

**Rabbits Learning to Climb.**

The effects upon animals of a change in the conditions of their life is a favorite topic among zoologists, who find that nearly every species of animals existed in some other than its present form at some previous epoch of the world. The whale, for instance, was once a land animal. Forced to take water for a living, he became in time much more like a fish in shape than like a land animal.

According to a Tasmanian paper a modification of the form of a familiar European animal is going on in the Australian world under the eye of the people there.

The Australian rabbit, imported from England, is acquiring nails on his feet and learning to climb. As is well known, the rabbits of Australia have increased to such enormous numbers that they have become a great pest, swarming over the land and devouring the farmers' crops.

In order to protect their fields the farmers put up wire netting in place of fences. The rabbits could not get through these, but they presently began to burrow beneath them.

Then the farmers sank the nettings six or eight inches into the soil. This stopped the rabbits from getting in by digging, but they presently began to attempt to climb over the netting.

As the result of this climbing, it is said, the rabbits are developing a nail in their toes. The nail development has been noticed in Queensland, and still later in Tasmania.

According to the theory of natural selection, it is likely presently to happen that in certain districts only those rabbits will survive which can climb at least a little, and in this way a race of climbing rabbits may be developed.—Chicago Mail.

**The Russian National Hymn.**

The great part which the Russian national hymn has played in western Europe since the French fraternization with Russia has started much inquiry about its origin. According to the Frankfurter Zeitung, the hymn is not yet sixty years old, and was first used for its present purpose under Czar Nicholas. When he made his tour in Prussia and Austria, in the year 1833, he was accompanied by Adjutant General Alexei Feodorowitsch Lnof, a passionate violinist and a composer of some skill. The czar was impressed by the fact that every regimental band in Berlin and Vienna greeted him by playing the national hymn of their own country, and this was apologized for by the known absence of any recognized national hymn in the great empire which he ruled.

Nicholas was much impressed by the deficiency, and during his return journey toward St. Petersburg had much talk with Lnof upon the subject, and at last ordered him to compose a hymn for the Russian military bands. Lnof hereupon set music to Scholowsky's "God Be the Czar's Protector." The Scholowsky-Lnof hymn was first played publicly before the czar on Nov. 23, 1833, and so pleased the sovereign that by a ukase of Dec. 4 of the same year he ordered it to be adopted as the national hymn of Russia. Lnof was not only rewarded by the gift of a gold snuff box set with diamonds, but permission was given to him and his heirs to adopt the first line of the hymn as the family motto.

**The True Way of Looking at Failures.**

"I have made a practice all my life," said a very successful man, "of looking upon failures as stepping stones, rungs on the ladder of life, anything but discouragements. When I was young and struggling and I met with some unexpected check or disappointment I would say stoically to myself, 'Another difficulty is behind me,' and would really feel that the future held just one obstacle the less in my road to success." What a brave spirit is shown in such a view of life—the splendid Anglo-Saxon quality of "not knowing when one is beaten," which makes heroes out of common clay and enables a man to conquer fate.

"Such a delightful view to take of my spoiled canvases!" sighed a young artist who was an interested listener to his comforting theories. "It is the only true way to look at things, believe me, my dear young lady," he answered. "We are all so miserably finite that it becomes, after all, simply a question of degree, and if we struggle bravely and patiently toward any goal that we place before, so we are bound to advance."—New York Tribune.

**Mr. Vanderbilt the Richest Man.**

One of the best of all authorities on wealth, a gentleman who has undoubtedly rubbed shoulders familiarly with a greater number of millionaires than any other person living or dead, remarked to me that he was sure that Cornelius Vanderbilt had a larger fortune than any other tenant of this planet. He was entirely familiar with the riches of the Rothschilds, and knew some of them personally. None of them could match Mr. Vanderbilt in plethora of millions.

The scores of millions of Jay Gould and John D. Rockefeller did not equal Cornelius Vanderbilt's possessions. This gentleman, however, did not credit the estimate of John D. Rockefeller's wealth at \$125,000,000. He thought it would hardly exceed half that amount.—Blakely Hall in New York Truth.

**Blind New York Beggars.**

A rather clever trick which is successfully done by a number of beggars in this city is to turn their eyeballs up until they appear to be blind. With their eyes in this condition they grind a small, wheezy hand organ, or stand on some prominent corner and hold a tin cup in their hands, thus mutely appealing for charity. A few of them attempt to sing, but they soon realize that it is too much to ask of mankind to listen to their singing and then give them money. To do this successfully for any length of time is very straining on the eyes, and may result in genuine blindness. But some of them have practiced it until it is impossible to discover by looking at them that they are not really blind.—New York Cor. Chicago Herald.

**EXPERT IN MANY LINES.**

**A REPORTER HUSTLES HARD AND IN INNUMERABLE ROLES.**

**How He Goes to Work to Produce a Special Article on a Leading Subject. Great Tact Necessary in Interviewing. Must Have a Good Memory.**

Of the many millions of people who read the newspapers how few stop to consider the amount of work that any article of importance represents! The idea that news flows into the editorial rooms of a paper as water flows down hill is not correct. Every scrap of news means labor—labor to gather the first fact, labor to verify it and find other facts necessary to make the story complete, and labor to write, edit and print the story. An article on some timely subject, and not strictly news, also means labor. For instance, a reporter is told to write a story on rapid transit. He does not sit at his desk and draw on his memory and imagination, no matter how excellent both may be. He goes out and hustles.

He calls on the commissioners having the matter in charge. He obtains their views. He goes to the engineers and obtains expert opinions on the feasibility of the proposed plans. He goes to the railroad men and asks their views on the practicability of the project. He goes to lawyers and takes advice on the legal obstacles to be overcome. He visits Wall street to learn if capital is ready. He consults the traveling public and business men as to their needs. When he has done all this and read up on what other cities have accomplished he writes his story. He weaves his facts together systematically, building up his article as a lawyer builds up his case in court, so that a clear idea of the whole matter is conveyed to the public—his jury.

In gathering his information he receives much assistance. The lawyer advises him on the legal points without a fee and without even a mention of his name in the article unless it is necessary to back up an important opinion. If the article has a medical bearing the views of a specialist or a leading physician are obtained without expense. The physician may have a dozen patients with fat fees awaiting him, but he stops to put the newspaper man right on the medical side of the question. The bank president cheerfully gives his time to throw light upon a financial problem.

**WHEN HE INTERVIEWS.**

The importer rushed with business papers to discuss a subject from the commercial standpoint. Experts on every branch of the subject are ready to give their views to the papers, but the collection of all this data requires more bustling than the general public gives the reporters credit for.

Gathering the material also requires brains. The mental caliber of the reporter shows in every interview. Men prefer talking about what interests themselves. The reporter must draw out what interests the public. To do this is no easy task. Ministers talk politics and politicians talk religion when an interview is requested.

To pin these men down to the point at issue requires more tact, ingenuity, perseverance and ability to read men's characters and to draw out their thoughts than can be told in a big book. Some men decline to talk unless the reporter makes shorthand and will pledge his word that the interview will be printed verbatim. Many of these men talk so slow that a reporter taking long hand would be tired waiting for the next word.

Others—and this is particularly the case with women—will only give utterance to long, involved sentences, treating subjects from an exalted standpoint if notes are taken in their presence. Such an interview published verbatim would sound like a southern dandy's oration. After the note book is closed these people unbend and talk rationally. If the reporter knows his business he throws away his notes and writes out the latter part of the conversation, omitting many things that should never have been told him.

**IN VARIOUS LINES.**

The reporter suppresses nearly as much as he publishes. He goes out to cover a murder. He plays detective and unearths many things that are news to the police. He reports to them and keeps the public waiting a day or two that the ends of justice be not defeated. He is ubiquitous. He works on every clew. If the victim is unidentified and the name "John Smith" is found on the body he runs down every John Smith in town until he finds which one is missing.

If there are rumors of an impending financial crash in Wall street the reporter visits the banks and houses said to be involved. He talks with their officers, he sees the bank examiner, he interviews leading bankers, and from a mass of conflicting statements he gives the public a clear idea of the situation. Confidence is restored or a panic precipitated by his pen.

All our big daily papers have reporters who are experts in different lines of work. Each man knows how to get information quickly and accurately, as well as how to write under the direction of editors, who marshal them as a general marshals his troops. They go out, gather every item of information that is obtainable, write their articles and hand in their copy.

Careful copy readers edit the matter and write the head lines—an art in itself. When in type the proof is submitted to the editor and the paper is made up. All this work requiring care, accuracy and thought is done with a rush. The great American public reads its bulky newspaper in the morning with complacency, oblivious of the great amount of work that the closely printed pages represent.—New York Recorder.

**May Marriages in Scotland.**

There is a deeply rooted suspicion in Scotland that May marriages are unlucky, and are bound to turn out badly. In April, 1891, there were 2,055 marriages in Scotland, in May there were but 1,003, while in June the number jumped to 4,148.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

**A Novel Ocean Race.**

Five vessels sailed out of San Francisco bay the other day and started on a long race around Cape Horn and up the Atlantic. At their head was the queen of sailing ships, the American four masted bark Shenandoah, bound for Liverpool with 5,002 tons of wheat, the largest cargo of the kind ever stowed in a sailing vessel. She had been put in fine trim especially for this trial of speed, but her commander, Captain Murphy, was still a little anxious at the start, as accidents and unforeseen incidents have much to do in deciding a sailing race.

Her great rival is the British ship Strathearn, Captain Robb. She is twenty-five years old, and was for years the wonder of the western waters. She beat all the steam vessels on long runs until the ocean greyhounds came in and overshadowed her phenomenal time between New York and Liverpool. The other three are the American ship S. D. Carleton, Captain Amesbury, bound for Havre, the British ship Balkannah, Captain Watts, also for Havre, and the American ship M. E. Grace, Captain De Winter, for New York. All went out on the highest tide, as the Shenandoah draws twenty-seven feet of water and could afford no risks.

The Shenandoah and Strathearn "make sail by steam," as the nautical phrase is—that is, they have donkey engines to draw the sails into place, and, according to seamen, it is one of the loveliest sights in the world to see all the white canvas swell in five minutes from bare poles to full rig.—Detroit News.

**Full Two Hundred Feet.**

On one of the most charming lakes of the Salzammergut, the Hallstadter See, a sad accident happened two days ago. Our Vienna correspondent tells us that General von Hirsch's wife and her daughter had gone from Ischl to spend a few days on the shores of the small lake, which is surrounded by steep mountains on all sides. They ventured up a picturesque path to the Saarstein, but the mother soon declared this was no walk for her, and they turned back.

What had seemed steep ascending was precipitous in the descent to ladies unused to such exertions. The mother suddenly slipped, and rolling from the path over the side of the mountain fell a distance of 200 feet. The daughter without a moment's consideration, ran full speed after her, rushing wildly down the terribly steep mountain side, and it is wonderful she reached her mother unhurt. Frau von Hirsch lay unconscious for two days and died without regaining consciousness.—London News.

**Love and Oratory.**

At the oratorical contest held at Cotner university at Lincoln, Neb., Marion Gadd took the second prize. The young man hastily left the room after the announcement of the prizes. A pistol shot was heard, and when the students rushed out they discovered that Gadd had blown his brains out with a revolver. Later developments reveal the fact that young Gadd was deeply in love with the accomplished daughter of one of the wealthiest citizens of Lincoln, and that she had promised to marry him in case he won the first prize in the oratorical contest; otherwise she would have nothing to do with him. He accepted the proposition, with the above sad result.—Cor. St. Louis Republic.

**The Snake Charmer Died.**

Carl Wilkey, a Dayton (Tenn.) snake charmer and tamer, met a horrible death from the effects of a snake bite. Mr. Wilkey had a big rattlesnake, which he took great pride in exhibiting, but despite all training the snake bit him. He was removing the snake from one box to another, and getting a drop on him the reptile struck him three blows on the hand.—Cor. Atlanta Constitution.

**Big Pear.**

Mr. Jake Miller was exhibiting five big pears Sunday, the combined weight of which was three pounds and seven ounces. They were of the Bartlett variety and grew on a tree four years old, on Mr. Miller's place. There were twenty-one pears on the tree and they were all of the same size, perfectly formed and matured.—Jefferson City (Mo.) Tribune.

**An Early Bird.**

Marion Faulconer reports something phenomenal in the way of chicken enterprise. He has a pullet that first saw the light of day on March 15. She laid eggs and hatched a brood of "chicks" on Aug. 26. He requested us to state that if any one can beat this record he would like to hear from them.—La Grange (Mo.) Herald-Democrat.

Particulars of a romantic marriage come from Georgia. Ten years ago the couple, then only boy and girl, were married, but their folks separated them, the bride being sent away. They didn't correspond and neither afterward married. Sometime ago the groom advertised for his wife. She saw the notice, answered it, and both have now again been married.

Two examples of the big tree of California are growing in Central park, New York. They stand on the grassy bluff just west of the Bethesda fountain, near the terrace and mall. Neither is more than eight inches in circumference, and although they have been standing in that spot for twenty-five years, they are not more than that many feet in height.

Captain Trivier says the great Tippi Tib will probably be seen in England before many months. He will be sure of a great reception there, for Tippi Tib is one of the best known men in the world.

A strange disease is carrying off cattle around Huntington and Trumbull, in Connecticut. The victims are taken down very suddenly and swell up, but the flesh does not change color.

The well that is being bored at Wheeling in the interests of science has reached a depth of three-fourths of a mile. Progress is being made at the rate of about ten feet a day.

**CON STIPATION.**

Alas! half the American people yet there is only one preparation of Sarsaparilla that acts on the bowels and reaches this important trouble, and that is Joy's Vegetable Sarsaparilla. It relieves it in 24 hours, and an occasional dose prevents return. Write for particulars to C. E. Elkington, 125 Locust Avenue, San Francisco; J. H. Brown, Petaluma; H. S. Winn, Geary Court, San Francisco, and hundreds of others who have used it in constipation. One letter is a sample of hundreds. Elkington writes: "I have been for years subject to bilious headaches and constipation. Have been so bad for a year back have had to take a physic every other night or else I would have a headache. After taking one bottle of J. V. S., I am in splendid shape. It has done wonderful things for me. People similarly troubled should try it and be convinced."

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**A Revelation.**

Few people know that the bright bluish-green color of the ordinary tea exposed in the windows is not the natural color. Unpleasant as the fact may be, it is nevertheless artificial; mineral coloring matter being used for this purpose. The effect is twofold. It not only makes the tea a bright, shiny green, but also permits the use of "off-color" and worthless teas, which, once under the green cloak, are readily worked off as a good quality of tea.

An eminent authority writes on this subject: "The manipulation of poor teas, to give them a finer appearance, is carried on extensively. Green teas, being in this country especially popular, are produced to meet the demand by coloring cheaper black blends by glazing or facing with Prussian blue, titanium, gypsum, and indigo. This method is so general that very little genuine uncolored green tea is offered for sale."

It was the knowledge of this condition of affairs that prompted the planing of Beech's Tea before the public. It is absolutely pure and without color. Did you ever see any genuine uncolored Japan tea? Ask your grocer to open a package of Beech's, and you will see it, and probably for the very first time. It will be found in color to be just between the artificial green teas that you have been accustomed to and the black teas.

It draws a delightful canary color, and is so fragrant that it will be a revelation to teadrinkers. Its purity makes it also more economical than the artificial teas, for less of it is required per cup. Sold only in pound packages bearing this trade-mark:

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