

SIX-LEGGED POLICEMEN.

The Arrest of a Drunken Ant—Something About Animal Prisons and Prisoners.

"Just cast your eye over this," said a naturalist. "There is evidence that among the animals there is a police department or an ambulance corps, one or the other."

The reporter closed one eye, holding it shut with one hand, and with the other gazed through a powerful magnifier. He saw three ants, and one was apparently in a very maudlin condition. It raised its legs in the air, waved its head to and fro like an elephant, and evinced a decided desire to walk backward. In the mean time the other two ants were vainly endeavoring to coax it along, at first caressing it with their antennae, and finally, as if out of patience, seizing it and marching it off out of the range of vision.

"That," said the naturalist, "is a case of drunk and disorderly; \$10 or ten days." I fed the ant on sweetened rum, so that it was actually drunk; then I admitted two sober ants to see if they would take care of it, and you see they have done so.

"The idea of intoxicating ants is original with Sir John Lubbock. He found that ants nearly always arrested other ants that he had made drunk. In fact, if you asked me what was the most intelligent animal next to man I should say the ant. No, not because he will get drunk, but for a thousand reasons."

"Do you suppose ants imprison their kind for offences?" asked the reporter.

"There is no doubt of it," was the reply, "as they imprison vast numbers of insects for various reasons. In fact, the lower animals have their prisons and prisoners as well as we do. Of course they are a little different, but we must allow for a difference in tastes. Everybody knows how ants make prisoners of various species of aphides, and slaves of their own kind. One of the most remarkable cases of imprisonment is that of the bird horn-bill, so called from the wonderful development of its bill, which is only used in crushing fruit. The breeding season is probably not looked forward to with any great degree of pleasure by the birds, as it is a period of close imprisonment for the mother and of great labor for the father bird. As the time approaches the female searches for a hollow tree, and, having formed a rude nest, takes her place within. The male now flies away and returns with its bill full of mud, which it plasters about the opening of the nest. Load after load is thus brought and laid on until the crevice is completely plastered up, with the exception of a single orifice large enough to admit the bill of the prisoner. The mud soon hardens, and the bird is firmly enclosed, and so remains until the young are hatched and well grown. The male bird is not a hard jailer, however, but works to obtain food for its mate, so that she comes out of prison in much better condition than her unfortunate jailer.

"Trees are not the only prisons," continued the speaker. "In marine life there is no end of prisons and prisoners. For example, here is the beautiful sponge called *Venus's flower* basket which grows in eastern seas. They are unsightly objects when first taken up, the rich sheeny silvery framework that we see being merely the skeleton of the sponge, so to speak. So much like basket work is this skeleton that when they were first brought to Europe they were supposed to be the work of men, and so brought fabulous prices. In this one that I have you see there are two prisoner crabs, but how did they get in? Each is as large as the end of your little finger, and the largest hole in the skeleton is not larger than a pinhead."

"The reporter gave it up. "The truth is," said the naturalist, "that the crabs are prisoners for life, and have served out a life sentence. In their younger days these crabs are called by different names, and in one stage—the zoea—they are extremely small, and live a roaming sort of life. During this time our crabs must have crawled through the minute window of the living sponge, and were unable to get out. The sponge grew, and so did the crabs. Finally the sponge was fished up, and the animal matter was washed away, leaving the bright, silvery prison with the two great prisoners crawling about—as great a puzzle as the egg in the bottle."—*New York Sun*.

A Long Service.

John Quincy Adams received a salary from the United States government for sixty-nine years, and the sum total must have amounted to one-half a million. At the close of his presidential term he had had fifty-two years of office-holding, and his salary had aggregated \$425,000; still, he had seventeen years of congress after this, and

died at the capitol at a congressional session. At the age of fourteen he went to Russia as the private secretary of the American legation, and he was in after years minister to England, Germany, Portugal, Russia and the Netherlands.

Wisdom That Comes Only With Years.

It is a singular analogy which is offered with the life of human flowers by the growth of those of a frailer and more perishable sort. Fair and sweet and delicate are youth and maidenhood, as the strawbell and anemone and twin linnaeus; rich and beautiful are the early years of life as roses and carnations are; but in the riper, maturer life is strength for vital work that needs must exhaust the earth, so soon is it to be followed by mild decay. Our statesmen do their great work in this season; our poets try their wings in May and June, but their larger flight is now; our novelists write from intuition only till the ripeness of experience comes; our young lawyers may have talent and acumen, but they have not the power that is theirs later with rounded intellect and complete knowledge of life; our young physicians may be fresh from walking famous hospitals abroad, but they have not the habits and memories of twenty years by night and day at the side of sick beds to make their wisdom seem like genius; our young preachers may tickle the fancy with their airy eloquence and gift of words, but they will not touch the heart as they do when they have tasted all the springs of sorrow and sympathy, the draught that added years, and they alone, shall proffer them. It has needed what is equivalent to the fervent and accumulated heats which belong to that middle of life as of the year, to call out the full force of what is in them, and the flame burns then with all its might, for presently it must fall in ashes, presently the beats will all be gone; no more will the vital efflux of the receding sun send its impulse through the roots of life, no more will soul or flower expand to the rich light of day, but the autumn damps and the chill of the grave will rise round them.—*Harper's Bazar*.

Nightcaps in the Navy.

Capt. W. H. Parker entered the navy as a midshipman in October, 1841, being then fourteen years of age, and was almost immediately ordered to the U. S. steamer *North Carolina*, anchored off New York. When he went to bed in the evening a surprise awaited him for which he was totally unprepared. "Up to this time," he says, "I had suffered much with earache, and my mother caused me to wear night-caps. My caps were of many colors, blue, red, green, etc., for they were made of remnants of my sister's dresses. Now, as I made my final preparations for repose I opened my trunk and put on a close-fitting night-cap. It was the signal for indescribable confusion. If I had put on a suit of mail it could not have caused more astonishment among those light-headed reeferers. They rushed at my trunk, seized the caps, put them on, and joined in a wild dance on the deck, in which were mingled blue caps and white caps and all colors of caps in pleasing variety. I had to take mine off before turning in, as it really did seem to me too much for their feelings, but I managed to smuggle it under my pillow, and when all was quiet I put it on again. But, when the midshipman came down at midnight to call the relief, he spied it and we had another scene. This was the last I ever saw of my caps. I have never had one on since, and consequently never had the earache."—*Philadelphia Times*.

The American Camels.

The camels now running wild in Arizona were bought by the United States Government in Asia Minor. There were seventy-six camels in the first "colony." They were first employed in packing between Fort Tejon and Albuquerque, in some instances carrying 100 gallons of water to the animal and going nine days without water themselves. Tiring of the camels, the Government condemned them, and they were sold at Benicia to two Frenchmen, who took them to Reese River, where they were used in packing salt to Virginia City. Afterward the animals were brought back to Arizona, and for some time were engaged in packing ore from Silver King to Yuma; but through some cause or other the Frenchmen became disgusted, there being no market for camels just then, and turned the camels loose upon the desert near Maricopa wells, and to-day they and their descendants are roaming through the Gila Valley, increasing and multiplying and getting fat upon the succulent sagebrush and grease-wood with which the country abounds.—*Tombstone Epitaph*.

CLIPPINGS FOR THE CURIOUS.

It is an honor in Morocco to receive from the Sultan a loaf of black bread.

An ancient and venerable mulberry tree, its trunk propped up with stones, marks the spot in Jerusalem where Manasseh caused the prophet Isaiah to be sawn in two.

A distinguished botanist has found that by simply soaking the stems of cut flowers in a weak dye solution, their colors can be altered at will without the perfume and the freshness being destroyed.

As an illustration of the strength of paper, it is said that a Bank of England note twisted into a kind of rope, can sustain as much as 329 pounds avoirdupois suspended to it, and not be injured in the least.

In Donegal, Ireland, there is a rock cavity into which the tide rushes with great force, producing a sound which can be heard twenty or thirty miles, and sending a torrent of water several hundred feet into the air. It is called McSwine's Gun.

A curiosity in Irwin county, Georgia, is a large pine tree with two distinct bodies and only one top. The two trunks grew out of the ground about five feet from each other, but at forty feet high grew together, and from thence made only one tree and top.

The remains of certain mushrooms which make excellent tinder are found in nearly all the ancient Swiss lacustrine dwellings, and it is supposed that their inhabitants either use them to kindle fires or pounded them and employed them as snuff, as some Asiatics do to this day.

An ear of corn on exhibition at San Louis Obispo, Cal., grew in the exact form of a hand of a child, showing the wrist, hand, thumb and fingers, all perfect excepting the little finger, which is double. It is covered with a small grain of corn to near the tip of the fingers, which are bare prongs of cob, giving the appearance of a hand clad with a mitt.

An extraordinary pearl has been found at Nichol Bay. It is composed of nine distinct pearls about the size of peas, of a fine luster and firmly bedded together in the form of a perfect cross about an inch and a half long. It is a perfectly unique curiosity, and is expected says the Melbourne *Argus*, to fetch a fabulous price, owing to the extraordinary coincidence of its perfectly representing the symbol of Christianity.

In a Persian City.

Resht contains over ten thousand inhabitants, and is important as being the principal Persian city on the Caspian, says a correspondent. It is noted for its tobacco, which is very delicate and mild, and for a sort of embroidery on broadcloth called Resht work, which is sometimes seen in America in the shape of table-covers and sofa-cushions. The city is very unhealthy, owing to malaria from the low grounds and the stagnant pools of water which cover the numerous rice-fields. The streets are narrow and winding; the houses low and built for the most part of mud and sun-dried brick, and thatched with mud and straw. Some of the summer places in the neighborhood are very pleasantly surrounded by rose gardens, and have fine avenues of shade trees. In a visit to one of these in company with a Persian of high rank, we were both amused and disgusted at the absolute control he had, not only over his servants, but over all inferiors as well. As we came to a party of boys bathing in a small river the humor seized him to make one of his servants bathe, and, not content with this, he made other servants throw several of their fellows into the water with their clothes on, and was quite delighted at the sorry plight they were in as they came ashore. He had the boys, who came up begging for a "shia," thrown heels over head from a high bank into the water. One little fellow was seriously hurt. The gentleman thought, when his fun was over, that he had settled all scores by tossing a few silver pieces among them.

Queen Victoria's Proposal.

Mrs. Oliphant writes in the *Century*. "There was a story current at the time, that at a state ball, very near the period of their betrothal, the young lady gave her princely suitor a rose, which he, without a button-hole in his close-fitting uniform, slit the breast of his coat to find a place for, and that this was a token to all the court of the final determination of the great event—her Majesty, as it is pleasant to hear, having shown herself a little coy and disposed to put off the explanation, as happy marriage has ever been recorded; the Queen herself attributes the formation of her character to it, and all that is most excellent in her life."

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

Bed Quilt.

A Georgia woman has finished a silk quilt containing 2,400 pieces, and over 1,000 yards of thread.

Miss Alice Martin of Lusby, Ky., has a quilt containing 4,863 blocks three-quarters of an inch square.

Mrs. M. Baker, of Lone Tree, Iowa, has a quilt upon which she has been at work seven years, in which is worked the solar system. She made a trip to Chicago to view the comet and sun spots through the telescope that she might locate them accurately.

Miss Allie Martin, of Lesley's Mills, made a quilt containing 4,863 pieces, and the local editor challenged the state to beat it. Miss Allie Ghoram of Paris came to the front with a composed bed covering constructed out of 8,048 individual bits of calico, and she is now the champion.

Lucky and Unlucky Colors.

Blue is a lucky color for daughters to wear, they say in the south of England, while green is very unlucky.

Those dressed in blue
Have lovers true;
In green and white
Forsaken quite.

In the northeast of Scotland we have:

Blue
'S love true;
Green
'S love doon,
Yellow
'S forsaken.

In some portions of New England, sixty years ago, the man who had been jilted and was not inclined to mourn over it wore green, to annoy the fair one who had jilted him.

A Brahmin Doctress Abroad.

Mrs. Amandilal Joshee of Serampore, a Hindu lady of the highest caste, arrived in Philadelphia recently for the purpose of entering the woman's medical college as a student. A Philadelphia *Times* reporter obtained an interview with Mrs. Joshee who is a quiet, self-possessed little lady of about 25, hardly five feet in height and dark olive complexion, regular features and large black eyes. Her dress differed in no wise from an American lady, except she wore a scarf of curious pattern and coloring around her neck with the ends crossing in front and tied around the waist. She conversed fluently in English and said she was the first Brahmin lady who had ever left India, and that her departure had created a great commotion.

"Will it cause you any disgrace or caste annoyance when you return?" "I do not think so, if I faithfully observe certain rules of conduct while here prescribed by my religion. There will be a meeting of the principal Brahmins when I return, who will absolve as it were, from my transgressions."

"Do you expect to remain here through the entire course?"

"Yes, I shall take the complete four years' course and then return to Serampore to practice. I think there may possibly be a few other high cast Brahmin women come to Europe and America to study during the next few years, but very soon I hope we shall have colleges of our own in India, which will obviate the necessity of so doing. My cousin, I hear, has just arrived in London, where she will take a complete medical course."

Mrs. Joshee's husband is postmaster at Serampore, which is a town of about 15,000 inhabitants, in the presidency of Bengal, on the Hoogly river.

Fashion Notes.

Glossy wool fabrics will be worn again.

Reseda and sage green are again in vogue.

Brass headsteds are the most fashionable.

Madras plaids are worn over plain woolen goods.

Leather waistcoats are now worn with cloth dresses.

Dark crimson is the most fashionable color for riding habits.

Skirts are short, scarcely touching the ground, and slightly raised at the back by the tournure.

Steel gray cashmeres are becomingly worn as a polonaise or tunic over a gray or black velvet skirt.

The most fashionable buttons are bullet-shaped, small, and when of steel, jet or metal are faceted.

Black gloves have been revived for wear with all sorts of dresses and on all occasions except weddings.

Lace ruffles inside high velvet collars are among the latest and most becoming novelties in neck lingerie.

Humming birds and other flat-feathered ornaments loop the draperies of some of the Parisian dresses.

The small hat of limp felt of the

same color as the costume is the correct wear for tailor-made cloth, cheviot and flannel suits.

Clasps and buckles of metal, jet and smoked pearl adorn the sashes and draperies of little children's, misses' and ladies' dressy suits.

The colors preferred for girls' dressy suits and outer garments are pigeon gray, sapphire blue, and red in the garnet and ruby shades.

Bridesmaids must wear short trains on short Kate Greenaway dresses in pale colors, with bonnets to match, if the wedding is at church.

Bonnet pins, two pronged, like old-time forks, are ornamented with arrow-heads of brilliants or small butterflies and birds enameled in natural colors.

A dainty coat for a boy of four is of a bright sapphire-blue plush, with a plaited skirt back and a deep collar, the latter bordered by a ruffle of Russian lace.

Serviceable hats for every-day wear are of brown felt with a slightly rolled brim, and are trimmed with two partridge wings and a bow of seal-brown velvet.

A pretty walking dress for a girl of fourteen is of soft green, gold and crimson plaid, made with a plaited skirt, and a jacket of dark green plush with a shoulder cape of the same.

Serviceable and pretty morning dresses for winter wear are made of black and white or red and white Scotch flannel in the Mother Hubbard fashion, and fastened about the waist by a silk cord a tassels combining the two colors of the dress.

A very pretty and suitable evening dress for a young girl is of cream white surah silk. The skirt is trimmed with two shirred flounces, each ten inches deep, and over this falls two deep shirred *bouffants*. The bodice is cut square and the sleeves reach to the elbow. Soft oriental lace trims the entire dress.

The Polar Hare.

Far away to the north of us stretches a land white with snow during most of the year, where bleak winds in unobstructed fury sweep over deserted wastes; where night hangs like a somber cloud for months and months unbroken, and where those crystal mountains called icebergs are born. There is the home of the polar hare. There, where man aimlessly wanders in a vain search for food or shelter, this dainty creature thrives.

Strangely enough, however, it sometimes happens that men are overtaken with starvation in the midst of polar hares. This is because the little creature has a peculiarity which makes it difficult for the inexperienced hunter to shoot it.

When approached, it seems to have no fear at all, but sits up, apparently waiting for the coming hunter. Just, however, as the probably hungry man begins to finger the trigger of his gun, and to eat in anticipation of the savory stew, the hare turns about and bounds actively away to a safe distance, and, once more rising upon its haunches, sits with a provoking air of seeming unconsciousness until the hunter is again nearly within gunshot, when it once more jumps away.

This must be tantalizing enough to a well-fed sportsman, but how heart-breaking to the man who knows that not only his own life, but the lives of all his comrades as well, depend upon the capture of the pretty creature.

Notwithstanding, however, the apparent impossibility of approaching near enough to the hare to shoot it, there is in reality a very simple way to accomplish it. This plan is practiced by the natives, who no doubt have learned it after many a hungry failure. It consists in walking in a circle around the animal, gradually narrowing the circle until within the proper distance. Simple as this plan is, it is so effective that, with care, the hunter may get within fifty yards of the hare, which seems completely bewildered by his circular course.

Perhaps the sad story of the heroic suffering and final loss of Captain De Long and his brave comrade might never have had to be told, had it not been for their probable ignorance of a matter of no more importance than this of how to shoot a polar hare. When they left their ship, the "Jeanette," they took with them only rifles, thinking, no doubt, that they would only fall in with such large game as bears, reindeer and wolves.

As a matter of fact, such large animals were very scarce, while ptarmigan, a species of grouse, were plentiful, and would have supplied food in abundance to the whole brave band had there been shot-guns with which to shoot them. As it was, the rifles brought down but a few of the birds, and thus, in the midst of comparative plenty, the brave fellows starved.—*St. Nicholas*.

FOOD OF THE CELESTIALS.

Pork and Rice at the Head of the Chinese Bill of Fare—Other Delicacies.

Excluding beef and dairy products, writes a Pekin correspondent, Chinese eat everything that is edible—horse and ass flesh, snakes, rats, mice, dogs, grasshoppers, spiders, worms, cocoons, sea cucumbers, swallows' nests, etc. Once, while living in a villa near Pekin, I saw a very strange scene. There appeared a cloud of grasshoppers. Suddenly the field was covered with Chinamen, who ran frantically hither and thither gathering them in. They filled large sacks and bags with the insects. They carried portable stoves, on which they roasted their curious game. Other Chinamen greedily devoured the grasshoppers, paying a penny for ten.

At the head of all meats Chinamen put, of course, pork. In their opinion, to the hog belongs the first place in the list of domestic animals. If you ask a Chinaman why, he will answer you proudly: "Because it was the hog from whom the Chinaman descended!" Don't you see the Celestials have beaten Darwin on the theory of the descent of man. It is only natural, then, that among Chinamen hogs should enjoy full rights of citizenship. Like dogs, they wander wherever they please. A Chinese street without a number of hogs is an impossibility. Are there many hogs in China? I should think so. On a single holiday in memory of their ancestors—not the original ancestors, the hogs, but merely human ancestors—the Celestials eat fully 650,000 hogs. I must admit that Chinese pork is superior to any found elsewhere on the globe. Poor Chinamen, who cannot afford to buy pork, eat meat of dogs, asses, horses, rats, mice, rabbits, hares, goats and sheep. But I never saw them eating cats.

Of birds the Chinese eat silver pheasants, ducks, geese, chickens, jack-daws, crows and many others. Curiously enough, the so-called Cochinchina fowls are very rarely seen here.

Among the choice delicacies of the Chinese must be mentioned the fins of sharks and the nests of sea-swallows. Under the latter is understood not the whole nest, but only the mucilaginous inner coating of the nests. It is believed that the swallows who build their nests on the sea-rocks cover their nests and glue them to the rocks with the juice of sea-cane, which on being dried looks like mucilaginous membrane. On the market these nests are found in the shape of a hemisphere of the size of a half orange peel. The nests are sold here at from \$15 to \$25 per pound. They are used principally for making broth, to which they give a peculiar aroma and taste, much valued by gastronomers.

Rice, stands, of course, at the head of vegetable foods. Without rice-gruel no meal is served here. "Fan" means both "to eat a meal" and "to eat rice-gruel." The brown rice, which is common rice, but heated and musty, is much liked. There is also a red variety of rice.

Honey is much used here, but chiefly as a cosmetic. After being mixed with flour it is used by the women in their hair-dressing. With their hair saturated, sticky and shining with honey, they must be, indeed, sweet.

As everybody knows, the Chinese are passionately fond of tea, which they cultivate for the rest of the world. They drink it at every meal, at home and out, when idle and at work, in shops and in offices—in short, everywhere and at any time of day or night. The red, black and green sorts of tea they prepare only for export, while they themselves use exclusively yellow tea. They take tea in small cups, and without sugar.

Though in China there are excellent sort of grapes, yet no wine is prepared there. The Chinese make two kinds of whisky—of sagd and of rice—and drink and smoke here. A tin gill of the shape of an hour-glass is used for whisky drinking. They had no glass-works here until recently, when an American gentleman taught some Celestials to make glass. During my thirty years' residence here I have never seen a single drunken Chinaman on the street. No coffee or chocolate is used here.

The unusually fertile soil of this country yields products enough to satisfy the appetite of all the Celestials, and in view of their peculiar philosophy of the stomach they ought to be able, all of them, to reach the blissful state of satiety. Yet how many of them are lean, hungry, with wasteful eyes and hollow stomachs? What a heartrending tragedy each of these thin fellows presents, whose all-absorbing idea is to be thick! When I look upon the crowd of hollow-cheeked Chinamen and then upon the few who are in the blissful state of corpulence, I cannot help thinking of the lean-fleshed and the fat-fleshed kine of Pharaoh.