

ARIZONA'S CAMELS.

"Ships of the Desert" Running Wild in the Northwest.

Descendants of a Herd Used as Pack Animals.

Camels now running wild in Arizona are descendants of a small herd originally imported for use in Nevada. In the early days of mining on the Comstock, long before there were any railroads in the Great Basin region, it was thought that camels might be profitably used about the mines, particularly in packing across the surrounding deserts, and 12 "ships of the desert" were accordingly purchased and brought to Virginia City. They were wanted for use in packing salt from the Salt Springs salt marsh to the Comstock reduction works. This salt deposit lies far out in a desert region, and to reach it many waterless stretches of sand and alkali had to be traversed.

The camels were able to cross all the deserts in perfect comfort, carrying heavy loads of salt and finding means of subsistence in the prickly and bitter plants and shrubs everywhere to be found in abundance. In short, the animals did as good work here in our deserts as they are able to do in any country in the world, but they were too slow. The camel may be fast enough for an Arab, but he is too slow for an American.

When the occupation of the camels as packers of salt was gone they were sold to some Mexicans, who used them for a time in packing wood down out of the mountains. The Mexicans took them up rocky trails into the rugged hills and used them the same as they use a mule—unmercifully. They soon killed three of the wretched beasts and would have killed the remainder had not a Frenchman, who owned a big ranch on the Carson river, below Dayton, taken pity on the poor abused creatures and bought the whole of them. This Frenchman had been in Algeria with the French colony, where he had developed an affection for the camel—probably owed the animal a debt of gratitude for having saved his life on some occasion. He had no use for the beasts, therefore turned them out to roam the desert plains at will.

The animals, left to shift for themselves, soon waxed fat, and increased and multiplied. In a few years from nine the herd had increased to thirty-six, old and young. The Frenchman then sold the whole lot to be taken down to Arizona to be used in packing ore down off a big mountain range. It was said there was a good smooth trail, but the animals found all the rocks and soon became footsore and useless, when all were turned adrift to shift for themselves. They have regained the instincts of the original wild state of their species and are very wary and swift. They fly into waterless wastes impenetrable to man when approached. Some of the old animals, however, occasionally appear in the vicinity of the old settlements. Of late it is reported that the cattlemen have been shooting them for some reason, perhaps because they frighten and stampede their horses. No one knows how many camels are now running at large in the wilds of the Gila country, but there must be a great number. One is occasionally caught. Four years ago one was caught near to Gila Bend that measured over nine feet in height. It appeared to be a stray one of the herd in that region.—[San Francisco Chronicle.]

Silver-Mine Rats.

Rats are believed to have been brought to the Comstock town from California in freight wagons, probably in big "prairie schooners," among boxes and crates of goods. Once there, they multiplied at a prodigious rate, especially after they discovered the mines. Underground there were no cats to trouble them; and man, who was their enemy on the surface, was here their friend and protector. He shared his meal with them, says the Engineering Journal, and they scampered about him with perfect impunity. The warmth, too, was very congenial to the rats, both old and young. Cold was a thing unknown. As it were, they had been furnished with immense hot-houses in which to breed. Any temperature they wished, from 60 degrees to 130 was at their service.

Rats are useful as mine scavengers. They devour all the scraps of meat and other food thrown upon the ground by the men, and eat even the hardest bones. As the decay of the smallest thing becomes unendurable in a mine, the miners never intentionally kill a rat.

The men have a high opinion of the rats' sagacity. From them they often

receive the first intimation of coming danger. When a big cave-in is about to occur, the rats swarm out of the drifts and scamper about the floors of a level at unwanted times. The settling of the waste rock probably pinches the rats in their dens, and causes them to seek new and less dangerous quarters.

At times, when a mine has been shut down for a few weeks, the rats become ravenously hungry. Then they do not scruple to devour the young, old and weak of their own kind. When work is resumed, the almost famished creatures are astonishingly bold. They jump upon the underground engines, even when they are in rapid motion, and drink the oil out of the oil-cups, quite regardless of the presence of the engineers.

A fire in a mine slaughters the rats by the wholesale. Few escape, as the gasses penetrate every cranny, often so suddenly as to asphyxiate the rats before they can make their way out.

How a Porcupine Fights a Snake.

"Several years ago I was an interested spectator at a combat between a hedgehog and a huge black snake," said W. D. Ingraham of Memphis. "I came upon the scene just as the hedgehog began to attack upon the snake, which was lying stretched out on the road asleep. The hog advanced cautiously upon the reptile and seized its tail in its mouth, giving it a sharp bite. Then he quickly withdrew a few feet, and rolling himself into a compact ball, awaited developments. The snake, upon being thus rudely awakened, turned in fury upon its antagonist, striking the hog again and again with its fangs. The wily hedgehog, securely entrenched within its spiny armor, remained perfectly motionless all the while, allowing the snake to keep up the attack. At every stroke the jaws of the snake would become filled with the spines, until at last, exhausted and bleeding from dozens of wounds caused by the needle-like spines of the hog, the snake gave up the battle. This was evidently what the hedgehog was waiting for, as he immediately proceeded to roll over the snake again and again, until he had completely disemboweled his victim."—[St. Louis Globe-Democrat.]

A Descendant of Ananias.

George Jones, who is said to have told more lies during his lifetime than any other man since the days of Ananias, is very ill. Between moans he told a story of adventure to a reporter. He was once a bear hunter, he said, and had killed over one hundred bears during his time. He claimed that no man had ever killed bears as fast as he did. When hunting in Oregon one time he discovered a place up in the mountains where bears appeared every day to drink. He used to fill a pail with whiskey, sweetened with sugar, and every time a bear appeared brum drunk the whiskey and got dead drunk. Jones would then start the bear to rolling down the side of the mountain, and it would land at his camp below, where he had a man employed to butcher and skin it. Jones then filled the pail with whiskey again, and the next bear was served the same way. Jones says he captured an average of three bears a day at this place for two months, which cannot be true, for he only claimed to kill a hundred bears in the first place.—[Atchison Globe.]

Nuts as Food.

W. A. Macdonald, London, England, writes the American Agriculturist: Quite a stir has recently been created in Europe with reference to the value of nuts as food for human beings, and if this movement spreads, as there appears to be every prospect of its doing so, there will be a great impetus given to the value of the beech, for its nuts are one of the most delicious kinds of food. Much discussion has taken place regarding the relative values of cereals and nuts, the only important distinction among them being the excess of starch in the former, and the excess of fat in the latter. The beechnut settles this dispute by having a considerable percentage both of fat and starch, and it contains as much nitrogen as cereals, being also more nitrogenous than the average of other nuts. It may be added that the beech is the only tree whose green leaves are adequately suited to the human palate, so that in case of famine, or lack of other foods, they would occupy a conspicuous place. Also its wood occupies a high place as fuel and as an article of manufacture.

Drat that Piano.

"The piano is out of tune," remarked Mrs. Foster. "H'm," retorted her husband. "I wish it was out of doors."—[Harper's Bazar.]

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

Cotton grows wild in India. A dog's tailor flourishes in Paris. The India cable is 21.05 miles long. Japanese farm animals are shod with straw sandals.

Moravian missionaries have been maintained in Labrador since 1769.

The Western Union Telegraph Company consumes 100,000,000 envelopes a year.

Greek ladies had steel and brass mirrors, parasols, fans and smelling bottles.

Sandwiches made by machinery are the result of a labor-saving device just invented.

In France the doctor's claim on the estate of a deceased patient has precedence over all others.

A book printed by Caxton has been found, it is claimed, in the lumber loft of a Connecticut farm house.

Rome was supplied from twenty-four large aqueducts, which brought 50,000,000 cubic feet of water daily into the city.

Eight colored women entered a "nail driving contest," the feature of a church entertainment in Baltimore the other week.

The women in the middle ages always parted their hair with a small dagger. When not in use it was carried in the girdle.

Drunkenness is very rare in Rio Janeiro, Brazil, the cause being that the people drink coffee to the almost entire exclusion of alcoholic beverages.

Pun-making used to be held in higher esteem than it is now. Among the ancients there were many offenders of this kind, and one of the greatest of them was Cicero.

According to an old gazetteer, the name of Sing Sing, the popular all-the-year-round resort on the Hudson, was derived from an old Indian known as John Sing Sing.

The ineffectiveness of medieval cavalry is shown by the fact that it was always the slow moving part of the service, while all quick movements were executed by footmen.

The grandees of Spain claim the right of appearing in the presence of the king with their hats on, to show that they are not so much subject to him as other Spaniards are.

Frank Mayne and Henry Smith, of Indianapolis, sat down to play a game of checkers a couple of weeks ago and became so interested that they continued the contest for 16 hours without once arising from their seats.

John Adams, of Ryeville, Ohio, was chased by a bull, tossed into a tree and landed in a hornets' nest. His fall so excited the insects that they issued forth in a swarm and stung the man so terribly that he died the next day.

If a Chinese saves a man's life he is compelled by an ancient custom to support him the rest of his days. The result of this is that very often a drowning man will perish in the sight of a score of sturdy swimmers, who feel too poor to undertake the feeding of another mouth.

The ancient physicians had a firm belief in the healing powers of different portions of a cat, probably from some confusion existing in their minds with regard to its own nine lives. One of them gives as a valuable receipt to cure fevers, two pints of water mixed with three drops of blood taken from the ear of an ass, and certain parts of a cat's digestive organs!

Illuminated Life Buoy.

Some trials have just been made at Kiel on board of the German war vessel Worth with an electrically lighted life buoy, the invention of Captain Meltzer. The buoy was thrown overboard when the vessel was proceeding at a speed of about sixteen knots. For a space of about twelve seconds it was lost in the eddy currents caused by the twin screws of the vessel, but then reappeared. The new life buoy will be found useful at night, and the experiments resulted so successfully that it is probable that it will be adopted generally in the German navy.—[Detroit Free Press.]

A Suspicious Character.

When the late French Senator Renaud first came as senator to Paris from his home in the Pyrenees, he engaged a room at a hotel and paid a month's rent—one hundred and fifty francs—in advance. The proprietor asked him if he would have a receipt. "It is not necessary," replied Renaud; "God has witnessed the payment." "Do you believe in God?" sneered the host. "Most assuredly," replied Renaud; "don't you?" "Not I, monsieur." "Ah," said the senator, "in that case, please make me out a receipt!"—[Argonaut.]

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

When we advance a little into life, we find that the tongue of man creates nearly all the mischief in the world.—Paxton Hood.

Titles are valuable; they make us acquainted with many persons who otherwise would be lost among the rubbish.—H. W. Shaw.

The most plain, short and lawful way to any good end is more eligible than one directly contrary in some or all these quantities.—Swift.

As the sword of the best tempered metal is flexible, so the truly generous are most pliant and courteous in their behavior to their inferiors.—Fuller.

We are not afraid of telling over and over again how a man comes to fall in love with a woman and be wedded to her, or else be fatally parted from her.—George Eliot.

That is what we are put into the world for—to help one another. You can pass on the kindness by serving my good friends, who, in return, will do their best for you.—Louise M. Alcott.

There remains in the faces of women who are naturally serene and peaceful, and of those rendered so by religion, an after spring, and later, an after summer, the reflex of their most beautiful bloom.—Richter.

Petty vexations may at times be petty, but still they are vexations. The smallest and most inconsiderable annoyances are the most piercing. As small letters weary the eye most, so also the smallest affairs disturb us most.—Montaigne.

The good man quietly discharges his duty and shuns ostentation; the vain man considers every deed lost that is not publicly displayed. The one is intent upon realities, the other upon semblance; the one aims to be good, the other to appear so.—Robert Hall.

Without the resolution in your hearts to do good work so long as your right hands have motion in them, and to do it whether the issue be that you die or live, no life worthy the name will ever be possible to you, while in once forming the resolution that your work is to be well done, life is really one, here and forever.—Ruskin.

Hygienic Value of Perfumes.

Dr. Anders of Philadelphia a few years ago made the interesting discovery that the ozone in the atmosphere, the element which is the great purifier, was mainly supplied from blooming flowers, and for this reason blooming plants were healthful in dwelling houses, as well as attractive. Some interesting experiments with the odors of flowers have been made in the old world, and it is found that many species of microbes are destroyed by various odors.

The odor of cloves has been known to destroy these minute creatures in twenty-five minutes; cinnamon will kill some species in twelve minutes; thyme in thirty-five. In forty-five minutes the common wild verbena is found effective, while the odor of some geranium flowers has destroyed various forms of microbes in fifty minutes. The essence of cinnamon is said to destroy the typhoid fever microbe in twelve minutes, and is recorded as the most effective of all odors as an antiseptic. It is now believed, says Meehan's Monthly, that flowers which are found in Egyptian mummies were placed there more for their antiseptic properties than as mere ornaments or elements in sentimental work.

A Curious Parasite.

It is an old saying that every dog has his day. According to an English authority, that day is neither very long or specially comfortable in Fiji. It is impossible to keep foreign dogs alive for much more than a couple of years. Those born there may live four years. The cause of this mortality is a species of worm that lives in the blood-vessels, arteries and heart. Adult specimens of the parasite sometimes measure as much as five inches, and the blood of some animals is actually swarming with them. Puppies are often troubled with them, although it seems to take about six months to develop them to a troublesome stage. When a dog is attacked, it begins with a sharp barking, which is at once recognized as the beginning of poor Fido's last chapter. Thus far no remedy has been found or even suggested. The same parasite is found in dogs in Eastern Asia, and identical symptoms are noted. The animal may live six months to two years after the first indications are observed.

All the Vehicles Belonging to the Vanderbilt Family are Black.

All the vehicles belonging to the Vanderbilt family are black, with maroon body, the spokes of the wheels being shot with red.

KEYSTONE STATE COLLINGS

ONE KILLED, FOURTEEN INJURED.

RAD WRECK OF A FREIGHT AND PASSENGER TRAIN AT SILVER BROOK.
WILKESBARRE.—At Silver Brook, a Pennsylvania railroad freight train ran into a Lehigh Valley express train, killing Patrick Daley, of Milton, and injuring Engineer Kimmel, of the freight train; Conductor Arthur Brakeman Brosius and Fireman Arthur Brown, all of Sunbury; Joseph Beigel, of Mauch Chunk, express messenger; a newsboy, name unknown, of Reading and Brakeman Bidde, of the express train. The passengers injured were Philip Dormstatter, of Shenandoah; Mrs. Winterstein, of Shenandoah; an unknown Hungarian woman, of Yorktown; John Schrock, of Audenside; John Pottrop, of Audenside, and Messrs. McElroy and Lennon, liquor merchants, of Philadelphia. Brosius is likely to die. The wreck is one of the worst that ever happened on the Lehigh division of the Lehigh Valley railroad. There were nearly 100 passengers on the train. They were thrown about in all directions.

FIRE IN CLEARFIELD.

A BLOCK BURNED, CAUSING \$20,000 LOSS, BY INCENDIARY.
CLEARFIELD.—A fire broke out in the rear of Hackman & Irvin's furniture store in W. Clearfield, and before gotten under control burned an entire block of wooden store buildings. Among the losers are Hackman & Irvin, \$5,000; Ralph M. Taylor, clothing, \$2,300; Shackman & McClosky, general merchandise, \$9,000; W. F. Ogden, meats and produce, \$1,000. The entire loss is \$20,000; insurance, \$11,000. This same block was burned on July 28, 1892, the fire originating in the same place and in the same manner. Both fires are supposed to be the work of an incendiary.

NATIONAL GUARD AFFAIRS.

HARRISBURG, Pa.—The report of Col. Oatburn, general inspector of rifle practice, shows that only two companies of the National guard failed to qualify the required number of marksmen last year. Of the 8,700 members of the guard, only 1,044 failed to qualify. Last year 1,149 marksmen were added to the large list which had previously met the shooting requirements.

Surgeon General Head says that the working of the hospital corps was far from satisfactory. He recommends the special enlistment of men by the medical officers from the immediate vicinity of their residences or of their steward's.

FREAK OF AN ABANDONED GAS WELL.

FLATWOOD.—In the summer of 1892 a company leased about 2,000 acres of land along Virginia run, in Perry and Franklin townships for the purpose of thoroughly testing the territory for gas and oil. One well was drilled to a depth of 2,000 feet, and though flowing a small pressure of gas, was abandoned and plugged. Now the well amuses and frightens people for miles around. It begins to boil like a huge pot with a roaring sound like that of a distant storm, then throws mud and water to a height of 80 feet. Recently the plug was blown out, leaving a crater 40 feet in circumference.

LOST ALL THEIR CHILDREN.

LERANON.—Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sheest, of this city have lost all their children, four in number, during the past ten days, by scarlet fever. The last victim is now lying dead in the house.

MRS. JOHN BURKE, of Uniontown, is happy in the recovery of her six-year-old son, who disappeared Thursday. He was found at Conneliessville, where he had been taken in a buggy by John Lannon. Lannon says he took the boy because he resembled his little boy Walter, who died a few weeks ago.

THE LOGAN iron and steel works near Lewistown were almost completely destroyed by fire. Loss estimated at \$100,000; partially insured. Origin of fire unknown. One hundred men are thrown out of employment. When running at full time the works employ 300 men.

ON THE 11th inst. forty-nine mortgages were satisfied in the Beaver county recorder's office, aggregating \$30,850. From the 11th to the 14th inclusive, sixty mortgages were satisfied, aggregating \$42,430, in amounts ranging from \$200 to \$5,000.

COAL AND IRON police are on the trail of Mahoney Plane robbers, who abandoned a satchel containing \$300 in postage stamps and who are supposed to have looted many country postoffices.

LARS ANDERSON, a Swede, has begun suit at New Castle against the Pittsburg & Lake Erie railroad company, for \$10,000 damages. While at work there he was injured in a freight smashup.

SEVEN-YEAR-OLD Mattie Fontaine, of Jeannette, found a flask of whiskey. She drank the liquor and died from the illness which followed.

THE STRIKING miners along the Pittsburg, Shenango & Lake Erie railroad have accepted the reduction of 5 cents a ton, against which they struck for so long a time.

HOWARD BENNETT, of Indiana, 6 years old, son of John Bennett, on Saturday fell off a bee-hive, fracturing his skull. His recovery is doubtful.

THE GOVERNOR issued warrants for the hanging of James Newton Hill, of Allegheny county, and James B. Carpenter, of Juniata county, on Thursday, June 14, next.

SOLDIERS' COLUMN

THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG.

BY CAMILLA BALLARD, WHITE, S. D.
Staggered they up the hill,
By cavalry mad and white,
Into the battle of hell's worst fight—
Into the battle of Gettysburg!
Rallied the troops and into the fray,
Rallied till backward and broken they lay;
Rallied till trampled and ground to clay—
Into the battle of Gettysburg!
Volleys of shot and shell,
Thousands of heroes who fell,
Thousands of graves that tell—
All of the battle of Gettysburg!
Out of the cannon's hot mouth,
Poured fire and shell of the South,
Onto the field of thirst and drought—
Into the battle of Gettysburg!
Thousands of soldiers dead,
Thousands who followed their lead,
Dying on carnival's terrible bed—
This was the battle of Gettysburg!
Cannon quivering, mad and hot,
Backward they rushed to molder spot,
Urging the iron's red anger to stop—
Three days in the battle of Gettysburg!
Then the foe though Liberty fell,
Onward they rushed with thundering yell,
Rushed into a deafening hell—
Into the battle of Gettysburg!
Backward they turned, and they met them,
Met them with musket and saber stroke,
Then,
Finished the battle on bodies of men—
This is the horror of Gettysburg!

DAVIS'S CROSSROADS.

A Short but Severe Encounter Under the Shadow of Old Lookout.

It was on the 11th of September, 1863, just after the Army of the Cumberland moved from Shenandoah and vicinity across the Tennessee River by the different pontoon bridges, that the Fourth South Carolina, under "Pap" Thomas, threaded its way over Sand Mountain, via Stevens Gap, across Lookout, down in the valley it passed, along the headwaters of west Chickamauga, Negley's Division in the lead, followed by Baird's, the other division having passed farther east by a different route.

We had halted by the wayside near a Southern mansion, that of Mrs. Davis. I think she was at home, but Mr. Davis was not anywhere around. Gen. Negley, with Aids, was sitting on his horse underneath the shade trees in the doorway. He evidently was seeking information, and politely asked Mrs. Davis how far it was to Lafayette. She replied with "Go and see." I think the General blushed a little, but the boys who heard the conversation knew at once where we were and what to do. We just helped ourselves to everything good in sight. After our rest and refreshments we were sent forward across the creek south to reconnoiter. Just south of the creek a little way is Davis's Crossroads, with some old buildings on the corners. We followed the Lafayette road into Dug Gap, Pigeon Mountain, where we found the road blocked by leveled timber in the deep cuts. This stopped our progress for the night.

We were thrown into line of battle facing the supposed enemy, where we lay on our arms all night. We afterward learned that the whole of Bragg's army was just the other side of Pigeon Mountain, and that they were plainly planning to surround and capture us in the morning. But we were up early. We waited patiently, peering through the woods in our front until late in the afternoon. There was a field to our left with thick underbrush in the woods beyond. Our skirmishers were thrown some distance forward along the fence on the opposite side of the field. Suddenly a long line of skirmishers appeared, closely followed by a line of battle.

Our boys gave them a warm reception, but when they had to fall back across the field they had to run some distance exposed to a heavy fire from the enemy. We were ordered to move on as the rats were closing in on us from three sides. The General had ordered a new line of battle on the rise of ground just north of Chickamauga and it ran right through the Davis yard. There was a stone wall on the roadside just north of the creek and the 10th Ill. was lying behind it, for the rebel cavalry could be seen preparing for a charge. They did not see the trap, so on they came with a yell. Just as they got opposite the stone wall the 19th boys sprang up, as by magic, and one long sheet of flame leaped from their Springfield rifles. There was a scolding mass for a moment, and then a hasty retreat. It was one of the best things the 19th boys ever did. Meantime our line was forming hastily for the next onset. While we were moving left in front to the support of our battery, just west of the house, the rebels coming from the west ran up a battery and commenced shelling us with bad effect. As soon as we got to our place in the line we lay down, as the storm had turned to grape and canister. It got too hot for our battery boys and they left their guns for a time, leaving the light wheeler there was a full in the store.

Finally we 's' back, with the whole line, to a strong position on a low ridge at the foot of Lookout. We lay on our arms all night. When morning came the Johnnies had retired toward Lafayette. Then we departed for Chickamauga.—W. S. Bowers in "National Tribune."

Whole Orchard Stolen.

A novel theft has been reported to the Sheriff by a farmer who lives near Stockton, Cal. This farmer came to town recently and left his farm in charge of his young son for the day. The boy saw some men digging up fruit trees in the young orchard his father had started and went out to them to inquire what they were at. The men said they had bought all the trees from the owner and were digging them up to take them away. The boy thought, of course, it was as the man said, and that his father had really sold the trees, so he made no protest. When the father came home he was greatly astonished to find that his orchard had disappeared during his absence in Stockton. The young son told him what had happened and steps were taken at once to find some trace of the trees if possible, but without success. About 3.0 trees were stolen.

"DID THE publishers accept the novel of hers in which the heroine kills her husband by slow poison?" "No. They advised her to adopt prussic acid and make it a short story."—Puck.