

A GIANT OCTOPUS.

The Way a Thirty Foot Monster Came to Be Captured.

One of the most interesting objects in the Natural History museum in Trondheim, Norway, is a large octopus. E. R. Kennely, the author of "Thirty Seasons in Scandinavia," not only saw the octopus, but a little later heard the story of the capture of it, as related both by the fisherman whose boat it attacked and also by two independent witnesses. The fisherman was leisurely rowing on a calm day close to the rock-bound shore of one of the fjords situated some fifty miles north of Trondheim. Suddenly a long and glistening arm swept over the stern of the boat and remained there. The fisherman, astonished at this unwelcome apparition, dropped his oars and sprang to his feet. Like magic another hideous-looking arm shot over the gunwale. The boat rocked. The man, realizing that he was attacked by some monster against which his old fish knife was the only available weapon, seized his oars and labored with might and main to get his boat into a crevice of the rocks, all the time yelling for his mates, who were not far off. He had to strain every nerve to drag his hideous cargo after him, for the suckers never relaxed. When, all exhausted, he got the bow of his craft within reach of willing hands, it took the three men to haul it up a slight incline, for the monster still hung on, even over the bare rocks. Then they belabored its head with oars and clubs. Having safely secured it, they sent off to the nearest station and telegraphed concerning their prize. It was at once purchased by the museum and carried there after it had been photographed. They stretched its arms out before preparing it. The longest were each five feet, or ten feet four inches, in length. Over all, together with the great carpet bag body, the monster measured thirty feet across.

BATH BRIEFS.

Never bathe when overheated.
 Never bathe when exhausted and feeling ill.
 Do not prolong the bath beyond a reasonable time.
 Wait more than two hours after a meal before bathing.
 In cold weather one should not go out for some time after a hot bath.
 Delicate people had better not bathe until several hours after breakfast.
 The temperature of water for a cold bath should range from 32 to 65 degrees.
 If you are chilly and a cold bath makes you shiver it is not the best sort for you to take.
 Dry the body quickly, using a dry bath brush or a Turkish towel to stimulate circulation.
 Opinions differ as to the relative merits of a cold or a hot bath. Neither kind will do for all. The individual constitution must be consulted.

Unanimous.

The prisoner is led from his cell into the presence of his seven wives, for having which number he is about to answer to the law.
 "John," cries wife No. 1, "see where your folly has led you."
 In a dazed manner he looked at the array of women.
 "How dared you?" demands No. 2.
 "Wretch!" shout Nos. 3 and No. 4.
 "Villain!" exclaim Nos. 5 and No. 6.
 Nervously he clutches the arm of his guard.
 "Have you no excuse, perfidious man?" demands No. 7.
 Wiping his beaded brow with trembling fingers, he at length stammers:
 "I—I must have been crazy."
 "You certainly were!" agree the seven wives, each looking meaningly at the other six.—Chicago Tribune.

Magical Effects of the Sapphire.
 To the sapphire has been ascribed the following magical properties: That it prevents wicked thoughts; that it is such an enemy to poison that if put in a glass with a spider or venomous reptile it will kill it. St. Jerome in his exposition of the nineteenth chapter of Isaiah says that the sapphire procures favor with princes, pacifies enemies, frees from enchantment and obtains release from captivity. This gem was sacred to Apollo and was worn when inquiring of the oracle at his shrine. It was esteemed as a remedy against fever.

Sleeping in a Cannon.
 The interior of a cannon is perhaps the last place in the world one would associate with a siesta, and yet India possesses a gun which is capacious enough to form a chamber where officers retire for a siesta during the heat of the day. This cannon, which is beyond question the largest in the world, is probably also one of the oldest. It was cast nearly 400 years ago by a famous chief of Ahmednagar, and came into English possession when India was conquered.—London Standard.

Dr. Hale's Secret.
 A young man greatly impressed with the great amount of work accredited to Dr. Edward Everett Hale asked the doctor one day how he did it. "Since you are so much interested," said Dr. Hale, "I will tell you, provided you keep it a secret." "I promise," said the inquirer, with an air of one about to receive a remarkable revelation. "Well, to tell you the truth," said the doctor, with a wink, "I don't do it."

The Soul of Honor.
 "She's exceedingly honorable," said the first woman.
 "Indeed?" queried the other.
 "Oh, to the point of eccentricity. Why, she wouldn't even steal another woman's cook."—Exchange.

SCOTLAND'S CROWN.

The Precious Relic Still Kept in the Castle of Edinburgh.

A once precious diadem, which is now only a historic relic of much interest, is the ancient crown of the Scotch kings kept in the castle of Edinburgh. It is supposed to have been made for Robert Bruce and is formed of two circles of gold, the upper and narrowest circle being surmounted by a row of crosses and gem incrustated imitation flowers. The lower ring, the headband proper, is adorned from end to end of the golden band with large precious stones of different kinds, a mostly in their rough, unpolished state. Above rise two arches of gold, which unite and are surmounted with the historic "cross and ball." Even when the Stuarts became kings of England they went to the trouble of going to Scotland to seat themselves for a few moments upon the celebrated "stone of sooms" and to have King Bruce's diadem pressed upon their royal heads.

Charles I. declared his intention of removing Scotland's famous relic to London so that such ceremonies could be carried out at home, but the sturdy Scots soon convinced him that such a proceeding would be an infringement upon their rights, so the king had to go to Edinburgh, as others had done before. The wife of a preacher of the name of Granger once stole the Scotch crown and the other royal insignia, this in 1652 or 1653. At the time of the restoration they were transferred to Charles II. They were returned to Edinburgh castle in 1707.

WILD DOGS OF ASIA.

Fierce Animals That Pursue and Kill Bears and Tigers.

The quality of courage possessed by hunting dogs of Asia appears in a marked difference of habit from that noticeable in all other carnivorous beasts. As a rule, each ferocious animal has its natural and favorite prey, which may vary in different localities, but is in each case the easiest and most profitable victim. Tigers, for instance, are cattle slayers or deer killers just as cattle or deer happen to be most abundant in their district.

Leopards prey on goats, sheep and, when they can get them, on tame dogs; wolves on sheep and cattle, stoats or rabbits and hares, and weasels on rats and mice. But, though the jungles which they visit abound in defenceless animals, the wild dog does not limit his attacks to these. The packs deliberately pursue and destroy both the black and Himalayan bears and the tigers, affording perhaps the only instance in which one carnivorous species deliberately sets itself to hunt down and destroy another. From their rarity, the uninhabited nature of the jungles which they hunt and their habit of hunting at night—which a probable suggestion makes the basis of the early legends of the demon hunter and "hellequin" at a time when the "red dogs" still remained in Europe—observations of their habits are rare.—London Spectator.

The Despised Left Hand.

The despised left hand makes good its claims in many cases to be the dexter of the two. The fingers that touch and adjust with such nicely the strings of the violin are surely as cunning as those that move the bow. The hand that guides the reins and steers with exactness the horse through the crowded streets is quite as cunning as, one might say much more than, the hand that wields the whip. But great is fashion; unanswerable is theory.

It would appear that as life becomes more and more complex we are becoming more and more specialized, and the difference between our limits is encouraged rather than hindered by every screw made in Birmingham and every slap administered to the offending fingers that would dare to shake hands incorrectly.—Chambers' Journal.

Betrothals in Germany.

When a maiden is betrothed in Germany she is called "bride" by her sweetheart, who addresses her thus until it becomes time to call her "wife." Immediately upon betrothal the lovers exchange rings, which, if the course of true love runs smooth, are to be worn ever afterward until death parts them. The woman wears her betrothal ring on the third finger of her left hand until she is married, and then it is transferred to the third finger of her right hand. The husband continues to wear the ring just as the wife wore hers when she was a "bride," so that one can tell easily at a glance if a man be or be not mortgaged as to his affections.

The Snow Leopard.

In the highlands of central Asia lives the snow leopard, which never descends below the snow line of the mountains. Its color is a gray, inclining to buff. A few large dark spots show about the lower parts and a number of smaller ones congregate about the head and the neck. The back and the sides are marked with faded-looking brown rings or rosettes. The comparatively enormous tail of the animal is fully as long as its body.

A Night Mare.

"Look here, you old fraud, that mare you sold me is blind as a bat."
 "Well, well! Ain't it funny I never found that out? Ye see I allus used to drive her after dark, an' then she could see as good as any other horse."

Refined.

Mrs. Nuritch—I think I'll take this watch. You're sure it's made of refined gold. Jeweler—Certainly. Mrs. Nuritch—Because I do detest anything that ain't refined.—Philadelphia Ledger.

In this world it is not what we take up, but what we give up, that makes us rich.—Becher.

Organs Lost by Disease.

It is a suggestive fact not always sufficiently considered that "as soon as any organ or faculty falls into disuse it degenerates and is finally lost altogether." Through all the ages that man has had the power of speech this power has not been fixed in us in any degree whatever by heredity. It is regarded as definitely proved that if a child of civilized parents were brought up in a desert place and allowed no communication whatever with man it would never make any attempt at speech.

Up to the last century it was not uncommon to find persons living in a wild state in the woods and forests of England, France, Germany and Russia who were utterly incapable of speech, though they could make sounds in imitation of the cries of wild animals. Certain parasitic insects have so completely degenerated that they possess neither eyes, legs, heads, mouths, stomachs nor intestines.—Leisure Hour.

A Queer Death Superstition.

A curious relic of the superstitious ideas of the middle ages still exists in many parts of England—the notion that when the death of a person is imminent the fastenings of the door of the death chamber or of the other rooms of the house hinder the departure of the soul from the body, thus making final dissolution doubly painful.

A gentleman writing about half a century ago for a collection of antiquarian papers states that when he was curator at Exeter he had a call to the deathbed of one of his parishioners. Upon arriving there the wife of the patient told the minister that she had expected her husband to die during the previous night and on that account had left the doors all open or unlocked. Upon asking for reasons for this odd proceeding he was told of the neighborhood superstition.

The Heart of Robert Bruce.

When Robert Bruce, king of Scotland, lay upon his deathbed in the year 1329 he remembered that he had registered a vow to help wrest the Holy Land from the heathen Turks. It was clear that the time for fulfilling this vow had passed, but a new thought presented. Why not have his heart removed and sent to Jerusalem for burial? To make the story short, this was decided upon, and Sir James Douglas was commissioned to carry it in a silver urn "to a place as near as possible to where the Saviour was crucified" and there bury it. Arriving in Spain, Sir James, with the precious relic strung to his neck by a chain, was killed in a battle with the Moors. Sir Simeon Locard returned with the heart to Scotland and deposited it under the altar of Melrose abbey, where it now is.

Our Debt to Asia.

It is noteworthy that out of Asia came our alphabet and our Arabic numerals. The compass we owe to the Chinese, who knew the magnetic needle as early as the second century A. D. Gunpowder originally came out of Asia, and so did the art of printing and the manufacture of paper. The Chinese invented movable types in the middle of the eleventh century, 350 years before Gutenberg. They also made silks long before Europe and porcelain that has never been equaled by Europe. Truly, Asia is the cradle of the race. On the original ideas of the Persians, Arabians, the Hindus and the Chinese our modern society has been built.—Portland Oregonian.

The Wing of a Bird.

The typical vertebrate limb, variously modified in the arm of a man or the fore limb of a cat or frog or bird, has one bone in the upper arm, which gives support to two in the forearm, which similarly yield to four at the wrist, and from these five digits can just comfortably be extended. The bird, however, decided to fly rather than grasp with its hand, so that three and a half fingers are all it has retained of the five which its reptilian ancestors bequeathed to it.

All Obscurities Removed.

The Rev. Dr. Fourthly—For twenty-seven years I have been trying to preach, but I confess I have never quite grasped the meaning of St. Paul in this particular passage. The Rev. K. Mowatt Lightly—Why, doctor, I cleared that all up in the first sermon I ever preached. I'll let you read it if you like.—Chicago Tribune.

Carlyle and Paint.

When Carlyle went to sit to Sir John Millais for his portrait in Millais' grand new house he turned on the stairway to ask, "Has paint done all this, Millais?" and, getting a smiling answer in the affirmative, remarked, "Ah, well, it shows what a number of fools there are in the world."

A Fishy Romance.

Mabel—So Jack Miller didn't marry Miss Herring after all? Judith—No. She rejected him. Mabel—How did Jack take it? Judith—Oh, he said there was as good fish in the sea as were ever caught out of it, and went after Miss Salmon.

How, Indeed?

Aunt Hattie—You shouldn't clean your nails in company, Tommy. Tommy—Huh! If nobody sees me clean 'em, how is anybody to know they are ever cleaned?—Boston Transcript.

Very Hard.

"Of course a horseshoe always means luck."
 "Oh, yes, and if the horse passes it up to you behind your back it means hard luck."—Exchange.

Echoes in large rooms may sometimes be prevented by hanging heavy tapestry on the walls.

A DOG'S TESTIMONY.

Was in His Own Defense and Was Irresistible.

In one of the Prague district courts recently a foreman named Dastych sued a manufacturer named Weinwert, alleging the latter's dog had bitten him, thereby rendering him for some time unfit for work. The dog was produced in court and the services of a veterinary surgeon were requisitioned as expert evidence. Herr Desensy, in the presence of the judge, did his utmost to irritate the dog, and even struck it, but all to no purpose. The dog remained calm, and finally, finding the proceeding monotonous, crept under a stool. "Quiet as a lamb!" was the finding of the veterinary surgeon; but "Oh, no," said the foreman, "the dog behaves itself because its master is present." So the dog was taken out into the corridor, among the public, this time unmuzzled, and the veterinary again tried his best to irritate the animal. Doggy wagged his tail, offered first one paw and then the other, and, its advances being rudely repelled by the unfeeling veterinary, ran back into court, sat upon its hind legs before the judge, and begged! Not even the hard heart of a judge could resist this appeal, and the animal left the court without a stain upon its character.

FISH FED BY HAND.

Many Specimens of the Finny Tribe Are Easily Tamed.

Experiments made in a large aquarium have proved that fish may be easily tamed and trained. This is particularly true of blue perch. They soon consent to taking their food—salmon, a green, lettuce-like weed—from the hand, and do not at all object to being handled. A huge kelp cod, a splendid specimen of rich blue and green hues, that was kept in the same tank with the perch, readily learned to feed from the hand, and seemed to enjoy being scratched and rubbed.

Sea sponges, too—singular, shell-less things possessing the faculty of secreting a purple fluid which they throw out in self defense—took their regular meal of seaweed from their feeder's fingers without the slightest fear. Sticklebacks, perch, bass and catfish are among the most easily tamed fish, and the story is told of an old fisherman who day after day fed a large horse mackerel in the open sea with pieces of the fish he cleaned. It gradually got into the habit of coming nearer and nearer to where the boat was tethered until, finally convinced that it would not be harmed, it consented to take its daily meal directly from the fisherman's hand.

YOUGHIOGHENY.

The Proper Way of Pronouncing This Indian Name.

Perhaps the most difficult geographical name in the United States is Youghioheny, or geuy, as it is sometimes spelled, the name of a creek in western Maryland and Pennsylvania. Few besides natives of the region pronounce it with the chief accent on the penultimate and who so essays it with the accent elsewhere finds his mouth filled with a meaningless confusion of vowels and consonants. The first syllable is "Yough," pronounced "Yo," with a short "o." The second is "i" short, the "q" following is almost if not quite unheard in the mouth of the native, while the last two syllables are those made familiar in "Alleghany," though there is even here a question of "a" long or "e" short.

The pronunciation of Youghioheny is, however, a simple matter with the modern spelling compared to what it must have seemed to the stranger who met it with the old spelling. On an ancient map of the region the name is spelled "Yoghioyoghigania." Doubtless this spelling came nearer than that now in use to indicating aptly the Indian pronunciation of the name.

Tarring and Feathering.

The practice of tarring and feathering, which we regard as essentially American, belongs to Great Britain. To us the honor of inventing or adopting that very disagreeable mode of punishment belongs. Among the laws for the preservation of order when King Richard sailed on his crusade was one that any soldier convicted of theft should have his head shaved, be stripped of his clothes, have melted pitch poured all over him, after this be covered with feathers and so set ashore at the first land that was touched.—London Queen.

Smoking in Korea.

All men and women in Korea, whatever their age or station, smoke tobacco incessantly. The bowls of their pipes are so small that they only hold a pinch or two of tobacco, and the stems are so long that the smoker is unable to apply a match to his own pipe. The coolly carries his pipe thrust down his neck between his coat and his back; the Korean gentleman carries his in his sleeve.

One Consolation.

Patient (feebly)—Doctor, do you think I shall survive the operation? Proud Physician—Well, sir, if you don't, you have the satisfaction of knowing that it cost nearly twice as much as any similar one performed in the city.—Smart Set.

The Precise Moment.

Bessie—And when does a young man begin to think about marriage? Tom—About two months after marriage, as a rule.—Puck.

Well Prepared.

Minister (to widow)—I hope the dear departed was prepared to die? Widow—Oh, yes; he was insured in three good companies.

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