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KING'S WAR ROBE ON VIEW

At the Museum in New York City
You May See the Feathers
Kamehameha III. Wore.

As an example of the past royalty of Hawaiian kings, a remarkable feathered war robe, once the property of Kamehameha III., and said to be the equal in value of diamond ornaments in several of the European regalia, is displayed in the hall of South Sea Islands at the American Museum of Natural History. This emblem of Hawaiian royalty was presented by the king of the islands to Commodore Lawrence Kearney, U. S. N., in 1843. It is a war cape with a history and, according to Dr. Brigham, an authority on Hawaiian feather work, a similar cloak, completed in the reign of one of the kings of the islands, was in process of fabrication through eight previous eras.

The Kamehameha royal cape is made of innumerable feathers of the Ili and Oo birds, which were hunted in the ravines and wooded slopes of the mountains of Hawaii for the decoration of these robes of rank. The royal cape, which is crescent-shaped, consists entirely of small red and yellow feathers, which are interwoven upon a fiber network made from the bark of the Olona plant. Contrary to the custom of the Peruvians, who first made the feathers fast to a cord and then knotted the cord to a cloth, the Hawaiians attached the feathers separately to the netting.

Although a fortune in labor is represented, the feathered war robe only weighs six pounds. It was presented to the museum by George S. Bowdoin, and is mounted flat between two plates of glass, as is another specimen, which is said to have been used by a former owner as a sleigh robe, in ignorance of its great value.

Among the noted collections containing specimens of this craft are those at Windsor castle, which includes examples given by Queen Victoria, and Lord Brassy's, whose trophies include a rope brought to England by Captain Cook. In the archives of the Hawaiian islands a history of each cloak made has been inscribed. The capes are sometimes worn at ceremonials in the islands to denote the rank of the wearer.

Baseball Language.

Baseball language, like West Point French, is something different. Like all successful literature, it embodies the attempt of the intellect to surmount obstacles. In poetry the obstacle is rhyme and rhythm; in drama it is the "unities," the principle of suspended interest, the need to tell a complete story in less than three hours. In baseball writing the obstacle is the fact that there are only two things in the game, batting and fielding; that in each of the two big leagues there are about 150 games to be reported, one very like another, and that the sapience of "fandom" is such that its members by scanning the scoring tables can visualize a game as completely as the broker can visualize a scene on 'change from his ticker.

The problem of the sporting column is to tell the reader something he cannot get from the score, and so to report day after day for six months the interplay of batting and fielding, that one day's story shall be unlike another's. Hence the flights of fancy which turn a ball into a "pill," a pitcher's arm into a "salary whip" and his "fast one" into his "smoke." Hence the conception of an emergency pitcher as at once "the wrecking crew" and old "Doc Crandall."

Bride's Love of a Clay Pipe.
Rather than give up smoking her cherished clay pipe an Irish bride named Johanna Wood has left the workhouse at Faversham, Kent. Her husband, who was also an inmate of the workhouse, has left with her.

With a careless disregard of the fact that they were both practically destitute, the man and the woman, whose ages are respectively sixty-two and forty-nine, were married on December 11. The honeymoon was spent at the workhouse.

"Mrs. Wood," stated one of the workhouse officials yesterday, "seemed to find her greatest source of pleasure in tobacco. She smoked a clay pipe and would not have parted with it for anything. On being taxed with smoking in the workhouse she said: 'I cannot do without my pipe; I have smoked since I was a little girl.' She was told that she must either give up smoking or leave the workhouse. She elected to take the latter course and left with her husband."—London Daily Mail.

Too Much.

Willis—What was the cause of his death?
Gillis—The doctors said it was an excess of pure joy. He had just shaved himself with a razor that made his face feel like the advertisement, put on a suit of clothes that made him look like the advertisement and was smoking a brand of tobacco that smoked like the advertisement—Satire.

Sounds Plausible.

"Why do you suppose our ancestors had those atrocious daggerreotypes taken?"
"I suppose to prove that they might have been worse looking than they really were."

A Chipper Chopper.

Customer—I want to order my wife a round.
Butcher—So do I mine, sir; but she orders me around.

WASHINGTON GOSSIP

Discover Error On Cannon Trophy



WASHINGTON.—Like a jaunty little watchdog at the right of the God of War there stands at one of the entrances to the war department a trim little cannon. It is a pigmy among the giant trophies of mighty guns that surround the building, but it has some history of its own.

It was the first cannon captured by the Americans from the British in the Revolutionary war, though it has not been so officially placed upon the records. It was captured by the great patriot-traitor general, Benedict Arnold.

It has, in a dozen years been passed by more army and navy officers and other notables of high mark and distinction than any gun in the United States. Yet in all this time that little gun has borne a marked error of history that it flaunted boldly on a large name plate—an error so plain

that it should have been detected immediately by any passing high school cadet.

The gun is a bronze six-pounder, built in Holland in 1747 for King George of England. It is a little under six feet long and is about three and a half inches in caliber.

Deeply cut along the barrel near the muzzle end is the following: "Surrendered by the Capitulation of St. Johns, 1775." But on a large metal plate sunk in the national shield, on which the gun is mounted, is this conflicting statement: "Revolutionary Trophy; Surrendered at Yorktown, 1775."

Thus the little gun appears to have been captured twice—and, further, it would appear to have been captured at Yorktown six years before there was any fighting at that point. The error remained for 12 years undetected.

Capt. U. S. Grant, third superintendent of the building, has corrected the error at last.

"Beyond doubt," said Captain Grant, "the gun was captured on some of the adventurous expeditions made by the early revolutionists in 1775."

"Grizzly" Danced By Capital Society

IN SPITE of the intensely cold winter weather the social season in Washington was at its height New Year's week, which was an exceptionally gay one, beginning and ending with a dance, the Charity ball Monday and the second hop of the season at the navy yard.

Among the many other important functions of the week were the diplomatic reception at the White House on Tuesday night, which went down in the social annals of the national capital as one of the most resplendent ever held there.

A remarkable assemblage of social lights from other cities graced the reception at the White House Tuesday, and conspicuous among them was the famous Mrs. Jack Gardner of Boston.

Mrs. Hugh Roland French created something of a sensation that evening in the first "harem skirt" to appear at a social function in Washington. Hitherto this somewhat startling innovation in feminine attire has been restricted to the stage.

Mrs. French, who is the wife of Captain French of the British army, was formerly Miss Ida Wynne, daughter of the former American consul general at London.

Her gown on this occasion was of black velvet and white lace, and presented no unusual feature for customary evening attire until the wearer moved about. Then it showed at each



step the division of the skirt at the bottom, but it must be admitted in a much less revealing manner than has been advertised for the fashion.

It seems the new-style dances of the season, the "Turkey Trot," the "Grizzly Bear" and the like have come to stay in Washington, despite the ban which has been placed upon them by some of the more conservative.

After the dances at the Barracks and Fort Myer a week or so ago, some of the mothers of debutantes of this year and last, banded themselves together for the purpose of eliminating these dances from the program of any balls which their daughters were to attend in the future, but so far their campaign has apparently been of no avail. Certainly the "Grizzly," the "Turkey" and the "Spanish Boston" were much in evidence this week. The debutante who can boast these accomplishments, has no lack of partners.

The president and Mrs. Taft occupied the box set aside for them at the ball Monday evening for more than an hour.

New Ptarmigan Species Discovered



WHILE on an expedition for the Smithsonian Institution in the Aleutian Islands for the purpose of gathering material for the continuation of the "Life History of North American Birds," A. C. Bent discovered a subspecies of ptarmigan, to be known as the Tanaga ptarmigan. The ptarmigan belong to the same general group with the domestic fowl. They are circumpolar in distribution, but are found principally in North America, and are represented by some 15 known species and subspecies.

A striking seasonal change of plumage which is perhaps more pronounced than that exhibited by any other birds, takes place among the ptarmigan. In most species there are three, or even four, complete changes of plumage; that of winter being

chiefly pure white, while in other seasons it varies to brown, buff, gray or black. Living as these birds do in the arctic regions and in rugged snow-capped mountains, the changes in plumage affords efficient protection from their many enemies, since they harmonize in color with their surroundings.

The new subspecies, described by Mr. Bent, was found on Tanaga Island, one of the Aleutian chain, Alaska, and takes its common name from that place, although scientifically it is named after Dr. Leonard C. Sanford, and will be known as lagopus sanfordi. Ptarmigan were particularly tame and abundant on Tanaga Island, and good series of the birds and nests were collected for the National museum. As the collecting was done in June, most of the specimens secured were in summer plumage, which in general tone is a light grayish buff, paler on the throat, chest, rump and upper tail coverts.

The pamphlet (publication No. 2,066 of the Smithsonian miscellaneous collections) describing this bird is quite technical and intended primarily for ornithologists and zoologists.

Greedy Hawk Damages Big Clock

THE hawk whose frequent excursions from his aerial in Smithsonian park to the relay station for carrier pigeons in the postoffice tower have furnished him prey and food in the winter season of scarcity, has tried to stop the post office clock.

Perhaps finding that the hour of his depredations was established, and the clock watched by his anticipated victims, so that they might evade his sudden swooping down upon them, he has thrown the plucked corpse of a pigeon which had satisfied his appetite into the back of the dial of the timepiece.

Had the body lodged between the hands, the perfectly balanced mechanism must have stopped. The body appears to have stuck on the pin, in the very center of the dial, which holds the hands in place and operates their movement round the face of the clock.

To remove the corpse from the clock offers a big difficulty to the keepers of the building. It will probably be necessary to remove one of the glass panels in the clock dial, to get at the intruding substance, unless



the movement of the hands finally dislodges it. This explains the antics of the clock recently.

Severe cold and the depredations of the hawk have brought death to many pigeons who have sought shelter in the high tower. Bodies of four pigeons were found in the snow when it was recently removed from the slanting glass roof over the court of the big building.

Winging their flight for the refuge promised by the tower in a half frozen condition, it is probable that the pigeons struck their heads against the stone upright of the tower, were stunned by the impact and fell helplessly to the roof below, freezing to death before they could recover the power to move.

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From Dallas to Independence

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