

## THE POWERFUL FLEA

ITS REMARKABLE STRENGTH AND FEROCIOUS APPETITE.

This Tiny Pest Figures in Ancient Legend, Song and Story—Attempts Which Have Been Made to Tame This Samson of the Universe.

While good old St. Dominic was seated in his cell, calm and passionless, pondering upon the vices, the miseries of the world, a flea was sent to torment him, and these pestiferous little nuisances have been with us ever since, to torment saint and sinner alike.

The flea is characterized by the entire absence of wings, by having the body compressed, the legs long and stout, the coxae remarkably developed, giving great leaping power. The mouth parts are well developed and adapted for suction, all the species in the adult stage feeding upon the blood of mammals or birds. In a word, Mr. Flea belongs to the fourth order of insects, suctorea, composing the single genus, pulicines. The flea is clothed in armor quite as indestructible as that of a knight of old.

Among the several species of fleas which have received the attention of the government's entomologists are the human jigger, or chique; the hen, opossum, house, bird, rat and mouse dog, cat, squirrel, spermophile, rabbit, mole, pocket gopher, sand and a number of others. Of these it is difficult to determine which gives the greater annoyance to humans. All are bad and many worse—tormentors of the most pronounced type.

And yet these jumping, biting, tickling pirates have figured in song and story. Many an old German legend, Bavarian and Swedish story and many an old French song have had the flea for their hero, and so it must be that the flea has its place. Ancient mythology relates that Orion was a giant, hunting wild beasts and, like them, very naturally coarse and unrefined. Earth, disgusted, killed him by the sting of the scorpion. Pan became enamored of his sister, and Diana, to rescue her, turned her into a flea. The flea has been embalmed in classic lore. It was considered among the gods as becoming enough to serve as a metamorphose in extremities.

If fleas could be tamed they would be profitable, but according to entomologists fleas are tamed about as much as a rattlesnake. Muffet tells of a mechanic named Marks who made a gold chain as long as his finger with lock and key which a flea dragged after him, and there was a golden chariot which he drew likewise. Bingley mentions that a Mr. Boverick, a London watchmaker, exhibited an ivory chair with four wheels, the figure of a man sitting on the box, all drawn by a flea. The same man afterwards constructed a landau with figures of six horses hitched to it, a coachman on the box, a dog between his legs, four persons inside, two footmen behind and a postilion on the fore horse, all of which were drawn by a single flea.

One is at a loss which to admire most, the ingenuity and patience of the man or the strength of the flea. Latreille tells of a flea which dragged a silver cannon twenty-four times its own weight and manifested no alarm when it was charged with powder and fired off. Rene mentions that in 1830 he saw at a fair in England three fleas drawing a carriage in the form of an omnibus, another pair drew a carriage and a single flea a brass cannon. The only way to subdue a flea is to starve him and attach a small weight to his



SCENE IN FRONT OF KEYSTONE HARDWARE COMPANY'S STORE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 8th.

Showing the interest excited by the giving away of an Original Cole's Hot Blast Stove.—While the tickets were being drawn crowds of people thronged the street and sidewalk eagerly awaiting the announcement of the winning number.

hind leg so that he cannot jump.

That fleas are great pugilists there can be no doubt, as it has been repeatedly shown that they will fight to the death and will land such blows as would make some of our pugilists blush. If a dozen or more fleas are put in a glass jar for a day or two you will see the mangled remains of the dead and wounded as the result of close companionship. They will stand on their hind legs and buffet their opponents with the others. They roll and toss and tumble until it is painful to see the wrecks left behind. After one of these battles in a glass jar one champion lived ten days, with no antennae, one eye gone, three plates in the side smashed in and only the first joints of four legs to go upon.

But the flea even in this wretched condition was game to the last and died breathing defiance, the rays of light scintillating from his black eyes with the brilliancy of a blacksmith's forge in full blast on a dark night. His power is in his legs, and he is the most accomplished of vaulters. No position appears too difficult for him to assume. Attitude in every variety is familiar to him. He leaps upward, sideways, forward, backward and takes a dozen somersaults while you are wondering where he will light. A good healthy flea, it is estimated, can leap 200 times the length of his body.

When about to leap or jump the legs are drawn up to the body as close as possible and then shot out. The flea comes down very near the spot from where the leap was taken. Every descent is nearer to the center. Of this you may convince yourself by placing a flea in a drop of red ink on a piece of white paper and letting him jump.

The flea is always hungry, his appetite is never satisfied, and he will exercise his sucker just as long as he is permitted without interruption. With him there is a "continuous performance" so far as gratifying his appetite is concerned. There is no creeping, crawling or flying insect which can approach the flea in strength, size considered. He is beyond question the Samson of the universe.—Washington Star.

### Odd.

"Divorces are multiplying."  
"That's odd. I thought that their function was to divide."—Town Topics.

Passenger (on ocean liner of the future)—Will you please direct me to my stateroom? It's No. 727. Clerk—It's about half a mile aft. Take trolley car on starboard promenade.—Chicago Tribune.

Remember that your neighbor is constantly taking an inventory of your blessings and wondering what you can possibly have to worry about.

### HAVE YOU A HOBBY?

An Especial Fad Is Said to Be Good For Mind and Body.

The best thing in the world for nerves is sleep, the next proper food, the third proper dress. But as good as any one of these is a hobby.

How often does one hear the expression, "Oh, that is so-and-so's hobby," spoken rather disparagingly. It is the tendency of the average mind to regard a person who has a pronounced enthusiasm as a species of harmless lunatic rather to be pitied. The truth of the matter is that any one who has any special fad is greatly to be envied, as it probably provides more interest and amusement for its possessor than anything else. Any decided interest in life, whether it is dignified by the name of an occupation or is simply an enthusiasm or even mentioned slightly as a fad, is eminently desirable.

"I have never seen a genuine collector that is not happy when he is allowed by circumstances to gratify his tastes," remarked a student of human nature, "and a bent in that direction should always be encouraged. It is a curious phase of our humanity that we will work diligently to make provision for our material needs when we are old and quite neglect to store up mental resources that will interest and amuse us until we are called hence."  
Hobbies help one to forget sorrow and give us pleasure in the present. They are among the best things in life—promoters of health, peace and happiness.—Detroit News-Tribune.

### A PIRATE AMONG PLANTS.

Wild Fig of Mexico Choked to Be the Peaceful Palm.

Among all the forms of vegetable life in the Mexican tropics the wild fig trees are the most remarkable. Some of them show such apparent intelligence in their readiness to meet emergencies that it is difficult not to credit them with powers of volition.

In the tropics, where the wild figs flourish, there is a constant struggle for life among numberless species of plants. Certain of the wild figs appear to have learned this and provide a fruit which is a favorite food for many birds. Then an occasional seed is dropped by a bird where it finds lodgment in the axil of a palm frond high in the air.

There the seed takes root and is nourished by the little accumulation of dust and vegetable matter. It sends forth an aerial root, which creeps down the palm, sometimes coiling about the trunk on its way. When this slender, cordlike rootlet reaches the ground it secures foothold and becomes the future trunk of the fig tree.

After the descending rootlet has secured itself in the ground a branch bearing a few leaves springs from the seed in the palm top, and a vigorous growth begins. Then the fig gradually enlarges and inclines the supporting palm trunk until the latter is completely shut in the heart of its foster child and eventually strangled.—Geographic Magazine.

### Melons and Snuff.

Of that great lady, Charlotte of Bavaria, the Marquise of Croissy in her memoirs says: "The diet of this illustrious person was largely composed of salt beef and soup made of beer; also a certain horrible ragout of fermented cabbage which made the whole castle stink when she partook of it. She called it 'schaurnout,' and she used to compel her guests to eat it. Indeed she made a sort of patriotic persecution of it, so that every one tried to evade her dinners. She would eat the most horrible messes—prunes and pears cooked with lard and onions, salads made of raw herrings and apples soaked in oil and mustard, pasties of otters' flesh and snails. She powdered her melon with Scotch snuff."

### A Strict Old Lady.

A certain noble family in Scotland adopted the Episcopalian faith and carried out its ideas regardless of expense. On the first introduction of the full choir service into the local church the great lady, who had been active in the work, was anxious that a favorite woman servant of hers—a Presbyterian of the old school—should have an opportunity of hearing the service. Accordingly she took her down to church in the carriage and on returning asked the old woman what she thought of the music. "Oh, it's verra bonny. But, oh, my lady, it's an awfu' way of spending the Sabbath!"

### Queer Snuffboxes.

In the days when a snuffbox was considered a necessary attribute to the perquisites of a beau or a belle much ingenuity was brought to bear upon the manufacture of these dainty trifles. The results were often very novel. Those with a taste for the morbid could buy boxes made from the wood of scaffolds, chairs that murderers had sat upon or parts of their houses.

### Encouraging Him.

"Do you know," remarked the pessimist, "I think that I have experienced every kind of misfortune except hanging."  
"Well, you shouldn't be discouraged," rejoined the optimist. "It is always desirable, you know, to remember the old adage, 'While there's life there's hope.'"

### A Part Never Is the Whole.

"Most divorces are caused by a very common mistake."  
"What is it?"  
"Many a man in love only with a simple or a curl makes the mistake of marrying the whole girl."—Life.

Better be unborn than untaught, for ignorance is the root of misfortune.—Plato.

### Natural Cause.

"I have been told," remarked the visitor in Salt Lake City, "that your lake is drying up. What seems to be the cause?"  
"I guess, mister," said the native, "if you had as much salt in you as that there lake's got you'd be gittin' purty dry too."—Chicago Tribune.

### VENETIAN GLASS.

Marco Polo Gave the First Great Impetus to Its Manufacture.

It was Marco Polo who gave the first great impetus to the glass industry at Venice. The great traveler encouraged his countrymen to manufacture and to export large quantities of glass to the orient to satisfy the growing demand there. It is difficult to determine when the first glass factories were established in Venice, says the Chicago News. Some historians have attempted to prove that it was as early as the fifth century. The most ancient existing document relating to this industry is an article in a treaty concluded in 1287 between Bohemond, prince of Antioch, and Jacobo Contarini, doge of Venice. This time stained parchment refers to the purchase of broken glass—a most necessary ingredient for the production of good glass—by the Venetian merchants in Syria. In 1289 the great council of the republic prohibited the establishment of glass furnaces in the city proper, as they were frequent causes of serious fires, and finally relegated the glassblowers to the island of Murano (1292), where the industry has flourished down to the present day.

Murano's glass manufacturers possessed many political and other privileges. Their daughters could even marry into the families of the proud Venetian patricians. In the seventeenth century the glassblowers of Venice were recognized as the best in Europe. This fact caused the Duke of Buckingham to employ Venetian workmen in the glass manufactory which he opened in 1670 for the purpose of making imitations of the fine Venetian drinking glasses.

Evelyn, the diarist, writing in 1641, says: "I passed over to Murano, famous for the best glasses of the world, where, having viewed their furnaces, I made a collection of divers curiosities. 'Tis the white flints which they have from Pavia, which they pound and sift exceedingly small and mix with ashes made of a seaweed brought out of Syria, and a white sand that cause the manufacture to excel."

### Relaxation.

Mrs. Saltonstall—I feel tired to death this morning. I've been out till midnight the last four nights running. Mrs. Walsingham—So do I. I have had company for two weeks now, and I'm all worn out. Let's go shopping.

## Thos. E. Evans

Contractor and Builder

Has bought Solomon Shaffer's lumber office and lumber yard at this place and will continue the lumber business at the same old stand. He will sell any and all kinds of

Lumber Lime, Cement, Sand or Plaster.

Main St., Reynoldsville.

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Coughs, Colds, Grippe,

Whooping Cough, Asthma, Bronchitis and Incipient Consumption is

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Cures throat and lung diseases. Sold by all druggists. 25¢ & 50¢

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A Slack Burner with an Ash Pan.

We are exclusive agents for the

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The Celebrated Smoke Consumer and Fuel-Saver.

Don't buy a soft coal stove until you have seen this top-notch. As a fuel saver and heater, it is simply without an equal. These are some of the many advantages:



Reflector Top.

Cheerful Mica Illuminating Door.

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Exposed Fire Pot which radiates intense heat.

Large Ash Pan with nickel Ash Guard.

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Signed by the officers of the Peninsular Stove Company with each and every Retort Peninsular.

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## CLOTHCRAFT RAINCOATS AND OVERCOATS

If the purpose of a raincoat were simply to shield the wearer from rain there wouldn't be any reason for your wearing a Clothcraft Raincoat in preference to another.

But a rain proof garment must have style, fit and distinction in order to meet the requirements of modern civilization.

Clothcraft Raincoats embody every attribute of the tailor's art.

Note the style illustrated to the left, the "Raincoat."

It fits to perfection—the shoulders are broad, the collar clings closely to the neck, the back hangs gracefully, the entire garment bears the ear marks of the work of tailors who "know how."

That's the reason you should wear a Clothcraft Raincoat, because it's the acme of perfection in style and fit, and keeps you as dry as toast. The coat to the right is the double-breasted "Strand," made of Fancy Cheviot and Cassimere overcoating. It is an aristocrat in every sense of the word. We carry a full line at \$12 to \$25. See them to-day.

# Bing-Stoke Company,

REYNOLDSVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA.