

THE INDIAN TRACKER

HE IS A REAL WIZARD IN HIS ABILITY TO FOLLOW A TRAIL.

To Him Even the Dry Prairie Grass is an Open Book Wherein He Rapidly Reads Signs That an Ordinary Scout Would Never See.

The westerner pulled his horse into a walk and lit a cigar, dropping the match carefully on to a wet place in the trail, for fear of prairie fires.

"Yes," he said, "there are a lot of people, not only in the old country, but right here in the colonies, who think that because a man has spent a couple of years on a ranch and wears a cowboy hat and long spurs he's a sort of combination of Leatherstocking and Sherlock Holmes."

"I was managing the X ranch some years ago, about 120 miles from the American border. One night some horse thieves dropped in suddenly and carried off sixteen Clydesdales—heavy horses, we call them here."

"When we got there we camped and strung out a lot of sentries and waited. Well, we waited and waited, and nothing turned up, so we saddled up again and went home, feeling a bit sick."

"It was about the first week in August, and the prairie grass was long, dry and yellow. They took up the trail at a smart canter and made for the border not quite straight, but so that they struck it about 130 miles or 140 miles southwest from the ranch."

"There were three horse thieves, and they had taken a long rope and fastened it to the saddle of the leader. At the other end rode a second man, trying to keep it as taut as possible."

"We followed that for thirty miles or more, and we hardly slackened speed either. One of the hunted horses had a broken shoe, and the Indians would point out that particular track whenever we were in doubt of their being on the right line."

"Well, to cut a long story short, we came on three horses at last in the Yellowstone park tied up to trees and 400 miles from their starting point, having averaged over eighty miles a day during the chase."

And early next morning Chieplau saw their three bodies hanging from trees within 300 yards of the fort.

"Now, that was tracking. I've seen some very wonderful tracking ability exhibited by the Blackfoot and Assinibolins and others. You won't find it among white men. How can they compete with hunters whose forefathers for generations have been following the trail of soft moccasins over all kinds of ground till they can almost run by scent? Only he sure to select the right men. I've known too many Englishmen come out to this country to shoot moose and get into conversation with some loafer in a hotel 'rotunda,' who invariably 'knows all about it' and has just the right man to recommend for the job."

"Again, when he is found your Indian brave requires to be properly handled and humored a little if you don't want him to turn sulky. However, the police here can do it all right, and it is easy to enlist the services of an interpreter who knows his men."

"The American variety is far better than the foreign kind. Prepare him by having him go through a long engagement, which effectually renders him easy to handle."

"If we might credit Goethe to the eighteenth century few of those competent to judge would hesitate to call Sainte-Beuve the foremost critic of the nineteenth century. The qualifications of a critic of the highest rank are fourfold. First, he must have insight—accuracy, the essential gift of the critical faculty—and this Sainte-Beuve possessed abundantly."

"To can, merely deprive him of his latchkey and throw a handful of mother-in-law in the house. Men coked up like this have been known to keep for years without spoiling, though when they are opened up, if kept too long, they are apt to be sour."

"He is the foremost critic of his century in the body and substance of his work. His contribution to literature looks big on the library shelves—some three score volumes, more or less, all solidly documented, all alive with the play of his keen intelligence and all illuminated by his intellectual integrity."

"By means of their gills fish breathe the air dissolved in water. The oxygen consumed by them is not that which forms the chemical constituent of the water, but that contained in the air which is dissolved in the water."

"The idea involved in our modern 'lift' or 'elevator' was anticipated in the middle of the seventeenth century by Velager, who also established the first letter boxes in Paris in 1653."

"Softleigh—When I saw—awaked her for her hand in marriage her bawling father thwented to—sw—brain me, doncher know. Miss Cutting—That's just like her father. He always was fond of a joke.—Chicago News."

NORTH AMERICA.

Originally Mapped as an Extension of India and China.

"Uneducated Americans," says a correspondent of the London Times, "pronounce the name of their country America, calling themselves Americans. In so doing they not only yield to a natural craving for a finer euphony, but, quite accidentally, I presume, are more correct etymologically than educated Americans, America being the Italian form of the Gothic Amalric, contracted to Amarie. This personal name means 'treacherous in labor, resolute in action,' an appropriate motto to add to the Washington motto in the national device of 'America.'"

"Brazil was the original America. Down to the first quarter of the sixteenth century our North America was still mapped as an extension of India, Tibet, China and Japan, with Brazil as an island, separated by the islands discovered by Columbus from the 'new world of Greater India' and named 'America provincia' and again 'America vel Brasilia.'"

"Not before the middle of the sixteenth century was the term 'America' extended to North America, with the addition 'vel Nova India.' In brief, the Americans were both mere windfalls in the heroic secular quest after 'spiced' India. This is the recombed debt the Anglo-Saxon race owes India."

THREE RECIPES.

The Way to Either Can, Jam or Preserve a Husband.

For this purpose select a nice, kind, amiable, industrious, generous man. The American variety is far better than the foreign kind. Prepare him by having him go through a long engagement, which effectually renders him easy to handle."

PANAMA HATS.

They Are Made From the Undeveloped Leaves of the Bombonaje.

The panama is a leaf that made in Colombia, Ecuador and Peru from the undeveloped leaf of the "bombonaje," which is a screw pine rather than a palm. The trunk of the plant is only a yard in height, but the leaf stalks are two yards long."

A Place of Great Heat.

The largest of the Aval Islands, which are scattered over a considerable area in the Persian gulf, is said to be earth's hottest place. The mean temperature of Bahrain, as it is called, is 99 degrees for the whole year. No European can endure the heat, which at midnight rises to 100, in the morning is 107 or 108 and by 3 in the afternoon reaches the phenomenal height of 140 degrees. The island is inhabited by Arabs. The following high temperatures are also experienced at the places named: Parts of Algeria, 127 degrees; Agra, 117 degrees, and Lahore, 107 degrees.

The Joke Turned.

Quiet Traveling Man—Call me at 5230, please. Smart Hotel Clerk—What shall I call you at 5:30? Quiet Traveling Man—Call me a poor, misguided idiot for letting myself get roped in to stay all night here!—Baltimore American.

Unhappy People Think.

It is the unhappy man who commonly sits down and thinks. The happy man gets up and does something—kills something if he is the traditional Englishman, makes love if he is the traditional Frenchman.—G. S. Street.

A Father's Jest.

Softleigh—When I saw—awaked her for her hand in marriage her bawling father thwented to—sw—brain me, doncher know. Miss Cutting—That's just like her father. He always was fond of a joke.—Chicago News."

A Close Student.

"He's fond of literature." "Is he a close student?" "I should say so. He never spends a penny he doesn't have to."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

What a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive!—Scott.

THE FIRST PRINTING.

Some of the Earliest Examples of the Art Preserved.

The following are the earliest known examples of printing—two indulgences, printed usually on one side only of a single piece of vellum and two magnificent Bibles. Of these one is known to be the first complete book that ever was printed by the wonderful new invention, which, as the early printers so often proudly state in their colophons, produced "letters without the aid of any sort of pen, whether of quill, of reed or of metal."

The first piece of printing which is actually dated is the famous indulgence of Nicholas V., to such as should contribute money to aid the king of Cyprus against the Turks. This indulgence has the printed year date 1454, and a copy in The Hague museum has the date "Nov. 15" filled in with a pen. Mr. Duff tells us that "in the years 1454 and 1455 there was a large demand for these indulgences, and seven editions were issued. These may be divided into two sets, the one containing thirty-one lines, the other thirty lines, the first dated example belonging to the former."

This thirty line edition is shown to have been printed by Peter Schoeffer de Gemshelm by the fact that some of the initials letters which occur in it appear in another later indulgence of 1480, which is known to have come from his press.—Saturday Review.

TREATING A SPRAIN.

Perfect Rest and Hot Fomentations the First Requisites.

The question of how to treat a sprain is often raised. Everybody understands the nature of a sprain; that wrenching of a joint whereby some of the ligaments (those very useful bands which unite the bones forming the joint) are violently stretched or perhaps even ruptured. This kind of injury is rarely, except through unusual complications, dangerous in its nature, but it is certainly very painful and when of a serious nature may result in the permanent impairment of the joint. Such an injury, if at all severe, is immediately followed by marked swelling of the parts, and prompt attention should be given anticipating the surgeon's coming. The very first item in the treatment of a sprain is perfect rest of the limb until a doctor can be summoned. Reduce the swelling by applications of hot fomentations as hot as can be endured, changing about once in every three hours. If a piece of oilskin be not at hand use common newspaper. Wind it carefully outside the hot cloth. This will prevent the escape of the steam and prevent the cloth from cooling. A good way to save the hands from being scalded is to place the hot dripping flannel in a towel, then, taking hold of each end of the towel, to wring it until the flannel is dry enough to apply."

THE WHITE CZAR.

Russia's Ruler Oves This Title to the Slip of a Pen.

The czar of Russia owes one of his titles to a slip of the pen. The Chinese character pronounced Hwang, meaning emperor, was originally compounded of two elements, meaning "oneself" and "ruler," by which it was intimated that an emperor or ruler of men should, before all things, be master of himself.

In after ages, however, by the omission of a single stroke, this character assumed its present corrupted form, in which the component elements signify "white" and "ruler," white having taken the place of the original "oneself."

Some years ago it was pointed out by a St. Petersburg correspondent of the London Times that this had been literally translated by the Mongols into tshagan klan, and then by the Russians into bely czar, or the "white czar," by which name the emperor of Russia is now known throughout the whole of Asia.—London Telegraph.

A Thoughtful Beggar.

J. Stanley Todd, the portrait painter, was talking about the beggars of different lands. "I have met," said Mr. Todd, "beggars of every description—shabby beggars, blustering ones, old beggars, robust ones—but the most remarkable beggar of the lot was a man whom I never met, yet whom I never assuredly will forget. All I saw of this beggar was his hat and his chair. The chair stood on a corner of the Rue St. Lazare in Paris. The hat lay on the chair, with a few coppers in it, and behind the hat was a placard reading, 'Please don't forget the beggar, who is now taking his luncheon.'"

A Humble Apology.

Conversation overheard in a London street; scene, laborer working on a scaffold, contemplating surrounding view, when his foreman comes along down below and, looking up and seeing him idle, calls out to him: "So yer 'aving a look round? What do yer think of the weather?" Workman (looking down with contempt)—"No; I'm a-working! Foreman—Oh, I beg yer pardon! I'm sorry I stopped yer!"

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