

SERPENT ENTERED THE EDEN OF PITCAIRN ISLAND.

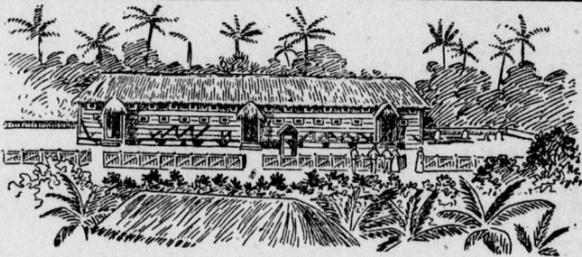
Double Murder Done in the Home of the Mutineers' Descendants— First Serious Crime in 110 Years.

For the first time in all its romantic history, Pitcairn Island has been the scene of a murder, says the New York Press. For nearly 110 years the mutineers of the Bounty and their descendants lived on Pitcairn an ideal existence. Then a young man named Christian, a descendant of the leader of the mutineers, killed a young woman and her little child and threw their bodies into one of the ocean caves. He wanted to get rid of the woman and child in order that he might marry another young woman on whom he had cast his eyes. The rulers of the island had decided that if he married any one it must be the young woman of whose child he was the father; that, in fact, he was to all intents and purposes the girl's husband. One evening Christian met the young woman and her child in the forest and killed them. He was suspected of the crime and accused, whereupon he confessed.

It was the first capital crime ever committed on the island, and the islanders were much excited over it.

Government to find the mutineers of the Bounty, all trace of them was lost until one day, many years after, when a sailing ship happened to find herself in the vicinity of Pitcairn Island, and sent a boat ashore for water and fruit. A curious, isolated civilized community was found there, living under the rule of a venerable patriarch, John Adams, the last survivor of the mutineers of the Bounty. Adams had taught the natives to read and write, and begged that missionaries be sent out to aid him in his work. From being wild and reckless mutineers, the sailors of the Bounty, before they died, became religious enthusiasts, and when they died they left a God-fearing community in their children and grandchildren.

For 110 years crime was practically unknown on Pitcairn Island. Then Harry A. Christian murdered a young woman and her year-and-a-half-old child. It was the first serious crime that had ever been committed on the island. Christian met the woman and child walking in the bush one Sunday



PARLIAMENT HOUSE, ON PITCAIRN ISLAND.

[The windows are double rows of portholes, and the supporting timbers are the only relics of the Bounty.]

The British Government was asked to send to the place some one with judicial authority to try the murderer. From officers of the British man-of-war Royalist information has been received of the trial, by a special commissioner sent out for the purpose.

Though the settlement of Pitcairn Island was the result of a crime, the descendants of the original settlers have lived in an ideal state of tranquility and brotherly love. The people were religious, and such lures of the evil one as intoxicating liquors and tobacco were not allowed to be brought to the island. For over a hundred years Pitcairn Island lay sleeping in the warm waters of the South Pacific, and its people feared



THE PITCAIRN ISLAND MURDERER.

God, kept the Commandments and were happy.

The crime which was responsible for the settlement of Pitcairn Island was the mutiny of the crew of the British warship Bounty in 1789. That mutiny was led by Fletcher Christian, master's mate of the ship. The first murderer of Pitcairn Island was Harry A. Christian, a descendant of Fletcher Christian. When, under the lead of Fletcher Christian, the crew of the Bounty seized that ship, they put the captain, Bligh, and certain others who had refused to join them, into an open boat and set them adrift. The captain and his party, after a severe and hazardous experience, reached Timor Island, in the South Pacific,

evening, and killed them in cold blood. After dark he returned to the scene of his crime to drag the bodies down the steep face of a cliff to the rocks below, where he threw them through a "blow-hole" into a cove where the pounding surges of the Pacific soon tore them to pieces. The murderer, when accused, confessed his crime, and it is believed that his object was to be free to marry another young woman of the island with whom he had fallen in love, and for permission marry whom he had applied unsuccessfully to the "parliament" of the island.

The island parliament is an executive committee of seven members, presided over by a president. The parliament and the president are elected by popular vote, the women voting as well as the men. All the inhabitants of the island are descendants of the mutineers of the Bounty and of native women found there, except one family, and that is a family the head of which is named Coffin, and, of course must have sprung from Nantucket. There are 141 souls on the island, and the families are five in number. They are the Christians, the Youngs, the McCoy's, the Buffets and the Coffins. The president of the island is named McCoy. The Queen of England is the "over-lord" of the island, and in the island church is an organ which she sent out to her "loving subjects of Pitcairn Island in appreciation of their domestic virtues," according to the silver plate on the organ. But England seldom interferes with anything concerning the Government of Pitcairn.

When Christian had confessed his crime, however, President McCoy called a meeting of his "parliament," and, as there was no precedent by which to be guided, it was decided to imprison the young man and appeal to England to send out and try him. So the man-of-war Royalist was sent to Suva in the Fiji Islands to get the British "Judicial Commissioner for the Western Pacific." The commissioner went to Pitcairn in the Royalist and Christian was tried before him and convicted, though he repudiated his confession and pleaded not guilty. He was taken to Suva "for final satisfaction of the demands of justice."

One peculiar thing about the Pitcairn Islanders is that they all speak English with a decided "down East" twang, and use many expressions which are seldom heard in Old England, but are common in New England. They are a light-colored people, with blue or brown eyes. The only harbor in the island, and that is not a good one, is Bounty Bay, a slight indentation in the shore, where

the mutineers burned the Bounty when they finally decided to stay on the island. Rising up back of the little settlement is a peak called the Goat House, and near its top is a cave where the mutineers used to hide when they saw a sail approaching the island. In the first few years following their crime Christian used to spend a certain part of each day on

the mountain on the lookout for sails, in order that "all hands might douse the fires and go aloft," when there appeared any possibility of their existence being discovered. They did not descend to the village again until not only the coast, but the offing, was well clear. But men and times are changed now on Pitcairn, and a visiting ship is warmly welcomed.

The Parliament House of the island is interesting, because in it is some timber taken from the Bounty. This building has for windows two rows of portholes, which give it the appearance of a stranded ship. The house in which the president lives is the best one on the island, and is called the White House. Some of the natives of Pitcairn have visited the United States, and sailing vessels from San Francisco touch there more frequently than any other ships.

The Women of Egypt.

The woman of ancient Egypt was versed in every branch of literature and art. She not only reigned as queen and shared the public life with men, but she also held important posts in the priesthood. The woman of modern Egypt is seldom taught to read or write, and not many of them, even among the higher class, learn to say their prayers. The girl of the middle and upper classes is brought up in absolute idleness. She is taught nothing save respect to her parents. Disobedience, being accounted one of the seven deadly sins, is an unknown quantity in an Egyptian household. She is sometimes taught her prayers and to recite a few chapters of the Koran by a sort of governess. Only very occasionally is a girl taught to read and write. She has more often a teacher who instructs her in sewing and needlework. The girl of the poor leads an equally idle life, and though schools are numerous, her education is confined to sewing and embroidery.—Detroit Free Press.

The Original "Rock of Ages."

There are few photographs, outside of those relating to Bible lands, that will possess a greater fascination for Christian readers everywhere than that which appears below. It is a photograph of that wonderful rock in Burrington Coombe, England, which afforded Rev. Augustus Montague Toplady the inspiration which found expression in the imperishable hymn, "Rock of Ages." At one point there is a conspicuous crag of mountain limestone seventy or eighty feet in height, a prominent object on the right hand to any one approaching from the Blagdon road. Right down the center of this mass of stone is a deep fissure, in the recesses of which grows many a fern, while on



"ROCK OF AGES," AT BURINGTON COOMBE.

[The rent cliff, in whose hollow Toplady found shelter from a thunder-storm, is in Somerset County, England.]

the hillside around are trees, whose stunted growth and wind-worn appearance tell of the scanty soil and the exposed situation.

In this fissure Toplady took refuge from a thunderstorm, and it was this "cleft" and this rock which suggested the central idea of this beautiful hymn.

London's Big Underground Lake.

London has suddenly found itself in possession of a cheap and inexhaustible supply of pure water, the existence of which it had never suspected. Walter Mosley the engineer of London county council, has informed that body that underneath London in an immense lake of pure cold water, in a chalk basin 2506 square miles in extent and 100 feet below the surface of the ground. The annual rainfall that sinks below to the lake is at least 280,000 million gallons. It is only necessary to sink a sufficient number of deep wells in order to obtain all the water necessary. An artesian well has already been sunk to this lake at Chapham, near London, and is producing a daily yield of a million gallons.

The Philippine Mouse Deer.

In Bataan of the Philippine group is found a chevreton, or "mouse deer," a tiny little pigmy as cunning as a fox, and which when snared feigns death until freed, when it leaps up like a lightning flash and takes to the forest, leaving the inexperienced trapper in great surprise. The Philippines also contain civets, wildcats, porcupines, lizards, snakes and alligators. The "chacon," one variety of alligator, is prized by the natives as affording immunity against death by earthquake shock.

A World's Fair Pickeral Caught.

A twenty-two pound pickeral, attached to which was an aluminum tag, fastened by a ring through his tail, was caught the other week at Delavan, Wis. On one side of the tag is stamped: "From the Fisheries Exhibit, World's Columbian Exposition, 1893; age five years; weight fourteen pounds."

THE DEWEY MEDAL.

Will Be Presented to Each Officer and Man Who Fought Under the Admiral.

By the courtesy of the sculptor, Daniel C. French, Harper's Weekly is able to publish the first authentic reproduction of his completed design for the Dewey medal. The Tiffany company will cut the dies and strike the medals in copper—1635 in all.

Upon the obverse side is a life-like presentation of the head of Commodore Dewey, with the following inscription: "The gift of the people of the United States to the officers and men of the Asiatic Squadron under the command of Commodore George Dewey." Upon the reverse, surrounded by the words: "In memory of the victory of Manila Bay, May 1, 1898," is the figure of a young sailor, stripped to the waist, who sits upon a gun, with the flag across his knees, and one foot resting upon a swinging loop of rope. In this beautiful figure Mr. French has admirably embodied the genius of the episode in its highest and purest aspect—the spirit of the fleet, such as one's imagination may picture it to have been on that memorable morning, and also the spirit of the country on whose behalf it was going into action. The chief characteristic of the face is youth—the beauty, confidence and pure intention of youth. In the pose of the figure are alertness, fearless uprightness and the unconscious grace and composure of assured strength. The very disposition of the flag is suggestive. The moment represented is not



After a photograph in Harper's Weekly. Copyright, 1899, by Harper & Brothers.

the one of victory, but of preparedness thereto. The flag is not a menace to the world, nor under the pretext of its name is a policy of aggrandizement foreshadowed. It is safe in the keeping of Young America, and when the cause is right it will be uplifted.

Its placing in the circle secures an admirable balance between the varied portions and the flat ones very enjoyable to the eye. The strong horizontal bar formed by the cannon, low down in the space, lifts up the lithe figure of the youth, and gives it a dignity and sense of size very difficult to obtain in so small a compass. Again, the poise of that foot upon the rope—observe how exquisitely sensitive it is!—brings into the narrow space at the bottom an interest and distinction which make it contribute to the decoration of the whole. Lastly, the whole possesses that quality which is such a charm of low relief—"enveloppe"—as the sculptors call it. Atmosphere is, perhaps, our nearest English word; the pattern of the decoration is not one merely of light and dark, out of several degrees of light and several degrees of dark, as if viewed through varying planes of atmosphere. The result is, though, not hard and gritty, but luminous, rich and velvety.—Harper's Weekly.

Primitive Arithmetic.

The native arithmetic of Murray Islands, Torres Strait, is described by the Rev. A. E. Hunt in the latest Journal of the Anthropological Institute. The only native numerals are netat (one) and neis (two). Higher numbers could be described either by reduplication, as neis netat, literally, two-one for three; neis-i-neis, or two-two for four, etc., or by reference to some part of the body. By the latter method a total of thirty-one could be counted. The counting commencing at the little finger of the left hand, thence counting the digits, wrist, elbow, armpit, shoulder, hollow above the clavicle, thorax, and thence in reverse order down the right arm, ending with little finger of right hand. This gives twenty-one. The toes are then resorted to, and these give ten more. Beyond this number the term gaire (many) would be used. English numerals are now in general use in the islands.

To Keep Air in Circulation.

A new contrivance for keeping air in circulation is used in the new English steamer Omrah. It takes the shape of butterfly-fans moved by electricity. This idea the company borrowed from hotels in Colombo. When heat becomes oppressive in the saloon one touch of a button sets the fans in noiseless motion, and to all appearance they work so satisfactorily that old-fashioned punkahs will be completely superseded.

In France there are 1,130,241 foreigners, while in foreign countries there are but 517,000 Frenchmen.

FOR FARM AND GARDEN.

Compost the Cow Manure.

All cow manure should be composted before it is applied to land. It is so slow to ferment, especially if plowed under a deep furrow in the spring, that it can do little good the first season unless it has been partly fermented by putting it in heaps. On the other hand, horse manure ferments too easily, and if piled in heaps will fire-fang, which is really burning it, as the carbonaceous matters are turned to ashes in the process. Hence both kinds of manure are improved for use by putting them together in the compost heap. Each corrects the defects in the other.

Shelter for Sheep.

Sheep suffer if kept in close, underground, unventilated stables, which are pretty sure to be also damp and have foul air. Even in warm weather sheep will prefer to sleep on knolls, not merely to be able to watch against danger, but also to secure free circulation of pure air. So long as the roof keeps out the rain, the open texture of the wool on the sheep's backs will keep cold out, however severe, provided it is not accompanied by wet. The sheep need this shelter from rain, even when the weather is not so very cold, though the oil which nature provides protects the skin from being wet, unless the storm is so long continued that the sheep is chilled through.

Potatoes for Fattening Hogs.

Whenever potatoes are very cheap farmers are apt to try to get something out of them by feeding them to stock. Every year there is a certain proportion of potatoes too small or too scabby to be marketable, and some of these are likely to be given to the fattening hogs with the idea that their starch can be converted into fat. But only 20 per cent. of the potato is starch, the other 80 being nothing but water. Even when cooked the potato absorbs as much water as it loses, and is much too bulky in the small stomach of a hog to serve as its principal feed. Beyond the small amount required to keep the bowels open, potatoes are no advantage to the hog, and for this few beets which the hog will eat with greediness are greatly to be preferred.

Use of Land Plaster.

So far as our observation has extended the use of land plaster is not nearly as extensive among farmers now as it was when we were farming in boyhood in a section where land had only recently been reclaimed from forest. It appears to be certain that on land newly cleared, gypsum or land plaster produces wonderful effects, especially on clover and other broad-leaved plants. But after some years of clover plastering it was found that something else was required, and experiment with phosphates which began about that time showed that this was on heavy land what was needed. On light sandy soil potash was more often the missing element. So the farmers who had sandy land either mixed ashes with gypsum or sowed the potash fertilizers alone, and had better results than they had from sowing gypsum alone as they had heretofore done. When phosphate was used it was usually given in the form of superphosphate, in which a large part of the lime is converted by sulphuric acid into gypsum, which is another name for sulphate of lime. It was not merely useless, but injurious, to add more gypsum to this, for the inefficiency of the phosphate as phosphate depended on the very small proportion of phosphate which was left active because there was not lime enough for it to unite with. Yet we have seen farmers mix phosphate with gypsum or lime in its pure form, little realizing that they were thus lessening the availability of the phosphate. There are many places where land newly cleared is brought under cultivation, and in all such we advise a trial of gypsum or land plaster. It will prove there an effective fertilizer.—Cultivator.

On the Buying of Fertilizers.

The price of fertilizers is a subject upon which we receive more or less complaint every spring. These complaints usually reach us in May or June, when it is too late to change the methods of purchase, and usually come from those who buy in small lots on credit.

The successful farmers who are large consumers of fertilizers don't find fault with the price. Why? Because they know enough to take advantage of the fierce competition in the fertilizer trade. Such farmers decide in midwinter what kind of fertilizers, mixtures or materials they want, they pool their orders, get bids from various manufacturers or dealers and place their contracts where they can get the most for their money. Usually such contracts are for spot cash on delivery, or if any credit is asked, gilt-edged negotiable notes are offered that can be discounted at a low rate at any bank in the vicinity.

The fact is, where fertilizers are thus purchased in a businesslike way, of reliable firms, the farmer is always satisfied, and invariably also buys the highest grade brands, mixtures or materials.

It is true, however, that the great bulk of the trade is with farmers who don't place their orders until the last minute, then buy in small lots and usually wait long time. If the latter class would do as the businesslike farmers do, they would be equally pleased. And this is true, whether you buy the materials and make your own mixtures or buy the manufacturers' brands. No industry has wit-

nessed more failures than the fertilizer trade, and the business is now conducted on so close a margin that only strong concerns which sell vast quantities are able to show a profit. Mushroom firms that pretend to be "the poor farmer's friend" and sell him inferior stuff on credit at what is really a fancy price, may make big profits for a year or two, but they are forced to quit or assume another name as soon as the farmers find them out.—New England Homestead.

Catch Crops.

It is a very difficult matter to get some farmers to see the great importance of having some crop always growing on the ground. They can't see the use of a catch crop. When a crop is taken from the land in summer or autumn they can't or won't be persuaded that the proper thing to do is to immediately start another to prevent the soil from washing away, to gather up nitrogen from the soil and subsoil, and from the atmosphere, and hold it through the winter so that it can be made available for another season's crops. They seem to look upon the idea as absurd when it is suggested that a crop can be grown just for the sake of plowing it in to help grow another crop. When lands were new and the soil full of vegetable mould there was not the urgent necessity for using catch crops that there is now. But after lands have been cultivated or even pastured for a long time they become deficient in humus, and are consequently unproductive. Much of the unprofitable lands we find over the country are unprofitable, not so much because they are deficient in plant food, but more on account of the short supply of humus. The humus will not feed the plant, of course, but in its action on the soil it will generate plant food sufficient to produce a paying crop. It is then as much our object to increase the supply of humus in the soil by using catch crops, as it is to conserve available plant food, and the farmer who neglects to get in some vegetation between his money crops is losing money. If there is nothing else to be done encourage the weeds to grow and turn them under before they mature, dry up or blow away. Turn an old field over to briars for a few years and they will renovate and loosen up the soil in a surprising manner. You never cut down and plowed up a briar patch that you didn't find the soil loose and pliable with a good color on top. Anything is preferable to bare land. Nature abhors it, and the farmer should do so too, and always calculate ahead and determine what can best be grown between crops to improve the soil.—Farmers' Guide.

Kerosene Treatment for San Jose Scale.

The kerosene treatment, considering its efficiency, simplicity and cheapness, is the best. Since pure kerosene is highly injurious to plants, it must be applied in a diluted form to avoid this injury. Because kerosene and water will not mix when poured together, this mixing is accomplished by means of a kerosene sprayer. The two liquids are mechanically mixed in the act of making the application to the trees. We have determined by numerous experiments that 25 per cent. of kerosene so diluted with water applied in the dormant season, and 15 per cent. applied in the growing season, will not injure the orchard trees and will be effective against the scale.

In the fall soon after the foliage is shed, say about November 1, spray the trees thoroughly with the 25 per cent. mixture (one part of oil and three parts of water). The trees should be thoroughly wet, so that not a dry spot as large as a pin head will be left. At the same time the tree should not be drenched and left dripping, as there is always some danger of injury to plants in the indiscriminate use of kerosene. The usual annual pruning can be done at any time during the winter after the first application of the remedy, and at the same time care should be taken to remove all trash, as leaves and bird nests, that may be attached to the bark or lodged in the forks of limbs. Such trash affords protection for the scales. In spring, just before the buds begin to swell, make a second application of the same 25 per cent. mixture. In case of a large orchard the work should begin early enough to finish before the fruit buds are fully opened. In making both applications, bright, dry days should be selected for the work to insure rapid evaporation of the oil. The finest possible spray should be produced.

Our experiments, which cannot be given here, have shown that such a course of treatment, if properly pursued, will pretty well clean an orchard of this dreaded pest. It must be understood, however, that some of the scales will almost certainly escape, and it may be necessary to apply the same remedy a year or two later. In fact, it is a continual fight. When one once gets it on his premises, he has a permanent pest unless he should dig up and destroy his whole orchard, which, after all, is the best plan in a great many cases. But it can be controlled and fruit culture continued, and energetic fruit growers who are in the business to stay will control it in spite of its perniciousness.—W. M. Scott, state entomologist of Georgia.

The War Color for Ships.

Our war with Spain threw much light on the question of the proper color to render warships invisible to the enemy. The best tint was found to be a dull gray with a yellow shade. Ships thus colored blend inconspicuously with the horizon, and with all the rocks alongshore. How nature deals with a similar question is shown by the black and yellow stripes of the zebra and the tiger, which render those animals almost invisible amid their habitual surroundings.



BOUNTY BAY, PITCAIRN ISLAND.

where they were picked up by a passing ship and taken back to England. The mutineers, after setting the captain adrift, sailed for Pitcairn Island. Pitcairn is only two miles long and about a mile and a half wide. It lies in the South Pacific, between Australia and South America, out of the path of commerce. Though expeditions were sent out by the British

the mutineers burned the Bounty when they finally decided to stay on the island. Rising up back of the little settlement is a peak called the Goat House, and near its top is a cave where the mutineers used to hide when they saw a sail approaching the island. In the first few years following their crime Christian used to spend a certain part of each day on