Of Unknown Origin, They Sound Like Muffled Thunder.

COMMON IN THE OLD WORLD.

These Curious Boomings, That Puzzle Science, Heard at Times From Australia to Ireland, Are Akin to the "Moodus Noises" of Connecticut.

It is a bot and tranquil summer afternoon on the Belgian coast in time of peace. Strolling along the shore you are startled by a muffled detonation that seems to come from somewhere far out at sen. Can it be thunder? There is not a cloud in the sky, and you remember that thunder is rarely sudible at a greater distance than fifteen miles. A man-of-war at target practice, perhaps-far in the offing. At this point your Belgian friend explains. It was the "mistpoeffer," he says, and a sign that the weather will

But what is the mistpoeffer? If you can answer that question you can also emplain the mysterious Barisal guns of India (Barisal is the name of a town in the Ganges delta), which have puzzied scientific men for half a century. You can explain also the strange rumblings that in certain parts of Italy seem to come from nowhere in particular and are known to the peasuntry under forty or more local names, the desert sound of the Australian wilderness, the water guns of Lough Neagh in Ireland and the nertal detonations that occasionally startle Californians

For example, in September, 1806, to quote the Santa Rosa Republican, "a tremendous explosion, presumably in the air, occurred near Cazadero. was beard by the dwellers of the mountain region over an area of 900

All noises of this kind resembling thunder, but not traceable to that or any other known agency, are now generally called in scientific literature brontidi, a name first used by Profes sor Tito Alippi, who has made a spe cial study of these phenomena in

The "Moodns notses," familiar to old residents of Moodus and East Had dam, Conn., are probably kindred phe nomens, although they seem to be somewhat more definitely associated with subterranean earth shocks than are typical brontidi, and the same may be said of the gouffre of Haiti, whichat least in some cases-is easily recognized as of subterranean origin.

Although systematic investigations of brontidi are of recent date, occurrences of the phenomena have been recorded from early times. Lord Bacon mentions "an extraordinary noise in the sky when there is no thunder," and similar sounds were known to Humboldt and Houssingauit. Captain Sturt, a pioneer explorer of Australia, wrote in 1829:

"About 3 p. m. of Feb. 7 iduring the Australian summer) Mr. Hume and I were occupied tracing the chart upon the ground. The day and been remarkably fine. There was not a cloud in the heavens nor a breath of air to be felt. On a sudden we heard what seemed to be the report of a gun fired at the distance of between five and six miles. It was not the hollow sound of an earthly explosion or the sharp crackling noise of falling timber, but in every way resembled the discharge of a heavy piece of ordnance.

"No one was certain whence the myself thought it came from the northwest. I sent one of the men up a tree. but he could observe nothing unusual The country round him appeared equal ly flat on all sides and thickly wooded Whatever occasioned the report, it made a strong impression on all of us, and to this day such a sound in such a situation is a matter of mystery to

Science has not fully solved the mys tery of broatidi, but it can hardly be doubted that the origin of these sounds ts really subterranean. From a focus far underground the jar of settling rocks sends vibrations to the surfacenot at one spot, but over a wide area Then if the overlying air is calm and homogeneous it also is set in vibration. and if the vibrations are of the right period to be audible the result is a booming sound of altogether indefinite location. It is simply "in the air."-

French Officers Made Thrifty. The French army officer has to be a thrifty man to make ends meet on his salary of a very few france a day, and borrowing or running into debt is an offense against military law. An officer convicted of debt is suspended by the war office for three years, and at the end of that time his reinstatement or dismissal from the service is decided by a kind of court martial, comprising five officers of his corps, one of them of his own rank.

Antiquity of Tin.

We find that brass, and consequently tin, existed in Tyre, the great sesport town of the Phoenicians, on the coast of Syria, about 1000 B. C. They are frequently referred to in all works relating to tin or to Cornwall. The Phoenicians were merchants and carried on an important trade from the ports of Tyre and Sidon. These cities rivaled each other in magnitude, fame and an

What I want to try to do is to judge my fellow human being as kindly as i FOOD, FINGERS AND FLIES.

Three of the Factors Most Active In Spreading Disease. There are three principal ways in

which disease germs are carried from person to person, and these ways may be easily remembered by three catch words-food, Sagers and flies. The most important foods which carry disease are those which are esten

raw, since thorough cooking destroys disease germs and most cooked foods are only dangerous when they have been infected in the kitchen after cooking. Among raw foods, too, many, like oranges, are safe because they are pecied before eating. Of all foods the most dangerous are

water and milk, because they are often polluted (by sewage in the case of water, by human contact in the case of milk), because they are drunk promptly without time for the disease germs to die out and because, usually in the case of water and often in the

case of milk, they are not cooked. The second way in which disease germs are commonly spread is by means of contact between people them-selves. Fingers, in the catch phrase, which all who value their bealth should

try to bear in mind, stands not only for the fingers themselves, but for all sorts of ways in which disease germs

may be exchanged.

In measles and whooping cough and scarlet fever and diphtheria and tuberculosis and many other diseases the germs are present in the nose and throat and are spread from person to person by the fingers, which go too ofing cups and spoons and other things which too often are used in common and by the fine spray thrown out from the mouth in coughing and sneesing In typhold fever and diarrhea and sim tlar diseases the germs are found in the intestinal discharges, and here, too,

soiled fingers play an important part in the transmission of the disease. The third common way in which disease germs are spread is by means of insects. Files are perhaps the most important insect germ carriers in most states. They often pick up infected material on their legs and bodies and carry it to food, and where there is no good system of sewage disposal they may play a part in the spread of such diseases as typhold fever. A certain kind of mosquito carries malaria, and this, too, is important in certain dis tricts. In tropical countries a whole host of diseases is carried by insects .-New York American.

COWBOYS OF SPAIN.

Splendid Horsemen, but They Use

Spure Without Mercy. The perfection of Spanish horseman ship is to be seen among the vaqueros, ganaderos and garrochistas, by which various names the mounted berdemen of the Andalusian plains are known in brief, what we should call a cow boy. Every farm seems to maintain large number of these, for each herd. flock or drove has its own berdsman. gontherd or swipeherd, as the case may be. The vaqueres are a fine look ing lot of men. Tall, thin, light and loosely unde, they look ideal horse men, as, in point of fact, they are though their mounts are poor

The vaquero rides very high on a huge saddle, with a long stirrup and straight seg, using a single rein and a very heavy curb, but he has such beautiful hands that, sithough using this barbarous bit, he never cuts his norse's mouth about. It is different with the animals' sides, however, for ne uses his spurs without mercy, and the white norms-of which there are a large number-all here ominous red stains behind the girths.

All the nerdsmen who look after cattle carry a long lance, called a gar rocts, of thick and heavy wood, which, except when standing still, they at ways carry "in rest" and not "at the earry," presumably on account of its great length and possibly its weight With this weepon, in the use of which he acquires amuzing dexterity, the garrochista is able to control the most unruly brutes in the herd, not except ing the savage fighting bull.-Wide World Magazine

Sir George Trevelyan told a curious fittle anecdote regarding an interview he had once had with Thackerny The novelist was engaged at the time in writing "The Virginians," and in the middle of the conversation be commenced to ask each of the young men in the company what was the greatest length they had ever jumped. The

"Well," said Thackerny, "then I wi make Washington Jump twenty four." So reputations are made. - London

Offensively Officious

"You always go home exceedingly "Yes Our neighbors are the cause of that."

"How so?" "If I stay downtown a minute late they come right over and condone wit

my wife."- Louisville Courier-Journal. AERIAL TRAIL BREAKING.

Amazing Speed and Endurance of the Wild Swan In Flight.

It is impossible for one who has seen only the common muts swaps floating about in the artificial lakes of city parks to imagine the grandeur of a flock of the great whistiers in their wild state. In "Wild Life and the Camera" Mr. A. R. Dugmore says the nature. As the buge birds rise into the air it seems as if an aerial regatta were being sailed overhead, the swans, each with a wing spread of six or sev en feet, moving like yachts under full

Once the swans are fairly under way their speed is amaxing, nearly a hun-dred miles an hour, and that, too, with no apparent effort, for the slow wing motion is very deceiving. Their en durance is as surprising as their speed, for they are said to travel a thousand miles without alighting. The flocks are usually led by an old

and experienced swan, and it is said that as one becomes tired of leading. or it might be called aerial trail break ing, his place is taken by another whose strength is equal to the task and so they continue until they reach their destination, the southern feeding grounds of the winter or the northern breeding places of the summer. Occasionally they stop to rest in the region of the great lakes. Not many years ago, while on their way north, a large number stopped above Nigara falls. and more than a bundred were by some extraordinary mischance carried over the falls and killed in the surg

ng waters. Whether the swans prepare in any special way for their southward jour-ney is not known, but before starting north they indulge in the curious habit known as "ballasting"-that is to say, what purpose no one knows.

In the faraway Arctic ocean is their breeding place, and it is believed that they mate for life. As with so many of the water birds, the swans protect their eggs with a covering of down scratched from their own breasts, so that when the birds leave the next the two to six large, yellowish eggs are hidden from the eyes of possible thieves and protected against any sud den changes of temperature

It is many years before the swans are clothed in the feathers of immacu inte whiteness that make them such conspicuous objects of beauty. Not, indeed, until the fifth year does all trace of gray disappear. Their first feathers are entirely gray. Gradually they lighten, becoming mottled with white, the neck and head remaining gray until after the body is completely

"He's his own worst enemy." "Then he ought to apologize to him-self and start all over again." - Petroit PICTURES OF BATTLES.

Bubject For Artists.

From the earliest days of history-war as given inspiration to the artist, and the work of his hands comes down to us on the walls of ancient Egypt, worn with the passing of thousands years; from the ruined temples of an tione Greece, built centuries before the primitive and savage peoples describes exploits of war; many archaic war out al under desert sands, bear much similarity to Indian drawings of our

Once, years ago, away up on the Poplar river, in Montana, I bought bartered for, I suppose I should say as the purchase was made mainly by the medium of tea, tobacco and sugar-"painted" robe right off the back of war chief of a band of Yanktonnais Sloux our troops had "rounded up and brought into the agency. The skin was a fine "black bull," tanned on the underside to the softness of the finest chamols leather and decorated with naive pictorial representations of the deeds of war of old Kill Them In a Hole -ns the soldlers translated the name given the chief from some episode in his murderous career- which in color, in grace and firmness of line were curiously like pictures from the pencil of some artist of the Egypt of old.

The glory of war is the theme; the exaltation of the sovereign, the con queror, forms the chief motive of the var picture of antiquity. The monarch vas the hero before whose terrible sword all foes gave way, to whom vie ory came through his personal might prowess. The warriors of the Greeks are shown as models of virile trength and grace; their attitudes in he fury of combat tost nothing of ertistic beauty in the realism of the endering. The influence of the Greek maters of their art is evident in battle pictures of a time twoscore and more centuries later.—Rufus Fairchild Zogbaum in Scribner's.

MEDIEVAL PUNISHMENTS.

Queer Old Laws of England That Have

Never Been Revoked. Although the stocks, like the pillory nd the ducking stool, have been done tway with, a lot of pupishments survive in England which are every bit as

medieval. The most judicrous of these exist in the two services—the army and parywhich were renowned in the past for the crueities practiced in them in the name of justice "Keelhauting" as car ried out in the navy used, of course, to mount to execution by drowping. while in the army "running the gant let" was a popular way of punishing roublesome saidlers

Here is another queer punishment which never bus turn removed from the statute book if you are motoring or driving in England beware lest you run over agybody for Il you do so and anse his death your motorest or car ringe can be considered. Even a fall ing free that caused the death of a he man being enn is taken from its owner

The strangest punishment which still survives under modern law in England s that of "outlawry" Unly a few years ago in 1906 to be exact a law yer charged with forging a check waouthwed" in the Glasgow high court By this sentence the person of the acbear testimony in a court nor sue no defend an action. He cannot act on a jury nor vote at an election nor act as rutor or guardian to another person. If any one robs him he has no redress If any one kills him it seems rather doubtful if that person can be hanged.

One of New Yerk's Tiny Streets New York has some queer streets, and Edgar street is one of them. It has been built up solidly on both sides from end to end for generations, but t has no numbers, and no one lives on t. and no one does business The actier carrier never stops. It has mly one door, and that is kept locked nd never used. Fifteen long steps take one mong the sidewalk from one and to the other. Queer little thor oughfare is Edgar street, lying be tween Broadway and the Hudson, below Rector street, in oldest old New York. New York World.

The Question Box. What kind of glue should i nake a yardstick?-A. H. C. Please tell me now to tighten a hick

Why is it I cannot get any much rom a bandbox ?-Mrs. L. G. Can you tell me why it is that a tire orenks out at the start and goes out at the fluish? Helen M. How can I sharpen a nutmeg grater?

Mrs 8 Wisconsin State Journal.

Binks Why where a the breakfast? Mrs Buks Hush dear! The cook ate Stores What! Ale it all? Mrs. Binks) es denr. We mustn't say anything + think cook is just the sort of woman who would go round and say ve starved our help.-Cleveland Pidle

"Crabbed Age and Youth." "Now Phomas," said the teacher an con explain the adage, 'Old mer for council and young men for war?" "It means," replied I bomas, "the the old men do the querreling and then set the young men do the fighting."-

A Pirate's Brutal Remark Captain Kidd buried his treasure. "If I were Mrs. Killd I would hide t in the top torread drawer. he as

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oranded horse shod bar on both or either jau Brand recorded in eight counties. Range Harney, Lake and Crook counties. Horses vented when sold.

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SHADOW PICTURES.

What Shell Fire is Like. I have read many attempts to de-scribe shell fire in a battle, but not one The Silhouette as the Origin of All to equal the easy description of this young officer, who does not pretend to be a stylist. Listen:

"You bear a boom miles away, hard- der Louis XV., a man whose name has ly audible in the distance. Then a not been preserved started in Paris an faint sign, gradually rising to a scream exhibition that he called Chinese as the shell whizzes toward you. Then shad we have consisted in throwing fash, an immense crash and the air upon a sheet the black outlines of men is filled with thousands of bullets and or objects and making these standows jagged lumps of iron, each making a take part in a play it so happened liferent sort of shricking noise. Then | that at this time Silhouette was unpopphile-phit everywhere as they hit that the had spent many years in England and had returned to his on This is shrappel."-London Sketch. tive country greatly impressed with English methods of public economy

A lady bought some furniture at an auction sale in Glasgow the other day. On paying the porter she remarked:

"Had I known how dirty that furniture was I would not have bought it." "Weet, ma'am." replied the porter. "It wis the dirtiest hoose I ever saw but, there, whit cud ye expect the mistrees wis only 'at hame' every l'uesday. Ab ken it fer a fac', 'cause I read it on a caird I gat in that drawer there."-

The Sick Man of the East, The phrase "the sick man of the sast" originated in a speech of Czar Nicholas to the British charge d'affaires at St. Petersburg at the time of the Crimean war. He said: "We have on our hands a sick man, a very sick man. It would be a great misfortune if one of these days he should slip rangements have been made" Argo-

Perfect Happiness. What is your idea of perfect happiness? Stubbs-Well, if my wife uld stop telling me what she thinks of me, and I had the privilege of telling my respected employer what i think of him it would seem about right.-Richmond Times Dispatch.

The Man and the Machine. "Not nearly as many as the other fel low," and the man who is always pollcoophics. "You see, I had to depend entirely on my own efforts for my rotes. His were machine made."— Kashington Star

Brown Why is your daughter going to talk against the permanence of a -Because she thought the advocacy of a republic would not go well with her new empire gown - Brooklyn Citi

Ferfectly Proper. business on an inflated empiral." "Yee, but then it deals in automo blie tires."- Baltimore American

Take care that no one nates you justly .-- Syrns.

Pins. paper of pins to mend the turn dress. The wearer appealed to her car neigh

"Have you any pina?" she asked. query on, and in a little while every nasenger was feeling along concealed edges and turning back tapels. In all were contributed by men.
"We never need them as much as the

women, but somehow we carry them and the women don't," said one of the male passengers.-New York Post.

At Palnswick churchyard, a pretty spot between Stroud and Gloucester. England, there are ninety-nine yew trees. The bundredth always dies, though it has been planted many times. envs that "when the handredth lives after it has been

Oive us an international mind to un Serstand, an international heart to feel.-William D. B. Ainey

to French flaguees, he met with decid-

Some one recalled that M. de Bu

eral idea For the Government of the

Chinese," in which he exploited his

of the Chinese shadows was responsi-ble for the jibe that Silhouette had is

sued the book as an advance notice for

the show; hence the shadows were

called allhouettes, and the name was

were then coming into vogue, in which

were presented only the outlines of

aces and figures filled in with black.

Though the fushion and the name of

the silhouette are of comparatively re

cent origin, the art itself is ancient. It

was used by Etruscan potters eight

centuries before Christ, and a classic

Benjamin West in a famous picture

called "The Origin of Painting. cinim

ed that all pictorial art originated it

an attempt to paint the fleeting stad-

ows of men and women as they fell

upon a wall or a blank space. Detroit

DAY OF THE QUILL PEN.

When Writing Paper Was Poor and

Envelopes Were Unknown.

Alexander I. of Russia thought it nec

essary to employ a man whose sole

duty consisted in cutting pens. He

was required to have a supply of not

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egend, which has been illustrated by

his efforts branded as parsi

less than 100 quills always ready. This number was by no means ex cessive, for Alexander would never use the same pen twice. Even the writing of a signature spotled a pen, in his Bilhonette was minister of finance unopinion, for subsequent use. The quill cutter, who received a salary of £340

a year, accompanied the caar on all his journeys, including campaigns against Writing implements changed considerably for the better during Sir Walter Glibey's long spell of life. "Though quill pens are still in use," he remarks in his "Recollections of Beventy Years," "I remember the time when one seldom saw any other kind. Steel pens in their early days were expensive and Cudertaking to apply these principles ill made, and few people used them. The paper we had seventy years ago may have been partly to blame. It ed disapproval by the Paristina But firth thanks did he get except to have had pelther the substance nor the surface we take as a matter of course bouette had written a book, "A Gen-

nowadays.
"I remember when envelopes came considered after the old system of closing letters with wafers or wax. Before envelopes were invented letters were always written with an eye to the position of the wafer or seal, a blank space being left to correspond with the space where this would be put on the outside, lest the written portion should be torn in opening."-New York Sun.

JOHN GEMBERLING.



Optician Jeweler. Engraver.

The constant mending required by Fine Watch Repairing A Spe quili peus must have proved a severe trial in the days when no others were available, says the London Chronicle.

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