

SOMEWHAT STRANGE.

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

Queer Facts and Thrilling Adventures Which Show that Truth is Stranger than Fiction.

A no wolf which has terrorized the people of the Bumpas Cave region, in North Carolina, for the last two or three years, recently entered the cabin of a mountaineer named Brown during the temporary absence of the housewife, and, seizing the only occupant, an infant six months old, by the clothing in the region of the chest, lifted it from the rude cradle and bore it away into the mountains. When the mother returned to the house and missed the baby she rushed to the door in time to see the wolf and its precious burden disappear into the neighboring woods. The distracted woman began to scream. This brought the husband, who was chopping wood not far away, to the scene in a high state of excitement. The story from the lips of the hysterical mother almost drove the brave fellow daft, but he seized his axe, called his dog, and started in hot pursuit. There was about two inches of snow on the ground, and it providentially enabled the desperate father of the kidnapped infant to strike the trail of the wolf immediately after leaving his door-yard. Once upon the track of the beast he rushed to the mountains with a speed born of distraction. About two miles from his cabin the tracks of the wolf led the pursuer under a long shelf of rock, protruding from the side of a mountain. There was no snow here and the father lost the trail, but he now urged his dog, which up to this time he had compelled to remain with him. The dog took the lead and the man followed, fully expecting to find the entrance to the wolf's den, from which he could hardly hope to get the baby alive. But his fears were groundless; he soon came upon his faithful dog wagging his tail and looking down at a little white bundle at his feet. It was the baby, sound asleep and almost frozen, apparently unharmed otherwise. Brown took off his coat, and wrapping the infant snugly in it, started hastily for home. He soon met his wife and two or three of the neighbors to whom she had given the alarm. It was a most remarkable rescue. The mountaineers say that it was only a freak of the "mad" wolf, but the little one no doubt owes its life to a drenching of petroleum given it for some cutaneous affection by its mother just before it was carried away. The odor of the oil was too much for his wolfship. He probably sniffed about the child after laying it down under the rocks and preparing to make a meal, and then left in disgust.

A SINGULAR illustration of the degree of credulity that is so characteristic of the Mohammedans has been bought to the notice of the London correspondent of the Manchester Guardian. A native of Afghanistan, son of a noble, being reduced to penury, prayed to the prophet to relieve his distress. His prayer, he says, was answered by Mohammed appearing to him in the moon and pointing out a spot, close to where the devotee was praying, where wealth could be obtained. The Afghan proceeded to the place and found a curious-looking stone, which he picked up with full faith that he had a treasure to dispose of. London was, in his opinion, the city where he could best effect a sale, and to this city he has journeyed, undergoing many hardships, and working his passage from Bombay as a ship's steward. A few days since he presented himself at the British Museum with his treasure, which, alas! on close examination by the experts, turns out to be only a worthless piece of quartz pebble. Whether this poor fellow was convinced of the truth or not, his informant was not able to say, but there is no doubt that he is in destitute circumstances. He is an excellent linguist, speaking no fewer than seven languages.

A REMARKABLE case of precocity and unnatural development in a child is reported near Warren, Tenn. Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Brandon are the parents of a four-year-old boy, who, of course, has never attended school, and the parents have never attempted to impart the knowledge of learning to the youngster. One day recently the mother was reading aloud from the family Bible while the child was busy playing about the room. Suddenly the child exclaimed: "Oh, mamma, I can read like you." The mother paid no attention, but the child continued talking, repeating the assertion several times. Finally, to please the young one, the mother took him in her lap and opened the book before him. Without the least hesitation, and to the utter surprise and amazement of the parents, the child began to read, and read passage after passage without difficulty, pronouncing the most difficult of biblical names with apparent ease. Up to that time the child was not considered a very bright youngster and had not scopped his baby talk. The amazed parents did not know what to make of the suddenly developed talent and called in a physician, who was as much puzzled as they.

"Idiot" are sometimes wonderful in their genius," said Professor C. L. Milliken, of Chicago. "Of course the case of 'Blind Tom,' the remarkable musical prodigy, is well-known, but the person of whom I was thinking never became so famous, although well-known in the region about where he lived, in Eastern Ohio. When I was a boy I lived in Harrison County, Ohio, and in an adjoining county, Tuscarawas. I think, there was an

idiot boy about twelve years old. He could neither read nor write and was incapable of learning, but could instinctively give the true answer to any problem involving figures only. He could not penetrate the mysteries of algebra, geometry or calculus, but no combination of figures could confuse him. He had no rules and could not explain his methods, but his answers were given at once, and always correctly. He was exhibited throughout that section of the country, and I remember that the theory advanced by physicians was that every other faculty of his brain had been absorbed by this one and his mind was really a great mathematical machine.

A MOST remarkable case of somnambulism is reported from Missouri City. H. C. Calvert is a farmer of that vicinity. He and other members of his family were aroused the other night at 12 o'clock by a crashing noise. An inspection of the room showed that a window pane was broken out. It was also found that his 11-year-old son was missing. The boy had retired to his bed-room as usual. Mr. Calvert found tracks in the snow under the window. He felt sure that they were those of his son, but the little fellow's clothes were in the room. The farmer followed the footprints across a field. A quarter of a mile away he met the boy starting back to the house and nearly frozen. He said that he had dreamed that eight Indians appeared before him and said they were going to kill him. He dashed away from them over rocks and ice, and they closely pursued him. Finally he awoke and found himself out in the field. He could not remember anything about jumping through the window, and only bore a few scratches from coming in contact with the glass.

THERE is on the lands of F. N. Sword, of Chandler, Va., a seedling apple tree, whose circumference, five feet from the ground, is about six and one-third feet, whose height is about thirty-seven feet and whose branches begin seven and one-half feet from the ground and form a very compact top forty-two feet wide. In 1893 the estimated crop borne by this tree was over forty bushels. The apples begin ripening and falling off in August and so continue until time to gather winter apples, when there is yet on the tree a good crop of winter apples, which keep well; indeed, they keep a good while after being frozen. They are medium sized yellow apples of good flavor and free from rot. The tree begins to bloom early and continues to bloom late, so that young apples and bloom are seen at the same time; indeed, some bloom was found on the tree in August, 1893. The idea of a summer, autumn and winter apple orchard all in one tree is certainly novel.

On the banks of the Castleman River, in Pennsylvania, is a sight which is well worth going to see. A short distance from the river, at the foot of the mountain, six poplars are growing, the place inclosed being in the shape of a coffin. For about six feet from the ground the six trees have a common trunk, or rather root, as it seems as if the six trees in the inclosed space had all united solidly, and had grown out of the ground, carrying the earth above them up along to the height named. Climbing on top of this common trunk, it is found that these poplars must have been planted around a child's grave. The inclosed space is about four feet long and the green grass is growing in the earth there. On one end is a gravestone with an inscription on it, which, however, is worn by time. It is unknown by whom the grave was made.

THE advance of surgery can furnish few more singular illustrations than is supplied by an operation in one of the London hospitals whereby the breast of a blackbird was fastened to a woman's face as a substitute for her nose, which had been so damaged that it had to be removed. The woman, who had been a housemaid in a hotel, had been struck in the face by a descending lift, which caused the injury that led to the operation. The operation has proved perfectly successful, with every appearance of the woman being provided with a useful nasal appendage, though how it will perform its functions when the cure is complete remains to be seen.

PARIBAUT, MINN., has a freak of nature in the shape of a young giant. A young couple living in North Paribaut, named Shook, have a child nine months old that tips the scale at nearly eighty pounds and is over three feet in height. The child has always been healthy and is well developed. His head is well shaped and of fair size, but his limbs and body are exceedingly large for a child of his age. He is handsome, and his features are clear cut and regular. He has six developed toes on each of his feet. Mr. and Mrs. Shook are of medium size.

AUGUST BOEMER and John Pfaff got into a dispute at Columbus, Ohio, the other day as to which had the biggest mouth. They made a bet about it, and Boemer managed to crowd a big orange into his mouth, while Pfaff forced a billiard ball into his. Boemer managed to get his orange out again, but the billiard ball was not so yielding, and declined to be removed. Pfaff was nearly choked to death, when a physician managed to extract the ivory sphere from his mouth, but he had to cut it larger to do it.

HORSES have often been insured and so, too, have prize cattle and dogs, but the boxing kangaroo at the Westminster Aquarium, in London, is probably the first of its kind in whose name a policy has been taken

out. While the directors of that institution offered no objection to the payment of the premium for the kangaroo, they absolutely declined, as a superfluous expense, to defray the cost of insurance upon the lives of the divers who constitute some of the side features of the show.

A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD boy fell from the seventh story of the Railroad building, Denver, Col., a few weeks ago. He struck on a number of telegraph wires, bounded into the air, and finally landed on the back of a horse. The animal was killed by the shock, but the boy was only stunned, and soon recovered consciousness. In three minutes he was receiving congratulations on his luck.

THE Emperor of Austria has gone through the annual performance of washing the feet of twelve old men. The observance is a religious one connected with Maundy-Thursdays. Water was poured from a golden ewer upon the feet and then His Majesty dried them with a towel. He grimaced over the unpleasant work.

MOVED IN THE ICE AGE.

Huge Boulders Carried All the Way From Canada to Kentucky.

Professor A. R. Wallace states in the Fortnightly Review that an immense area of the Northeastern States, extending South to New York and then westward in an irregular line to Cincinnati and St. Louis is almost wholly covered with a deposit of drift material, in which rocks of various sizes are imbedded, while other rocks, often of enormous size, lie upon the surface. These boulders have been carefully studied by the American geologists, and they present us with some very interesting facts. Not only are the distances from which they have been transported very great, but in very many cases they are found at greater elevation than the place from which they must have come. Professor G. F. Wright found an enormous accumulative of boulders on a sandstone plateau in Monroe County, Pennsylvania. Many of these boulders were granite, and must have come either from the Adirondack Mountains, 200 miles north, or from the Canadian Highlands, still further away. This accumulation of boulders was seventy or eighty feet high, and it extended many miles, descending into a deep valley 1,000 feet below the plateau in a nearly continuous line, forming part of the southern moraine of the great American ice sheet.

On the Kentucky hills, about twelve miles south of Cincinnati, conglomerate boulders containing pebbles of red jasper can be traced to a limited outcrop of the same rock in Canada to the north of Lake Huron, more than six hundred miles distant, and similar boulders have been found at intervals over the whole intervening country. In both these cases the boulders must have passed over intervening valleys and hills, the latter as high or nearly as high as the source whence the rocks were derived. Even more remarkable are numerous boulders of Helderberg limestone on the summit of the Blue Ridge in Pennsylvania, which must have been brought from ledges at least five hundred feet lower than the places upon which they now lie. The Blue Ridge itself shows remarkable signs of glacial abrasion in a well-defined shoulder marking the southern limit of the ice (as indicated also by heaps of drift and erratics), so that Mr. Wright concludes that several hundred feet of the ridge have been worn away by the ice. The crowning example of boulder transportation is, however, afforded by the blocks of light gray gneiss discovered by Professor Hitchcock on the summit of Mount Washington, over 6,000 feet above sea level, and identified with Bethlehem gneiss, whose nearest crop is in Jefferson, some miles to the northwest, and 3,000 or 4,000 feet lower than Mount Washington.

Adulteration of Coffee.

"Coffee," says Dr. Winslow Anderson, of San Francisco, "now one of the most universally used of all beverages, excepting, perhaps, tea and beer, is usually abominably adulterated. It would seem difficult to imitate coffee, but it is not. A very fair cup of coffee is made from black walnut dust, caramel, and roasted and browned horse liver. This mixture has been ascertained by chemical analysis to be in extensive use. Ground coffee and hotel decoctions often contain roasted and ground peas, beans, potatoes, carrots, corn, rye, and oak bark, while chicory is seldom absent. This chicory, by the way, is itself adulterated with roasted wheat, rye, beans, acorns, carrots, parsnips, beet root, baked livers, venetian red, colored earths, oak bark, tan and sawdust. Coffee grounds from large hotels have been known to be gathered up, carefully dried and mixed with adulterates and chicory, and sold again as pure coffee. So much for ground coffee.

"Yeast powder is a substance that requires universal scrutiny. Many brands that I have examined contain ammonia, alum, plaster of paris and cream of tartar (which is of itself adulterated with alum, chalk and terra alba). Is it any wonder that people suffer with indigestion and dyspepsia, when their stomachs become coated with plaster of paris?"

In 1892 the United States raised 201,000,000 bushels of potatoes.

The golden-crested wren is the smallest English bird.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

AFTER all, some of us are only a little ahead of the time. A French scientist says that in the near future whiskers will be universally worn.

FARMERS of Lincoln County, Neb., do not belong to the great army of the unemployed. They are kept busy fighting chicken thieves, and the Russian thistle simultaneously. They have their hands full.

AUSTRALIA has given up altogether the maintenance of founding hospitals and orphan asylums and has substituted for this the system of placing children in private homes until such time as they are able to care for themselves.

NOWHERE else has economic forestry advanced so far as in Germany or France. Students of forestry in England finish their course of study by a visit of three months to the most suitable forests of Germany. These annual visits have developed into a system of apprenticeship, extending over five months, from the middle of April to the middle of September.

BRITISH sea captains are trying to stir the sluggish British Government to take action with the United States Government in destroying the derelicts that threaten life and property in the North Atlantic. A petition urging such cooperation, signed by 830 captains, representing crews aggregating 80,000 men, and property worth £30,000,000, has just been presented to the First Lord of the Treasury.

EIGHT years ago, says the New York Press, Cleveland's wealth amounted perhaps to \$50,000—no more. Now he is a rich man—very rich—taking into account the short time which has elapsed, and to-day his property, as estimated by the assessors' books of New York, will amount to over a quarter of a million. Up to within a couple of years he has lived in no luxurious way, but about two years ago he began an entirely new course of existence.

A THEORY has been put forth by M. Rateau in the French Academy of Sciences that the crust of the earth beneath the continents does not touch the fluid globe, but is separated from it by a space filled with gaseous matter under pressure. The continents would, therefore, constitute a sort of blister, much flattened, inflated and sustained by gases, while the bottom of the oceans is supposed to rest directly on the fiery mass. By this hypothesis the author believes that many phenomena of the terrestrial crust may be explained, which are not clearly accounted for under the present theory.

AUSTRALIA is greatly perturbed over the emigration movement in Paraguay. The government of Paraguay has given nearly 500,000 acres of good land for settlement to Australian colonists, or others of suitable standing in means and character who join them, and there is an expectation that 10,000 persons may settle on the lands. All who go from old to new Australia are teetotalers and have a considerable amount saved, and the loss of a few thousand men of that stamp is a serious matter. South Australia has, therefore, passed a village settlement act, under which those who want to cultivate land are favorably dealt with. Then comes the question whether the Australian land is as good as that in Paraguay, and it is not. But there are disadvantages there as well.

THE rules of all railway companies recognize to some extent the fact that alcohol unfits their employes for their responsible duties. It is reported that on fifty-four North American lines total abstinence while on duty is insisted upon by the railway companies; on fifteen abstinence without restriction to time of duty; on thirteen the companies insist on abstinence as essential to promotion, and on one the employe's signature of the abstinence pledge is required before engagement. The Rock Island Railway Company has been enforcing its anti-drink rules lately with great vigor. General Prince Kuropatkin recently issued an order to the official staff of the Trans-Caspian Railway, requiring all officials and employes guilty of indulging in intoxicating drinks to be reported to him.

THE profit-sharing system, says the Baltimore Herald, appears to have its advantages, not only as a means of inspiring greater industry, care and closer application on the part of employes, but also as a preventive of strikes. There have been a number of labor disputes in New England during late years, but in all this time the Bourne mill at Fall River has been running uninterrupted, because the operatives had an interest in keeping at work beyond the mere question of salary. Their prosperity increased proportionately with that of the owners. Recently the ninth semi-annual dividend was paid. One family received \$70 as its share of profits for six months over and above the wages drawn, and others from \$30 to \$50. So satisfactory have been the results that the experiment is to be continued.

THE newspaper business in and from the capital of the German Empire is something stupendous, as appears from the following figures, which are furnished by the newspaper department of the Berlin post office. Last month there were published nearly forty political journals, and the total daily issues of these passing through the post office amounted in round numbers to 500,000 copies. There are 720 non-political papers published in the city, and their total post office circulation amounted to more than 100,000 a day.

Upward of 1,000 mail bags and 180 clerks are employed in the newspaper traffic alone. The number of newspapers and other periodicals that were published in the German Empire at the beginning of the present year was 10,546. Of these 7,630 were printed in the German language and the other 2,916 in some thirty different languages.

THE whale industry was at one time an enormous industry in the United States. It reached its height in 1854, when 602 ships and barks, twenty-eight brigs and thirty-eight schooners, with a total tonnage of 208,399, were engaged in it. By 1876 the feet had dwindled down to 169 vessels, and it is doubtful if fifty are now at sea. The introduction of kerosene and the increasing scarcity of whales seem to be the cause of this decline. Some remarkable voyages were made in the old days. The Pioneer, of New London, sailed in June, 1864, for Davis Strait and Hudson's Bay, returning in September, 1865, with 1,891 barrels of oil and 22,650 pounds of bone, valued at \$150,000. In 1847 the Envoy, of New Bedford, was sold to be broken up, but her purchaser refitted her and she made a voyage worth \$132,450. On the other hand a vessel made a five years' voyage and on her return the captain's lay was only \$85. But, as the Nantucket's captain, whose vessel returned from a three years' voyage as clean as she went out, remarked: "She ain't got a bar'l o' ile, but she had a mighty fine sail."

A CLOWN FOR FIVE MINUTES.

He Made a Tremendous "Hit" and It Cost Him \$800.

There sat in a fashionable restaurant the other evening a man of iron-gray hair and dignified bearing, who, if appearances could be relied upon, had never in his life done anything ridiculous. He was so dignified that he was almost stately. Portly, pink of complexion and erect, he was a picture of the gentleman of ease. And yet this man at one period in his life was a circus clown. Twenty-five years ago he lived in Norfolk, Va. His father, a wealthy Virginian, owned a steamboat and steamship line. To Norfolk one day came a circus. When it had closed its business there it engaged a steamboat to take it further South. The boat stopped at several places, but everywhere, as they would say now, the show was a "frost." When the end of the water route was reached the circus owed the boat \$800, and had not a dollar to pay. On the boat, to look after the interests of the steamship company, was the son of the owner of the line. He telegraphed to his father explaining the situation.

"Let the circus go on," was the answer, "but go with it. Collect on account whenever you can."

So the young man—the same who, twenty-five years later, made so good an appearance in a fashionable New York restaurant—became a stroller with a circus. He was with it to make collections on account, but there was nothing to collect. Business got worse; everybody, even the would-be collector, "went broke," and still the circus wandered on. The young Virginian, who was at first regarded as a persecuting demon, to make himself less objectionable to the circus people began to offer his services in various ways. He collected tickets, sold them, and made himself generally agreeable. One evening in a little town "way down South in Dixie a clown fell ill. It was necessary to have two clowns, for one said all his funny things to a second. A circus without a clown is worse than Hamlet with the sweet prince eliminated, and so the manager went to the young Virginian.

"You'll have to be second clown to-night," he said. "There will be nothing for you to do. We'll paint you, chalk you and make you up."

So second clown the Son of Norfolk prepared to be. The two clowns were accustomed to make their entrance by turning a double-somersault off a spring-board, landing in the ring. When the time came on that evening the Virginian made a sudden resolve. In his boyhood he had turned handspins and summersaults. He would try it again. The first clown, the real article, made his entrance in approved style. Then came the substitute. He ran out boldly on the board and sprang. He was shot high into the air, thrown over and over, and came down with a terrific thud flat on his back. Slowly he arose, staggering weakly around the ring, on his face that look of comical agony which a man wears who has had the wind knocked out of him. He was greeted with a storm of applause. The spectators thought that that was his part—that he was a trick clown. They shouted, clapped their hands and howled with delight. Painfully bowing, he staggered out of the ring and then threw himself to the ground, gasping to get back his breath. Outside, in the ring, the crowd was roaring for him to appear again. The ringmaster came to him. "They're crazy over you," he said. "You'll have to do that again for them."

"My lands!" groaned the new clown, clasping his stomach. "Do that again? See here, you owe us \$800. Let me off from doing that again, and we'll call it square."—New York Tribune.

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD son of A. M. Lassiter, who is well known in Gum County, N. C., has the word "American" plainly visible in each eye, near the pupil. This is his birthmark. Jesse Spright, a prominent citizen of Green county, says that he has seen and carefully examined the phenomenon.

A MAN who is driving a horse-car in Brooklyn claims to have been a throat specialist in Vienna. He doesn't look as much down in the month as he used to.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Can You Lose the Grip?

Losing one kind of grip is worse than taking another, and when thousands are training for the field sports of summer months, it is well to be advised by those who know all about it.

Mr. F. C. Ferguson, 1638 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y., writes to the point March 1, 1893. He says: "I would like to add my testimony to your already long list. While playing ball I sprained my arm at the elbow and shoulder. It interfered with my playing considerably and lost me many good chances professionally. I tried everything I could think of, but I could get no relief. A doctor advised that the only thing to be done was to give the arm a long rest. A friend, however, recommended St. Jacobs Oil, which I tried, with the result that I was completely cured and have since pitched a great deal with no signs of my former trouble, which, by the way, retires many a professional player."

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Mrs. S. D. Ashley

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