

TO CATCH A RATTLER.

SIMPLY STOOP AND PICK HIM UP WITH YOUR HANDS.

If the Snake is Colled, Lay One Hand Over It and the Other Under It, and It Will Not Move to Get Away. Some Facts About the Reptiles.

Here are some facts about snakes given by a young man who has studied them since he was ten years old.

The best way to catch a snake is to simply stoop down and pick it up, as you would a toad or a turtle. Sometimes with a rattler it is as well to put a stick on his head until you get your hand on him. If the snake is colled, simply lay one hand over it and the other under it, and the snake will not move to get away.

There is a sure cure for snake bite than any brand of whisky. It is strychnin sulphate, nitroglycerin and potassium permanganate, which may be carried in tablet form and must be dissolved in water and injected hypodermically.

This young naturalist was without his antidote the first time he was bitten by a rattler. It was on the Mojave desert, and he was prowling around among some old prospect holes. Stooping down to pick up a piece of copper ore lying at the mouth of a hole, he disturbed a big rattler, and it struck him. He placed ligatures on his hand and arm and started for camp. At the first camp he got a razor and bled his finger as well as he could, but it was nine hours before he could get to his medicine. The next day his whole side was numb and stiff, and it was three weeks before he entirely recovered from the effects of the poison. He had not neglected, however, to catch the snake, and this became his special pet.

The lesson he learned was that a quick movement in front of a rattler's eyes is a most dangerous proceeding and it will make a snake strike quicker than anything else. In handling strange rattlers he is always a little careful and usually draws them into his hand over his coat sleeve. A caressing little pat on the head seems to have the same effect on snakes as on other animals.

After putting a rattler on the floor of his room and teasing it, to make it coil and strike, this snake trainer picked it up in his hand, patted its head and then pried open the big mouth with a nail to show its fangs, seven on each side, in different stages of development, from one like a pin point to one the size of a bird's claw. The large fang is likely to drop out at least once a year, but if injured it may be replaced three or four times a year.

There is about the same danger from the bite of a nonvenomous snake as from the bite of a dog or a cat. It may or may not be serious. All depends upon whether a poisonous germ is transmitted and upon the condition of the blood of the person bitten.

Baby rattlers are fitted from the beginning with fangs and sacs of poison and are ready for business, but they have only a little button on their tails where the rattles are to come later.

In the matter of food snakes vary. They cannot be treated to cold scraps of all kinds. In fact, most of them are rather particular about having their food served alive. If they are very hungry they may take something freshly killed, but they vastly prefer to do their own killing.

Gopher snakes live principally on rodents, with birds and occasionally birds' eggs as delicacies. Rattlers also prefer rodents. Water snakes have a weakness for frogs. The coral snake, which is very common in the southwest, is quite a general eater. He takes birds' eggs, lizards, horned toads, gophers, rats and frogs. He is a cannibal too. A coral snake was once seen to devour a racer eighteen inches longer than himself. He did not eat again for some time.

Constricting snakes squeeze their victims until they can no longer resist. Viperine snakes strike and poison their prey. Water snakes start right in on a frog while it is alive.

A snake's teeth are fine and sharp and numerous. They look like fine fish bones, all curved backward. The under jawbone is divided in with an alternating movement of the lower jaw, added by a forward and back movement of the upper jaw with its row of hooked teeth. With such teeth it would seem quite impossible for a snake to disgorge, yet this young man made one give up a bird which had been partly swallowed and stuck fast by its beak having gone through the snake's body.

A snake's digestive organs may be slow, but they are very sure. Teeth, skin, hair and every part of the prey is digested. The hard, flinty teeth of a rat will be found, if the snake is dissected within a week, to be soft enough to crush in the fingers.

Snakes only care to eat once in three or four months, though they drink much water. Through the winter they hibernate in captivity as when free. Occasionally they may be roused and will possibly eat something, but they are very sluggish.

Constricting snakes have a powerful grip, but it can be loosened instantly by unwinding from the head or tail.—New York Herald.

Gossip. Gossip is a humming bird with eagle wings and a voice like a fog horn. It can be heard from Dan to Beersheba and has caused more trouble than all the ticks, fleas, mosquitoes, coyotes, grasshoppers, chinch bugs, rattlesnakes, sharks, sore toes, cyclones, earthquakes, blizzards, smallpox, yellow fever, gout and indigestion that this great United States has known or will know when the universe shuts up shop and begins the final invoice.—Guernsey (Wyo.) Gazette.

MAKING SILK.

A Workman Explains Why His Forefinger Nail is Malformed.

The nail of his right forefinger was long, yellow, horny, and the finger tip had so thickened and hardened that it seemed to be covered with pale leather. He was a silk hat maker, and it was from curling hat brims that his finger had changed so strangely. Describing the processes of a silk hat's manufacture, he said:

"The belief that cardboard forms a silk hat's foundation is an error. The hat is first built up of various thicknesses of linen—layers of linen, soaked in shellac, that by means of wooden molds and hot irons weighing twenty pounds apiece are welded one on the other till a perfect shape, brim and all complete, is obtained.

"The silk is next put on. This silk costs from \$10 to \$15 a yard. It looks like plush in the piece. The hatmaker cuts it off on the bias and molds it round the stiff linen foundation. The strips must be very accurately cut, and great care is used in their ironing and cementing, so as to give a perfect diagonal joint. Look at your silk hat's seam the next time you wear it. The joint's perfection will, perhaps, amaze you.

"The brim, up to this point, is flat. Now its curling commences. That is where my queer forefinger comes in. The shaping of a hat brim is purely a matter of hand and eye and taste. The brim while being shaped is highly heated so as to give it pliability.

"And of course working on this hot material, patting and prodding it, the forefinger thickens and the nail gets horny.

"Nevertheless hat curling is pleasant, artistic work. Hat curlers have reputations the same as artists. Their work is distinctive. An expert can tell it at a glance."—New York Press.

THE UPPER LIP.

A Theory About the Furrow Which Runs Below the Nose.

Below the nose runs a furrow parting the upper lip. In the faces of babies and children this furrow is very noticeable. From the evolutionist's point of view it is one of the most remarkable characters of the face. It tends to become obsolete in old age, and it is not seen among the catarrhine monkeys. Among the platyrrhines it is but feebly developed, but in lemurs it is in a more pronounced state. There is a depressed septum, to which the two side pieces are joined. The upper lip, in fact, is nearly split in two, but held together in a depressed piece of flesh. In the marsupialia and rodentia the lip is practically in two pieces, and each piece is capable of being moved separately. This is the "hare-lip," and its method of use may well be noticed in a hare or a rabbit when eating.

The furrow, therefore, in the child's lip points to this—that our ancestors possessed not a single upper lip, as we do now, but two upper lips, one beneath each nostril, both capable of independent movement. In the course of time these two lips have, owing to the nonrequirement of independent movement, grown together to form the single lip we now possess, but the line of junction is not perfect, and so the furrow results, and sometimes there is a distinct scar down the middle of the furrow.

The possession of the furrowed upper lip by children is one of the strongest pieces of evidence against the descent of man from any catarrhine and in favor of his descent from platyrrhines or from lemurs through the intervention of platyrrhine-like ancestors, of which there are no exact living representatives.—Nineteenth Century.

Long Lines. Dumas pere, who was proud of the prices he received for his work, was once boasting of the fact.

"Beyond a doubt," he remarked, "I am the best paid of living men of letters. I receive 30 sous a line."

"Indeed, monsieur?" said a bystander. "I have never worked for less than 45,000 a line. What do you think of that?"

"You are joking," responded Dumas in irritation.

"Not at all."

"For what do you receive such rates per line?"

"For constructing railways," was the answer.—Harper's Weekly.

What Peace Means.

"Can you tell me the meaning of the word 'peace'?" asked Miss Gray of a little boy who had just recited a patriotic poem in which the word occurred.

"Peace means when you ain't got no children," answered the child.

"How is that?" asked Miss Gray.

"When my mother has washed and dressed up six children for school in the morning she says, 'Now, I'll have peace.'"

Torturing Him.

"You say you think your girl is going back on you? What leads you to such a supposition? Did she snub you?"

"No, but she called her little sister into the parlor last night and had her recite to me."—Houston Post.

The Hero's Reward.

Miss Cutler—I hate to repeat gossip, Mr. Dubber, but just before you left us last evening I heard Miss Clipper say that she was dying to get rid of you. Dubber—Ha! Then I saved her life. I'll go at once and claim her hand.—Chicago News.

Knew What Was Coming.

Hicks—My wife dropped in to see me at the office today and—Weeks—Sorry, old man, but I've been touched too. Can't lend you a cent.—Catholic Standard and Times.

THE ASTERIA.

Interesting Data About the Magic Star Gem of Ceylon.

Familiar to some of the ancient writers and credited with supernatural powers, the asteria, or star gem, was highly valued for the benefits supposed to be conferred on the wearer. Its bright, six-rayed star, ever changing and shifting with every play of light and especially shooting out its flames in the direct sunlight, would seem to be something more than an ordinary crystal, and to the superstitious mind it could readily be believed to embody some tutelary spirit. The particular virtue attributed to this gem was the conferring upon the wearer of "health and good fortune" when worn as an amulet, and to those fortunate to be born in the month of April, with which the stone was associated or represented, the wearer was insured from all evil. The star stone is found principally in Ceylon, invariably in soil peculiar to rubies and sapphires. In fact it is composed of the same constituent "corundum," its chatoyant, or star rays, being caused by the pressure of what the natives call "silk."

It is found in many different colors, from pale blue, pink and white to deep dark blue, ruby and purple. The blue are termed sapphire stars, the red ruby stars. It is always one en cabochon, the star dividing into six rays at the apex. It is next in hardness to the diamond.

The "Moorman" of Colombo, with tools as rude and simple as his forefathers used 1,000 years before, with no training or instruction except the unwritten mysteries of the craft handed down from father to son, will produce the most wonderful results in cutting and polishing gems and in many instances rival the more educated lapidary of Europe for judgment in cutting gems to the greatest advantage.—London Graphic.

QUEER THINGS IN POLAND.

Superstition Plays a Tending Role With Young Men and Maidens.

It is customary in Polish villages to strew straw over the Christmas eve supper tables and for the young people, blindfolded or in the dark, to pick out each a straw therefrom. Should the straw be green the lucky maiden expects to wear a bridal wreath or the youth to lead a blushing bride to the altar during the approaching year, but a dried straw foretells to either long waiting, possibly even until death.

In other rural Polish districts the "Christ's eye" wine, beer and water are placed by a girl between two candles on a table. She then retires into a corner or an adjoining room to watch the result reflected in a mirror hung above the table. If as the clock strikes midnight a man enters and drinks the wine she is happy, for her wooer will be rich. Should he drink the beer, she may be content, for the wooer will be well to do. If the water be chosen, her husband will be very poor. But if as the clock strikes no man comes to her table the anxious maiden shivers with more than midnight terror, believing that she is doomed to be early the bride of death.

Poland is peculiarly rich in these observances, spreading themselves throughout the year, both sexes being equally superstitious in this respect. On New Year's eve the young unmarried men place themselves before a fire and, bending down, look beneath their legs. Should a woman appear in the background it is the one they will marry, but if they see a shape as of a coffin it forebodes for their death during the year close at hand.

Birds' Names.

There are some odd names for game birds on the Chesapeake. A small shy snipe that flies with a twittering noise is called the horsefoot snipe because of its fondness for the horsefoot or turnstone from its habit of overturning pebbles in search of food. The telltale snipe bears that name because it always sounds a note of alarm at the sight of a runner. Chesapeake gunners believe that a single telltale can clear a whole region of game birds. The widgeon is loquaciously called the bald pate, and the willet is so called because of its cry—will-will-willet.

Classical Advertising.

It seems curious to American eyes to know that there is a firm of house decorators in London which has been mentioned by some of the most eminent English writers. It started in 1703, and Jane Austen, Thackeray and Lord Lytton are among the many writers who have placed their heroes or heroines in rooms decorated by this firm. This might be called classic advertising.—New York Tribune.

Dress Superstitions.

Dressmakers will not "fit" with black pins and regard it as unlucky to tack with green cotton. Milliners regard as of happy augury the drop of blood falling on a hat from a pricked finger.—Notes and Queries.

Mutual.

Old Smiths—You're a disgrace to your family, sir. I'm almost ashamed to call you my son. Young Smiths—Say nothing, dad. I'm as much ashamed of it as you are.—Boston Transcript.

When Love Began.

"How long have you been in love with him?"

"Ever since I rejected him."—Life.

The first thing to do, if you have not done it, is to fall in love with your work.—Success Magazine.

The soft heart is often a safer, because a kinder guide than the hard heart.

THE KAREN WOMEN.

They Have Peculiar Ideas of Personal Beauty and Adornment.

Like the Siamese, the Karen women are not good to look upon and do not improve their appearance any by the style of ornaments they affect. When very young their ears are pierced to admit a small round stick, which is gradually incised in diameter until by the time the little girls have become women their ears easily accommodate a two inch disk of blackened bamboo. This stretches the ears hideously, as may be imagined, and when the ornament is laid aside temporarily—well, picture the thin strip of pendent ear lobe! As a rule, the Karen women wear their hair long, but, like the Siamese, some cut it short and others again keep it cropped close, except on top of the head, where it is allowed to grow to its natural length, which does not add to their by no means overabundance of good looks. Sometimes the unmarried women wear a breast cloth, but for the most part men and women wear a loin garble, and sometimes even that is set aside in hot weather.

To thoroughly appreciate Japanese women one should begin the far eastern trip at the Malay peninsula, journeying thence through Siam, Anam, Cambodia and China, though I confess to preferring a good looking Chinese girl to the alleged Japanese beauty.

Braacelets and necklaces of bamboo are the other usual ornaments, except when they can afford a narrow necklace of silver, which protects, so it is believed, against many evils that lurk about life's wayside, even in the jungle. The men also wear this necklace and bamboo a bit in diameter and about four inches long stuck through their ear lobes. Some of the boys are rather good looking. They wear their hair in a knot like a horn on the forehead or at one side or the other of the head or on top, and usually a turban crowns the topknot. All in all the Karens differ not a great deal from the Siamese in physiognomy, but the people in this section of the far east shade into one another rather easily.—Cassier Whitney in Outing.

CUSTOM.

Custom made a man into many errors, but it justified none.

Custom, though never so ancient, without truth is but an old error.

Custom is the tyranny of the lower human faculties over the higher.

It is hard to abolish a custom once introduced, however foolish or effeminate.

There is no tyrant like custom and no freedom where its edicts are not resisted.

If you are determined to live and die a slave to custom, see that it is at least a good one.

It is of great advantage when the customs of a nation are such as are likely to lead to good habits among the people.

Custom is the sovereign of mortals and of gods. With its powerful hand it regulates things the most violent.

Custom governs the world. It is the tyrant of our feelings and our manners and rules with the hand of a tyrant.

Borrow Where They Ought to Buy.

The proprietor of a hardware store has found it necessary to display conspicuously over his counter the following sign: "Our business is to sell tools, not to loan them."

"Did you actually find it necessary to hang up that notice?" I asked him.

"Of course I did," he replied. "Hardly a day passes that I don't have somebody running in here and asking me to lend him a hammer, a saw or a chisel. It's one of the freaks of human nature, and I can't account for it. Persons who would not think of going into a hat shop to borrow a hat or to a furnishing store to borrow a shirt seem to think it's the most natural thing in the world to come in here and ask me to lend them a hammer."—New York Herald.

Bells.

Bells have been employed in association with religious worship since the early days of Egypt. Cymbals and hand bells and small crotals served for the festival of Isis. Aaron and other Jewish high priests wore bells of gold upon their raiment. In camp and garrison the Greeks employed bells. The Romans announced the hour of bathing by their melody. Copper and tin, the old composition, is still regarded as the best bell metal. Steel has been tried, but does not make a successful bell. Glass bells are mellow and beautiful in tone, but the material is too fragile. The one metal which is impossible is that which everybody imagines makes the best bell—silver.

Battle of the Herrings.

The battle of the herrings was the comical name given to a fight between an English force and a French detachment not far from Orleans in 1429. The English were conveying a large quantity of supplies, mainly herrings, for it was Lent, to the army that was besieging Orleans. The French former repulsed the assailants and saved the herrings, so the battle was named in honor of the supplies.

His Authority.

Governess (looking over geography paper)—What's this? "The people of Lancashire are very stupid!" Where in the world did you get that idea from? Pupil—Out of the book. It says that Lancashire is remarkable for its dense population.—Punch.

Sorry He Spoke.

Husband—Well, I must say that all fools are not dead yet. Wife (affectionately)—I'm glad of it, dear. I never look well in black.—Illustrated Bits.

STEAMSHIP VERMIN.

The Way Ocean Liners Are Rid of Rats and Roaches.

Rat and roach catching at the steamship docks and on ocean liners is one of the queer ways men have of making a living. And a good living they make at it, too—sometimes as much as \$10,000 a year. The men who do it never advertise, because the business does not sound as well as it pays, and a man whose house is built out of dead rats and cockroaches would just as soon not have his neighbors know it.

Once a year docks and piers are turned over to the rat catcher for a night. The man who has made a fortune at the business in New York still works with his men, for the secret of the business is his and he trusts it to no one. Rats run everywhere, but roaches have a special liking for rope lockers, and here they swarm by tens of thousands unless the pier owners have a contract with the rat and roach catcher, who, after a thorough overhauling, guarantees freedom from the pests for a year. Whenever an ocean liner reaches port, whether on this side or the other, it is turned over for a night to this same man. Cats do much toward keeping ships clear of rats, but, of course, have no effect on roaches. On this side of the Atlantic roach catching is the more important branch of the business, while on the other side wharfs are almost as full of rat catchers as the ships are of rats.

These once worked with ferrets, but now they use chemicals. Large cage-like traps are used, in which lettuce leaves are placed after being sprinkled with a liquid—only the catcher knows what.

Whatever it is, it is irresistible to rats as the weird piping of the piper was to the rats of Hamelin town. No matter how choice the food in the lockers and in the hold, the rats leave it instantly when they smell the mysterious liquid on the lettuce leaves. It does not kill the rats, and herein lies another secret of the profits of the business. Live rats are worth money in England, where they are used for training terriers. Dead rats are worth money, too, as their skins are used for gloves. At 5 or 6 cents apiece, forty or fifty rats mean something, and this is quite a usual catch.

For roaches a powder is used, but what puzzles all old sailors who used to have the job of clearing ships of roaches is that there are never any dead ones lying around next morning. The favorite way of the sailors when they had to catch roaches was to put a "cob" of bread on top of a coil of rope. Very quickly it would be covered with hungry brown bugs, and these they knocked into a well greased biscuit pan. The grease kept the roaches from crawling up the sides, and it was a poor roach catcher who would not have two or three inches of roaches when he was through, and in a few days he could begin and do it all over again.—New York Herald.

False Faces.

"What becomes of all the false faces?" asked the city salesman. "Who wears them? There are lots of them made. A trip on the elevated roads gives peeps into many doors where dozens of workmen do nothing year in and year out but make false faces. The output must be sufficient to enable the entire population to go about dressed for a continuous carnival. On Thanksgiving and a few other fete days masks are in demand, but the rest of the time most of us are content to show our natural countenances. That comparatively light local trade, even when swelled by the year round trade of small shops in populous districts, leaves a tremendous quantity of false faces to be accounted for."—New York Press.

Kept Her Joking Promise.

It is related of Lady Penelope Darcy that she was wooed by three suitors at the same time, who had determined to fight as to which should possess her hand. This fact coming to her knowledge, she positively forbade them to fight under pain of her great displeasure and laughingly remarked that if they would have patience to wait she would marry them all. Strange to say, she fulfilled her promise, as she married, first, Sir George Trenchard of Wolverton; second, Sir John Harvey of Fule, and, third, Sir William Herve of Ickworth, the very gentleman who had determined to fight for her hand.

Number of Feet a Second.

Few men could tell if they were asked how many feet per second they walk. A press photographer whose work requires him to know all manner of speeds said:

"The average man walks four feet per second. A dog on its ordinary jog goes eight feet a second. A horse trots twelve feet a second. A reindeer over the ice makes twenty-six feet. A race horse makes forty-three feet. A sailing ship makes fourteen feet."—Chicago Chronicle.

Seems Otherwise at the Track.

"Wealth does not bring happiness," said the ready made philosopher.

"Maybe not," answered the man who frequents the race track, "but when I compare the facial expression of a person who has won with that of a person who has lost I have my doubts."—Washington Star.

Rebuking His Presumption.

The girl with the Auburn hair had suffered him to put his arm on the back of the seat, but when he tried to take her hand she drew it away.

"Mr. Spoonall," she said, "you mustn't try to stretch a base hit into a three bagger."—Chicago Tribune.

Many foolish things fall from wise men if they speak in haste or be extemporaneous.—Ren Johnson.

The Dighton "Writing Rock."

At Dighton, Mass., lying well out in the tidewater of Taunton river, is a rock of great antiquarian interest. It is a granite boulder about eleven feet long and five feet in greatest height and is known throughout New England as the "Dighton writing rock."

One side of the boulder is almost perfectly smooth, as though worn by glacial action. On this flat surface in clear cut outlines are dozens of characters, hieroglyphics and pictures, chiseled by some prehistoric engraver. The archaeologists have never been able to decipher these characters, but they are of undoubted antiquity.

A Hard One.

"My proudest boast," said the lecturer, who expected his statement to be greeted with cheers, "is that I was one of the men behind the guns."

"How many miles behind?" piped a voice in the gallery.—Philadelphia Press.

Proof of Immortality.

"What authority have you for the statement that Shakespeare is immortal?"

"The fact that he still survives after having been murdered by bum actors for 300 years."—Cleveland Leader.

His Cost.

"Yes, I quarreled with my wife about nothing."

"Why didn't you make up?"

"I'm going to. All I'm worried about now is the indemnity."—Pittsburg Post.

Some people make themselves at home wherever they may be—except at home.

Left the World.

The beautiful Mme. X. was greatly distressed a short while since. Her husband had forsaken her, leaving behind him a note as follows: "Farewell, dear Adelaide. I am quitting this world." Two days later the lamented husband returned to the wife of his bosom in the best of spirits. He had been up in a balloon.

Buying, Not Shopping.

Caller—Is your mother in, Ethel? Ethel—No, ma'am; she's downtown. Caller—Shopping? Ethel—Oh, no; I don't think she had time for that. She just said she was going to get some things she needed.—Philadelphia Press.

Shocking.

Mrs. Gramercy—You look awfully worried, my dear girl. Mrs. Park—It's all on account of my stupid maid. She let me go out with Fido when I was wearing the gown that harmonizes with Babette!—Puck.

Schiller's Liking For Apples.

One habit of Schiller's was a passion for the smell of an apple. He used to cut an apple into quarters and keep them in the drawer of his writing-table.—T. P.'s Weekly.

Another Victim of His Curiosity.

He—at what age do you think a girl ought to marry? She—Well, I couldn't think of setting the day before next October, George, when I shall be just twenty-nine.—Somerville Journal.

A Great Idea.

"Did you ever notice that most of the sudden and disastrous fires are due to spontaneous combustion?"

"No, but I've often thought spontaneous combustion would be a splendid thing to keep on tap for lighting the kitchen fire."

Good humor and generosity carry the day with the popular heart all the world over.—Alexander Smith.

STRANGE ADVICE!

Dr. G. G. Green gives actual personal attention to his great humanitarian contract.

In our Almanac for many years past we have given unusual advice to those afflicted with coughs, colds, throat or lung troubles or consumption. We have told them if they did not receive any special benefit after the use of one 75-cent bottle of German Syrup, to consult their doctor.

"We did not ask them or urge them to use a large number of bottles, as is the case in the advertising of many other remedies. Our confidence in German Syrup makes it possible for us to give such advice. We know by the experience of over 35 years that one 75-cent bottle of German Syrup will speedily relieve or cure the worst coughs, colds, even in bad cases of consumption, one large bottle of German Syrup will work wonders. New trial bottles, 25c; regular size, 75c. At all druggists.

For sale by Boyle-Woodward Drug Co.

Paying a Debt of Gratitude.

Note what Mr. Mott Allen, of Union City, says: "Was badly afflicted with rheumatism for more than eight months and at times had to get up at 11 o'clock and stay up the balance of the night. Could not dress myself without aid from my wife. I am now entirely cured, and by the use of only one bottle of Crocker's Rheumatic Remedy. For sale by Stoke & Felcht Drug Co.

WANTED

GIRLS TO LEARN WARPING, WINDING AND QUILLING. APPLY TO ENTERPRISE SILK COMPANY.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD BUFFALO & ALLEGHENY VALLEY DIVISION. Low Grade Division. In Effect May 28, 1905. Eastern Standard Time.

EASTWARD.

STATIONS.	No. 109	No. 101	No. 102	No. 104	No. 106
Pittsburg	6:00				