

SLAVERY IN AFRICA.

People Voluntarily Take the Yoke to Escape Starvation.

In an account of famine prevalent in Africa cabled to this country the other day it was stated that men were selling themselves, their wives and children into slavery to insure themselves food in return, and that whole villages had voluntarily taken the yoke to escape starvation. The incident illustrates anew one of the conditions which first introduced and have long sustained African slavery. And slavery, says an ex-consul in the Boston Transcript, is not confined to the mountains and valleys of British Central Africa.

The truth is, the condition is common to all Africa, from north of Senegambia to far south of the Mossamedes river. In other words, it may be said that slavery is an institution in Africa wherever famine or superabundance is an influence and improvidence a practice.

There are but few tribes whose members have not some degree of skill in the manufacturing of rude agricultural implements which they use in the cultivation of rice, sweet potatoes, guinea corn, and other staples indigenous to their soil. These products are raised in quantities sufficiently large, if economically used, to meet all necessary needs, but economy is something to them unknown; on the contrary, improvidence is the rule, with the result that when a season of drought arrives their granaries soon become empty and famine takes possession of the land.

It is during this period of suffering that thousands of savages become slaves. The chiefs, the head men, the strong, the powerful, in order that their own lives may be preserved, seize the weak and helpless and sell them into slavery. In this way they renew their exhausted granaries with treasures of grain, and at the same time reduce the number of consumers. It is pertinent to state right here that since the interruption of the slavery trade between Africa and America, the market for the sale of slaves being difficult for the West African tribes to reach, it frequently happens that those who in former times would have been sold are now killed.

The improvidence which so often is the cause of their suffering is displayed in all their doings. Not a single act is performed without the practicing of some superstitious rite accompanied with revelry and great waste, even the sowing of their farms with grain being no exception.

CRUELTY TO A CORONER.

An English Policeman Treats Him with Amazing Disrespect.

The police of Denbighshire are a graceless and irreverent lot, says London Truth. One of their number at Wrexham lately spied a chimney on fire at the residence of W. Wynn Evans and straightway took out a summons for the offense. If Mr. Evans had been an ordinary citizen this would have been a proper proceeding. But Mr. Evans is not an ordinary citizen, and he speedily reminded the chief constable of the fact.

"I am, as you are aware," wrote Mr. Evans, "one of her majesty's coroners of this county. By virtue of my office I am also a magistrate for the county. Do you suppose it can do the police any good, or further the cause of law and order in this borough, that I should be subjected to the indignity of being fined one shilling and costs for a technical breach of an obscure provision of the public health act for which personally I am no more responsible than you are? I come into almost daily relationship with your officers in the conduct of my official duties as coroner. Hitherto this relationship has been a pleasant one and freed from any friction. Is it wise on your part to create a feeling of a grievance on my part and 'bad blood' on both sides?"

This is sufficient to show the coroner's sense of dignity and calm judicial temper, but there was a further hint that, if the summons were proceeded with, he might make things disagreeable for the police. Instead of trying to appease the affronted official, the chief constable replied that he considered the letter "in the most possible taste." "The police," he added, "cannot favor one and punish another." However, the magistrates can—and they dismissed the summons.

BREWERS' HORSES.

They Are, as a Rule, Fat from Eating Brewery Grain.

Did you ever see a thin, square, cadaverous, bony horse pulling a brewery wagon? Probably not in New York, though such a thing could happen, though it would not pass without notice. The reason for it is simple, says the New York Sun. These horses are fed on what is known as "brewers' grain," the residue of the brewing process, a nourishing but unsalubrious product of the brewery. When the labor of beer making is ended gallons of these grains in liquid form are poured into closed wagons and carted to the stables, where they are fed to the horses. They are fattening, and give brewery cart horses that rotundity which is the marvel of many, who do not understand the true cause of it. It is estimated that nearly seventy percent of brewers' grains are water and unavailable for transport, except at large expense, for considerable distance, and more than this, they spoil easily, so must be used at once as they come from the brewery, hot and steaming. In some places, especially out of New York, these brewers' grains are fed to cattle with very good result, but in this city the supply is taken up chiefly in the stables of the largest breweries.

Very few persons have stopped to compute the extent to which horses are necessary in the brewery business. The largest of the city breweries has two hundred and fifty horses constantly in use in delivering kegs of beer to customers distributed about New York city and Brooklyn. The next largest has two hundred horses, and so on down the list, the total number of brewery horses in the city footing up five thousand.

SAP AND SIRUP.

Some Facts About the Product of the Maple Tree.

It has always been customary on receiving maple sugar early in the season to roll your eyes about and say: "Ah, that's the real article." As a matter of fact, says the Springfield (Mass.) Republican, you are more apt to get adulterated sugar at a grocery store during the season than after it, and that's one thing which has made a great change in the industry. In years gone by practically all the sap was boiled down to sugar, but a dozen years ago some one in Chicago discovered a modern and dishonorable method of making a combination of oak bark and glucose which the most expert could not tell from the genuine stuff. Immediately afterwards, when the farmers went to ship their sugar, they discovered that their market was preempted by the product of New York and Chicago tan-yards. Since that time the farmers have put the bulk of their sap into sirup and stored it away through the summer in their garrets shut up in air-tight cans, by means of which another fallacy, that new sirup can be told from old, has been exploded. As long as you keep your sirup air-tight the greatest expert cannot tell the difference. You want your sirup to weigh eleven pounds to the gallon to be standard, and the experience of the boiler will tell him within a few ounces of what it weighs. When the liquid rises heavily from the hot bottom of the last compartment in the little mottled places in just the right frequency it is time to draw your sirup. It is quite a knack to do this properly, for sirup in passing from ten to eleven pounds per gallon is reduced just half its bulk. A barrel of sap will make on an average a gallon of sirup.

A USEFUL LESSON.

An Unsophisticated Young Lady Learns the Value of a Draft.

A little knowledge is by no means a dangerous thing, when it comes to business matters. Even a small amount there might save one from a mistake like the following, described by the Detroit Tribune:

"I want to send a hundred dollars to a friend in Chicago," said a handsomely-dressed young lady to the paying teller of one of the city banks a week or two ago; "I want to buy a draft."

Her roll of tens was quickly exchanged for a Chicago draft, and she tripped out of the bank. Two days afterward she returned and said she had concluded not to send the draft, and would like to have the money returned.

"Very well," said the teller, "where is your draft?"

"Oh! I tore it up. I didn't suppose that made any difference."

"It makes a hundred dollars' difference," replied the teller, "unless you can return the draft, or get your father to give the bank a bond for the amount." "I wouldn't have him know about this for anything in the world," she replied; but that seemed to be the only alternative, and she departed in an extremely unhappy frame of mind. In two hours she returned with the torn pieces of the draft pasted together. They had been thrown into a grate where, fortunately, no fire had been kindled. She recovered her money, and with it she got a useful bit of information about the value of drafts.

THE "CROWNER'S" QUEST.

An Absurd Old Law Which Has Some Very Undesirable Results.

Dickens, who so often studied with delighted interest the application of English law to particular cases, would have found a subject worthy of his grimmest humor in the fact, cabled recently from London, that when the master of a fishing smack, cruising near where the Elbe went down, saw floating in the water a dead body, which was doubtless that of a victim of the great disaster, he made no effort to rescue it from the waves and carry it ashore for identification and burial.

Instead he sailed past and away from the doleful bit of flotsam as quietly as circumstances would permit; not, as one might suppose, because he was a particularly hard-hearted and cold-blooded mariner, but because "recently, after landing a body, he had been forced to pay the funeral expenses." Curious as that experience had been and delightfully illustrative as it was of "crown's quest" wisdom, the captain had been enough to teach him the great principle that common sense cannot be allowed to interfere with consistency in the enforcement of a parliamentary act, and what, in comparison with that, is the continued agonized uncertainty of some German wife or mother?

One of Lincoln's Answers.

Speaking in a recent speech of certain Washington experiences in Lincoln's time, Mr. Depeu said: "While I was there Mr. John Ganson, of Buffalo, was a member of congress. His face and his head were hairless and polished like a billiard ball. He was a democrat, but supported the president. The conditions of the army were very blue in the east and in the west. Ganson came in one day and said: 'Mr. President, I am risking my reelection in supporting your war measures. The campaign seems very unsatisfactory. Of course I will not give out anything you tell me. What is the situation at the front?' Mr. Lincoln, in his searching and sad way, looked at him for a moment as if he were about to reveal the secret of the whole army, and then turned Ganson out of the reception room by saying: 'Ganson, how clean you shave.'"

A Curiosity of Hungarian Divorce. A farmer was arrested in a village in Hungary for firing two shots through the window of an inn at his wife and her father. Fortunately his aim was bad. On being asked his reason for the attempt he stated that he had already had nine wives, who had all consented, at his request, to be divorced. His tenth and present wife, however, acting on the "injunctive advice" of her father, refused, and consequently he felt annoyed.

HOW FISH ASCEND.

Oxygen Necessary to Make Them Rise Obtained from Their Own Blood.

A curious physiological discovery has been made in the last year by Prof. Bohr, of Copenhagen, in regard to the mode of storage by which a fish accumulates so much oxygen in the air that it distends the swimming or air bladder.

The air contained therein has a percentage of oxygen that may rise to as much as eighty-five, an amount in excess of the percentage in atmospheric air. Prof. Bohr tapped the air bladder of codfish and drew off the gas by means of a trocar and airtight syringe. The gas had fifty-two per cent. of oxygen. In a few hours the air bladder was refilled, apparently by a process of secretion of gas from the blood in the capillaries on the wall of the bladder. In one experiment the gas thus secreted had eighty per cent. of oxygen. When the nerves connected with the organ were severed, the secretion ceased and the organ was not refilled.

It thus appears that when a fish descends to a great depth, and his body is reduced in size by increased pressure of the water about him, he is able to attain his former size and rise by secreting the gas he needs and not by absorbing the water. Support is thus given to the theory that the gaseous exchanges that occur in the lungs of animals are not purely physical.

BUYING SNOW.

A Wild Western Idea of New York Dinner Decorations.

What to do with the snow is always a mystery in New York city, says a western paper, but a portion of the commodity finds buyers at tolerably fair prices. The passion for making a snow man is strong in the breasts of all boys, but when snow falls in diminutive modicum, as it does in the metropolis, the youths have hard work to get enough for even a snowball. Papas who can afford it have been giving the carters a fair price for their cartloads. In the few little gardens of New York an occasional snow man has been challenging the admiration of neighborhoods. Some carters have even been ringing doorbells where they knew children lived and offering to leave their ablen wares for a consideration. The police are very watchful for these fellows, however, for it is a misdemeanor to empty a wagon-load of snow in a New York street. It is not unusual for snow to be heaped up at a dinner table on some silver tray or other, with roses and other flowers arranged about it.

OUR FIRST SEA BATTLE.

It Was with a British Ship and Resulted in a Victory for America.

The first battle in which a regularly commissioned American war vessel was engaged was fought 119 years ago today (November 29), says the New York Sun. It was the action between the Massachusetts state cruiser Lee and the British armed transport Nancy. In the war of the revolution some of the states fitted out cruisers at their own expense, and, though entirely distinct from the war vessels commissioned by the continental congress, they frequently performed service of great benefit to all the colonies. The Lee had a commission from Gen. Washington permitting her to cruise in the vicinity of Boston for the purpose of intercepting supplies for the British army. One of the greatest difficulties that confronted the American army at the outbreak of the revolution was the lack of arms, ammunition and clothing. With a view of securing these indispensable supplies Washington commissioned a number of cruisers and sent them out for the express purpose of capturing some of the many British transports filled with warlike stores that were expected to arrive on the American coast about that time. The Lee, commanded by John Manly, was the first to make one of these captures. November 29, 1775, she captured, after a brief struggle, the British transport Nancy and carried her into Cape Ann Roads. The Nancy was laden with just the supplies that the American army most needed at that time. In her cargo were 2,000 muskets and bayonets, besides 8,000 fuses, 31 tons of musket shot, 3,000 round shot for 12-pounders, a 13-inch mortar, two 6-pounders, several barrels of powder, and fifty carcasses, or great frames for combustibles, to set buildings on fire. For this valuable capture Manly received a captain's commission in the regular navy, and the new 32-ton frigate Hancock was placed under his command.

TIPS IN ENGLAND.

Gamekeepers Score Anything Less Than a Five-Pound Note.

A retired Anglo-Indian officer has published his notions on the subject of "tips." Thackeray's Col. Newcome, it will be remembered, made a sort of moral progress through England on his return from a long sojourn in the east, rewarding postboys with gold and making waiters happy with handfuls of silver, says the London Daily News. This reminds the Anglo-Indian officer that there are no tips so hardened and profuse as Anglo-Indian tips. It is a novel for them to be waited on by white faces that they feel inclined to reward the most trifling service. They are, moreover, pleased to be at home again, and touched with the civility they meet with in their journeyings to and fro their hands are everlastingly in their pockets.

The retired Indian officer does not object to tips in the abstract, but he enters a protest against the giving of gold to any domestic in a house where one has been staying. It spoils the market and is unfair to those with slender purses. Five shillings, he considers, is a sufficient reward for a little extra trouble. This is very well, but what about the gamekeepers—a large class, as some of us know to our cost—who are accustomed to return the shooting guest's sovereign with a polite intimation that they never accept "less than paper."

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

Violent Acts of Lawbreakers and Losses by Fire and Accidents.

Two Mexican bicycle thieves have been caught at San Jose.

Last Sunday the Chicago baseball nine was arrested for violating the Sabbath laws.

Dr. Buchanan, the wife poisoner, will be electrocuted at Sing Sing, N. Y., on July 1.

R. B. Scott went to his mother's grave at Chico, Cal., and committed suicide. He was despondent.

John Harry Cline, a waiter at San Rafael, Cal., has been arrested for attempting to steal a bicycle.

C. A. Logan, a young architect, has been arrested at Riverside on a charge of steady gold from a dentist's office. Logan was a great social favorite.

The lone robber who held up the Little River stage lately, despoiling Wells, Fargo & Co.'s treasure box of something over \$1,000, was captured at Witter Springs, Lake county.

At St. Louis Dr. Frank Seitle shot Mrs. Jane Peterson and Mrs. Horish, his sisters-in-law, and then killed himself. They had quarreled over the division of a small piece of property.

A runaway hack team at San Jose collided with a cart in which Mrs. Demetra Sclautin and Mrs. Georgia Matrangola were seated. Both ladies received injuries which may result fatally.

C. B. Birch, cash receiver for the West Chicago Street Railway company at the Armitage-avenue cable barns, was shot and fatally wounded by a man who attempted to rob him of the day's receipts.

Joseph Rodriguez has been held to answer to the charge of murdering William Benson at Santa Cruz, Cal. Rodriguez made an unprovoked assault on Benson and kicked him so badly that death resulted.

A wild man has been found near Fresno. He was discovered living in the weeds and undergrowth. When constables went to take him in charge he had disappeared. The man is insane. His identity is a mystery.

Daniel Oldham, a deacon in the Baptist church at Ukiah, Cal., is under arrest charged with complicity in the robbery of the Mendocino stage. George Hilton, the principal in the hold-up, has confessed and implicates Oldham.

The bank at Rainy Lake, Minn., was robbed by two masked men. One engaged Cashier Butler's attention while the other came up behind him and hit him on the head, stunning the cashier. About \$6,000 was secured and there is no clue to the robbers.

Near Olema, Marin county, Cal., a dead horse was found tied to a tree. The animal had evidently starved to death. Hanging on a tree near by were the saddle and bridle. Two pointer dogs nearly starved to death were lying beside the horse. The sheriff has begun an investigation.

Seven desperate prisoners attempted to break jail at Tacoma, but their plans were frustrated by the quick action of Jailer Goodrich. The prisoners seized Night Jailer Gibbs and attempted to get his keys. During the struggle Goodrich closed the cell door and prevented the desperadoes from escaping.

One of the Kickapoo reservation boomers drove through Guthrie, Okla., the other day en route to his old home. He had in his wagon a coffin containing the bodies of his wife and 5-year-old son who had been killed in the wild rush for claims at the recent opening of the land.

A report comes from the mountains of Madera county, Cal., that Victor Adams, a rancher, narrowly escaped lynching at the hands of his neighbors on account of cruelty to his 5-year-old daughter. He left her and a small dog to take care of a few sheep and the child let the animals wander off. Adams beat the dog to death and drove the child from the house, telling her if she came back without the sheep he would kill her. After several hours she came back begging for something to eat. He refused it and chased her away with a gun. She was gone all night and next evening was discovered 10 miles away. She had become insane. The neighbors assembled to lynch Adams, but he pleaded so hard that they let him live. The child was taken from him.

A crazy sailor ran amuck at Spokane with a long keen knife and disemboweled two men who had not been bothering him. The work was done so quickly that passersby had no opportunity to interfere. The assailant escaped, but later a man named Moran, a sailor, was arrested. He is known as a desperate character.



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