

THE GETTING IT DOWN



is bad enough, with the ordinary pill. But the having it down is worse. And, after all the disturbance, there's only a little temporary good.

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THEY LIVE IN BOATS.

Hundreds of Families Float Up and Down the Great Rivers. A Memphis writer introduces to the public a strange population who are counted as residents of that city, although most of them were born on the Mississippi or one of the streams emptying into it, and have never lived on dry land. The people occupy a floating settlement of house boats. The boats are sometimes named, and many of them are neatly painted and show signs of comfortable furnishings, judging from lace curtains at the windows and pictures to be seen hanging on the walls of the interior.

The colony is made up of representatives from twenty odd states drained by the Mississippi and its tributaries. Moored side by side one hundred and fifty boats were counted by the writer, who learned that some of the families began their navigation of the river as far north as Montana. It is not a fixed population, for, although most of the boats have been anchored at Memphis a long time, the absence of one of the families is noted now and then, and the inquirer is told that the head of the house has changed his habitat to New Orleans or some other river city.

The house-boat owner, of course, pays no rent. To escape it he took to the water. His food consists chiefly of fish, and catching which he is an adept. He knows better than anybody else where to find the cat, the buffalo, the perch and innumerable other fish. Driftwood serves him for fuel, and clothes, tobacco, spirits and a few necessities are secured by an occasional day's labor as a longshoreman, roustabout or farm hand.

IN THE AZORES.

There is Romance to Be Found Hidden in Bloody History.

In 1580 the Azores came under the power of Spain, and in the history of the next twenty years their name is frequent as the favorite battleground of the English and Spanish fleets. The partiality was, indeed, according to Macmillan's Magazine, mainly on the side of the former, and for a good reason. These islands lay right in the track of all vessels sailing to and from that enchanted region known then to all men as the Spanish Main. On the highest peak of Terceira, whence in clear weather the sea could be scanned for leagues around, were raised two columns, and by them a man watched night and day. When he saw any sails approaching from the west he set a flag upon the western column, one for each sail; if they came from the east a similar sign was set up on the eastern column.

Hither in those days came up out of the mysterious western seas the great argosies laden with gold and silver and jewels, with silks and spices and rare woods, worth at the cost of thousands of harmless lives and countless unspeakable from the fair lands which lie between the waters of the Caribbean sea and the giant wall of the Andes. And hither, when England, too, began to turn her eyes to El Dorado, came the great war galleons of Spain and Portugal to meet these precious cargoes and convey them safe into Lisbon or Cadiz before those terrible English sea wolves could get scent of the prize.

HEADS ARE BIGGER NOW.

Craniums of All Nations, Though Different, Are Enlarging Together. It is interesting to observe how the shape of a man's head acts as an index to his nationality—that is, if you know how to consult the index. As a proof of this, notice how long and narrow the average American head is. Hats made in England will not fit such a head at all, the head being so long "fore and aft" as to make the hat too wide at the sides. With the German it is the reverse, if any difference. The head of a true Rhinelander is wide at the temples; if the hat is the exact length, in nine cases out of ten it has to be stretched sideways in order to make it fit. English heads are wide, but not so pronounced as those of the Germans. There is more of a "sliding scale" with them as to the relative length and breadth. The Celtic head is almost invariably round or oval, and without pronounced phrenological "bumps."

For general smoothness of the cranial protuberance, the Italian comes next to the Celts, either of the two besting the classic Greeks in that respect. Odd as it may seem, anatomists declare that the Turkish skull is almost identical in shape, size, etc., with that of the enlightened nineteenth century inhabitant of the United States. Hat dealers, such as makers, furnishers, etc., say that the heads of all nations are gradually growing larger. In 1860 the average hat used was 6 3/4; to-day it is 7 1/4.

CAT AND WEASEL.

Pussy Began the Fight, But Gave It Up as a Bad Job.

Pussy had been watching a wheat stack which yields her toll of a rat per night, and one evening a weasel made some inquiries.

By and by the weasel, in the pursuit of a rat, popped out of a hole under the stack, and pussy instantly pounced upon it, and caught it, happily enough for her, round the neck.

Somewhat dubious, it would appear, as to what manner of rat she had in her mouth, she brought it into the house, half throttled, and began mewing loudly. Presently the weasel revived, and began to move away, pussy instantly following in pursuit; but she had caught a tartar.

The little creature, with wide-open mouth, and uttering a sharp, repeated sound, like "kek, kek, kek," sprang straight at pussy's nose, just missing it, and this she did again and again. Its fury was unbounded, and it was totally fearless.

Sometimes pussy only saved herself by a high jump and had to retreat, the weasel viciously following, once cornering pussy and forcing her to take a high arched spring.

For several minutes the fight went on until pussy was fairly frightened into retreat. The weasel was apparently about one-twentieth of the cat's size, but its viciousness and courage were beyond comparison.

MADE HIS OWN STORY.

A Journalist Insulted a Man, Killed Him and Wrote His Obituary.

A desperate duel was fought one day in August, 1886, by two girls about eighteen years of age—Senoritas Espinoza and Morena—employed at the tobacco factory in Seville, that workshop in front of which the first act of "Carmen" is supposed to eventuate.

Their seconds were men, who furnished each girl with a dirk, after which they were blindfolded and placed in an unlighted room for half an hour and commanded to "fight!" Then the room was locked and the seconds joined the other employes (at dinner, after which they opened the door and found both girls alive, but mortally wounded.

One of the combatants was out in twenty-seven different places, and was bleeding to death, while the other received severe wounds in ten and fatal ones in two places. The seconds attempted to escape, but were arrested and sent to prison for six months. The girls never spoke after the door was opened, but one of them lived in great agony for several hours, says the Chicago Herald.

Near Madrid, December 10, 1890, Capt. Romero and Capt. Murillo fought with sabers, and both were frightfully injured and maimed for life. Subsequently the principals and their seconds (all officers) were arrested, and the former were dismissed from the army and the latter fined. One of the latter, after paying his fine, challenged the magistrate who fined him, who accepted and received three wounds. He again fined the officer and was again challenged, and fought with pistols, killing the officer at the first fire.

It is a fact, although I cannot present names or dates, that a Parisian scribe grossly insulted an army officer in the morning edition of his paper, fought and killed him at noon, and published a graphic description of the whole affair in his evening issue.

Quite as good a little story is that in which, at an aristocratic party in Vienna, a lady dropped a bouquet and a gentleman following in a waltz kicked it to one side so that it would not be stepped upon, and was challenged and wounded by the escort of the lady who dropped the flowers, and was afterward nursed by and married to the lady herself.

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The Dalles is the largest original wool shipping point in America, about 5,000,000 pounds being shipped last year.

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The salmon fisheries are the finest on the Columbia, yielding this year a revenue of thousands of dollars, which will be more than doubled in the near future.

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ITS WEALTH.

It is the richest city of its size on the coast and its money is scattered over and is being used to develop more farming country than is tributary to any other city in Eastern Oregon.

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J. F. FORD, Evangelist,

Of Des Moines, Iowa, writes under date of March 23, 1895:

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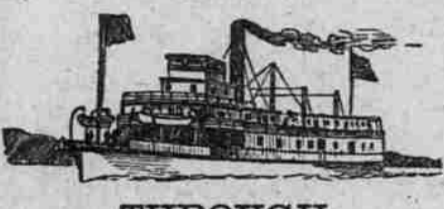
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