# PLAYING HOOKEY.

ember when in boyhood, step advanced from toyhood, m in through the schoolroom win-lows floated sweet the wild birds'

uld close my desk at dinner, a hardened little sinner, d the after-nooning found me playing hookey from it all.

That to us the far-off sorrow f the whipping on the morrow. For the day seemed all the inture-'twas a hundred hours long. Ind each hour we were enjoying y the wood and pool-just boying. While the wild birds caught our laugh-ing tones and wove them into song.

And to-day a robin twittered Through the window, and my littered Desk became the ink-bespattered one schobidays used to know, When the voice of spring was crying And some voice in me replying To its every note and echo-and s yearning bade me go.

But a stern duty fetters Me to these unanswered letters While through half-opened shutters sweet the wild birds ery and call, And Ym wishing, wishing, wishing, I might steal off somewhere, fishing, Lock up every care and worry-just play hookey from it all. J. W. Foley, in the New York Times.

THE MAN AND THE SNAKE 12 : : : : By E. MIRRIELES. : : : :

All round the circle of the hills, the dazzling sky pressed down unclouded to the touch of the parched rim-rock. Between the hills the shallow basin lay baked and breathless. Over it the fense air quivered with heat. Within, no bird fluttered nor water purled nor green plant raised its head. Only the desert children, sage-brush and greasewood and long-spined cactus, gray but never dying, lived on there in the land whick gave them birth. Everywhere was silence upon the and which gave them birth. Everywhere was silence upon the him

the sky. A buckskin thong passed across his throat and was drawn taut across his throat and was drawn taut betwen two roots of sage-brush. The noose which held his ankles was se-cured about a clump of greasewood and both arms thonged at the wrists, stretched wide as in emelficien, with Heavy bands of buckskin spanned his facing on the one hand the snake, on the other the miniature forest of sage-brush; and he could clench and unclench his pinioned hands.

In this last freedom the final in In this last freedom the final in-genuity of savage captors had found expression. With the left hand tight clenched, the snake's wild stroke fell just short of its aim. Should sleep or insensibility relax the fingers, the reptile's head might overlap him. Since early morning, through the increasing heat of the day, the man sudde

increasing heat of the day, the man had lain there, grim and silent as the gray hills around him, save when now and then he raised his hoarse voice in defiant shouts. The snake, on the other hand, struggled and fought un-ceasingly against the cord which held him, striking impartially at it, at the stake to which the cord was tied, grovelling his body in the sandy earth, writhing and tugging with protruding tongue, and all the while translating in whirr and hiss the blind fear of

his captivity. Sometimes the man turned his head Sometimes the man turned his head snake's movements flagged he slightly stirred his fingers in the sand, the ruse each time rewarded by the swift spring and fruitless stroke. But mostly he lay still, all his mind bent on endur

The man had been placed there to die. He knew it and the knowledge tinged his thoughts with a strange curiosity. There were three ways in which death might reach him; through the snake, through sunstroke or by the weary route of thirst and hunger. The second and quickest of these ways the light mountain air, vibrantly hot though it might be, rendered improbable. For the snake, it was part of the man's torment that at any minute be might stretch forth his hand and by the movement invite an end, brief indeed but horrible to the doubly horrible to the strained imag-

Everywhere was silence upon the place, everywhere was immobility, save where the man lay and where beside him the bound snake whirred and writhed and rattled in the impotent fury of fear. The man lay stretched on the hot result, style update bis fease trunged to bes, it hung above him.

wift desert change from heat to cold. When he awoke the first pale amethyst of dawn was in the sky. The snake Heavy bands of buckskin spanned us body so that to the prisoner there was left but two possible movements. He could turn his head from side to side, facing on the one hand the snake, on the the miniature forest of sage. sibility.

The man turned his head to face

"Hey, rattler!" he called cheerily of and scraped some grains toward the recumbent body.

But when he saw the start and shudder with which the creature woke, the anguish of returning consciousness, suddenly he was sorry for his act. When the snake, writhing round, struck at its cord quivering from head to tail, he would have given an hour of his own rest to have restored the sleep which he had broken.

The sun rose presently. Again the weary panorama of the day unrolled before the eyes of the two victims. The snake was quiet, weakened by his be since what quiet, weakened by his long struggle. The man, strengthened by sleep, restored by the night's cold, held himself strongly in hand. Sometimes, indeed, the growing heat drew from his lips a broken sigh.

Sometimes birds, many now, swooped low around him with hoarse cries and flapping of heavy wings; at such times his whole body grew tense beneath the stress of almost uncontrollable disgust and terror. But he lay still. Not for his reason's sake dared he again give way to the expression of fear. It was a comfort to him in these moments that the snake showed no apprehension of their gruesome neighbors or eyed them only with the comfort to him in avid eyes of hunger. Watching the

indifference of the reptile, the man feared less. Fixing his eyes upon it, he could hold hard to sanity and to he could hold hard to sanity and to country century ago. endurance, though around him perched few things to thin of: and hovered the vulture ministers of

But as the morning passed a new anxiety should die first? It seemed to brief mind. trembled. He spoke to it soothingly at times and had, or believed he had, There was one other chance. An

Incree was one other chance. An in this revered mind he searched hild unexpected rain-storp, a heavy night dew in that barren place, would so stretch the slender buckskin thong life? And if by stretching out his which held the rattler that unaided he might reach and strike his victim.

throng that bound it was drawn tant and painfully it had thrust its swollen head across its finegrs. It lay thus, outstretched, not striking, its glazing eyes on the man's face.

eyes on the man's face. And while they lay so suddenly there came to pass the impossible, the one uncounted chance. From far across the desolate sage-brund desert sounded to them the barking of a

dog. It came nearer and with it the creak and grinding of heavy wheels. The man strove to cry out and, fail ng, gnawed desperately at his baked ing, gnawed desperately at his baked lips and tongue. When the feeble trickle of blood which paid his ef-forts had moistened his dry throat, he raised his voice in shrill and ter-rible cries. Above him at the sound the startled birds swirled to the west. The snake, too weak to spring, had yet dragged himself to a coil, his flat head raised in air. ad raised in air.

head raised in air. Between the cries the man could hear the abrupt stopping of the wagon, the confused exclamation of men's voices. Next instant the dog's moist breath whiffed on his forehead and a man's face bent to his own. There was a sudden tightening of the buck sking thongs as a knife passed be-neath them, its cool blade searing like fire on the blistered flesh. Hands dragged him from his place. A man on either side he was held erect. Through a maze of pain and weakness, he could hear the comment of his rescuers

"Alive, all right!" "God! He'll die on our hands." "Carry him to the wagon!" "Look out! Step wide of the rat-

tler!

Hands beneath his shoulders, they ent to the task of lifting him. The sufferer sent out a groping hand

in protest. He swallowed hard. a protect. The swantowed hard, strug-gling to speak. His naked foot thrust close—perilously close—to the fanged head of the snake.

"Turn him loose, too," he command-ed.—San Francisco Argonaut.

MAKING OVER A MOUNTAIN.

Helena Objects to Great Big Bald Hill-Will Make a Park on It.

The strangest and most interest-ing park project ever undertaken in this country is to be found at Helena, Mon., writes John H. Raftery in the Technical World Magazine for July. where the citizens are engaged in transforming the bald slopes of a conical mountain which towers nearly 1400 feet above the city into a for-

st park. There is no spring, well, brook or pond upon the bare sides or rocky summits of this singular park; nor will it be possible to raise water from the valley for the irrigation of the trees, shrubs and flowers, yet the ex-pert foresters of the Federal bureau who spent last summer planning for the planting of the park are agreed that several varieties of evergreen will flourish there without water or

ttendance. A spiral footpath has been graded from the city to the summit of Mount Helena, and there an ornate pavilion has been erected upon the highest point of rock, 1400 feet above the main street. In the cliffs of the peak there are two spacious natural caves which will be tenanted by specimens of the native bears, lions and other carnivora of these mountains.

Parks enclosing herds of deer, an telope, moose, elk and buffalo will be added as the present limits of the tract are extended upon the desert lands which lie back of the mountain.

#### A Century Ago

w persons to-day stop to realize different things were in this try century ago. Here are a Few pers country

few things to thin' of: Merchants wrote their letters with quill pens. Sand was used to dry the ink, as there was no blotting paper. There were no street letter oxes; letters had to be carried to the postoffic. It cost eighteen and one-half cents to send a letter from Boston to New York, and twenty-five cents from Boston to Philadelphia. Every gentleman-Washington, example, wore a guess Every

or example, wore a queue; many owdered their fair. Imprisonment for debt was com-

Virginia contained a fifth of the

# Search For New Foods with the funny fellow ALL THE WORLD LEVIED UPON FOR PLANTS AND FRUITS

Where Many of the Present Staples Originated --- Peru Gave the Potato. Tomat and Lima Bean --- Successes in the Quest For New Salad Plants--

Japan Has a Promising One in Udo---A Delicious East

Indian Mango Soon to Come From Florida. y

The recent agitation on the subject yet been given a distinctive American of preparing meats and meat products has turned popular attention more strongly than any other cause to an interest in a vegetarian diet, and this fy as to the origin of the vegetables is presented a silvery looking sind whith we know best in this country, with a the Washington correspondent distinct favor. distinct flavor.

which we know best in this country, writes the Washington correspondent of the New York Evening Post. Every-one knows, of course, that potatoes are the mainstay of the Irish and rice of the Chinese. If there is a failure of the wheat crop, there is famine in India and the sympathy of the whole civilized world is drawn upon to sup-uly the wherewithal to tide over the Some day epicures will cherish the name of the explorer who brought to this country the original mango, the fruit which has become a fad with numbers of Florida orange growers in sections where there is a suitable soil and little or no frost. There have been mangoes sold in this country, but they have not been of the true, high-grade ply the wherewithal to tide over the year's deficiency. England must main-tain a great navy to prevent its being isolated from its bases of food supply in case of war, as much as for the stock which has given the fruit its stock which has given the fruit its fame abroad. It was in 1880 that the East Indian Mulgoba mango was intro-duced into Florida. It prospered for several years until the great freeze of 1895 killed all but one tree, and that was saved only through the exertions of a horticultural expert on the ground. Thousands of grafted trees now grow-ing in Florida ove their start in life

> cultivation is that they will grow soil of no particular value and con tinue bearing for years. This, in addi

protection of its colonies. Taking lesson from these patent facts, this country, in spite of the unusually wide range of its products and its practical immunity from harm on this score even under stress of war, has undertaken, through a bureau of the Denartment of Agriculture, to ing in Florida owe their start in life as full producers of the first grade to this one lonely tree which nearly suc-cumbed to the frost eleven years ago. The experiment has reached such a the Department of Agriculture, to search the whole world for every sort of growing thing which has possibili-ties as a food product. Having found such a plant, it has been imported here stage that the marketing of a crop is expected by another season. Mangoes offered in delicatessen shops to-day are disdained by the experts as unworthy for development in the Government's laboratories and subsequent distribu-tion to such Government experiment stations or private growers as could develop it more scientifically for the of the name, which will be lived up to by the new variety. The Oriental mango is known as the most luscious fruit that grows, having no more fibre than a peach, but being much more richly flavored. Another inducement to limate to which it is best suited. Many persons consider Ireland, the

ome of the potato, which has become American's dict. The plant came to his country from the highlands of Colombia and Peru, a section of the world which has furnished a number of the best known and most widely cultivated vegetables of the present time. The to-mato was introduced from Peru back in Civil War days, when ignorant peo-in Civil war days, when ignorant peo-ment of Agriculture experts loope to compare the perturbation of the top the to ombia and Peru, a section of the world ple had an idea that it was a poisonous plant. Agricultural statistics of the past year show that superstitious fear of the tomato has disappeared suffipropagate as a new industry for Porto Rico, Hawali, the Panama Canal zone, and perhaps some other localities. Some specimens are already growing of the tomato has disappeared sum-ciently to encourage the growing of this popular food on 500,000 acres. The lima bean is another vegetable of popu-lar consumption which came from the flavor and attractive appearance, but flavor and attractive appearance, but ar consumption which came from the same South American country, having been introduced here about eighty-flye years ago. Certain sections of the country have come to grow lima beans in such profusion that farmers have in such profusion that farmers have in such profusion that farmers have been able to obtain special railroad rates for sending their crop to city markets. Thousands upon thousands of dollars invested in the orange groves of California and Florida obtained that poportunity for investment in conse-quence of the introduction of orange uttings from Brazil. England is giv en credit for having provided this country with asparagus, while celery came originally from Southern Europe, and rhubarb from Central Asia.

These several experiments in fruits contain great possibilities to the fruit growers of America as well as prophe-Still unsatisfied with all that other ountries have given us in the way of cies of new delicacies for the gratifica tion of the increasing thousa food supply, the aggressive agriculing the world and exploring its far-away corners and uninhabited desert well-to-do citizens whose material pros perity develops the market for new have been levied on to provide new sensations for agricultural and horti-cultural America, and as quickly as reand forest nooks for what may turn but to be only a slip of a plant or **a** sample of an undeveloped fruit. Each, however, brings to the explorer the germ of an idea by which he hopes to suits are attained they will be indue known to those who can carry on the work most successfully. Usually the State experiment stations are given this opportunity, since through them the general public may be supplied develop the new plant, through Govern-ment aid, into a staple of both food value and financial profit.

Descriptions have been given in the most satisfactorily. Because of this co-operative plan, by which the work of the Government ex-perts is made available to every grow-Evening Post's correspondence of the last six months of some of the note of the worthy novelties brought to this coun try in this way, including durum, or macaroni wheat; chayote, the new deler and experimenter in the machanic wheat, chaydet, the new de-icacy of the egg plant variety; the cac-tus cheese, which is so nearly like the ordinary cake chocolate as to be readways a large majority of the National legislators who are willing to vote the ily mistaken, except for its slightly tart flavor; new varieties of tangerines and other specimens of the orange fam-externation of the orange fam-externation of the orange fam-externation of the orange fam-

stances there has been an accomplish

neat worthy of note, but the list has



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Chuggity, Chuggity! Chuggity, chuggity, automobile, Ran over people and made them squeal. Crushed 'em and hushed 'em, laid 'em out At the flat rate of ten dollars per head.

Visual Demonstration. Jénnie--- "Did you hear of the awful fright Jack got on his wedding

day Olive-"Yes, indeed-I was there and saw her."-American Spectator.

Had Been There Before. Hubby (at 'phone)-"Mary', I'm going to bring a couple of lobster's nome for supper." Wife—"Don't, for goodness sake! We haven't got a thing in the house.

-Boston Transcript.

Prudence in Pleasure. "How are you enjoying your new automobile, Mrs. Sububs?" "Oh, very much as long as we are careful not to get on a road too far a trolley line."-Baltimore from American

# Disappointing.

Mrs. Justloking-"Have you any hand-embroidered waists?" Salesman (who has waited on her before) — "I'm very sorry to disappoint you, madam, but we have." — Chicago News.

## The Same Color.

"Jane, I can hardly believe my yes. You are making the bread eyes. without washing your hands." "Well, ma'am, what's the differ-ence? It's only brown bread."---New Orleans Times-Democrat.

# Museum's Blue Monday.

"Where's the boa constrictor forty where's the box constructs in the or feet long that you've got painted on -the sign out in front?" demanded the visitor at the dime museum. "This is wash day, and we're using him for a clothsline," explained the

Circassian heauty -Chicago Tribune.

Awful!

"That was a fierce fight you had with Cholly," said Knox. "He claims he licked you."

"Oh, the Boastah!" exclaimed Gussie. "I admit he wumpled my cwa-vat dreadfully, but you should have seen his collah!"— Philadelphia sie



Maud-"When we get back let us try to create the impression that we so the newly married." Jack—"All right; you had better mry the bag and the srug-strap, carry the bag and th then."-London Scraps.

#### Attracted Attention

Bacon-"They say that the new congressman attracted a good deal of attention when he entered the House of Representatives." Egbert-"Why, he never opened his mouth!"

"No, but his shoes squeaked."-Yonkers Statesman.

Where Ignorance is Bliss. Rising Young Statesman..."But there is another matter, just as im-portant, that has been overlooked. I am going to introduce a bill for

This was the element of uncertainty his dimming eyes, the snake loomed, in the grim problem. This it was that now a refuge, now a menace. A dozen herizon with a look half dread, half longing. How a refuge, how a mender A dozen times, he half relaxed his hand only to draw it quickly close again. Once when the snake fell in its spring, seemlonging

On one of these weary journeys of ingly dead, he thrust the fingers wide sight a finy speek of black above the with a cry of utter deprivation. When western hills attracted him—a steady it moved again he drew them in, the pin-point in the dazzling blue. He instinctive love of life still strong shut his eyes a moment in order to upon him.

he opened them, lot the dark points were two. He watched them uncom-bigh in air they moved from west to eves and ernel heet. When the hold again the more intently, and when he opened them, lo! the dark points were two. He watched them uncom-A buzzard had risen at his cry and prehendingly, as slowly and steadily high in air they moved from west to east. When at last in mid-heaven the sun's sheer strength beat down his gaze, he was the lonelier for loss of this one sign of movement. The sense of heat had by now grown into anguish. The man's exposed body drew and quivered beneath the sun's rays as though each inch of it were insects brushed and fluttered upon it, leaving beneath their light pressure a tradilike fire on the bilstered surface.

leaving beneath their light pressure a tradilike fire on the blistered surface. The snake lay prone, exhausted al-most beyond striking. The man, not-ing it, smiled grimly and scraped his the snake whirled to front the chal-lenge, he curled his hand close with a taunt for its futue effort. He was thus engrossed when sud-

He was thus engrossed when such denly across his face swept a sense of delicious coolness. He turned his head; close above him almost within touch of his free hand, a great black bird, carrion in every movement, hov-ered on steady, outspread wings. Its

The Misissippi Valley was not so well known as the heart of Africa

Two stage coaches carried all the travelers between New York and Bos-ton, and six days were required for the journey.

There was not a public library in the United States. A day laborer re-

Government Had No Objection. The late Nat Head, once Goovernor of New Hamshire, sometimes sur-prised those who approached him to

rain his political influences by his witty parnying of their requests. Colon:1 Barrett, an estimable ofvultures might not light upon his ficial upon the Governor's staff, died, and with unseemly haste his would

taunt for its futile effort. He was thus engrossed when sud-denly across his face swept a serse of delicious coolness. He turned his head: (cose above him almost within) bead: (cose above him almost within) here the server of the server of the server of the server of the turned his here the server of the server of the server of the server of the turned his here the server of the ser

ly, and of grazing plants which will Government can and does grow in the semi-arid parts of the West where there are less than six inches of rainfall. In each of these indo in the interest of all its citizens

different from the ordinary sort.

cood products. All parts of the world

sults are attained they will be made

THE CUTTING OF CAMEOS.

### Stones Are Plentiful, But Large, Perfect Pieces Are Costly.

Cameos are cut from the stones onyx and sardoynx, which are said to be so plentiful on the Uruguay River in Brazil that ships often carry not yet been exhausted. Other plants and fruits are being developed along the same lines, and descriptions of some of them will be available before long for the information of the public. At the present moment it is possible to give some brief facts about several exthem away as ballast. Nevertheless perfect pieces of large size are costly A piece suitable for a large portal periments which have progressed far cos

n as great measure, probably, as those ust mentioned.

ive some brief facts about several ex-eriments which have progressed far nough to indicate a gratifying success a as great measure, probably, as those ust mentioned. Salads have come to be a part of the some because of its hardness and durability and is suitable for such work owing to the fact that it comes in layers of content of the some back of the some back of the some back of the some back to the fact that it comes in layers of the some back of the some b contrasting colors, as black and white, black and cream or red and principal datly meal for most persons who live reasonably well, because of the many kinds which can be prepared white. When the cut figure is sunk t small cost and which add so much

But the cutting is called an intaglio. The cost of these gems is due to t shart cost and which and so made into the stone instead of being raised bere is a continual longing for new inds of salad, and chefs are puzzling the time and skill required in the their brains to arrange new combina-tions. To meet the demand has been one of the tasks which the agricultural explorer has set for himself, and al-arcient work. Formerly a small gem might occupy an artist for a year or more, but with modern appliances the work can be done more rapidly. Still the ancient work bears he palm for artis-tic excellence.

the subscript of the second of port the canned article to this country with diamond dust. No steel is hard rather than do without their accus-tomed food. It cannot take the place of lettuce for variety of uses, but may be adapted to a pulatable dish by the addition of certain sauces. It has not

e rigid inspection of bakeries." Constituent—"Predmore, for your own peace of mind, I advise you not to do it."—Chicago Tribune.

He'd Been There, Too. Bacon----"Been away?" Egbert---"Yes; been up to Jay-lle for a couple of weeks." "Oh, have you?" ville

"Yes; greatest place in the world for an appetite!"

"But what good does that do you? Stopped at Spavin's boarding house, didn't you?"—Yonkers Statesman.

#### Equally Painful.

"Huh! What do you know about war? Did you ever hurl yourself into the 'imminent, deadly breech' or "seek the bubble reputation, even in the cannon's mouth?' " "Well, no; not exactly. Not to any noticeable extent. But, I have taken

noticeable extent. But, I have taken home unexpected company to din-ner."—Puck.

# Of Little Consequence.

"Well, well," exclaimed the first summer girl, "where did the engagement ring come from?" "From Biffany's, of course," re-

"From Binary's, of course, re-plied the other. "Qh, I don't mean that. Who is the man who gave it to you?" "Oh! Why-er-really, I've for-gotten his last name, I just call him "Shorty.'"-Catholic Standard and Times.

age of five, no met. " might h of His and by gatherin strength God an about t and be pride. " and the and spi Jerusalk knew H about to o glor: thinking and no illustral the tru He was He tho time was suprema acknow earth a And how we not ideal of turning Mahome truth, b supreme