

WHERE CRUSOE LIVED.

The Rock-Bound, Sea-Girt Isle of Juan Fernandez.

The Lonely Spot on Which That Hardy Scotch Buccaneer, Alexander Selkirk, Made His Home for Four Long, Lonely Years.

Upon Juan Fernandez, or Masatierra, a rock-bound, sea-girt islet in the Pacific ocean, may the name of Robinson Crusoe's island be fairly bestowed. For here, says London Black and White, did that hardy buccaner, Alexander Selkirk, of Largo, in Scotland, spend more than four dreary and lonely years, thereby suggesting to Defoe his immortal narrative. It must be remembered, however, that other spots upon the earth's surface lay claim to Robinson Crusoe, too. Thus Tobago, in the West Indies, is held to be the true Crusoe's isle, and during the last Colonial and Indian exhibition held in London there was sent as an exhibit from little Tobago a skull actually purporting to be that of Robinson Crusoe's historic goat! But the Scotch pirate certainly suggested his romance to Defoe, wherever that author may have chosen to lay his plot, and for this reason Juan Fernandez must be interesting to English readers, from the crowns of its volcanic peaks to the silver surf which breaks eternally upon its shores. Amidst the island's forests of tree-ferns did Selkirk live, build him a habitation, and cultivate the soil; from its mountain caps must his weary eyes have sought a sail through the long years of lonely waiting. Our illustration, while showing a point of Juan Fernandez especially associated with Selkirk, affords at the same time a characteristic aspect of the island itself. "Selkirk's Lookout" is a ragged mountain draped in foliage, thinning towards the last rounded peak; and, in 1868 a tablet was placed in position



SELKIRK'S CAVE, JUAN FERNANDEZ.

upon the mountain's side at a point judged to be sacred to many a weary month of the forlorn exile's solitude.

Scratched and cut about it are to be seen the names of innumerable nomenclatures who have since visited the spot. Nothing is sanctified, no tract of ground too celebrated or too sacred for Smith, Jones and Robinson. Given a stump of lead pencil and they would gleefully inscribe their historical names in the Holy of Holies, together with the date, and their addresses in Peckham Rye, Brixton, or elsewhere. But while denying such as these the satisfaction of their names in print, we may copy the actual memorial. Thus it runs:

In memory of Alexander Selkirk, Mariner. A native of Largo, in the county of Fife, Scotland, who lived on this island in complete solitude for four years and four months. He was landed from the Cinque Ports galleon, 90 tons, 16 guns, A. D. 1704. And was taken off in the "Duke," privateer, February 12, 1709. He died Lieutenant of H. M. S. "Weymouth," A. D. 1728. Aged 47 years. This tablet is erected near Selkirk's Lookout by Commodore Powell, and the officers of H. M. S. "Porpoise," A. D. 1868.

Selkirk's cave is also a point of interest, though it may be doubted whether there is much more than an imaginary connection between this cavern and the solitary sailor. The history of Juan Fernandez presents no feature of particular interest. The island was discovered in 1598 by the Spaniard whose name it bears, and between that date, until its occupation by Spain in 1750, appears to have been little more than a sort of headquarters for the bold buccaners who roamed all the Pacific over. Juan Fernandez passed to Chili when Spain lost her South American possessions, and from 1810 until 1835 her new owner used the islet as a penal settlement. To-day Chilean sportsmen—amateur and professional—wander upon Juan Fernandez seeking and slaying seal or sea-lion when opportunity offers; but efforts in more civilized directions have also to be recorded, for in 1877, the Chilean government leased the land to a Swiss, who established a considerable colony upon its fertile shores. The result of the experiment, with a full description of it, was published about five years ago in an interesting article in Chamber's Journal. But to Englishmen the name of Alexander Selkirk will ever be coupled with Juan Fernandez, and from Selkirk it is but a step to Defoe and Robinson Crusoe. The island, therefore, may reasonably claim in this connection; and the Bass Rock still can show ruins of mouldering prison walls. The latter, indeed, will command a fresh interest, at any rate for literary minds, by reason of the graphic scenes described as happening thereon in Mr. E. L. Stevenson's last romance.

Alexander Hamilton's Watch. A watch that was worn by Alexander Hamilton when the declaration of Independence was signed and also during the duel with Aaron Burr is in the possession of Louis M. Habbins, of Madison, Wis.

LIVING LANTERNS.

Queer Fishes That Carry Bright and Striking Sea Torches.

Away down in the dark depths of the ocean there are living lanterns that are borne about to light up the darkness. A queer fish called the "Midshipmite" carries the brightest and most striking of all these sea torches.

Along its back, under it and at the base of its fins there are small disks that glow with a clear phosphorescent light like rows of shining buttons on the young middy's uniform—in this way it gets its name "midshipmite."

These disks are exactly like small bull's-eye lanterns with regular lenses and reflectors.

The lenses, says the Boston Herald, gather the rays and the reflectors throw them out again. There is a layer of phosphorescent cells between the two, and the entire effect is as perfect as if made by some skillful optician.

Many other fish have "reflectors," many have "lenses," but the "midshipmite" is the only kind that has such splendid specimens of both.

The fish is so constructed that when it is frightened by some devouring sea monster it can close its lenses and hide itself in the darkness. It can turn its lantern off and on at will, and then it is always "filled" and ready when wanted.

Another marine animal has a luminous bulb that hangs from its chin, and thus throws the light before it to warn it of the approach of enemies. Still another upholds a big light from the extremity of the dorsal fin. Others again have constant supplies of luminous oil that runs down their sides from the fins, making a bright and constant light all around it.

Most of the jelly fish are phosphorescent. These live far down, on the very floor of the ocean, where it is always dark and gloomy. The dwellers in these watery depths are provided with lights of their own shining bodies and fins, which illumine their home with a strange, though no doubt cheerful, glare.

SIR EVELYN WOOD.

The New Quartermaster General of the British Army. Sir Henry Evelyn Wood, who has just received the appointment of quartermaster general in the English army, has been in turn a sailor, a dragoon, a leader of irregular cavalry, an infantry leader, a diplomat and an administrator. He has fought in the Crimea, the mutiny, Ashantee, South Africa and Egypt, and as a result of these heroic enterprises he wears a dazzling display of decorations, the Victoria cross among them. He is in addition a barrister, learned in the law, and a brilliant and facile writer. It was said of



SIR HENRY EVELYN WOOD.

another most distinguished officer that when he was made a general he was "lost the finest possible special correspondent." And of Sir Evelyn Wood it may be said with pride by newspaper men that he would have been bound to take the very foremost place in their ranks had he devoted himself to the pursuit of the "gray goose quill," and he clearly recognizes the utility of a profession, conducted in good faith, which nature almost seems to have intended him to adorn. He was born in 1838, the same year that gave Archibald Forbes to the world.

Endurance of the Camel.

A camel has twice the carrying power of an ox. With an ordinary load of 400 pounds he can travel twelve or fourteen days without water, going forty miles a day. They are fit to work at 5 years old, but their strength begins to decline at 25, although they usually live to 40. The Tartars have herds of these animals, often 1,000 belonging to one family. They were numerous in antiquity, for the patriarch Job had 3,000. The Timbuctoo or Meharri breed is remarkable for speed and used only for couriers, going 800 miles in eight days, with a meal of dates or grain at nightfall.

Same Old 'Com.

A 'coon with a leather strap around its neck, which was lost by a young woman at Chester, W. Va., about fifteen years ago, was found the other day by a hunter in the woods near Chester. The animal still had the leather collar around its neck.

In Hard Luck.

When an Armenian maiden attains her seventeenth year and is not engaged to be married she must undergo a strange punishment. She is forced to fast three days; then for twenty-four hours her food is salt fish and she is not permitted to quench her thirst.

HAMILTON IN BRONZE.

The Statue Recently Unveiled in Brooklyn, N. Y.

One of the Best Works of William Ordrway Partridge, the Sculptor—Inscriptions That Have Been Placed on the Pedestal.

The bronze statue of Alexander Hamilton, the work of William Ordrway Partridge, was unveiled with public ceremonies in front of the Hamilton clubhouse on Clinton and Remsen streets, Brooklyn, October 4. George M. Olcott, ex-president of the club, made the speech of presentation, and the statue was received by President James McKeen. John M. Van Cott made an address on Hamilton as a statesman, and Gen. Stewart L. Woodford spoke of Hamilton as a soldier.

The statue stands in front of the clubhouse in Remsen street, halfway between the entrance and the street corner, just within the iron railing surrounding the club property. A solid foundation has been laid to support the pedestal of marble, eight feet in height, on which the statue, ten feet in height, stands. The following inscriptions have been placed upon the pedestal:

"There is not in the constitution of the United States an element of order, of force or of duration which he has not powerfully contributed to introduce and caused to predominate."

"He smote the rock of the national resources and abundant streams of revenue gushed forth."—Webster.

"The model of eloquence and the most fascinating of orators."—Story.

"His rare powers entitled him to the fame of being the first intellectual product of America."—Gibson.

"The name of Hamilton would have honored Greece in the age of Aristides."—Ame.

Mr. Partridge, the sculptor, began thinking of a statue of Hamilton, at the suggestion of Dr. Arthur Matthews, ten years ago, and has endeavored to set forth in the figure the genius of the man of whom Talleyrand said: "He divined America." It represents Hamilton in colonial costume, with a roll of manuscript in his left hand, in the attitude of an orator, earnestly setting forth great truths. The pose of the figure is firm and expressive of



STATUE OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON.

resolution and earnestness, and the demeanor is dignified and impressive.

The statue may be regarded as representative of the colonial time and spirit. The pedestal is designed to harmonize with the figure, the Ionic columns of the front recalling the period when classic architecture had full sway in this country. Mr. Partridge is the sculptor of the Shakespeare in Chicago, and he is at work on the equestrian statue of Gen. Grant to be placed in front of the Brooklyn Union League clubhouse.

The suggestion that the Hamilton club erect the statue was made by the late Edward A. Secomb, and he arranged the preliminary steps in the matter. Since his death the matter has been taken charge of by Willis L. Ogden. The funds to pay for the work have been subscribed by the members of the club.

The statue is a great addition to the few to be found in public places in Brooklyn. The Lincoln at the park entrance, the Beecher in front of the city hall, soon to be removed to Prospect park, and the Stranahan in that pleasure ground are the only ones to be found, save a few busts in the park and in Greenwood cemetery.

Huntington's Economy.

It is told of C. P. Huntington, the railroad magnate, that recently upon his receiving a small package a relative discarded the paper and twine, throwing them into the waste paper basket. Mr. Huntington arose and, continuing his talk with some gentleman present, apparently unconsciously took the paper out of the basket, neatly folded it, and taking care of the string, placed them both in a drawer for further use. One of the party remarking that that was close economy, Mr. Huntington remarked that between that and extravagance there was a wide gap. But Mr. Huntington is 49 in a hardware store in California and paper and twine were not readily obtained, and he probably acquired the habit of closely saving those two articles.

A Lasso of Human Hair.

The most greivous relic in the United States, if not in the whole wide world, is in the possession of "Old Le Pier," a Spanish Indian living on the Wenatchee river at the point of its junction with the Upper Columbia. Old Le Pier's odd souvenir is nothing more or less than a lasso, or lariat, composed wholly of human hair. It is over fifty feet in length and as variegated in color as was the coat of "Joseph of old." The priests (none but the mission clergy are ever allowed to even get sight of it) say that not less than fifty women and girls must have been scalped to furnish material for this horrid rope, the black, brown, yellow, red and gray hair being curiously and intricately woven into a rope that is strong enough to hold an ox, horse or buffalo.

OPTICAL PHENOMENON.

Rainbows and Photographs Produced in a Fog Bank.

A correspondent of Nature, at Christiana, gives an account of a very curious phenomenon witnessed from the top of Gausta mountain (height 8,000 Norwegian feet) in Telemarke, south of Norway. We were a party, he says, of two ladies and three gentlemen on the summit of this mountain on August 4. On the morning of that day the sky was passably clear; at noon there was a thick fog. Between six and seven o'clock in the afternoon (the wind being south to southwest) the fog suddenly cleared in places so that we could see the surrounding country in



WE ALL APPEARED IN SILHOUETTE.

sunshine through the rifts. We mounted to the flagstaff in order to obtain a better view of the scenery, and there we at once observed in the fog, in an easterly direction, a double rainbow forming a complete circle, and seeming to be twenty to thirty feet distant from us. In the middle of this we all appeared as black, erect and nearly life-size silhouettes. The outlines of the silhouettes were so sharp that we could easily recognize the figures of each other, and every movement was reproduced. The head of each individual appeared to occupy the center of the circle, and each of us seemed to be standing on the inner periphery of the rainbow. We estimated the inner radius of the circle to be six feet. This phenomenon lasted several minutes, disappearing with the fog-bank, to be reproduced in new fog three or four times, but each time more indistinctly. The sunshine during the phenomenon seemed to us to be unusually bright. Mr. Kielland-Torkildsen, president of the Telemarke Tourist club, writes to me that the builder of the hut on the top of Gausta has twice seen spectacles of this kind, but in each case it was only the outline of the mountain that was reflected on the fog. He had never seen his own image, and he does not mention circular or other rainbows.

HOW MICE MAKE WAR.

They Face Each Other, Standing on Their Hind Legs.

Before we had much observed mice, the use of their long tails was a question that had puzzled us. We do not know of what service they are to the females, but to the bucks they are, we see, of use in their combats, for, when they fight, they very often face one another standing on their hind legs, the tails then making, as with kangaroos, the third feature of a tripod. Their appearance, when they thus stand facing one another with their heads thrown back and their paws in front of their faces, is, on account perhaps of the resemblance it bears to the posture of prize-fighters, extremely comic, says a writer in the Northwest. Small mice, also, when attacked by their bigger congeners, raise their



MICE PREPARING TO FIGHT.

paws before their faces, the attitude in that case strangely suggesting one of deprecation.

What occurs when belligerent bucks actually engage only instantaneous photography could record, so rapid are their movements. Presumably, they try to bite, but must consider defense the better part of valor, for they never appear to get hurt much, and between the rounds will nibble away at the crust which brought them into the vicinage, only showing their excitement by rattling their tails against the ground. Occasionally a tail seized by the teeth leads to one mouse having to drag his enemy over the floor till the latter lets go.

The Cause of Billiousness.

The cause of billiousness is a dilated stomach. Food decomposes in the stomach, and that gives rise to the condition known as billiousness. It is a state of poisoning in the stomach, produced by the action of germs upon the food remaining there. When those germs grow up through the oesophagus they produce the bad coating on the tongue. Billiousness always means bad diet. If a man is bilious he ought to be ashamed of himself, for it means that he has abused his stomach. A dilated stomach is very common among chronic dyspeptics. It is a stretching of the stomach in consequence of overloading it; it is sometimes due to a breaking down of the stomach.

Suicides in European Armies.

In view of the epidemic of suicides which seems to have set in of late it is interesting to see how different countries stand in this respect. The following figures give in the number of suicides in the various armies of Europe per 100,000 men: Austria, 131; Germany, 07; Italy, 40; France, 29; Belgium, 24; England, 23; Russia, 20, and Spain, 14.

UGLY BEDFELLOWS.

Leaves from the Note Book of an Old Traveler.

The Habits of Centipedes, Scorpions and Tarantulas—Twenty-Four Babies and a Mother Scorpion in a Shawl.

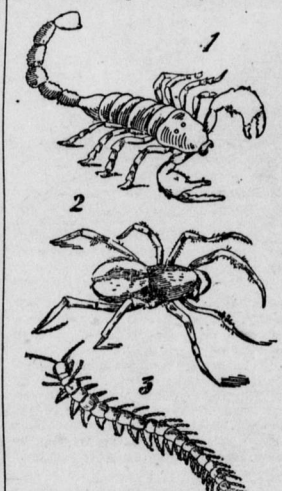
During my life in tropical countries, writes Eugene Murray Aaron in the St. Louis Republic, I found that there were three sorts of offensive bedfellows that one could never be too careful to see were not between the sheets or otherwise hidden in bed or hammock before retiring.

These dangerous bedfellows were centipedes, scorpions and tarantulas, or trap-door spiders. Of the three I always had the greatest dread of the scorpions, partly, perhaps, on account of their greater bulk, but more, I think, because of their villainous temper.

So far as I have observed, the tarantula will only visit a house or even a camp in search of flies or other food, and he will usually quickly retreat if his wily is clear.

So, too, the centipedes as a rule prefer to hide under washboards or in damp cellars and decaying timbers, only coming out after food, such as roaches and croton bugs.

"It is always the unexpected that is happening," sure enough, with scorpions. However carefully alert one may be they are sure to turn up at the most unlooked-for times—to be found in a coat-tail pocket, on the inside of a horse's collar just as it is about to be put on the unsuspecting beast, or in the bathtub, which only a few moments before was carefully inspected. Looking over a pile of letters on my study table in Jamaica one afternoon, a pile which I had carefully sorted out just before lunch, I heard a scratching in one of the larger envelopes, and be-



1. SCORPION. 2. TARANTULA. 3. CENTIPEDE.

I had time to drop it I received a painful wound from the fang of a large scorpion.

Another time, desiring to take an afternoon siesta in my hammock, I shook out the shawl spread over it, and from the folds fell a good sized female scorpion. Having respread my shawl I turned over the pillow to beat it up, when from under it there dropped over 24 baby scorpions. The young scorpions usually travel from point to point on the mother's back, but while she is foraging around for food they are generally to be found in hiding near by, as was this little colony. Over 70 young ones have been found with one female.

The poison from these creatures is applied in three different ways, though the poison itself is much the same and similar in action.

The fang of the scorpion is at the very tip of its long, flexible tail, as the abdomen appears to be, and with it the creature can deal itself quite as deadly a blow as it can to any enemy. This it will do, just as described in one of Byron's poems, if it be surrounded with a circle of fire and assured of its inability to escape. This I have tested quite a score of times, thus disproving claims of certain naturalists, who probably never saw a live scorpion, that Byron invented the story to suit his rhyme.

The amount of poison in the scorpion will not, in my opinion, kill a healthy adult, although it will cause an amount of pain for some hours that is most difficult to bear with fortitude, as I can testify from personal experience. But a large female scorpion certainly can cause death to a half-grown child or to a timid woman, or a man whose blood is in a bad or impure condition.

The tarantula carries its poison at the base of the most savage-looking fangs, that hang down from the lower side of its head. Owing to their position, the term "bite" may be more correctly applied to the tarantula than to either of the others; it is, nevertheless, not a bite, but a sudden downward stroke of the fangs into the object attacked.

I have never found anyone who knew of a case where a centipede wounded a man without first having been stepped on, rolled on or in some like manner hurt. Its poison is a much more dilute fluid than that of the others and is exuded from the hollow feet.

A centipede that I rolled on with my naked back in my sleep on the little steamer that plies on the San Juan river in Nicaragua left a thick red ridge as wide as my thumb quite across my back, but there were no holes in my skin that a friend with a pocket lens could discover. Its poison is much less serious in effect than that of the other, not much worse than a row of hornet stings would be; but, although the least painful of these three scummy bedfellows, it is quite bad enough.



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