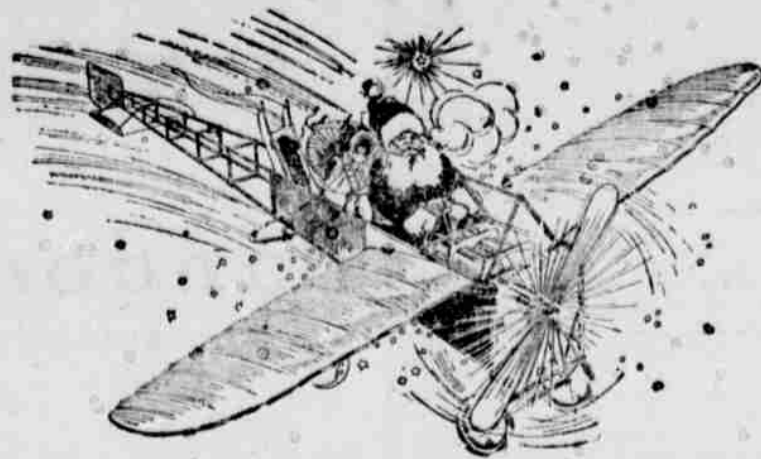


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### PONDEROUS SEA ELEPHANTS.

They Have Two Foot Trunks and Flippers Tipped With Claws.

That which is believed to be the last herd of sea elephants known to exist is to be found at Guadalupe Island, off the west coast of Mexico. In the herd there are now only about thirty specimens.

The sea elephant is an important link in the chain of evolution and is the largest of all fin footed animals. The adult male is about twenty-two feet in length and is about eight feet high when propped up on his front flippers in a natural position. These great bulls weigh from two to three tons and have a trunk, or proboscis, which, when relaxed, hangs down over the mouth about two feet. In the end of this the nostrils are placed rather wide apart, and when they breathe their whole mass trembles in tiny undulations to the very end.

The flippers are thick and tipped with heavy claws. There is a tall about one foot and a half long, separated horizontally in two divisions. This tall acts as a propeller, to resist the huge creature when he comes in through the breakers. He hoists his back flippers and tail so as to catch the full sweep of the waves, and then allows himself to be washed up on the beach.

Coarse, bristly hair grows sparsely from the back along the body, and a tough protecting crust of flesh roaches like a shield from the lower jaw down over the chest and round to the back of the neck. This biblike affair is nature's provision for protection in time of battle. The male fights viciously in the mating season, and the chest protector prevents much loss of life.

Sea elephants live on various kinds of small fish and use the trunk to seize them with. Afterward the food is transferred to the mouth precisely as elephants manage it.

#### Grandest of All.

"What is the grandest thing in the universe?" asks Victor Hugo. "A storm at sea," he answers and continues: "And what is grander than a storm at sea?" "The unclouded heavens on a starry, moonless night." "And what is grander than these midnight skies?" "The soul of man"—a spectacular climax such as Hugo loved and still, with all its dramatic effects, the picturesque statement of a vast and sublime and mighty truth.

#### General Daumesnil's Leg.

General Daumesnil's wooden and iron leg is in the Paris military museum. The warrior is questioned lost one of his legs at the battle of Wagram, and when he returned to Paris it was replaced by a mechanical contrivance of timber with iron springs. Although crippled, the old soldier remained in active service and was in command of the Vincennes fort in 1814 when the allies were in Paris. It was to the troops of the anti-Napoleon coalition that General Daumesnil said when called upon to give up his fort, "Let me have my leg and then you can take Vincennes." The old general died in 1832, deprived of his mechanical limb. It had been taken off while he was ill in order to be repaired by a smith named Brou, living in Vincennes. Brou kept the article and handed it down to his family, from whom it subsequently passed into the ownership of the municipality of Vincennes. The councilors of the artillery borough handed it over to the war department, and it is among the most honored relics of French armies of the past.

#### Subdued the Peer.

In her reminiscences Lady Dorothy Nevill said that in her younger days parents were very particular about the matrimonial alliances made in their families, and she told an amusing story of one old peer who was greatly surprised to be told by his sister that she had developed a great affection for a well known scientist of humble birth.

The peer sent for him and said brusquely, "Now, sir, I should like to know something about your family."

"I think it will be sufficient," replied the scientist, who was of Semitic extraction, "to say that I descended from the illustrious blood of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob."

The peer was taken aback. "Oh," he said, "of course, my family has nothing to compare with that. Therefore, if my sister really likes you, you'd better take her."

And the scientist did.

#### Stung.

My pet embarrassment was when I learned that the girl I went around with a little, but did not love, was engaged. To give her the impression that I was wasting her time I went over and proposed. My embarrassment can be easily imagined when she accepted me.—Chicago Tribune.

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