

OUR ARMY CAMELS

The Festive Orientals Uncle Sam
Once Tried to Adopt.

A BRIEF AND UNRULY CAREER.

Their Deadly Hatred Toward Mules,
Their Craving For a Taste of Soldier
and a Few Other Eccentricities
Proved Their Inglorious Undoing.

The United States government's first and only venture into the use of camels as army transports on the southwestern frontier was sanctioned by congress through the efforts of Jefferson Davis, then a member of the military commission and later secretary of war. Davis had commanded troops in the southwest in the Mexican war and knew what it was to march for days over a dry, barren country in a scorching heat, with nothing to drink but hot, dry air and nothing to eat but the eye except cactus and rattlesnakes.

The rapid development of California after the gold strike of 1848 made necessary provision for the transportation of troops and supplies to the new country over a desert trail, which was a task that set patriotism at a premium. Jefferson Davis asked for camels, and congress finally authorized an expedition to the orient to buy them.

The expedition brought back nearly 100 animals, which were added to from time to time till the number grew to 128. They were stationed at El Paso, Yuma, Ariz.; San Antonio and other points on the frontier.

The return trip across the ocean with the camels is recorded in amusing detail by Lieutenant D. D. Porter, who was in charge. Each animal was provided with a competent chauffeur, who was caretaker, interpreter and baggage master in one. Most of the animals got seasick, and so did the drivers, and both complained bitterly of the arrangements. The camels wished they hadn't come and showed it by kicking and biting pieces from various officers, who were not to blame.

After landing in Texas the camels did not improve perceptibly in their natures. Their particular aversion was the army mules. Even the younger, inexperienced camels learned quickly to kill a mule with one blow of the hind foot and indulged in that pastime frequently. Their taste for army officers remained undiminished, and the chauffeurs got the blame every time a captain lost some of his anatomy.

The soldiers took to the camel with reciprocal affection. In the first place, they didn't like his looks, contending that the soft, faraway look in the camel's eye indicated that his mind was not on his business. Then the soldiers couldn't get used to the odor radiated by the oriental beast—circuses not being in vogue—and many of them said that Kipling was perfectly correct in his opinion that a camel smelled most awful vile. Kipling hadn't said it yet, but soldiers are farseeing and knew he was going to say it.

Besides, the camel was no good to ride, the soldiers agreed. His ambling, rapid stride made them seasick, and they wanted no animal which it took ten minutes to awaken when the Indians attacked them in the night. No American had lived up to that period who could tie a cargo on one of the beasts so it would stay on. The camel is not constructed flat on top, it is remembered, and only a clever Arab chauffeur could load one to travel any distance without losing the supplies.

The high record in dead mules was made, it is said, by a camel in San Antonio whose name was Major. Major kicked seven valuable mules into eternity, and one day some soldiers, friends of the late mules, took Major off up on a high cliff and came back and said he had fallen off "accidentally." No exhaustive probe was made of Major's disappearance.

A caravan loaded with supplies went into the city of Sutherland Springs on one occasion, and the camels were watered at the town well. It was the boast of the city that the well had never gone dry. About half the camels took a drink and the well was dry. The disturbance caused by the remaining thirsty camels set the population into a panic.

But the endless feud between the camels and the soldiers soon convinced the government that railroads would do just as well. The rush to California was well over and frontier troubles were well under control by the time the war broke out. The government withdrew the foreign camel agents and closed the foreign offices. By the time the war was over the camels died and some were stolen. Others escaped to the desert, and even today a horrid wild camel, white with age, occasionally terrifies Sunday newspaper feature writers into writing something about it. Very likely the ones which didn't go to the desert swam back to Egypt. Both reports are authenticated in the same degree.—Kansas City Star.

Car Windows and Fussy Women.
Every street car window was made to puzzle the fussy woman who doesn't know whether it goes up or down. All she understands is that if it is closed she wants it open and if it is open she wants it closed.—Toledo Blade.

An Invitation.
"My dear, you look sweet enough to kiss."
"That's the way I intended to look, Jack."—Princeton Tiger.

Simplicity is, of all things, the hardest to be copied.—Steele.

THE OLD MASTERS.

Paintings Without Signatures Are
Judged by Their Technique.

It appears that many of the works of the old masters are not signed. Experts rarely rely on signatures alone in determining the authenticity of an old work, but trust rather to their knowledge of the painter's technique, says the Philadelphia Record.

False signatures can be easily detected. Spirits of wine or turpentine will usually remove a name of later date than the painting. In the course of time signatures often become very difficult to find. Painted originally in a shade slightly lighter than the ground, perhaps, they sink in, darken, and merge into the ground color or they are almost rubbed away by successive cleanings. Recognizable one day in a specially favorable light, they may not be visible again for weeks.

Experts speak of "will-o'-the-wisp" signatures, and many collectors have encountered accidental strokes and cracks that tantalizingly suggest a signature, though it can never be made definite. On the other hand, there have been remarkable cases of such marks, after careful study, resolving themselves into a famous name.

Sometimes the painter's name is most conspicuous as, for example, in Raphael's "Sposalizio" at Milan. Proud of having surpassed his master, the youthful genius wrote on a frieze in the very center of the canvas, "Raphael Urbino."

Reynolds hardly ever signed his work. But upon the completion of the portrait of Mrs. Siddons as the Tragic Muse, he wrote his name large on the gold embroidery of her dress. He was unable, he said, "to resist the temptation of sending my name to posterity on the hem of your garment."

CANCER IN THE FAMILY.

There is No Proof That the Dreaded
Disease Is Hereditary.

Perhaps nothing causes more needless worry than the fact that one of more persons in a given family have died from cancer. This is commonly taken as a proof that the disease is hereditary. This does not at all follow. There is probably no greater chance of inheriting cancer than there is of being killed by lightning or of breaking one's neck falling down stairs. Perhaps there are people who worry even about those contingencies, but the statisticians have shown that such fatal accidents are extremely rare.

People who are concerned because their relatives have succumbed to cancer fail to consider how widespread the disease is. A malady that causes one death out of every eight among women and one out of every fourteen among men over forty is fairly common. On this basis it does not take much arithmetic to figure out how likely it is that cancer will occur many times in some families.

The eminent statisticians, King and Newhouse, have pointed out that it does not prove heredity to show that in one family five deaths occurred from cancer. By the very frequency of the disease and the laws of chance such cases would be expected even if no one had ever suggested the idea of heredity.

In some species of animals it is believed a certain susceptibility to tumors may be inherited. But so far as human beings are concerned the foremost authorities believe that heredity in cancer may be regarded as a negligible factor.—Journal of the American Medical Association.

The Almoner Church.
One of the oddest churches in England is St. Botolph's at Boston. It has been called the Almoner church. In the tower are 300 steps, corresponding to the days in the year. The church has twelve pillars, fifty-two windows and seven doors, representing the months, weeks, and days in the week. In the west porch are twenty-four steps ascending to the library, representing the hours of the day. Again, on each side of the choir are sixty steps leading to the roof, denoting on the one side the minutes of the hour and on the other the seconds of the minute.—Boston Post.

The Office Seeker.
A man with a deep and steadfast longing for office will run excitedly around begging everybody he sees to sign his nomination petitions and then, when he finally gets enough signatures, will put on a clean shirt and announce that if the call of duty comes he will not disregard the summons.—Ohio State Journal.

Paying Him Back.
Girl Shopper—Why did you make that poor salesman pull down all that stuff and then not buy anything? Second Ditty—Why, the mean fellow was in a car yesterday and never offered me his seat, though I looked right at him; so I just decided I would get even.—Buffalo Courier.

Wanted Particulars.
"I am looking out for a porch climber. Can you direct me where to go?"
"Well, sir, until you particularize I don't know whether you want me to direct you to a florist or to a policeman."—Baltimore American.

Files and Germs.
The number of germs on a single fly may range from 550 to 6,000,000. Scientific tests have shown that the average for 414 flies was about 1,250,000 on each.

Violence in the voice is often only the death rattle of reason in the throat.—Boyer.

THUNDERSTORMS.

Simple Scientific Explanation of
How They Occur.

ELECTRICITY IN THE CLOUDS.

The Processes by Which the Masses of
Unequally Charged Vapor Are
United, the Lightning Flashes Generated, and the Downpour Started.

Lightning is the result of electric discharges from the clouds, says the Electrical Experimenter in printing what it calls "a thunderstorm primer." Every cloud, like every other object, contains electricity. This makes no disturbance so long as the quantity contained is normal. When the quantity becomes greater than normal the object is positively charged; when it becomes less than normal the object is negatively charged. The equilibrium of the electric force in the clouds is disturbed by evaporation from the surface of the earth, by changes of temperature in the atmospheric vapor, by chemical action on the earth's surface and by the friction of volumes of air of different densities against each other.

When clouds charged with the opposite electricities approach, the forces rush toward each other and combine to restore the state of equilibrium, for all bodies charged with opposite electricities attract each other. Between the clouds is air, an excellent nonconductor, through which the electricity has to force a passage. The violence with which it does this produces the lightning and the accompanying crash of thunder.

Clouds are good conductors, while the air about them is a nonconductor; therefore the electricity accumulates in the clouds. It is probably this electricity which prevents the particles of water from uniting together and falling down in the form of rain.

Imagine two clouds near to each other in the sky, one positively and the other negatively electrified, for there cannot in all nature be such a condition as that of one body positively excited without the coexistence of another body negatively excited. If the positively charged cloud were all alone in the sky the circumambient atmosphere would assume the negative function. But as the other cloud is near by it becomes negative, and both are mutually attracted. They approach each other until the space of air between them can no longer resist their electric tension, when the discharge takes place.

The equilibrium of the clouds being thus restored, there is nothing to keep the particles of water apart; they coalesce into drops and fall as rain.

When only the clouds are involved the equilibrium is quickly restored by a few flashes and the storm is over. When the air also is involved it continues to charge the clouds with electricity, and the discharges continue until the various strata of air are brought into their normal state.

Sometimes, when the clouds are charged with an opposite electricity to that of the earth, a discharge takes place from clouds to earth or from earth to clouds. It is only when there is a great disturbance of the electrical forces that the lightning flashes to the earth or vice versa.

The flash and the thunder peal are simultaneous, and we see the one before we hear the other because light waves move far more swiftly than sound waves. The peal of thunder is instantaneous, but comes to us as a roll through being echoed from clouds or mountains. The noise is caused by the vibrations of the air rushing to fill up the spaces where the electrical discharge has rarefied it and condensed its vapors.

Lightning is zigzag when it travels through a long distance, because it compresses the air, which interferes with its direct course. It is straight when it passes through only a short distance. It is forked when, being resisted by the air, it divides into two or three points. It is sheet when the flash is too distant to be visible, and its reflection alone is seen.

By remembering that sound travels a quarter of a mile in a second, while light travels so swiftly that we see it instantaneously, we can tell how far off a thunder clap is. If we hear a thunder clap four seconds after seeing the flash we know it is a mile away. For such calculations our own pulse is a sufficiently accurate measure of time, for the pulse of an adult beats about once a second. A person under forty should count five beats to the mile; a person under twenty should count six beats to the mile.

A Rough Criticism.
Lord Houghton's epigram on "Sordello," probably the most obscure of Browning's poems, though it has often gone the rounds, is worth recalling. Said Lord Houghton, then only Dicky Milnes, "There are but two lines in 'Sordello' I can understand—the first and last—'Who will may hear Sordello's story told' and 'Who would hath heard Sordello's story told,' and both are false."

Finger Print Love.
"Why do you think you'll be happy if you marry that young man, daughter?" asked the father.
"Because, father, we've had our finger prints examined and they almost match." Was the sweet young thing's reply.—Yonkers Statesman.

Let us remember that justice must be observed even to the lowest.—Cicero.

BURR'S SELF CONTROL.

An Incident That Proved His Perfect
Command of His Feelings.

Aaron Burr was by nature and training a man of extraordinary self control. He allowed no circumstances to throw him off his balance.

An anecdote told by Rufus Choate to Richard H. Dana, recorded in Mr. Dana's "Diary," illustrates the callousness which aided Burr so greatly in controlling himself.

Several years after the death of Alexander Hamilton, killed by Burr in a duel, Burr visited Boston, and Mr. Devereux of Salem paid him some attention. The visitor was taken to the Boston Athenaeum, where, while the two men were walking through the gallery of sculpture, Mr. Devereux happened to catch sight of a bust of Hamilton.

The thought flashed across Mr. Devereux's mind that Burr might not care to be confronted with the sight of the features of the man he had slain. But no. Burr was undisturbed. He also espied the bust, and, although Mr. Devereux had instinctively turned away, he walked up to it and said in a loud tone:

"Ah, here is Hamilton!"
Then, passing his fingers along certain lines of the face, he added:
"There was the poetry!"
Hamilton's contemporaries gave him credit for possessing a poetic mind.

QUEER LEGAL FICTION.

It Makes Stepney, in London, the
Parish of Every British Seaman.

Every sailor, from the admiral to the newest joined seaman, on board British warships is regarded as belonging to the parish of Stepney, in London. It doesn't matter in the slightest where the ship is, the sailors who man it all come from the same parish—Stepney.

This queer legal fiction dates back to the time of Charles II. In those days every workman had to live in the parish where he was born, and he could not leave it without finding two responsible sureties to vouch for his honesty.

This, of course, became rather puzzling in the case of people born at sea, for they had no parish. To get over the difficulty the authorities stated that all born at sea would be regarded as being born in the parish of Stepney, though why they should choose that parish and no other is lost in the dust of official records.

To this day the bishop of Stepney is godfather of all children born at sea, while all marriages solemnized on the ocean are recorded as though they had taken place in Stepney.—London Answers.

A Remarkable Dinner Service.

The remarkable dinner service made by Josiah Wedgwood for the Russian empress, Catherine II., in 1774 consists of 952 pieces, and on each piece is painted a different view. The body is of a pale bluish color, and the views are painted in a rich mahogany purple. As the service was intended to be used at the palace of La Grenouilliere (meaning marshy place full of frogs), each piece also bears a green frog within a shield on the rim. The views represent British ruined castles, abbeys, parks, bridges, towers, etc. Several pieces are decorated with views of Hampstead, and there are custard cups with views of Richmond and sauce boats with the scenery of Windsor park. In many cases the views are the only pictorial records left of the old buildings. Altogether there are 1,282 views painted on the 952 pieces.

How to Treat a Rifle Wound.

In the case of a wound from a rifle bullet don't go probing for the bullet, but remove from the surface of the wound all shreds of clothing and other matter which the bullet may have carried into the flesh. This must be removed very thoroughly, and a sterilized knife or scissors should be used freely to open the wound and get it clean. When this is done treat the wound with your iodine or bichloride solution. Then dress it with gauze and bandage.

In the case of wounds from small shot the wound should be washed with a solution of alum, and then pieces of gauze or clean cloth wrung out of hot water should be applied every couple of hours.—Outing.

Loaf Bread in England.

It is perhaps worth recalling that the art of baking loaves of bread was introduced into Europe quite late in history. Flat cakes were baked even in the earliest times, but as late as the beginning of the nineteenth century loaf bread was comparatively unknown in many parts of the continent. In 1812, for instance, when an English captain ordered loaves to the value of \$5 in Gothenburg the baker stipulated for payment in advance on the ground that he would never be able to sell them in the city if they were left on his hands.—London Spectator.

Canary Soot!

"I say, Sandy, mon," said Jack, handing back his friend's photograph, "when ye had those photos taken, why didna ye smile?"
"And those pictures costing me \$2 a dozen!" replied Sandy. "Are ye crazy, mon?"—Woman's Home Companion.

Which?

Bacon—Ever notice how long a woman is in coming to the point? Egbert—Do you mean when she's telling a story or sharpening a lead pencil?—Yonkers Statesman.

Man, if you are anything, walk alone and talk to others. Do not hide yourself in the chorus.—Epictetus.



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