

THE MIDDLEBURGH POST.

T. H. HARTER, Editor and Prop. MIDDLEBURGH, PA., JULY 27, 1903.

More than two-thirds of the male prisoners in the State's prisons of the various States are under thirty years of age.

Germany has one postoffice to every 1774 inhabitants. In proportion to population the United States has twice as many.

Montana is larger than New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania put together.

The average weight of 20,000 Boston men was 142 pounds; women, 125 pounds. At Cincinnati the average of the same number of men was 154 pounds; of women, 131.

In the United States the average life for farmers is sixty-four years; for lawyers, fifty-two; merchants, forty-eight; mechanics, forty-seven; seamen, forty-six; laborers, forty-four.

Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth asserts that she is the author of the first continued story ever published in the United States, which appeared in the Washington Era forty-five years ago. It was called "Retribution," but it seems never to have overtaken her.

There is at the Executive Mansion a so-called "eccentric file," on which all letters from palpable cranks are put. Most of these contain threats and warnings. This file has been kept ever since the episode of Gaitano, who wrote many such notes before he shot President Garfield.

Doctor Ernst Hart, the editor of the British Medical Journal, who is now in Chicago, says: "I consider Chicago's water supply the best of all the great cities in America. The greatest danger was done away with when the old in-shore intake was abolished. But the city will not be absolutely safe until the two-mile crib is abandoned and the four-mile intake used exclusively."

The conquest of arid America has but fairly begun and will not be completed for some time in the nameless distant future. Water is taken from pumping devices and canals; vast areas in the mountains are covered by well constructed reservoirs; springs, seepage and drainage sources are utilized; and even the underflow—that hidden and comparatively inexhaustible fountain—is being tapped in many localities. Artesian wells, counted by thousands, and underground tunnels and channels are flowing, and being constructed, almost everywhere. That sustaining element of plant-life, water, is sought and secured by men of enterprise and capital.

A writer in London Truth suggests that an association of girls be formed who shall pledge themselves to propose to any man whom they may consider desirable for a husband. He believes that proposing should not be limited to men, and that men, who, as he claims, are naturally more bashful than girls, often remain single because they have not the courage to propose, and, as a consequence, many girls are husbandless. But there is this difference in favor of the present order of things: If a man is refused, he soon forgets it and in a few days is ready to ask another girl to marry him, while a girl who had suffered a failure would first dry her eyes out with embarrassment, then turn cynical and never look at a man again.

It is the opinion of men familiar with the character of the Navajo Indians, declares the Argonaut, that a war with them will prove to be a serious business for the Government. The tribe numbers about thirty thousand, of whom nine thousand are fighting warriors. The reservation where they are entrenched is rough and difficult, and contains many passes where, according to one authority, "two Indians can hold their ground against the entire United States Army." The Navajos have trained their ponies to go without water for two days, if necessary. The whole tribe is armed with the most approved repeating rifles, and the bucks have been storing ammunition for years in anticipation of trouble. The Navajos have a perfect system of signals and scouts, and are always informed hours in advance of the movements of troops sent against them.

PERHAPS the concentrated inaccuracy of statement nothing can surpass the following sentence, which occurred in an account of a burglary given in a newspaper: "After a fruitless search, all the money was recovered except one pair of boots."

UNWEEPING OR UNWEPT.

"Unwept, unhonored and unsung" Were not the worst of Fortune's bringings; Dread, rather, thine own eyes and tongue Unweeping and unshriving. Unweeping for thy brother, bound But struggling in the somber Night, Unshriving from thy vantage-ground The happy tidings of the Light. Weep and be sure thou shalt be wept. Sing gladly, and the joy-sounds ringing May wake some soul, which long hath slept, To echo back thy singing. Let fall thy tears! Let rise thy strain! So canst thou never be among Those heritors of man's disdain, The "unwept, unhonored and unsung." —J. Edmund V. Cooke, in Independent.

Karl Hagenbeck's Adventures



ARL HAGENBECK, the famous dealer in animals, and I stood by the cage of box constrictors and pythons in Hamburg. The huge creatures lay quiet and still, with never a movement to tell the onlookers whether they were alive or dead. "Ah!" said Karl, "I can tell you some curious things about those snakes. That huge box constrictor," he continued, pointing to a snake that lay coiled up in a corner by itself, "has swallowed four whole sheep in one day, and nine days afterward it was ready for number five. I can remember once we threw a rabbit into a cage where there were two snakes. While the poor little animal was shivering in a corner with fright the two reptiles fought together as to which of them should eat it; the smaller one gained the victory, and the bigger one retired to the other end of the cage and lay down, as though weary of the conflict. The other snake advanced upon its prey, and after a while it also lay down, with the rabbit inside it. The bigger snake then, seeing the helpless condition of its enemy, seemed to rouse itself, and a moment afterwards it vigorously attacked the creature that lay gorged in the corner. We all rushed to see what would happen, and, I declare to you," continued Mr. Hagenbeck, "that in a very short time the big snake had swallowed the small snake, rabbit and all."

"Would you like to see them in action?" said Mr. Hagenbeck to me, and as he spoke he opened the cage door and boldly stepped in among the huge sleepy beasts. He then began lifting them up by their enormous coils, just as one would lift up great coils of rope, and there was soon a mighty stirring amongst the inert masses. Furious and angry they writhed to and fro, their scales glittering in the light of the sun. With tremendous hissing and irritated rearing back of their heads and constant projection of their long, forked tongues, they began to move about the cage. "I think I will get out now," said Mr. Hagenbeck. "I had a fight once before with snakes, and I don't want to have another," he continued as he closed the doors.

"I wish you would tell me about it," said I; "it must have been very dreadfully interesting," and also I felt sure my American readers would enjoy some good "snake" stories. "Certainly I will," he replied, "and I can assure you," he added, with a shudder at the thought, "that it was most painfully interesting to me. I very nearly lost my life on that occasion. It happened in this way. There were eight full grown pythons in one cage. I wanted to put them all into one huge box to send them off to a menagerie. I handled the first six all right enough, collaring them, as is usual, by the back of the neck and dropping them into the box. Then I went for number seven. As soon as I entered the cage she flew at me with open mouth, but seeing her coming I took off my hat and thrust it at her, and she bit her teeth into it. I then collared her with the right hand at the back of the neck and dragged her down into the lower partition of the cage. However, when I was going to fetch her out she reared her head for another attack. I then made a cautious movement forward; at the same moment she darted her head at me. I met the second attack with my hat in the same way as I did the first. I then got hold of her by the back of the neck, but I found, to my horror, that I couldn't let her go, as all at once she coiled herself around my legs.

"By good fortune one of my assistants was standing near. I called for him and he came rushing up to me, knowing by the sound of my voice that there was something very dreadful the matter, and so indeed there was, for I saw it was going to be a fight for life or death. However, I kept perfectly cool and gave the order to my assistant to try and uncoil the serpent, which he attempted to do as well as he possibly could. I also managed to withdraw my legs from her coils. Then I dropped, holding her tight all the time, as I was determined to get her into the box, and I didn't want to have all that trouble for nothing," continued the brave man as coolly as one could possibly imagine.

"However," he went on, "I wasn't out of the woods, even then, as you English call it, for just as I thought I was getting away all right and could get her safely into the box the last python in the cage, a tremendous giant, also tried to attack me. As soon as I saw this I called out to my assistant to throw a blanket over her. This he managed to do. At the same moment I moved backwards out of the cage and I freed it altogether and then I had a little rest. My men tried to dissuade

me from going back, each of them saying they would not do it. I felt very exhausted, but my temper was fairly up and I determined I wouldn't be beaten. So, after a few moments, I stepped again into the cage, caught them both round the backs of their necks, dragged them as quickly as I could to the edge of the cage and then between us we flung them into the box. Had not my assistants been near me nothing could have saved me from being squeezed to death. Ah! it was a terrible adventure," continued Mr. Hagenbeck, "and I don't want a similar experience again. Now come and look at my alligators and I will tell you of an adventure I had with them."

"Passing by an enormous aviary, in which fluttered and screamed thousands of beautiful parrots, we came at last to a large tank in which were slowly paddling round some spiteful looking alligators. "There," said Mr. Hagenbeck, as he pointed to the cruel looking beasts, "I had a ghastly adventure with them once. I had to pack sixteen of them up for the Dusseldorf Zoological Gardens. I grappled hold of the first one and was pulling him ashore, when he gave a frightful blow with his tail and knocked me into the tank, where for a brief moment, I was alone with fifteen alligators. Those who were standing by told me that as soon as I splashed in a number of them made a rush. However, I was out again like an India rubber ball; but the whirl of the water and the open jaws of the disappointed beasts told me that I had not been one second too smart. This was a very narrow escape as if one of the crocodiles had happened to get hold of me, all the rest would have attacked me, snapping and biting at me at one and the same moment, until there would have been nothing left of me at all.

"Alligators are the most determined fighters even amongst themselves. Six of them, each about fourteen feet long, had a frightful fight amongst themselves once, and so desperately did they fight that within fourteen days they were all dead. Three of them had their jaws broken, and in some cases their legs were torn right out of their bodies. This occurred at night, and one of the keepers, happening to hear the frightful noise which was made by the clashing of their jaws, rushed off to tell me what was happening. We lit our lanterns and hurried to the scene of action, but beyond trying to separate them with long poles it was little we could do. They would only renew the fight with greater fierceness than ever, and so terribly were they wounded that, as I said, they were all dead in a fortnight. Now, when I get a new consignment of alligators I always muzzle them for four days with a rope; they then calm down and I cut the rope off; otherwise, if I did not do that they would begin fighting as soon as they came out of the box, for the first sight of daylight after the long journey always seem to excite them.

"A fight amongst the snakes, also, is a terrible thing. I had once five big pythons, each over sixteen feet long, in one cage. One of the keepers flung in a dead rabbit amongst them, and two of them, being very hungry, attacked it at once. At the same moment the other four flew at them and in one moment all the six were in one writhing lump. The keeper fetched me and I at once attempted to uncoil them. I succeeded but hardly had I done so, when the fight began between the first two. The larger one threw his tail round the small one's neck and squeezed it with such force against the wall that it lost all power, then the bigger snake got hold of the rabbit and swallowed it, after which it gradually loosened its hold of the smaller snake. Then came revenge; the small snake flew at the big one, which was rendered almost helpless by its huge meal, bit it in the back, coiled round and round it, and squeezed it till it could hardly breathe, although it screamed as I had never heard any living creature scream before. When I went to see them next morning they were all right and perfectly good friends.

"I was once turned out of bed at 1 o'clock in the morning by one of my keepers, who came in with the news that the big kangaroo had jumped a six-foot fence into the next stable, in which there was a large hippopotamus. When I came down there was a most wonderful fight going on. The kangaroo stood up to its belly in water, while the hippopotamus, with wide, open jaws, snapped at him right and left. However, the kangaroo managed to get in a good right and left with his front legs, and scratched the hippopotamus in the face tremendously. When the hippopotamus came to close quarters, the kangaroo jumped up, gave him a tremendous blow with his hind legs, and then managed to get on to dry land. I caught the kangaroo with a big net, and for all the fighting there wasn't very much harm done."

Just as Mr. Hagenbeck finished talking, the polar bear at our rear began growling. Mr. Hagenbeck went up to soothe and pet him. Then he said to me: "I expect I am pretty nearly the only man in the world who can say that he ever out the nails of a polar bear. It was this very bear, and I will tell you how it all happened. The poor bear's nails had grown into its foot, causing it a great deal of pain. We tried to get the feet into a sling and pull them through the bars, but this was very troublesome. So I got him into a narrow cage which had an iron-barred front; this I turned upside down so that the bear had to stand on the bars of the cage; then the cage was lifted up about four feet above the ground. I went underneath with a sharp pair of pinchers, and as he stood there with his toes pressed through the bars I managed to pull the nails out. Then I stood him in water to wash and cool his wounds, and in a few days he was all right.

"On another occasion a royal Bengal tiger was suffering very much from toothache, so two of my men held him by the collar and whilst one of my attendants opened his mouth my brother-in-law and I took some pinchers and pulled out the teeth which had been giving him so much pain, and which, indeed, had grown so badly that they had hindered him from biting his food properly.

"However, perhaps the most terrible adventure that I ever had occurred in Munich during the Centennial fete in 1888. I was going in a long procession with eight elephants, and the streets were very crammed. Now, it chanced that we had to pass a great big iron dragon which, by some mechanical contrivance, began to spit fire as soon as we got near it. Four of the elephants at once took fright and ran away, which was only natural, and then the other four followed suit. The people rushed after them with sticks and loud cries, which really only made matters worse. I managed to get between two of them and caught hold of them, but it was of no good, as they ran with me for at least a mile, and I was torn from side to side, and, indeed, at one moment I was nearly crushed to death by them against the walls of a house. At last two other elephants came up and I managed to persuade them all four to stand still. Just as I had done so the stupid crowds came rushing up, and away they went again. I was too tired to do anything more. All four of them rushed into a house; the bottom gave way, and they fell into the cellar. A new house has now been built there which is called to this day 'The Four Wild Elephants.' A lot of people were hurt; some, indeed, were killed, but, as the Police President had seen all that happened, I was held free of blame. Still it was the most wonderful adventure I ever had, and how I escaped being crushed to death I cannot understand to this day."—Atlanta Constitution.

Poisonous Plants.

Professor Brooks told the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, recently, that there are thirty-nine poisonous plants in the United States which are now or have been used in the treatment of disease; many of the most virulent poisons are of vegetable origin. By far the greater number of vegetable poisons are alkaloids, a few are acids and glucosides. Morphine derived from the poppy is one of the best known alkaloids. One of the most poisonous acids is oxalic acid; the buttercups furnish examples of the glucosides; the poisonous essential oils are illustrated by the oil of henlock, tansy and juniper.

The lower orders of vegetable organisms develop on such nitrogenous foods as fish and meat an active poison called ptomaines. The numerous instances of illness and even death resulting from eating mushrooms should serve to cause the refusal of all kinds not positively identified. The poetical allusion to the peaceful cow producing golden butter from having grazed on the yellow buttercup, lacks truth, as the buttercups are more or less poisonous and cows refuse to eat them.

A virulent poison is the essential oil extracted from white mustard seeds. The seed corn cockle sometimes ground with grain has been known to cause injurious consequences. Oxalic acid is not present in sorrel in such quantities as to render its moderate use injurious, but the practice of children eating these leaves should be discouraged. Death has followed from eating the roots of the wild parsnip, which are especially dangerous in the second year. Children should be particularly warned against eating the berries of the black night shade. The poison ivy is well known and is poisonous to most persons. A thorough washing after a botanical excursion is a preventative of slight poisoning, and a bath in a weak solution of baking soda will often act as an antidote. Some plants, like the potato and celery, are poisonous in their wild state. The Japanese are known to use eighty-four kinds of plants for "greens" and have discovered many poisonous species; their workmen on lacquer often become violently poisoned from the vegetable poisons in the polishes and varnishes. —New England Farmer.

Birth of England's Great Bank.

The Bank of England was projected in 1694 to meet the difficulty experienced by William III. in raising funds for the French war. William Paterson and Michael Godfrey induced forty merchants to subscribe to a loan of \$8,000,000 to the Government at eight per cent., the subscribers being incorporated as a bank. The scheme was opposed in Parliament, but the bill passed and the charter was granted July 27, 1694. Sir John Houblon being the first Governor and Michael Godfrey the first Deputy Governor. The bank began active operations July 1, 1695, issuing notes and discounting bills. The notes were for \$100 and upward and the usual rate of discount was six per cent.

A River Shunned by Indians.

The Wishkah River is shunned by all Indians. Even when crossing from the Quinault or Humpulpi country to the Wynooche they avoid crossing the Wishkah by going around to the north of its source. Their tradition is that many ages ago some great eagle captured an enormous whale on the coast and carried it to the head waters of the river, and that the whale's decaying body poisoned the entire river, so that a great epidemic came and killed all the Indians living along the stream, and the waters of the river are dangerous even unto this day. From this tradition the beautiful river has its unsavory name, which in the Indian tongue, means "Stinking waters." —Portland Oregonian.

KEYSTONE STATE CULLINGS.

A FATAL BOILER EXPLOSION. TOWANDA—The boiler in the Towanda nail works exploded Tuesday afternoon. Andrew Benjamin was instantly killed. Row Hutton fatally injured and a man named Bennett severely burned and bruised. Another man named McGovern is missing and thought to be in the ruins. Within a few minutes after the explosion the whole plant was in flames and the buildings were completely destroyed. The plant was owned by W. H. Godcharles and the loss is estimated at \$25,000 about half covered by insurance.

DROWNED IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS. BRADDOCK—Two small boys, Samson and Harry Peterson, aged respectively 8 and 10 years, sons of a Pole employed at the Edgar Thompson Steel works, were drowned here in the Monongahela river. The remnants were brought up from the river with very little trouble, the little chaps clasped in each other's arms, and taken to an undertaker's establishment.

ANOTHER CIGARETTE VICTIM. BRADDOCK—Charles Lewis, of Denver, was suddenly attacked with heart failure on the street and fell to the pavement unconscious. The young man, who is only 18 years old, stated to his physician that his trouble was caused by excessive cigarette smoking. He is in a precarious condition.

OLD-FASHIONED POTATO BUGS BACK. WASHINGTON—The old-fashioned potato bug, which was some time ago crowded out by the modern striped jacket bug, has again made its appearance in Franklin township and is devouring all the potatoes, cabbage and other growing plant tops in sight.

OSCAR KRATZER FINE D. Bagnal, fisherman, of Warren, claim the prize on a spoon-bill sturgeon 2 feet long. They pulled it out of the river just below the bridge, but envious people are skeptical, and have the lucky fisherman with putting up a job by fastening the sturgeon to a line before it was thrown into the Allegheny river. However that may be, the catch is in Warren on exhibition.

A PRINCESS was born on Blue Island, near Monongahela, last Tuesday night. She is a Hohobon princess, her mother being a grey who claims to be the royal line. Dr. Charles Scott, who was called, suggested that the child be called Mary Queen of Scott, but the parents said the child would be named Eulalie.

The State Supreme Court granted an injunction to restrain the Mayor from interfering with the plans of the building of City Hall at Philadelphia. This completely knocks out the veto bill, which was a bone of contention at the last session of the Legislature.

The Pennsylvania railroad supported the surviving people and animals on Main's circus during 10 days' idleness after the wreck, built a train of 13 new cars, paid for all repairs, completed the original number of wagons and also paid Mr. Main \$75,000 in cash.

A YOUNG farmer of Huntingdon township, Westmoreland county, has been fined \$20 for maintaining a keeper of a tollgate as to the distance he was going, thereby saving about 3 cents toll.

ANNIE BYRANT, of Ridgeview, near Derry station was bitten four times by a copperhead snake yesterday. All efforts to produce sleep have failed and the victim struggles violently.

HELLEFONTE citizens have organized a boycott against members of the town council who passed an ordinance making it unlawful for cows to stray about the streets.

The name of the place known as Bethel, on the Somerset & Canal State road, has been changed to Holshopp. It is hard to see where the improvement comes in.

JOHN CASPER, the 19 year old son of a Jeannette groceryman, took his father's loaded revolver from a bureau drawer played with it and is expected to die.

ASSESSORS' returns in Washington county show 51,000 acres short of the number of acres that ought to be taxed. Where the missing land is, is a mystery.

J. A. SUTHERLAND, of Beaver, claims to have the champion pumpkin vine, since by actual measurement it was found that it grew a foot in 24 hours.

ANNIE KREIDER, of Lancaster county, whose parents and four brothers and sisters were murdered in Dakota last week, is on the verge of insanity.

The colored people of Pennsylvania will hold their second annual race in Harrisburg, opening October 16 and continuing until the 24th.

The new directory of Johnstown places the population of that place at 23,541, and of Johnstown and the surrounding boroughs at 36,144.

WILLIAM MACKY, of Woodside, Fayette county, has a potato stalk that measured five feet and is coming out in bloom.

THOMAS WILSON, carpenter, fell off the bath of A. T. Pollard, near Rimersburg, a distance of forty feet and was killed.

JOHN C. BOWERS, of Bedford, aged 40 years, fell asleep on a truck and 60 cars passed over his legs. He died in a few hours.

THOMAS A. SEATON, of Bolivar, who was bitten by a copperhead last Saturday, died Friday in a terrible agony.

STATE Superintendent of Schools Schaffer has decided that the free text book law goes into effect at once.

RENOVO has 250 cases of typhoid fever and the number is steadily increasing.

A BATTLE WITH OUTLAWS.

Four Brothers Hold a Militia Company at Bay and Kill Half a Dozen Soldiers. One Outlaw Loses. Word comes from Pikeville, Ky., of a bloody conflict across the State line in Wise county, Va., some days ago between the State militia and outlaw Fiemen's boys. Half a dozen or more were killed.

"Doc" Taylor, one of the gang, was caught some months ago and hanged, and the brothers, four in number, are wanted for their complicity in the murder. Two weeks ago they were located in Wise county, and the Governor of Virginia sent a company of 30 soldiers to assist the sheriff. The outlaws were surrounded and a brushwacking fight of three days ensued. Calvin Fiemen was mortally wounded and captured early in the fight, but the three other brothers killed a half dozen militiamen and succeeded in getting to the shelter of the hills. When the soldiers are reported to be going to their assistance, as the Fiemens and their friends are at dead shots and desperate men, the ultimate result is a matter of anxious speculation.

For years the Fleming boys and an enormous following of realists have terrorized the mountainous regions of southwest Virginia and southeast Kentucky, defying alike the authorities of first one State and then the other. The family stands charged with almost all the crimes on the calendar from murder and stealing down to moonshining. Every member of the family is utterly fearless and all are well armed. Their strongholds in the caves of the Cumberland mountains are many and almost inaccessible.

About eight months ago a family of three were attacked in their cabin, the man shot at the door, his wife brutally treated and then shot, as was also their child. They were left for dead, but the woman lived long enough to see an armed party of militiamen to the effect that the Fiemens were guilty parties. For a long time no effort was made to arrest them. Finally the sheriff of Wise county secured the co-operation of the State militia, and a militia company of 30 men and each member sworn in as a deputy, to capture the Fiemens, but failed.

—There has been an advance in the price of timothy hay of from \$1 to \$1.50 per ton, recently, and there is no assurance that its highest notch has yet been reached.

ENGLISHMAN—Pardon me, sir, but where do you come from? Paddy—From County Cork, Englishman—Then that accounts for your brogue, Paddy—May I ax where you come from? Englishman (proudly)—From Worcester, Paddy—Then that accounts for your sauce.—Tid-Bits

MARKETS.

Table with multiple columns listing market prices for various commodities such as wheat, corn, oats, flour, and other goods. Includes sub-sections for 'THE WHOLESALE PRICES ARE GIVEN BELOW', 'GRAIN, FLOUR AND FEED', 'DAIRY PRODUCTS', 'FRUIT AND VEGETABLES', 'POULTRY ETC.', and 'MISCELLANEOUS'.