches treated as above would be very useful on camping or canoeing trips, as they do not absorb moisture. Since more rubbing is required to light them than the ordinary match, it would be practically impossible to set them on fire by accidental dropping.—Scientific American.

French "Tommys" and Their Bread.

The little loaves of bread supplied to the French soldier have from time immemorial been known by the name of "boules de son" (literally "bran balls"). Their origin dates back to the First Republic. In the Middle Ages the French "Tommy Atkins" received no rations, and had to depend on what he could get from the enemy. At a later date a commissariat department was created, and the soldier was allowed two loaves, of twelve ounces, per diem. In 1790 the troops received free rations of bread without any deduction from their pay. This bread contained a little flour, but bran predominated—hence the name, "bran balls." In 1870 it was decided to supply bread made of flour only, but the loaves continued to retain their old name. Now the "boule de son" is about to disappear absolutely, and the "braves soldats" will henceforth have bread lighter and more nourishing than hitherto.

A Busy Joy.

The diminutive office boy had worked hard on a "salary" of three dollars a week. He was a subdued little chap, faithful and quiet. Finally, however, he plucked up courage enough to ask for an increase. A writer in the Kansas City Star tells the tale.

"How much more would you like?" inquired his employer.

"Well," answered the lad, "I don't think that two dollars more a week would be too much."

"You are a rather small boy to be earning five dollars a week."

"I suppose I am," he replied. "I know I'm small for my age, but to tell the truth, since I've worked here I've been so busy I haven't had time to grow."

Blood Temperature of Athletes.

Professor Flack of the London College Hospital, records some curious observations on the blood temperature of runners. The normal blood temperature in man is about 98.11 degrees Fahrenheit. A young man, after a run of 200 yards, showed a temperature of 100.76 degrees; another a temperature of 100.94 degrees; third a temperature of 102.2 degrees after a run of half a mile. A mile run produced an internal temperature of 102.8 degrees with one athlete and 103.6 degrees with another. After a three-mile run one young man had a temperature of 105 degrees. But this runner's normal blood temperature was 101 degrees, although he was in perfect health.

Queer Side Line.

In both India and China there are thousands of people who manufacture India ink as a side line to their regular business, working at it in the winter, at night, and on days when they are not otherwise employed. It is made by burning some kind of oil in a lamp with a very long chimney, usually made in joints which can be taken apart for greater convenience in cleaning out the soot, which makes the ink. Almost any kind of vegetable oil will answer, and in districts where petroleum is found even coal oil is used in making the cheaper grades. The best kind is made from sesame oil.

Sky Signs.

Whether clear or cloudy, a rosy sunset presages fine weather. A sickly looking, greenish hue, wind and rain. A dark or Indian red, rain. A red sky in the morning, bad weather or much wind; perhaps rain. A gray sky in the morning, fine weather. A high dawn, wind; a low dawn, fair weather. Remarkable clearness of atmosphere near the horizon, distant objects, such as Lillies, unusually visible or raised by refraction, and what is called a good "hearing day," may be mentioned among signs of wet, if not wind.

Don't Snub Children.

Children love to be treated with courtesy and respect. They resent having their opinions and sentiments snubbed, and parents might learn a good deal from them and about them if they would encourage them to talk more freely of all they think and feel. We are hardened by the gathering years, and we have lost our keenest sense of what is the very truest and the very best. The contact of a child's mind with its pure vision is like a message straight from God.

To Break Up Tipping in Iowa.

Des Moines, Iowa.—The Committee on rules in the lower house has made a rule prohibiting tipping employees, including committee clerks.

ALL HIS CHICKS GET DRUNK

Farmer Discovers Barnyard Speakeasy After Roosters Hiccough and Will Give the Gold Cure.

Livingston, N. J.—Jacob Foss, a farmer of this place, is seeking a gold cure for his chickens. Thirty Plymouth Rocks in his barnyard have become inebriates.

A week ago Foss placed an old whiskey barrel, with an end knocked out, in an open space near the henhouse as a shelter for a hen with a brood of little chicks that had been hatched out early. When the sun became hot the hen retired to the barrel with her brood. After a few days Foss observed that every chicken in his barnyard seemed to be in a half stupor—even the young chicks. The roosters went about the yard crowing in a hiccoughy way, and the hens clucked in hoarse, guttural tones.

Foss was puzzled and he called in W. F. Merrill, a veterinarian, who inspected the coops and found nothing wrong. Then he examined the barrel. One sniff at the air of the interior enlightened him.

"The chickens are drunk," Merrill said. Then he explained to Foss that the whiskey barrel, which had been in a damp cellar all winter, had been affected by the sun, which brought the alcohol out of the wood. The hen that picked at the wood first must have communicated the secret to the other fowl, and all became visitors to the barnyard "speakeasy."

Foss thought an easy solution of the difficulty would be to burn the whiskey barrel. This he did, but the craving for drink had become too strong in the chickens. An old rooster, with the instinct of a confirmed toper, found his way to an improvised silo where Foss kept a supply of malt which he buys from a brewery to feed his cattle. This proved a substitute for the whiskey barrel, and soon all the chickens were clustered about the silo, devouring the malt. Foss has shut the chickens off from their new form of dissipation, but fears that unless he breaks them of the habit they will wander off the farm in quest of strong drink.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE INSURGENTS



VICTOR MURDOCK, OF KANSAS.

Representative Victor Murdock, of Kansas, who led the onslaught of the Republicans in Congress against the iron rule of Speaker Joe Cannon, has arrived at fame and is now in great demand throughout the country as a speaker and lecturer.

HAMMER SAVES A MAN'S EYE.

Doctor Uses Its Magnetic Property to Draw Out a Steel Splinter. St. Louis, Mo.—Armed only with a 10-cent tack hammer, Dr. G. C. Eggers of Clayton performed an extremely delicate surgical operation that saved for George Schmeider the sight of one of his eyes. A steel splinter an eighth of an inch long was removed from the affected optic. Dr. Eggers skimmed over the surface of the eyeball with the blunt end of the hammer. This skimming operation was continued without cessation for nearly half an hour. Suddenly the sufferer felt twinges of pain.

"You've got it, doctor," he exclaimed joyfully.

On the hammer's end clung the steel splinter, drawn from the tissue of the eye by the magnetized head of the hammer.

FAMOUS TREE IS HURT.

Michael Angelo's Cypress, 350 Years Old, Injured by Storm.

Rome, Italy.—A terrific storm broke over Rome, doing considerable damage to property and causing the death of one person.

The roof of the railroad station was partially destroyed. A portion of the roof, in falling, tore off the top of the Michael Angelo cypress in the court of the Church of Santa Maria Angeli. This tree is supposed to have been planted three hundred and fifty years ago by the famous sculptor and painter whose name it bears.

BEETLES IN BIRDS' NESTS.

New Region for the Efforts of Bug Collectors.

In the Entomologist's Monthly Magazine Mr. N. H. Joy indicates an apparently little explored region for "rare" beetles. Having last year obtained various species looked upon as rare by collectors in birds' nests, Mr. Joy was led to doubt the genuine rarity of these species. He further concluded that if the nests of our familiar birds and mammals were carefully searched many species of beetle might cease to be labeled rare in the records of entomology. Mr. Joy has put his theory to the test, and finds that birds' nests are productive of many rare and interesting beetles. And in searching the nests of smaller British mammals this enthusiastic collector has been even more successful. Is it not even possible that when such situations are more carefully and exhaustively searched new species of beetle may reward the collector?

Stone Ships.

Eleven years ago an Italian engineer made a boat of artificial stone or cement which excited much interest. It was an excellent boat, and is yet in use. The framework of light iron rods, was covered with a metallic trellis, and then coats of cement were applied, inside and out, to form the hull. It proved surprisingly resistant to shocks. Since then the same engineer, Gattolini, has made many more "stone" boats, of various forms, and among them a barge, about 54 feet long and between 17 and 19 feet broad, which for several years has been employed for carrying coal to the harbor of Genoa. He also makes pontoons of the same material, which have been used to replace wooden pontoons on the Po. The material lasts better even than iron, and is not attacked by salt water.—Youth's Companion.

Health and Beauty.

Never visit a sick person with an empty stomach, especially if the complaint be contagious, as this disposes the system more readily to receive the contagion.

A Scotch teacher gave this advice to her pupils: "If you have cholera or Scarlet fever in the house, put some onions under the bed, and they will sweep away the disease."

Years ago when the cholera raged through London, the onion proved of value. It was noted that in the most unsanitary district, they were exempt from the disease, being Italians and great onion eaters, and in their homes had strings of onions suspended across the ceiling. The opinion is said to be a powerful antidote against disease.

The Ape and Primitive Man.

Mr. S. P. Verner points out that the recent discovery of the chimpanzee in a part of Africa where it had not been known to exist enable us to define a few regions where the gorilla, the chimpanzee and the pygmies exist in conditions suggestive of the possibility of discovering the fossils of their ancestry in good preservation. The pygmies are now known to have existed practically in suit for 3,000 years, and it is probable, Mr. Verner thinks, that the two great anthropoids may have been there for as great or a greater, length of time. He is trying to indicate localities of limited area in which the likelihood of discovering the fossils mentioned is very great.

The Periscope.

Under this name Commandant Soulie de Cnac of the French Legion of Honor has designed a pince-nez, or eye-glass, which enables the wearer to see at the same time on all sides, and even behind. This is ingeniously effected by means of reflections. At the same time the glasses are so constructed as to correct myopia, and other errors of vision. A use for the instrument that the inventor did not think of has been revealed to him by deaf persons employing it. They say that it increases their safety by enabling them to perceive the approach of dangers which their ears give them no warning.

Lightning and Petroleum.

At the beginning of September some of the petroleum wells fired by a violent thunder-storm near the end of June at Boryslaw, Galicia, were still burning, like torch flames 40 or 50 feet in height. It is said that not less than 5 wells are struck by lightning every year at Boryslaw, the cause being ascribed to the obligatory use of sheet-iron coverings for all the installations. The iron surfaces communicate with the system of metallic tubes, thus forming, during a thunder-storm, a sort of Leyden jar, which provokes lightning strokes.

World's Sugar Production.

It is estimated that the total production of sugar throughout the world is about 2,000,000 tons per annum. Of this quantity nine-tenths are afforded by the sugar cane, 25,000,000 tons of which are required to produce the above quantity of cane sugar. The average of saccharine matter in the ripe West Indian sugar cane is from 18 to 21 per cent., of which only 8 per cent. is available to commerce. The total value of the sugar in the cane, if it could be extracted, would be about \$230,000,000, but one-half is lost in the process of manufacture.

Why She Declined.

"Really," said the stylish lady, enthusiastically, to her friend, "it is worth while to see the wonderful display of rhododendrons." "Is it?" replied her friend, languidly; "I like to look at the great big clumsy beasts, too; but it always smells so unpleasantly around the cages."

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