

A Remarkable Animal-Trainer.

In the year of 1721, in Perth, Scotland, was born the most remarkable animal-trainer in the world. His name was Bisset, and in early life he became a journeyman Shoemaker; but having great fondness and faculty for managing animals, he soon gave himself up entirely to this occupation. His first success with educating brutes was with a horse and dog, whom he taught to perform many curious feats. He next tried his skill on a couple of monkeys, who soon learned to dance on a rope, drink from the company, ride and leap on the backs of horses, and go through intricate dances with their equally accomplished companion the dog. Three young cats were the succeeding subjects of Bisset's tuition, and these were instructed to play upon dulcimers, apparently reading from music-books before them, while they squirmed a vocal accompaniment in three different keys, or tones, producing altogether a chorus whose piercing effect the musical may perhaps imagine.

The fame of Bisset's learned animals spread rapidly, and he was finally induced to exhibit them in London. A place in the haymarket was secured, and the "Cats' Opera" advertised. Crowded houses responded to the advertisement; and the horse, the dog, the monkeys, and the cats went through their respective parts amid great applause. In a brief time the skillful trainer found himself in possession of £1,000 as the reward of his novel enterprise.

Encouraged by this, Bisset sought other pupils in the animal kingdom. Among these was a leveret, which he taught to beat the time of several marches with his hind legs. Canary-birds, linnets, and sparrows, caught the trick of distinguishing the hour and minutes of the day, and of spelling the name of any person in their audience. Six turkey-cocks were made to go through a country-dance; and, in a single month's time, a turtle learned to fetch and carry like a dog. A gold-fish came to the surface at his call, and fed from his hand, and answered in various other interesting ways, Bisset's call upon his intelligence.

At length the master brought his ingenuity to bear on that most obstinate of all animals, the pig. He nearly met his match this time, but, after a patient discipline of a twelvemonth, gentleman-piggy was rendered docile as a spaniel, and obeyed his teacher's every command. This sapient creature could spell, cast up accounts, tell the time of day, kneel and make obeisance to the spectators, and otherwise conduct himself like a gentleman of parts. But such extraordinary porcine wisdom could not be accepted as a natural phenomenon by the ignorance of the age in which it dwelt, and it began to be whispered that Bisset, who taught animals to do all but speak, was in league with the Devil. This was enough to rouse the spirit of persecution; and one night, while the learned pig was exhibiting his tricks in Bangor, Ireland, the mob, headed by a stupid official, broke into the room, destroyed the apparatus with which Bisset worked, and assaulted him and his pig so virulently that they barely escaped with their lives. This event was followed soon after by the death of Bisset; but whether the odium that fell upon him as a suspected necromancer had anything to do with his demise, our informant does not tell us.

SACRACY OF THE PARTRIDGE.—An interesting instance of the sagacity with which the partridge will protect its young is given by Mr. Henshaw of the Government Survey west of the one-hundredth meridian. While riding through a pine woods a brood of partridge, containing the mother and eight or ten young, about a week old, was come upon so suddenly that the flocks of the foremost male almost trod on them. The young rose, flew a few yards, and dropping down, were in an instant hid in the underbrush. The mother meanwhile began some very peculiar tactics. Rising up, she fell back again to the ground as if perfectly helpless and imitated the actions of a wounded bird so successfully that for a moment it was thought she had really been trodden upon. Several of the men, completely deceived, attempted to catch her, but she fluttered away, keeping just out of reach of their hands until they had been enticed ten or twelve yards off, when she rose and was off like a bullet. Her tactics had successfully covered the retreat of her young.—*Galaxy* for January.

A STORY NOT TOLD DISTINCTLY.—A pleasing incident is told to the Cincinnati Gazette by a clergymen who has just returned from a health trip. He relates how a baggage man on a fast Western railroad was so impelled by force of habit that he began to knock and kick and jam the trunk of an elephant, a managerie company having the beast on a flat car. The force of habit was also strong, and the heap of blood and bones beside the track demonstrated that for once in a railroad encounter the trunk had the best of it. As above remarked, this incident comes from the lips of a clergymen lately returned from a Western trip, taken for his health.

A KNOWING DOG.—A sullen keeper in Newark has a dog that readily distinguishes the bell of the millionaire who daily serves the establishment, and taking the pall in his mouth starts to meet him, jumps on the wagon, has it filled, and carefully and speedily returns. He is a large St. Bernard, and, even aside from his superior intelligence, is fit to rank as a king among dogs. His performance just spoken of never fails to attract a great deal of attention.

A young couple in Worcester, Mass., got married and retired to their boarding-house. When midnight came, so did two "peeler" who arrested the pair, swearing that the marriage certificate was a forgery. The "happy couple" spent the night in adjoining cells. Now the police officers say it was a mistake. Married people will avoid Worcester till after the honeymoon. The bridegroom says such treatment is more irritating than one would think.

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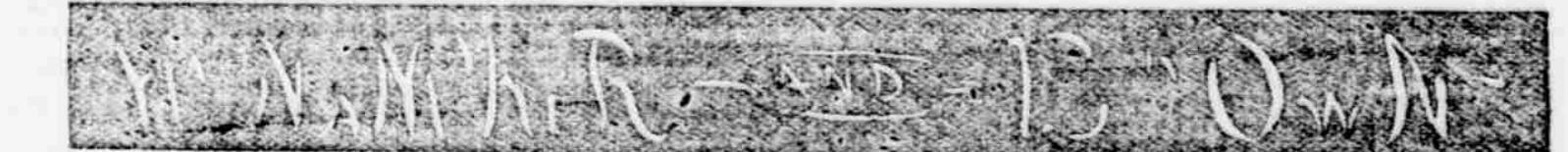
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Having regard of interested and uninterested observations of different methods of doing business, while establishing and extending the largest clothing trade in the United States, have brought us to the following conclusions: That "that customer has a right to some GRANTING that his purchase shall prove exactly as represented," and that "the customer with very few prices, as often as necessary, necessitates higher prices to cover losses by bad debts, interest, law suits, hire of collectors, increased number of bookkeepers, &c." Ed. That, though Justice requires that the customer's reasonable cost in doing business are greatly presented by giving to the purchaser the privilege *not only* of exchange of goods, but of returning the same price for the same article, yet the customer *will* have promptly paid back the cash in full. Ed. That all customers bearing at the same time, should pay a small percentage for the same article, and that the customer *will* pay back the cash in full. Ed. 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