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SMUGGLING IN ANDORRA.

It is an Honorable Profession in the
Little Republic.

Sant Julia de Loria, the rival of Andorra la Villa, is the great trade and smuggling center. It has about 600 inhabitants only, but can boast several large shops and warehouses full of contraband commodities openly displayed. As a matter of fact, the whole nation is more or less smugglers—on principle. They have neither import nor export duties themselves, and they are fully persuaded of the benefits of free trade for everybody. France makes commodities wanted in Spain, Spain grows articles required in France, and Andorra lies between these two nations. What more natural, therefore, than that she should give aid to both her neighbors—for a consideration, of course? But smuggling in Andorra is not looked upon as a fraudulent business. On the contrary, it is considered an honorable and legitimate profession—almost an art—and one that in its higher branches requires many aptitudes—business capacity, astuteness, diplomacy, a thorough knowledge of the art of bribery and a military method for directing one's forces and commanding one's subordinates. For instance, a wealthy Andorran goes over the border into Spain and buys up cheaply thousands of sheep, which he pays for in Spanish money. They are driven home to his mountain pastures, where they are marked with his cipher. Then, in company with his headman, he strolls casually across to the French frontier—every inch of which he and his underlings know by heart—and drops into the hut of the commandant of the douaniers for a chat. Before leaving the commandant naturally offers him a petit verre, and banknotes of greater or less value are left lying on the table. Nothing definite is said; nobody's conscience or dignity is compromised. A few days later thousands of Andorran sheep are sold in the markets of France and paid for in French money. How did they get across the frontier? Ah, that's just the point. The mere fact of buying with Spanish money and selling for French means from 20 to 30 per cent profit without counting the difference in the prices of the animals. In addition to sheep, hides, tobacco, matches, olive oil, superior qualities of wines, salt, sugar and ultramarine are the principal commodities smuggled into France. The articles that go into Spain are mostly glass and china fancy articles, bric-a-brac, paper and cutlery; also a large number of mules. The latter are bought in a wretched state for almost a song in France, turned out to grass on the splendid Andorran pastures for a few months and sold in Spain at the end of the season for a high figure.—Wide World Magazine.

Agricultural Ants.

In 1861 Dr. Linneum, a learned Texas physician, wrote to Darwin that he had discovered the "agricultural ant that lived in towns surrounded by farms that were regularly tilled." After receiving this account Darwin wrote to Dr. Linneum asking whether he thought that the ants planted seed for the next year's crop and received the following answer: "I have not the slightest doubt of it, and my conclusion has not been reached from hasty or careless examination. I have watched the same kind of ants during the last twelve years, and I know that what I state is true. I visited their towns yesterday and found the ant rice growing finely and showing the signs of high cultivation."—New York American.

In Spite of It.

The wife of a new member of congress was much distressed by the unexpected appearance of an old sweetheart of her daughter—a big, good natured son of the west, though of a rather crude exterior. "Alice," said the mother one day, "I don't understand how you can put up with Jim now that you've been associating with so many fine young men in the east. I should think he would grate on you. Don't you find him a little rough?" "Yes, ma," answered she, blushing. "And yet Jim tells me that he shaves every day."—Ladies' Home Journal.

Talent and Vocation.

Each man has his own vocation. The talent is the call. There is one direction in which all space is open to him. He has faculties silently inviting him thither to endless exertion. He is like a ship in a river. He runs against obstructions on every side but one. On that side all obstruction is taken away, and he sweeps serenely over God's depths into an infinite sea. This talent and this call depend on his organization or the mode in which the general soul incarnates itself in him.—Emerson.

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