

## DANGEROUS FISHES.

THEY ARE NOT ALL CONFINED TO THE SEAS THAT ARE SALTY.

The Alligator Gar is One Fresh Water Species That Is Feared in the South—A Mysterious Monster That Inhabits a Michigan Lake.

So far as any danger from the game is concerned, fresh water fishing has always been looked upon as about as safe as any sport in the world, and the fresh water fish has gone on record as harmless and non-resistant. But there are instances now and then when the fish turns the tables. The inhabitants of Osceola county, Mich., who live in the neighborhood of Lake George, an inland water about three miles long, are almost superstitiously afraid of a certain fish that inhabits it, and no one knows what sort of fish it is, and opinion locally is divided as to whether it is a giant muskellunge or a sturgeon.

Spearing parties had now and then reported seeing a very large fish without being able to strike it, but no one gave credence to the tales until one night several years ago, when a party of sportsmen from Chicago went on the lake spearing in charge of an old resident named Armstrong.

Armstrong was the only one that returned to tell the story. He said the party was spearing in shallow water when they saw an enormous fish that resembled an overgrown pickerel. Two of the Chicago men were standing in the bow, and at first supposed the fish to be a log. Then one saw his mistake and struck with all his might. The fish gave a dart that made the boat jump as though a steam engine were pulling it. If the man had let go of the spear, all would have been well, but he hung on, and the fish gave a mighty flop to right angles with the boat. The man still held to the spear, with the result that the boat capsized, and the men found themselves standing in mud and water up to their waists.

The light went out when the boat upset, and the night being dark and cloudy, not one of the party had any idea of the direction to be pursued in reaching shore. The shallow water occupies a large part of the lake, and they could wander in any direction without being able to tell whether or not they were nearing shore. Armstrong said afterward that nothing could equal the awfulness of the experience that followed. They made their way in one direction after another and wandered round and round, going half way to their knees in mud at every step.

To make matters worse a cold, steady, drizzling rain began to fall. They were soon numb to the marrow. Then one of the sportsmen dropped without a word, and no one went to his help. Little by little the three that remained were separated. Armstrong says he himself became unconscious after a time and remembers nothing that happened until he was roused by feeling solid ground beneath his feet and finding that the water was more shallow than it had been. He kept on and fell upon the shore. Then on hands and knees he crawled to camp and gave the alarm. Search was at once made for his companions, and their bodies were recovered. Since that time the big fish with a scar on his back has twice or thrice been seen by spearing parties, but they have passed it by.

There is one species of fish in the south that is feared only little less than its salt water contemporary the shark. This is the alligator gar. It grows to enormous size and has a bill hard and bony and much broader than the bill of the common gar of northern waters. One who goes out upon the lakes of Louisiana and Arkansas will see them jumping and splashing like enormous trout. Their usual food consists of fish, and they not only make endless trouble for those who go fishing with minnows, but have been known to round up and tear to pieces bass which the sportsman has hooked. Bathing in the lakes is considered dangerous.

A negro was sitting in the stern of a boat on a lake near Helena, Ark., letting his feet hang over the stern, when a gar grabbed him by one leg. The man hung to the boat until rescued, but his leg was horribly gashed. The fish has been known to attack in like manner negroes who went swimming in the Mississippi below New Orleans. One spring the writer was visiting a rice plantation on the "lower coast" of the Mississippi when an old negro came walking to the house and said his five-year-old boy was dead. He had been playing at the edge of a bayou and was lying on the bank extending his arms into the water when a gar came with a rush and, grabbing the youngster by the arm, pulled him into the water. A young negro with a shotgun was standing near watching for ricebirds. He ran to the bank. The fish found it had undertaken a bigger task than it could well manage, and a wild struggle was in progress between the gar and the dying child. The negro shot the fish, but the child died before it could be taken from the water.—New York Times.

**The Right of Defense.**  
In the course of a trial an English judge is reported to have said: "The laws of God and man both give the party an opportunity to make his defense, if he has any. I remember to have heard it observed by a very learned man upon such an occasion that even God himself did not pass sentence upon Adam before he was called upon to make his defense. 'Adam,' says God, 'where art thou? Hast thou eaten of the tree whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldst not eat?' And the same question was put to Eve also."

## MEMORY'S PRANKS.

Why Do We Remember Certain Things and Forget Others?

The vagaries of memory are some of the most interesting of those connected with the human mind and body. Why do we forget certain things and remember others? Myriads of these irregularities are as yet unaccounted for. Perhaps not even the cleverest metaphysician will ever account for them.

Professor James reminds us how something which we have tried in vain to recall will afterward, when we have given up the attempt, "saunter into the mind," as Emerson says, as innocently as if it had never been summoned.

Again, bygone experiences will revive after years of oblivion, often as the result of some cerebral disease or accident.

Such a case is the one quoted by Coleridge of a young woman in Germany who could neither read nor write, but who was said to be possessed of a devil because, in a fever, she was heard raving in Latin, Greek and in an obscure rabbinical dialect of Hebrew. Whole pages of her talk were written down and were found to consist of sentences intelligible in themselves, but not having the slightest connection with one another. To say that she was possessed of a devil was the easiest way of accounting for the matter.

At last the mystery was cleared up by a physician, who traced back the girl's history until he learned that at the age of nine she was taken to live at the house of an old pastor, a great Hebrew scholar, and that she remained there until the pastor's death. It had been for years the old man's custom to walk up and down a passage near the kitchen and read to himself in a loud voice.

His books were examined, and among them many of the passages taken down at the young woman's bedside were identified. The theory of demoniacal possession was abandoned.—Youth's Companion.

## HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Mix stove blacking with a little ammonia to prevent it burning off.

A teakettle should never be allowed to stand on the side of the fire with a small quantity of water in it.

A rose potpourri is made by packing fresh rose petals in salt, a layer of the petals, then a layer of salt, and keeping them covered for six months.

A convenient substitute for a cork-screw when the latter is not at hand may be found in the use of a common screw with an attached string to pull the cork.

For ink stains on furniture add six drops of nitric to a teaspoonful of water and apply it to the stain with a feather. If the stain does not yield to the first application, make it stronger and repeat the process.

Stains on silverware require prompt attention, otherwise it will take a long time to remove them. Sulphuric acid will remove the stain left by medicine. Dip the spoon in the acid, repeating the process until the stain has disappeared; then wash in very hot water.

**Diluting Tea.**  
Few housekeepers remember, as they should, that when it is necessary to dilute strong tea it should be done with water at the boiling point. The poor flavor of tea, made strong at first and then reduced, such as is too often served at receptions and "at homes," is usually caused by the addition of hot, not boiling, water to the first infusion. A lesson in this matter may be had from the Russians, who serve the most delicious tea in the world, and who prepare it first very strong, making it almost an essence of tea. This is diluted to the strength wished, with water kept boiling in the samovar. This water is not allowed to boil and reboll, but is renewed as needed. Freshly boiled water is insisted upon by all connoisseurs in teasmaking.

**Ceilings and Ventilation.**  
Rooms with low ceilings or with cellings even with the window tops are susceptible of more perfect ventilation than those with high ceilings. In such rooms the leakage at the windows, which is constantly going on, keeps the air in motion throughout the room, whereas if the ceiling is higher only the lower part of the air is moved, and an inverted lake of foul and hot air is left floating in the space above the window tops. This lake, under the law of diffusion of gases, keeps actively at work, fouling the fresh currents circulating beneath it.

**Longevity of Irish Peasants.**  
It is curious to notice the great number of centenarians whose deaths are recorded in the official returns of Irish rural districts. As an instance of the longevity of the Irish peasant it may be pointed out that the death of persons upward of sixty years of age registered in Connaught last year amounted to over 50 per cent of the entire deaths of the province.

**He Knew Wall Street.**  
Upon Downes—There's a man over there who owes all his wealth to his deep knowledge of the ways of Wall Street.

Winnan Luce—Went in and won his pile, eh?

Upon Downes—No; stayed out and kept what he had.—New York Times.

Pineapples come into bearing in Hawaii when the plants are four months old and bear in abundance for years. Lettuce can be planted at any time, and it develops quickly. The same is true of celery.

The fellow who never has anything of importance to say always manages to say it.—Philadelphia Record.

## SPRINGS IN THE SEA

FRESH WATER STREAMS THAT BURST FROM THE OCEAN'S BED.

The Origin of the Underground Rivers That Have an Outlet Under the Persian Gulf Has Never Been Satisfactorily Explained.

Along the shallow bottom of the ocean, not very far from the land, a number of openings have been discovered in various parts of the world through which water as pure and fresh as that of any bubbling spring mingles with the salt water of the sea. Another remarkable class of fresh water springs is those that sink out of sight or perhaps never come to the surface, but follow hidden channels under the land and under the sea until they finally come to the open air on an island. Both of these types of underground rivers are perhaps most remarkably illustrated near and on Bahrein island, in the Persian gulf, a place that is also noted as one of the chief sources of pearls.

Bahrein island, the largest of the group of islands bearing that name, is about twenty miles off the coast of Arabia in the Persian gulf. As the island has almost no rainfall it is a dead level of sandy desert relieved only by palm groves and patches of vegetation where water springs to the surface from the mysterious underground channels. In many places the water does not reach the surface, but is found by sinking wells, the water being raised to the surface by donkeys and bullocks and poured into the channels from which the date palms and other crops are irrigated. These springs cannot possibly be derived from the island, and it is no more likely that they come from the sandy wastes of neighboring Arabia. The Arabian shore as far as can be seen is low and devoid of water except at El-Katif where similar springs are found.

Arabs say that these streams come straight from the Euphrates river through an underground channel by which the great river, in part, flows beneath the Persian gulf. Geologists, however, have dismissed this theory. Though the origin of the springs has not yet been satisfactorily explained, the most favored theory is that they come from the wet watered slopes of the Persian mountains far to the north. If this theory is correct, it means that the rainfall sinks into the earth's crust until it reaches impermeable rock strata along which it is carried for a great distance to the south out under the sea until the rock, sloping upward, again brings the water near the surface on Bahrein island. Some of the wells that are thus supplied are enormous, and one of them, the Adari, serves for the irrigation of many miles of date palms through a canal of ancient construction. The Adari well is one of the great sights of Bahrein, being a deep basin of water 22 by 40 yards in size. The fact that it comes from a far higher source is shown by the force with which it enters the well. Divers, driven back by the strong current, are unable to reach the bottom.

There being no wells within miles of some of the coast towns of Bahrein, they obtain water from springs that issue from the bottom of the gulf not far from the shore. These springs of course have the same origin as the wells. Divers, with goatskins under their arms, dive through the salt water and fill the skins with the cold, fresh liquid at the bottom. The water obtained in this way usually contains a slight admixture of salt water, so that the mixture is just a little brackish. At some of these openings at the sea bottom the head of water entering the sea is so strong that when hollow bamboos are pushed down into it the water rises through the tubes, delivering the fresh water directly into vessels that are held by men and women who are sitting in the boats that brought them from the land. The force of some of the streams as they come from the earth is so considerable that it pushes back the salt water, and the spring is not mixed with the sea water for quite a space around the places of entrance.

It has been practically determined within the past few years that the waters of a small river in West Africa which disappeared in a fresh water swamp that has no visible outlet find their way by an underground channel into the Atlantic and mingle with the sea through an opening in the bottom that has been discovered a few miles from Cape Verde. A channel has been found on the sea floor which, apparently, was cut by some fresh water stream. During some soundings that were made in 1895 for the purpose of finding and raising a broken cable the vessel engaged in the work was surrounded by swamp vegetation that was continually rising to the surface. It was evidently brought through the underground channel from the swamp.

The breaking of a cable off the mouth of the Rovuma river in East Africa has been attributed to the destructive action of a strong current of sweet water entering the sea level several miles from the land. Another remarkable example of a submarine river is found to the north of the city of Arica on the Pacific coast of South America. A river from the Andes that is gradually swallowed up in the sand has been found to make its way invisibly into the sea, with which it unites some miles from the land.—New York Sun.

**Brain Weight.**  
It is stated by an authority that the weight of a man's brain has nothing to do with his mental power. It is a question of climate, not of intellect. The colder the climate, the greater the size of the brain. The largest heads of all are those of the Chugatshe, who live very far north, and next come the heads of the Lapps.

## Learning the Game.

When that great platoonman J. B. Hickok, better known as "Wild Bill," came east on what he called a "red-hot trail to learn something," he stopped one Saturday night at a hotel in Portland, Me.

When he went to his room to seek rest, he found that the adjoining room was occupied by a company of fashionable and rich young sports of Portland who, it did not take him long to discover, were playing an interesting game of poker for high stakes. In vain did he try to sleep. He could not do so, and after an hour arose, dressed himself and knocked on the door.

Instantly all was silent; but he inquired politely that as they would not let him sleep would they let him come in and watch the game?

They did so and were impressed with the appearance of the man and asked if he would join them.

"I will if you will post me; but, you know, I'm a tenderfoot east," he replied.

They were willing to "post" him, and, playing awkwardly, making blunders and asking questions, but seemingly greatly interested, he continued to play until daylight, when he put his winnings, some \$1,500, in his pocket.

"I thank you, gentlemen," he said, "and I'm rather glad you would not let me sleep. I'll be here until tomorrow, so keep me awake some more."

But the players did not appear again.—Detroit Free Press.

## Borrowing Habits of Poets.

On Tennyson's habit of borrowing to recognize clearly his own borrowings from the classical poets, Mr. Lang observes that the poets have always had a kind of regal indifference to their own lighter productions. Mr. Lang says: "Scott did not care; no, not when he found that he had unwittingly taken a line from a poem by the poet of a friend. In the preface to a little collection of verses from the novels he frankly declares that he cannot pretend to be certain which are his own composition and which are not."

"To take an example from the level at the foot of Parnassus, I once read, in an American paper, some lines attributed to Mr. Austin Dobson. 'Not bad for Dobson,' I said freely to a friend. But it was proved on me that the rhymes were my own! A hard word forgets his own verses may be pardoned for remembering those of other people and mistaking a half line of somebody else's for his own. I dare say that Tennyson did this occasionally, but he could hardly say that 'the sun sets' without being accused of unconscious borrowing."

## Greek and Roman Stoves.

Warm as Greece and Rome and Egypt are, stoves were made there in the dim and misty vistas of the past. It was not just the pattern used at present, but was a metal basin in which charcoal was burned. It sat in the middle of the room, and as the resulting smoke was of the slightest no opening in the roof or elsewhere was necessary. The same implement, still called by its old Greek name of brazier, is now employed in many portions of continental Europe, where it is utilized for heating as well as cooking.

But the progressive Romans improved on that and made a hypocaust. It was the germ of the present furnace. It was made under the house in a little cellar prepared for it, and the heat was conducted to the rooms and baths through crevices left in the floor and lower portions of the wall. Later flues were provided, conducting heat to any portion of the house. In some of the old Roman villas in England the remains of these old time furnaces are still found.

## Origin of the Clearing House.

In 1775 the bankers of London rented a house in Lombard street and fitted it with clerks and desks for the use of their tables as a place where bills, notes, drafts and other commercial paper might be exchanged without the trouble of personal visits of employees to all the metropolitan banks. Transfer tickets were used, and by means of this simple plan transactions involving many millions were settled without a penny changing hands. The Bank of England and every other important bank in London are members of the Clearing House association. The first clearing house in the United States was established by the associated banks of New York in 1853.

## Her References.

Mrs. Hiram—And have you any references?

Applicant—No, mum; O! tored 'em up!

Mrs. Hiram (in surprise)—Tore them up? How foolish!

Applicant—Yez wudn't think so, mum. If yez had seen 'em.—From "Recollections of Mrs. Minnie E. Leo."

## An Indian Belief.

There is a belief prevalent in India that if a man be sleeping, no matter where, and a Shesh Nag come and sit beside him, with a hood spread over the sleeper's face, the latter is sure to be a son of fortune. Popular tradition assigns the same reason to the rise of Haida All of Mysore from a common soldier.

## A Wee Drop.

Sandy—And will ye tak' a drap o' whisky afore ye gang home, Tammas?

Tammas—Ah, weel, just a wee draple.

Sandy—Then say when, liddle. Tammas—Nay, mo; the glass will say when.—London King.

## A Thoroughbred.

She—Is it true that when you proposed to me you didn't know whether I was worth a penny?

He—Absolutely. But I always was willing to take chances.—Detroit Free Press.

## AN OVERWORKED PHRASE.

The Expression "He Took His Life in His Hands."

"The expression 'he took his life in his hands' always struck me as being very foolish," said a bright young gentleman, "and I have often wondered why so many persons persist in using it when they want to speak of extraordinary dangers. Now, extraordinary danger is one thing and the simple, commonplace thing of taking one's own life in one's hands is an entirely different thing."

"I work in a big building. There are a steam engine and a mammoth boiler in the basement. Whenever I enter that building, if they are running the engine in the basement, I take my life in my hands. I get on the elevator on the fifth floor; I take my life in my hands. I go out of town; the car may tumble over a trestle somewhere. I walk along the street; a sign may fall on me. I make my way across the thoroughfare; who knows but what a street car or a vehicle of some sort may not run me down? I cross the river; may I not suddenly find myself in the swirling stream and sinking for the last time? If I walk along the street, may not a brick or a loosened cornice come crashing down upon me? There are a row and a shot or two on the corner; may not a stray bullet wing me? And so on."

"Fessism? No, Logic. That's all. It just shows the difference between taking one's own life in one's hand and the matter of confronting extraordinary danger. These risks are ordinary, plain, old, everyday risks. The fireman who dashes into a burning building to rescue a child, the fellow who grabs the bridle of a runaway horse, the hero who will plunge into the river to save some person who is about to drown—these are the persons who confront what I would call extraordinary dangers, and the worn platitude of saying of one of these 'he took his life in his hands' would not fit the case because there would be in the act an element of heroism which would place it much above the commonplace."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

## HOYT'S JOKE ON M'KEE.

How the Playwright Had a Bit of Fun With His Manager.

On one occasion Manager McKee was watching a performance from a box, where he was seated with some friends.

During the first act an usher came to him with the information that a gentleman was waiting at the door to see him on most important business.

"Tell him I can't come out—I'm very busy," was the answer.

The usher returned in a moment to say that the man insisted on seeing Mr. McKee, who again sent out word that it was impossible to see him.

The man outside then sent in the message that he was an author and had a play that he wished McKee to read immediately.

This incensed the manager, who said to the usher:

"Tell that fool out there that this is no time to bring a play to be read. Get him out of the place—I won't see him. I won't read his play."

A few minutes later the usher came back and informed McKee that the man utterly refused to go without seeing him, and that he must be granted an interview, also that he was quite sure that the manager would not only read his play, but he would also produce it, and added that he would bet \$1,000 that Hoyt & McKee would be only too glad to get the play.

At that McKee became furiously angry, and, exclaiming himself to his party, left the box with the intention of personally inviting the persistent author to begone.

"Where's that idiot who insists on seeing me?" he asked of the treasurer at the box office. Then the treasurer pointed to a man standing in the shadow with a roll of manuscript under his arm.

It was Hoyt, with his newly finished play, which he handed to McKee, who said to those present:

"It's on me—what'll you have, boys?"—New York Clipper.

## Odors That Permeate Foodstuffs.

A fish dealer in one of the most stylish parts of New York was deeply hurt and badly worried one day by the complaint of one of his big customers that a fine salmon which he had sent to the house for a big dinner had proved to be entirely unpalatable when served owing to a most penetrating taste of creosote that pervaded it. The fish dealer realized, although the charge was not made directly, that he was more than suspected of having sold a stale fish that had been washed or brushed with an antiseptic preparation to hide its condition. He knew that the salmon had been perfectly fresh when he sold it, and for days he puzzled in vain over the problem. But suddenly he remembered that on the day the fish was sent out a tank wagon full of creosote had stopped before his place and that his cart, into which the fish was being placed, was directly alongside of the powerful stuff. That appears to have been enough to permeate the delicate flesh of the fish.—New York Press.

## Woes Morpheus With Pictures.

"I have found a cure," said a physician, "for a person who isn't chronically afflicted with insomnia, but who temporarily cannot sleep. It is a curious thing that the picture of a person yawning will almost invariably induce sleep."

"Try it yourself some time if you come across such a photograph. For the life of you you can't help yawning, after a moment, and persistent gazing at the sleepy head will almost inevitably send you to the couch for a nap."—New York Times.

## Where He Forgot Himself.

"We are seven," laughingly quoted the man who was an applicant for life insurance when asked to give the number of children in his father's family.

"And their names?" asked the examining surgeon.

"Well, there's Albert, Addie, Henry, Laura, William and Dora, and—"

The surgeon looked surprised, and the applicant looked foolish.

Then he began again, "There's Albert and Addie, and Henry and Laura, and William and Dora, and—"

The surgeon announced that these were only six. The applicant acknowledged the error and went over the list again and again, invariably halting after the sixth name. Then a bright office boy looked up from his work, with a grin, and said:

"Say, haven't you left yourself out of the count?"

The surgeon seemed relieved, the applicant seemed more foolish than ever, and the office boy grinned on at his work.

"That certainly was one time," finally commented the applicant, "that I completely forgot myself."—New York Times.

## Apples the Diet For the Sedentary.

Apples are very wholesome and digestible. They contain considerable potassium and sodium salts, magnesium, a little iron and about 85 per cent of water. Apples, being rich in pectin, form readily into jelly. They also contain free organic acids as well as salts, such as malates, citrates and tartrates. They are quite laxative, more so if taken late at night or early in the morning with a glass of water. Their nutritive value is not much, as they are largely composed of water. For invalids apples are best when baked and eaten either plain or served with cream.—Ledges Monthly.

## A Drop of Water.

A gallon of distilled water weighs 8.339 pounds, and these being four quarts to the gallon and two pints to the quart, and 16 fluid ounces to the pint, and two tablespoonfuls to the fluid ounce, and four teaspoonfuls to the tablespoon, and 45 drops to the teaspoon, a drop of water weighs 0.00018007 pound, slightly more.

## A Pathetic Bereavement.

Miss Singer—I saw in the paper that there is to be an entertainment for a "musical orphanage." Pray, what may a musical orphanage be?

Mr. Kentall—I can't say positively, you know, but I imagine it must be a child deprived of its native air.—Harper's Bazar.

## Mean Well, but Made Him Nervous.

Mr. Fijit—Please don't send that messenger boy who stutters up to my house again.

Telegraph Manager—What did he do? Mr. Fijit—Nothing. But I gave him a 25 cent tip, and he hung around all afternoon trying to say "Thanks."—Columbus (O.) State Journal.

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