



CHAPTER IV.—(Continued.)

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The Largest Oak in the World.

Two young trees, raised from the acorns, have recently been planted near the famous old oak at Cowthorpe, England. The ancient tree, which is more than fifty feet in girth, and is believed to be the largest oak in existence, is so decayed that it is feared it cannot stand much longer.

Simplest Effects of Cold.

A bar of lead cooled to a point about 80 degrees Fahrenheit below zero, according to the experiments of M. P. Curie, gives off, when struck, a pure musical note. Solid metal, at the same temperature, is also resonant, while a coil of magnesium wire vibrates like a steel spring.

Condensed Fuel.

One difficulty in the way of utilizing the great peat-beds of Germany for heating purposes has been the great bulkiness of the material. But now, thanks to the discovery of a new method, it is possible to reduce the bulk of the peat to one-tenth of its original volume, without losing any of its stored-up energy of heat.

Cuba's Great Forests.

According to a recent consular report, Cuba, although its entire area is only about equal to that of the State of Pennsylvania, contains, according to the same report, a forest area of 18,000,000 acres of primeval forest, "where the woodman's axe has never been heard."

Scientific Cattle.

Men of science sometimes make extraordinary demands upon the skill of instrument-makers. An interesting illustration is furnished by the instrument called the "microtome," the purpose of which is to cut exceedingly thin slices, or sections, of various substances, such as animal or vegetable tissues, for microscopic examination. Microtomes have recently been invented, which, it is claimed, can cut successive sections of a specimen, one after another, without the need of any special skill on the part of the operator.

Victims of Science.

"We have so many in the family that there's really no privacy for a girl who is just engaged."

"What do you do?"

"Well, we've been going up on the roof and looking over a little at the city and our backs to the big chimney. But we can't sit there any more."

"Why not?"

"Well, a man came to George yesterday and offered him a photograph. George looked at it and said, 'That's a picture of me as I was when I was a boy.' The man said, 'Just tell me how in the world you managed to get that photograph? What do you think the witch said?'

Man's Speech to Brutes.

The story of the farmer in the "Arabian Nights" who could understand the language of the animals and fowls in his barn-yard probably had its origin in the ancient myth which asserted that in primitive times men and beasts were able to converse together. In truth, as everybody knows, there are certain sounds, or words, which horses, dogs and other animals can be taught to understand; and, on the other hand, some of the sounds uttered by domestic animals have a meaning which man can understand. Of course all this is quite a different thing from language, and yet it has a certain scientific interest. Recently Dr. H. C. Bolton has discussed "the language used in talking to domestic animals." He shows how we unconsciously attempt to lower our language by abbreviations, etc., to the comprehension of brutes, very much as when we talk to young children. A curious fact is that the peculiar "click" and "chirp" used to start and to hasten the movements of horses are employed in very widely separated parts of the world, but sometimes in a reversed sense. In India, for instance, those sounds are used to stop instead of to start horses.

Joke in Spanish Grove.

The humor of the practical joker is the country town, for any addition to the common fund of conversational material is as welcome as a rain after a dry spell. In some towns it is deemed a merry jest to steal another man's bicycle. In others it is to take a horse, some one who is in the joke, and invite the victim to help spend the money. The amusement derived from this proceeding has diminished for several weeks.

Charles Keen Capped It.

When Charles Keen was playing the part of Richard III, his fearful grimaces in character paralyzed all the other actors with fright, much to his amusement.

On one occasion a new man had to take the part of the sentinel who awoke Richard. When asked, "Who is there?" he had to say, "I am I, the village cock hawk twice perched on the hour of morning."

By this time there was a decided titter all over the house, and Keen said, "Then why the mischief don't you crow?" he needed to say, brought down the house.—Tribune.

down, and the better to catch the eye of the crowd. He was adorned with a large sign:

These Hats are going for a song.

Lon Jones, arch wag of Squash Grove, happened to pass the hat shortly afterward. He saw the sign, and his pace quickened.

Five minutes later he returned with half a dozen followers. Without an explanatory word they rushed up in front of the dealer where the proprietor was musing over his accounts. Without waiting for greetings, they began, allegro and fortissimo, that venerable relic of the primitive vaudeville stage he never came back.

His dozen followers saw nevertheless. But how happy they'll be. When they meet on that beautiful shore. No dialogue followed the completion of the order. The marauders rushed to the window, seized a hat apiece, and rushed into the street.

The cause of the atrocity was removed from the window at once, but when Squash Grove ceased to talk about the matter, the proprietor was forced to have passed away from the earth.

THE CANADIAN THISTLES.

Means Recommended for the Destruction of These Insects of Farmers.

The Canadian thistle is one of the most troublesome of farmers' foes. Its worst feature is that ordinary cultivation does not destroy it, only makes it multiply the faster and it is propagated both from the root and by seeds. The plant is usually in bloom from June to September. Mowing at this time is a check, but not an eradicator. The roots should be taken, however, to burn the plants down, else they will ripen on the ground. The Oregon station recommends frequent deep plowing, which will nearly always destroy the thistle in shallow, dry soils, but in light, moist soils the roots will fall.

Wherever a dense soil can be formed, seedling will be found the easiest means of destruction, though not so rapid as plowing, hoeing, salting or burning, where these means are available. On rich bottom lands or in land filled with stumps, a grass sod will be found the best destroyer. If the land is not rich enough to form a good sod manure it, the application of kerosene or strong brine to the roots, after cutting off the tops three or four inches below the crown with a spade, is effective and practicable in small patches.

In stony ground the scythe, salt, and sheeps will be found good destroying agents. If the thistles are in the fence rows, more the fence and the grass, and the thistles will be found the easiest means of destruction, though not so rapid as plowing, hoeing, salting or burning, where these means are available. On rich bottom lands or in land filled with stumps, a grass sod will be found the best destroyer. If the land is not rich enough to form a good sod manure it, the application of kerosene or strong brine to the roots, after cutting off the tops three or four inches below the crown with a spade, is effective and practicable in small patches.

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A NEW REPUBLIC.

South American States Have Formed a Federation.

Quietly and unostentatiously the great republic of Central America has become an accomplished fact. The first step was taken a year or more ago, when Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua united in a confederation for mutual defense. Now Costa Rica and Guatemala have joined it, and a new republic is complete. It would have been still better had the confederation been established half a century ago and thereby developed the resources of the five countries as they should have been and also prevented a score of miserable civil wars and revolutions brought about by ambitious and corrupt military adventurers. They naturally should be under one authority so far as their national policy is concerned, and now that this has been accomplished there is little doubt it will tend toward conditions of peace and order in domestic affairs.

The new republic will possess considerable strength. Its population will be a little over three million, and its area will be 185,225 square miles. The area will be 185,225 square miles, divided as follows: Guatemala, 63,400; Costa Rica, 22,000; Salvador, 7,225; Honduras, 45,000; and Nicaragua, 47,600. As compared with North America, the new republic is small. It is only about one-tenth the size of the United States, and its population is only about one-tenth that of the United States.

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REV. DR. TALMAGE.

An Eloquent Dissertation on the Sin of Gambling—An Invidious Vice Whose Victims Are the Thousands—May Be Saved by Grace of God.

Text: "Who unto that sin, as it were with a cart rope."—Isaiah 7:25.

There are some intemperities that only nibble at the heart. After a lifetime of their work the man still stands upright, respected and honored. These vices have not strongly enough to gnaw through a man's character. But there are other intemperities that gnaw through a man's character and leave him a mere husk of a man and blind him with things forever. There are some intemperities that have such great emphasis of evil that he who commits them may be said to sin as with a cart rope. I suppose you know how they make a great rope. The stuff of which it is fashioned is nothing but the sin of which you are guilty. The sin of which you are guilty is nothing but the sin of which you are guilty. The sin of which you are guilty is nothing but the sin of which you are guilty.

I speak to you of the sin of gambling. A gambler is a man who is not content with the small things of this world, but who wishes to draw upon the influence of the small things of this world. This is the sin of which you are guilty. The sin of which you are guilty is nothing but the sin of which you are guilty. The sin of which you are guilty is nothing but the sin of which you are guilty.

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