

wentures Which Show That Truth is Stranger Than Piction.

HE sextion of the chapel at Budd's Lake, N. J. The Lake Low Lake, Lak

JAMES CRADDOCK, living three miles and a half south of Marshall, Mo., has had some experience with a blacksnake, which, no doubt, he will never forget. Pres Sandidge, of Marshall, who was with Mr. Cruddock, relates the following interesting story of the encounter between the latter and the blacksnake. We were cutting bean poles on Mr. Craddock's place, and while working in the thickest of the brush, I noticed, on looking toward my companion, that a huge blacksnake was colled about his leg, and the unper portion of its body looking toward my companion, that a huge blacksnake was colled about his leg, and the upper portion of its body in the iron grasp of Mr. Craddock. It was a very large snake, and appeared to be about 6 feet in length. For a few seconds there was a fieres struggle between snake and man. The reptile, with its ugly fangs protruding, nade a desperate effort to free itself from the grasp of its victim and wrapped its coils still tighter about the limbs and body of the man. It was all over in a few seconds, however, the snake suddenly relaxing its coils, and with lightning rapidity swinging its tail around, striking Mr. Craddock with terrible force on either side of the head, bringing the blood and bruising him up conside ably. This, of course, caused Mr. Craddock to release his hold on the reptile, and the latter made a hasty retreat, not even giving the men a chance to further investigate. Craddock does not care to engage in a 'mill' such as he took part in that afternoon.

engage in a "mill" such as he took part in that afternoon. Six miles from Petersburg, Va., is Mr. George W. Gatting's farm, where a remarkable phenomenon, which is exciting widespread int rest, is to be seen. This phenomenon is the sinking of a portion of the farm. The sunken area lies within a cres ont shaped margin, and its width at the upper end is from 500 to 000 feet. The sunken territory contains six or more acres. The declivity begins at a point about 200 feet in a straight line from Mr. Gatting's dwelling. Land has sunk from forty to sixty feet. The tops of trees which stood on the level with others are now standing intact and come a few feet only above the level of the bluff where the sinking has occurred. The sunken area is seamed with fissures of varying lengths and lepths. The most notworthy feature of the phenomenon is the formation of bar in the river. This bar is seventy feet long, and in it, too, are many fissares. The phenomenon was preceded some weeks ago by something like an explosion, the noise of which was heard or miles. The interest in the phenomenon is of which was heard or miles. The interest in the phenomenon is or great that crowds of people 70 to view it every day, a privilege for which they pay a fee of twenty-fivenests. Mr. Gatting has leased the privilege of landing excursionists on his arm to a party in Richmond for \$1,000.

Satu an old railway engineer the other day: "There are three kinds of

farm to a party in Richmond for \$1,000.

SAID an old railway engineer the other day: "There are three kinds of trains that I do not want to have anything to do with. One is the pay train. You never know when you will overtake the section hands. You will be going at the rate of forty miles an hour, away you go around a curve, and you will dash by the boss and hands, and have to go back to them. There is always a good deal of the control o

SOMEWHAT STRANGE was going to take place reverently. He was sorry they had to observe the custom in a place sancitified to the service of God; but it had been observed for 200 years. Then the proceedings began. A table covered with white cloth was brought forward, and the boys and girls are up as their names were called and threw the dice, which were provided by the function.

The teremony closed with a hymn and the benediction.

and placed in one of the bathrooms.

A San Francisco newspaper offered \$200 to the one who would correctly guess the number of types in a jar exthibited in the exposition there. Two men were successful, naming the correct number, 34,200. How they came to hit on that number is interesting. One of them once guessed the number of shot in a jar about the same size as the one containing the type. There were 95,000. He thought there were one-third as many type as shot, and so divided 95,000 by three, and he said, "added a little to make it even." The other man gs saw a crowd around the jar, and felt in his pocket for a pencil with which to write a number. He couldn't find one, and moved on; but afterward, feeling the strongly impelled to make a guess, felt again for a pencil, and found an old lettery ticket, on which was the number 34,200. He berrowed a pencil, put down the number, and won \$100.

CHEF CLEER BAKER, of the Supering

down the number, and won \$100.

CHIEF CLERK BAKER, of the Superintendent of Prisons' office at Albany, N. Y., recently exhibited a unique tobacco box. It was made of sheet copper and tin by a convict in Sing Sing, the execution of the work being something extraordinary. The box is octagonal in shape. It has the appearance of opening through the centre, the bottom being exposed by pressing on this button, a sharp needle comes out of its centre. The opening is on the top of the box, the hinges being set at two of the angles, and the cover dips when it is opened. The whole thing is very ingenious.

is very ingenious.

MILLIONS of sand flies precipitated themselves upon Dubuque, Iowa, on a recent evening. So vast was their number that people were compelled to abandon the streets, and men at work in the morning newsparer and telegraph of flees were compelled to close doors and windows to escape the torment. "Along the levee," it is stated, "the buildings were covered so thickly with them that nothing could be seen but a writhing mass of insect life. The stench from their bodies was unbearable, and the health authorities had several wagons employed removing the offensive mass."

A RECENT close inspection of the

omployed removing the offensive mass.

A RECENT close inspection of the comet discovered by Mr. Barnard, of Lick Observatory, in September last, shows that its body is evidently becoming disintegrated and the fragments are to be seen streaming behind the comet in the form of a tail, directed not from, but toward, the sun. The comet, which is 165,00,000 miles from the earth, is still fairly bright, and were it not for the fragments which are seen to follow it, would seem to be in perfectly normal condition.

Geography, Barnes, a retired English of

GENERAL BATES, a retired English of-fleer of means, on a tour through Wash-ington Territory a few days ago, sat down to a dinner at a hotel in Seattle. He was surprised to recognize in the waiter who took his order his own son, who ran away from home to scalp In-dians seven years ago.

SAID an old railway engineer the other day: "There are three kinds of trains that I do not want to have anything to do with. One is the pay train. You never know when you will overtake the section hands. You will be going at the rate of forty miles an hour, away you go around a curve, and you will dash by the boss and hands, and have to go back to them. There is always a good deal of talk over the wages, and much time is taken up. The next up) easant train to handle is an excursion train. Every one living along the line of road knows you from seeing you come by every day, and they think you know them as well. When on an excursion they presum upon their friendship to endeavor to rido on the engine. No other place will do them. The engineer has to refuse them, as it would amount to docking his wages from thirty to sixty days, if he complied, as it is postitively against the rules of the road. The persons denied the privilege always feel hard about it, and look upon the engineer as unaccommodating. The last and worst of all, however, is the officers' train. If you run slow they say you are scared and fear to run fast. If you make good time they say you are careless and reckless, and want to kill somebody. You can't suit them.

Abour two centuries ago an old citizen of St. Ives parish, Hants, left in trust to the vicar and clurchwardens an orchard, the rent of which was to be devoted to the purchase of Bibles. The testator further provided that the Bibles should be raffled off with dice, in the church, and since then the prescribed eremony has been carried out every Whit Tuesday. Last Whit Tuesday, after a shortened evening prayer, the vicar delivered an address telling those present that they must look upon what

FREAKS OF LUCK.

TWO PECULIAR CASES PROBED BY A SCRIBE.

A Bank Clerk Stopped From Stealing by a Peculiar Arrangement of Mir-rors—A Strangely Deliberate Sui-

rota—E. State, of cide.

The greed of gold, writes "Durandal" from New York to the Cincinnati Enquirer, is quite as remarkable as the whimsicalities of its expenditure. Did ever a man, no matter how good, have another man's money in his possession without at least the thought of stealing it coming into his head?

"Consecience is a curious thing," said one of Byrnes' best detectives. "Let me tell what I once saw, I was slandowing a bank clerk on a Western railroad train. He had a handbar containing his employer's treasure, and was tempted to vamoose with it. The cars rolled along down from the Rocky Mountains height of Denver for hours. Tom took to studying a time-table, in which he saw that a westward train at Mirage. What of it? He put the question mentally to himself, and answered that it meant nothing whatever to him. But he went on to think that, if he wished to steal the gold, a way to do it was to quit this train at Mirage and get aboard the other. I watched the whole mental process.

process.

He pronounced the idea preposterous, but he did not get rid of it, and when the stop was made he alighted with the lag in his hand. He seemed actuated by some inpulse which got its fore outside of himself. He had the opportunity to use the speed of two locomotives to put distance between the gold and its owner, who was on the same train. He walked slowly toward the further end of the platform, wondering at his inability to cease plotting a crime, and debating whether there was any likelihood of his achanging to the westward train when it came. The most resplendent things in Colorado are the drinking saloons, and a new one at Mirage was to be paneled with mirrors. The big plates of glass had been delivered at the station. They were untramed, and some of them were out of the boxes in which they had been transported. The owner of the groggery had discovered that if the edges of two mirrors are placed together at right angle, with no frame or anything else to separate their surfaces, a person sees himself duplicated in the corner thus formed. Half the image is on one glass and half on the other, but the juncture is not visible, and a singular optical effect is that, no matter where the man stands, or how he changes his place, his reflection will not budge from its place in the mirrored angle. The name of Mirage has been derived from the frequency of the visual illusion of mirage in the rarefied atmosphere of the elevated region, and it may be that the whiskey-seller meant to startle his customost beyond anything known to the Fata Morgana as they drank at his bar. As though impatient to force the practicability of his plan, he had set up a dozen of the mirror plates in right-angled pairs against the boxes and the side of the freight house. Toward them the successive the successive the practicability of his plane in the freight had the processive the successive the successive the successive the successive the successive the successive t

dollars which lay to their credit in the savings bank. After he had regarded the elder of his grandchildren uninterruntedly for the better part of a minute, his little family were mildly surprised to hear him say, in the words which he had employed on the day of his discharge from the pickle factory:

"Lieschen, pring your grandfarder some peer."

The child obeyed with alacrity, and Mrs. Werner seemed cheered by this renewal of a habit which her husband had followed during more than thirty years. Werner took the pitcher from his little granddaughter when she returned, looked reflectively at the beer, and then emptied into it a paper of paris green which her took from his waisteoat pocket. Having so done, Werner softly agitated the pit-her, in order that the poison might be well stirred up, and calmly drauk the contents.

For the ret of the day the discharged pickle-maker sat smoking at the window, while the family wept. Mrs. Werner would have given notification of her husband's act, and would have summoned medical assistance, but he commanded her to the contrary, and she had long been accustomed to acknowledge his will as law. The poison sickened him, but seemed unlikely to produce any more ser-ous result. Werner waited paiently until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and then once more summoned the little Lieschen, whom he instructed to procure for him another pitcher of beer, and to stop on her way to the paris green.

"You tole der boss dot was for rats," said Werner

beer, and to stop on her way to the paint store and buy five cents worth of paris green.

"You tole der boss dot was for rats," said Werner.

Mrs. Werner went into a paroxysm of sobbing, and the child was frightened and unwilling to do the errand, but the authority of Werner prevailed, and Lieschen brought the beer all the the last glass he poured the powder. Holding his pipe in one hand and the deadly dose in the other, he was about to drink, when his wife struck the mixture from his grasp and it was spilled upon the floor. Werner contemplated his wife in placid sorrow, and then turned his attention to the glass. A thick green mess remained at the bottom of it. He took up the glass and swallowed the poison at a gulp.

It was then about 4.30 o'clock, and Werner stretched himse'f upon the kitchen floor and closed his seyes. Mrs. Werner sat by him, torn by conflicting emotions. Whenever she or the children moved as though to stummon assistance he commanded them to desist. None of them dared to disobey him. It was be that a man less obstinate would have died more easily. This one died at last, A 10 o'clock that night the spirit left him, and his wife and grand-children went sobbing with the story to the police.

"You have probably observed in your travels," said the hotel clerk, "the sign hung out at the cashier's desk in all leading hotels; 'No money loaned or checks cashed here!' Those signs are hung out to protect the hotel from dead beats, and they serve the purpose to a certain extent. We are the purpose to a lung out to project the hotel from dead beats, and they serve the purpose to a certain extent. We make a mistake now and then, as was the case here a couple of weeks ago. An old codger came along with an old-fashioned satchel, and he looked so hard up and rusty that I gave him the poorest room in the house, and asked for a deposit of five dollars. He made it, and I gave him no further attention. At the end of a week he came up to settle his bill, and when I gave him the figures he pulled out a check book and filled up a check for the amount.

"'Can't take it,' I said, as I shoved it back.
"'Why?'
"Got beat too often.'
"But it's good."
"Maybe."
"Well, I have no currency, and must pay you by check; very few people refuse them.
"'Look here, old fellow,' I replied, my mad coming up. "if you think to

It was pitch dark as we approached the royal camp, and the appearance presented thereby was very extraordinary. There appeared to us to be miles of white tents, each with a camp fire burning before it. There were camels, mules, and hore it. There were camels, mules, and hore it. There were camels, mules, and soldenly been plunged into the midst of a vast army, and well it might be, for the following are roughly the statistics of the retinue which accompanied the Shah from his capital to the frontier: Four thousand quadrupeds, including mules, horses, and camely, for carrying the luggage and drawing the carriages; 3,000 tents to accommodate 7,000 to 8,000 individuals, 25 carriages for the royal suite alone, 3 royal wives, and their 40 female attendants.

The Shah's tent arrangements cover over an aere of ground. The huge red tent inhabited by the still slumbering monarch was visible from afar. It was pitched in a grove of poplars, by the side of a tiny lake, and surrounded by a wall about eight feet high, made of Resht embroidery—that is to say, an embroidery of chain stitch, uniting little bits of colored cloth, which we know well enough in England in the shape of table covers and anti-macassars, and for which I have never really felt any great affection; but still, when it decorates a high wall inclosing an acre of ground the effect is startling and magnificent. Finer table covers of the same material were spread as saddle cloths over the many gayly-caparisoned horses around us, and just as we approached quantities of mules were on the point of starting with royal and other baggage, with bright red palls cast over their burdens. All the carriages were waiting ready before the grate into the royal inclosure, which was formed of poles painted red, looking not unlike gallows. Anisi Dowlet, the Shah's favorite wife, was just gong to start in her gilded carriage, drawn by six gayly-caparisoned horses in readiness to carry his Majesty's own kalyan or the royal harem. She always started an hour or two before his not

amount.

""Can't fake it,' I said, as I shoved it bock.

"Why?"

"Wot boat too often.'

"Wot boat too often.'

"Wot boat too often.'

"Well, I have no currency, and must pay you by check; very few people refuse them.

"I look here, old fellow,' I reptied, my mad coming up, "if you think to beat this house you will get left! Either come down with the bill or you'll go to juil."

"He tore up the check, filled in anyother for \$200,000 on a Chicago national bank, and handed it over, with the remained that a check signed by the old man for white the come of the boards and sak them to assure themselves that this would be honored in Chicago."

"Went over to a national bank, and inside of an hour Chicago had naswered that a check signed by the old man for half a million dollars was as good, as gold. I had made a mistake in sizing my man up."

"It will be said to the wheat ring."—[New York Sun.

"A ratt'esnake is the biggest coward in the world," said John Kent, of Swang Run, Clinton County, Penn., a professional hunter of rattlesnakes for their hides, greese and rattles, in the sale of which to city and county dealers he made the discovery that he couldn't at it stuck right by him. Then by would stop and try to fight it. When he made the discovery that he couldn't said the whole difficulty by turning his poison on himself and committing strick or on the selection of the water will be seared at his control of the water, where she could stop and try to fight it. When he made the discovery that he couldn't as faint way in the world, said John when he is met with on his native barren and correct up. He won't, as a general thing, put an end to himself und turning his poison on himself and committing his control, and he twist his head a contract the history of Kanass productive the history of Kanass product

accord in sweeping family through a simple requost. "Lieschen," he said to the older of the children, "pring your grandfarder some peer."

The child obtained a brown pitcher with blue stripes ubon it from the table, and went forth sobbing upon her crund. When she returned Werner took flepitcher from her, eyed for a moment the foam rounding from its top, and emptical it without taking breath. Having done that he set the pitcher carefully down, wiped his month with the back of his hand, and observed:

"I trinks no more peer."

"It trinks no more peer."

"That was three weeks ago, and for fiften days Werner, who had been accustomed to consume a large quantity of bees daily, drank none at all. It seemed to make no diderence in his physical person or his spirits. He smoked with quanninty, and his face remained as round and placid and vacant as before. On the sixteenth day, however, he regarded Lieschen with unusual thought fulness as he sad down to the brenifast table. He was still out of work, aithough he had made application for employment at all the pickle factories in the city, and on the evaning previous Mrs. Werner had consulted him as to the advisability of drawing, for the defrayment of the nine hundred and odd.

Emperia (Kan.) Democrat.

Save That Sweet Girll
Don't let that beautiful girl fade and droop
into invalidian or sink into an early grave for
want of timely care at the most critical stage
will add in regulating for health and estab-lishing it on a firm basis and may save he
years of chronic suffering and consequent unyears of chronic suffering and consequent un-

"Judge a man by his eyes, but a woma ways by her lips," said Benjamin Frankli ow we understand how Benjamin Inspiene get so deeply interested in the study ectrical phenomena.

A Pennsylvania editor has discovered that verything it nature is playful. He sayse-The lightning plays, the wind whistles, the hunder rolls, the snow lies, the waves lear nul the pleids smile. Even the trees shoot and the rivers and streams run."

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Wit is the lightning of the mind, reason the unshine, and reflection the moonlight; for s the bright orb of the night owes its lister of the sun, so does reflection owe its existence

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