Killing Seals

Droves of cattle, sheep or swine on their way to market are common sights; a rarer spectacle is a drove of turkeys, though this is now and then seen at some western shipping point, but it could hardly be imagined that seals could be driven to market. Yet, according to a recent bureau publication, this is the practice in Alaska.

The seals are not found on the coast of the mainland; but they frequent the Pribyloo Islands in the Behring sea. The seals caught here are not like those of Labrador, which are taken more for their oil than for their skins, but are the genuine fur seal, whose soft, warm coats eventually enfold the forms of society belles. The islands are cold, bleak desolate places, bare of timber, and in the summer time almost always overflowing with thick fogs or clouds shutting out the rays of the sun, but yet they are pleasant to the seals who like a cool temperature. The seals begin to appear at the islands in May, the first comers being invariably bulls. They select for themselves plots of ground on the bench, and as later arrivals attempt to dispossess them, desperate combats take place. They fight entirely with their mouths, and while their bodies writhe with exertion and rage, their heads dart out and back with surprising swiftness. Their teeth tear out deep gutters in one another's sides, the blood streams down, and a furious roaring mixed with whistling sounds, never ceases while the battle lasts. These fights are always between males, and ends as soon as one gives up the coveted position to the other. Last May, one old bull fought between forty and fifty battles, and when the fighting season was over he lorded it proudly over his family of fifteen or twenty females, although one of his eyes had been gonged out and his front was covered with gashes. When the males take up their positions they must remain on guard day and night, so that they have no opportunity to go after food until the end of the season, in the early part of August. Hence they fast for three months or more. When they come up from the sea they are so fat that the blubber is packed about their shoulders in unsightly masses. At the end of the season they are lean, limp, abject and spiritless, hardly able to crawl back into the sea.

The cows or female seals generally make their appearance about the middle of June. The bulls then have their last desperate fights, and those who remain in possession of eligible portions of the beach monopolize the society of the females. As a result of this arrangement about two-thirds of the youthful male seals are cut off from female companionship. These seals are known as the bachelors and herd together by thousands away from the breeding grounds, sometimes miles distant. These seals are the ones captured for their furs, and they are actually driven along over the ground to the slaughter fields. The Aleuts employed by the company which has a lease of the seal fisheries slip in between the dozing seals and the water. The first impulse of the seals when they see men in the way they turn and scramble up the land. The Aleuts follow keeping the seals together and driving them ahead as if it were a herd of swine they were directing. Singular as it may seem in view of the unwieldliness of the seal when on land, it is asserted when hard pressed, a seal can lope along as fast as a man can run, but it is soon exhausted and falls down helplessly Ordinarily a drove of seals can travel at the rate of half a mile an hour. Three or four men can manage as many thousand seals. There are frequent halts to allow the seals to rest. The panting animals fan themselves with their hind flippers, and when they have gotten their wind again, a shout and the clatter of bones from the Aleuts starts the herd on its shambling, shuffling way again. The young males are as docile as sheep; an old bull will fight sooner than be driven, and if such a one is caught in a herd he is allowed to drop behind, as his fur is of little or no value.

The author of this report, Mr. Henry W. Elliot, is a naturalist attached to the Smithsonian institution, and writes from personal observation. He thinks that if only the bachelor seals are hunted and the breeding places are not disturbed, the seal lands of Alaska will remain a regular source of support to the fur trade. But if the breeding grounds are hunted, the seal will be exterminated or driven away. Many years ago the shores of Patagonia and the Antarctic islands swarmed with millions of fur seals, and now they have become rare animals where once they abounded.

How the Singer's Cold Was Cured.

In the reign of Frederick II, of Prussia there was at the Berlin theatre a great cantatrice who devoted a great portion of her time to colds and fits of hysterics. For the merest trifle she would have the performance postponed and the public sent away disappointed, and one night when the great king himself was already in his box, the stage manager advanced to the footlights and spoke thus: "Ladies and gentlemen, the management is grieved to have to announce that our prima donna is hoarse, and that there will be no performance this evening." Thereupon Frederick the Great turned to his aide-de-camp, gave him an order, and then leaning toward the orchestra, made a sign to have the musicians to remain in their places. A quarter of an hour elapsed, during which the public were in a state of painful suspense. The certain then rose and the stage manager advanced to the footlights once more and said: "Ladies and gentlemen, I am happy to inform you that our prima donna has suddenly recovered from her cold, and will have the honor of appearing before you." Thereupon the prima donna entered. She was very pale, but she never sang better. The king had cured her instantly, and here is his majesty's recpie for the benefit of all whom it may concern. The cantatrice was sitting cosily by her fireside, no more hoarse than you or we, and exulting over the trick she had played her manager, when suddenly the door of her boudoir was thrown violently open, and officer, followed by four dragoons, entered.

"Mademoiselle," said the officer, "the King, my royal master has sent me to inquire after your precious health."

"I am very hoarse."

"His Majesty knows it, and has ordered me to take you to the infimary of the military hospital, where you will get well in a few days.

The actress grew pale. "It is a jest," she murmured.

"An officer of the King never jests."

The Lieutenant made a sign to his men, who lifted the artist with the delicate attentions that distinguish dragoons and carried her down to a coach waiting below. They then mounted their horses.

"To the hospital!" cried the officer, and off they went.

"Wait a little!" cried the cantatrice, after a few minutes. "I think I am better."

"The King desires that you should be perfectly cured, and that you should sing this very evening."

"I will try," murmured the prisoner.

"To the opera house!" commanded the Lieutenant.

The cantatrice dressed in haste, and then as she was about to appear on the stage she said to her jailer:

"Sir, since the King demands it, I am going to sing, but Heaven only knows how!"

"You will sing like the great artist you are."

"I shall sing like an artist that is hoarse."

"I don't think so."

"And why?"

"Because I am going to place a dragoon at each wing of the stage, and at the first false note the troopers will sieze you and carry you off to the hospital."

The cold was then thoroubly cured and the prima dona sang divinely.

A Tramp's Philosophy.

In the hip pocket of an old vagrant was a memorandum book full of his own writing with a pencil, and some of his philosophy is good enough to be preserved. His first paragraph reads:

"Drinking bad whisky because it is offered free is like getting in the way of bullets purchased by an enemy."

A second reads:

"Honesty is the best policy, but some folks are satisfied with the second best. It is hard to be honest on an empty stomach."

A third says:

"A dry plank under a rain-proof shed is better than a feather bed in jail, and one isn't annoyed by the jailer bringing in a square breakfast."

A fourth says:

"Pay as you go. If you haven't anything to pay with, don't go. If you are forced to go, record every indebteaness and let your heirs settle the bill."

The fifth explains:

"We should have charity for all. When winter winds blow cold and drear, we vags should pity the poor fellows in India who are having red-hot weather."

A sixth recorded:

"Politeness costs nothing, but it is not expected that you will wake a man up at midnight to ask permission to go through his hen house. It is far more courteous to let him enjoy his needed repose."

The seventh and last we noted down as follows:

"When you pick up an apple core do not find fault because it is not the apple itself, but be satisfied with the grade of descent. Do not be ashamed of your occupation. We cannot all be lords, nor can we all be vagrants. As I connot be a lord, I shall not lament at being a vagrant. Be truthful and outspoken—that is, tell them you are a Chicago fire sufferer. Keep seasonable hours, or some other vag will get your plank first. Be hopeful, cheerful and good-natured. Growling won't cure a sore heel."

Swedish Railways.

Of Swedish railways I was told that some are managed by the state, while others, like our own, are private undertakings for the benefit of share holders. In either case the motto "slow and sure" seems that adopted by the management. The trains are always slow, and generally sure to be behind at the terminus. In either case moreover, the arrangement of the trains seems specially adapted to the public inconvenience. The time-tables appear to be constructed on the plan of discomforting the traveler as much as it is possible, and giving him the fullest chance to exercise his patience. As a rule he has the option of a couple of trains a day, and must be thankful for the privilege. He may take, say an express, which starts at five A. M., to carry him half way, with the chance of his just missing a train that may convey him the remainder of his journey; or he way elect to wait till somewhat later in the day, when a through train is provided, which will go at a snail's pace, and land him at his destination about midnight. If he wants to catch a boat, which nominally plies in conjunction with the railroad, his fate may be worse, and a day or two pass ere the transit be completed. Seen simply on the way and studied in the time-tables, the journey may be facile and feasible enough, but when put in execution the plans which have been formed with an infinitude of trouble may prove of little profit. Obstacles start up at every stage along the route. Trains are so delayed that they fail to fit in as announced, a rattle-trap vehicle breaks down between the hotel and the boat; or some ingenious misprint is discovered when too late, which is fatal to the hope of accomplishing the journey within the time appointed. Grumblers who growl over the bewilderments of Bradshaw, should set themselves the task of working out the problem of a short cross-country trip by the figures which are furnished in a Swedish time-table; the travelers who complain when the tidal train from Paris is some five minutes late should learn to exercise their patience by a little tour in Sweden.

Thinning Fruit.

Thinning fruit is one of the practices which will repay the culturist for the time and labor expended in the operation. The more valuable the fruit, the better it pays to thin it while young. Peaches and pears, being more valuable than apples, better repay the cost of thinning. The best varieties of apples, however, will well repay the expense in curred. The fruit should be thinned soon after it sets. The sooner the young fruit is removed, the less of the energies of the tree will be consumed in its useless growth, and the larger and finer will be the development of the fruit that remains. The practice of thinning fruit is commended by some of the best American fruit culturists, such as J. J. Thomas, President Wilder and many others. The cost of thinning is not so great as one might imagine it would be, and is trivial in comparison with the increased price obtained. Hon. A. S. Dyckman of South Haven, Mich., it is said, estimates that the cost of thinning his peaches does not exceed 5 cents per basket of those remaining. From one of his trees he removed 10,000 peaches and the ripened crop amounted to fifteen baskets. Mr. George Parmelee, of Grand Traverse county, is said to have sold peaches one year from trees where the fruit had been thinned, for $2.50 per basket, while the fruit which had not been thinned sold only for $1.25. The advantage gained in thinning pears is equally great.

The flowing gowns for little girls are very pretty made in flowered surahs or cambrics, with a long fichu of muslin and lace brought under the arms like a cut away jacket, and the ends tied in the huge bow at the back.

One cannot always convert common sense into ten dollar bills.

The Code fully Explained.

"My dear," said Mrs. Spoopendyke, examining the baby's feet critically to see if they were both alike, "my dear, I see that one of the strikers, or capital, has been hurt; do you know the facts about it?"

"How hurt? what did it say?" asked Mr. Spoopendyke, turning from th glass and strapping his razor.

"I don't remember exactly, but he went down to a slaughterhouse to get something for his family and somebody shot him in the legs."

"That's the way it happened was it?" demanded Mr. Spoopendyke, grinning through his lather. "He didn't go to his family for a pair of legs and somebody shot him in the slaugbterhouse, did he? Nor he didn't go down to his legs for a slaughterhouse, and somebody shot him in the family! That wasn't the way it read, was it?"

"No-o-o, I think not," replied Mrs. Spoopendyke, dubiously, "I'm sure it was something about a slaughterhouse and legs. Do you know how it happened?"

"Yes, I know how it happened," mocked Mr. Spoopendyke, pegging away at his visage with the razor, "if I hadn't found out away from home I'd always been puzzled about it, though. Two gentlemen fought a duel, and one got shot. That's all there is in it."

"I knew there'd be some trouble as soon as I read about those strikes," confidently continued Mrs. Spoopendyke.

"What's the strike to do with it?" vociferated Mr. Spoopendyke. "Think he struck for another shot? Got a notion he struck for more legs, haven't ye? It would have been a bad idea, that," soliloquized Mr. Spoopendyke, rather impressed with the combined originality and utility of that class of strike.

"Did he get shot in both legs?" queried Mrs. Spoopendyke. It must have been a cannon ball, or else he held his legs in front of each other."

"That's the way he did it," moaned Mr. Spoopendyke. "They always do that. When they are fighting a duel they sit down like a tailor or a Turk. What d'ye think they fight with, forts? Got some kind of a vague idea that they fight with a line of battle ships? Who said anything about cannon balls? Pistols, I tell ye! They fought with pistols, and one of them hit the other! Roll that information around in your ten acre intelligence!"

"Certainly," faltered Mrs. Spoopendyke. "But tell me, dear, why should one man shoot another for going to the slaughter house?"

"Holy herring!" ejaculated Mr. Spoopendyke. "He went there to get shot. It was agreed up. The man who shot him had reflected on his honor and he went there to satisfy it."

"And did it satisfy his honor to shoot him in the legs?" asked Mr. Spoopendyke.

"That was as near as I could get to it. I tell you that when a man fights a duel he wipes out an insult, when he gets shot in the legs or the ear. It makes no difference."

"I should think it would," murmured Mrs. Spoopendyke. "It would to me. So his honor is all right now, is it?"

"Of course it is," replied Mr. Spoopendyke, wiping his face. "Suppose you can reason on the subject without any further information from me?"

"I guess so," ruminated Mrs. Spoopendyke. "As I understand it, if a man's honor is hurt all he's got to do is to get shot in the legs, though I don't see why he didn't shoot himself, unless, it was that he couldn't reach around."

"That's just the reason!" roared Mr. Spoopendyke. "He shot at himself in the looking-glass all the morning, and couldn't make it work, so he hired a man to do it for him. It took your shot tower intellect to see into it! What you want now is a squint in one eye and some dod gasted friends to interfere to be a revised edition of the measly code! If you only had somebody to chalk off six paces on you and a squad of police with a bench warrant, you be a regular Bladensburg! I'm going out to fight a duel and get shot! Think you'd understand it then? If I had a bullet through both legs would you want any more information?"

"No, dear," sighed Mrs. Spoopendyke, and as her husband tossed his shaving brush into the baby's crib and slammed out the door, she began to think that a man shouldn't keep his honor in his legs if they couldn't take care of it.—[Brooklyn Eagle.

MARTHA WASHINGTON.— Immediately after the death of George Washington, at Mount Vernon, the room which he and Mrs. Washington so long occupied—the most spacious of the second-story apartments, opening upon a varanda, or balcony, and commanding a fine view of the surrounding country—was closed and carefully guarded for many months, no one being allowed to enter. In the mean time his wife selected a much smaller room immediately overhead, in what might be called the attic, but which gave her an excellent view of the Potomac and the tomb of her husband. Here Martha Washington remained in almost perfect seclusion until her death, about eighteen months after his demise, no one being admitted to her presence there except one attendant and a favorite cat, a small hole for the entrance and egress of which was made in the single door of the apartment, and which is now pointed out to visitors as a special object of interest.

The Circus is Coming.

Save your money boys for the Circus is coming sure. It is Sherman's Wonderful Educated Horses and Select Family Circus. Look well at the bills and see that they say "Sherman's Circus." It is the only genuine Circus on the coast. They have a blue and white striped canvas and a fine band wagon with six large bay horses attached with the band in full uniform. It is the only show on the coast with Riders both male and female, together with the finest array of Acrobats, Gymnasts and Athletes in the world. Two funny clowns and the most wonderful educated horses in the world, Tommy Barney and Jack, doing over 150 distinct tricks. Jack stands on a Tableau Car, takes the lines in his mouth and drives his team through the streets. Wait for them boys, save your money for the Big Show. Watch the Portland papers and see what they say about them. They play there before coming here and Mr. Van Horne the agent says they are coming sure. The papers throughout California and Southern Oregon where the show has performed are wild in its praise, and those who have seen it pronounce Sherman's Circus the Boss of the road. The Circus has got the best reputation of any that ever visited this section and will be well patronized.

The manner in which the sateens are made up with many flounces, trailers and panier draperies, much shiring, and two materials, one plain, the other figured, makes them as dressy and effective as silk toilets. They are only a trifle less expensive.

Sons of Temperance.

This is the oldest of all the temperance "orders" in this country and is deemed by many who have joined them all the very best. Ladies are now admitted to full membership and a valuable insurance feature has been added which is known as the cheapest insurance in the world because of the certain healthfulness of temperance people over all others. A movement is now on foot to revive this excellent order in Oregon and Washington territory. A good Division is now in working order in Portland and there are encouraging prospects elsewhere. It is greatly desired that Divisions be started in every town. Any information on this subject may be obtained by addressing H. M. Clinton, Portland, Oregon. The order is having a new impetus in the eastern states and in California. Let us start it up with new life in this part of the country.

The Calendar Minstrels.

The next attraction at New Market Theatre in Portland will be Calendar's famous Minstrels which will open July 3d with an immense company. The agent, Mr. Chas. R. Vacon, informs us that the company will make an interior trip at the conclusion of their Portland engagement and will play at Oregon City on the 10th inst., Salem the 11th, Eugene City the 12th, Albany the 12th, Corvallis the 13th, Independence the 15th, Vancouver the 17th, Dayton, W. T., the 18th, Walla Walla the 20th and 21st, The Dalles the 22d, New Tacoma the 24th, Seattle the 25th and 26th, Victoria the 27th, 28th and 29th.

Attention is invited to the advertisement of Dr. Keck, which appears in another column. The doctor has been a resident of Portland for nearly five years. His offices and labaratory are extensive, comprising all the rooms of A B C D and E. Strowbridge's building, northwest corner of First and Alder streets, one of the most magnificent structures as well as central locations in the city.

Send $1.00 to W. D. Palmer, Portland, for one year's subscription to the Pacific Overseer, the great semi-monthly A. O. U. W. paper.

Any book in the Seaside or Franklyn Square Library sent on receipt of price by the N. P. News Co., 147½ First street, Portland. Dealers in all kinds of books and stationery.

TURKISH RUGS.—Send to John B. Garrison 167 Third street Portland, for catalogues of designs.

SHEET MUSI[illegible] stock on the northwest coast, orders filled promptly. Send stamp for catalogue and journal, Wiley B. Allen 153 Third street, Portland.

Frank G. Abell, the Portland photographer and winner of the gold medal, returned by the last steamer from the East, where he has been to procure new improvements and novelties in his art. He brings a large number of accessories and will more than ever lead the profession in Portland. Call and see him when you go to the city.

George Kaine and Lester Howard are still drawing crowded houses at the Elite theater in Portland. Kitty and Carrie Armstrong in their specialties are immense, and the whole company is strong and talented.

Garrison repairs all kinds of sewing machine

Explained at foot of this column.

Portland Business Directory!

SHOW CASE FACTORY.

DIXON, BERNSTEIN & CO.—Cor. Front and Stark, Portland, manufacturers of all kinds of show cases. Send for catalogue.

MUSICAL.

THE MUSICAL PASTIME.—A monthly journal of music (both vocal and instrumental,) sent to any address for 50cts per year. Address Wiley B. Allen, publisher and music dealer, 153 Third street, Portland, Oregon. Catalogue free.

SURVEYORS.

W. B. MAYRE.—Civil Engineer, Contractor and surveyors. Office—29 Stark street, Union Block, Portland, Or., with Ferry & White, Real Estate Agents. Surveying done in any part of Oregon or Washington

BAKERIES.

EMPIRE BAKERY.—42 Washington. Voss & Fuhr, Props. Manufacturers of Pilot bread, Soda. Picnic, Butter, Boston, Sugar and Shoe Fly crackers. Orders from the trade solicited and promptly attended to.

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W. G. JENNE & CO.—109 Front street near Washington. Ores. metals, mineral waters, coals, etc., carefully analyzed. Assays for gold and silver $3.; other metals from $3. to $5. Gold dust bought and bars made. Orders by mail carefully attended to.

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D. P. KENNEDY,—Attorney and Counsellor at Law Room 5 Dekum's building. Legal business pertaining to Letters Patent for inventions, before the Patent Office or in the Courts, a specialty.

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Consulting physician and surgeon Dr. Philip Harvey, Prof. of diseases of women and children in the medical department Willamette University.

Also Dr. J. M. F. Browne, Prof. of Physiology med dep't. Willamette University.

For any amount of references and circular, address

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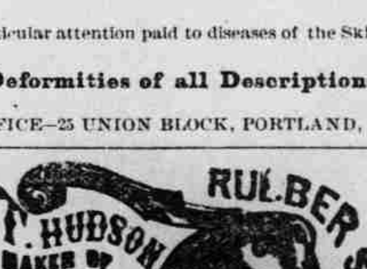

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We cordially invite all wanting anything in our line to come and see us, and if you cannot come, send for our Price List and Catalogue.

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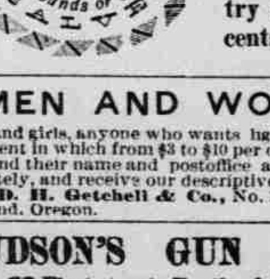

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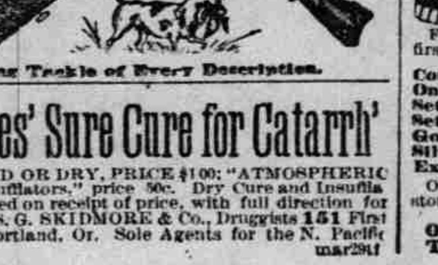

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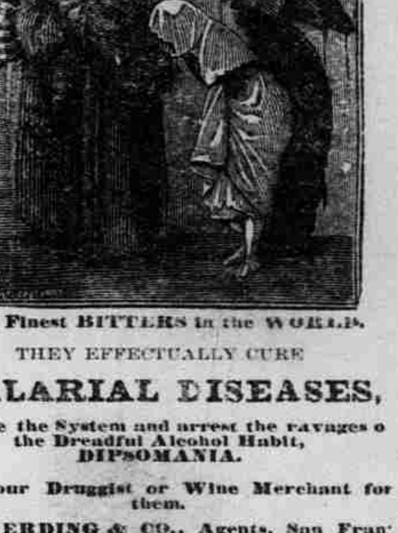

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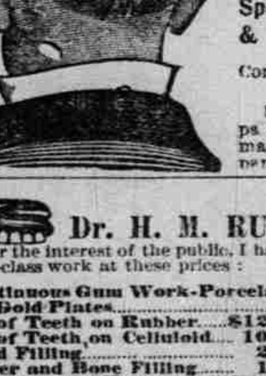

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