Queer Customs Among a Strange People-An Evening With the Half-Breed Trap-pers and Canadian Voyagers of the Upper Missouri.

A San Francisco Eleaminer writer gives a graphic account of a queer New Year's custom which prevails among the Canadian Frenchmen employed as hunters, guides and flat-matthis great feast, says the writer. Where they had come from I never ascer-tained. Whether they had been bred, fed and fatted for this especial festive occasion, or had been brought from some far-off settlement in a sack or box, it matters little. But there they were, suspended in the bright morning suntwo black, one gray and one gray and they drank brandy and smoked; some white. The cat-killing operation is perplayed upon violins, others sang wild formed by the Sioux squaws, and as the body of the animal must not be bruised, and all the blood must be extracted without injuring the skin, it requires some skill to kill a cat under such circumstances. The squaw, armed with a short heavy club, seizes the animal by its caudal extremity, and before the brute has time to resent this insulting attack it receives a stunning blow upon the back of the head, and then, as quick as a flash, a knife is drawn across its throat, and it is hung to bleed. This cat-killing operation had been performed before I arrived, and the dressing was then in progress. Monsieur Charles Gereaux, a notable and wealthy Indian trader, was standing at the end of a rough, long table critically supervising the very delicate operation of preparing the felines for

Two half-breed guides were performing this duty. The cats, nicely disembowled, were brought in by the attendant squaws and laid upon the table. One of the men then proceeded to stuff the cats with a mixture of scaked crackers, cornmeal, cove oysters, black and red pepper, mace, cinnamon, dried herbs, onions and cognac brandy. In-terspersed with this mixture were small thin strips of fat bacon and with particles of ham chopped fine. Having filled the carcass with this stuffing, the skins of the cats were drawn together and securely sewed up with sinews. A large tub of red clay was then brought in, and each of the animals received a thick coat of this adhesive substance, the cay being rubbed thoroughly into the fur, so as to render this clayey coat perfeetly adhesive. At least two inches of this clay was laid over each, and as they lay there upon the floor they resembled four large clay demijohns or jugs fresh from the hands of the potter. A large number of fine, fat buffalo fish and suckers were served in the same way, and then came another equally interesting operation. At the end of the largest of the four rooms constituting the ranch an immense fire of dry cedar had been burning all the morning, filling the place with a rich aroma of cedar smoke. This fire had now burned down to a pile of red, glowing coals. A long, deep trench was quickly made in this flery bank, and in this the cats and fish in their incasements of clay were quickly laid, and covered with hot coals. While this culinary operation was being performed inside "Le Commandante," Colonel Collins was designated by the voyagers, had arrived; but as he was accompanied by several members of his staff, he was not invited to enter the house. The fun of the day now commenced in earnest. This consisted of horse-racing, foot-racing, wrestling between squaws, target-shooting and lasso throwing. Brandy and whisky flowed freely, but it was noticeable that no quarreling or fighting occurred among

About 3 o'clock in the afternoon dinner was announced, and all who could get into the main room where the cooking had been done repaired thither to see the meats taken from their flery beds. On raking open the bank of redhot cedar-wood coals the clay coverings of the animals and fishes were found to be burned to a brick-red color, and resembled large, shapeless lumps of brick.
These were lifted upon shovels and laid upon a block especially prepared for the purpose. Here a sharp blow with a hatchet cracked the hot, bricklike coverings, and the fragments fell away, taking with them the hide and skin of the animals and the scales of the fish. Then there arose such a savory aroma from the steaming wellstuffed animals as would have tempted the appetite of the most fastidious dys-The air-tight coverings had retained all the savory steam from the spicy dressing, and nothing had escaped during the slow roasting process beneath the cedar coals. In addition to the fish and the cats were savory stews or pot-pourri of rabbits and prairie dogs, rich soup of beaver tail, buge slices of bear meat, jaicy venison steaks broiled upon the coals, and large rounds of buffalo haunch boiled almost to fragments. No bread was used and vegetables were not thought of. The nearest thing to bread was a stack of soda crackers in the center of the table, and two or three pans of nice-looking doughnuts, which belied their looks and almost spoiled my dinner when I discovered that they had been fried in the lard or fat extracted from skunks, which formed a starle article of food among frontiersmen. Notwithstanding the variety and abundance at this great New Year's feast, the guests eagerly sought their share of the feline roasts. The white visitors partook but very sparingly of this strange dish-a small taste to gratify our host and our own curiosity. In flavor the meat was not unlike that of a very fat rabbit. It was white as the breast of a chicken and very rich and tender. It is not to be recommended as a staple article of family diet, as it requires so much time and trouble to properly dress it for the table. It is needless to add that not even the smallest particle of these luckless felines was permitted to go to waste, and it was noticeable, too, that

while these French Canadian voyagers and guides partook of their roast cat

or Indian bucks would touch it. In fact, they avoided it with every mani-

festation of repugnance and disgust.

After the feast, which was slowly enjoyed by all present, the evening's amusement commenced. A large fire was built in the corral or court-yard, around which the trappers and guides gathered, while outside the Indians ployed as hunters, guides and flat-wat-men by the American and Hudson's dances. There in the center of that Bay Fur companies. The custom in corral these half-wild people sung and question is known as a "Cat-feast," and danced until the daylight dawned. the writer, at the time be witnessed it, Their songs were musical, and were sung was living in a cabin on the banks of in that uninterpretable patois peculiar the Bawlin's river, Wyoming. Only to that strange race of people who have four fat felines had been obtained for floated upon the cuter edge of civilization since the landing of their ancestors in Quebec and Montreal, two centuries before. They used no English words and conversed as fluently in Indian as in their own coarse lingo, which is more French than anything else, but which few Frenchmen could understand. There, around their bonfire, played upon violins, others sang wild songs of frontier life. Here and there an old trapper or voyager related some wonguide or scout, but during the entire color, living in holes," in the diocese of a western no house of state of the color, living in holes," in the diocese of a western no house of the color, living in holes," in the diocese of a western no house of the color, living in holes, in the diocese of a western no house of the color, living in holes, in the diocese of a western no house of the color, living in holes, in the diocese of a western no house of the color, living in holes, in the diocese of a western no house of the color, living in holes, in the diocese of a western no house of the color, living in holes, in the diocese of a western no house of the color, living in holes, in the diocese of a western no house of the color, living in holes, in the diocese of a western no house of the color, living in holes, in the diocese of a western no house of the color, living in holes, in the diocese of a western no house of the color, living in holes, in the diocese of a western no house of the color, living in holes, in the diocese of a western no house of the color, living in holes, in the diocese of a western no house of the color, living in holes, in the diocese of a western no house of the color, living in holes, in the diocese of the color, living in holes, in the diocese of the color, living the color, liv a waster, no harsh or unkind word was heard among these rough, wild mountaineers and plainsmen. Many New Years' have passed away since that bright, cold New Year's night within the Bordeaux stockade, but the recollections of that great cat-feast with the hunters and trappers of the Northwestern mountains remains ever fresb in my memory.

The Utah Legislature,

The following instructive statement of the composition of the territorial legislature of Utah has been prepared to submit to Congress for its information and guidance. The power of this body to make laws is restrained only by the veto of the governor:

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL (TWELVE MEMBERS.) 1. Erastus Snow, one of the "twelve apostles" of the Mormon church, a polygamist with six wives.

2. Lorenzo Snow, another of the twelve apostles, with five wives. 3. Moses Thatcher, another apostle, with two wives.

4. Joseph F. Smith, another apostle, with five wives. One, his first, separated from him on account of his polyg-

5. John R. Murdock, president of stake" (the territory of Utah, for the purpose of church rule, is divided into twenty districts called "stakes"), a polygamist with three wives. 6. O. A. Smoot, president of "stake,"

with four wives. 7. George Teasdale, president of stake," two wives. 8. H. D. Wells, counselor to the

twelve apostles, six wives. 9. Peter Barton, bishop and polygamist. 10. A. K. Thurber, counselor, two

wives. 11. W. W. Cluff, president of "stake, not a polygamist. 12. John T. Calne, Mormon elder, but

not a polygamist. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (TWENTY-FOUR MEMBERS).

1. John Smith, one of the twelve apostles and a polygamist. 2. F. M. Lyman, another apostle, with 3. C. G. Snow, president of "stake,"

polygamist. 4. Lorrin Farr, Mormon elder, five 5. W. B. Preston, president of

"stake," two wives. 6. W. H. Lee, Mormon bishop and polygamist. 7. John Jaques, Mormon elder, two

8. C. W. Penrose, Mormon elder, three wives. 9. Samuel Francis, Mormon counsel-

or, polygamist. 10. Canute Peterson, Mormon bishop, polygamist. 11. Henry Beal, Mormon counselor,

polygamist. 12 S. F. Atwood, Mormon bishop, two wives. 13. Edward Partridge, Mormon conn-

selor, two wives. 14. W. D. Johnson, Mormon bishop, polygamist. 15. Hosea Stout, classed as one of the "blood atoners," a polygamist, with

two wives. 16. E. H. Blackburn, Mormon bishop, three wives. 17. Edward Dalton, Mormon elder

and polygamist, 18. Abram Hatch, president of "stake," but not a polygamist as far as

19. D. H. Peery, president of stake," also reported not a polygamist.
20. J. E. Booth, bishop, but not a polygamist.

21. James Sharp, Mormon, but not a polygamist. 22. W. H. Duzenberry, Mormon, but

not a polygamist. 28. J. S. Page Mormon, not a polygamist.

24. S. R. Thurman, Mormon, not a polygamist.

WISE WORDS.

The fire of vanity is fed by the fuel of flattery. Charms strike the heart but merit

wins the soul. Strive for the best and provide against the worst.

People's intentions can only be deoided by their conduct. An effort made for the happiness of

others lifts us above ourselves. Falsehood and fraud shoot up in every soil, the product of all climes.

Life is full of bitter lessons, the sim plest of which is that one man's fal makes forty men laugh. Preserve your conscience always soft

and sensitive. If but one sin force its way into that tender part of the soul and dwell easy there the road is paved with iniquities.

We have heard both Democrats and Republicans say that there is nothing better for a cough than Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup; this old reliable remedy never fails to cure a cough or cold at once, and may be obtained at any drug with an eager relish, none of the squaw | store for 25 cents a bottle.

Prosecuting Animals.

In the good old times from the thirteenth to the sixteenth centuries animals were duly prosecuted in court for injuries done by them to life or limb or to private property, and numerous cases are recorded in France of hogs, bulls, horses and other quadrupeds being convicted and punished, capitally, by hanging, burning or in other cruel fashions. In Sardinia cattle taken in the act of damaging property could be lawfully slain, but asses, possibly as being stupid and less accountable, were punished for trespass, first by loss of one ear, on a second conviction by the loss of the other and on the third by forfeiture to the crown. But when physical seizure of the offending creatures was impossible the ecclesiastical tribunals took cognizance of the matter, and the plague of rats, locusts, caterpillars, or what not, was duly cited to trial. More fortunate than human offenders, they were allowed eminent counsel and wide latitude in their defense. One of the most famous lawyers of France made his first great hit in the defense of "certain dirty aniappear on the stated day, and he pleaded defective service, and that as all the rats in the diocese were interested notice should be given to them in all the parishes. The priests having been duly instructed, and the rats still remaining in contempt, their counsel obtained a postponement on the ground that more time was needed to make their preparations for a journey en masse, and when the time was up he came into court professing the good faith of his clients and their anxiety to appear, but demanding for them a safe conduct and the putting of all the plaintiff's cats under heavy bonds not to molest any rat until the case had been decided. As the plaintiffs declined to enter into the bond the rats got off. It would be curious to know what ever came of the famous lawsuit between the parish of St. Julien and the beetles, which began in 1445 and had not been endde in 1487, when the records unhappily terminate. The proceedings ended with a compromise by which the inhabitants gave the beetles in perpetuity a certain portion of the parish for their sole use and benefit. The beetles demurred to this, but the demurrer was overruled and, the court's assessors having inspected the land and found it everything that a beetle could ask, the title was made duly out and signed and sealed and the beetles would have had to retire to it or place themselves in flagrant contempt had it not been discovered that there had been a quarry on the land, and, though it was ex-hausted and no longer worked, that there was a right of way over the soil which if exercised would incommode the new proprietors. The beetles promptly made the point, and the trial was begun over again at the beginning. One reason perhaps why the courts were so scrupulous was to be found in the fact that the plaintiffs had to show a clean tithe-bill before beginning the suit, and during its continuance numerous imposing and expensive ceremonies were performed. A Smile of Satisfaction.

This from the Cleveland (Ohio) Penny

Press carries its own suggestion: Re-cently meeting Mr. H. G. Keffer, treasurer of the Cleveland Herald, our representative inquired of that gentleman, after stating his mission, if he personally knew anything about the great German remedy, St. Jacobs Oil. A smile played across Mr. Keffer's expressive face and his eyes twinkled merrily as he replied in the affirmative. "I will not refuse to state my experience with it, and you may use it as you think best Four years ago I sprained one of my ankles, an accident which, as you are aware, entails much suffering and sometimes leaves the limb in a condition to remind one frequently of the old hurt. Unfortunately this result ensued. Whenever the weather became damp or my system absorbed the slightest cold my ankles pained me. This went on at intervals for over three years, and I could not obtain relief. Last winter I applied the St. Jacobs Oil and it completely cured me. I have not since felt a return of the pain."

Fight against a hasty temper. Anger will come, but resist it stoutly. A spark may set a house on fire. A fit of passion may give you cause to mourn all the days of your life. Never revenge an injury. .-

The Trenton (N. J.) Gazette mentions the case of Mr. John Wood, with the American Pottery Co. that city, who was cured by St. Jacobs Oil of an attack of rheumatism, which has confined him to his bed for seventeen weeks. He praises it un-

On the first day of January, 1801, the initial day of the nineteenth century, Ireland passed into incorporating union with Great Britain.

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matism, Kidney Troubles, etc. Can be used exter Use RED HORSE POWDER for Romes and Cattle. ALLEN'S Brain Food-cures Norvons Debility & Weskness of Generative Organs, \$1-all druggists, Bend for Circular, Allen's Pharmacy, \$10 Firstay, N. Y.

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THERE are in England and Wales 10,000 omen who are classed as habitual drunkards. The number of men in the same category is

"Threw Physic to the Dogs, PH None of It."
We do not feel like blaming Macboth for this
expression of disgust. Even newadays most of the cathartics are great repulsive pills, enough to "turn one's stomach." Had Macbeth ever taken Dr. Pierce's "Purgative Pellets" he would not have uttered those words of contempt. By druggists

THE cattle showing for Texas is no small item. The 1881 count calls for 4,464,000 head. The estimated value of these is about \$40,-

"Golden Medical Discovery" (words registered as a trade-mark) cures all humors from he pimple or eruption to great virulent eating

In 1870 the colored population of West Virginia was 17,980, and in 1880 it was 25,886, showing an increase in the ten years of 7,606.

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ABOUT one-fifth of the entire population of 50,000 of Paterson, N. J., consists of girls who are employed in the different mills.

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The Great Blood Purifier.

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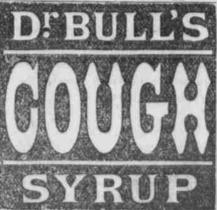
I have been practicing medicine for 25 years, and as a remedy for Scropula, Liver Complaint, Hyppepsia, Rheumatisn, Wealness, and all diseases of the blood, I have never found its equal. I have sold Vegetine for seven years, and have never had one bottle returned. I would heartfly recommend it to those in need of a blood purifier.

DR. W. ROSS, Druggist, Wilton, Iowa. September 18, 1878.

Vegetine.

H. R. STEVENS, Boston, Mass.

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Time Testers and Burden Bearers.

From time immemorial the horse has been man's best friend. But a few years back we can all remember the comparatively little attention paid to this most indispensable of animals. We say comparatively little attention, for the horse was seell groomed, and certainly as well fed, as now; and at those great gatherings—agricultural shows—you would see the pride of the county and State stables and farms assembled. But there was a conspicuous want of noble draught horses, and as for speeders—well, 2-50 was the great ultimate limit that owners in those days desired to strive for. But now a 2-30 animal is esteemed a fair roadster, and fine animals only deserve the name when they can shade the first quarter of the third minute. There have been immense strides forward in the right development of horseftesh in the civilized countries of the world, as shown by the time-records of the racers and



draught capacity of the humbler, but really more useful, work horse. Many things have conspired to effect this desirable end, chief among which useful, work-horse. Many things have conspired to effect his desirable end, chief among which have been the intelligent eare and consideration bestowed upon the animal in his every relation.—in a word, upon the breeding. And this has not falled to include a very serious modification of the old methods of treatment, doing away, in many cases, with the inhuman and really savage plans paramed in the cradication of even simple disorders and allments, and substituting rational measures of relief instead. A prominent factor of this reform, and one indorsed by owners, breeders, formers and stockmen the country over, is St. Jacons Oit, recognized by all who have used it as an exceptionally good remedy for the allments of the horse and stock generally, meeting more indications for its me and checking far better results than any article of a curafive or remedial nature ever introduced. Such breeders and horsemen as Aristides Weich, Esq., of Erdenheim, near Philadelphia; Mike Goodin, Esq., belinont Park, Paa Calvin M. Friest, formerly in charge of Mr. Robert Bonner's stock, New York; and thousands of others throughout the eminty, who could be named, are on the list of unqualibled endorsers of the efficacy of the Jacons Cut. NYNU-6

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