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### SKIN OF A BADGER.

So Loose the Animal Can Almost Turn Somersaults in It.

The pelt of an adult badger is extremely thick and difficult for a biting adversary to penetrate, writes a trapper in Fur News, and so loosely does the skin cover the body that the animal is able to turn almost around in its hide.

Should a dog acquire a hold on the throat the badger turns himself so that the dog's grip is on the back of the badger's neck without having loosened his first hold. Then the badger secures a viselike grip upon some vulnerable portion of his enemy, and while his long tusks penetrate to the limit he digs and scratches with his front feet that are furnished with claws almost as formidable and deadly as might be expected from an anteat of the dark continent.

He who has removed the pelt of a badger and is at all observing does not wonder at this animal being sharp bitten and that he is able to hang with bulldog tenacity when the formation and adjustment of its jaws are noted. Neither is it so much of a mystery how he manages to bore through the soil so rapidly that half a dozen men with shovels cannot overtake him, for he is a mass of cords and muscles, particularly in the neck, chest and shoulders, very similar in physical construction to the ground mole.

The badger toes inward sharply when traveling and always on the walk, twisting about here and there very much like the movement of a skunk, while if it be in winter he makes a business of hunting buried dormant woodchucks.

He is a fur bearer of rather coarse quality, and there is a great range of value in the pelts taken, depending upon the length of the coat. A badger is chiefly valuable when it has a long coat, so that the guard hairs can be plucked and used to make shaving brushes.

### CORSICAN CRUELTY.

It Loomed Up Large in Napoleon's Treatment of Children.

Napoleon had a singular rage for pulling children's ears, sometimes so hard as to make the poor children cry. Caroline was very vexed when she saw her little Achilles the victim of his uncle's caresses, and more than once her son's tears made her weep too.

One day the First Consul, pulling the ears of the little fellow, hurt him, and he cried out. To teach him not to cry his uncle pulled his ear again, harder. Achilles, having freed himself, came back to him in a fury and, raising his little fist, shouted:

"You are a villain, a wicked, wicked villain!"

To prove the contrary Napoleon should have embraced his nephew and made him forget the pain he had gratuitously inflicted by some show of affection. But tenderness was not in his character. Corsicans scarcely know what it means, and though Napoleon used to say, "I am less of a Corsican than one thinks," he was really more so than any one or he himself thought. Instead of quieting his nephew he became angry and gave him a violent slap on the face. The child ran weeping to his Uncle Lucien, who was present, while Mme. Murat was so upset that she was taken ill, "from the effort," says Lucien, who relates this episode, "she made to control her feelings, which such violence to her child outraged. As for the First Consul, he left the room, shrugging his shoulders and slamming the door and saying that Caroline had always been an affected creature and acted like all parents who spoiled their children."—Turquans' "Sisters of Napoleon."

### Old Time Smallpox Cure.

To cure smallpox was apparently a very simple matter in the good old times. John of Gaddesden, court doctor to Edward II., has recorded that he got rid of the disease by the simple expedient of wrapping his patients in red cloth.

"Let scarlet red be taken," he says, "and let him who is suffering smallpox be entirely wrapped in it or in some other red cloth. I did this when the son of the illustrious king of England suffered from smallpox. I took care that all about his bed should be red, and that cure succeeded very well."—London Chronicle.

### Would Do Just as Well.

A well known clergyman who is very stout was having unusual difficulty one morning in lacing his shoes.

"My dear, you ought to have a valet," remarked his wife sympathetically.

"A valet?" echoed the clergyman. "Well, my dear, if I had a valley where I now have a mountain it would answer."—Ladies' Home Journal.

### Shifting the Burden.

"I note that you employ a great many quotations from the poets in your speeches."

"Yes," replied the orator. "Just now in my district it is desirable to say as little as possible for which you can be held personally responsible."—Washington Star.

### TELEPHONE NUMBERS.

With a Humorist's Views on the Eternal Fitness of Things.

Speaking of telephone numbers, a good number for a cigar dealer would be 2-1-5, and a cheap suburban sport might as well be 4 Flushing as anything else. An Irishman wishing to dine would naturally call up a place 2-8, but a Hinglishman 'aving to call up a blarsted, bloomin' creditor regarding a bill would be '3-2.

A lover ordering a chair would want 1-4-2, and a newly wed couple wishing a flat would want 1-4-2-2, but the German maiden refusing to marry would shout 9-9-9-9. (Oh, how clever!)

If you want to borrow you wish 4-2-0, and probably that is a money lender's number, but if you only want a small loan from a friend you will wish 2-0-5. (That's pretty cute. What?) The bookmaker should have two phones—9-2-1 for long shots and 4-2-5 for favorites. The man with a dog might call 6-6-6-6—(get that?)—and the farmer should put 8-0 on his list. (Put-eight-oh, hey, what! I rather guess that's a rotten potato!)

If two horses were in the running and 1-1-5-0 John he would be a happy lad and his smile would be 2-2 Broad. (This is one 1-8-2 Spring on you.) And if John spent the cash for liquor I would cry 5-5-5-4 John! But that is just how careless John is. His drinking is hades for his wife, but it's 7-4 John. (What, ho!)

(Honestly, I could keep this up all night! If two of you wished to be wed you would not have 2-8-4 Spring, because you could call 4-1 Rector to make you one immediately, and then, if tired of being united in one, you could go to a fat judge and let that 1-2 Broadparty-W again. If you can't see that, ask for information.—Ellis Parker Butler in Judge.

### MODERN CHEMISTRY.

Prediction of a Scientist and Its Remarkable Verification.

When a mathematical astronomer in Paris gave a Berlin observatory a search warrant for a new planet and, turning his telescope as directed, the Berlin observer found the previously unknown planet all the world wondered. Equally remarkable have been a prediction and its verification in the history of modern chemistry. Grading the known elements of nature according to the weight of their respective atoms, it was observed that the elements, some seventy or more in number, formed a scale marked by periodicity like the scale in music. This periodic law in the hand of genius became an instrument of research. It was in 1871 that Mendeleef, the Russian chemist, in forming the scale of elements, found it necessary to leave three spaces vacant for undiscovered elements to make his table true.

Neither did he hesitate to predict the properties which these elements should possess when discovered. It was as if an astrologer should inform you that you would meet some time in your life three men and that with the utmost particularity he told you their respective physical weights, the color of their hair, the size of hat, shoe and glove worn by each and, in a word, all the habits of mind and body sufficient to discriminate them positively from all other men. Not only was the prediction literally fulfilled, but Mendeleef had the unexpected pleasure to see the verification in his day, for out of the night of the unknown one after another came the predicted elements into the clear sunlight of science and were instantly recognized.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

### A Trick of the Sun.

Upon a mountain in Andalusia quaint spectral forms are frequently seen. Whenever there is a heavy mist and persons are ascending the mountain they appear in all their ghostly splendor and sometimes so suddenly as to strike dismay into the hearts of those who see them for the first time. Of course it is all a trick played by the sun. When a mist partially shrouds the mountain the sun is naturally obscured, and then he revenges himself by projecting the shadow of any person who is ascending the mountain until it assumes the form of a gigantic specter.

### An Insect Gunner.

Many insects have some means of defense from their natural enemies, none of which is more curious than that of a small beetle, which, when closely pursued, discharges a puff of poisonous vapor with a distinct detonation. Undoubtedly in many instances this aids the diminutive gunner in his escape, mainly, in all probability, by startling his pursuer and causing him to abandon the chase. From this peculiar acquirement, this little fellow is known as the bombardier beetle.

### She Doesn't Ask.

"Does your wife ask you for things she knows you cannot afford?"

"She hasn't asked me for a thing since we were married."

"Great! How do you manage it?"

"When she wants a thing she does not ask me; she tells me."—Houston Post.

### He Found It.

"I started out on the theory that the world had an opening for me, and I went to find it."

"Did you find it?"

"Oh, yes; I'm in a hole."

### Legislation.

Mrs. Knieker—Did you hold a short session with your husband? Mrs. Roeker—Yes. I merely had him pass an appropriation bill.—New York Times.

### NAVAL DESERTERS.

They Face Fine, Imprisonment and Loss of Citizenship.

Every time a fleet of naval vessels visits port there are sure to be a number of desertions. These come about from various causes, and among the deserters is always a large percentage of recruits that come from inland states. To these young men the confinement of a ship and daily drills soon become irksome. This, added to seasickness, to which they are almost invariably subject, produces an irresistible desire to desert. In other instances desertions come about through the men becoming intoxicated and practically irresponsible while on shore leave. In the meantime their vessel may sail. These men are not at first termed deserters, but are set down as stragglers. If, however, after a period of ten days nothing is heard from them by the ship's officers they are then considered deserters.

At the end of the ten day limit their allotment is stopped, the bureau of navigation is notified, and, in conformity to an act of congress, their effects are sold before the mast. The amount realized is placed to their account and the latter transferred to the deserters' roll. At the end of six months, if they still have not been heard from, their wages are declared forfeited to the United States. The penalty for desertion is fine and imprisonment as well as loss of citizenship.

The reward for the recovery of a deserter may not exceed \$20, and for a straggler the limit is \$10. This sum, together with any expenses incurred by the person capturing and delivering a deserter or straggler, when it is paid by the government is charged against the account of the man. If the enlisted man finds he has been left ashore and if he really had no intention of deserting he may report to the nearest naval station or if in a foreign country to the United States consul. When this is done he is immediately taken off the deserters' roll and accounted merely as a straggler, the punishment for which as a rule is light.—Marine Journal.

### FEARED A TRAP.

A Bit of Japanese Strategy That Deceived the Enemy.

Many a man has failed to guess an easy riddle because the simple solution looked like a trap to him. Here is an instance in which this trait of human nature was cleverly played upon by a Japanese nobleman.

The old lord had been forced to flee with only 300 men before an enemy with 10,000 and barely had time to reach his castle ahead of his foes. There were no reinforcements near at hand, and he knew that if an attempt was made to storm his defenses he and his men would be dead before help could come.

The enemy's forces advanced rapidly, and scouts rode up near the castle to reconnoiter. To their amazement, they found the gates, doors and windows open and all the appearance of a holiday celebration. They rode hastily back to inform their master that the foe was dancing and that bands were playing music in the castle.

The powerful enemy was too wise a man to put his head into any such trap as that. The defenders of the castle must have some plan to slaughter his forces by wholesale or they would never invite him in that way. He drew back to a safe distance and encamped to await developments.

Soon the reinforcements for the castle came up behind, attacked him suddenly and defeated him, while the garrison, which had risked all on its stratagem, charged him on the other side.

### Rossini's Reception of Wagner.

Wagner and some companions called upon Rossini. Hearing them on the stairs, Rossini hastily placed the score of "Lohengrin" on the piano, and when the German composer entered he said, pointing to it, "You see, illustrious maestro, I am studying your work."

"But the score is upside down!" exclaimed the other, seeing how the book was placed.

"Yes," returned Rossini calmly; "the fact is I have had it the right way up for some time, but could make nothing of it," and then all present began to laugh, including Wagner himself.—Voice and Violin.

### Able to Take Care of Herself.

"Camille, my child," said the gentle dame, "if what I hear is true, Mr. Harkyns is boasting of having made a conquest of you, and I trust you will see the propriety of requesting him to discontinue his visits."

"Don't you worry, maw!" exclaimed the imperious beauty. "When I found out that Hank Harkyns had told Lil Jones I was dead stuck on him I gave him the g. b. You bet he knows he's broke his pick with me, all right!"—Chicago Tribune.

### The Denial Habit.

"Let me caution you, about one thing," said the alert sister of the prospective groom.

"Well?"

"When the bishop asks you if you take this woman to be your wedded wife, please don't say there's no truth in the rumor."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

### The Flush Brand.

"Did you ever gaze on royalty?"

"Just once. It cost me \$3.75, and the chap who held it drew two cards too."—Detroit Free Press.

By the verdict of his own breast no guilty man is acquitted.—Juvenal.

## HERBINE

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A Cure for Chronic Constipation, Torpid Liver and Irregular Bowel Movements.

Constipation is the most common disorder of the bowels. It affects both sexes and all ages but is more prevalent among women because their duties in the household require less physical exercise than the occupations of men; therefore women suffer most from its baneful effect.

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