

MODERN GIANTS.

VERY TALL PEOPLE ARE SAID TO BE BECOMING SCARCE.

The Heaviest Giant Was an American and the Tallest an Austrian—Other Giants—A Tall Couple.

Complaints are frequently made by men in the freak business that giants are becoming scarcer every year. This is to be taken with a good deal of allowance, although it is true that dwarfs are more numerous, as undersized men are more frequently met with than men above the average height.

It is perhaps not generally known that the heaviest giant of whom we have any authentic record was a native of this country. Miles Darden was born in North Carolina in 1798, and died in Tennessee January 23, 1857. He was seven feet two inches in height, and at the time of his death his weight was upward of 1000 pounds.

Another old-time Western giant was Charles Freeman, of Michigan, who somewhere in the '40s visited England and was put into the ring as a prize fighter, his adversary being William Perry, who afterward became champion of England. Freeman was of enormous strength and measured eight feet in height and three feet across the shoulders.

The recent death of Colonel Ruth Goshen removed one of the largest and best proportioned giants ever exhibited in America. At the time of his death, which occurred at his home in Clyde, N. J., from dropsy, his weight was something over 600 pounds, and during his last illness it required the services of four men with a hoisting apparatus to turn him in bed.

Among other giants of modern times perhaps the most intelligent, and certainly one of the most gentlemanly, was Colonel Orr, who died some seven years ago. He will be remembered by many who witnessed his performance in "Jack the Giant Killer," a drama which was presented by Colonel Orr and a company of Lilliputians and attracted much attention.

Colonel Orr was seven feet four inches in height and weighed 520 pounds. At the time of his death he was a Royal Arch Mason and a Knight of Pythias. The Chinese giant, Chang Won Gow, was doubtless the tallest man ever exhibited in America. He claimed to be eight feet two inches high, but lacked the fine proportions of some of his predecessors.

According to an English newspaper, however, the Chinese anomaly cannot rightly claim this pre-eminence in stature, since there appeared in London some three years ago a giant, who far surpassed any other whose height has been recorded in modern times. This giant was an Austrian by birth named Weinkelmeier, and his height was eight feet nine inches.

The successor of Chang, with Mr. Barnum's show in 1855, was a Norwegian named Brustod, who was only a few inches shorter than Chang, but considerably below him in intelligence and accomplishments. He spoke English fairly well, however, and was very muscular, though not more fleshy than his Chinese contemporary.

Of all modern giants, however, Captain Martin Van Buren Bates, of Kentucky, and his wonderful wife, are the most interesting. Captain Bates's weight has been given at 496 pounds, and his height at 7 feet 11 1/2 inches.

writer, who met him a few years ago in private life, describes him as dressing neatly in black and wearing a massive gold chain and watch, presented to him by Queen Victoria; a brilliant diamond in his shirt-bosom, and a fashionable collar and scarf. His face was ruddy and healthy looking, and his smile pleasant and winning.

When in England, in 1875, Capt. Bates met the famous English giantess, Miss Anna Swan, to whom he was soon married. Mrs. Bates was exactly the same height as her husband, and, together, they made a handsome pair. Her weight at that time was a little over 400 pounds and her form was very charmingly proportioned.

A reporter who visited the giant couple at their residence in Seville, Ohio, several years ago, gives a vivid picture of the domicile of these mammoth people: "It is a difficult matter to convey an adequate idea of the proportions of such a dwelling as the one occupied by the Ohio giants. A door that is six feet six inches high is a large-sized opening in the side of a house—that is, a dwelling house, not a cathedral. But the door of the domicile of the Bates giants are ten feet high, and the knobs are nearly as high as the reporter's head. The house was built by Captain Bates in 1876, and is elegantly furnished. The couch upon which the big couple sleep was made especially for them, and is a curiosity to look at.

It is extensive enough to give the great big people room enough to stretch in, and it looks as big as an ordinary-sized floor. It is really ten feet long, wide in proportion, and about twice as high as a common bed. The magnificent dressing case is also a huge affair, with a glass upon it nearly as big as the side of a house. In the sitting-room is a piano of ordinary size itself, but it is mounted on blocks two feet high, so that the instrument is away up in the air, out of the reach of common folks. There are two rocking chairs in this room that are so big that the reporter had to climb into one of them the same as an infant would clamber into a high chair.

It is very expensive for the giants to live, as they have to pay such exorbitant prices for everything they wear. For instance, it costs the Captain \$30 for a pair of boots. It is a most astonishing sight to come across the two giants out for a drive. City folks who have seen the ponderous wagons with wheels reaching to the second story of a house, used to haul stones weighing tons and tons, can form an idea of the vehicle used. It is pulled by six stout Norman horses, and it is enough to make a man think he has got 'em sure to suddenly meet such a spectacle on the road out in the country.

Passing wagons have to let the rails down and drive into the adjoining fields until the giants go by."—New York News.

The Finest Fishing Sport in the World.

Robert Grant, in an article on "Tarpon Fishing in Florida," published in Scribner's, says: Tarpon fishing is, in my opinion, the most magnificent fishing sport in the world.

I understand that veterans at it now refuse to take up the anchor, after taking a fish, preferring to part company rather than not to bring him to the boat by force of rod and reel only. As compared with salmon fishing, the vast difference in the size of the two fish is a vital factor on the side of the Silver King. Anglers with but slight experience have at least an equal chance of saving a salmon, but what accomplished fisherman expects to land more than one tarpon in three? If a salmon were equal to a tarpon in weight, and still retained proportionately its activity, it might be a more formidable antagonist; but forty pound salmon are rare, whereas 120 pounds is not much more than the average weight of a tarpon—which shows the futility of such an argument.

The manner of fighting is practically the same as regards running and leaping; the tarpon does not sulk as the salmon is so fond of doing, nor, so far as my experience goes does he double up on the angler, which, of course is an interesting trait in the salmon. Nor, indeed, are the surroundings of a tarpon fisherman to be compared with the beautiful scenery and picturesque life on a Canadian salmon river. Bait is a dirty substitute for the trig fly, and the monotony of listless waiting palls on one accustomed to repeated casting. But all the same, any one who has hooked and landed a tarpon can well afford to smile at the enthusiasm of any other fisherman in creation. Try it for yourself and see.

Mankind's Average Age.

The average age at which mankind dies is now forty years, and is steadily on the increase. The United States, despite the talk about the rapidity with which the Americans wear themselves out, forges ahead of every other nation on earth in respect to the longevity of its citizens, fifty-five years being the average here. Of all the nations of Europe Russia is the most of a favorite with the death angel.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

The diamond is carbon crystallized. The old idea of igniting gun cartridges by electricity is again being revived. Extensive experiments are about to be begun for the precipitation of sewage by electricity.

A big piece of ice in a tub of water will lower the temperature of your room fifteen degrees. In using fire hose pipe there is a loss of ten to twenty-five pounds pressure to every hundred feet of hose.

Rooms occupied by consumptives should be thoroughly cleaned, floor, walls and ceilings, at least once a week.

At the new shooting grounds in Brussels electricity has been introduced to record the results of shots at the different ranges.

Dr. Gradenigo, of the University of Padua, has successfully transplanted the cornea from the eye of a barn fowl into the human eye.

Lime has of late been used to draw frost out of the ground. It is wet slightly and covered over with blankets and other non-conducting materials.

New York now manufactures an imitation of every mineral water of any merit, and these are bottled, labeled, and sent out as though coming from the different springs.

Wheatstone concluded that electricity traveled at the rate of 288,000 miles per second, and Maxwell considered it to travel at or about the same speed as that of light.

From the large Popp compressed air station in Paris, it is proposed leading distributing conduits to smaller stations, each of which will be equipped with compressed air engines intended to drive continuous current dynamos.

One of the largest leather belts ever made is on exhibition in Boston. It is 153 feet 7 inches long, 46 inches wide, double thickness, and weighs 1423 pounds. The hides of sixty-five animals were used for its manufacture.

From Norway we hear of a curious telephonic experiment, where a physician, being a distance of one hundred miles from home, talked to his dog, an English setter, through the telephone, the dog showing his understanding by a series of barks.

A French manufacturing firm has patented an alloy of steel with two to four per cent. of copper. It is more elastic and malleable than simple steel, and capable of far greater resistance. It is intended for cannon, armor-plates, rifle-barrels and projectiles.

Even rain water may not be absolutely harmless. An epidemic presenting hitherto unknown symptoms broke out at Rio de Janeiro last March, and Dr. Domingoe Fréire has been led to suspect a poisonous principle washed down from the atmosphere as the cause.

A Story About Wild Bill.

Captain Harry Horn of the Oklahoma show tells a story of Wild Bill, the notorious western desperado. Captain Horn was a deputy sheriff under Bill, and was in the saloon in Deadwood, Dakota, with him when he was killed. Bill was playing poker and was looking over a hand when his murderer stepped behind him, deliberately put a revolver to his head, and blew his brains out. Bill was killed almost instantly, but before he toppled from his chair dead he managed to throw his cards down, get both his pistols out, and cock them. Such marvellous quick action almost passes belief.

Chicago News.

Pencils Made of Paper.

One of the difficulties which have stood in the way of the substitution of paper pulp for wood in the manufacture of pencils has been the toughness of the paper covering, and its consequent resistance to the action of a knife. By a new process the molecular cohesion of the paper, it is claimed, is modified in such a manner that it can be cut as readily as cedar wood. After the completion of the process the pencils are gradually dried at increasing temperature during a period of six days, and they are then plunged into a vessel of molten paraffine wax, which has the effect of modifying the texture of the paper pulp in the manner described.

Tokio, Japan, has a society of sculptors which comprises 630 members.

Summer Weakness

is quickly overcome by the tonic, reviving and blood-purifying qualities of Hood's Sarsaparilla. This popular medicine drives off that tired feeling and cures sick headache, dyspepsia, serofalia, and all humors. Thousands testify that Hood's Sarsaparilla "makes the weak strong."

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Sold by all druggists. \$1.16 for 24. Prepared only by C. I. HOOD & CO., Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass.

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Don't let that beautiful girl fade and droop into invalidism or sink into an early grave for want of timely care at the most critical stage of her life. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription will aid in regulating her health and establishing it on a firm basis and may save her years of chronic suffering and consequent unhappiness.

A more pleasant physic Than ever will find Than Purge's small "Pellets," The Purgative kind.

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Ingham University, Le Roy, N. Y., established over fifty years, offers superior advantages in its Literary, Music and Art Departments. Excellent home. Attention given to social culture. Rates moderate. Send for catalogue. Address Miss R. M. Webster, Principal.

GUTHRIE, Oklahoma, has already floated a \$20,000 municipal loan.

All who use Dobbin's Electric Soap praise it as the best, cheapest and most economical facial soap made; but if you will try it once it will tell a still stronger tale of its merits itself. Please try it. Your grocer will supply you.

The English sparrows have almost exterminated the wrens, Orioles and meadow larks.

Taking it altogether there never was a time when our country was enjoying greater prosperity than at the present moment, and yet there are thousands of people in the land who are tussling and turning about hard times. No doubt but what many of them are honest in their complaints, and it is often because they have not found the right kind of work or the right way to do it. Now, if business is not moving along with you satisfactorily, take our advice and write to B. F. Johnson & Co., Richmond, Va. It is more than likely that they can help you, at any rate, it would cost you nothing but a postage stamp to apply to them.

Beets Wanted.

Information is wanted of the whereabouts of Johanna Wilson, daughter of Mark Sweeney, wife of Thomas Wilson, born in Limerick Co., Ireland. She is living, heir to an estate, dead, her children or next of kin are wanted. Address, W. J. Covill, Webster City, Iowa.

Old smokers prefer "Tanfill's Punch" Cigar to most 10-centers.

Inflicted with sore eyes use Dr. Isaac Thomas's Eye-water. Druggists sell at 25c. per bottle.

DR. KOHLER'S FAVORITE COLIC MIXTURE for all domestic animals, will cure 99 out of every 100 cases of colic, whether flatulent or spasmodic. Rarely more than 1 or 2 doses necessary. It does not constitute, rather acts as a laxative and is entirely harmless. After 30 years of trial in more than 5000 cases, our guarantee is worth something. Colic must be treated promptly. Expense a few cents and you have a cure on hand, ready to use when you have a valuable horse. If not at your druggist's, enclose 2 cents for sample bottle, sent prepaid.

Use Dr. Kohler's FAVORITE COLIC MIXTURE. It is the best colic medicine I have ever seen. ISAAC MOORE, Horse Dealer, Brooklyn, New York.

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Shoes without W. L. DOUGLAS' name and price are stamped on them, do not do deceived thereby, but send direct to the Factory, for you can get what you want by return mail, postage paid. Dealers make more profit on unknown shoes that are not warranted by anybody.

W. L. DOUGLAS \$3 SHOE FOR GENTLEMEN

It is a fine seamless calf shoe, with Douglas tops and leather bottoms. They are made in Congress, Button and Lace on London Cap Toe, Narrow Cap Toe and Plain French Toe Lasts, in sizes from 5 to 11, including half sizes, and in all widths. If you have been paying from \$5 to \$8 for shoes of this quality do not do so longer. One pair will wear as long as two pairs of cheap shoes sold by dealers that are not warranted by the manufacturer.

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Both Ladies' Shoes are made in sizes from 1 to 7, including half sizes, and B, C, D, E and EE widths. STYLES OF LADIES' SHOES. "The French Opera," "The Spanish Arch Opera," "The American Common Sense," "The Medium Common Sense." All made in Button in the Latest Styles. Also French Opera in Front Laces, on \$3 Shoe only.

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