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WHALE MEAT IN JAPAN.

Sold From House to House by Natives
In the Villages.

I suppose no question is more frequently asked than "What does whale meat taste like?" It is a hard one to answer. The flesh has a flavor all its own and quite unlike anything else. In the first place, it is not at all like fish. And why should it be, for a whale, although living in the water, is no more of a fish than is a horse or a cow. True, some species at times eat small fish, but it is not habitual with any of the larger whales, the food consisting chiefly of a little shrimp about three-quarters of an inch in length. The red meat has a decided gamy flavor and rather reminds one of venison, but its grain is very coarse. The Japanese prepare it in a variety of ways, but perhaps it is most often chopped finely and eaten raw with vegetables, dressed with a brown sauce.

One of the most common sights of a Japanese village is the peasants carrying great chunks of meat on pans swung from their shoulders, selling it from house to house or in the streets. The flesh of the hump-back whale is most highly esteemed and in the winter sometimes brings as much as 30 sen (15 cents) per pound. During the hot summer months, when the price of the meat is very low and it will quickly spoil, the greater part of it is canned. At the Oriental Whaling company's stations thousands of cans are made, filled and labeled, later to be shipped to all parts of the empire. —Roy Chapman Andrews in Metropolitan.

Dickens' Boyhood Woes.

Johnston street, Somers Town, where the London county council placed a memorial tablet to Charles Dickens, was associated with what was practically the first ray of sunshine that broke through the clouded sky of the novelist's childhood. It was in 1825, when Dickens was thirteen, that a sudden improvement in his father's finances enabled the family to leave the Marshalsea prison and take a house in Johnston street. For Charles, who had boarded out during his father's detention in the debtors' prison, this meant the resumption of home life. It meant also relief from the slavery of the blacking factory, for his father was now able to send him to a fairly good school in the neighborhood of their new abode. The Dickens remained in Johnston street for four years, and descriptions of the locality occur, it will be remembered, in "Nicholas Nickleby" and "Bleak House." —Pall Mall Gazette.

Squeaky Shoes.

Squeaky shoes were once the proper thing, especially in the country, says the Chicago Inter Ocean. They gave distinction to rustic swains at the engine company's dance and made the sober sided devout turn their bonneted heads in church to see who was coming up the aisle. The justice of the peace invariably wore double soles, which squeaked loudly with authority. The parson in prunella gaiters stepped lightly to a sound like that which comes from a mouse in a closet. But everybody wore squeaky shoes and boots. They came that way. The reason a shoe squeaks is because of the movement of one tanned sole against another. A peg driven into the center of the sole will stop the squeak, although the shoemaker's method is to place a layer of thin cloth or paper between the soles before they are sewed.

The Second Whip.

Have you ever noticed, says a writer in a London journal, that some animal tamers carry a second whip in their left hand, which is never used? There is purpose in this. It represents to the wild beast the terrors of the unknown. He has experienced the sharp, stinging flick of the whip in the tamer's right hand, but for the life of him he cannot imagine what anguish lurks in that mysterious whip in the other hand, which is never used. Many a tamer has saved his life in a critical moment by just lifting that unknown terror above a crouching, growling, fury maddened tiger.

An Accomplished Dwarf.

Count Borowlaski, a Polish gentleman, at twenty-five years measured thirty-five inches, which was his greatest height. When quite young he displayed wit and grace, excelling in dancing and music. He was possessed of superior intelligence and frequented the Prussian court. So greatly did he delight the ladies of Paris during a year's residence in that capital that they gave an entertainment in his honor, at which the plate, knives, forks and spoons were of dimensions proportioned to his size. He wrote his memoirs in 1788 and died in 1837, at the age of ninety-eight.

A TURK AND A DEBT.

The Englishman Took the Moslem's
Advice and Got His Money.

An Englishman has recently had a very curious experience, says the London Telegraph. He had lent a Turk some money, but the man was unable to pay and on his deathbed laid a particular charge on his wife and children to meet the debt. The eldest son was making arrangements accordingly, but also died, and he, too, begged his family to pay the money as soon as they could.

One day the Englishman received a visit from a member of the family, who said that there were now four members of it left and they were ready to pay, but one of the daughters refused to subscribe her share, declaring that the money was never really lent. The others, however, wished to settle the matter and if the Englishman would come to the house it would be arranged. "But," the Turk added, "if you see there is any difficulty just say that you leave it to be settled in the next world."

Accordingly the Englishman went to the house at the appointed time and met the family in the presence of a mullah, the ladies being behind the screen. The mullah began by asking if he had truly lent the money, how much it was and if he would take any less. One of the women behind kept saying it was all a fraud. The Englishman then declared that he had lent the money, that he had not asked for it, that they had told him to come and get it and if they did not want to pay it he would leave the matter to be settled in the next world.

There was dead silence for a few moments, and then the women called their brother, and each paid her share without a word. It seems the prospect of meeting the father in the other world without having carried out his wishes was too serious a thing to face.

Human Ear a Deformity.

"While the ears of animals," said a naturalist, "are erect and comely, the human ear is crumpled, crushed and flattened. It is man's intelligence that is responsible for this deformity of his ear. Man's brain, you see, has made his head top heavy. An animal's neck alone furnishes enough support in sleep, but man's neck is too weak to sustain his brain weighted skull, which in consequence must be laid, with the ear underneath, upon a pillow. Man, I have no doubt, had an erect, smooth, shapely ear in the beginning, but his head, with its developing brain, outgrew his neck's power to support it. Thence came the head rest or pillow, with its consequent crushing and crumpling of the ear, and thence came the ear of today—a deformity which, being universal, is not deemed a deformity at all."

Story of Duruy and Pasteur.

Victor Duruy, the French historian, was also minister of education under Napoleon III. One day he and Pasteur shared a cab to drive to the Institute de France and Duruy proposed to pay. "No change," said the cabman when tendered a five franc piece. "No matter," replied Duruy. "Keep the coin as a souvenir of the fact that you have today driven the greatest man of science in France."

Whereupon Pasteur, not to be outdone, produced another five franc piece. "And keep this coin also," he said, "in memory of the fact that you have today driven the greatest minister of education that the world has ever seen." —Pall Mall Gazette.

An Accomplished Monkey.

A few years ago the police in New York received several complaints from visitors to the Bronx zoological gardens to the effect that while watching the animals their pockets had been picked of small articles. Watch was kept, and the culprit was finally discovered in the person of Jake, one of the monkeys belonging to the zoo. Jake, who has since been sold to an animal trainer, was in the habit of waiting until a spectator came up close to the monkey cage, when he would reach out his hand and pick the inquisitive person's coat pocket. —Harper's Weekly.

More System Than Knowledge.

A successful man of the self made variety, having purchased a fine library by the foot, was showing it with some pride to a friend of literary attainments. The self made man ran his business on the card index system and his library with the same degree of method. Cases were marked plainly, "Travel," "Art," "Poetry," "Science." Occupying a prominent place in the "Travel" case the friend noticed a handsome volume with the title in gold letters on the back, "Alice in Wonderland." —Youth's Companion.

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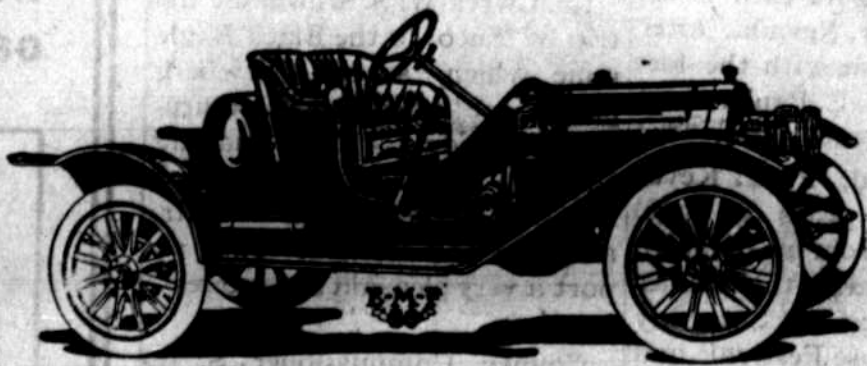
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