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ENGLAND'S ROCK DWELLERS.

Hiding Place of Ancient Highwaymen Occupied by an Old Woman.
There are perhaps many people here who don't know that England has cliff or cave dwellers, says the Philadelphia Inquirer. It is so, nevertheless, and they are the most ancient houses in England to-day. These dwellings are at Kinver, which, by the way, is from the old English words, Keum Vaur, which signifies a great ridge. The ridge referred to overlooks the valley of Stour and rises to the height of 540 feet. The rock is of sandstone and along it the rock dwellings have been hewn out. The only rock houses at present inhabited are situated in the huge isolated boulder at the end of Kinver Edge, known as Holy Austin rock.

The whole of this vast natural fortress is literally honeycombed with rock dwellings, which have been constructed at three different altitudes. The method of construction has been to hew out the rooms and cut small apertures in the rock face for windows, in which the modern dwellers have inserted glass. The chimneys are particularly curious structures, being formed of a groove cut in the face of the rock, supported with brickwork.

Nearly rock has been so long uninhabited that all traces of the blackwork have disappeared.

This cave is known locally as Meg-a-Fox hole and it is credited with having been in the early part of the last century the stronghold and hiding place of a notorious band of highwaymen. The oldest inhabitant of Holy Austin rock is the venerable Mrs. Chase, who dwells in one of the houses on the first floor, as it might be termed, and dispenses tea and light refreshments to visitors. Upon the third or top story is to be seen the most curious stable in England, perched high up in the rock, the only approach being by a narrow pathway running round the face of the rock itself. The animal who occupies this unique stable is quite a local celebrity, as he makes a weekly journey into Stourbridge to bring out supplies to the rock dwellers. This part of the rock is honeycombed through from side to side.

CLIMBING A CLIFF.

Maj. John W. Powell, whose right arm was shot off during the Civil War, undertook and brought to a successful issue one of the most daring feats of modern times. While making his explorations of the canons of the Colorado River in 1869, says the author of "The Masters of Fate," he was called upon to face great dangers and trials. His own account of his explorations gives some idea of the difficulties encountered.

I have a barometer on my back, which rather impedes my climbing. The walls of the fissure are of smooth limestone, offering neither foot nor handhold, so I support myself by pressing my back against one wall and my knees against the other, and in this way lift my body, in a shuffling manner, a few feet at a time. Until I have, perhaps, made twenty-five feet of the distance, when the crevice widens a little, and I cannot press my knees against the rocks in front with sufficient power to give me support in lifting my body, and I try to go back. This I cannot do without falling. So I struggle along sideways, farther into the crevice, where it narrows.

I find I can get up no farther, and cannot get back, for I dare not let go with my hand, and cannot reach foot-hold below. I call to Bradley for help; he cannot reach me. Then he looks round for some stick or limb of a tree, but finds none. The moment is critical. Standing on my toes, my muscles begin to tremble. If I lose my hold I shall fall to the bottom, and then perhaps roll over the bench, and tumble still farther down the cliff.

At this instant it occurs to Bradley to take off his trousers, which he does, and swings them down to me. I hug close to the rock, let go with my hand, seize the dangling legs, and with his assistance I am enabled to get to the top.

Daring Yankee Engineers.
The operations of Yankee engineers are a source of constant wonder and bewilderment to all foreigners. The daring way in which the Americans blow up mountains that come in their way, or string bridges over seemingly impassable canyons almost takes their breath away. On one job in South America a contractor used about \$80,000 worth of powder in blasting. He employed 8,000 men and completed a piece of work in less than three months that local authorities said could not be done inside of ten years. He put 3,000 kegs of powder in one blast, and when the shot went off it sent over 700 trainloads of rock down a cliff into the river. There was such a mass of debris that it raised the water of the stream 55 feet in less than twenty minutes. The channel had to be blasted out to let the water through. The force of this immense charge was so great that it sent huge boulders the size of box cars sailing over the hill like a flock of buzzards flying over a barn.

Handicapped.
"Too bad about Keene. There's a fund of good humorous stuff in the antics of the would-be society people in his new neighborhood."
"Well, he's just the fellow to take advantage of that for his funny sketches."
"Yes, but his wife is trying to get into society there."—Catholic Standard and Times.

A-Plenty.
Spain's king, when the new little babe wakes him up.
At midnight all misty and dim, Should tell him he'll do to him if he ain't good.
What the United States did to him.
—Houston Post.

The tramp eats to live; in fact, that is about all he is willing to do for the privilege.
Our idea of a charming woman is one who is ignorant of her charms.



JOLLY JOKER

She (looking away off)—How clear the horizon is! He—Yes; I just swept it with my eye.—Boston Transcript.

"Promise me that you'll never marry again when I'm dead." "Or that, my soul, you may be perfectly sure."—Kurier.

"Say, Dick, what is the new fad they call phonetic spelling?" "It's the kind, Jim, they used to fog you and I at school for using."—Baltimore American.

"What did old Gruff say when you told him you would like him to find you an opening in his office?" "He showed me the door."—Baltimore American.

Patience—When you're ill, doctor, do you treat yourself? "No, I call in one of my colleagues." "Then can't I call in one of them—the one that cured you?"—Kurier.

Tommy—Pa, what is the Isthmus of Panama, Tommy? Pa—The Isthmus of Panama, Tommy, is a narrow strip of land connecting Central America and the United States Territory.—Ram's Horn.

Mrs. Highbridge—Do you find it more economical to do your own cooking? Mrs. Burnham—Much more. I find my husband does not eat half so much as when we had a cook.—Scraps.

Timkins—I hate that fellow Plantem. He is always talking shop. Simpkins—Plantem, the undertaker? Timkins—Yes. Every time I meet him he asks after my health.—Detroit Tribune.

"John's done right well up in the city, after all." "Do tell." "Yes; I've just heard that he's recovered from an appendicitis, two or three times, one heart failure and three business ones."—Atlanta Constitution.

"How much postage will this require?" asked the young author. "It is one of my manuscripts." "Two cents on ounce," answered the post-office clerk. "That's first-class matter." "Oh, thank you."—Judge.

Laundryman—I regret to tell you, sir, that one of your shirts is lost. Customer—But here, I have just paid you 12 cents for doing it up. Laundryman—Quite right, sir; we laundered it before we lost it.—Harpers Weekly.

"Things are not as they used to be," said the man of melancholy reminiscences. "No," answered Mr. Dustin Star regretfully. "The times was when great wealth would get a man out of trouble. Now it gets him into it."—Washington Star.

"This is a queer world," sighed Mr. Splurge. "While I was wondering where I was going to get the money to pay the rent this month, I happened in the kitchen and heard the washerwoman say she'd just sold down \$1,000 on a new house."—Dun's.

Doctor—What? You'd go with sleeplessness? Eat something before going to bed. Patient—Why, doctor, you once told me never to eat anything before going to bed. (With dignity)—Pooh, pooh! That was last January. Science has made enormous strides since then.

"You'd make a pretty good clerk," said the employer, sarcastically. "If you only had a little more common sense." "Indeed!" replied the clerk.

"But did it ever occur to you that if I had a little more common sense I wouldn't be a clerk at all?"—London Tit-Bits.

Housekeeper—I hear your brother, who died in California, left you \$1,000. Dinah. That will be a great help to begin to tremble. If I lose my hold I shall fall to the bottom, and then perhaps roll over the bench, and tumble still farther down the cliff.

Lawyer—(examining witness)—Do you know the man who formerly owned this gun? Witness—Yes, sir. Lawyer—Is he in the courtroom? Witness—No, sir. Lawyer—Where is he? Witness—I don't know. Lawyer—When and where did you see him last? Witness—Six months ago at his funeral.

"Chicago News."
"Well," said he, anxious to patch up their quarrel of yesterday, "aren't you curious to know what's in this package?" "Not very," replied the still belligerent wife, indifferently. "Well, it's something for the one I love best in all the world." "All I suppose it's those suspenders you said you needed."

The Catholic Standard and Times.
The big touring car just whizzed by with a roar like a gigantic rocket, and Pat and Mike turned to watch it disappear in a cloud of dust. "Think chug wagon must cost a hape av cash," said Mike. "The rich is fairly burnin' money." "An' he's the smell av it," sniffed Pat. "It must be that taint money we do be hearin' so much about."—Success Magazine.

They Didn't Talk.
That society newspaper published some very flattering remarks about me," began Miss Tivogee.
"Yes," replied her best friend; "but it was horrid of the editor to go and spoil it the way he did."
"Spoil it, indeed! Why, he said I was a beautiful belle of the younger set and—"

Long Ago and Now.
Miss Gaddie—Enemies are you? Why, I thought she loved you not long ago?
Miss Bright—So she did, and she loves me not now.—Philadelphia Press.

If a man knows that other people are not any bigger fools than he is he knows all about human nature that is worth knowing.

There is something the matter with a woman when she is willing to let a man do all the talking.

No man need feel hurt if people say he is not good-looking.

NATURE STORIES BY SAILORS.

Snake that Killed a Monkey and Lived in Victim's Skull.
President Roosevelt's attacks upon the authenticity of other persons' nature stories and the men who tell them may lead to international complications if continued, for to-day several new brands of anecdotes of animals came to town, and the authors are ready to stand up for their rights and their veracity.

On board the British freight steamship Indrapura, in port from Japan and India, is Chow, a chow dog. Chow would rather fight than eat, and he demonstrated his predominant desire on several occasions during the 30,000-mile journey that the Indrapura, under Captain Kelway's command, ended upon her arrival in New York. Besides Chow, the Indrapura boasts of Tysar, a wire-haired Irish terrier, and Pickles, a gamecock. Said Mr. Wainwright, first officer of the Indrapura: "All this talk about nature faking is rot, for I can tell you things that happened on this ship that neither President Roosevelt, Dr. Long, Mr. Roberts, nor Chauncey M. Depece has ever seen. You wouldn't believe, for instance, that the gamecock can clean the deck in ten seconds of every living thing. And Mr. Roosevelt would perhaps not believe that Pickles has a habit of jumping on the back of Chow, digging his spurs into the Chinese dog's hide, and then calmly attempting to pick Chow's eyes out. The last time we rescued the dog it took the entire crew of forty-seven lascars to get Pickles from his back. We tried to clip Pickles' spurs, but they resisted the sharpest knife, and finally the smith shaped some metal caps, nicely rounded, so as to make the spurs harmless."

"Next day Pickles began picking the dog in the port side with his back. He kept it up every day for a week, and then he switched to the starboard side. Finally one day the bows of the chow dog again resounded through the steamship. Pickles was in his accustomed place, his capped spurs dug deep into holes which he had picked, and he was again trying to pick out Chow's eyes."

Vivian Tutball, the Indrapura's third officer, told a nature story about a snake and a monkey which he got at Singapore and which fought a battle to the death. The snake was a beautiful reptile of the garter variety, and the monkey was a bushy-tailed little fellow of sweet temper and great agility. One morning the snake and monkey were found in deadly battle. The monkey was killed and the snake crawled into its skull and circled about in it, entering in at one eye and out of another. Finally he got all knotted up and died. Mr. Tutball dried the outfit under the fierce tropical sun in the Red Sea and to-day he shows his friends the fantastic souvenir of the bleached monkey's skull with the little snake, practically petrified, still entwined through the monkey's head.

Second Engineer Fraser, of the freighter Indrapura, lying almost alongside the Indrapura at the Bush stores in South Brooklyn, told of a battle between a cheetah on board the Indrapura and a bulldog in this harbor. If Roosevelt decides against the cheetah as an easy victor over a bulldog he will have to do so over the words of seven British marines, staunch and true.

The cheetah was chained to the port rail on the sun deck and was unconcernedly washing his face as the two men discussed him.

"I've got a dog that can do that cat in about two minutes," said the longshoreman.

"Bring along the dog," said the stevedore.

The cheetah paid no particular attention to the dog when the latter was let go and made for the chained animal. It went calmly on wiping its face in its morning ablutions. The dog was within a foot of the cheetah when the latter suddenly raised both his front paws, caught the bulldog between them at the neck and in a twinkling ripped him open. The cheetah then continued his washing exercises as if nothing had happened.—New York Evening Telegram.

The School of Experience.
Stevenson says in his essay on "Youth and Crabbed Age" that when the old man reproves the youth and points his folly by saying: "I thought so, too, when I was your age," he is really proving the case of the youth. This idea, that youth must keep to its own kind of wisdom and cannot take to itself ready-made the wisdom of age, appears in a dialogue which the Chicago Tribune prints:

Lovely Fancee—Oh, George, I sometimes think I would rather die than be married!
George—What, darling! Rather die? Lovely Fancee—Yes; you don't have to rehearse half a dozen times for that, you know.

More Danger Ahead.
"Captain," said the frightened passenger, "haven't you got a big load of people on this boat?"
"Yes, sir," gloomily answered the captain of the excursion steamer. "And that isn't the worst of it. As soon as we reach St. Joe a good many of them are going to double up for the return trip."—Chicago Tribune.

Discouraged.
Lovely Fancee—Oh, George, I sometimes think I would rather die than be married!
George—What, darling! Rather die? Lovely Fancee—Yes; you don't have to rehearse half a dozen times for that, you know.

Daughter, you ought not to wear those high heeled shoes. They will make corns on your feet."
"How do you know, mamma?"
"By experience. I used to wear them when I was a girl."
"Did grandma tell you they would make corns on your feet if you wore them?"
"She found out by experience, just as I did."
"Hidin' she any mamma to warn her against wearing them?"
"Oh, yes."
"But she wore them, just the same?"
"To be sure."
"And you did, too?"
"Yes; that was what I was telling you."

The Bane and the Antidote.
Gabe Gashall (on the southeast corner of the dog goods box)—It must be terrible 't he's ketcht out in a brain-storm. Hi Hemlock (on the southwest corner of the dry goods box)—'W'y, all a fell'er'd he'r 't do 'nd be 't 't'st one o' them paranoias, an' he'd never know 'twuz raiuin'.—Puck.

Well Meant Prayers.
Sydney Smith declared that the children of Bishop Philpotts used to end their usual prayers by praying for Earl Grey, explaining that "papa tells us it is our duty to pray for our greatest enemies."—London Spectator.

Agacety of Ravens.
A case of remarkable agacety in a pair of ravens is related in the Field. Two collie dogs were hunting rabbits and the ravens were soaring overhead. As the dogs drove the rabbit out into the open near the top of a hill it ran straight into a trap and was caught. As the dogs came near the ravens came down and by loud croaking managed to drive away both. They then started to devour the rabbit, which they quickly dispatched.

"Bumper."
The word "bumper," meaning a drinking vessel, derived its origin from the Roman Catholic religion. It was the custom in England in ancient times to drink the health of the Pope after dinner in a full glass of wine. This was called "ad bon per," from which we have the contraction "bumper."

Luck in Small Numbers.
"I hear," said Hi Tragedy, "that while you were playing in one of the country towns a fire broke out in the theater."
"Yes," replied Low Comedy, "and there might have been a horrible panic but for one thing."
"What was that?"
"There weren't enough people in the house to create one."

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

Poor Thing.
"I don't suppose Miss Passay ever had any beaux when she was a young girl."
"No, she was too dignified and old-fashioned."
"And the men don't like her now, either."
"No, she's too kitchinish now."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Not Always Safe.
"Don't you think a man ought to tell his wife all about his business affairs?"
"I should say not. A friend of mine who was about to start on a journey borrowed \$50 from a rich old uncle and then told his wife of it. He was wrecked at sea, crushed in a railway collision, or something of that sort, and when his wife collected his life insurance, of course, she felt bound to pay back that loan."

His Easy Job.
"Isn't this a wearisome sort of occupation?" asked the customer. "You have to remember so much, and answer so many questions."
"Not at all, madam," answered the book store salesman. "All I have to remember is the titles, names of authors, and prices."
"You sell a great many of the popular novels, don't you?"
"Yes, ma'am, but I don't have to read them."

No Right to Complain.
"See here," cried the irate man. "I purpose to sue you. Look at my head! You professed to cure—"
"Wait a minute," interrupted the maker of Fakeley's Balsam; "we advertise merely that we cure partial baldness and not—"
"Well, I was only partially bald when I started using your stuff; now I haven't a hair!"
"Well, then you're cured of your partial baldness, aren't you?"

"Dunce."
It is a strange fact that the word "dunce," meaning a stupid person, comes from the name of one of the most eminent scholars of his time, Duns Scotus.

In the reformation of the works of the schoolmen fell into disfavor with the reformers, and Duns, who was the leader of the schoolmen, was often spoken of with scorn by the votaries of the new learning. As time went by the name of Duns became a byword for utter stupidity.

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Candor.
Borem—Hello, old man! What's the matter? You look disgusted.
Cutting—Yes, I feel that way.
Borem—Why, what have you run up against now?
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"Well," retorted Mrs. Judd. "There's different kinds of birds. You may have had a canary in your mind while I was referring to an ostrich."—Kansas City Times.

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