

# The Star.

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## SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY.

Genesis 1, 1. "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth."—First Lesson.  
Revelation xxi, 1. "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth."—Second Lesson.  
The Epistle for the day speaks of the interval as a race or a fight; the gospel, as a day's work in a vineyard.  
Whence? and Whither? cries the soul.  
Here they cradle, there they goal.  
Here they tell of man's first birth.  
Thence they sing now heaven, new earth.  
Twixt the two a race to run  
Till thy earthly course be done.  
Life is battle; life is toil.  
Man was born to till the soil.  
Who for fight the pain would bear  
Plants his knees nor beats the air.  
Whoso'er the Master send,  
Work unceasing to the end.  
May they have who strive to teach  
Grace to practice what they preach  
Made from dust and prone to sin,  
May they feel God's breath within!  
—F. Cornish in Week by Week.

## ABOUT ELEPHANTS.

BELIEF THAT THEY ARE ENDOWED WITH SUPERIOR INTELLIGENCE.

They Have Mental Qualities Not Possessed by Other Animals—Interesting Stories About Them—The First One Brought to This Country.

Elephants never go to sleep without leaving one of the herd awake to keep watch and give warning in case of intrusion. Go into the big menagerie tent of the show any night after the elephants have gone to sleep, or go into one of the elephant cars on a night run, and you will find that, no matter how quietly and stealthily you have entered, the eye of one member of the herd is upon you.

Conklin believes, as do most all elephant keepers, that the animal can understand what is said to it. Indeed, trainers assert that it has more intelligence than any other animal, and that it is the only one that can be taught to mind by word of mouth, without other cues. That it is endowed to a limited extent with reasoning powers is certain. One German philosopher thinks he has discovered that this mental development is due to the fact that in the trunk the elephant possesses a prehensile organ similar to the hand of man. The hand, he asserts, has played a more important part in the development of the human intellect than any other agency, since it brings its possessor into more intimate relations with the external world than any other organ. Some menagerie men, with more practical observation than the German professor and a smaller bump of theorizing, has pointed out that the only flaw in this reasoning is that if it is correct the gorillas and chimpanzees ought to have a higher mental development than man, because they have four good hands instead of two, and any one of the four is stronger than the eight hands of four men.

Well authenticated stories of the sagacity of elephants are so numerous that it is never necessary to resort to exaggeration to say something interesting about them. In their wild state the leader of a herd has been seen when approaching swampy ground to extend one foot to try its solidity before trusting his weight to it. When satisfied of its firmness, he would go confidently on, and the whole herd would follow in single file, cautiously stepping in the footprints of the leader, so that when the entire herd had thus passed the ground would look as if a single animal had gone that way. The same trait of caution is preserved in the domesticated animal. The action is not the result of training, but a brute instinct always displayed and bearing a striking resemblance to reason.

When Jumbo tried to butt a fast freight off from the Grand Trunk tracks in an effort to save the baby of the Barnum herd, Tom Thumb, and lost his life in the attempt, it was said that his action gave unmistakable evidence of reason, though it was poor testimony to his judgment that he so greatly underestimated the force of the locomotive.

In the matter of the food value of different materials the reasoning power of the elephant is very faulty, however. He will eat almost anything that comes his way. If a canvasman leaves a coat or vest hanging on a quarter pole within reach of an elephant, the big brute will edge over toward it and watch an opportunity when unobserved to touch it with his trunk. Then he will begin to haul it toward him, putting in rolls of hay and chewing them between times. As soon as the garment is at his feet the elephant will put one of his ponderous five hooved feet on it and begin to tear it up, rolling the pieces in his trunk and stuffing them into his mouth. The sole of a shoe is just as good for him to chew on as a wisp of hay, and his natural instinct of mischief inclines him to prefer that which he knows is forbidden him.

The first elephant brought to America for exhibition purposes was Old Bet, and it has often been remarked that the American circus was built on her shoulders. Different accounts fail to agree in regard to the date of her importation, which is placed all the way from 1776 to 1830 by different writers of old time reminiscences. Old Bet was brought over in the ship America, of which Captain Crowningshield was master, and she landed, according to the harbor records, in Philadelphia in April, 1793. She was but 5 feet high, and the sum of \$10,000 was paid for her, the largest price that had been paid up to that time for any animal, either here or in Europe. She was first exhibited in Philadelphia and astonished the public daily

by drawing the corks from 30 bottles of beer and drinking the contents. On the 20th of June, 1799, she passed through New York on the way to Boston.

Old Bet had been bought on the community plan by a number of farmers of Putnam county, N. Y., at the instance of one Ludwig Bistadler, chief mortgaging his farm and putting \$500 into the venture. They exhibited her under wagon sheds at hotels by putting a piece of side canvas up in front of the shed. The admission was 25 cents for adults and 12½ cents, or a York shilling, for children. This gigantic zoological institute, as the caravan was called, traveled east as far as Pawtucket, R. I., where the elephant, in spite of its docile disposition, was shot and killed. As the "institute" contained no other attractions the show closed. The same proprietors then imported a second elephant, which they also called Old Bet, and they enlarged their exhibition by adding to the collection a lion and a two horse cage and one monkey in a box strapped on to the hind end of the lion's cage. The second Old Bet landed in 1833. Following her to these shores the next pachyderm to arrive seems to have been Mogul, a very big fellow with long tusks, who was burned on the steamer Royal Tar between St. John's and Portland, Me.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

## Training a Locomotive.

It may not be generally known that locomotives intended for express trains require as much training, in their way, for fast running as do race horses. The Pennsylvania Railroad company builds its own engines, and these built for express trains are known as class P. They are very large and built, with slight variations, after the pattern of the big English engine imported into this country several years ago, and which at that time was a curiosity in its way. When one of these big engines is taken out of the shops to be placed on the road, instead of putting it to the work it is intended for at once it is run for two or three weeks on some one of the local branches in order to train it, so to speak, for faster running. By this means all the bearings and journals connected with the running gear become settled to their work, for should anything about the new machine not work harmoniously there is ample time to adjust the defect. Usually the new engine proves troublesome on account of its propensity to make fast time, and at almost every station the train is found to be a little ahead of schedule time and must wait for ten or twenty seconds to a minute.—Philadelphia Record.

## A Greek Devil Belief.

The Greek conception of their devil, whom they call Yama, makes that personage one of the most satanic of the whole devil tribe. According to their ideas of him, he is 240 miles high and the hairs on his body stand out like palm trees on a mountain side. He punishes the doomed beings submitted to his charge by putting them in beds of boiling oil, sawing their bodies in two, pouring molten lead in their ears and such other little pranks as pulling out their tongues, toe and finger nails and gouging out their eyes. He is a heartless old devil of the most devilish kind and has many other exquisite little tortures laid up for the helpless wretch consigned to his "chamber of horrors."—St. Louis Republic.

## Italian Superstition.

Superstition reigns tyrannically in many rural districts in Italy. Lately a fortune teller prophesied to a young farmer and his sister, living near Noto, Sicily, that on the evening before a certain feast day both would die a violent death. This so affected the minds of the poor couple that they became insane and rushed shrieking through the streets. A brother of these unfortunates then came somehow to the conclusion that the calamity was due to the witchcraft of their stepmother, and in a fit of blind rage he killed the poor woman with a hoe.—Philadelphia Ledger.

## Watches and Their Wearers.

Every watchmaker knows that the human frame is an excellent magnet. A man will carry a watch for years and be proud of its accuracy. Then he will fall ill, the watch will lie on the mantelpiece or on the chest of drawers and will develop great inaccuracy and unreliability. The only explanation given is that the absence of magnetism upsets the time announcer, and the best proof of this is that when the man recovers and takes his watch it soon gets right again. No two men appear to have the same magnetism in their frames, and it is seldom that two can use the same watch satisfactorily.

## Just Escaped.

An elderly Scotchman was trying on some spectacles which an itinerant optician had with him for sale. A pair was selected, and the latter suggested that, to benefit the sight in old age, rubbing the upper eyelids with raw gin was a valuable application. "Eh, mon," said the Scotchman, "I'm verra glad ye said gin, for if ye had said whiskey I dinna think I could have got it up so high."—Household Words.

## Acid Criticism.

Landlord—Did you ever taste anything to match this red wine?  
Customer—Oh, yes! Only the other week I stuck the wrong end of the puncher in my mouth by mistake.—Lustige Blätter.

## MEERSCHAUM.

How It Is Mined and Dried and Prepared For Market.

Meerschaum is extracted in the same way as coal. Pits from 25 feet to 125 feet deep are dug, and as soon as the vein is struck horizontal galleries, sometimes of considerable length, are made, but more than two galleries are seldom to be found in one pit. The stone as extracted is called "ham tash" (rough block) and is soft enough to be easily cut with a knife. It is white, with a yellowish tint, and is covered with a red clayey soil of about one inch thick. In this state the blocks are purchased by dealers on the spot, not by weight nor by measurement, but according to approximate quantity, either per load of three sacks or per cartload, the price varying from \$5 to \$30 per load, according to quality. These rough blocks are dried and subjected to certain preparation before being conveyed to Eski-Shehr. Some of them are as small as a walnut, while others attain the size of a cubic foot. Those which combine regularity of surface and size are the best. The manipulation required before they are ready for exportation is long and costly. The clayey soil attached is removed and the meerschaum dried. In summer exposure for five or six days to the sun's rays suffices, but in winter a room heated to the required temperature is required, and the drying process takes eight or ten days. When well dried, the blocks are well cleaned and polished. Then they are sorted into about 12 classes, each class being packed with great care in separate cases and each block being wrapped in cotton wool.—Engineering and Mining Journal.

## Why Ohio's Governor Has No Veto.

The governor of Ohio is the only executive in the country who has not the power of veto. It seems that the Buckeye State has done business without this provision for years. The story of how it was abolished is interesting. Years ago Ohio governors derived a big share of their income from marriages, for performing which they were allowed \$2 each. In the early days that was a large sum, and the executives counted this a principal source of revenue. Finally the fee was abolished by legislative enactment, but the governor's salary was insufficiently increased to cover the fees thus lost. General Arthur St. Clair, who was then governor of the territory, vetoed the bill abolishing the fees and signed the one raising the governor's salary. This performance, so the story goes, so angered the people that they soon afterward abolished the veto power, and later took it out of the constitution.—Buffalo Express.

## Oddities of Marriage.

Half the weddings in the country are celebrated on Wednesday and Thursday. Saturday has more than the average number. Friday is not a favorite, as few marriages are celebrated on that day. Widowers are more inclined to marry than bachelors, and widows more inclined than spinsters. Both facts are obviously in favor of the comparative advantage of matrimony. For one bachelor that marries between the ages of 50 and 55 seven widowers remarry between these ages. These are marriages out of an equal number of each class. The actual number of bachelors married will be greatest only in proportion as they exceed by seven to one the actual number of widowers living at these ages. Under the same conditions, for every spinster married between 30 and 65 two widows are remarried.—Philadelphia Times.

## The Value of Ivory.

"Few persons who finger their ivory handled knives at dinner," says Chambers' Journal, "think of the enormous distances that have been traversed by the smooth, pleasant feeling material, of the incalculable labor it represents, and of the suffering and piteous bloodshed which have marked its transit since it fell with some mighty elephant in a remote African jungle. Some who know central Africa say that if it were not for ivory the raiding and selling of slaves would soon cease. If this be true, then this beautiful product of nature stands in the civilized world as the representative of the traffic in human flesh which annually makes countless thousands die."

## Alligator Teeth.

In 1890 about 250 pounds of alligator teeth were sold, hunters receiving from \$1 to \$2 a pound for them. They are removed by burying the heads and rotting out the teeth. Of the best teeth about 70 make a pound. The stuffing of alligators and the polishing of the teeth give employment to 40 persons. Unfortunately alligators grow very slowly. At 15 years of age they are only 2 feet long. A 12 footer may be supposed reasonably to be 75 years old. It is believed that they grow as long as they live, and probably they live longer than any other animals.—Philadelphia Ledger.

## Novel Pocket Scissors.

A novel pair of pocket scissors in London do duty as a cigar and flower cutter, gas pliers, ordinary pliers, wire cutter, coin tester, paper knife, nail knife, screwdriver, a 3 inch measure, a pincher and a railway key.—London Standard.

## A Veteran.

Lawyer—The cross examination didn't seem to worry you a little bit. Have you had any previous experience?  
Client—Six children.—Brooklyn Life.

## Street Ordinances.

No. 35.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the opening of the extension of Ninth street (formerly Bradford street) from the East line of Main street between the lot of Jerry Heckman and the school house lot through the property of Charles Prescott to the West line of Grant street according to the accompanying plot or plan.

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Borough of Reynoldsville deem it necessary to open the extension of Ninth street aforesaid to the West line of Grant street, therefore,

SECTION 1. Be it ordained and enacted by the Town Council of the Borough of Reynoldsville, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by authority of the same, that the street committee be and is hereby authorized and directed to cause to be surveyed and opened the extension of Ninth street (formerly called Bradford St.) from the East line of Main street between the lot of Jerry Heckman and the school house lot through the property of Charles Prescott to the West line of Grant street at a width of fifty feet in accordance with the accompanying plan.

SECTION 2. The damages caused thereby and the damages caused by the grade thereof and the benefits to pay the same to be assessed and collected in accordance with the provisions of the Acts of Assembly of the Commonwealth of Penn'a relating thereto and regulating the same.

SECTION 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting herewith be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Ordained and enacted into a law this 7th day of October, A. D. 1895.

SCOTT McCLELLAND, Pres. of Council.

Attest, J. S. HAMMOND, Sec.

Burgess' Office, October 12, A. D. 1895.

Approved, SAMUEL LATTIMER, Burgess.

No. 36.

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the opening of the extension of Willow Alley, from the line between Charles Prescott and Jerry Heckman and Chas. Mathews, through lands of Charles Mathews, Joseph Speers and the heirs of Mrs. Charles Burns to the North-west line of an extension of Tenth (formerly Taylor) street, and the assessment of damages caused thereby and by the grade thereof, according to the accompanying plan.

WHEREAS, The Town Council of the Borough of Reynoldsville deem it necessary to open the extension of Willow Alley, from the line between Charles Prescott and Jerry Heckman and Charles Mathews, through lands of Charles Mathews, Joseph Speers, the heirs of Mrs. Charles Burns, deceased, and others, to the North-west line of an extension of Tenth street, at a width of fourteen feet in accordance with the accompanying plan.

SECTION 1. Be it ordained and enacted by the Town Council of the Borough of Reynoldsville, and it is hereby ordained and enacted by authority of the same, that the Street Committee be and is hereby authorized and directed to cause to be surveyed and opened the extension of Willow Alley, from the line between Charles Prescott and Jerry Heckman and Charles Mathews, through lands of Charles Mathews, Joseph Speers, the heirs of Mrs. Charles Burns, deceased, and others, to the North-west line of an extension of Tenth street, at a width of fourteen feet in accordance with the accompanying plan.

SECTION 2. The damages caused thereby and the damages caused by the grade thereof, and the benefits to pay the same to be assessed and collected in accordance with the Acts of Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania relating thereto and regulating the same.

SECTION 3. All ordinances or parts of ordinances conflicting herewith be, and the same are hereby repealed.

Ordained and enacted into a law this 7th day of October, A. D. 1895.

SCOTT McCLELLAND, Pres. of Council.

Attest, J. S. HAMMOND, Sec.

Burgess' Office, October 12, A. D. 1895.

Examined and approved, SAMUEL LATTIMER, Burgess.

## Merry to the Last.

It was the 21st of April, 1821. Dr. L. P. Frank, the eminent governor of the University hospital, Vienna, lay on his deathbed and was expected every moment to pass away. Once more the eight leading medical men of the capital gathered round his couch. All at once the patient burst out laughing.

"What is it that tickles your fancy?" his friends inquired.  
"A story has just come into my mind," was the reply. "On the battlefield of Wagram lay a French soldier and counted his wounds. 'Sacre bien!' he exclaimed, 'it takes eight bullets to kill a French grenadier.' Gentlemen, there are eight of you too."  
Thus he spoke and expired in a fit of laughter.—Illustrirtes Sonntags-Blatt.

## The Strength of a Hair.

An interesting article was published in a Paris paper recently regarding the weight which a hair from the human head can support. "Hairs," says the author, "have a force of resistance hard to believe unless one has convinced himself by experiments. Bichat does not fear to say that nothing else, not even excepting a fibrous tissue, can support so large a weight in proportion to its volume. Grelletier, who shares this opinion, has estimated that a single hair can carry a weight of 1,034 decigrams (more than 100 grams). According to Richter, a blond hair can bear more than six ounces, a black one still more. One can thus appreciate the great strength of the ropes which the Carthaginians made of their hair."

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## A Special Invitation!

To the Ladies of Reynoldsville and surroundings to attend our Fall and Winter

## OPENING

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At which time we will have for your inspection hundreds of all styles to select from. The Mfg. Agent will be here and will show you the newest things in the line of Wraps. We specially invite you to call at our store on the above named date and give the line a look. You will see something that will interest you. The Administration Building, built entirely of Soap, can be seen at that time.

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