

**ROMAN INVASION OF BRITAIN**

**Good Reasons for Setting August 27 as the Date on Which Julius Caesar Landed on the Island.**

The 27th day of August, 55 B. C., may, upon good grounds, be set down as the day on which Caesar invaded the island of Britain. It is interesting to learn the method by which a painstaking and ingenious inquirer determined the date as given—Caesar himself tells that he proceeded on his expedition when little of the summer remained—when the people of the south of Britain were engaged in their harvest—and we learn that he returned before the equinox. Thus, the day must have been in August. He further tells us that the full moon occurred on the fourth day after his landing. The full moon of August in that year, as given by astronomical tables, occurred at 3 a. m. of the 31st. Hence, Caesar landed on the 27th.

It is well known that Caesar met with greater difficulty in landing and making good his first footing on the island than he expected. The southern

Britons were a people well advanced in civilization at the time. It was only about a century after this that London, by its present name, was a city crowded with merchants and of world-wide celebrity.

History repeats itself. England, even in those early days when Caesar made war on the Veneti, to the west of Gaul, the Britons sent a fleet of ships to their assistance.

**SEIZED CAPE COLONY TWICE**

**Peace of Amiens Nullified Britain's Capture of Holland's South African Territory in 1795.**

Early in the wars of the French Revolution Holland was forced to become an ally of Great Britain. A British fleet appeared off Cape Town in August, 1795, and the colony surrendered on September 16. For seven years Britain held the country, spending fully eight million dollars in improving it. Monopolies were taken off trade, torture was abolished, and prosperity prevailed, whereas before the colony had been on the verge of ruin.

In 1802 the Peace of Amiens secured for Napoleon a breathing spell, which he used in preparing still greater attacks upon the liberties of Europe. By this treaty Cape Colony was restored to Holland. War was resumed in 1809, with Holland an ally once more of France. Again the British captured Cape Colony, and when peace was definitely settled in 1815, after Waterloo, Britain retained South Africa, paying Holland six million pounds sterling, the colonies of Demerara, Essequibo and Berbice being included in the sale. The population consisted of 23,700 whites, holding 29,300 slaves, and 17,650 free Hottentots. Britain suppressed the slave trade and in 1834 the slaves were emancipated by the British government.

**Snaring Snakes.**

For sheer, downright danger the work of snake catching in the Australian bush compares very favorably with anything one might imagine. It is also an exceedingly profitable method of earning a livelihood—that is, if you survive.

The snakes are collected for the sake of their venom, a substance that, like radium, is valued by the grain, a pound of it being worth about £500. It is in active demand by chemists and is obtained, as far as Australia is concerned, from only three species of snakes—the death adder, the brown adder and the tiger snake.

The reptiles must be caught unharmed, and it goes without saying that the business demands considerable skill and agility on the part of those following it.

Tiger snakes are the best, for they carry most venom; and they are still numerous in the more remote parts of the seldom-visited interior.

**Rocky Land Breeds Sailors.**

The best sailors in the world come from Brittany, and the best sailors in Brittany hail from Ouessant island, the land farthest west in France. This island, which is named Ushant on the American charts, is rocky, forbidding, almost barren of trees, so much so that the Breton fathers tell their children not to climb any trees when they go visiting. North, west and south of the island is open water, which in winter is almost constantly in a turmoil because of the frequent storms. The channel, the Atlantic and the Bay of Biscay vie with each other in vain efforts to overwhelm the island and prevent its inhabitants from wresting a living either from the land or the water.—Chicago Daily News.

**SOUGHT ONLY BY FISHERMEN**

**Rock Point, Md., Differs in Many Ways From the Conventionalized "Summer Resort."**

Little white wooden houses in a broken row, like an old man's teeth; behind them a fat green Maryland farm country of broad-leaved tobacco fields and yellow wheat and deeply shadowed woods; before them a river seven miles wide of almost tropical green and blue, with a wooded island in the foreground shading the water with great sycamore and crowned by a pine grove, where nest the ospreys that hover all day long over the water, plunging like living javelins, now and then, to snatch fish of dazzling silver from a river of polished jade.

Such, impressionistically, is Rock Point, Md., where all summer long many Washingtonians go to catch fish. The place is not at all fashionable; there is no hotel worthy of the name, and the prices of everything are altogether too low to attract the "best people."

Even the fact that at least one cabinet officer, a senator or two and several congressmen go regularly to Rock Point does not seem to add to its dignity or to endow it with the rank of a real summer resort. Somehow even a senator loses his value as a social ornament when he puts on a pair of overalls and yells and gets excited over a four-pound sea trout.

The great majority of those who go to Rock Point are simply anglers—whatever else they may be at home, here they are but members of the great fraternity of fishermen. Bankers and plumbers often "chip in" on the same motorboat and horrow tobacco from each other.

Women are fewer than men, but never lacking, and they are always hearty, sunburned women of the kind that get their hair wet when they go in swimming and don't pretend to be afraid of a fish.

**FAILED TO PLEASE NAPOLEON**

**Narrow-Minded Officials Who Obscured Royal Emblem Had Miscalculated Mind of Great Emperor.**

A pretty story is told by some historians of Napoleon's entrance into a French cathedral city in the days when his eagles were taking their most glorious flights and Europe was at his feet. It happened that the cathedral windows were, some of them, decorated with the design of the fleur-de-lis. Eager partisans had covered up these windows so that the lilies would not be seen.

The emperor, sharp of eye as ever, inquired the reason for the obscuration of the windows.

"They bear the fleur-de-lis design and there is no time to change it," explained some one. "So we covered it up, fearing it might offend your majesty."

"The lilies of France," said Napoleon, "have led her sons to victory through many wars. Surely every son of France should be proud of them."

It is needless to add that the windows were immediately uncovered.

**Human "Fish" No Match for Angler.**

Fishing a man was the novel feat performed by a man at Avalon, California, a few days ago. Captain Adargo, a powerful swimmer, played the part of the fish, while Captain Westbrook took the part of the angler. The "fish" was given one hundred and fifty feet of line at the start and quickly gained thirty feet. Then the angler felt that he was ready to begin tactics to "subdue" the "fish," and telling about it afterward, Captain Adargo said: "Then I was pulled backward and couldn't make any headway against the outfit. I have gone into some heavy swells as a professional swimmer and coin diver, but the fishing stuff has got them all beat for taking the energy out of a man. Every time Westbrook came back on the rod it almost lifted me out of the water." In fifteen minutes Captain Westbrook regained the one hundred and eighty feet of line. He "fished" with his usual tackle. A broken line would have won the contest for the fish.

**Eider Ducks.**

Eider ducks are numerous everywhere in Norway. Being the producers of the valuable eiderdown, a staple article of trade in Norway, they are rigorously protected by law, and are in consequence so tame as in many places to approximate a domestic fowl. The birds are regarded with far from friendly eyes by the fishermen, by reason of the damage they work among the spawning beds of the fish. Lobsters in particular suffer severely from their devastations.

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