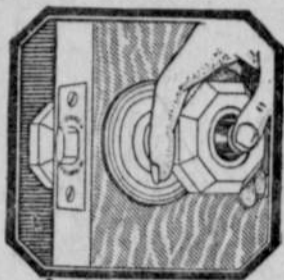


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"Music-Mad" Snakes Captured by Women

At the mouth of the Ganges, sacred river of India, there is a large tract of marshy land called the Sunderbunds. More than half this tract is unexplored, yet within its borders live a tribe of people who do nothing but catch snakes. They are purely nomadic, living in boats and plying their trade between the marshes and the bylanes of Calcutta where are situated the venom vendors.

Eighty to 85 per cent of the total tribal strength is said to consist of women who feel themselves as much at home among the death-dealing reptiles as among human beings. They seem to possess immunity from the poison of cobra and the krite alike, or even the spotted blacksnake that is found here in great numbers.

In Calcutta there are many places where one can obtain snake venom, yet it is perhaps significant that Italy is one of the largest buyers of this strange commodity. For what it is used, precisely, is not explained.

More interesting, however, is the manner in which the snakes are captured. First these reptiles are music mad. The note of a reed pipe is one thing they cannot resist, and as it is being played they come as near to the player as is possible. The piper waits until he feels that the music has got hold of the serpent, then he plays faster and faster until the particular snake desired appears to be paralyzed. Then the piper calmly walks up, catches the head of the snake just under its head and thrusts it into a basket.—Grit.

Modern Fowls Mere Amateur Egg Layers

The ostrich lays the biggest egg in the egg line at the present age in the world's history. Hard boiled, it weighs three pounds, and would make a good breakfast for a large family.

The kiwi, a New Zealand bird, which itself weighs only about four pounds, lays an egg weighing 14 ounces. But the egg of the extinct aepyornis, which may be found in museums, is as large as 150 hens' eggs. It was a Madagascar bird that disappeared entirely some centuries ago.

Among volcanic sand in New England an explorer discovered a partially burnt egg that was even bigger. A derby hat would hardly serve as an egg cup for it. The bird that laid it was called the dinosaur, and its height is imagined to have been something like 14 feet.

The Modern Hostess

She was preparing for an elaborate dinner party at which the guest of honor was to be a distinguished Japanese visitor to San Francisco. To get the desired effects she had called in an interior decorator, a son of Nippon, and ordered him to design a flower scheme for the table. "What kind would you like?" he asked. "Oh, anything so long as there are plenty of cherry blossoms, whether you paint them or make them out of paper." "Excuse me to the remark, lady, that cherry blossoms would never do, because this is not the cherry blossom time." "Oh, nobody will notice that." "You, madam, might not notice it, but what if your guests should do so? At least one of them will smile from the inside of his face, and that will make him sad and spoil his dinner." "Oh, anything you like as long as the guests that don't know better will know that it is Japanese."

Two Spinster Immortals

Maria Edgeworth is regarded as the inventor of the novel with a purpose, of which kind "Castle Rackrent," which sent her name into immediate fame in 1800, is a typical example. Miss Edgeworth's influence was enormous. Her success with her Irish novel had much to do with turning Sir Walter Scott to the writing of prose fiction. Her society was courted by "everybody who was anybody." Byron admired her, and Macaulay was among her enthusiastic worshippers. There is no doubt that she is worth reading today. If only for the naturalness and vivacity and character-revealing nature of her dialogue. In this respect she is comparable to Jane Austen, another of the spinster immortals.

Cartridges for Camels

Camels represent the most valuable possession of the people of Abyssinia because they provide means of transportation, without which life would be in jeopardy. In commerce camels are used many times as the equivalent of money. Only under extraordinary circumstances will a man dispose of his camel, as collectors of the zoos of the world have learned. But Doctor Heck found rifle cartridges were eagerly sought, and was able to secure six dromedaries for the Berlin zoo by exchanging 15 cartridges per dromedary, a trade he considered good.—Ohio State Journal.

Bran Valuable Food

Bran, the dark, fibrous portion of wheat, is less completely digested than the rest of the kernel. As bran is sold commercially it has some food value from the starch as well as from the minerals and vitamins associated with the fibrous part, but it is used chiefly for its laxative properties. In moderate quantities, and especially as it comes ground up in graham flour, it is usually considered to be a desirable addition to the diet.

Bales of It

"Maybe, that man is president of a steel mill. Gets \$50,000 a year." "I wonder if he hands his wife his pay envelope?" "Pay envelope? Gosh, he must bring it home in a valise."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

"Soldiering" on Work Not Modern Monopoly

The cynics, who know that the world is getting worse all the time, are sure that idleness and "soldiering on the job" are faults of the twentieth century. In the good old days everyone worked hard and conscientiously.

But there have always been honest workmen and the other kind, just as there are today. There is a curious old French epic written by one who called himself the Grover of Troyes in the Thirteenth century. Here is one passage quoted by M. Langyols in his "Life in France in the Middle Ages":

"When I finally make up my mind to work I take with me a young mate who knows nothing of the job, but I insist on his being paid the full wage of 12 deniers. When, at last, I get on the roof, I lay one tile in the time it should take to lay eight or ten. I ease off and sing a song, then take a siesta between two slopes of the roof. It is then time to knock off for dinner. After that, it is soon supper time, so we leave work for that day. Of course, with piece work it is different: I can do as much in one day as in five days by the hour." Such is the speech that the Grover bard put into the mouth of a fellow 700 years ago.—Youth's Companion.

Methods of Naming Newcomer to the World

Choosing a name for a new baby is always a matter of anxious consideration.

But in many lands this anxiety has been minimized by the laying down of rules to guide the choice, says a writer in Science magazine.

For instance, in Egypt the parents take three candles and the one that burns the brightest and longest determines the child's name. The Hindus allow the mother to name the baby. Then, when the baby is twelve days old, if the father does not like the chosen name, he selects another.

Then the two names are written on slips of paper, and held over a lighted lamp, the one that burns the brighter being the name adopted.

Egyptians place 12 names in the Koran. One slip is drawn out, and the name on it is the name for the child.

Chinese children are not named. The boys are named by their mothers. When they reach twenty the father names them over again.

Good Start

Attached to the early morning train going east was a car for laborers. The lattice gate between this car and the one in front was closed, so that no one who belonged to the front passenger car would stray into the special car. A passenger standing on the back platform of the regular passenger car peered curiously through this lattice gate and the open door into the car beyond. A wag in the laborers' car promptly bleated out "Ba-a; ba-a-a." Immediately his comrades took it up, and "Ba-a, ba-a-a," they went in chorus, in solos, in duets, for all the world like a cattle train loaded with sheep. It ended in a howl of laughter from all the men and as the car pulled out of the station it was evident they had put themselves in good humor for the day's work.—Springfield Union.

Celtic History

The term "Celtic Renaissance" is applied to the intellectual awakening and the revival of interest during the latter part of the Nineteenth and the beginning of the Twentieth century, in the languages, literature, history and customs of the native inhabitants of Ireland, the Scottish highlands, Wales, Brittany, Cornwall and the Isle of Man. This movement may be said to have started with the publication of J. C. Zeuss' "Grammatica Celtica" in 1853. The Society for the Preservation of the Irish Language was established in Ireland in 1877, and this was followed by the Gaelic league in 1893. The movement was not confined to Europe, but spread to Canada, the United States, Australasia, Argentina and other localities inhabited by persons of Celtic strain.

Fate's Grim Jest

About the middle of the Seventeenth century, when so-called witches were being persecuted in England, there were many fanatics who went about the country seeking out persons accused of witchcraft and forcing them to confess by means of examination and torture. One man in particular, Matthew Hopkins, received the title of witchfinder-general because of his industry in the search. In a single year (1644) he brought 60 persons to the stake. Being finally accused of witchcraft himself, Hopkins was submitted to his own favorite test of swimming, and, happening to float, was declared a wizard and put to death.—Kansas City Star.

Women Do the Hard Work

The girls and younger women of Rapa do most of the labor in the taro fields, while the older women attend to the housekeeping. The exemption of the men from agricultural labor allows more time for fishing, and as a result of their sea experience they are much sought by captains of sailing vessels at Papeete.

The constant demand for Rapa men during the period of nearly a century has led to a considerable preponderance of women in the island population.—Robert Cushman Murphy, in the National Geographic Magazine.

Their Best

Pretty Girl (in art gallery)—I believe you have a very beautiful "Constable" here?
New Attendant—Dunno, miss, unless it's 'Erbert 'ere—'e ain't bad looking!—Tit-Bits.

May Be Messengers From Other Planets

While the idea of shooting to the moon is often considered by astronomers, the possibility of projectiles ever having been shot to the earth is hardly considered at all. Yet strange carved stones of which there has been no satisfactory explanation have fallen from the sky and been picked up at different times.

In 1887 a small carved stone, covered with ice, fell at Tarbes, in France. In 1892 another stone, also carved, dropped in a plantation in Dutch Guiana, while a carved cylinder of stone was reported to have fallen in the United States in 1910.

A possible explanation concerning the stone that fell at Tarbes was made at the time by Professor Sunde, who thought that it could have been swept up in a whirlwind in some other part of the world and then dropped at Tarbes.

But while such a supposition might be accepted as possible, more convincing evidence is required, for should the scientist's surmise in regard to the whirlwind be correct, it is strange that the stone should have fallen alone—without any of the other things a whirlwind would be bound to collect.

Great English Queen Decidedly No Beauty

The Boston Transcript, in an editorial taking exception to the statement of the director general of the Atlantic City beauty pageant, details that "most pretty girls have heads as empty as their faces are beautiful," and cites a number of women in history who were brainy as well as lovely to look upon.

But it weakens an argument otherwise good by prominently mentioning Queen Elizabeth of England, as one whose "indubitably handsome face was joined with the most extraordinary mental powers." It is strange that the best that anyone has been able to say of Elizabeth's hatchet countenance calls into use that word "handsome," which is not the highest adjective applicable to a woman. "Her features," says the Encyclopedia Britannica, "were as handsome as Mary's (Queen of Scots), but she had no fascination." This can mean only that Elizabeth was not a beauty, and no contemporary portrait of her now extant makes her anything but a decidedly homely woman.

Three Black Fridays

The Black Friday of American history was September 24, 1899, when a great rise in the price of gold began a disastrous panic and swept hundreds of firms and individuals into bankruptcy. But, incidentally, there have been other black Fridays. One date known by that name is May 11, 1896, upon which a financial panic in London was precipitated by the suspension of the banking house of Overend, Gurney & Co. A still earlier one was December 8, 1745, the day London received news that the army of "the Young Pretender," Prince Charles, had reached Derby on his march toward the city. A panic seized London; there was a run on the Bank of England, business houses were closed, and King George II prepared to flee. On the following day the invaders were obliged to retreat, and the panic was ended.

Burned Up Dollars

"When the old-timers chopped down walnut and oak trees to feed the locomotives and the hearth it never occurred to them that it was like burning up dollars. Some persons are almost as improvident with their trees today. It's high time that we get busy restoring the forests to make amends for our thoughtlessness. We owe it to those who will follow us."

It has been noticed, says the writer of the above, that tourists seem to be more enthusiastic over the trees they encounter than any other feature. Especially on hot and dusty days, when the earth appears almost baked, does the traveler welcome the cooling shade he finds in passing through some old forest from which the fatal ax has been withheld.

Words, Mere Words

When Columbus discovered the West Indies he heard of, if he did not himself see, the Carib islands, the inhabitants of which were spoken of as Canibales, although quite as frequently they were called Canibales. These Canibales were said to be man-eaters.

The association of the Canibales with the terrible practice of eating human flesh led immediately to the transfer of the name of the people to a horrid custom. Whence we have the word cannibal coming from the West Indies, although the ancients knew of many cannibal races long before the Christian era and had their own words for the practice of cannibalism.—Detroit News.

She Knew the Breed

Little Marion and her next-door neighbor, Donald, were engaged in an absorbing conversation. "What are anarchists?" asked Little Marion.

Then Donald swelled with wisdom. "They want everything anyone else has got, and they never wash themselves," he replied.

"Oh, yes!" replied Little Marion, with enthusiasm. "I see—they are just little boys growed up!"—Gulf Coast Lumberman.

Disregarded

Summer Bourder (slapping his cheek)—And you have a sign up "No mosquitoes."
Farmer—I know it, but the concerned critters pay no more attention to it than the berry pickers do to the sign, "No trespassing."

An Eye Doctor.
Joe: My brother is a kitchen oculist.
Moe: What does he do?
Joe: Takes the eyes 'out of potatoes.

It Petrified 'Em.
A clever grocer put this sign in his window to sell salt:
"Lots of Lot's Wife For Sale."

Filing cards. The Sentinel.

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has filed his final account in the matter of the estate of Mabel Spray, deceased, and by order of the county court duly made and entered, Saturday, the 23rd day of January, 1926, at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m. at the county court house, in Eugene, Lane county, Oregon, is fixed as the time and place for hearing objections to said final account.

All persons having objections to said final account, or any item therein, are hereby notified to file the same on or before the date for said final hearing.
ELVIN C. SPRAY,
Administrator.
L. E. Bean, Administrator.
860 Willamette St., Eugene, Ore.
Attorney for administrator. d21318c

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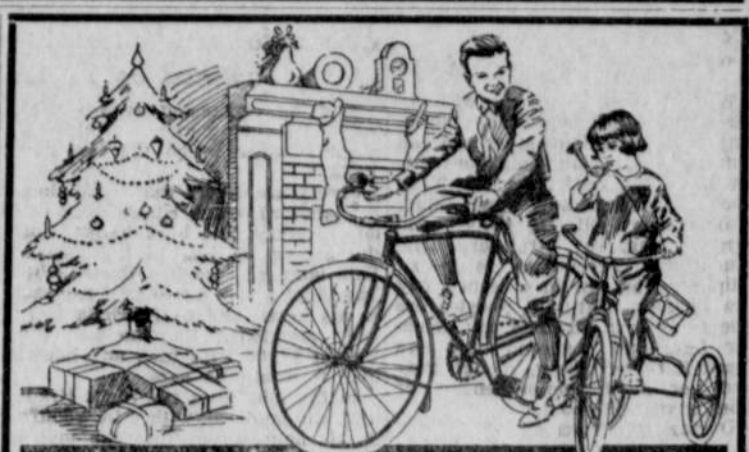
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