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#### MYSTERIOUS LIGHT AT SEA.

Three Steamers Didn't Understand It, but the Prince of Monaco Knew.

The Prince of Monaco has been known since 1885 as an enthusiastic student of the sea and its various forms of life. He usually spends his summers in the study of oceanographic problems, and his cruises have on some occasions been extended almost to the coasts of America. He delivered a lecture before the Royal Geographical society in London in which he told this incident.

One afternoon, while in the bay of Biscay, he sank the trap in which he collected specimens of sea life. It went to the bottom in over 12,000 feet of water, and as night approached he fastened to the wire attached to it an electric buoy and then stood off a mile or so. It did not happen to occur to him that he was right in the track of steamers plying between northern Europe and the Mediterranean, but he was reminded of the fact later.

As he and his 14 sailors were watching with a good deal of satisfaction the swaying buoy with its brilliant illumination a steamer's lights came into view. It was soon evident that the steamer was curious to know the meaning of the illumination, for she altered her course and made for the light. She knew that no fishing boats came out so far from land and so determined to solve the mystery. Up she came to within a quarter of a mile of the buoy, slowed up for a minute, and then started ahead, perhaps a little disgusted at the incident that had lured her several miles out of her course.

She had hardly got away when a second steamer came into view, and she, too, bore down upon the lighted buoy. The marines on the prince's vessel understood by this time that the illumination was probably believed to be evidence of a disaster. Just as the prince's steamer was moving up to explain matters she was nearly run down by one of the large liners in the oriental trade, which had also left her course to render what assistance she could.

The swell was very heavy, and the prince feared a collision as the three vessels approached the light like moths around a candle. He therefore veered off and the other vessels, after standing by for a few minutes, went on their way and probably never learned the cause of that night's illumination at sea.

But the incident gave the prince a pointer. He carefully refrained thereafter from exhibiting his electric buoy on any of the much traveled ocean routes.—New York Sun.

#### The Homeliest Man in Oregon City.

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#### FOOLED IN A HORSE TRADE.

This Animal Possessed Several Remarkable Traits.

A prominent English landlord was one day riding across a common adjacent to his preserves when he overtook one of his tenants, who was also mounted. After the usual salutations they rode on in silence for some minutes, when the tenant slightly spurred his horse, a balking animal, whereupon it dropped to its knees.

"What's the matter with your horse?" asked his lordship. The embarrassed tenant remarked by way of explanation that his steed always acted that way when there was game to be found.

A moment later, to the tenant's satisfaction and surprise, a frightened hare jumped out of some bushes near by.

This so impressed the landlord that he at once drove a bargain by which he secured the tenant's barebacked beast in exchange for his own fine mount, perfectly saddled. With much agility the tenant leaped to his new horse, and all went well until they came to a small stream, whereat the landlord's new nag immediately balked. A drive home with the spurs brought it again to its knees.

"Hello, what's up now? There's no game here," said his lordship.  
"True, my lord," was the ready reply, "but I forgot to tell you 'ee's as good for fish as 'ee is for game."—San Francisco Argonaut

#### The Audience Got Angry.

There was a scene of wild excitement during the last week of May, 1892, at the Gaiety, London, and all owing to the singular behavior of a policeman. Two popular entertainers were on the stage, and one of them asked the audience a little conundrum, "Why is a policeman an utter scoundrel?"

A gentleman in blue who was apparently on duty in the body of the theater at once took offense. He jumped on to the stage and, seizing the offender, attempted to drag him off.

The audience rose in indignation. Men shook their fists and shouted, "What has he done?" One frenzied young lady in the front of the gallery seized a tumbler and would have thrown it at the policeman if her arm had not been arrested.

The policeman then dragged his captive off the stage amid the hisses and shouts of the audience. But anger was speedily changed to laughter when Mr. Policeman reappeared with his victim and stood revealed as one of the Cosmo trio. I never saw an audience so completely taken in.—London Correspondence.

#### Pigs and Witchcraft.

Two women of the lower class were quarrelling violently the other evening in Heavitree, a suburb of Exeter. One yelled to the other: "You wretch, you always keep a black and a white pig, so that you can witch us! You ought to be scragged!" The one so addressed, it seems, has lived in her cottage some 20 years. She has during this period, it is said, always kept a couple of pigs, one of each color, and her neighbors consider she does this so that she may enjoy the very questionable powers of witchcraft. No butcher in the neighborhood will buy her pigs, as if he was known to do so he would certainly lose the local custom upon which he relies.—Notes and Queries.

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#### Posing as a Hercules.

"I could tell you a story about 'strong men photography.' Some of the minor limbs of the fraternity depend on the cunning of the camera for advertisement." So said a photographer.

"One fellow, who visits country fairs and casual shows, goes through tricks of a kind wonderful to the unscientific mind. They are merely tricks after all, and his strength is a catch. He depends on his photos for advertisement. In posing he folds his arms tightly, dilates the muscles of his neck and lines his veins with prussian blue. His picture gives you Hercules in his power of majesty. In private he is a well developed man, without any swagger of sinew or strength.

"Professional strong men are as clever at make up as a society actress. The latter lavishes attention on face and neck, while breast and ribs, muscles and throat occupy the former for hours ere the camera confronts them. A few lines about the body add pounds to the weight of a strong man (in the picture); a studied pose imparts additional formidableity.

"The veins of a certain professional Hercules protrude like whipcord in the photographic cabinet. He dusts them with powdered ultramarine and treats the high parts of the muscles with indian red. Otherwise his picture would appear quite ordinary."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

#### Missed the Combination.

He is one of those gushing old beans who think flattery the key to favor with the gentler sex. The other evening he was at a reception with his wife, and they met the handsome Miss Blank, at whom he fired a whole battery of compliments. Then turning to his wife he said, "It's a good thing I didn't meet her before I married you, my dear."

"Indeed it is," she smiled sweetly, "for her. I congratulate Miss Blank."

—Exchange.

#### A DeBente Distinction.

"How much does your position pay?" asked the rural relative. "I don't know as I could figure it up offhand," answered Senator Sorghum. "You surely know your own salary?" "Yes, but that isn't what you asked me."—Washington Star

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