

TERRORS OF FETICH.

Superstitions of the Natives of the Congo Country.

Like all aboriginal people, the Congo blacks are very superstitious, but to what extent they are superstitious is a state can only be conjectured. They believe in the existence of good and bad spirits, which they believe are all the time hovering around, and when one of them is seized, and either the good or bad spirits, and carried away to become one of them. Hence, when a native is dying, his friends come around, fire off guns, make horrible noises, for the purpose of frightening away the evil spirits. What effect this may have on the good spirits is not stated.

Their religious ceremonies are not of proprietary nature, or for the purpose of warding off danger, disease, etc., but are for the purpose of propitiating the spirits. They do not make human sacrifices like the Ashantes, but when they want any favors from the invisibles they bring a goat or a chicken, or a fowl, or a pig, and sacrifice it, and give in return an amulet or charm, or fetich, as they call it. The fetich is the terrible, the unknown power, at once the persecutor or the avenger, according as its power is invoked or directed. This is the present informant illustrated by an anecdote.

The Dutch have a factory at Banana point, which is approached by two roads, one on each side of the narrow peninsula. On the boundary line of the factory, a watch house was established, to regulate admittance from the outside. But the laborers, servants and sailors from outside came in in such numbers, and gave so much trouble, that the Dutch and creating disturbances that the agents finally thought it best to make a fetich, as it is termed, on the boundary line. They employed a fetich man to bring the fetich or idol on to the line, making figures in the sand around it, and flourishes or signs around and above it with his hands and arms, and then taking a chicken, cutting its neck off and sprinkling the blood around. This ceremony was performed on each road. In about twenty-four hours time the news of what had been done spread far and wide, and so effectively did it frighten the natives that they ceased to go to the Dutch factory town thereafter unless they had business there. They supposed that if they passed that line and made any trouble they would be subject to the penalties of the fetich, whatever they might be, and they were no doubt all the more terrible because their precise nature was not known.

One of the chief uses of fetich by the natives is to protect the articles of any value, for unless the loss be considerable it often costs more to recover it by this means than it is worth, though the fetich has invariably to be paid for. When articles are stolen and the aid of the fetich is invoked, all the men upon whom suspicion falls are called out into an open place and made to stand in a semi-circle facing the fetich. When articles are stolen and the aid of the fetich is invoked, all the men upon whom suspicion falls are called out into an open place and made to stand in a semi-circle facing the fetich. When articles are stolen and the aid of the fetich is invoked, all the men upon whom suspicion falls are called out into an open place and made to stand in a semi-circle facing the fetich.

During the continuance of the incantation, the fetich man watered the ground with the blood of the chicken, and is quick to note those that may show guilt, or a guilty knowledge of the act. It is rare that the fetich is continued beyond this point, but if, as occasionally happens, the ceremony is protracted, the last act of fetich is begun, being the most serio-comic of all. The fetich man, finding his idol will not do his bidding, now begins to upbraid and abuse it, and, in this harsh treatment, the idol, begins to drive into its body an eight penny nail. The nail is driven into it slowly, the fetich man, before every stroke, calling upon the culprit to repent and confess his sin before it is too late. The nail is driven in about one-third of its length, and there it must stay to goad the idol on to the terrible vengeance, invoked against the sinner, the crowning act, or seal to this ceremony, being the punishment of the head with the blood of a fowl, an ox or a goat, according to the nature of the misdemeanor to be punished. Once the seal of the blood is set, there is no forgiveness—the punishment is relentless and the bird and goat, and the small number of nails that are driven in leads attest how seldom this last act has been done.

An Island Vanishes Into the Sea. An official notification from the Danish Ministry of Marine, that the island of Denmark is poorer by the loss of an island and of an interesting natural object. South of the island Suderoe, one of the Faeroe group, a mighty cliff rose sheer out of the sea to a height of from 80 to 100 feet. It looked suddenly, from a distance at sea it resembles a great ship in full sail, but seen from Suderoe it presented the appearance of a monk, whence it received from the Faeroese the name of the "Ship in the Monks". The monk was not merely a picturesque object, it was also a valuable landmark for sailors, warning them against a whirlpool which swept around its base. But it is now only a thing of the past. Last year, a great storm, the cliff fell down, and this year that remained was broken off just below the water line, leaving in its place a dangerous reef which is covered even at low water. Fortunately, no lives were lost. This occurrence is noteworthy as proving that the continuous wash of the sea, aided probably in the winter by the action of driving ice blocks, is able to saw through masses of rock consisting of hard basalt, cutting them clean across at the water's edge.

The Union Pharmacopoeia says that an emetic can be prepared with great care a mixture of sulphate, potassium, chlorate of potash exploding in the mouth of a person engaged in brushing his teeth.

MAXIMILIAN'S LAST MOMENTS

Recent Disclosures Regarding the Last Hours of the Emperor.

It was in Queretaro that Maximilian made his final stand after the withdrawal of the French troops at a word of warning from Mr. Bismarck. It was there that he met his end in a splendid squalid in the Roman manner, many ancient and picturesque churches, and a soft and genial climate. Then, as now, it was a stronghold of the church party, the very stronghold of Catholicism in Mexico. Maximilian was here besieged and overthrown, and imprisoned in the convent of the Capuchins, and thence, after the famous court-martial, led out to the "Hill of the Bells" to be executed. Recent disclosures regarding the last hours of the emperor will destroy many legends of the fatal day, and I will here relate the contents of a document which the priest Soriano has shortly prior to his own death. Soriano was the emperor's confessor, and was with him during his last few days, and what he here says must pass into history as the true account of Maximilian's last moments.

It was of Soriano that Maximilian said: "It is I who must console this good priest, and not let him become wretchedly overcome." The night before his death, says the confessor Soriano, "the emperor wrote two letters, one to the pope and the other to his mother. He confided both to me, together with a handkerchief for his mother." On the morning following I accompanied him to the place of execution. The cortege was composed of three wretched coaches. I got into the first with the emperor, while Miramon and Mejia occupied, with their confessors, the other two.

Hardly had we left the convent of the Capuchines when I was surprised to see Maximilian strike his breast, saying: "I have put eight handkerchiefs here to keep the blood from staining my uniform." "All the rest of the way the emperor bled himself with praying and reciting the rosary and the Ave Maria. But seeing the Hill of the Bells he exclaimed: "There is where I had thought to host the standard of victory, and there is where I am going to die. Life is play."

"And after some moments of silence he added: 'What a beautiful view! And what a beautiful day to die!'" "When we had arrived at the place of execution, I found it difficult to open the door of the coach." "Then Maximilian, being impatient, leaped out of the window, knocking off his hat." "He handed me the crucifix, embracing me. He also embraced Miramon and Mejia, distributed some gold coins among the soldiers who were to shoot him, and then, in a strong voice pronounced in Spanish these words: 'I forgive everybody and I forgive myself, may forgive me, and I desire that my blood, which is going to be shed, may be for the good of Mexico. Long live Mexico! Long live her independence!'" "Immediately he placed his hand on his forehead, and the spot for the soldiers to take aim at. Then the drums sounded, and in the presence of the 4,000 soldiers assembled it was proclaimed that whoever should raise his hand against the emperor would be punished by death. The emperor was made to suffer the same penalty. Not a murmur was heard among the immense crowd standing behind the troops.

"At a given signal the three platoons fired, and Miramon and Mejia fell dead at once, but Maximilian did not die at the first discharge and uttered three groans. Then they gave him the coup de grace." The priest Soriano denied that Maximilian, in the legend goes, gave the post of honor at the execution to Miramon, saying: "A brave man merits the respect of his sovereign; take the place of honor." The placing of the condemned by accident, thus a picturesque legend is dispelled.

The Indian and his Canoe. What ponies are to the plains Indians, so are canoes to the shore dwellers of the Pacific. They are the universal vehicles of locomotion and livelihood. In all Alaskan waters there are three horses, and one of these is said to be a mule. Beyond the limits of compact populations there are no roads, excepting foot trails over the mountains, only the interminable waterways through uncharted forests and long rivers which penetrate far into the land; and the Indian who wishes to haul freight or travel, instead of hitching up his team, simply launches his canoe. These crafts are of several different patterns, but the distinctive type is quite like a batteau in outline, high and sharp at both ends, with a broad flare and an inordinate prolongation of prow, which is often ornamented with grotesque carvings of grotesque creatures, animals, birds or fishes.

They are westerly craft in a sea way, and none of them are decked over which is speaking testimony to the usual quiet mode of life. The largest are upwards of fifty feet in length, and are hewn from red cedar logs with great labor, being dug out with adzes to the required thickness, and then steamed by filling them with hot water, to give them their graceful curves, after which they are spread to their proper width and braced. They are usually painted black outside. Indian trails are found all along the coast, and lead to holes of timber where canoes have been built, and the valuable wood otherwise utilized for totem poles, and for carving and building purposes.

FARM NOTES.

MANURE SAVING.—The shape and management of the barn yard has a good deal to do with the matter. It should be of such a grade—made so, if necessary—that no water can stream in from the outside, and none to be drawn from within. Cleanliness in the manure yard, so to speak, should be brought to the waste straw, corn stalks and other fodder, and the manure of the stable, all to become thoroughly mixed together. The straw stack can be located in the center of the yard, and the cattle are allowed to run in the same inclosure in all pleasant weather, the scatterings from the stack will be quite evenly distributed. If toward spring it is not all yet under foot, this matter can be facilitated by cutting it down or pitching it off from the top. Manure spread over the yard in the way indicated will keep its strength better than any other method on piles outside the stable windows to ferment and lose its vital principle of ammonia. In the yard the manure is kept from too great fermentation by the moisture of the liquids, and the tramping of the cattle, thus improving its quality for crops without loss. By this course such an unpleasant and unprofitable thing as a dried out, fine fragrant manure heap is unknown.

HOW HORSES SLEEP.—Horses get most rest standing, provided the position be reasonably easy, but no full rest except recumbent. It is known of some horses that they never lie down, and still, though if kept in pasture they take their rest habitually in a recumbent position. It is well to consider whether this habit has not been forced upon the horse by some circumstance, and if so, it should be removed. It is well to consider whether this habit has not been forced upon the horse by some circumstance, and if so, it should be removed. It is well to consider whether this habit has not been forced upon the horse by some circumstance, and if so, it should be removed.

FISH—BROWN STEW.—Cut up about two pounds of fish and put it in a basin, and pour over it a little vinegar, black pepper, salt, nutmeg, a few whole grains of allspice, and some cut green celery and parsley. Now slice thin three large onions, put them in a frying pan, and let them brown. Then let them cook until soft; then remove the cover and brown the onions nicely and cut up, and let them stew together for a short time. Then add the fish and mix with the fish. Put all into a tin baking-pan and bake in the oven until it is nicely browned and thoroughly cooked. Some thin slices of raw potato added will do well for this dish if fat fish is liked.

APPLE MIRROR.—Take a dozen or two of a moderately acid apple, and press the seeds out of it, and cut into rather thin slices the round of the apple, having previously taken out the cores. Spread a little apricot, quince or pear marmalade in the bottom of the dish in which it is to be served, and which must not be too large a one, as it will have to stand in another dish to go to table. Place the slices of apples lying one over the other round the dish, and then fill the center with the marmalade, and so on until the dish is full. Lay another layer of marmalade to keep the apples in their places, then another row of apples, and so on until the dish is full. Lay another layer of marmalade to keep the apples in their places, then another row of apples, and so on until the dish is full.

MILK FOR YOUNG STOCK.—Experiments have been made at the Wisconsin Experiment Station, and the results are very interesting. A mixture of skimmed milk and of corn meal and water for young pigs. Two lots, each of two Poland China pigs, eight to ten days old at the beginning of the experiment, were fed with twenty-five days' feeding on milk and some clover alone, while we will call lot A, gained fifty and one half pounds. In the same time the other lot—we will call it lot B, on a ration of corn meal and clover, gained forty-two and three-fourths pounds. Under the condition of feeding as to the two lots of pigs was reversed. Lot B, first fed on corn meal, was now given the skimmed milk, and gained seventy-nine pounds. Lot A was likewise changed to corn meal instead of milk as at first, and the gain to these was but sixty-one and one half pounds in the same time, showing conclusively the greater value of skimmed milk over the other for young stock. These results are not strange, however, as we think of it that milk is the most natural food of all young animals.

CORN FODDER.—Say the corn fodder. The present condition of the crop gives special emphasis to the charge of waste this year. The corn crop has escaped injury from frost, and only in a few localities have the blades been injured by drought. Generally the foliage remains remarkably green nearly to the ground, while the ear is almost perfectly ripe. In this condition a very large amount of excellent fodder can be saved without injuring the grain in the least. The present condition of the crop gives special emphasis to the charge of waste this year. The corn crop has escaped injury from frost, and only in a few localities have the blades been injured by drought. Generally the foliage remains remarkably green nearly to the ground, while the ear is almost perfectly ripe. In this condition a very large amount of excellent fodder can be saved without injuring the grain in the least.

MANGE IN HORSES.—Mange is of two kinds; one of an animal parasite, a small insect on acorns, which burrows in the skin, and a plant which grows upon the surface and sends its roots under it, causing much irritation and destroying the hair. The latter kind is destroyed by a caustic application mixed with oil or grease, such as lard. The skin is first softened by washing with warm water and soap, and is then dried. The caustic is then applied, and the horse is kept in a warm place for a few days. The caustic is then applied, and the horse is kept in a warm place for a few days.

CELESTINE may be most cheaply bleached by putting it in a solution of soda, and allowing it to grow with only a little banking of earth around the tile to keep it in place.

HOUSEHOLD.

FISH—WHITE STEW.—For this you want one and a half to two pounds of halibut steak, or of any other nice fish in season. Put about one and a half pint of boiling water in a porcelain or enameled pan, with a little salt and a little onion and put it into the water with a little powdered ginger, a small quantity of red pepper and salt. The onion is nearly cooked put in the fish to boil. When sufficiently cooked take out the fish and onion and place them on a platter. Then take one teacupful of liquid in which the fish has been boiled, strain and add to it some chopped parsley, a little nutmeg, and the juice of one and a half or two lemons, according to their size. Have beaten up, during the boiling of the fish, three eggs, and add these to the cupful of liquid when the latter has been spiced and described. Stir all the while to prevent curdling. Now put this mixture back into a porcelain or bright tin sauce-pan, which place on the fire, stirring all the time until the liquid attains about the consistency of cream. Be careful not to allow it to boil, even for a moment, for if you do it will surely curdle. When it is done pour it over the fish and mix with the fish. Put all into a tin baking-pan and bake in the oven until it is nicely browned and thoroughly cooked. Some thin slices of raw potato added will do well for this dish if fat fish is liked.

Three things to hate: Cruelty, arrogance and ingratitude.

The word impossible is the mother-tongue of little souls.

Gravity is only the bark of wisdom, but it serves to preserve it.

The most miserable creature among all mankind is the confirmed desyptic, who always looks as though life had no charms left for him; and yet the very worst of this class may be brought back to health and happiness by using VINEGAR BITTERS, a remedy that even the most skeptical modern physicians are beginning to use in their practice.

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A YOUNG Postmaster of a village Post Office was hard at work, and a gentleman sat heard upon the door and in stepped a bashful maiden of 16 with a money order, which she desired cashed. She handed it to the official with a bashful smile, and after a moment's examining it, handed her the money he called for. At the same time he asked her if she had read what was written on the margin of the order.

"No, I have not," she replied, "for I cannot take it out. Will you please read it for me?"

"I send you \$3 and a dozen kisses." Glancing at the bashful girl, he said: "Now, I have paid you the money and I suppose you want the kisses?"

"Yes," she said, "if he has sent me any kisses I want them, too."

Three things to govern: Temper, tongue and conduct.

There is a qualitative test for butter so simple that any house wife can put it into successful practice. A clean piece of white paper is prepared with a little of the suspected butter. The paper is then rolled up and set on fire. If the butter is pure the smell of the burning paper is rather pleasant; but the odor is distinctly tallowy if the "butter" is made up wholly or in part of animal fat.

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"I UNDERSTAND the old man does not want you to come to see his daughter," said one young fellow to another. "That's the state of the case, but I went all the same."

"No?" "Was there last night." "Did he kick?" "Some." "Much?"

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