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### A SAVAGE WITCH.

His Life Was Saved by the Chief of the Quiah Tribe.

The author of "Heroes of Modern Crusades," the Rev. Edward Gilliat, M. A., at one time master of Harrow school, says in his book that he had years ago the privilege of meeting the king of the Quiah country, Tetti Agamason, at Harrow. The Quiah king had been educated at St. Augustine's college, Canterbury, and was able to lecture to the Harrovians in good English. In his lecture he told a quaint story which brings one nearer to the weird lives of the Quiahs, a small agricultural and trading tribe of inoffensive characters on the west coast of Africa.

"In my country," said the king, "we have no prisons; therefore if a culprit is brought to me I must chop off something—an ear or two, a hand or a foot—and he goes home a sadder and a wiser man. Just before I left for England a chief came to my hut, bringing a prisoner.

"What has he done, friend? I asked.

"He is a dangerous witch, O king. He can turn himself into an alligator."

"Pooh! Nonsense! I don't believe that old fashioned stuff."

"Oh, but we saw him do it down by the big river."

"Indeed! Well, chief, tell me all about it. You saw him yourself?"

"I did. We were hunting by the banks of the river with our rifles when all at once we saw a big alligator lying on a rock in the river. The witch man was lying asleep in a hammock some fifty yards away. Oh, the dangerous creature he is!

"Well, king, do not laugh with your eyes like that, for I am speaking the truth. I put up my rifle to shoot the alligator; but, to our great fear, as soon as I fired this fellow rolled out of his hammock and fell on the ground and rubbed his back and swore he was hurt.

"Now, O king, if this witch had not been inside the alligator how could he have been hurt when I fired?"

"Gentlemen," concluded the king, "I see you are laughing with your eyes, but it is very difficult to rule over a people untaught and given over to superstition.

"What did I do? Why, if I had left him free they would have killed him as soon as I had gone on my ship, so I saved his life by chopping off his left ear."

### MODERN CHESS.

The Game Vastly Different From That of the Ninth Century.

Chess is but a game, a pastime, a relaxation, but it has at times absorbed the faculties of the intellectual in every clime. Perhaps the greatest eulogy on the game was the remark of Sir Walter Raleigh, "I do not wish to live longer than I can play chess." It is certain that those who do not play the game are quite unable to form any conception of the high intellectual delights experienced by the chess enthusiast.

The origin of chess has been sought in vain. The fact is the game has so changed, developed and improved down the course of centuries that in its present form it would not be recognized by its inventor, if there ever was one. The oldest chess problem on record is thought to be that contained in an ancient Persian manuscript attributed to Caliph Khalif Mutasin Billah, who reigned in Bagdad A. D. 833 to 842. But the reader would have to learn the old rules before it was intelligible. For example, the queen could make a move of only one square at a time and that on a diagonal, but a queen promoted from a pawn was allowed to make a move of two squares diagonally. The bishop had no power over any square except the third from which it stood on its own diagonal line, but it was allowed to vault over any piece that happened to be between. In short, it was a totally different game. Chess in the precise form in which we know it and play it today is a comparatively modern game. —London Strand Magazine.

### Amending a Proverb.

There are a lot of silly proverbs knocking about. Take, for instance, "If pigs had wings they would fly." Now, this is absurd if you like. Do you know what sized wings a pig weighing eighty pounds would require in order to fly? They would measure about thirty yards from tip to tip, a nice state of things to keep pigs in an aviary with wings of that size! The proverb would run much better:

If pigs could fly  
Pork would be high.

—London Seraps.

### The Right Way.

Little Willie liked ice cream, but he objected to turning the freezer. One day his mother was agreeably surprised to find him working at the crank as if his life depended on it.

"How did you get Willie to turn the ice cream freezer?" she said to her husband. "I offered him 2 cents to do it, and he wouldn't."

"You didn't go about it the right way, my dear," replied her husband. "I bet him a cent he couldn't turn it for half an hour!"

### Pretty Ancient.

"What is the oldest form of literature?"

"I dunno, but I guess some of the musical comedy jokes must reach back pretty nearly that far." —Cleveland Plain Dealer.

### Adam's Kick.

Eve—What makes you look so cross?  
Adam—I wish you wouldn't be so loud in your dresses. It isn't necessary for you to pick the most highly colored autumn leaves. —New York Press.

Throwing vocal stones at other people may be fun, but ten to one the other fellow will get mad and hit you with the real article sometime.

What mistakes did you make this time last year? Going to make the same old mistakes again, or make new ones? Better go slow and make none.

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