

HANGED BY A GHOST.

Curious Story of a Murder and the Discovery of the Crime.

An old volume of the Quarterly Review mentions a crime discovered in a most extraordinary way in Australia in the year 1830, of which a public record is preserved and which figures with full details in the journals of that period.

The confidential steward of a wealthy settler near Sydney stated that his master had suddenly been called to England on important business and that during his absence the whole of his immense property would be in his exclusive care.

Some weeks after an acquaintance of the absentee settler riding through his grounds was astonished to perceive him sitting upon a stile. He strode forward to speak when the figure turned from him, with a look of intense sorrow, and walked to the edge of a pond, where it mysteriously disappeared.

On the morrow he brought a number of men to the water to drag it, and the body of the man supposed to be on his way to England was brought up. The steward was arrested, brought to trial and, frightened at the story of his master's ghost, confessed the crime, stating that he did the murder at the very stile on which his master's ghost had appeared. He was duly executed.—Case and Comment.

RUNNING UPSTAIRS.

Physical Energy It Expend Quoted In Horsepower.

To lift 550 pounds one foot in one second requires what is known as one horsepower. Similarly a horsepower is able to raise twice that weight one foot in twice the time, or one-half foot in just that time. Moreover, it can raise half 550 pounds one foot in half a second, or two feet in a second, and so on. Therefore when we lift one-fourth of that weight, 137 1/2 pounds, four feet in one second, we are exerting a horsepower.

Accordingly, when a person who weighs 137 1/2 pounds runs upstairs at the rate of four feet a second, he is exerting the equivalent of a horsepower. For a man weighing twice that much, 275 pounds, it would be necessary to climb at the rate of only two feet a second to exert a horsepower. It is possible to do much more.

As a matter of fact, a horse often exerts many times a horsepower. The average horse can draw a wagon up a hill where a ten horsepower engine with the same load would fail. A horse power does not represent the greatest momentary strength of the average horse, but is a measure of the power which he can exert continuously.—New York World.

COTTON THREAD.

Its Invention Was a Case of Necessity Caused by War.

Curiously enough, it was a war that brought about the revolution in the manufacture of sewing thread. When Napoleon occupied north Germany in 1803 the supply of silk from Hamburg, which was used in making heddles, or the loom harness, in Paisley, was cut off.

Unless some substitute could be found the weaving industry of Paisley would be ruined. Peter Clark experimented with cotton warp yarn and succeeded in making thread like the six cord sewing thread used today. It took the place of silk in the heddles, and the weaving business went on uninterrupted by the war.

Then it occurred to another man to use the cotton thread in place of linen for sewing, and he recommended it to the women of the town. It was so much smoother than the linen that the women liked it. The thread was sold in hanks and wound by the purchaser into little balls, but the merchant soon decided to wind the hank on a bobbin or spool for his customers as an added inducement to purchase it instead of the linen.

From this beginning the cotton thread trade has grown, and now silk and linen are used only for special work.—Philadelphia Record.

Hypnotic Power In Animals.

An interesting instance of the hypnotic power possessed by a good many animals is given by a correspondent of the Glasgow Herald. One morning outside Elgin a blackbird was observed to be standing by the roadside, paying no heed to the footsteps of the passerby. It was gazing fixedly at four young weasels under the hedge, which were approaching in a semicircle, apparently to surround it. Just then a warning cry was heard from behind, uttered presumably by the parent weasel, and the young ones disappeared in the hedge. The bird still remained powerless and immovable, and only after repeated urging did it fly to a tree near by, when it gave forth a weak, frightened sound, as though still under the influence of the terror which had arrested its faculties.

Overheard In a Family.

"Please shut that door!"
"You wait. I'll get even with you!"
"I never knew her to be on time."
"You're the biggest fool I know!"
"Mother, can't I have just a little more?"
"Now, who's been at the sideboard?"
"He'll catch his death of cold."
"What makes daddy so late?"
"How could you! My new tablecloth!"
"I don't see anything the matter with her cooking."
"Don't ever speak to me again!"
"Muth-her!"—Life.

THE LIBERTY BELL.

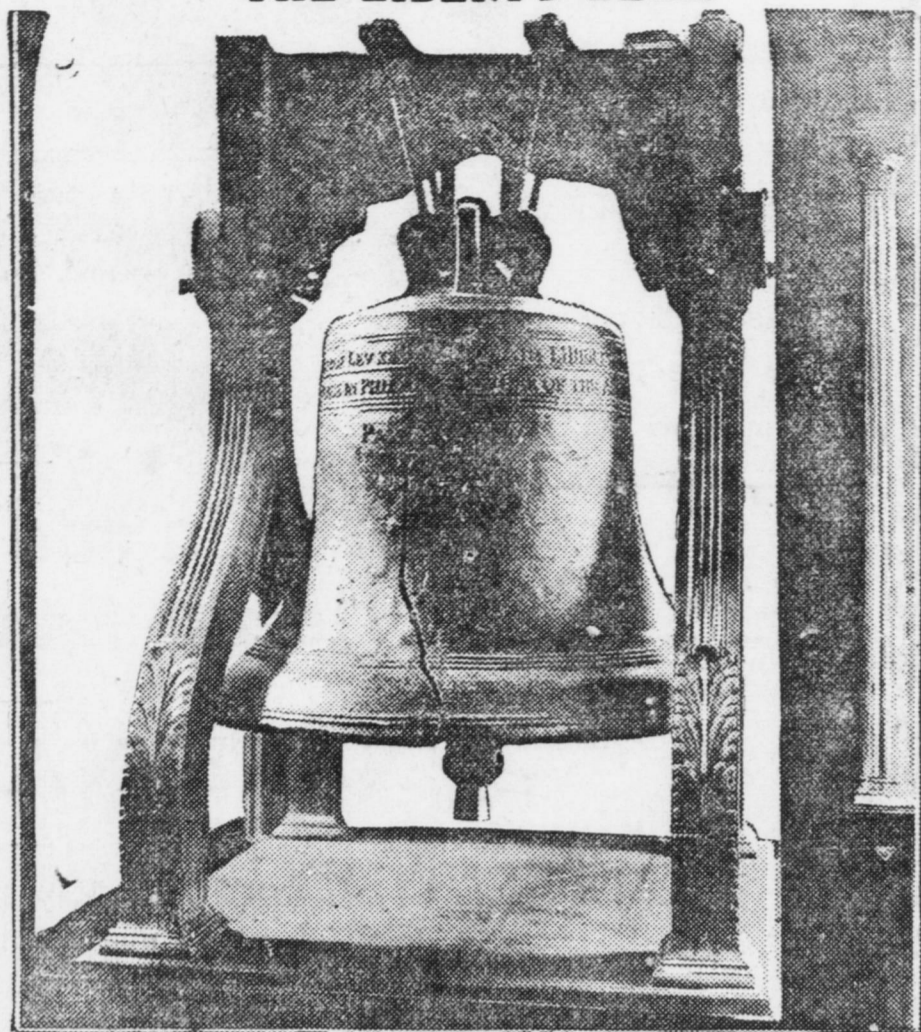


Photo by American Press Association. The Panama-Pacific wants the famous relic as an exhibit.

ORIGIN OF "OLIVER TWIST."

Dickens Got His Principal Characters From Cruikshank.

The true story of the origin of "Oliver Twist" is not generally known. It is this:

After the amazing success of the "Pickwick Papers" Dickens was thinking of following it up by a story of London life, with which he was more familiar than with English country life. Just about that time he happened to visit the studio of George Cruikshank and was shown some drawings the latter had made illustrating the career of a London thief. There was a sketch of Fagin's den, with the Artful Dodger and Master Charley Bates, pictures of Bill Sikes and his dog and Nancy Sikes and, lastly, Fagin in the condemned cell.

Dickens was much struck by the power of these character sketches, and the result was that he changed the whole plot of "Oliver Twist." Instead of taking him through spiritless adventures in the country he introduced him into the thieves' den in London, showed up their life of sin, but brought his hero through pure and unadulterated.

Thus it will be seen that George Cruikshank, not Charles Dickens, was the originator of the leading characters that appear in "Oliver Twist."—London Saturday Review.

HAIR AND VITALITY.

The One Acts, in a Measure, as an Index of the Other.

In the course of its continuous growth the hair records the tide of vitality as it rises and falls in the body. When a hair is held up to the light it may be seen to be smaller at some places than at others. There may be a space of one-eighth of an inch perhaps where the hair is so thin as to appear ready to break off.

Such spots indicate an appreciable loss of nourishment, a sleepless night or an attack of auto-intoxication. In the last named cases the general vitality is interfered with, and the roots of the hair, not being developed, are not as strong as otherwise.

The hair grows until the weight is so great that it can no longer be sustained by the root, and it drops out. That is why hairs are of different lengths. Coarse hair, having large roots, will grow long. When the vitality is low all over the body the roots are imperfectly developed, and the hair is likely to fall out, as in cases of typhoid fever.

Dandruff is a parasitic disease, and the parasites get down around the root of the hair, which becomes diseased. That is another reason why the hair falls out.—Boston Herald.

Sand Hills of Bergen.

Bergen is so called doubtless from the sand hills which at this point of the coast of Holland are unusually conspicuous and give the name of "Little Switzerland" to the neighborhood. These dunes are the scene of very interesting experiments in afforestation, with a view to keeping them stationary and preserving the valuable land behind them from sand drift. This slow afforestation at Bergen, on which some thousands of pounds are spent annually, was initiated by a very remarkable private association, the Netherlands Health society, which, starting in a quiet way twenty-five years ago, now employs from its headquarters in Utrecht an army of workers and turns over some £80,000 annually in its improvements.—London Star-Lard.

Prohibitive.

"What's the matter, daughter?"
"Father, I want a duke."
"That can be arranged, my dear. I was afraid you might want a baseball pitcher."—Baltimore Sun.

There is no fatigue so wearisome as that which comes from want of work.—Spurgeon.

Scenes Aboard American Ships in New York



Photos by American Press Association.

These pictures were taken on the Wyoming, the flagship of Admiral Fletcher, now in the Hudson river for the review. One of the pictures shows the sailors at drill and the other is a view of a big gun.

OLD ENGLISH HOUSES.

In the Days of Wattle Huts, Thatched Roofs and Clay Floors.

The habitations of English common people for centuries consisted of a wooden hut of one room, with the fire built in the center. To this hut if a man increased in family and wealth, a lean-to was added and later another and another. The roofs were of thatch, the beds of loose straw or straw beds with bolsters of the same laid on the floor or perhaps eventually shut in by a shelf and ledge like the berths of a ship or by a small closet.

The Saxon thane or knight built a more pretentious "hall," a large open room like the Roman atrium with a lofty roof thatched or covered with slates or wooden shingles. In the center of the hard clay floor burned great fires of dry wood, whose thin acrid smoke escaped from openings in the roof, above the hearth or by the doors, windows and openings under the eaves of the thatch.

By day the "hearthmen" and visitors, when not working or fighting, sat on long benches on either side of the fire and, as John Hay puts it, "calmly drank and jawed" or, gathering at long boards placed on trestles, regaled themselves on some sort of porridge with fish and milk or meat and ale.

At night straw or rushes spread on the floor formed beds for the entire company in the earlier and ruder days, when the "baser sort" were glad to share their straw with the cows.—National Magazine.

SEEING THE WIND.

Easy to Watch the Air Currents Flowing Like a Waterfall.

It is said that any one may actually see the wind by means of a common handsaw. The experiment is simple enough to be worth trying at least. According to those who have made the experiment, all that is necessary is a handsaw and a good breeze.

On any blowy day hold the saw against the wind—that is, if the wind is in the north hold the saw with one end pointing east and the other west. Hold the saw with the teeth uppermost and tip it slowly toward the horizon until it is at an angle of about forty-five degrees.

By glancing along the edge of the teeth you can "see the wind." It will be pouring over the edge of the saw much after the manner that water pours over a waterfall. This is doubtless due to the fact that there are always fine particles of dust in the air, and in a strong breeze the wind forces against the slanting sides of the saw, slides up the surface and suddenly "pours over" when it reaches the top.

SAFETY FIRST BY MORALITY.

Appeal of Carnegie Steel Company to Its Workmen.

An appeal to its thousands of employees to lead moral lives as a means of increasing their own safety when at work and of improving their chances for promotion has been made by the Carnegie Steel company of Pittsburgh as a part of a "safety first" campaign.

In a series of pamphlets which have been distributed among the men for several weeks, the company, by means of charts, shows how much longer a man lives who lives "right" than one who dissipates, and tells of the better school work done by children of the workman who leads a clean life compared with one who does not, and how much less liable the workman is to accident because of his being more alert and careful. The men are appealed to strictly from a business standpoint.

WANT "SUPREME COURT OF WORLD."



Photo by American Press Association. To discuss ways and means of establishing "supreme court of world" for international disputes many of country's leading thinkers will meet in Cleveland, O., May 12, 13 and 14. Photos show (left to right) Alton B. Parker, William H. Taft and John Hays Hammond, chairman.

HOG IS PET ON ENGLISH WARSHIP.

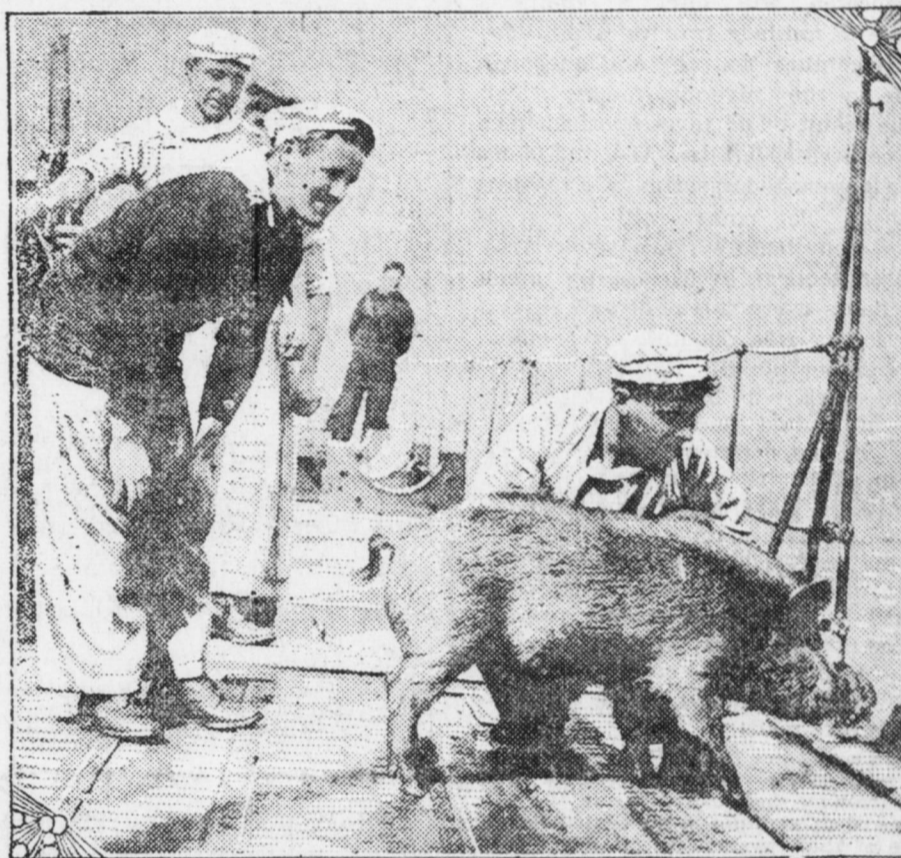


Photo by American Press Association.

ONE ADDITIONAL REASON WHY BUFFALO WON'T BECOME EXTINCT.



Photo by American Press Association. A young bison born in New York Zoological park.

BOY COPS IN PARADE.



Photos by American Press Association. Juvenile police force, feature of police parade in New York April 24. They aid Commissioner Woods (whose portrait is shown above) in keeping order on the east side.