Highest of all in Leavening Power.—U. S. Gov't Report, Aug. 17, 1889.

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LUCKIEST SHIP AFLOAT.

No Danger Ever Troubles This Nautical Mascot.

There is a vessel now lying at San Francisco that attracts a great deal of attention by her queer rig and old fashioned appearance. She is the British four masted bark Omeo, belonging to Melbourne. The old craft has quite a history and was formerly a steamer. She was built in 1858, in England, and is 789 tons. During the civil war she was used as a blockade runner and made a number of trips to Charleston, escaping capture more than once from the Federal war vessels.

The last trip she made was a remarkable one. She passed the gunboats that were blockading the harbor, and then orders were given by the flagship to keep a sharp lookout for her when she attempted to leave, and to catch her at all hazards. The days went by until six weeks had passed, and the officers were beginning to think that the steamer had given them the slip and made away without their knowing it, when one night rockets were seen from the cruisers as if some one was signaling on shore.

A bright lookout was kept for the slippery blockade runner, and just before daylight she was seen well in shore, passing out. She was loaded to the guards with cotton, and had several hundred bales piled on deck. Half a dozen steamers started after her at once, and it seemed as if she would be caught at last. But she managed to reach open water without coming in range of the guns of the warships, and in a few hours had distanced all but one of her pursuers.

This was one of the new gunboats, a screw steamer of great speed; and as the two flew through the water the American captain had the satisfaction of noting that slowly but surely he was overhauling the heavily laden blockader. The captain of the British steamer also perceived that the gunboat was gaining on him, and he knew that it was only a question of time, unless something turned up to prevent it, when the American would be on his way to New York with the cotton steamer in tow.

He looked at his deckload, which was worth thousands of dollars in Liverpool could he land it there, and then looked at the American, which was slowly crawling up on him, until every minute he expected to see the puff of smoke from her bow gun. He decided that the deckload must go. But there was great danger of crippling the steamer should he drop the big bales over the side, as one of them might be caught in the propeller, and then ship and cargo would go to New York without a doubt.

In order to prevent this, a long stage was rigged over the stern and the bales rolled out on it before they were dropped into the sea. The plan worked first class—in fact, better than the bold Englishmen had dared to hope. Bale after bale was dropped overboard, and soon a long line of them floated on the water right in the road of the American steamer, and no attention was paid to them by the officers of the gunboat until a crash was heard and in a few seconds her engines stopped. The captain went down in the engine room to learn what was the matter, and a short investigation showed that the gunboat was helplessly crippled.

One of the bales had been caught by the propeller and its contents wound around the shaft in a second, and to their chagrin the rich prize slipped through their fingers when they were nearly alongside. After the war the Omeo went to Australia, and for a number of years ran from Melbourne to New Zealand, and was then turned into a sailing vessel. She is regarded as the luckiest ship afloat, as well as one of the fastest, as, in spite of her queer rig, very few can outsail her.—Detroit Free Press.

The Opportunity That the Colleges Lost.

In the early decades of the present century the predominance of classical studies was not indeed unnatural. But conditions were changing. James Watt and succeeding inventors had inaugurated a revolution in industry more complete, if less dramatic, than that effected in politics by their contemporaries. Thousands of men were to be replaced by machinery, new industries were to be created, nations to be brought closer together, the conditions of existence to be ameliorated—all by men consciously or unconsciously studying applying science.

Nowhere were these changes to operate more powerfully than in the United States. What would be the effect on our education? Would the colleges realize their opportunity and by co-operating in this great improvement emphasize and strengthen their right to the intellectual leadership of the nation? Had they previously occupied themselves more with things and less with forms they might conceivably have taken the tide at the flood. Being what they were, they could not.—Professor H. W. Tyler in Forum.

"Doing" Palestine.

A woman who has been to Europe says an opportunity is never lost to gibe the meteoric flight of the "tourist." She heard a story of two young men doing Palestine. They drove to the pool of Bethesda. They descended from the carriage. "This," said the guide, "is the pool of Bethesda."

"Ah," commented one of them, "pool of Bethesda. Chalk it down, Gus, we've seen the pool of Bethesda. By the way, guide," as he turned and dived into the carriage, "who was Bethesda?"—New York Times.

TO ELEVATE THE MONKEYS.

A Scheme for Producing an Aristocracy of Intellect Among Simians.

A man of large means, who resides in Washington, has declared his intention, privately, to devote $100,000 to a very original purpose. The idea is that no satisfactory opportunity has ever been afforded for the development of the intellect of the brute. Intelligence, like bodily qualities, is susceptible of improvement through breeding, as every one knows who has thought about the evolution of the dog from the wolf by artificial selection. This rich man proposes that monkeys or apes shall be taken as subjects for experiment, simply because man understands those animals better than he does others.

Let fifty of them, half males and half females, be placed in a paddock suitably provided with separate quarters for the sexes. Then have them breed pair by pair, as shall be directed by those who superintend. Some of them will develop certain abilities more conspicuously than others. For example, certain individuals will exhibit a superior understanding of the commands addressed to them or will show a greater dexterity in the handling of objects. Those which appear stupid are to be expelled from the colony, their places being filled by fresh recruits. When a male and a female are found who exhibit the same sort of aptitude in any direction they are to be mated. This process, carried on for generations would necessarily result in the development of superior characters until finally, after the lapse of twenty-five years perhaps, there would almost certainly be apes or monkeys far higher in the scale of reason than any known up to the present time.

These putative cousins of the human race have already exhibited a mental and even mechanical capacity sufficient to give ground for great hopes of possible development in point of intellect. Chimpanzees have been taught to bring things to the table, and the big Langur baboon of India is commonly used in that country today as a servant for working the punkah fans, with which flies are kept away from dinner tables. Explorer Stanley has given an account of apes which carry torches at night.

This is believed by scientists to be an absurdity, because all the anthropoid and simian tribes are too afraid of fire to render such a thing possible. It is a fact well known that gorillas, while they will gather about a deserted campfire for the sake of warmth, will never think of keeping the embers alight by adding fuel. Nevertheless, every book on natural history relates many an instance illustrative of these creatures' thinking powers, and there is no question that it could be greatly improved by the process of judicious breeding. Even a pig can be taught to count up to ten.—Washington Evening Star.

How the Treasury Is Guarded.

The treasury watch is composed of seventy veteran soldiers, who are cut into three squads, dividing every twenty-four hours into three equal watches of eight hours each. The men wear no uniforms, and would not impress the casual visitor to the treasury during the hours when the public is admitted. The guards go unarmed during the day, but at night carry a large 42-caliber six chambered revolver, which is too large to be concealed in a pocket and must be carried in the hands all the time. Every one who passes the treasury at night may see pacing to and fro in the lofty area between the granite pillars and the wall of the building solitary figures.

A person cannot approach within a hundred feet of the building without seeing a guard. Such a watchman, silent and martial in bearing, guards each of the four entrances to the treasury. The guards who traverse the corridors at stated intervals touch electric buttons to announce their presence in certain parts of the building. All this system of interior watchfulness was the work of Secretary Folger, who during his term in office lived in constant dread of an attack on the treasury.—Indianapolis Journal.

What a Pallium Is.

The pallium is a white woolen band about two inches wide and long enough to be worn around the shoulders and be crossed in front. It is made at Rome from the wool of two lambs which the sisterhood of Santa Agnese offer every year on the occasion of the feast of their patron saint, while the Agnus Dei is sung at mass. The pallium has crosses worked upon the white wool in black, and ornaments are attached to the ends.

It is sent by the pope to every newly appointed archbishop, and the origin of its use for this purpose dates back to a very early time in the history of the church. It is mentioned in an ecclesiastical document of the time of Pope St. Mark, who died in the year 336, and an Eighth century mosaic represents Pope St. Leo in the act of receiving a pallium.—Milwaukee Wisconsin.

When the Drum Failed to Scare.

The cicada, by using a drum at the base of the abdomen, produces a remarkable sound, sufficient to even frighten off an enemy, yet I once saw a big wasp bearing off a big cicada larger than itself, despite the "zeeing" and drumming of the victim.—St. Paul Dispatch.

John London Macadam, the inventor of the road that bears his name, labored for years to perfect his ideas, and although the English parliament voted him $30,000 it hardly covered his outlay. His monument is the roads of England.

The Scales of Fishes.

The scales of fishes are very beautiful things to examine microscopically. Take those of a goldfish for example. The brilliant golden or silvery hues of these fishes are produced by a soft layer of pigment spread over their inner surface and seen through the translucent substance of the scales. On carefully detaching a scale one sees on the under side a layer of gleaming substance easily removed, silvery or golden, according to the hue of the fish. If a small portion of this substance is taken up on the end of a fine needle and spread on a glass slide under the microscope it is seen to consist of two distinct materials, one giving the color and the other the metallic luster. When thus greatly magnified the former of these two substances is seen to be a layer of loose cells, of an orange color in the gold and whitish in the silver fishes. If a drop of water be then added and the solution gently agitated with the needle point the mass is seen to be full of an infinite number of flat crystals, oblong prisms, with angular ends. By reflected light they flash like plates of polished steel.

But what appears most singular is that each crystal is perpetually vibrating and quivering as if alive, although it is really due to a slight motion of the water in which they float. Owing to this irregular movement each crystal is momentarily brightening or waning, flashing out or retiring into darkness, thus producing a positively magical effect. To this property, presumably, is to be attributed the pearly play of light which marks the living fishes.—Interview in Washington Star.

Detecting Changes on Paper.

Some interesting researches on a method of detecting changes on written documents have been communicated to the Paris Academy of Medicine by M. G. Bruylants. It is shown that when paper sized and calendered is partially moistened, then, after drying, subjected to the action of iodine vapor, the parts which have been wet assume a violet tint, while those which have escaped water grow yellow or brown. The intensity of the coloration varies with the time of exposure to the iodine.

Places where water has previously fallen and dried may still be detected after the paper is completely saturated with water, the parts which were first wet being turned an intense violet blue by the iodine, while the other parts become blue. Even rubbings, such as those which are made by bread crumbs and elude discovery by other methods, are clearly brought out by iodine vaper, and erased tracings of a soft pencil are made legible.

The certainty of the results depends much upon the quality of the paper and the elapse of time, irregular wetting or rubbing giving fainter difference after three months or more than when the manipulations are recent, and the indications being less clear on thinly sized paper.—Boston Transcript.

It All Depended.

"Now, I want to know how long it will be before I get an answer to this letter?" demanded a young lady, with a telltale blush, at the postoffice as she handed one of Colonel Sexton's young men a communication addressed to her lover.

"That depends," said the official reflectively. "If he's in jail they only let 'em write once a week, and in some places only once a month. If he's dead broke he'll have to wait until he earns the price of a stamp, and I have no data on which to base an opinion of his earning capacities. If he's ill in bed he may feel delicate about dictating his real sentiments to a cold, disinterested third person, and if it's smallpox they won't let him write at all. Then, again, if he's got a new girl"——

She didn't wait for the clerk to complete his catalogue of contingencies.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

A Modern Lotus Tree.

People do not really know the Colorado desert. It has a flora and a number of trees that horticulturists do not suspect to be in existence. There is a tree in the desert which people tell me emits a most fascinating and peculiar smell—in fact the regular upas tree story. They say that when a man comes under the influence of this attractive odor he is bound to be drawn to it, and there he will stay until he dies.

The singular part of the story is that women are not affected by the smell; only men, and I am told by my friends who have prospected in the desert that even males of animals are drawn to the tree and there live to die under its baneful influence.—San Francisco Letter.

Storks in Palestine.

The regularity of the migrations of storks furnished Jeremiah with a rebuke against the Jews: "The stork in the heaven knoweth her appointed time." Canon Tristram, when in Palestine, saw thousands moving slowly northward. "They were scattered," he says, "over hill and valley, moving a few miles a day—not in flocks, but singly or in small groups." Few stay there for the breeding season, and these are never molested. Its Hebrew name, Chasedah, signifies pity or mercy, and is probably derived from the affection which the stork has for its young.—Chambers' Journal.

Sympathy.

Miss Prim (to Mr. Richfellow)—Oh, it's nothing, nothing. My teeth ache a little; that's all.

Small Brother (sympathetically)—Why don't you take 'em out?—Good News.

The Origin of Visiting Cards.

It is said that we owe the invention of visiting cards to the Chinese, and that even so long ago as the Tong dynasty (618-907) visiting cards were used in China. No nation observes so strictly the ceremonies in regard to the paying of visits as the Chinese do, but the cards they use for this purpose are very different from our dainty bits of white paper, being large enough to fold twice, and of a bright red color.—Harper's Young People.

It Gave Him Courage.

A commercial traveler tells the story of himself. It was in his early traveling days; in fact, he had been taken out of the office to make his first trip on the route of the regular traveler, who was sick. He visited two or three cities on his route, not meeting with much success, which he attributed to the fact that two or three other salesmen carrying the same line of goods were just ahead of him.

Being afraid the house would be dissatisfied, and a little doubtful of his own abilities, he telegraphed his employer: "Better call me in. There are three rival salesmen ahead of me."

Instead of calling him in the head of the house telegraphed: "Push ahead. There are a hundred other fellows behind you."

So he went ahead, satisfied that he could at least hold his own with the fellows that were behind, with the result that he made such a good trip that he was kept on the road and his salary increased.

He said that the idea that there was a lot of fellows following served to stimulate him, and he determined to go ahead and push things to the best of his ability, and he succeeded.—*Jewelers' Review.*

If old Diogenes lived today he wouldn't use a lantern to find an honest man. He would be out scratching for an umpire who would give satisfaction to all concerned.

General Butler's forthcoming book will be one of the largest historical autobiographies ever published. It will contain about one thousand large pages, printed upon high grade paper and illustrated with several hundred wood engravings. It will be published in English, German, and French. The best artists are now employed on the work. The Dickinson type foundry is casting type especially for it. The typography and presswork will be by the Barta Press of Boston, the first edition to be not less than one hundred thousand; probably double that number. Published by A. M. Thayer & Co., of Boston. The J. Dewing Co., 813 Market street, San Francisco, Cal., exclusive agents for California, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, Montana, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico.

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