

## ANIMALS IN EFFIGY.

THE FAMOUS COLLECTION OWNED BY THE SMITHSONIAN.

How Cattle Are Made of Rare and Boldly Animals—Proof That the Whole Cattle Have Held Jones—Of Value to Students and Historians.

Striven along for a distance of 50 years in the rear of the Smithsonian institution are blocks of plaster of paris of every imaginable shape, some of large size and others fitted together as if to form boxes. For the most part they look like the refuse of a workshop. Here and there one fragment or another is seen to resemble a part of a fish or other animal, perhaps a tail, or a head with a pair of fore flippers. A big slab bears the impression of a snake, as if the creature, having buried itself in mud for the winter, had walked from its torpid state and crawled away. Other objects yet more strange are faces and various parts or human bodies apparently fossilized.

These odd looking things are molds. The Smithsonian institution has been collecting them for 30 years past, and some of them have cost a great deal of money. Quite a number have been fetched all the way from Alaska, representing various animals peculiar to the region of the frozen north. If a queer reptile or fish is found anywhere, there is nothing better than to make a cast of it in plaster of paris. By this means its shape is copied to perfection, and that is a great help for museum purposes. When, a few years ago, a whale was stranded on the New England coast, Dr. Palmer, taxidermist of the Smithsonian institution, was sent to make a copy of it in plaster of paris. This he did, and it is now in the museum.

Only one-half of the whale was cast, however, representing what might be termed the back side of the animal. This is now hung up in the National museum. On one side it shows the outside of the creature and from the other side the inside. It was a clergyman who on a certain occasion not long ago was steering some members of his flock through the building, and passing in front of the whale, remarked, pointing to the capacious interior of the great marine mammal:

"You see, my dear friends, that there was plenty of room for Jonah." In such ways the Smithsonian institution has collected molds and made casts of a great variety of animals, often sending long distances to get them. Of reptiles alone it has secured several hundred, each representing a typical species, while the fishes run up to 1,500 and upward. From each plaster mold about 50 casts may be made, if desired. This facility of multiplication is utilized to a considerable extent in another branch of the work not relating to animals at all. To schools and to museums all over the world the Smithsonian institution sends sets of typical aboriginal implements of America. These are valuable for purposes of study. A mold from an actual stone ax will furnish 50 facsimiles, which only have to be painted in order to look exactly like the original. If more are wanted, another mold is easily made.

While it would not be easy to ship a whale or a walrus to the Smithsonian institution, smaller animals are readily transported. Nearly all of the creatures of which these molds are made are sent to this city for that purpose. When possible, two living specimens are forwarded. One serves for the mold. The other is a model for the artist. Before going further it should be explained that the casts are intended to represent the animals themselves in the position in which they were found. They are painted by men who are skilled in this branch of art.

Before making a mold from a snake the animal, if alive, receives a dose of chloroform. It may or may not recover. There have been instances where animals have got over the effects of the chloroform two or three times in succession, only to be subjected to further doses and made to serve again and again. Perhaps an anesthetized animal will be killed gradually about the middle of the branch of a tree, and the mold will be taken from branch and snake together, to be subsequently painted, of course. Or, if it were a rattlesnake, it would probably be coiled in a spiral, as if ready to strike. In the west wing of the Smithsonian institution is a beautiful exhibit of the rattlesnakes of the United States. They look as if alive, though only casts, so well are they painted, with surroundings of herbage, etc., to counterfeit nature.

It is the same way with reptiles of other kinds. There are over 80 many queer species of lizards in this country, particularly in the western deserts. The horned toad is one of these, not being in reality a toad at all, though it looks like one. There are others which are able to outrun the fastest race horse. Such creatures as these are easily molded, every scale of their armor being reproduced with wonderful accuracy of detail. With land mammals it is different. For a cast of a creature with a fur coat can hardly be made to look like life. Nevertheless Dr. Palmer's collection includes casts of portions of many

## HER SILVER SPOONS.

THEY REMAINED HER PROPERTY, BUT WERE VERY COSTLY.

After buying them three times she refused to risk them any more—A Little Story Bearing on the Question of the Wife's Property Rights.

The following story was told in a paper read by Mrs. M. J. Coggeshall at a meeting of the Woman's Suffrage Society of Des Moines and published in the Saturday Review of that city:

Today, when we women have not outgrown the pretty fad of collecting souvenir spoons, the great variety and beauty of which were unknown to our grandmothers, allow me to recall the story of a great aunt of ours who also loved spoons, but whose plain cupboard drawer contained no set of dainty after-dinner coffee like those from which we love to sip as we sit in our clubs and talk of culture.

This aunt when a young woman was a teacher in a country school until she had saved enough money to buy her own great desire for a set of silver spoons. She was married soon after to the young man of her choice. Six years passed by—years of hard work and economy for both, happy years, though no children had come to bless their union—when by a strange illness the husband was stricken down. The day after the funeral the grieving wife was surprised by the entrance to her home of the two brothers of her husband, bringing with them the village lawyer. They told her they had come to settle a value upon their brother's property, in order that she might know what part of it was hers.

"She held her peace as they set down the words of each article of furniture in the little box of spoons." Then she spoke and said: "These are mine. I bought them with my own money before I was married." "Yes, ma'am," said the lawyer, "but you know, ma'am, that after a lady is married everything belongs in law to her husband." So all the little property was divided, the brothers taking half, and she took the spoons with the rest at the price that had been set upon them. But it obliged her to give up the home, and she, with her few effects, went into rented rooms and began life anew. Occasionally teaching a school and always sewing when possible, she supported herself very comfortably for about three years, when a lifelong friend of her husband, an excellent man, offered her his hand in marriage. She liked him well, and her friends told her he was the best thing to do, and she thought with pleasure of again being mistress of a home. So they were married.

In a few years her husband's health declined, and for many months she gave him most tender and unceasing care. She had a few times spoken to him about making a will, but as it seemed an unpleasant subject she had ceased to mention it. Finally the end came. There had come to attend a funeral his nearest relative, a nephew from New England, whom she had never seen before. In a day or two he brought two men to the cottage to appraise the property, and again was there a price set upon the well preserved spoons. On the evening of that day as she was preparing supper the nephew entered the kitchen and said: "Aunt Liza, I am disposed to be very easy with you. The worth of all uncle's property has been carefully estimated, and I will allow you to include in your half of it any article of furniture you may choose."

And again she paid the price of her first darling purchase of silverware, but there was not enough left after the half was taken for her to keep the house and lot, so they went into the hands of strangers, and with her cat Aunt Liza again went into a room, but hired rooms. She was a pattern of thrift and tidiness, as a smart widower of the neighborhood was well aware, and in less than a year he made a call upon the comely matron who was now alone in her first of her visit short, but lingered a moment in the door and suggested that in the near future they become better acquainted.

She answered, "I am living here very comfortably, and I think, Mr. Johnson, that it will not be worth while for you to call," and closing the door hastily she turned to her cat and said: "No, Tommy, I have bought those spoons three times, and I don't intend to risk them any more."

In his youth Nero was remarkably handsome, but early in manhood his habits of dissipation made him exceedingly corpulent. To judge from his medals and the descriptions left of him he must have weighed over 500 pounds. His features were regular, but his eyes were so protruded as to be almost a deformity, and he was neglected, so much so that he could not recognize his acquaintances across the street.

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## THE GARDEN.

Choked with ill weeds my garden lay d-dying. Her ground; no bud had heart to blow.

Yet some you smile there, with your soft breath sighing. "Have patience, for some day the flowers will grow." Some weeds you killed; you had a plot and "My plot," you said, "rich harvest yet shall give." With sun, warmed seeds of hope your dear hands filled it. With rain soft tears of pity bade them live. So, week among the weeds that had withstood you. One little pure white flower grew by and by. You could not pluck it, flower. Alas, how should you? You set the seed, but let the blossom die. —Pall Mall Budget.

FAME WON BY ACCIDENT.

Dante's First Successful Picture Was an Advertisement.

The great French painter, Dante Lepage, was pursued by a commercial disaster through his youth in his efforts to study art. His mother worked in the fields to keep that sickly boy at school. At 15 he went to Paris alone, starved for seven years, pained without success, but still painted. He had just finished a picture to send to the salon when Paris was besieged, and he rushed with his comrades to the trenches.

On the first day a shell fell into his studio and destroyed his picture, and another shell fell at his feet, wounding him. He was carried home and lay ill and idle for two years. Then he returned to Paris, and, reduced to absolute want, painted cheap fans for a living. One day a manufacturer of some patent medicine ordered a picture from him to illustrate its virtues. Lepage, who was hungry, gave the picture to the advertiser. He painted a landscape in the April sunlight. The leaves of tender green quivered in the breeze; a group of beautiful girls gathered around a fountain from which the elixir of youth sprang in a babbling stream. Lepage believed there was real merit in it.

"Let me offer it at the salon," he asked his patron. The manufacturer was delighted. "But first paint a rainbow arching over the fountain," he said, "with the name of my medicine upon it." Lepage refused. "Then I will not pay you a sou for the picture!" The price of this picture meant bread for months, and the painter had long needed bread. The chance of admission to the salon was small. He hesitated. Then he attacked his hunger and carried the canvas to the salon. It was admitted. Its great success insured Lepage a place in public recognition and his later work placed among the greatest of living artists.—Current Literature.

Some Railway Mapmaking. "This won't do," said the general passenger agent in annoyed tones to the map maker. "I want Chicago moved down here half an inch, so as to come on our direct route to New York. Then take Buffalo and put it a little farther from the lake."

"You've got Detroit and New York on different latitudes, and the impression that that is correct won't help our road." "And, ma'am, take those two lines that compete with us and make 'em twice as crooked as that. Why 've got one of 'em almost straight."

"Yank Boston over a little to the west and put New York a little to the west, so as to show passengers that our Buffalo division is the shortest route to Boston."

"When you've done all these things I've said, you may print 10,000 copies—but say, how long have you been in the railroad business, anyway?"—New York Herald.

How Flies Walk on Window Facets. The microscope reveals the neat contrivance which enables a fly to walk up a window pane or defy the laws of gravity by gliding along, backward, upward, or in any direction.

A Fable (Not from Esop). An owl once said: "Who so was as I have the shape of my head, and the size of my eyes, I will get me up in a tree and cry, 'Who will buy my head?' The rabbits will buy it for their holes and fly. The mice will buy it for the cheese. But a dog with a gun stole out on the sly. And how that owl's fate befell! The owl, poor fellow, thought very wise. Do not imitate him. Buy the advertisement. It will advertise your work points to your competitor." Adapted from David B. Page.

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