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BY JAMES G. HASSON.

# THE FREEMAN

JAS. G. HASSON, Editor and Proprietor.  
"HE IS A FREEMAN WHO THE TRUTH MAKES FREE AND ALL ARE ASSESSOR."  
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### SCIENTIFIC LORE.

#### Interesting Scientific Facts About Poisonous Snakes.

Different Effects of the Venom of Various Reptiles. The Deadly Marine Snakes of the Indian Ocean.

The following facts are given by a snake scientist in a paper which he has written and is publishing. Such a one is Dr. Leonard Stejneger, in charge of the reptilian department of the national museum at Washington. He said to a correspondent of the Boston Transcript:

"You do not admire snakes, I suppose? Well, it is all a matter of taste. The danger of the rattlesnake bite, on the other hand, is from mortification of the injured part, which may proceed so far that the flesh actually peels off. Cobra poison in its natural state is one of those fluids which are able to pass through membranes. If scathed it would be apt to go through the walls of the alimentary tract and get into the circulation in that way.

### FROM POLE TO POLE

ATENA'S Sarsaparilla has demonstrated its power of cure for all diseases of the blood.

Dr. J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

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### THRIVING ON PERSECUTION.

#### The Gypsies of Hungary Still Maintain Their Ancient Customs Unchanged.

In Hungary there are, according to a rough estimate, not one hundred and fifty thousand gypsies, vagabonds who wander about the country with their carts and horses, accompanied by their families, and are, though at one time persecuted and hunted to death as sorcerers and poisoners, the cruel edicts which enjoined such treatment were never sympathized in by the Hungarian people. The result is as we learn from "The Peoples of the World," that the gypsies have increased, and in their own thriftless, smallish fashion prospered, despite the fact that they are in the hands of their rulers. Indeed, the Hungarian kings have more than once protected them as "poor wandering people without a country, and whom all the world rejected," and granted them safe conducts to go wherever they pleased to them, with their troops of donkeys and horses. Joseph II. of Austria tried to settle them as agriculturists, but in his absence the emperor's edicts were null and void. Instead of occupying the comfortable dwellings themselves, they stabled their cattle in them and pitched their tents outside. To prevent their doing this, the emperor's edicts were null and void. Instead of occupying the comfortable dwellings themselves, they stabled their cattle in them and pitched their tents outside.

### FLAX CULTURE IN EUROPE.

#### Russia Grows More of This Crop Than Any Country in the World.

Our present supply of raw materials, says Chambers' Journal, is imported from Russia, where the plant has long been, and still is, cultivated more extensively than in any other country. The flax is raised in the culture of the crop and preparation of the fiber receive less care and attention than in any other flax-producing country. This neglect may be accounted for in many ways. It is not under crop and also being much more so in order to give the plant greater strength and more numerous branches, to prevent the loss of the crop by the winter storms, that prevail at the time it is in flower. The result of this treatment, however, is a coarse fiber, and also a very much inferior yield to that grown thicker and under more favorable conditions. In Germany, Austria and France will follow Russia as flax-producing countries, and in such of these an average area of twenty-five hundred acres is kept under this crop. In Holland flax is grown principally for the seed, and the planting and growth of the crop, as well as the time for pulling, is regulated for this purpose. By properly maturing the flax, the quality of the fiber is injured and renders the subsequent process more difficult; but the Dutch farmers are amply remunerated for their neglect of the flax.

### DANGER IN A LOBSTER'S CLAW.

#### Twenty-Eight Persons Poisoned on East Bay.

A mature lobster is not small or harmless-looking by any means, says the New York Evening Post. Without the claws, an old fellow should measure from the tip of the point to the tip of the tail, and will weigh altogether from five to fifteen pounds. Smaller ones are caught more frequently than larger ones, especially since the competition has become fiercer, and the fish are being taken and sold all along the New England coast. Occasionally an old-timer is caught, one that weighs as high as twenty-five pounds. Such a monster is a veritable fighter, and fierce enough to contend with a man. He is perfectly smooth, whereas under the same magnifier the point of a needle appears rough. It often happens that an ignorant person will remove the poison from a lobster, and take particular notice of the operation renders the animal permanently harmless. This mistake is apt to give rise to fatal accidents. Within a few days the next morning he is found dead, and the cause is found to be the poison from the lobster's claws. The poison is as dangerous as ever. Fishers in India understand a more effective method of removing the poison from the claws, and apply hot iron, destroying the parts entirely. Even the deadly cobra may be rendered in that way as innocuous as a kitten.

### Little Bits of News.

The most densely populated spot on earth is the island of Malta.

The czar's royal yacht, the Polar Star, cost almost five million dollars.

The czar's private yacht, the Empress, cost her six hundred thousand francs a year for dress alone.

Prof. Brehm, believes the female brain to be superior to the male because of its more delicate organization.

A disease by which all kinds of wood can be rendered incombustible has been invented by a Chicago chemist.

Nearly ten per cent. of the yield from this year's cotton crop in the south is from cottonseed oil once thought to be worthless.

There is a project of establishing at Las Vegas, New Mexico, a "gentleman's paradise," which is expected to rival in detail Monte Carlo.

A Superior Troop.

In China Teichow men are a superior race. They are the Chinese Four Hundred and native anatomy distinguishes them in an altogether unusual way. The surgeons say that while all other Chinamen have eight pieces of bone from the neck to the top of the head Teichow men are the proud possessors of nine.

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### GREAT GRIZZLIES.

#### The Immense Bears That Roam the Woods of Manitoba.

Larger Than Any Others of the Same Family in the United States. Though Still to Be Found They Are Not So Numerous as Formerly.

Fifteen years ago, says a Manitoba pioneer in the Chicago Times, the grizzly bear was so plentiful among the Manitoba Rockies that the Hudson Bay company annually secured many hundreds of their skins from the army of hunters and trappers that had its range in that wild region. But today there are few grizzlies left, and the few that remain are not to be seen in the sanctuary unwillingly. The carbonic acid gas resulting from crowds, an especially fearful foe, is produced by furnaces with red hot firetops, through which not only carbonic acid gas, but a far more dangerous gas, can permeate the most devoted and attentive drovers.

### SLEEPING IN CHURCH.

#### A Sign, for One Thing, of the Approaching Old Age.

Dr. Chalmers used to preach for Editor Irving, the erratic genius who rivaled the privilege of making a few preliminary remarks and "poke an hour or so in a crowded building, says the Christian Advocate. Chalmers, referring to it afterward, said: "What could I do in an exhausted condition? There are many cases justifying sleeping in church; the mother who has been watching two or three nights with a sick child; the father who has been thoroughly overworked, and invalids are not to be condemned if they doze in the sanctuary unwillingly. The carbonic acid gas resulting from crowds, an especially fearful foe, is produced by furnaces with red hot firetops, through which not only carbonic acid gas, but a far more dangerous gas, can permeate the most devoted and attentive drovers.

### A RESPECTFUL TYRANT.

#### Discharge of a Disagreeable Duty by a Faithful Servant.

Beaumarchais, a famous French author, had a servant, Antoine, by name, who had been long in his service, and against whose tyranny he seldom ventured to rebel. One evening, in his old age, the great man was engaged in a game of chess, when Antoine entered and said, somewhat sharply but respectfully:

"Monsieur, it is 10 o'clock."

"Very well, Antoine," the master said, "but let me finish the game."

"If you please, monsieur, I am sorry you will be tired to-morrow morning."

"Oh, no, I think not, Antoine."

"And being tired out you will not want to get up."

"Oh, yes, monsieur, I shall get up."

"No, monsieur, you will not get up."

"All right, Antoine; I will go in a few moments."

"And if you are not up, monsieur, at the usual time you will derange your whole day."

"In a minute, in a minute."

"And you will have no appetite for breakfast, monsieur."

"Can't you see the clock is fast?"

"But the clock is slow, monsieur."

"I tell you it is fast."

"The clock is slow, monsieur."

"Now, monsieur, the game is almost done, and then—"

"But if the game were almost done you would not have so many pawns left, monsieur."

"Antoine, I should have been done already if you had let me alone."

"But I shall not let you alone, monsieur."

"Tell you I shall finish the game. Get out, Antoine."

"We will get out together, monsieur."

"Antoine, I'm not a baby."

"Yes, monsieur, you are not a baby. Apart from that there is not much difference."

### NAPOLION'S DAINTY TOILET.

#### After His Morning Shave His Valet Scoured Him with Eau De Cologne.

One of the most interesting articles found among the recent numerous essays upon the private life of Napoleon is on the toilet of the emperor, which, it appears, was a most important matter to him. He was very particular in his details with mathematical precision. When awakened it was Napoleon's custom to glance over the paper while the fires were lit. He was sensitive to cold, and a bath was prepared in every room even in midwinter. Then of distinguished people awaiting an audience he would designate those whom he wished to see, after which he would rise and go to the bath. He was very particular in his details with mathematical precision. When awakened it was Napoleon's custom to glance over the paper while the fires were lit. He was sensitive to cold, and a bath was prepared in every room even in midwinter. Then of distinguished people awaiting an audience he would designate those whom he wished to see, after which he would rise and go to the bath. He was very particular in his details with mathematical precision. When awakened it was Napoleon's custom to glance over the paper while the fires were lit. He was sensitive to cold, and a bath was prepared in every room even in midwinter. Then of distinguished people awaiting an audience he would designate those whom he wished to see, after which he would rise and go to the bath.

### Origin of the Word Honey-moon.

It was formerly a custom among Teutonic nations to give a young man a honey-moon, and called him a honey-moon. Hence the name "honey-moon." The Teutons knew very little about the moon, and the name "honey-moon" was given, 200 B. C., to a race of people who had long been settled in the country, and in the province which are now known respectively as Denmark and Schleswig-Holstein, but which were then known collectively as the Chersonesus Cimbrica. The Teutons may even have brought the custom to England with them when they came over the Kimmerian Bosphorus about 650 B. C.

### FRUIT BUDS.

GREEN currants make good sauce or pies.

RASPBERRY jam has no superior among the sauces.

A currant is a native of the north, perhaps of Holland.

Do not have the currants too ripe when making jelly; but they must not be green.

In making raspberry jelly, add considerable currant juice; the flavor will not be impaired.

A currant bush will grow almost anywhere, and give good returns for even indifferent care.

RASPBERRIES are best when picked, fresh and ripe, from the bushes and immediately used—and are other berries—(Good Housekeeping).

### Susie's Explanation.

Little Susie carried to a neighbor's house a beautiful pat of butter all covered with fanciful markings.

"Not by your mother, make the butter look so pretty, my dear?" some one asked.

"Oh, she did that with our brand new comb," said Susie.—Toledo Blade.