

MEXICAN BRIGANDS.

Pleasant Sort of People That Merely Robbed Travelers.

"I was once for some weeks at a sugar plantation, near a small provincial town in Mexico," wrote the late Mr. Labouche in 1879. "In the town lived a brigand. He was highly esteemed by his neighbors, and I passed many a pleasant evening with him and his family. His daughter was a beauty, and this estimable parent was amassing a little fortune for her.

"His habit was to ride at night to the road between Mexico and Vera Cruz with two or three associates and to levy contributions on the diligence. When I left the town I wanted to strike this road, and I went with him and his friends. We reached it at about 6 in the morning. Having partaken of chocolate, the brigands posted themselves behind some rocks, and I looked on. Soon the diligence was seen approaching. The brigands emerged, the coachman stopped, the passengers were requested to descend and were politely eased of their money.

"The passengers then took their places again in the coach, and it drove off, while the brigands courteously bowed to them. So honest were they in their peculiar way that they wished me to take my share in the spoil, but this, of course, my standard of morality being different from theirs, I declined, and I wished them goodby.

"Riding on to Puebla I dined at a table d'hote that evening with the despoiled travelers and was greatly amused to hear them recount the valorous manner in which they had defended themselves and how they at last had to succumb to numbers."

QUEER BURIAL SERVICE.

How Adaman Islanders Protect Their Dead From Evil Spirits.

Strange is the burial service among the Adaman Islanders. It is the custom of the islanders to drop the bodies of their parents into the sea at the end of ropes and leave them there until nothing remains but the bones, which they then gather and hang from the roofs of their huts.

It is a common custom for a relative to sit by the hour and watch the bones of some relative. This is the way they have of showing their love and respect. The bodies are treated in this fashion so that the evil spirits cannot tease and pinch them. All that is left are the dried bones, and these are placed high so that if the evil spirits wander into the huts they will have a hard time to find them. If a bone is carried away it means some bad spirit has seized it, and this means that some terrible calamity will befall the family.

In the Katanga district of central Africa when a chief and his wife dies there is great feasting and celebrating. Some of these festivals last three or four days. After the bodies are laid to rest with dancing and rejoicing because they are going to rule over a higher sphere their relatives and friends do not depart until they leave one or more chairs and a supply of clothes. This is done because the souls are expected to come out and wander about their graves.—Chicago Tribune.

Whale Sharks.

While whales are the largest of marine animals, yet certain fish grow to almost as gigantic size. The largest of true fishes are found among the sharks and the largest of these formidable fishes are the whale sharks. These huge fish occur in the waters of India, Japan, South America, Panama, California and the West Indies. The nose is very broad and blunt and the mouth, although very wide, is armed only with minute teeth. It is a dark colored creature, marked with small, whitish spots and is perfectly harmless to man, feeding exclusively on small fish. Its huge bulk makes it dangerous when wounded. This great fish reaches a maximum length of seventy feet.

White Robed Blacksmiths.

Extraordinary precautions are taken by the Korean blacksmith before he attempts to shoe any Korean horse which is noted for its bad temper and likely to flourish its heels if not securely tied up first. Slight of one of the small ponies straggled up to the heavy timber framework is ludicrous, however, and in a way may be termed "horseshoeing on the safety plan." White costumes would look out of place for a blacksmith's use almost anywhere else, but in Korea all men wear white garments. Young men also wear their hair screwed up in hard knots on the top of their heads as a sign they are married.

Marriages in Burma.

A curious idea among the Burmese is that people born on the same day of the week must not marry and that if they defy the fates their union will be marked by much ill luck. To prevent these disastrous marriages every girl carries a record of her birthday in her name, each day of the week having a letter belonging to it, and all children are called by a name which begins with that letter.

Still Worried.

"It used to worry me when the barber informed me that my hair was getting a little thin on top."

"But you got used to it, eh?"

"No. Now it worries me because he doesn't mention it. I must be getting old."—Philadelphia Press

Just the Contrary.

"People in very cold climates need a heavy diet."

"No, they don't; they have to have light diet. Don't the Eskimos eat caribou?"—Baltimore American.

SLAVES OF THE DESERT.

A Lashing Taken With Gratitude by the Emir's Servants.

Abd-el-Ishman wore a heavy scowl that boded ill for some one, and his fingers cussed his rawhide koorbag as he watched the camels being laden. When all was ready to start he called out four names, and four dejected looking Arabs answered shamefacedly to the summons.

The emir spoke to them dispassionately, as one might speak to one's dog, and then, tossing his koorbag to the nearest of the four culprits, he bade him lay on a dozen of the best, while he watched and criticised each stroke with grim earnestness.

It was not a pleasant sight to watch, and I thought it policy to turn aside, but the rest of the caravan thoroughly enjoyed the exhibition and greeted each well laid blow with approval.

When the punishment was completed each of the culprits in turn came forward and kissed the emir's feet, thanking him for his mercy and calling Allah to witness that they were his dogs to do with as he wished.

From their subsequent conduct I have no reason to believe that they did not mean every word they said, though at the time I was skeptical. It is not every day that one learns such an object lesson in humility and feudal service.—Wide World Magazine.

INSPIRED AUTHORS.

Ideas Come to Them, It Would Seem, In Spite of Themselves.

Bernard Shaw has stated more than once that he is "inspired." "I am pushed," he says, "by a natural need to set to work to write down conversations that come into my head unaccountably. At first I hardly know the speakers and cannot find names for them. Then they become more and more familiar, and I learn their names. Finally I come to know them very well and discover what it is they are driving at and why it is they have said and done the things I have been moved to set down."

Other writers and painters, too, have described their processes in a similar way. William Blake was positive and emphatic in describing himself as a mere amanuensis, writing down the words that were audibly spoken to him, and he painted in the same way from a model set before his eyes and visible to him alone. Rodin, the French sculptor, gave his assent to the same idea of models visible to the eye of the artist. Dickens said that his characters were actually visible and audible to him, and it will be remembered that "Kubla Khan" was dictated to Coleridge while he slept.—London Spectator.

The Curious Guanaco.

"Amura" guanaco whispered one, as they crouched low in the boat. "Kill" and he pointed to the rifle beside me in the stern sheets. The golden brown of the white breasted, deer-like animal stood out, a little note of color, complementing strongly against the verdant green of the dark, wet forest side, but well out of range. I had seen the Indian guanaco skin caps (cloaks) sold by the fur dealers of Punta Arenas, but this was my first glimpse of the animal itself, many thousands of which I saw later during my expeditions through Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia. "You are a queer animal, indeed," apostrophized an Argentine lieutenant as he and Captain Musters once viewed a solitary guanaco. "You have the neck of a horse, the wool of a sheep, the neck of a camel, the feet of a deer, and the swiftness of the devil." Yet withal a graceful animal and at a distance not unlike red deer, though larger.—Outing.

Jarred Her.

A Chicago woman was traveling in the orient. On a trip through a desert she was carried by four stalwart blacks in a chair suspended on poles. The natives started out with great cheer, but as the journey progressed and the sun beat down upon them they began to chant a prayer to Allah. It was melodious, though a bit mournful. Its constant repetition was soothing, and the lady dozed. On awakening, the prayer, grows more mournful, almost despairing, was still being intoned. Turning to her interpreter she asked the meaning of the mysterious words. The interpreter pretended not to hear, but being pressed for an answer finally bowed low and said:

"Madam, since you insist, they pray that the great Allah may make you less fat."—Chicago Tribune.

Sacrifice!

There was only one piece of pudding for dinner, and Mrs. Jones divided it between her children, Ned and Grace. Ned looked first at his piece and then at his mother's empty plate. "Mother," he said, "I don't think I can eat my pudding while you haven't any." "Why, Ned," said the mother, much pleased, "how unselfish you are, dear! But you see, my boy, there is no more pudding." "I know that, mother. You take Grace's!"—London Mail.

One Exception.

"Where there's a winner there's always a loser."

"Not always."

"Well, name an instance to the contrary."

"When you're playing cards with your girl for kisses."

Unfeeling.

Mrs. Benham—I'm afraid the doctor's bill is too high. Benham—But he saved my life. Mrs. Benham—That's what I'm figuring on.—New York Times.

There is no time so miserable but a man may be true.—Shakespeare.

SERVIA AS A NATION.

It Originated in the First Half of the Seventh Century.

The birth of Servia as a nation, settled in or near its present home, may be dated in the first half of the seventh century. About 600 A. D. when the Avaric empire of desolation was established on the Danube, two tribes, the Croats and the Serbs, retiring before the ravages of the Tartar horsemen, settled in the countries now known as Croatia, Bosnia and Servia.

They were Slavs, but the Croats perhaps had, like the Slavs of Moesia in after years, adopted the name of a Tartar tribe. Both, fleeing from the Avars, were naturally hostile to them, and it is possible that they settled in the empire with the consent or even at the invitation of the Emperor Heraclius I. At any rate, they appear to have been considered as vassals of the empire. Their first settlements lay rather westward of the country now called Servia, the Drave, the present western boundary, being the dividing line between Bulgar and Serb in the eighth century. Here the Serbs dwelt more or less uneventfully for three centuries. They generally formed a loose confederacy under chiefs called zupans. They were commonly, in a loose fashion, loyal to the eastern empire mainly through fear of their dangerous neighbors, the Bulgarians. About 840 they united under a chief named Vlastimir to repel the latter.

The country rose to great heights under Stephen Dushan, the czar of the Serbs, but after his death Murad I. conquered the country, and it was not until 1815 that the Serbs partially threw off the Turkish yoke.—Exchange.

PRECIOUS MUGS.

The Crucibles Used in the New York Assay Office.

In the government assay office on Wall street, New York, there is a corner that looks very much like a mug rack in a country barber shop, where every customer has his individual mug highly decorated in gilt letters.

On this rack are perhaps fifty crucibles for melting down gold. The crucibles are decorated with crude initials and numerals and are the property of the biggest gold mining corporations in North and South America.

The reason for the individual mugs is that the clay of crucibles takes up a considerable quantity of gold in the process of smelting which otherwise would be lost to the government bringing the gold to the government to be refined. After two or three smeltings the clay is saturated and takes up no more gold. When it is finally succeeded by a new crucible it is returned to the customer to be broken up for its hidden gold.

Mugs that are used for melting down random lots of gold are carefully preserved by the government refiners and sold. Uncle Sam pockets the proceeds, as in these random lots there is no way of computing to what amount each of perhaps twenty customers may be entitled. It is only the smelting concern that sells the government enough gold at one time to monopolize a single melting that obtains the right to a mug on the rack.—New York Tribune.

Ice Cream and a Nerve.

Why do we sometimes get an ache in the nose when eating ice cream. There is a nerve running along the back of the nose which doctors call the anterior palatine nerve. This has a branch running along the base of the nasal cavity and another branch running along the palate. The ends of these branches join through finer branches which run through openings in the palate near the front teeth. When we get some ice cream in the mouth and keep it in front for a moment so that the irritation produced by the cold reaches the fine connecting branches the sensation may be carried to the branch in the nose. Irritation of this branch produces the sensation of pain. We get the same sensation when breathing very cold air.—New York American.

Meredith and Words.

George Meredith, according to the London Chronicle, "employs that abominable contraction 'alright.' It can't be a printer's error, for it occurs more than once. And he uses it as early as 1863, so that the abusers of our language may now claim Meredith of all men as their prophet. This is one of those things that baffle explanation, particularly from a writer whose use of words was meticulous and who always refused to delete the first 'e' in 'judgment,' always spelling it 'judgement' in his novels. Some of us, however, will fight 'alright' to the bitter end."

Social Surgery.

The newly rich dame took her daughter to a fashionable school and interviewed the haughty principal.

"I want my daughter to learn to act as if she had moved in aristocratic circles all her life," she explained.

"I see," mused the principal. "And are you willing to be separated from her that long?"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Historical.

"Children," asked the visitor who was addressing the school, "how many of you can tell me what it was that Napoleon's soldiers used to call him?" Nobody answered. "Think a moment. 'Little'— Still nobody spoke up. " 'Little Corp'— "A little corpulent!" shouted the children.—Chicago Tribune.

Do you wish to know if anything is the Lord's work? See if it is a work among the poor.—Charles Kingsley.

Unitarian Church
Next Sunday the services are as follows: Sunday School at 10 o'clock; service of worship at 11: Young People's Union at 6:30. Following the morning service the annual dinner and meeting will be held, to which all who are interested in the welfare of the church are invited.

United Brethren Church
Grace U. B. Church. Sunday School at 10 a. m.; sermon and morning worship at 11; Juniors at 3; C. E. at 6:30. Special music and a sermon on "Let there be Light" at 7:30. J. B. Parsons, minister.

Ideal winter weather now on tap.

Methodist Church
Sunday School at 10 a. m. Preaching services at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. Themes: Morning, "Sifted Souls;" evening, "Rescued." Epworth League at 6:30. Prayer meeting on Thursday evening at 7:30 o'clock. All are cordially invited to attend these services. W. E. Young, pastor.

New York's East Side has lost a generous patron saint in Big Tim Sullivan, whose mental powers have failed him.

It is an ill wind that blows nobody good and the damage to the orange crop brings cheer and bigger prices to the apple grower.

Grand Opening

of the

Barde & Levitt

Clothing House

In Hood River

BIG SACRIFICE SALE STARTS

Saturday, JAN. 18

Our Hood River store will be Number Four... The other three are located at Oregon City, Salem and Corvallis.

We carry only the Best of Clothing, Shoes, Hats and Furnishings for Men, Young Men and Boys.

Owing to the lateness of the Season we are FORCED TO CUT THE PRICES regardless of Profit or Loss.

We will not carry over a Dollar's Worth of Merchandise if we can help it as we always start our Seasons with a Complete New Stock.

DON'T FAIL TO ATTEND THIS SALE as our Store will be Full of ENORMOUS BARGAINS OF THE WORLD'S BEST MERCHANDISE FOR MEN AND BOYS.

All the Newest Creations in Winter's Ready to Wear for Men can be had at Unheard of Bargains.

Barde & Levitt

Hood River's Leading Clothiers

Oak St. Next Door to Franz Hardware Co.