

## THEY LIVE APART.

### Queer Inhabitants of a Rock In Behring Straits.

### Cave Dwellers Who Know Nothing of the Outer World.

Ben E. Miller, a Port Townsend boy who was on the United States steamship Bear during her recent eight months' cruise in the northern seas, has many tales to relate of his adventures and the sights he has seen, says the Port Townsend, (Wash.) Call. Among other things he tells of the Bear's visit to King's island, in Behring straits, thirty miles off Port Clarence and the shores of Alaska, where there are about 200 of the most curious islanders that ever were seen. The island or rock they inhabit is about half a mile wide and a little more than that distance long, and the islanders are cave-dwellers and live on whale blubber, seal and walrus meat.

On the southeast side, closely nesting against the cliff, is a village of cave dwellers. One abode is built over and under the other, and to the right and left, giving them a strange motley appearance, not unlike the recesses inhabited by bald eagles. There are narrow caves excavated into the sides of each crumbling volcanic rock, and in the bottom of each is some of the short native grass, forming a bed on which to sleep. At the mouth of the cave and just in the interior fires are lighted, and there they warm themselves in the winter. Skins of different kinds are also suspended outside to keep out the snow and cold. In the summer the hardy natives leave their holes and live in odd houses made of poles constructed near at hand on the edge of the cliff.

These strange people are usually as strong and vigorous as can be found anywhere. Moreover, they are entirely contented and as happy as people in any of the great cities of America. They have no government, no chief, and no need of laws. Living in families and setting forth every day in their kiaks for the whale, seal, and walrus, they return each night to their caves or pole tents, caring nothing for the outside world.

Odd to relate, however, the prestige of the native is determined by the clothes he wears. As they consist of skins and constitute the wealth of the islanders it will be seen that they are not in this respect so much unlike civilized people. But the man with more clothes than anybody else has no more authority. He is respected for his sagacity, but that is all.

Little has been known of the islanders hitherto. For a great many years after the whalers had been going to Behring straits and the great Mackenzie it was supposed the huge brown rock was uninhabited. It was like a beacon in the sea, and about it nothing was to be seen or heard except the roar of the waves and the weird cries of the wild fowl. Finally some one discerned smoke ascending from the other side of the cliff.

A landing was made and there the islanders were found. They said they and their forefathers had been there always and that they knew no other world, though they had heard that there was one. This was only a dozen years ago. Since then the whalers have kept an eye out for them, for they liked the generous natives, who showed many good traits.

**Electricity on the Pyramids.**  
In his autobiography the late Sir W. Siemens relates the following anecdote: An Arab called his attention to the fact that when at the top of the pyramid of Cheops, when he raised his hand with fingers outspread, an acute singing note was heard, the sound ceasing as soon as he let his hand fall. "I found his assertion," he writes, "to be true. As soon as I raised one of my own fingers above my head I felt a prickling in the fingers. That this could only be caused by an electrical phenomenon was proved by the slight electric shock felt on trying to drink out of a wine bottle.

"So I wrapped a full bottle of wine that I had with me in the damp paper, and thus converted it into a Leyden bottle, which was soon strongly charged with electricity by the simple device of holding it high above my head. The Arabs had already become distrustful on seeing small lightnings, as it were, issue from the wine bottles held up by myself and companions, and now held a brief consultation. Suddenly, at a given signal, each of my companions was seized by the guide who had led him up, who now tried to force him to go down again.

"I myself was standing at the very top of the pyramid when the sheik of the Arabs came to me and told me

through my interpreter that the Ara had determined that we were at once to leave the pyramid because we were using magic and it might damage our chance of earning a living. On my refusing to obey orders the sheik caught hold of my left hand. I had awaited this moment, and held up my right hand with the bottle in the attitude of a magician, afterward lowering it slowly toward the point of the sheik's nose.

"When quite close to that feature I felt a violent shock run through the bottle to my arm, and was certain that the sheik must have received the equivalent. At any rate he fell senseless on the stones, and a few anxious moments passed before he rose suddenly with a loud cry and sprang down the gigantic steps of the pyramid with long strides. The Arabs, seeing this, and excited by the sheik's constant cries of 'Magic! magic!' released my companion and followed their leader, leaving us complete masters of the pyramid!"

### No Whales in the Gulf Stream.

It is a remarkable zoological, piscatorial or hydrographical fact that whales are never (if allowed to follow the dictates of their own wills) found within the limits of that great ocean river—the Gulf Stream. The shrewd Yankee whalers were the first to gain an accurate knowledge of the extent and limits of the great artery which pulsates between this country and Europe; this by studying the habits and haunts of the whales. It was noted that they were plentiful northwest and southeast of certain well defined lines, and that the "neutral waters" were several degrees warmer than those which, paradoxical as it may sound, formed their "banks" and boundaries. Finally it was decided, and rightly, too, that the no-whale-producing area was the Gulf Stream.

Franklin learned this curious scientific fact from the New England whalers, and, in 1770, published a chart for the benefit of the mail packets or mail ships plying between our large coast cities and London. Curiously enough, this chart was not gotten up for the purpose of adding to the sum total of hydrographical knowledge, nor for the purpose of outlining the Gulf Stream, but solely as a guide to the best route for ships to pursue in order to keep from encountering whales!—(St. Louis Republic).

### Farms in a Volcano.

Thirty miles from the city of Kamamoto, Japan, is the volcano Aso San, which has the largest crater in the world. It is more than thirty miles in circumference, and peopled by twenty thousand inhabitants. Think of walking for miles around fertile farms and prosperous villages, peering into school-house windows and sacred shrines well within the shell of an old-time crater, whose walls rise eight hundred feet all about you. It gives one a queer feeling. Hot springs abound everywhere. In one place brick-red hot water is utilized to turn a rice mill. The inner crater is nearly half a mile in diameter, and a steady column of roaring steam pours out of it. The last serious eruption was in 1884, when immense quantities of black ashes and dust were ejected and carried by the wind as far as Kamamoto, where for three days it was so dark that artificial light had to be used.—(Weekly Columbian).

### Disadvantages of An Even Temper.

It is usual to envy the even tempered people. Those who are never unduly elated or cast down, who "knit on plain" all the time. If one likes that sort of thing it would be equally natural to envy the animals cows and pigs, for instance, whose serenity is seldom disturbed. For my part I think those even tempered people lose nine-tenths of the pleasure of existence. The depths of grief and gloom into which impulsive people are thrown are amply made up for by the equally unreasonable and unreasoning joy into which they spring at the slightest possible excuse, and the sorrow of a quarrel with a dear one is paid for in the delight of "making up." Parents are very apt to impress on their children the beauty of this even disposition, but so far as I can see, the only benefit derived from it is an unwrinkled complexion.—(Donahoe's Magazine).

### An Absorbing Theme.

Mr. Jerkins—"You ought to be interested in that woman lecturer, Maria. She gave a brilliant address on the suffrage.

"Mrs. Jerkins (with avidity): "Of course I'm interested. What did she have on?"—(Chicago News).

British coach and carriage builders import from America their choicest spokes, hubs and ribs for wheel manufacturers.

## SIGN TALK.

### How Indians of the Plains Meet on Common Ground.

### Conversing Readily in a Language Without Words.

Garrison life has developed some experts in Indian folklore among army officers. One of these is Lieutenant H. L. Scott of the Seventh Cavalry. Lieutenant Scott has made a study of the sign language of the plains Indians. In the days of Indian outbreaks and wars there was a practical phase to this study, but now that peace prevails and there are only reservation Indians Lieutenant Scott's acquisition is remarkable chiefly for the scientific interest which attaches to it.

One day during the folklore congress, says the Globe Democrat, Lieutenant Scott borrowed four Indians of various tribes from Buffalo Bill's camp, and, with only such language as he used to explain to the people what he was saying, he carried on a long conversation by signs. The Indians were Painted Horse, Flat Iron, Horses-Come-Last and Standing Bear.

The lieutenant's hand moved nimbly when he asked Painted Horse where he lived. The old Indian looked home-sick for a moment, and then he made a superb motion picture of a rock with trees on it.

"Pine Ridge," interpreted Lieutenant Scott.

Painted Horse, having found his hands, kept them going, while his face remained expressionless. Lieutenant Scott asked:

"He says his relatives live there and that he has come a long way and has arrived here."

One after the other the Indians joined in the sign conversation with as much enthusiasm as an Indian can manifest. They told their names and where they were from and to what tribes they belonged. They understood the lieutenant and each other as well. When Painted Horse said Horses-Come-Last was a Brule Sioux Horses-Come-Last immediately worked his hands to say that was a mistake; he was an Ogallala. Having started Horses-Come-Last, a magnificent-looking Indian, signed that he knew General Miles, who was sitting near, and he wanted the general to say something to him. General Miles told Lieutenant Scott to tell Horses-Come-Last that he remembered him very well as an Indian who had done good service in the Montana campaign. Lieutenant Scott interpreted by signs, and immediately Horses-Come-Last showed his pleasure.

Lieutenant Scott has had some striking evidence that the Indians of the plains meet on common ground when they resort to the sign language. He was present when Chief Joseph of the Nez Perces addressed several hundred Indians. The chief told the story of his march from Washington territory across Idaho and into Montana in the vicinity of the Yellowstone Park. A masterly military feat, without a parallel since the retreat of Xenophon's ten thousand. In the crowd to which the chief gave the narrative there were Aricarees, Mandans, Gros Ventres, Nez Perces, Cheyennes and Sioux. They were representatives of six different spoken languages. Yet Lieutenant Scott could see that there was perfect comprehension of the narrative. Not a word was spoken. Chief Joseph used nothing but the sign language, but the Indians all followed him.

A literal translation of the sign language is the best illustration of the formation. Take the following sentence: "I shot with an arrow last night an eagle which was sitting upon a limb of a tree and it fell to the ground."

The Indian will convey this information by sign language, as follows:

"Night—before—trees—looking—I saw bird—curved beak—limb of tree—arrow—bow—aim—shoot—transfix—whirl downward—strike the ground."

Lieutenant Scott has taken part in numberless talks where the assemblies included Indians from almost every prairie tribe from Texas to the Canadian line. Practically the same signs were used by all. "I must give," he said, "my unqualified adherence to the belief that the sign language of the plains Indians does exist, and that it has reached a high development."

### Adventure with a Boa.

One instance that occurs to me is a little adventure I have had with a python, a snake of the Molurus tribe, in my own garden in Colombo. One evening I was smoking on the veranda after dinner. It was a cloudy night, but the air was perfectly still. What seemed to be the branch of a tree was lying

across the carriage drive, and as I noticed it I wondered how it could have fallen when not a breath of wind was stirring. It was perfectly motionless, and after a while I went down to throw it aside out of the path. But the moment I stepped over it the object seemed to melt away.

Amazed and half doubting the evidence of my own eyes, I took a step in pursuit, but the instantaneous contraction of the whole body, ready for a spring, and the long, deep hiss that followed told me of the danger I was in. Each staid without the movement of a muscle for about twenty seconds, and then the snake imperceptibly disappeared. One long sigh of relief and a dart into the house that beat the record of a twenty-yard sprint closed the proceedings for me that night. Had I by mistake laid the slightest touch upon the creature's body the probability is that within less than half a minute I should have been reduced to a shapeless lump of pulp and broken bones. Rescue would have been impossible. Providence was merciful to me that night.

Soon after we found that the python had taken up its abode in the garden, but it had chosen its hiding place so cunningly that there was no getting at it. One night a lady, who was ill was lying awake in her room, and the room next to hers was occupied by my sister. The door between the two rooms was open, and suddenly the lady saw a large snake come in at the window, waving its head about in search of a place where it might alight. A moment later it fell, with a loud flop on the floor. Of course, it had disappeared by the time they had recovered from the shock and called for assistance.—(Westminster Gazette).

### Picture of a Mexican Kitchen.

A Mexican kitchen contains no cooking stove nor even a fireplace. Instead, on one side of the room a shelf is built into the wall about breast high, on the centre of which a small fire burns built of gnarled and knotty sticks, which thrifty American housewives would consider unfit for use. Occasionally this method is varied by making a charcoal fire in a large earthen pot and setting smaller cooking utensils upon the coals. So little baking is done that many households dispense with an oven entirely, but where one is used it is built of mud, either out of doors or at one end of the fire-shelf.

Tortillas are the staff of life in Mexico and consist simply of crushed corn which has been previously boiled in a weak lye, rolled into balls. Dish-washing in a Mexican kitchen is conducted on a novel plan. There is no soap, no dishcloth and no wiping towel, much less a table provided with a dishpan and draining rack. The dishwasher seats herself comfortably on the floor with a pail of water beside her and some sliced amole root, which makes excellent suds, and in place of a dishcloth she uses a tiny, stiff whisk broom. Dish wiping is unknown. The dishes are simply turned up against the wall to dry, and somehow or other they always come to the table clean and shining. The spoons and knives of brass and steel are as bright as the traditional dollar, though no brick dust or patent silver polish is applied to them, nothing but common Mexican dirt, dug up in the doorway.—(New York Advertiser).

### How the Gorilla Walks.

The usual pictures of the gorilla do not represent him as I have seen him. He has not only a crouching habit, but he walks on all four of his legs and has the motion of most quadrupeds using his right arm and left leg at the same time, and alternates with the left arm and right leg. It is not exactly a walk or a trot, but a kind of ambling gait, while the chimpanzee uses his arms as crutches, but lifts one foot from the ground a little in advance of the other. They do not place the palm of the hand on the ground, but use the back of the fingers from the second joint, and at times the one I have described above seemed to touch only the back of the nails, but this was when she was scarcely moving at all. I am now preparing to photograph some of them, and I think I can give a more reliable picture of this animal than I have ever seen heretofore.—(McClure's Magazine).

### National Salutes.

The United States national salute is one gun for each state; the salute for the President, twenty-one guns; for the Vice-President seventeen; and for cabinet officers and governors and such lesser officials fifteen guns. The original salute for the president was as many guns as there were states, but in 1819, when there were twenty-one, it was decided that this number should become permanent as the Presidential salute.

## SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

In one minute the polypus can change its form 100 times.

It is usually considered that an adult should drink about three pints of liquid a day.

Electric light is being used as bait by fishermen who ply their calling along the Pacific coast.

No living reptile possesses true powers of flight, and only one, the "flying dragon," has any power of sustaining itself in the air.

A Spaniard has succeeded in extracting from grasshoppers a certain fatty substance, which he claims is capable of being transformed into the finest soap extant.

It costs \$15,000 a year to feed the animals at the Philadelphia "Zoo." Among other articles of diet consumed by the carnivorous animals last year were 260 horses.

The coldest place in the world is the region about the mouth of the McKenzie river, in British America. The thermometer there has been known to sink to 70 degrees below zero.

The most wonderful insect is the common ant. The researches of natural philosophers have shown that there is not in the world a more extraordinary bit of matter than the ant's brain.

The analysis of a meteorite weighing about twenty-five pounds, which recently fell near Beaver Creek, in British Columbia, shows that it consisted of iron (79.72 per cent.), nickel, silica and magnesia.

The discharge of a river is the volume of water it pours into the sea within a given time, usually expressed as so many feet per second. It is estimated by finding the breadth, the average depth and the average rate at its mouth, and multiplying.

High speed railroading is now engaging the attention of the electrical fraternity in Europe. Speeds of 120 to 150 miles per hour are talked of, and electric power is advocated as being equal to the task of producing such rapid movement of trains.

When under a microscope milk is found to consist of numberless transparent globules of very minute size, floating in a clear, colorless fluid. These globules are composed of milk fat (butter), and they are each enclosed by a thin envelope of albuminous material termed casein.

### He Wanted a Wife.

A Canadian teacher of Indians in the far Northwest in the Dominion Government service, realizing that it is not good for a man to be alone, journeyed down to such civilization as he could find in Winnipeg not long ago in anxious quest for a wife and with but six days available for the search. First he communicated with the police, but they protested they could not aid him. Next he sought the preacher's with equal ill success. Then he had recourse to the press. A friendly notice in a morning newspaper allured six-would-be brides forward the same day.

He was not quite satisfied with the appearance of any of them, but thought that one "would do," and set about making preparations for the nuptials. Almost when too late a seventh young woman appeared. Then it was a case of love at first sight on both sides. The half-accepted young woman was quietly ignored; he married the last comer, and the next morning he set forth with his bride for his home in the Northwest wilds. It is to be hoped that they will live happy ever after.—(New York Times).

### The Gas Gave Her Away.

A long chapter of dentists' secrets—the secrets revealed to them by customers made unconscious but talkative by gas—has been revealed by a conscienceless tooth puller up in Pittsburg. The most interesting is this, told by one dentist of another: "I know a young dentist who was head over heels in love with a pretty girl, but he could never make any headway with her. He was bashful. That was the main trouble. One day she came to him to have a tooth pulled. He administered gas and before she revived she let enough drop to assure my friend that if he proposed he wouldn't be rejected. She is his wife today, and if it had not been for the gas I don't suppose the wedding would ever have come off.—(New York Mercury).

### A Rule That Works Both Ways.

"Why did you tell that man to knock three times on your door when he called? Was it so's you'd know him and let him in?"  
"No, it was so's I'd know him and keep him out."—(New York Press).

## FOR THE HOUSEWIFE.

**TO POLISH SUNDRY SURFACES.**  
For ivory, prepared chalk applied rapidly with chamois leather.

For pearl, a paste of powdered rottenstone and olive oil thinned with oil of vitriol and applied with cork covered with velvet.

For jewelry, spirits of wine and powdered French chalk.

For marble, sand, then emery powder and lastly putty powder.

For horn, scrape with emery powder and water, finishing with jewelers' rouge.—(Detroit Free Press).

## TO WASH CHINA SILK.

In these days, when wash silks are in common use, a few words in regard to washing them may be of interest. As silk is an animal fiber, like wool, it cannot be treated in the same way as cotton, which can be subjected to waters of all temperatures without injury. Silk should be washed as rapidly as possible. Examine the articles to be washed, and if there are any parts especially soiled, clean with a little benzine or gasoline, applied with a flannel cloth. Then prepare a soapsuds of lukewarm water, and plunge the garments in it, sousing them up and down, and rubbing them thoroughly in this suds. Rinse them into water a little cooler, and then into a third water still a little cooler, and so on until the final rinsing water is perfectly cold. Do not blue them. Wring them out as dry as possible with a machine. Lay them in sheets or heavy cloths and roll them as hard as you can in firm rolls. Put them away for an hour, and at the end of that time iron them on the wrong side.—(St. Louis Republic).

## HOW TO BOIL RICE.

These directions for boiling rice sent out by the Louisiana Rice Exhibit of New Orleans: Pick the rice clean and wash it in two cold waters, not draining off the last water until you are ready to put the rice on the fire. Prepare a saucepan with water and a little salt. When it boils, sprinkle in the rice gradually so as not to stop the boiling. Boil hard for twenty minutes, keeping the pot covered. Then take it from the back of the fire and pour off the water, after which set the pot on the back of the stove to allow the rice to dry and the grains to separate. Remember to boil rapidly from the time you cover the pot until you take it off; this allows each grain to swell to three times its normal size, and the motion prevents the grains from sticking together. Don't stir it, as this will cause it to fall to the bottom and burn. When properly boiled, rice should be snowy white, perfectly dry, soft, and every grain separate.

When your family lose their appetite for potatoes, or if you are a wise woman before then, you will occasionally omit them from your dinner, and serve hot boiled rice with your roast. The rice will be better still if you cook it nearly tender and then put it in the pan with your roast to brown in the juices of the meat.

## RECIPES.

**Banana Shortcake.**—One pint of flour, one large tablespoonful of good baking powder, one-third cupful of shortening made moist with milk. While baking slice bananas in the proportion of three to one orange; grate the outside of the orange peel and mix with one cupful of sugar. Split the freshly baked cake, butter and fill with the fruit. Four teaspoonfuls of sweet cream, beaten stiff, and added to the fruit is an improvement. This is a delicious cake.

**Cranberry Pie.**—Stew one and a half pints of cranberries 10 minutes, and then add a cupful and a half of sugar (granulated), and cook 10 minutes longer. Line a deep pie plate with rich crust, with rim at the edge, and bake 15 or 20 minutes. Strain the fruit, put the jam immediately in the crust, spread a meringue made of the whites of three eggs, and two tablespoonfuls of sugar, roughly over the top, and place in a moderate oven, until well set but not browned.

**Fish Chowder.**—Take a cod or haddock weighing about four pounds; skin it, cut in small pieces and wash in cold water; take one-fourth pound (scant) of salt pork, cut in pieces and fry brown in the kettle in which chowder is to be made; pare and slice five medium-sized potatoes and one small onion; place a layer of potato and onion in the kettle, then a layer of fish, dredge in salt, pepper and flour; put in alternate layers until all is used; add hot water enough to cover, and boil gently thirty minutes; add one pint of milk, six crackers split and dipped in cold water; then cook ten minutes longer.