

## SOMEWHAT STRANGE.

### ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

#### Queer Facts and Thrilling Adventures Which Show That Truth is Stranger Than Fiction.

During the last Paraguayan War it was noticed that the men who had been without salt for three months, and who had been wounded, however slight, died of their wounds because they would not heal.

The Maharajah of Mysore has decided, if possible, to put an end to marriages between children, or rather infants of his kingdom. He issued an edict recently forbidding girls under eight years and boys under fourteen to marry. In the future no man aged fifty or more dare wed a girl under fourteen. The edict has aroused much opposition in Mysore, but the ruler is said to be an energetic man and capable of executing regulations which he is pleased to promulgate.

An extraordinary occurrence is reported from near Galashiels, Scotland. A boy named Brookie, the son of a shepherd at Buckholm, was out with the sheep, when he was bitten on the finger by an adder. He became alarmed lest the bite should prove fatal, and resolved to cut the finger off close to the palm. This he attempted to do with his pocket knife, but as it would not cut through the bone he cut it away at the first joint. He then went to the nearest farmhouse, whence he was driven to Galashiels. Here a doctor amputated the remainder of the finger.

GEORGE ANDERSON and William Hunt, farmers, who lived near Corning, Mo., were engaged in boring a well when their drill struck a rock and broke short off. It was necessary for someone to go down into the well to dislodge the drill, and Anderson went. After he had reached the bottom, 160 feet deep, Hunt looked over the edge to see what he was doing, and by some misfortune missed his footing and tumbled headlong into the shaft. His head collided with that of Anderson and the skulls of both were crushed, killing them instantly.

The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts is to decide whether a creditor who invades a debtor's bedroom and wakes him up early in the morning in order to present his bill is guilty of an assault. The aggrieved party in the dispute is a milkman and the aggrieved person is his customer, who says that he forbade the milkman to invade his privacy, and was awakened by being shaken by the shoulder when suffering from a severe headache. The lower court entered judgment for the milkman, and the plaintiff appealed to the full bench of the Supreme Court.

SEVERAL wild turkeys that had a love for swallowing shining particles that had been shot by a hunter on one of the branches near San Diego, Tex., netted him quite a sum in gold, which he found in their craws, which they had picked up. In South Africa ostriches have been successfully employed in finding gold deposits. A drove of the birds are turned loose to feed in the territory where the precious metal is supposed to exist. They are then given an emetic and the ejecta carefully examined for nuggets, and if any are found the trail of the bird is followed until the diggings are discovered.

The full-rigged ship, the Harry Williams, met with a peculiar accident while passing under the Brooklyn bridge recently. A sailor was at work near the top of the mainmast as the ship approached the structure. The mainmast was unusually high, and as the ship swept down the river a carpenter at work on the bridge yelled to the sailor, who slid down just in time to save himself. The foremast passed under safely, but the top of the mainmast struck the bridge and about six feet of the stick was snapped off. It was said at the bridge entrance that this was the first accident of the kind recorded since the bridge was erected.

LAWYER BUNKER, of Ellsworth, Me., recently had an unpremeditated contest with an angry bull on the Hancock county fair grounds at that place. He seized the angry beast by the horns, and, after an exciting tussle, actually succeeded in downing the bull. Since then the young farmers of the county have been practicing at this hazardous wrestling, and most any average-sized man will now boast of his ability to upset any bull in the county. Competitive challenges have been the natural outcome, and Bucksport has just issued a defiance to Ellsworth to match its star against any "rarser" (wrestler) in the latter place, "horns hot, best two out of three bulls."

PROBABLY few men have had a more thrilling fifteen seconds or so than had the driver of a heavy load of giant powder in Oregon a few days ago. He was piloting a four-horse team drawing a wagon containing 3,000 pounds of giant powder over a rough road into Tillamook. A rickety bridge spanning a narrow ravine gave way under the load and the whole outfit was dumped down into the dry bed of the creek. There was no explosion, and the driver, horses, wagon and powder were hauled out all right. The driver has not recorded his sensations as he felt the bridge giving way and during the few seconds between then and the time the load landed safely again.

"It was decidedly a grim ornament," said a society young man in the New York Sun, "that I saw recently at the house of a well-known civil engineer whose career had some time been in the Rocky Mountains. It was a necklace composed of the finger nails of a young Sioux brave slain by a Ute warrior, who, with the scalp of his victim, had taken this trophy of his prowess. Strange to say, this necklace was intrinsically very handsome. The characteristic shapeliness of the Indian's arm and hand, ideally perfect even to the finger tips, was illustrated in this barbarous memento. The necklace of ten pieces was in color a vital brown, suggesting more than anything else a string of acorns. So relieved in appearance was it from any forbidding suggestions of the savage deed it recorded that the genuinely gentle and refined woman to whom it

was shown handled it loquaciously, and begged of the owner that if he ever gave it away it should be to her."

THE Newcastle (England) Journal reports a pathetic story of a dog, given in evidence before the Gateshead magistrates. A man over eighty, charged with keeping a dog without a license, did not appear, but the chief constable informed the Bench "that the old man had been at the court in a terrible state of distress," and that he lived with his wife in a condition of abject poverty. On inquiries being made, it appeared that the dog must be destroyed if the summons was pressed, as the old couple had no money to pay for a license, but that the wife had begged for the dog's life because it had more than once saved her from being burned to death. She had fallen into the fire in a fit, and "the dog had seized her, dragged her from the flames, and burying his nose in her lighted clothes, had extinguished the fire. To prove the truth of the woman's statement, the chief constable got some old newspapers and set fire to them, this being done in the presence of other constables. On each occasion the newspaper was lighted in the middle of the floor. The dog rushed at it and extinguished the flame." The magistrates, of course, subscribed to pay for the local reporter, with pardonable effusiveness, calls the "noble creature's license." It is a pity that the dog's breed, or, at any rate, size and looks are not mentioned.

MR. MATTOX, of Mississippi, was housing his hens. The night was somewhat cloudy. He had visited his barns and was on the point of returning to his house when all at once he heard a peculiar hissing sound overhead, and at the same instant a luminous glow fell all around him, as if the moon had suddenly emerged from behind a cloud, chronicles the Chicago Post. He looked up and was almost paralyzed at the sight of a brilliant, fiery globe descending through the air with the speed of lightning, and shooting a comet-like tail far up into the heavens. So rapid was the descent that it was only visible for a second, but in that brief space, he says, he suffered an eternity of unspeakable terror. The fire ball struck the earth with a dull report, scarcely 300 yards from where he stood. It was some minutes before he could recover the use of his limbs, when, running hastily to his house, he aroused the family and several laborers about the place, telling them a comet had struck the earth, and they had only a few minutes to pray. In a short time the whole plantation was up and women and children were heard crying and supplicating heaven for mercy. They could not get closer than about thirty yards on account of the heat and noxious fumes of sulphur and gas which the stone emitted. The stone sizzled and steamed and shot out jets of steam or vapor from a thousand pores. By daylight it showed up, which still shot out jets of vapor of an offensive smell which almost stifled. The stone is evidently imbedded in the ground for some distance, and shows only about a foot above the surface. Mr. Mattox estimates it to be about the size of a hog-head.

A DIFFICULT mechanical feat just accomplished at Port Costa, Cal., is described substantially as follows by eye-witnesses: On August 10, a locomotive went through the big ferry-boat and plunged first into the waters of Carquinez Straits, the tender and cars remaining on the ferry-boat. The water was deep enough to cover the cab, but not enough to lift the boat out of the slip. The locomotive stood practically vertical and its nose was deep in the mud. On the night of the 15th a large pair of shears made of 12x12-inch timbers crossed at the top was built up on the end of the boat and some large pulleys hung where the pulleys crossed. Then a diver spent several hours in fastening a number of cables on either side of the frame under the boiler. Four engines were attached to the ropes, but could not start the locomotive, although the strain was so great that a cable nearly three inches in diameter was broken. Finding the appliances of insufficient strength, the shears were doubled in size, and a fifth engine taken on board. On the 17th another trial was made. It was hard to get the engines to pull exactly together, and, as their wheels would slip and revolve, the cables would snap and the tackle generally would be badly strained. Finally a simultaneous pull started the mass, and the cab slowly appeared above the water and the engine was gradually lifted until somewhat higher than the floor of the ferry-boat. Tackle from a steam dredger stationed in the front of the slip was then attached to the forward end of the locomotive, which was pulled out in this way. The shears were then swung slowly backward over the deck of the ferry-boat and the engine gradually lowered to the tracks it had left. When it was hauled to the neighboring round-house and the mud washed off it was found that but little damage had been done beyond the splintering of the cab by the cables.

#### The White Farm.

In Dorsetshire, England, there is a place belonging to Lord Alington, known as the White Farm. Everything is perfectly white. All the farm buildings, the house itself and even all the animals on the place are white. Rabbits, cats, guinea pigs, hens, horses, cows, donkeys and all the creatures are spotless. Even the men and the maids who till the soil are compelled to attire themselves in white smocks and white frocks to bear out the general impression of whiteness. —[New York World.]

#### An Electric Horsewhip.

The latest form of horsewhip is constructed so as to give a slight electric shock to the animal. The handle, which is made of celluloid, contains a small induction coil and battery, the circuit being closed by means of a spring push. The extremity of the whip consists of two small copper plates insulated from each other, each of which is provided with a tiny point. The plates are connected to the induction coil by means of a couple of fine insulated wires. —[Chicago Herald.]

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

LORD MAYORS of London have collected during the past twenty years a little over \$50,000,000 for charitable purposes.

A CURIOUS feature in the outbreak of cholera at Constantinople was its sudden appearance in asylums, hospitals and prisons, with little in miserable dwellings, every where in Constantinople, and in many cases the tenants have given up their leases to relieve their unhappy landlords. In this manner the Alliance Mission has been obliged to vacate their premises in Wuchang, the seat of the Viceroy, though it is twelve years since he first leased his premises to the missionaries. Moreover, the Governor of Hunan has notified the Viceroy that all foreign missionaries, some forty in number, must be removed from Wuchang during the forthcoming examinations (held in honor of the Empress Dowager's sixtieth birthday), because he will be unable to protect them against the violence of the students, and he therefore disclaims in advance all responsibility for what may happen if his advice is not followed. The Governor is a townsman and bosom friend of the notorious Chou Han, who is now busy again issuing his placards against foreigners and decorating the walls of Changsha with a fresh edition of the "Human Picture Gallery."

EVERYWHERE in California the Chinese are now working the gold mines on their own account. The metal is sent directly to China, and is smuggled out of the country in the same way that opium is smuggled in. Since 1860 the Chinese have taken from California mines the enormous sum of \$141,750,000.

IN SWITZERLAND the orange and myrtle blossoms, those graceful symbols of weddings, and their substitute in Gruyere cheese. On the day of her marriage the bride receives a whole Gruyere cheese, which is religiously preserved in the family. As time goes on various marks and notches are cut into it, which serve to record the births, marriages, deaths, etc., occurring in the household and among the relatives. Anyhow, it may always serve as provision for a rainy day.

COL. EDWARD BECK, of the Idaho National Guard, who was said to be the youngest enlisted person in the Union Army during the war, recently died in Idaho. He went as a drummer-boy with the 14th Kentucky Regiment when he was eleven years old. He was in active service from the beginning of the war till 1863, when he was wounded and sent home. He afterward entered the Regular Army and was a sergeant for twelve years, retiring in 1880.

THE number of Americans who were enumerated at the last census as residents in England and Wales is given in a Parliamentary Blue Book as 26,226. Of these nearly 20,000 were natives of the United States. The exact number having the United States for the country of their birth were 9,726 males and 10,014 females. There is nothing in the Government record to show how many were tourists and how many were permanent residents in England, but the number excludes those who were naturalized.

ONE of the leaders of the Brazilian revolution is Mme. de Matos, 31 years old, with blue eyes and blonde hair. At the beginning of the revolt she sold her cattle and attached herself to the troops of Yucca Tigre, whose adjutant she became. She accompanied the half-wild leader on all his expeditions, clad in a uniform which was a strange combination of women's and men's attire. Across her shoulders she carried a band on which were the words: "Long live liberty! Long live Rio Grande do Sul!" Many deeds of courage, as well as kindness, are told of this unusual woman, who believes that she is a second Joan of Arc called to lead her country to independence.

A NOVEL application of the electric search-light has been made in Scotland. To enable the workmen to labor through the night while a pit was being sunk a searchlight, the apparatus for which consisted of an arc light, a lens and a mirror concealed in a sheet-iron case, was suspended over the pit's mouth. Access to the lamp was obtained by a sliding shutter on each side of the case. The light was focused or adjusted by a screw on the top of the outside of the case, and when necessary the lamp could be adjusted to diffuse light throughout the whole shaft or be concentrated at the bottom. The mirror, which was hung on its center, could be moved in a vertical direction, so as to deflect the rays to any required spot, and could be fixed in any position by a thumb screw.

THE Charleston News tells some marvellous stories about the abundance of rice-birds in the dikes and marshes back of that city. There are always plenty of them for the sportsman and caterer at this season of the year, but never before have they been seen in such swarms, darkening the air as they fly from place to place. They have almost ceased to be a target for shot-guns, and are so thick and close together that they are caught with a dip net like so many fish. One amateur marksman reports that with two discharges of his shot-gun he brought down 180 of the birds. The News says: "The regular way, now, however, is to get a boat and a dip-net and go among the ditches in the old rice-fields and dip up the birds. A gentleman went out a few nights ago and returned with 1,236 birds. It required a wagon and two buckboards to carry them all home. Quite a considerable sum has been realized by several parties who embarked in the rice-bird business. They can be bought on the plantations for a mere song, and when taken to the town are sold for at least twenty-five cents a dozen."

BRITISH occupation of Burma is proving most profitable. In the first year a revenue of only 22 1/4 lakhs of rupees was collected. In the following year it doubled. In the last year for which we have seen returns, wide tracts were visited by scarcity and famine was actually threatened. Nevertheless a sum of 120 1/4 lakhs of rupees was screwed out of the perishing Burmese. Thousands of miles of roads were under way, and jails and police stations established throughout the tax-gathering districts. A recent traveler has told how the Burmese women lived on terms of practical equality with their brothers and husbands, and in the management of the house and in business affairs their superiority was undisputed. In all essential points they enjoy perfect freedom and a position far different from that of their Indian sisters. The British Government has established schools in competition with those heretofore maintained by the Burmese monks, who were deeply venerated. The new schools will doubtless succeed in bringing up a generation to believe in the ineffable blessing of British taxation and print cloth.

A CORRESPONDENT of the New York Herald says that the feeling in China against foreigners is increasing in bitterness, and that only the thinnest pretense

of effort is made to bring to justice the murderers of two Swedish missionaries. In Hunan and Hoopie the officials are engaged in a systematic persecution of the men who have leased houses to foreigners. The unfortunate are imprisoned and tortured under various pretenses, and in many cases the tenants have given up their leases to relieve their unhappy landlords. In this manner the Alliance Mission has been obliged to vacate their premises in Wuchang, the seat of the Viceroy, though it is twelve years since he first leased his premises to the missionaries. Moreover, the Governor of Hunan has notified the Viceroy that all foreign missionaries, some forty in number, must be removed from Wuchang during the forthcoming examinations (held in honor of the Empress Dowager's sixtieth birthday), because he will be unable to protect them against the violence of the students, and he therefore disclaims in advance all responsibility for what may happen if his advice is not followed. The Governor is a townsman and bosom friend of the notorious Chou Han, who is now busy again issuing his placards against foreigners and decorating the walls of Changsha with a fresh edition of the "Human Picture Gallery."

#### IN AN ARABA.

A Curious Persian Method of Conveyance.

Two means of conveyance are open to us from Trebizond to Erzeroum—either a train of pack-horses and mules, or an araba, which will carry all our baggage, and in which our dragoman and cook can sleep. We decide upon the latter, but we should have lost less time had we taken pack-horses.

An araba, it should be explained, is a great lumbering tented wagon, much lighter than it appears to be, and not unlike an American "prairie schooner." The best arabas are built in Russia. The cart has four wheels, but no springs; the sides slope inward from above, and the tall projects backward beyond the hooped seat which covers the forward part. The four horses are harnessed abreast to a single long pole. This vehicle seems at first sight to be rudely and clumsily constructed, but upon examination it will be found that the toughest wood and the best iron and steel only are employed. This cart will stand any amount of rough usage, and the threatening perils through which ours passed unscathed are almost beyond belief. It is not easy to give the faintest notion of the roads, if roads they can be called, over which our arabas labored with ever-increasing vicissitudes, and as we approached the soaring passes near the boundary of Persia they rolled and thundered over the rocks, straining and pitching like ships in foul weather. Let the reader imagine a heavy army wagon, laden with baggage and men, dragged by four horses over the higher passes of the Alps—not over macadamized roads, such as the Simplon, but over mule tracks like the Grimsel Pass, and sometimes as high as the Dent-du-Midi—and then over sections of road partly destroyed by landslides and heavy rains, and down the slippery banks of rivers or the beds of mountain torrents. Imagine these passes of six, seven, or nine thousand feet in height to occur not once or twice only, but day after day and week after week, through the wilderness of mountains south of Ararat and along the borders of Kurdistan. We once rode a hundred yards in the araba down the bed of a river, and the sensation was like that of being tossed in a blanket.

Two hours from Trebizond we reach a stretch of deep mire. The men go on in front to reconnoitre, and conclude to drive ahead; the horses sink deeper as they advance, the mud reaches their girths, and the wagon-wheels are buried to the hubs. Blows and kicks avail nothing, and the poor animals soon cease to struggle. Then the baggage is taken out and carried to a place of safety, and some laborers are found who dig out a passage with their shovels. A mule train coming in the opposite direction is even in a worse plight; one heavily laden donkey is only kept from sinking, out of sight by his broad pack-saddle; an old worn-out horse after floundering close to the bank where the mud is deepest, resigns himself to his fate, tormented on one hand by showers of blows and kicks, and on the other by clouds of flies which settle on his face, the only visible portion. But all are rescued after heroic efforts, and a few hours further on this scene is partly repeated, but we extricate ourselves with less difficulty. —[Harper's Magazine.]

#### The Spanish Onion.

The large and handsome Spanish onions, which have been coming to this city in increasing quantities for the past half-dozen years, are now cheaper than they have ever been known here. These vegetables are grown mainly near Valencia, in Spain, and the first shipments this year, which came by the way of England, were harvested too early and were therefore watery. Being liable to quick decay, they were hurried upon the market and sold for low prices. The first direct importation was also off-grade in quality, and this set the price for the season very low, so that in many auction sales the price has barely covered the freight and duty, to say nothing of the commissions and cost of packing. The duty of 40 cents on a bushel of fifty-six pounds, together with the freight, commission, and cost abroad, brings the actual value to the importer about 80 cents a crate laid down, and, therefore, when prices range from 55 cents to \$1 a crate, the trade has been a disastrous one. Together with what has already arrived and what is expected, the imports this year will amount to 130,000 crates or about \$7,500 bushels. Attempts to raise this Spanish onion in California and other parts of the country from seed purchased in Spain have generally proved unsuccessful, as the vegetables when grown here do not differ much from the ordinary domestic onion. It seems that a Castilian climate and soil are necessary for the production of this delightful product. For this reason, and also because these bulbs do not come into conflict with home vegetables, a strong effort is now on foot to have the duty decreased to a more reasonable rate. —[Garden and Forest.]

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# HARD TIMES?

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