

INSECT DYNAMITERS.

SHOW A BEETLE PROTECTS ITSELF FROM ITS ENEMIES.

Specialist in the study of insects on land and in the water. Traveler's and other insects.

"Speaking of insects," said the naturalist, "reminds me that I have a dynamite here for exhibition whenever you gentlemen are ready." All were ready and the beetle was cleared of the boxes except one, which was placed in the center. "I propose, gentlemen," said the dynamite fiend, "to show not only an explosive insect, but the effect of the explosion upon others which might possibly be enemies." Upon these latter insects that was attached to the wax and immediately there appeared several medium-sized brightly bearded beetles that started off around the table in an active go-as-you-please race. An enclosure was soon formed of books and all the beetles removed but one and then a beetle of a different species was introduced, a small, very, untamed fellow, that ran over the other at headlong speed. The smaller beetle at first did not seem to notice this treatment, but finally, when it was fairly knocked over, it seemed to prepare itself for a recent further attack. It raised itself high upon its legs, shook its wings coming nervously and, as the larger beetle came around the ring on a dead run, it turned suddenly, unlimbered itself, as to a oak, and as the enemy approached, an audible report was heard, a cloud for a moment hung in the air and the large beetle fell sprawling in its tracks and with spasmodic struggles endeavored to back away from the living cannon.

The latter still retained its offensive position, and upon being touched with a pencil again, ejected twice in quick succession, a volatile fluid that gave out a decided pungent odor that was evidently connected to the larger beetle. A mouse was now introduced, and as it ran by the dynamite insect it received a discharge that caused it to squeal with pain and with a convulsive action it reared itself upon its hind legs, and for a few seconds struggled as if in a fit. A kitten subjected to a like discharge spit and rubbed her nose in rage and fear, and finally, after several other discharges, the supply of ammunition seemed to give out.

"There's protection for you," said the delighted owner, taking up the dynamite bug, which was rather long and narrow, having a curious general appearance from the fact that the head and thorax were narrower than the abdomen. The beetle," he continued, "was brought from China by a friend of mine, or, I should say, he sent me a dozen or so of the larvae and I hatched them out in my insect case. It is very common in China and Japan and various parts of the east, and some species in South America. The scientific name is Brachinide—that is, that's the family name—but they generally go by the name of the bombardier beetle, from their habit of bombarding all intruders at short notice. The explosive in this case is a volatile fluid secreted in the posterior portion of the body, which the insect has the power of ejecting with such force that it is felt several inches away, and forming, for a moment, a cloud as it were of smoke. To very small animals this may be fatal, and to larger forms it is quite sufficient to stop their progress in a given direction. It stings and burns the human flesh for several moments and stains it so that the marks are visible for several days.

"To show the power of the explosive as a force, I have placed a beetle three inches under water and the force of the explosion would make the water boil all about. Experiments tried in hot water showed that the latter effervesced. To the human nostril the odor resembles that of muriatic acid and is extremely irritating. If any one wishes to try it in the interests of science I have another beetle all loaded—but there were no martyrs present. Nearly all the beetles of this family have this peculiar method of defense, and in some localities the odor and effect is much worse than in others. Burchard, the well known traveler, had a curious experience. With a party of natives he started out one evening to make some astronomical observations, when his attention was attracted by great numbers of beetles running about upon the shore. Being a naturalist, he directed his men to capture some, which they proceeded to do, but the moment the insects were touched they faced about and sent such an irritating discharge upon the hands of the men that they dropped them, howling with fear and pain. So painful was the discharge that only a few of the insects were caught. It was noticed that at the time of the explosion a white, semi-luminous cloud appeared in the air.

"Here," said the insect man, taking up the disk of water, "is another living gun," and as he spoke he touched a small object and a stream of water four inches in length sprang into the air. "The first time I noticed this," continued the speaker, "I was looking down into the water and was struck by the stream fairly in the eye and upon investigation I found that it came from the respiratory organ of the larva of the common dragon fly. This shooting water method is not peculiar to insects. There are a number of fishes that have a similar habit. One known as the archer fish will rise to the surface and eject a stream of water four or five inches above the surface and so accurate in their aim that they can hit an object as small as a fly with the greatest ease. The long-nosed chameleon is equally remarkable in this respect. Their bill seems arranged to form a perfect air-gun, through which a drop of water is forced at an insect with unerring aim. The squids have a similar faculty of ejecting a stream of pure black ink and the writer has seen the face of a person drowned in this way, the ink stream rising four or five inches from the water.

The Latest from the Exposition. (Louisville Commercial.) "Have you heard the latest from New Orleans?" "Don't think I have; what is it?" "They have changed the name of the carnival."

"How's that?" "Well, you see, on account of the false profits of the exposition, they now speak of the carnival as El Mahdi Gras."

Nature's Sweetest Gift. (Plantation Philosophy.) De mole an' de eagle in de transackhun o' dar bus'ness ain' no furdur or part den de eddycatid man widout er soul an' de rough man wid one. Natur's sweetest gift ter man is kin'ness o' heart, an' ef air hab bil' dis back, dar ain' much ter be hoped frum de slighted passon.

Wood on the north side of a tree, says an observer, will warp as much as that from the south side, and that if trees are saved in places that run east and west, as the tree stood, it will warp less than if cut in the opposite direction.

TREASURES IN ALASKA.

The Underdeveloped Mining Resources of Our Far Northern Territory. (Edwards Roberts in Chicago News.) It is too soon yet to say how much ore Alaska has, but it is certain the supply is very large. Good leads have been discovered in various parts of the country, but the mines now being worked are located near Juneau City, 100 miles northeast of Sitka. Juneau is a town of limited population, having not more than fifty white men all told, and is named in honor of a man who was the first to discover the placer diggings, a few miles inland in what is known as the basin. The claims there have yielded in the last six years some thousands of dollars and made Juneau rich. At present they are nearly abandoned, and the excitement of the neighborhood is centered at Douglas, just across the bay from Juneau.

The large mine there is located within fifty yards of the bay, and was discovered, Treadwell, to a San Francisco company, of which senator Jones is the ruling spirit. The new owners have lately set up a 120-stamp mill, the largest in the world, I believe, and have refused, so it is said, \$16,000,000 for their property. The ore is gold, held in white quartz, is easily milled, and appears to exist in unlimited quantities. What the yield per ton is no one outside the owners knows. I am told, however, every ton will pay \$5 and that there are millions of tons. A resident of Juneau is not particular when giving figures. The mill is run by water, and a steamer can be loaded by an incline reaching from the mine to the wharf. There is no winter to interfere with the work of mining, and native Indian labor is cheap and abundant. Many other properties have been opened on the island, but, from lack of capital, few of them have been developed to any extent. The year '84 saw many new mining men come into Alaska, and in '85 there will be still more. Prospecting is done at a great disadvantage, but there still are leads that can be discovered. Once the fact is known that Alaska has ore there will be a rapid increase in the population.

And here again the native Indian will be utilized. An Alaska Indian is a good worker. Dirty and depraved as he is, he is anxious to get employment. He likes money. Those engaged in the Treadwell mine are indefatigable laborers. So they are in the salmon canneries that have been started. Familiar with their country, they know, if anybody does, where there is any ore.

"If I had accepted the offer of an Indian a few years ago, who said he knew of a lead, I should have been rich perhaps, to-day," said a man whom I met at Wrangell. "How did you fall?" I asked. "Well, tried to beat the fellow down in his price, and before he could meet me or I meet him he got upset in his canoe and was drowned.

If a miner will pay fair wages he can get good escort and run fair chances of finding ore. Let a man, however, try to depend on himself and he will most likely fall. Southern Alaska's soil is covered with moss to a depth of a foot or more, and prospecting as carried on in other countries is out of the question. The only way is to get an Indian who knows the by-paths and the streams. By following him float gold may be found—as it often has been—that will lead to the main vein.

The Crazy Quilt Mania. (Washington Letter.) Wives of public men in Washington constantly receive letters from all parts of the country asking for pieces of their dresses or other articles of apparel; also for neckties of their husbands, to be used in making crazy quilts. Mrs. Logan is more frequently asked for contributions of this kind than any other lady in Washington, and she almost always complies with the request. It is said that she has not a dress that has not been clipped for this purpose. The general declares that he finds it hard work to keep a necktie. He does not complain, however, for he enters fully into the spirit which prompts his wife never to refuse such a request when it can be granted. Cast-off dresses and ties are scarce in the house of the Logans. There are hundreds of quilts in all parts of the country, specially prized because they have a piece from one of Mrs. Logan's dresses, or from one of the general's neckties.

Eastern and Western Clubs Contrasted. New York Town Topics, in its "Club" department, says: "I asked a brother club-man recently, who has just returned from a western trip, if he noticed any essential difference between the club-life of the eastern and western cities. 'Well,' he replied, 'let me think. Their whisky is better, as a rule; their restaurants are greatly inferior; and when dining at the Calumet club in Chicago—which has one of the handsomest club buildings in the country, by the way—I saw, out of sixty men in the restaurant, only two in evening dress. I found the club at Cheyenne and those in San Francisco the nearest to ours in the points of refinement, in dress and conversation of their members, and this was due to the fact that they contain many eastern men.' I fear my friend was prejudiced in favor of the metropolis."

The Antiquity of the Race. (Exchange.) A recent writer explodes the theory that the human race is 50,000 years old by showing that when the present population of the world, 1,400,000,000, is taken, the known ratio of increase figured backward therefrom and the loss from pestilence and wars taken into account it will readily be found that even the Genesis figure of 6,000 years is entirely beyond the correct age of the human family. Four thousand four hundred years he puts down as the more probable time since Adam first saw light in the Garden of Eden.

Children's Spinal Troubles. (Chicago Times.) A physician connected with one of the hospitals in New York where children receive special attention, says that many of the cases of spinal trouble brought to his notice are the direct result of the careless handling of baby carriages. The number of how nurses and others handle these little vehicles is one to which parents may well pay attention.

Bennett's Ice Machine. James Gordon Bennett's yacht Namouna has been provided with a dense-air machine, which is able to produce 1,000 pounds of ice per day. Yet it is so compact that it occupies a space only seven feet long, four wide, and four high.

How To Be Miserable. Charles Kingsley says: "If you want to be miserable, think about yourself, about what you want, what you like, what respect people ought to pay to you, and what people think of you."

It is said that Weston, the walker, found chewing coca leaves a great assistance in sustaining fatigue.

SHADE OF CONCORD, WAS IT PIER

(Chicago Herald.) Oh, Shade of Concord, was it pie That rolled thy finely frowned eye In visions of infinity? That fed thy jack-o'-lantern brain With phosphor from the radiant train? That nightly tramps the stellar plain, And clapped the brakes on Phobos' car One morning in the blue afar To "hitch thy wagon to a star?" Oh, Shade of Concord, was it pie That bore thy soul so loftily? That made thee spare with gentle ruth All sons of men who love the truth, Who scorn the sneer and loathe the sham? That filled thee with a noble hate Of hypocrites who modulate Each sacred chant Into their cant? And aye! forth each joyous psalm? Prophet and Poet, Fool most wise, We toss this gow-gaw to the skies, And feel, while blink our dazzled eyes, Oh, true American, 'twas pie!

Mistakes of Medical Men.

(Cor. Herald of Health.) We think a great deal of unpractical nonsense is talked and written on the conditions of health, and we are quite sensible of the fact that regimen and dieting may be carried too far. Practitioners and those who set themselves up as apostles of sanitary science are too prone to measure other people's corn by their own bushel. For example, a physician or surgeon may himself have been a too free liver—it is easier to preach than to practice—and he may have become a vegetarian just in the nick of time or with great advantage to his health; but this is certainly no reason why he should spend the remainder of his days in trying to persuade others that vegetarianism is good or necessary for them also.

Again, a medical man may have a miserably weak digestive faculty, and need to avoid certain dishes which other folk can take, not only with impunity, but with benefit; but that is no reason why he should go about abusing and interdicting the things that disagree with him, while they agree perfectly well with the majority of mankind. By pushing dieting to the verge of starvation, we are simply pretending to cure, not curing; we impose on ourselves and on those who confide in our practice.

France's Revenue from Forests.

(Boston Herald.) Mr. Egleston, chief of the forestry bureau, quotes from the French report of forest administration, from which it appears that the estimated receipts from the forests of France over and above the cost of management of 17,697,326 francs. He says: "France has about 130,557,555 acres in her superficial area. Of these, 22,687,715 acres are in forest, or 17.3 per cent. The public or domainal forests amount to only about 2,494,000 acres, or 10.7 per cent of the forest area. The forests of Algeria, as they are new and little developed as yet, are a charge upon the state to the extent of 1,500,000 francs. But with this burden it will be seen that France derives a revenue from her 2,494,000 acres, and the care of the forests of the communes and public establishments of 17,697,320 francs, or nearly \$3,500,000 above all expenses, and while securing this handsome revenue she is securing by the maintenance of her forests what can not be estimated in money, the best climatic conditions for the health of her people and the success of her agriculture, and is preserving the flow of her streams in a condition to be most servicable to agriculture, manufactures and commerce."

The Genuine Tar-Heel Kiss.

(Wilson (N. C.) Mirror.) Up the perfume-swept avenue of love and under the roseate archway of Hymen they had passed into the joy-lit realms of that higher and holier existence where soul meets soul, on limpid waves of ecstatic feeling, and hearts touch hearts through the blended channel of lips in rapture linked. They had just been made man and wife and their souls must meet and "swap a swap" of labial endearment. And now, how can we describe that oscillatory performance? It was not a spasmodic kiss, like a stopper flying out of a champagne bottle; or a suctionary kiss, like a cow pulling her foot out of the mire; neither was it one of those long, lingering, languishing kisses, which lovers give when hid by clustering vines from the glance of the moonbeams. No, none of these, but it was, to be alliterative, a kind of a slouchwise, slantidictular, soup-sipping, sop-sipping meeting of the lips, which went for the whole hog of endearment or none, and that is the way two hearts began to beat as one.

Black of the Upper Nile Region.

(Cor. Philadelphia Times.) In these Nilotic peoples the salient features of the negro race are less prominent than elsewhere. Although Islam has made some progress, the bulk of these people are still nature worshippers. When preparing for battle the "medicine man" lays an infant and places the bleeding body on the war-path, to be trampled by the warriors marching to victory. Human fat is a staple of trade. The Monbuttu cure for future use the bodies of the slain in battle and reserve them in prisons for terrible cruelties. Those Nilotic races in many cases are skilled in useful industries, as agriculture, iron smelting and casting, weaving and the manufacture of pottery. The form and ornamental designs of their utensils display artistic taste, while their iron implements have a temper superior to that of European manufacture. They are cannibals and yet show a regard and devotion to the weaker sex.

Mississippi's Jewels.

(Montgomery Advertiser.) One man who knows how to slide cotton, stick a hog in the jugular vein, and shell corn without making his hands bleed is worth more to himself, the country, and the young women than all the "bloods" that ever chased a fox or knocked the backstep since the world began. Mississippi has got any iron and coal, but she has some jewels that know the difference between a piece of bread and butter and a plated earring.

Down in the Comstock.

(Exchange.) The temperature of the mines on the Comstock vein is exceedingly high. At depths of 1,500 feet and 2,000 feet the thermometer placed in a fresh-drilled hole will show 130 degrees. Very large bodies of water have run for years at 130 degrees, and smaller bodies at 170 degrees. The temperature is kept down to 110 degrees by forcing in fresh air cooled over ice.

Against the Rules.

(Chicago Herald.) Capt. Walker, of the steamship Cephalonia, who was married in Boston recently, will return to Europe by himself, while Mrs. Walker will sail from New York by another vessel, it being against the rules of the company for the captain and his wife to cross the Atlantic together.

CHINA HALL REMOVAL.

W. H. WILKINSON, Agent for John Wanamaker, has removed to store room

In Centre County Bank Building.

Constantly in stock a full assortment of

China, Granite, & Yellow-ware, and Table Glass, AT LOWEST City Prices.

LIVE CANVASSERS

Grandest Combination Offers ever made. We want it That Model Family paper, the

Hearthstone, Farm & Nation

the Cleanest, Handiest, Purest Monthly in America. Ably covers the important subjects of Domestic and Rural Economy, Agriculture, Live Stock, Education, Current Events, Hygiene, etc. Largest and ablest staff of editors and contributors.

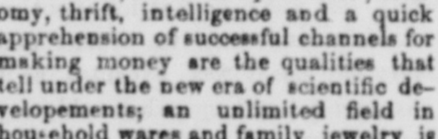
American Home and Farm Cyclopaedia.

The package mailed and the attention given every applicant who answers this advertisement, costs us \$2, so we ask you to give us your name, address, age, business experience, if any, and name reference. If you are already settled in business, send us the names of two or more good agents and in return we will send you the paper two months. Write at once.

W. H. THOMPSON & CO., Publishers

404 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

A GOOD BUSINESS FOR ANY ONE



GOLD, SILVER AND NICKLE PLATING. Complete outfit \$3.50

Practical, useful and profitable; economical, thrifty, intelligence and a quick apprehension of successful channels for making money are the qualities that tell under the new era of scientific developments; an unlimited field in household wares and family jewelry is open for a profitable business in filling orders for replating at small expense. Many ladies are making handsome incomes with our \$3.50 PORTABLE PLATING apparatus (illustrated above) without fatiguing labor or interference with other duties. Any one can easily learn to do the finest quality of GOLD, SILVER, and NICKLE PLATING on WATCHES, CHAINS, rings, Knives, Forks, and Spoons. I make the above set, consisting of Tank lined with Acid-Proof Cement Three Cells of Battery that will deposit 30 penny-weight of metal a day, Hanging Bars, wire Gold Solution, one quart of Silver Solution and half a gallon of Nickel, and supply a Box of Bright Lustre, that will give the metal the brilliant and lustrous appearance of finished work. Remember these solutions are not exhausted by one use, but will Plate any number of articles if the simple Book of instructions is followed. Any one can do it. A Woman's Work. For fifty cents Extra will send Six Chains or Rings that can be Gold Plated and sold for Two DOLLARS more than the whole outfit costs. Our Book, "GOLD AND SILVER FOR THE PEOPLE," which offers UNRIVALLED INDUCEMENTS to all sent FREE. If not successful can be returned and exchanged for MORE THAN ITS VALUE. REMEMBER, this is a practical outfit and I will warrant it, or it can be returned at my expense. Will be sent C. O. D. if desired, upon receipt of \$1.50, balance to be collected when delivered. Next size outfit, with Tank 12x10x6, only \$5. TRY IT. Profit-over 300 per cent. Worth five times its cost as a practical, scientific and business educator in any family. Address FREDERICK LOWRY, Manufacturer 96 & 98 Fulton St., N. Y. P. O. Box 1322.

CHRISTIE'S School of Business.

THIS institution is devoted to the specialty of imparting business knowledge, and to qualifying the young and middle aged of both sexes by new and practical methods for the responsible duties of business life. Rates moderate. Advantages superior. For particulars address, S. N. CHRISTIE, Principal, LOCK HAVEN, PA.

DOOR MARK DYES are superior to any 10 cent dye. All colors for cotton, wool, silk or cashmere. Fast, brilliant colors. For sale by F. POTTS GREEN.

CALL

—AT THE—

CENTRE DEMOCRAT

Job Office

And Have Your Job Work

DONE

CHEAPLY NEATLY AND WITH DISPATCH.

Now is the Time to Subscribe

FOR THE

"CENTRE DEMOCRAT,"

The LARGEST and CHEAPEST Paper in Bellefonte.

ONLY \$1.50 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE.

OFFICE: HARRIS' NEW BRICK BLOCK, BELLEFONTE, PA.