

SOME CLOSE CALLS.

INSTANCES OF NARROW ESCAPES TOLD BY RAILWAY MEN.

A Locomotive's Remarkable Jump—The Sleeping Car Passenger on a Rough Road—Trains That Left the Track and Returned Running at Full Speed.

There is no question that well-authenticated cases are on record where disastrous wrecks of railroad trains have been averted by almost seeming miracles. James E. White, general superintendent of the railway mail service at Washington, relates the particulars of a remarkable jump of 28 feet made by a locomotive. As Mr. White tells the story, it was on the 1st of September, 1893, when a New York and Chicago mail train on the New York Central, which was behind time and running at a very high rate of speed, reached New Hamburg, where a 28 foot draw of a bridge was open, which open space it is claimed the engine cleared and landed safely on the main portion of the bridge, the rest of the train going down through the opening. While the engine, it is said, made the leap of 28 feet in safety, the engineer and firemen, not having time to jump, were both killed. John H. Cain, a postal clerk, was killed, and M. E. Towney, clerk in charge, was seriously injured, the other postal clerks escaping unhurt.

While none of the local railroad men knows of any locomotives that are as good jumpers as White's or that do the bounding jockey act, some of them know of miraculous and hairbreadth escapes. Carlton Paris of the old Ohio and Mississippi for many years and more recently with the B. and O. S. W. tells that he and Ed Swift a number of years ago were riding on a train over the Ohio and Big Sandy road when an accident was narrowly averted. But let Paris tell the story:

"The road was about the roughest at that time I had ever ridden over. There were only a few passengers on the train. Swift and I were in the forward coach talking to the conductor when the solitary sleeping car passenger came staggering in and said: 'Mr. Conductor, your road is so rough I can't sleep in my berth. I have been pitched out of my berth twice in the last quarter of an hour. There must be something the matter.'

"The conductor picked up his lantern and said, 'Come on, and I'll go back with you and see what's wrong.' Swift and I sat where we were talking, and very soon we saw that the bellcord was being very violently pulled and the engineer was whistling for brakes. The train finally came to a standstill, and Swift and I kept our seats and kept on talking. As, after five minutes or more, there were no signs of the train going ahead, we concluded to go back and see what was the cause of the delay.

"The conductor and trainmen were grouped about the sleeper with their lanterns, and we soon found out that the sleeper had left the track and had been running over the ties for how far we never knew. The night was pitch dark and it was raining very hard. It took the men at least three hours to get the sleeper on the rails again. The wheels were very near the end of the ties, and had the train gone 100 yards farther the sleeper would have been off the ties and over a high embankment."

Frank Martin of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas said: "I remember of a disastrous wreck being almost miraculously averted on the Memphis and Little Rock road along about 1882. A passenger train was traveling at a high rate of speed when the engine threw a piece of rail about three feet long out of the track. This piece of rail was thrown at least 25 feet from the track. Strange as it seems, the tender, baggage car, coaches and sleepers went over this place where the rail was out and gained the rail again without one of the cars leaving the track except when the wheels went down on to the ties at one end of the broken rail, only to mount the rail again at the other end of the track. About all the inconvenience the passengers experienced was a slight shaking."

Assistant General Passenger Agent Ryan said: "I remember two instances when the lives of engineers and firemen were saved by a seeming intervention of Providence. A number of years ago a new trestle was being put in, and false works had been erected to permit of the temporary passage of trains. The workmen had failed to put in some necessary bolts. The first train that came along was a freight. As soon as the engine struck the false work it gave way, and down went the engine. The fall was one of 50 feet, and in falling the engine made a complete revolution and alighted on the ground upon its wheels right side up, and the engineer and fireman both escaped injury, although they were probably pretty badly jured by the fall.

"The other case I know of is that of a train running at a good speed when the engine ran into a large rock that had fallen on the track just at the mouth of a tunnel. The impact caused the tender to bend up from the rear end and form a protecting hood over the engineer and fireman in the locomotive cab, and they were uninjured. Had this not occurred, they would either have been badly injured or had their lives crushed out."

Another passenger man said yesterday: "When I was a sleeping car conductor on the old Bee line, about 20 years ago, the train was late, and we were going along at a pretty lively gait. We were within about five miles of Indianapolis when the engine and four cars jumped the track, and we thought there would be a smash up, but before the train could be stopped every wheel was again on the rails without the least damage being done to any part of the train or any of the passengers, barring the fright we all had."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

A SCENE ON THE SOO.

The King of France Took Possession of the Land Two Hundred Years Ago. In St. Nicholas there is an article on "The Great Lakes" by W. S. Harwood. Mr. Harwood says:

While waiting for my steamer to be carried through canal locks of the Soo, I stood one summer day near a hill on which now stands Fort Brady, overlooking the rapids of the Soo as they flow from Lake Superior down into the St. Mary's river and so on to join at last the waters of Huron. On the top of this hill, as nearly as I could decide from the topography of the country, was witnessed two centuries and a quarter ago one of the most remarkable, one of the most significant, scenes in the history of the new world. It has been brilliantly described, and I may but mention it.

On June 14, 1671, a strange body of men was assembled on this hill. It was composed of four classes—the official representatives of the king of France, the Catholic missionaries, the voyageurs and the Indians. Weeks before word had been sent out to the chiefs of 14 of the different tribes of Indians in the region to meet at the Soo on the date mentioned. An immense cross of wood was made and carried to the top of the hill overlooking the swift flowing rapids. A stout timber with an engraved plate on it was set up near the deep hole in the ground which was to hold the foot of the cross.

When all had assembled, St. Lueson, the representative of the king, lifted in one hand a clod of earth and in the other his naked sword and in the name of his most Christian majesty the king of France took possession of the land, embracing in his assumption "all the region from the north to the south sea and extending to the ocean on the west." The cross was then raised before the motley throng—the representatives of the government in their most gorgeous suits, the priests in their rich vestments, the voyageurs in their hunting garb of skins, the Indians in their most fantastic feathers and paint. As the cross assumed position the priests intoned a stately chant of the seventeenth century. Then the French exclaimed "Vive le roi!" while, as one historian puts it, "the Indians bowed in concert."

The plate upon the smaller timber bore an engraved inscription denoting the king's possession of the land.

A SCENE IN SALONICA.

The Jews and Jewesses That Inhabit the Heart of the Town.

In the true ghetto, in the noisome heart of the town, where the cobble streets run slimy and the people chaffer with the butchers for the refuse of the slaughter house and chicken block, you see the unchanged Jew of the middle ages. Be he bearded grandfathers or tiny boy, he wears a long loose gaudy to his heels and the fez of his masters. If he is well to do, the garment may be fur bordered or it may be of silk, but it could not more surely be soiled and greasy if the law required it. With marriage this survivor of the dark ages grows a beard tall and thick and grizzled in the old men, wiry and black and very sparse in the younger heads of families. This is as it is in East Broadway and Chicago and Berlin, but when you look upon the wives and daughters in Salonica's ghetto you see medieval characters who have staid in the east, but sent no representatives abroad.

These Jewesses love display and court admiration. They are much fairer than the men, milky skinned, with a pale pink flush, as if they were bohouse bred. Their clothes are gay, red, green and blue being their favorite colors, and the married women all wear décolleté bodices fashioned very low in front and showing a fancy shirt of embroidery and lace, which either reveals the mold of their forms or makes startling exposures of the forms themselves. Their chests are always quite bare. This in a land where the other women expose nothing but their eyes is all the more astonishing. On their crowns the Jewish matrons wear very showy, often beautiful, headdresses, composed of a cap of red, green and yellow silk or cloth, that is carried down the back of the head in a bag that envelops their tresses. Often these bags are finished at the bottom with heavy gold braid.—"In the Wake of a War," by Julian Ralph, in Harper's Magazine.

Equal to the Occasion.

They tell this story in London about the Countess Waldgrave, who was married four times: One evening she appeared at the opera in Dublin during her fourth husband's occupancy of the post of chief secretary for Ireland. An audacious Celt, catching sight of her ladyship in one of the boxes, shouted out with real Irish temerity, "Lady Waldgrave, which of the four did you like best?"

The countess was equal to the occasion. Without a moment's hesitation she rose from her seat and exclaimed enthusiastically, "Why, the Irishman, of course"—a remark which naturally "brought down the house."

A New Bond Found.

"Oh, John, dear, isn't your Uncle George dreadful?" "What's up now?" "Why, I called at his office today, and he was talking to one of his clerks up stairs."

"Nothing unusual in that." "And, John, he told the poor man to go to—you know where—through the speaking tube."—Pick Me Up.

In the markets of Brazil one often sees live snakes—a species of boa—from 10 to 15 feet long. They are employed in many houses to hunt rats at night, being otherwise perfectly harmless. They become attached to a house like a cat or a dog.

There are 1,425 characters in the 24 books Dickens wrote.

A GEORGIA HEN COOP.

It Was Sure Proof Against the Intrusions of Outsiders.

"There isn't a more faithful being on earth," said a Georgia business man to a reporter, "than one of our Georgia dorkies. Neither is there one more superstitious, nor yet again is there one who loves better the products of the hen coop. And Cartersville isn't any different from any one of a hundred southern towns. When I was down there some time ago, a customer of mine who had a fancy for chickens and who had always had more or less trouble in maintaining ownership of them told me he had a remedy and asked me to go around with him and see it. I wanted him to tell me what it was, but he insisted on my seeing it first, so I went along with him, and in a few minutes was standing in his back yard before what was to me the oddest chicken coop I ever saw. It was constructed of large timbers and there were a dozen places in its walls where a hand could be run in and everything cleaned out within reach. Then there was no fastening on the door, nor was there any kind of protection to the fowls. I couldn't understand how such an inviting snare could be of any use to the owner and said so much.

"The charm is in the timber," said he.

"No," said I.

"Fact, just the same," said he. "You don't see it on the outside and you don't know it, but she dorkies around here do, and they won't come within 100 yards of that coop if they can help it. I don't care how full of chickens it is 'Cause why? It is built of the timbers of a pallow on which a man was hung about three months ago in another county. It cost me something extra to get it, but it has more than paid for itself since I have had it, and I am in the market now to buy all the secondhand scaffolds in Georgia. If you run across a sheriff any place with one for sale, let me know by next mail, won't you, please?"

"It was a true bill," concluded the traveling man, "for I saw a dorky tried on it, and he refused a big silver dollar to go down to the coop to get a chicken for breakfast."—Washington Star.

TEAS AND TEAS.

Things Once Used or Now Used as Substitutes For the Chinese Herb.

Of course every one knows that we drink a good deal that isn't tea when we drink a cup of tea. We drink—or are supposed to drink—some tea, some lead and some straw. But there are several "teas" that the drinkers know are not made of tea leaves and yet are not adulterated.

In Peru they drink mate, a tea made from the Ilex paraguensis, a species of holly. This is the only mate tea, but there is a Brazilian tea, gorgonha, called mate there; another tea used in Australia, called Brazilian tea, and several other so-called mate teas are made from different varieties of the Ilex. In Labrador they make a tea from two species of Ilex. Osewego tea was made from the dwarf evergreen, Gaultheria procumbens. Then clover tea and tansy tea and catnip tea and mint tea are used, though not as beverages.

In Sumatra they use coffee leaves to make tea out of, and the beverage is said to be very refreshing. In Mauritius the leaves of an orchid, Angrocium fragrans, are used. The Tongvines have teas of their own, made of leaves, berries, barks and woods. The Abyssinians make tea out of the leaves of the Catha edulis. When a sentinel can't leave his post to get a cup of tea, he can chew a leaf or two of this plant, and he won't feel like going to sleep all night. In Tasmania there are said to be more than 200 substitutes for tea; in England they used to make a tea of sage, botany or rosemary and of raspberry leaves; in France they use black currant leaves and borage to make tea, and a century or so ago they gathered in English gardens and fields ash, elder and sicc leaves, and the leaves of white-thorn and blackthorn, out of which to make tea. So it is evident that there are teas and teas.—New York Sun.

Animals' Fright Is Short.

A question that has often been asked is, How long does fright last in a wild creature? The close observer will be surprised at its brief duration. They are not subject to "nerves" like human beings. A partridge after running (or rather flying) the gamut of half a dozen guns—if we may be allowed a mixed metaphor—drops on the other side of a hedge and begins calmly to peck as if nothing had happened. You would think a rabbit after hearing a charge of shot whistling about its haunches and just managing to escape from a yelping spaniel would keep indoors for a week, but out it pops quite merrily as soon as the coast is clear. A fox pursued by hounds has been known to halt and kill a fowl in its flight, though we may assume that his enemies were not close to Reynard at the time. We have been led into thinking about the matter by noting what took place at a cover after being shot over.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Drying Clothes.

The drying of clothes in frosty weather is sometimes, in the case of delicate fabrics, attended with tearing because of the quick stiffening in the very cold air. A simple precaution which will prevent any such trouble is to dissolve three or four handfuls of coarse salt in the last rinsing water, thus making it, in fact, a weak brine. Articles so rinsed will not suffer from or stiffen with the cold.

The disease became pale from fear because the mental emotion diminishes the action of the heart and lungs and so impedes the circulation.

About 45,000 sovereigns pass over the Bank of England counters every day.

SHOE HIEROGLYPHICS.

Occult Symbols That Have Been Devised to Deceive Women.

"People often ask me the meaning of the apparently crazy hieroglyphs and figures that are stamped on the inner side of the uppers of ready-made shoes nowadays," said an F street shoe dealer. "As every shoe manufacturer has a secret stamp code of its own and there is, therefore, no possibility of the general public learning more than that such codes exist, I may as well tell you that the vanity of modern mortals, and especially women, is at the bottom of those peculiar stamped characters and figures. You'd be surprised to know, for instance, how many women there are who imagine that they wear a No. 3 shoe when in reality their size is a couple of figures larger. A shoe salesman who understands his business can tell precisely the number of the shoe a woman customer wears at a glance. But as often as not a woman whose foot is a No. 5 calls for a shoe a couple of sizes smaller, and the mysterious stamped hieroglyph scheme was devised for the purpose of encouraging her in the belief that her foot is a couple of sizes smaller than it really measures in shoe leather.

"When a woman calls for a No. 3 to fit a No. 5 foot, no shoe salesman of this era who cares anything for his job is going to say, 'Madam, your foot requires a No. 5.' He simply breaks out a shoe of the style she requests that he feels confident will fit her comfortably and lets it go at that.

"A woman rarely thinks to inquire if the shoe is really of the size she asked for, for she takes it for granted that the salesman has given her what she demanded. But when a woman does ask, for instance, 'This is a No. 3, is it?' it's the salesman's business to unblushingly reply, 'Yes'm, it's a No. 3.' The woman customer might examine the hieroglyphs inside the uppers for a week without finding out any different, and even if she had the key to the puzzle it would only make her feel bad; so what would be the use?"—Washington Star.

ARITHMETIC 1700 B. C.

Sums Over Which Egyptian Children Puzzled Their Brains.

Probably the oldest copy book for home lessons in arithmetic was recently unearthed in Egypt. The papyrus, which was found in excellent condition, dates from the period about 1700 B. C.—that is, about 100 years before the time of Moses, or almost 3,000 years ago. It proves that the Egyptians had a thorough knowledge of elementary mathematics almost to the extent of our own. The papyrus has a long heading, "Direction how to attain the knowledge of all dark things," etc. Numerous examples show that their principal operations with entire units and fractions were made by means of addition and multiplication. Subtractions and divisions were not known in their present form, but correct results were obtained nevertheless.

Equations are also found in the papyrus. Among the examples given is this one: Ten measures of barley are to be divided among ten persons in such a manner that each subsequent person receives one-eighth of a measure less than the one before him. Another example given is: There are seven men, each one has seven cats, each cat has eaten seven mice, each mouse has eaten seven grains of barley. Each grain of barley would, if cultivated, have yielded seven measures of barley. How much barley has been lost in that way? The papyrus also contains calculations of area, the calculation of the area of a circle and its transformation into a square, and finally calculations of the cubic measurements of pyramids.—Philadelphia Record.

Shaking Hands.

Men shake hands with strangers of their own sex with far greater readiness than do women. Two men, on being presented to one another, will frequently extend the hand in a grasp of greeting, which gives opportunity to form a general idea of each other's make up, and know whether they are attracted or repulsed. Occasionally there is a man with sufficient good nature and courage to refuse another man's hand without causing offense. There are men who have been so impressed with the discoveries of bacteriology that they maintain handshaking to be the cause of dissemination of disease germs. The bare hand comes in contact with innumerable germs looking for passage on some vulnerable spot of our anatomy. A cut or abrasion on the hand leaves a door open for the admission of the enemy. Therefore it is with reason that men argue against promiscuous handshaking out of the home among the men met in business life. Science long ago frowned upon the practice of promiscuous kissing, which prevailed among women. Is the unhygienic handshake also doomed?—New York Ledger.

Great Rat Catchers.

According to an account in The Journal d'Hygiene, rats have become so abundant in Brazil that a domestic snake, the giboys, which has about the circumference of the arm, is sold in the market place in Rio Janeiro, to be kept in the house as a protection against rodents. It would seem that the serpent pursues its prey more for the pleasure that there is in it than from a sense of hunger, since it is said it rarely eats the rats caught. Similar in its habits and attachments to the domestic cat of our more northern latitudes, the giboys will, it is said, find its way back to the house of its master even if transported to a considerable distance.

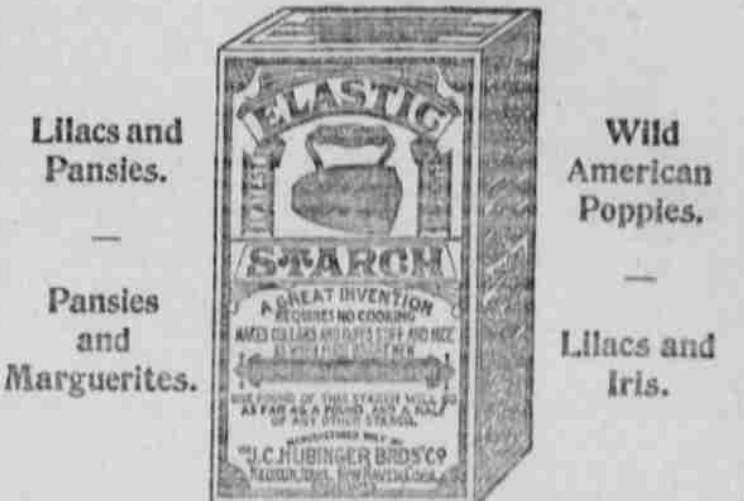
The seal worn by the pope and used by him on official documents to which his signature is attached has on it the engraving of a fish, with the cipher of the wearer. Since the thirteenth century every pope has worn a ring of this character, and it is shattered with a hammer when the wearer dies to prevent its use on a forged document.

A Beautiful Present

In order to further introduce ELASTIC STARCH (Flat Iron Brand), the manufacturers, J. C. Hubinger Bros. Co., of Keokuk, Iowa, have decided to GIVE AWAY a beautiful present with each package of starch sold. These presents are in the form of

Beautiful Pastel Pictures

They are 13x19 inches in size, and are entitled as follows:



These rare pictures, four in number, by the renowned pastel artist, R. LeRoy, of New York, have been chosen from the very choicest subjects in his studio and are now offered for the first time to the public.

The pictures are accurately reproduced in all the colors used in the originals, and are pronounced by competent critics, works of art.

Pastel pictures are the correct thing for the home, nothing surpassing them in beauty, richness of color and artistic merit.

One of these pictures will be given away with each package of Elastic Starch purchased of your grocer. It is the best laundry starch on the market, and is sold for ten cents a package. Ask your grocer for this starch and get a beautiful picture.

ALL GROCERS KEEP ELASTIC STARCH. ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTE

WHEN YOU BUY, ALWAYS

GET THE BEST

\*\*\*\*\*

This applies to real estate as well as other commodities.

Every family in need of a home desires the best location.

SOUTH OREGON CITY

Has the greatest number of advantages to its credit, of any of the suburbs of Oregon City. It will pay you to investigate this property. Good clear lots at reasonable prices on easy instalments. Call on or address

T. L. CHARMAN, Trustee.

Charman Bro's. Block, Oregon City

Regulator Line.

HELLO!

1800 miles of long distance telephone wire in Oregon and Washington now in operation by the Oregon Telephone and Telegraph company.

Portland, Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, Salem, Walla Walla, Pendleton, Albany and 96 other towns in the two states on the line.

Quick, accurate, cheap. All the satisfaction of a personal communication. Distance no effect to a clear understanding. Spokane as easily heard as Portland.

—Oregon City office at—

Huntley's Drug Store.

J. H. THATCHER, MANAGER, Portland, Oregon.

Leaves Portland daily except Sunday at 7 a. m.

This is the Great Scenic Route. All tourist admit that the scenery on the Middle Columbia is not excelled for beauty and grandeur in the United States. Full information by addressing or calling on

J. N. HARNEY, Agent, Portland, Or., Office and wharf, foot of Oak St.

A. W. PHILLIPS,

EXPRESS AND DELIVERY

Prompt attention to hauling to any part of Oregon City.

Moving attended to promptly and carefully.

Special rates given on hauling to and from Gladstone and Park-place.

C. N. Greenman,

Established 1865. PIONEER

Transfer and Express,

Freight and parcels delivered to all parts of the city.

RATES - REASONABLE.