A MATRIMONIAL AUCTION SALE AMONG SOUTH SEA ISLANDERS.

Girls Are Secluded for Years and Then Sold to the Highest Bidder -Fat Girls in Demand.

Fat Girls in Demand.

Every New British community is sharply divided into two clans, known respectively as the Maramara and the Pikalaba. They are most intimately associated in all the business and pleasure of life, they live in the same houses, in fact, no household can exist without having representatives of each clan. That there may never be any doubt of the clan to which any particular individual belongs the device of the clan is prominently displayed in tattooed lines upon his back and breast. Far from being a division of the community, these two clans tend toward its closer union, for no person may marry a member of his own clan, but must choose from the other. This plan is still further complicated by the subdivision of each clan into four co-ordinate groups which complicated by the subdivision of each clan into four co-ordinate groups which are named respectfully after some fish, plant, bird or beast. The natural object whose name is borne by each group, becomes in some sort its totem and in tattooing upon the body and in rude carving upon the doorway is displayed as a device. The group in each clan which bear a kindred device are looked upon as too closely related to allow of intermarriage closely related to allow of intermarriage between members of each although their clans are indistinct. Likewise the individual must not marry into the group of either parent or one cognate therewith in the other clan. This may seem far from clear—a concrete example will serve for illustration. Remember that there can be no doubt about the clan and group of any individual for the work current. of any individual, for the most cursory glance at his body will at once show his

position. Lumie we will take for example, a young man who has built humself a house, who owns a whole fishing net and has the equity of a yam plantation or so and many cocoanuts. His house seems lonely and he wants a wife. This is how he goes to work. His own father belonged to the Pikalaba clan and the fish group, his mother was a Maramara of the plant group; thus, he, inheriting nothing from his father and everything from his mother, is likewise a Maramara plant. He is therefore debarred from marriage with any member of a plant or fish group, but must restrict his choice to the Pikalaba birds and beasts, say to one fourth of the girl population of his town. This is indeed no great hardship to him, for he has known from his earliest child-hood that some of the maidens were positively prohibited to him, and by the the time his thoughts bend toward matrimony he must have become rematrimony he must have become re-signed to his fate and is prepared to confine his attentions to every fourth girl. A young man so prosperous as Lumie seems to be could not be expected to mate with any but the daughter of a family equally as wealthy as his own. The poorer girls whom he will see about the town may become wives to him, but they must wait until he has made selections of his chief wife and then they without any cere-mony are summoned to take the minor positions, which are in little different trom slavery. But of the maidens of high degree he has no view, for they are all carefully caged at their seminary in the bush under the protection of the dread table. Hope a morning cayly the women tabu. Upon a morning early the women of the town are in commotion; they have learned through some mysterious channel that a girl will on that day be brought home from her seclusion of from six to eight years. Who the debutante may be they do not know, but they gleefully spread their news about the town. All plans must yield to the great; the fishers on this day draw no nets, the warriors grant one day's respite to the towns on either hand—all busy themselves with guessing who it is whose education has been completed and in absurb speculation as to what she will fetch. As the sun climbs high and nearer to its midday point the villagers flock out along the path which leads to the girls' retreat and crowd about the latticed hedge from which dangle the cloth streamers and fillet or hair which mark the tabu; well to the front will be found a way and any others who way he read. in the village, and nods and speaks to those whose faces are yet familiar after her long absence. She sits upon a small mat before her father's door to receive her friends, and at her side sits her guardian, who now and again conde-scends to a gratified smile when one and another compliment her upon the fatness of her charge. Meanwhile a feast is prepar-ing in the house behind her, to which all the village is invited. In the high post of honor sits the maiden just about to make her entry into the world of so-ciety, thus placed on exhibition that her chance of finding a husband may be better. The morning after the feast she is put up at auction on the village green. The bidding begins at two pigs, for that is the amount which has been expended upon her education; pig by pig it runs up to seven or eight and then, if Lumie has any exprest competitor, it may creen.

as nine pigs a girl must be very fat and be furthermore the daughter of a man wealthy enough to be a chief; seven pigs is a high figure and few run over six. But if the amount realized by the auction does not satisfy the father of the property sold he can show his scorn of the higher education of women by quietly throttling the schoolmistress.

These new British marriages are more matters of bargain and sale, sale, too, by

These new British marriages are more matters of bargain and sale, sale, too, by the public auctioneer. The buyer pays on many pigs or their equivalent in cowries or strings of shell money, he takes his purchase to his home and looks to her domestic services to make good the amount which he has paid. Such a system affords no room for any of the softer sentiments, it would seem; no such thing as love, it would appear, could exist where marriage is a mere matter of pigs. Yet husbands and wives in New Britain display great affection and are as true as though their marriage had been sol-

Yet husbands and wives in New Britain display great affection and are as true as though their marriage had been solemnized with the most elaborate vows.

After marriage the clan division is ceremonially perpetuated in the house, not to the extent of interfering with domestic harmony, but upon certain solemn occasions. The doorway is in the middle of one of the sides, the fire-place directly opposite on the other. Between the two a line is drawn; one side of the house is the husband's side, the other is the wife's. Each retains the individual ownership of their separate property; he keeps his possessions on his side the line, she on hers, and nothing is moved from one side to the other without an equivalent. The children belonging to each are said to be "in the door," and it is only as they grow up or in the event of the father's death that they definitely go over to the mother's side.—New Orleans Picayune. leans Picayune.

WISE WORDS.

Genius, pluck, endurance and faith can be resisted by neither kings nor cabi-

Generosity, wrong placed, becometh a vice; a princely mind will undo a private family

Sustained enthusiasm has been the motor of every movement in the progress of mankind.

What is birth to a man, if it shall be stain to his dead ancestors to have left

such an offspring.

Columbus stands deservedly at the head of that most useful band of men—The heroic cranks in history.

The persistent enthusiast whom one generation despises as a lunatic with one succeeding ones often worship as a benefactor.

Contentment is a pearl of great price, and whoever procures it at the expense of ten thousand desires, makes a wise and a happy purchase.

It is always a sign of poverty of mind, where men are ever aiming to appear great; for they who are really great never seem to know it.

It is the peculiarity of every individual that he wishes to be thought distinguished for something other than that upon which he has made his reputation.

It is in disputes, as in armies, where the weaker side sets up false lights, and makes a great noise, to make the enemy believe them more numerous and strong than they really are.

Caution in crediting, reserve in speaking, and in revealing one's self to very few, are the best securities both of peace and a good understanding with the world, and of the inward peace of our own

Intellectual effort in early years of life is very injurious. All labor of mind required of children before the seventh quired of children before the seventh year is in opposition to the laws of na-ture, and will prove injurious to the physical organization and prevent its proper and mature development.

The Original Buffalo Bill.

There is probably no better known name throughout the entire length and breadth of this country than that of Buffalo Bill, and at this time there are but few who do not know that William F. Cody is the bearer of the title. Mr. Cody, however, is not the original Buffalo Bill. There is nothing underhand or illegitimate in his bearing it. He is fully the tabu; well to the front will be found Lumie and any others who may be ready for marriage. Upon the other side of the slight bulwark people are heard moving about, and at the moment of high noon the guardian of the young girls appears and leads into view her charge, who perhaps would blush if she were not as black as a bag of soot. After one moment of interested inspection, a murmur of dissatisfaction arises from many of the young men, who find her to belong to a clan and group prohibited to them. But not from Lumie. He spies upon her breast the Pickalaba mark, and tatooed above it the outstretched wings of a bird; by this he knows that she is eligible. Led by the chief and by all the young men who seek to marry her, the the village, and nods and speaks to son's employ until the latter quit the business to settle down to a more quiet life. As a reward the employer turned over the hunting contracts to the employe, who then followed in his late master's footsteps. That he was successful, that he earned honor, fame and wealth for himself, cannot be denied when it is told that his name is William B. Cod. With the huntary rights he F. Cody. With the business rights he was given the title his employer had borne. The world knows he has kept it bright, and that neither stain nor tarnish has touched it.—Chicago Herald.

The Value of Life.

The statistics of the official Life Insurance Gazette show that Saxony leads the world in the percentage of suicides, her annual average being 337 per 1000 inhabitants. Next comes Denmark with and the seven or eight and then, if Lumie has any earnest competitor, it may creep slowly up now by a bid of an additional cowrie or a palm of shell money until nine pigs is reached and the girl is knocked down to the highest bidder. That is all the ceremony there is. Lumie drives his pigs to the house of his fatherin-law, leads the girl to his own house and she is his wife. To bring as much habitants. Next comes Denmark with 290; France, 150; Bavaria, 127; Turkey stands at the bottom of the list, with thirty-two self-destroyers to every million of inhabitants, but in neighboring Croatia that rate already rises forty, and in Hungaria to fifty-two. Measured by that criterion, over population would seem to be a ten times greater evil than despotism.—New York Voice.

SELECT SIFTINGS.

A talent of gold was \$13,800 A finger's breadth is equal to one inch. A cubit was nearly twenty-two inches. The area of New Orleans, La., is 2274

A Biblical shekel of silver was about

A hand's breadth is equal to three and five-eighth inches.

Canaries fed with cayenne pepper acquire a ruddy plumage.

The first American library was founded in Harvard College in 1638. There are 13,000 different kinds of

postage stamps in the world. Over 500 music leaf turners have been patented in the United States.

A petrified bat was recently discovered by railroad laborers in Arizona.

There are more farmers in the United More girl babies were born during 1863 and 1873 than in any ten years

A walrus hide weighs forty pounds, is one inch thick and as hard as an oak

The first newspaper printed in England was the *English Mercury*, issued in the reign of Queen Elizabeth.

A cigarette carelessly thrown aside caused the burning of 135 acres of wheat in California a few days ago.

Black ice cream is a new Philadelphia dainty. It is colored by the addition of charcoal and the juice of Turkish prunes. The Mongolian pheasants introduced into the State of Washington have increased largely, and are now thoroughly

At a depth of thirty-seven feet, at Springport, Ind., a vein of water was struck which gushes several feet above the surface and is clear and cool.

During a storm in St. Louis, Mo., a hailstone fell that was measured at the Signal Service station, and is said to have en nine inches in circumference.

Judge Gunto, of Pary, Fla., has a camphor tree on his place. The cold does not seem to injure it at all, and he believes the trees can be successfully raised.

A Frenchman has discovered how to make silk straight from the mulberry leaf without resorting to the silk worm. But it is inferior in richness and gloss to the present silk.

It is said that from the summit of Mount Blanc, Switzerland, one can see the Tyrol, portions of France, Germany and Austria, the Mediterranean and Italy as far as the Apennines.

The luckiest tenderfoot in the Leadville (Col.) mines was an Illinois farmer from the back districts, who, after prospecting in the mountains for three months started home with a bank account of

A postage stamp was recently found by a Connecticut physician in the ear of a little patient, and on its removal a severe pam, from which the child had suffered and which caused the visit to the doctor, disappeared. The finest Australian eucalyptus of its

age in California is probably one that grows on Alameda Creek, about thirty miles from San Francisco. Vick says that it is seventeen years old from the seed, and girths nine feet eight inches.

Among the immigrants landed at the Barge Office in New York city the other day was an Irishwoman seventy years old, whose face was adorned by a long, silky, curling mustache, two inches in length. She was in America nearly forty years ago.

Isaiah Powers, of Curtis, Neb., has an repair of Russian mulberry trees that are gifted with a second blossoming. The trees blossomed out nicely at their proper season this year, but frost completely destroyed the blossoms, and then the trees again bloomed.

The fastest time made by an American train is calculated to be 107 miles in ninety-three minutes net (or 107 miles in ninety-stree minutes net (or 107 miles in ninety-seven minutes, including four min-utes stoppage for water) on the Canadian division of the Michigan Central Rail-road, St. Clair Junction to Windsor, No-vember 16, 1886, and of 69.3 miles an

A Cab Driver's Joke.

There is an old story told of a London dandy who was so self-conceited that every time a "cabby" shouted "hansom" at him he took it as a compliment on his personal appearance and threw the fellow a "bob. A cab driver who has a stand at the Pennsylvania Railroad Ferry at West street heard the story, and is using its point in a way partly amusing and partly offensive. When the people are coming off the boats he takes his place in the line of shouting Jehus, and in a voice that rises high above the general din

"Hansom lady! Hansom lady!"
The fellow takes particular pains to accent the "hansom." The effect on the crowd is instantaneous. Everybody turns to see who is so demonstrative in his ad-miration. The sight of the livericd Jehu gives them the joke, and old as it is, though in a new dress, it generally causes a laugh. The objection to it is that many women, like the London dandy, take it personal remark, and naturally re-it as a piece of impertinence.—Neu York Times.



LUMBAGO, SPRAINS, Neuralgia, Swellings, Frost-bite
BRUISES. THE CHARLES A. VOGELER CO., Ball

"Griddling" the Beggar's Fad.

"Griddling" the Beggar's Fad.

Sunday begging appears to be growing popular and flourishing in Lambeth, a London suburb. Two sturdy fellows, Spinks and Wilkins by name, who were brought before Mr. Biron, belong to a gang of beggars who have introduced a little novelty into their professional calling by singing or shouting hymns in the streets on Sundays. To this system the name of "griddling" has been applied, and, according to the evidence, it is a paying line. The defendants had collected some pennies from passers-by in a very short time, and the "griddlers," it was stated, were known to boast, as they returned to their haunts in Deptford and Southwark, "how much they could make Southwark, "how much they could make in a few hours, and how they had gulled the benevolent."—New York Journal.

More diseases are produced by using brown and perfumed soaps than by anything else. Why run such terrible risks when you know Dobbins's Electric Soap is pure and perfect. Dobbins's prevents hands from chapping.

ALL the Governments of Europe are making active preparations for a general war. J. A. Johnson, Medina, N. Y., says: "Hall's Catarrh Cure cured me." Sold by Druggists, 75c.

FIFTEEN States have, within about three years, enacted Ballot Reform laws.

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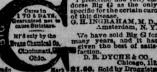
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