

INDIAN FAKER'S TRICK

MAGIC WHICH A BRITISH OFFICER EXPLAINS BY HYPNOTISM.

How a Boy and Old Man Climbed Into the Sky on a Piece of Twine.

An officer of the British Army, who served in India with the Seventh and the Fourteenth Hussars, is spending a few weeks in New York. The other day some friends were talking with him about India and his experiences there, and the conversation turned to Indian fakery and their wonderful performances.

"These fellows can perform some extraordinary tricks," said the British officer, "but extraordinary as they are, the tricks are not so fairly wonderful as some of the old fakirs in India. They are brought away from India by the tourists who learn all about India and its people in the course of a few weeks' sojourn in some of the coast towns."

"As a matter of fact, the greatest of the fakery is never seen in the towns and cities. Their religion and superstition will not permit them to wander from their native haunts, and only those who have traveled or lived in the wilds and most remote parts of India have witnessed the performance of the really great tricks."

"You must remember at the outset that the real thing to use an Americanism, in the way of a Hindoo fakir in a man of secrets and strategy, in the shape of love, or affects to love solitude, and he works upon the superstition of his fellows in performing what are regarded by other Hindoos as sure-enough miracles. He lives in comparative seclusion, existing on heaven knows what."

"Of course, at every opportunity he extorts whatever he may from his fellows, but that is not the real thing. It is only for a venturesome foreign hunter that he may now and then perform and get away considerable backaches. In the native state he is the filthiest human being I ever clapped my eyes on, and by long habit he has fallen into a chronic state of weakness, so to speak."

"Report more rapidly than one would suppose in the mountains of India, and once a party of foreign sportsmen or travelers appears in their up-country, they are sure to be striking the spot, and he keeps to it until he comes up with the strangers."

"At such times the fakir usually travels with a small boy and a dirty bag filled with a promiscuous assortment of shams, trick paraphernalia and what not."

"The first time I ever met a no-discount fakir in a wild, unfrequented part of India, where other officers of the regiment, an army surgeon and myself, had gone on a hunting trip. We had spent the day beating for a tiger, which got away, and had returned to camp tired and out of sorts. Taking an early dinner, for we were horribly hungry, we sat down outside the tent to smoke our cheroots."

"Suddenly, just before sundown, we noticed an uncanny-looking person coming toward us, grinning like a black devil, salivating at every step, and mumbling something which none of us could understand. We knew, of course, that our visitor was one of the mountain fakery, and we calmly waited for him to proceed to business."

"As he put down his bag with great deliberation, the boy accompanying him seemed to be paying attention to nothing in particular. After a few minutes he produced, seemingly from nowhere, a ball of ordinary cotton string, which had once been white, such string as shopkeepers ordinarily use to tie up light parcels with."

"The man's hair was gray and his hide was as black as Erebus. He wore a dirty turban and loin cloth, which two articles constituted his apparel. The boy's outfit was no less elaborate."

"After tossing the ball of string about for a while—it was about the size of a billiard ball—he threw it high into the air, retaining the free end of the string in his hand. Up and up went the ball, growing smaller and smaller the higher it traveled until it disappeared from sight altogether. To all appearances it had sailed up until it reached the nearest stratum of clouds and disappeared behind it. It was the lightest ball I ever saw. We had ever seen and was quite sufficient to attract the attention of the crowd. The old boy might subsequently do and that was just what he wanted."

"As soon as the ball had disappeared the fakir let go the end of the string and the ball, which had been floating in the air, came down to earth, extending from about five feet from the ground up to Lord knew where. When the old man found that the ball remained up in the air, he called to the boy to come down, no matter how wildly he gesticulated or how loudly he yelled at it, he was apparently much annoyed."

"He tugged and tugged at the cord, but he couldn't pull the ball down. He called the boy, told him to climb the cord and bring the ball down. Then we saw the spectacle of a boy, or, if you will, a line of cotton twine about the size of a large pin."

"Up and up, higher and higher, the boy went, climbing as fast as a chooker rope, until he, too, had disappeared behind the clouds which hid the ball. When last we saw him, he looked to be just about as big as the ball did when it disappeared."

"As soon as the urchin disappeared, there was more trouble for the fakir. The boy appeared very satisfied with the roosting place he had found and the old man was no longer able to get him back to earth than he had been with the ball of twine. Then we did have a sample of splendid race."

"The old fakir held himself up to a perfect fury. He yelled and danced and gesticulated and gave the best exhibition of a human demon that I ever saw. By way of heightening the effect and increasing our interest, he dropped the ball, which had broken but intelligible English, the substance of which was:

WHEN THE 'PHONES REST

FEW CALLS AT FOUR O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING.

Busiest Time About Noon, and 400-500 Messages Are Sent and Received Over Wires in New York.

Four o'clock in the morning. The nearest point in the diurnal round to the shadowy hereafter. At the hour, say physicians, man's vitality is at the lowest ebb, and more lives slip into eternity than in any other of the 24 hours. Singularly enough, the telephone bears similar witness according to the New York Mail and Express. At that hour, say its records, the city's life is near complete cessation. The town is fast asleep. It has been asleep some hours, but restless now with the then a turn, again a deeper breathing.

IRRIGATION NOTES. A New Application of Electricity. An interesting example of the value of electricity in making profitable old lands.

C. L. ("FARMER") SMITH.

MINNESOTA EXPERT WHO IS TOURING THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SOUTHERN PACIFIC.

Hon. C. L. Smith, or "Farmer" Smith, as he is more generally known, who is touring the Willamette Valley under the auspices of the Southern Pacific Railroad, is one of the best-informed men in the country on the subject of irrigation. He has held a number of farmers' institute work in Minnesota has made him what he is. For several years he was Dairy Inspector of that state. He followed farming until his health compelled him to engage in some other work. When he talks on farming he does not have to quote the experience of somebody else—he has been there himself. He knows how farmers feel under a great diversity of conditions. He knows how they can better their lot. In a word, his advice is to the point, and if it would be successful, it is to be business-like. The farmer should know what every cow returns him; what every bushel of wheat costs to raise, etc. If the cow don't pay, sell her; if wheat-bushel don't pay, try some other crop.

Under the auspices of the Southern Pacific, Mr. Smith has awakened a great interest in dairying about the Willamette Valley. He has held a number of farmers' meetings, and at every point has been favored by a good attendance of farmers. The farmers of the Willamette Valley are grateful to Mr. Smith and the Southern Pacific Company. They realize that he has told them much that means greater returns from the farm, with the same amount of work.

At 4 o'clock it has sunk into a stillness slender, soundless, too, except for some distant engine whistle, like a long-drawn moan, the valley is silent.

Along the 24 hours the telephone keeps a finger on the city's pulse. It feels the tidal hour of life, too, as well as the ebb. If at 4 o'clock life is in the depths, there is an hour when it is on the heights, and depths and heights are widely divided. Once a month the telephone company makes a record for the day, and on it the number of calls. This is turned in to Herbert Lewis Webb, of the general manager's office. Very graphically it indicates the difference between day and night. A diagram of it was yesterday by Mr. Webb, and something like a temperature chart of a fever patient in a hospital—now the tracing is on the normal line, and now jumps high, like a mountain peak, into delirium. But the telephone has no normal line. At 4 o'clock it is far below the level, at 10 o'clock it has leaped, relatively, to an inordinate height.

600,000 Calls a Day. The line described by Mr. Webb rose to two peaks, one showing the business at 10 o'clock, the other at 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Between these is a considerable depression on both sides, a step and low ebb. During the day in all the central stations there are 600,000 calls daily, of which about 250,000 are connections. Fully 90 per cent of all the calls are made between the hours of 9 A. M. and 9 P. M. Only 10 per cent are made between the hours of 5 in the afternoon and 9 in the morning.

This, said Mr. Webb, is one of the difficulties of the telephone business. There are two or three rush hours, when the business done is tremendous in comparison. But a force must be employed and a plant used to meet the greatest demand, while at other hours a far smaller force and a much smaller equipment would do. In the city, there are 75,000 calls daily, but less than 1000 of these come between 5 in the evening and 9 in the morning. All the other stations maintain nearly the same proportion.

To the drowsy telephone girl the wire begins the glimmer of daybreak. Between the hours of 4 and 5 in the morning scarcely a call buzzes on the switchboard. But after 5 o'clock the calls of the market men begin. These are not many, however, not enough to keep her from nodding occasionally. Then the grocers, butchers and other hotel dealers fling their shutters and begin to jingle the telephone bell. Still business is far from active, although the railroad station telephones have joined those of the retailers and the market men.

Rapid Increase. But between 8 and 9 o'clock the buzzing on the switchboard largely increases. Business has begun—the wholesale men are about. From 7 to 8 in the Cortlandt-street station only 123 calls came in on the last record day, between 8 and 9 the number had grown to 110; between 9 and 10 to 500. Now the bankers and brokers are making things hum. From 10 to 11 o'clock the calls jump to 900, and between 11 and 12 rise to 90,000. This is the high-water mark. There is a falling off after that until 3 o'clock, between which hour and 4 the calls rise again to the highest mark. On the day this record was taken the greatest business was done between 11 and 12. Usually the telephone is most active between 10 and 11 o'clock.

The disparity is proportionately about the same in the residential districts. One station in the city reports widely from the rule; that is Thirty-eighth street. That is the hotel and theater district, and clearly the telephone indicates the feverish night activity of that quarter. Whereas at Cortlandt street, at Madison Square and the Columbus Station dullness comes with midnight, it is not so, comparatively, at Thirty-eighth street.

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ESTABLISHED 1892. WHEAT AND STOCK BROKERS

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these strata and find whether it is practicable to attempt to reach them. If they can be found without too deep borings, not only will the grangers receive a great benefit, but land will become valuable for high-class agriculture, and the support of a large population.

Advertisement for Burlington Route, listing various train services and schedules.

Advertisement for Pacific Coast Steamship Co., listing routes to Alaska and other destinations.

Advertisement for Japan-American Line, listing shipping services to Japan and other ports.

Advertisement for White Collar Line, listing shipping services to various ports.

Advertisement for Dominion Line, listing shipping services to Liverpool and other ports.

Advertisement for Oceanic S. S. Co., listing shipping services to various ports.

Advertisement for Columbia River Scenery, listing scenic views and travel options.

Advertisement for Astoria & Columbia River Railroad Co., listing train services.

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Advertisement for Puget Sound Agent, Seattle, Wash.

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TRAVELERS' GUIDE.

Advertisement for Oregon Short Line and Union Pacific, listing train services.

Advertisement for Burlington Route, listing various train services and schedules.

Advertisement for Pacific Coast Steamship Co., listing routes to Alaska and other destinations.

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