A COMBAT WITH TIGERS

"NO," said Tom Moran, "adventures don't seem to come my way. My experiences in that line would hardly be worthy of mention, but somehow Brother Bob has a genuine talent for tumbling into all manner of adventures. Brother Bob has had quite a number of pretty close calls in the wild regions in which we have traveled, but he has plenty of grit and has always been able to pull through."

Tom Moran is a miner who was graduated in the Comstock school of mining years ago and who has since had much experience in Mexico, Australia, India and other gold-producing countries.

"It is singular that you should have been able to travel through so many strange countries without a few hairbreadth escapes or some other experiences worthy of being related," said one of the old Comstock friends who were questioning Tom in regard to his travels in foreign lands. "Did you never run against a tiger while in India?"

"Tiger," said Tom, with a laugh. "Well, yes, I've run against the 'tigers' of nearly every country on the two sides of the globe."

"I am speaking now of the real, roaring, ramping Bengal tiger—the striped beast of the jungle," said the Comstocker.

"I saw quite a number of tigers while in India and went after the animals on regular hunts. I killed a few while I was there, in order to get some good skins."

"Never got into close quarters with one?"

"Well, not very; but Brother Bob had rather a bad bout with a big hill tiger up in Nepaul."

"Did Bob get away with the tiger?"

"Yes, Brother Bob is true grit; the tiger was killed."

"As you had no adventures of your own during your travels, Tom," said a Comstocker, "suppose you give us the story of Bob's tiger fight."

"I am sorry Brother Bob is not here to tell you about his battle with 'Madame Stripes,' but as he is not with us this evening, I will give you a little sketch of the affair as I saw it.

"THE TIGER SPRANG UPON BROTHER BOB."

"Brother Bob and I were up on the Nepaul frontier, headed for the lower slopes of the Himalayas.

"In place of the ducks, cranes, coots and pelicans of the lagoons along the lowland course of the Koosee we now began to see quail, partridges, pea fowl, florican and other upland birds. In places hidden in patches of dense jungle and overgrown with vines and creepers were dilapidated temples indicating that the whole country had at some time been inhabited, though in the present age only a few scattered villages are to be found. Outside of the villages there are here and there huts inhabited by the 'gwalla,' or cowherd caste, and these huts of the men of the cattle stations are often in the heart of almost impenetrable stretches of jungle.

"While in this beautiful region our guns kept us well supplied with all kinds of game, and we first and last killed many wolves, jackals, leopards and about a dozen tigers, great and small. The British and wealthy natives almost always use elephants in hunting tigers, sometimes having fifty or more of the huge beasts in line; but as we were not in a position to command a supply of elephants, we did our work on foot, hiring a score or more of coolies, with tom toms, firecrackers and horns to beat through small patches of jungle. At first we mounted ourselves on 'mychans,' bamboo platforms, at the point where we expected the game to appear, but after we had learned something of the nature and ways of the tiger we did not bother with platforms, but took our chances on the ground.

"The gwallas of the region were always ready to bring us news of a tiger having killed one of their cattle, and when we got news of a 'kill' we were soon out after the killer. Often the gwallas would be able to point out the patch of jungle to which the tiger had retired after making the kill and feasting his fill.

"It was here in this foothill region that Brother Bob had his adventure with a big hill tiger. A 'shekarry,' a native expert hunter, who keeps himself well posted in regard to the movements of game and manages hunts for both British and rich natives, one day came to our camp and proposed to give us some sport. He said that as neither the English nor the native princes were hunting at that season business was very slack with him. He offered for a very reasonable price to bring out his people and beat through a piece of jungle which he knew to be alive with all kinds of game. As a part of the bargain Brother Bob and I were to kill as many wild hogs, deer and the like as we could knock over, the shekarry saying his people were all very hungry for meat.

"The particular piece of jungle selected by the old game expert to be beaten through lay between the forks of two large streams with high and steep banks. A more favorably situated jungle for sport could not have been found. As Bob and I would station ourselves near the junction of the two streams nothing could pass that way without being seen. We took stations about fifty yards apart at a point where the jungle became somewhat thin and open, each thrusting into the ground a leafy branch of parass to serve as a screen or blind. After a long wait we heard faintly in the distance the sound of the tom toms and the shouts of the beaters as they advanced into the jungle.

"Presently we heard a rustling upon the stray leaves in front, and a troop of monkeys, loudly chattering their alarm, came hopping out of the dense jungle.

"As yet we had seen no deer or other desirable game, but the beaters were still far away. Taking a peep from behind my screen, I was somewhat surprised to see a large female tiger come gliding out of the thick jungle, crouching close to the ground as she passed into the open. She was on Brother Bob's side of the jungle and was moving straight toward him, apparently more concerned about the commotion behind her than afraid of danger in front. Bob had also seen the tiger and had dropped to one knee behind his screen and leveled his rifle. Every moment I expected to hear the report of Bob's gun, as the tiger was within ten yards of his blind and was moving slowly.

"Some noise in the jungle frightened the skulking beast and, after a quick backward glance, it blindly bounded forward. At the second bound the tiger landed almost on top of Bob, as he crouched behind his fragile screen. Instantly he fired, thrusting his rifle at the beast without aim. Wounded by the shot, the tiger uttered a howl of rage, dashed aside the screen and struck Bob a blow with a fore paw that sent his gun flying and left him stretched senseless on his back.

"I rushed forward at once to Bob's assistance. As I ran the infuriated beast threw herself upon Bob and began tearing at him with her teeth. Hearing a sound as of cracking bones, I thought every rib in poor Bob's body was being crushed. As I feared to use my rifle I threw it down and drew my revolver. My yells, as I rushed on the tiger, caused her to cease tearing at Bob and fix her eyes upon me. But she still retained her position across Bob's breast while showing her teeth and snarling at me.

"I thought it probable that she was so badly wounded as not to be able to rise upon her legs and so decided to take her at close quarters and make sure of her. With my pistol in my right hand and in my left a long-bladed knife, sharp as a razor, I crept forwa: .. I advanced crouched almost upon my knees, as the tiger's position across poor Bob was such that I feared to fire with a downward range.

"I had got up within ten feet of the tiger when she suddenly left Bob and leaped at me. The charge of the beast was a surprise, but by a backward move I avoided her leap and as she passed fired my pistol into her neck, at the same moment plunging the knife into her side up to the hilt. She fell and did not move from where she landed, the pistol shot having broken her neck.

"Seeing the tiger was in its death struggles I turned my attention to Brother Bob, who was still stretched unconscious upon the ground. The beaters were fast approaching through the jungle with great uproar and thumping of tom toms, wild hogs in droves, both black and gray, were rushing by, spotted deer were charging past and the whole jungle seemed alive with game of all kinds, some droves of wild pigs almost running over me.

"I was just stooping over Bob when a huge male tiger bounded out of the jungle and halted within ten feet of where I stood. I had my pistol upon him in an instant, and as his head was so held that a bullet would not glance from his skull I took good aim and gave him a shot between the eyes that brought him down as dead as though he had been a sheep or an ox. Seeing that the shot had killed the tiger I ran down to the river, filled my hat with water and went to work to try to restore Bob's senses. He had been badly stunned and was breathing heavily, but I saw he had no bad wounds and soon had the satisfaction to see him open his eyes, when it was not long before his wits returned and he was able to sit up. The paw of the tiger had struck him on the side of the head and knocked him senseless, but had only slightly wounded his scalp. The weight of the tiger on his chest had almost stopped his breath and he felt some internal soreness. We found that his life had been saved by a lucky chance. In a game bag he had slung to his side were some quail and a pea fowl or two, and it was these the tiger had seized upon and crunched in her blind rage, not Bob's ribs.

"Bob was much astonished and bewildered when he saw two dead tigers stretched out alongside of him. I told him that he had gone into a sort of delirium of rage and killed them both, and for a time he believed my story. He said he had an indistinct recollection of having done a good deal of fighting.

"When the old shekarry came up with his crowd of beaters he was at first much disappointed that we had killed no deer or wild pigs. 'Alas, sahibs,' cried he, 'no meat—no meat!' He, however, soon cheered up and took great credit to himself for having said there were tigers in the jungle. After the tigers were skinned we went down to the river and killed for the old fellow quite a lot of pigs. We were well satisfied with our prizes, the skins of the two tigers. The male measured, as he lay on the ground, eleven feet two inches from tip to tip and the female ten feet four inches.

"They were unusually large hill tigers, which are of heavier build than the tigers of the valleys, but average less in length. To kill tigers with a pistol was a feat before unheard of on the frontier, and obtained for us great credit for nerve, but give a tiger a square shot in the head and he will go down like a bullock. Many tigers are killed by single shots from rifles, but the man who goes after tigers on foot must have a considerable amount of nerve. I could always bet on the nerve of Brother Bob."

A FABLED ROC.

Marco Polo Tells What He Heard of the Monster Bird.

"The True Story of Marco Polo," as told anew in St. Nicholas by Noah Brooks, contains many stories about fabulous monsters.

You must know that this island lies so far south that ships cannot go further south or visit other islands in that direction, except this one and that other of which we have to tell you, called Zanghibar. This is because the seacurrent runs so strong towards the south that the ships which should attempt it never would get back again. Indeed, the ships of Maabar which visit this Island of Madeigascar, and that other of Zanghibar, arrive thither with marvelous speed, for great as the distance is, they accomplish it in twenty days, while the return voyage takes them more than three months. This is because of the strong current running south, which continues with such singular force and in the same direction at all seasons.

'Tis said that in those other islands to the south, which the ships are unable to visit because this strong current prevents their return, is found the bird Gryphon, which appears there at certain seasons. The description given of it is, however, entirely different from what our stories and pictures make it. For persons who have been there and had seen it told Messer Marco Polo that it was for all the world like an eagle, but one indeed of enormous size; so big, in fact, that its wings covered an extent of thirty paces, and its quills were twelve paces long, and thick in proportion. And it is so strong that it will seize an elephant in its talons and carry him high into the air, and drop him so that he is smashed to pieces; having so killed him, the bird gryphon swoops down upon him and eats him at leisure. The people of those isles call the bird ruc, and it has no other name. So if I wot not if this be the real gryphon, or if there be another manner of bird as great. But this I can tell you for certain, that they are not half lion and half bird as our stories do relate; but enormous as they be, they are fashioned just like an eagle.

The Great Khan sent to those parts to inquire about these curious matters, and the story was told by those who went thither. He also sent to procure the release of an envoy of his who had been dispatched thither, and had been detained; so both those envays had many wonderful things to tell the Great Khan about those strange islands, and about the birds I have mentioned. They brought (as I heard) to the Great Khan a feather of the said ruc, which was stated to measure ninety spans, while the quill part was two palms in circumference, a marvelous object! The Great Khan was delighted with it, and gave great presents to those who brought it. They also brought two boar's tusks, which weighed more than fourteen pounds apiece; and you may gather how big the boar must have been that had teeth like that! They related, indeed, that there were some of these boars as big as a great buffalo. There are also numbers of giraffes and wild asses; and, in fact, a marvelous number of wild beasts of strange aspect.

Colored People Never Sneeze.

"It was Professor Schroeder of Louisville," volunteered a surgeon to a reporter, "who first ventured the opinion that the negro never sneezed. The statement was made in reply to a question of Professor Gross, the famous Philadelphia surgeon, and in whose memory a statue was recently dedicated in this city. A smile passed around the listeners, and Professor Schroeder, observing that there was some doubt about his statement, reiterated it with some force. He then explained that while there were no structural arrangements about the breathing apparatus of the colored race that had been discovered which prevented him sneezing, it was a fact that the colored man did not sneeze, though he could be made to sneeze by the use of snuffs, pepper and other irritants. He had, he said, never made any experiments in that connection. He also said his observation had been confined to colored people in the Southern States. Atmospheric or other conditions might exist elsewhere which might cause him to sneeze, but none existed naturally in the South. The debate on the subject occupied nearly an hour at a meeting of the International Surgical Association, which held a convention in the old Lincoln hall some years ago. Since then, I have often spoke of it and asked my friends to notice, and though I have directed the attention of hundreds to the subject, I have yet to hear the first one say that they have ever heard a negro man or woman sneeze. By negro I mean a black man or woman. I believe that mulattoes sneeze occasionally and the nearer they are to white the more frequently they sneeze, but even they are less sensitive to influences which produce sneezing than the people of the white race. It has been observed also that Indians sneeze very seldom, while Chinese sneeze ten times as much, even, as the white race."—Washington Star.

Barbers' Clippings Useful.

Until quite recently no effective use had been found, even in this age of the universal utilization of waste, for the clippings of men's hair left over in barbers' shops, though all manner of experiments have from time to time been made with this material. But a very well known fishing-tackle maker, who sends his wares all over the world, has of late bought quantites of such hair, and the writer sought him out in order to ascertain the precise uses to which it was put, and information was readily given.

My workpeople use large quantities of human hair in the making of artificial fishing flies, for certain parts of which it is the best material out. Wrapped thickly round the bodies of many kinds of flies, it has the quality of not gathering water and getting sodden, as silk does, while it stands more wear and tear. But even beyond this, we use a considerable amount in tying gut on hooks. Added by a small patented implement, hook tiers now commonly use human hair instead of silk, and the lashing is both stronger and neater. But a plan has been devised for using human hair almost exclusively in silk and hair combination reel lines, in which horsehair alone was at one time employed, and these new lines are unsurpassed for toughness and lightness.

You are mistaken in supposing that fishing-tackle makers are the only persons who buy barbers' clippings. Within the last year or two tons of hair have been packed in the lining between the iron plates forming the armor sheathing of certain parts of war vessels; a peculiar type of cupola, for instance, having a thickness of tightly packed hair between casings of metal. The hair is so elastic that it is said to form a most effective backing to metal; and also in connection with shipping, the makers of ships' fenders—the soft spheres of tow-rope that are thrown over the side of a vessel to prevent her from scrubbing against the edge of a quay or dock—are beginning to utilize human hair.

The Diet of European Nations.

The following is a summary of the dietetic habits of the rural population, the healthiest portion of the European countries:

Belgium—Coffee, black bread, potatoes, vegetables, chicory, and sometimes salted meats.

England—Beef, pork, potatoes, vegetables, tea, cheese, beer, cider.

Ireland—Oatmeal bread, potatoes, beans, milk, butter, vegetables.

Scotland—Oatmeal bread, potatoes, milk, butter, coffee, tea, very rarely flesh.

Rhenish Prussia—Milk, soup, dried fish, potatoes, grapes, flesh only for the feast days.

Saxony—Bread, butter, cheese, soup, vegetables, coffee, flesh only on feast days.

Bavaria—Porridge, butter, milk, cabbage, potatoes.

Italy—Macaroni, bread, fruits, beans, peas, and lentils, wheat, rice, grapes, wine, a very little flesh on feast days, but only in certain regions.

Spain—Bread, vegetables, fish, fruit, flesh only occasionally.

Russia—Rye bread, cabbage, mushroom soup, wheat cooked with milk and oil.

Sweden—Potatoes, rye, oatmeal, barley, milk, salt herring, beer, no flesh food.

Switzerland—Cheese, milk, coffee, soup, vegetables, wine, very rarely flesh.

France—In the neighborhood of Bourgogne meat is eaten but once a year. The peasants of Morvan eat meat twice a year. The peasants of Sardinia once a year; the peasants of Auvergne very seldom; the Bretons never, except rich farmers, who eat flesh on feast days.

We see from this table that European peasants, the hard workers, subsist almost wholly upon fruits, grains and vegetable food, a regimen which is highly economical, and by which they are sustained in good health. The peasants live to be much older than aristocrats and crowned heads who feast upon meats and the luxuries of courts.

Victoria's Descendants.

A laborious genealogist announces, as the result of years of minute labor, that the Queen has had nine children, of whom she has lost two; forty-one grandchildren, of whom eight have died; and twenty-three great-grandchildren, all of whom are living. She has, therefore, sixty-three descendants living—seven children, thirty-three grandchildren, and twenty-three of the next generation. Her eldest great-grandchild—the Princess Feodora of Saxe-Meiningen—is now nearly 17, so that in all probability her Majesty will live to see her grandchildren's grandchildren. Few English sovereigns before Queen Victoria have seen grandchildren grow out of infancy, and none ever saw a great-grandchild. Hence her Majesty had to determine the question of precedency in the case of the Duchess of Fife's children, and she wisely decided that they should rank only as daughters of a duke.

This decision was in accordance with a House law decreed earlier in the reign, by which the title of prince and royal highness is limited to the children of the sovereign, and the children of the sovereign's sons, the children of the sovereign's daughters taking precedence only according to the rank of their fathers. Thus the Princess Helena's children rank as children of Prince Christian only, while the Duke of Connaught's are royal highnesses; and Prince Arthur of Connaught's son and successor, if he has one, will be the Duke of Connaught, as an ordinary duke, taking precedence merely by date of the creation of his dukedom. This is now the case of the Duke of Cumberland on the roll of the House of Lords, though he is styled royal highness as son of a king of Hanover.

Impartial.

A remarkable instance of the impartial administration of justice is said to have occurred some years ago in a court of Texas when a young Mexican, charged with having stolen a pistol, was arraigned.

He proved beyond all doubt that the pistol was his own, and that it had been in his possession long before the alleged theft occurred.

The case went to the jury at twelve o'clock, the usual hour of adjournment, and the jury, who did not wish to be kept until the court opened again at three o'clock, hurried to give in their verdict.

The foreman, who had been reclining in a peaceful attitude, suggestive of slumber, during the hearing, turned to his companions, saying:

"Well, boys, what do you think? Hadn't we better give him two years?"

"All right," responded a juryman. "Put him through, or the judge will adjourn."

"Go ahead," said another. "We don't want to stay here till three o'clock. Hurry up!"

"But is he guilty?" inquired a thoughtful old gentleman.

"Well," exclaimed the foreman, after a stare of astonishment at this view of the matter, "if you think he ain't guilty, let's clear him!"

A verdict of "Not guilty!" was speedily rendered, and the juryman cheerfully repaired to noontide meal.

The Sack Tree.

From a species of trees, the genus which includes the celebrated upas-tree, sacks are made in Western India by the following singular process. A branch is cut corresponding to the length and diameter of the sack wanted. It is soaked a little, and then beaten with clubs till the fiber separates from the wood. This done, the sack formed of the bark is turned inside out and pulled down till the wood is sawn off, with the exception of a small piece left to form the bottom of the sack. These sacks are in general use in Western India.

An Economical Emperor.

Emperor Francis Joseph is cutting down the expenses of his household and putting an end to perquisites enjoyed by court servants since the days of Maria Theresa. They had an allowance of wood, wine and venison, with two wax candles in summer and three in winter. These are put an end to. Their liveries will no longer be their own, and they will not be allowed to sell the cold victuals left from the daily meals and the State banquets.

Uniformity of Size.

An evidence of the striking uniformity of size among the Japanese is found in the fact that recent measurements taken of an infantry regiment showed no variations exceeding two inches in height or twenty pounds in weight.

Piety in New York.

The population of New York cannot be called a church-going one. There are less than 600 places of Christian worship, seating only about 300,000 persons.

OUR BOYS AND GIRLS

THIS IS THEIR DEPARTMENT OF THE PAPER.

Quaint Sayings and Cute Doings of the Little Folks Everywhere, Gathered and Printed Here for All Other Little Ones to Read.

A Sign

A boy came down by my gate to-day, and
a moment he lingered there,
And he whistled, and then for a signal
call his hand shot up in the air;
And I, from the shade of my porch, looked up and over my paper's rim,
And I saw two fingers in V-form raised—and my heart went straight out to him.

And, oh, the way that the years sloughed
off at the sight of that upraised hand,
As again I read that signal which no boy faileth to understand;
Sweet, sweet old summers of days gone by appeared, and I half suspect
That moist were the eyes which looked and beheld those boyish fingers erect.

Afar then there came through the heated
air from the lot of my neighbor Jones,
An answering call, and a screamed "You bet!" in the most decisive of tones;
And straightway the signal corps adjourned and two happy boys set forth
For the line of woods, where the clear Des Plaines streams down from the distant north.

Oh, wonders they tell of the heliograph
and marvels the lightning does,
When the telegraph ticks and the telephones mix words with their whir and buzz;
But I think sometimes of the sunburned
boy—and that credit is due to him
Who first transmitted by finger sign the message: "Let's go and swim."
—Chicago Record.

Johnnie's Logic.

Johnnie, an outspoken youth of 4 years, was permitted to be present at a family tea party instead of having his supper in the nursery. His request for some cake was refused by his mother. "Because, dear, you know it's nighttime and it wouldn't be good for you." "But," remonstrated Johnnie, "it's no darker in my stummick at night than it is in the morning, so how's it going to know?"

Youngest Telegrapher in the World.

The youngest telegrapher in the world is Miss Leah Sullivan, of Callao, Mo. Leah is almost seven years old, and she can handle the key almost as well as her father, who is the division superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company. She has a little office fitted out in her home with all requirements needed for telegraphy. The wire connects with her father's office some two or three miles distant. She is very sweet and amiable. Lately Leah's house has been connected with several others in the town and the wire is made a first-class substitute for the telephone.

Puzzle—Find the Squirrel.

This is a lonesome-looking place, but there is a pretty squirrel in one of the trees.

A Bird Performer.

Canaries and other tame birds are sometimes taught to perform tricks, but it always has been regarded almost an impossibility to train a wild bird. Yet an English paper tells how Andrew Hume, the famous Scotch bird-lover, has trained one of the wildest of Scottish birds to perform all sorts of remarkable tricks—to jump and keep time with the skipping-rope, to perform on the slack and tight rope, climb an upright rope, stand on top of a running carriage, draw cards out of a box, mount a ladder and ring a bell, go round a wheeling stair step by step and fly to its owner's head when called upon. Care and kindness can accomplish much in the case of canaries and some other birds, but this is believed to be almost the first time that the linnet has so distinguished itself.

An Old-Fashioned Spelling Problem.

When our grandfathers were boys and our grandmothers girls nothing delighted them so much as a spelling bee. The person in the neighborhood, be he young or old, who could stand up longest even in the face of such words as "antediluvian," "separate," "kerosene" and "hippopotamus" was looked up to and honored. And spelling in those days wasn't such a simple task as it is to-day. Take the word "Mississippi," for instance. The speller puckered up his mouth and began.

"M-i-s-s, miss, i-s-s, iss, Missis, i-p-p, ipp, Mississipp, i, i, Mississippi," and then he stopped. All out of breath.

There were some famous old nuts to crack in spelling, too. For instance, there was "abominable bumble bee with his tail cut off." That was hard. It took study and time to spell it, and if the speller could keep her face straight through it all she was indeed clever.

Perhaps you would like to know how to spell "abominable bumble bee with his tail cut off." You might learn it and use it for some evening entertainment. It is a great mirth provoker. Read it over to your friends in a monotonous tone of voice and see if they can keep their faces straight. Here is the whole story:

A and there's your a; b-o-m, and there's your bom and your abom; i, and there's your i and your bomi and your abomi; n-a, and there's your na and your ina and your bomina and your abomina; b-l-e, and there's your ble and your nable and your inable and your bominable and your abominable; b-u-m, and there's your bum and your ble bum and your nable bum and your inable bum and your bominable bum and your abominable bum; b-l-e, and there's your ble and your bumble and your ble bumble and your nable bumble and your inable bumble and your bominable bumble and your abominable bumble; b-e-e, and there's your bee and your ble bee and your bumble bee and your ble bumble bee and your nable bumble bee and your inable bumble bee and your bominable bumble bee and your abominable bumble bee; w-i-t-h, and there's your with and your bee with and your ble bee with and your bumble bee with and your nable bumble bee with and your inable bumble bee with and your abominable bumble bee with; h-i-s, and there's your his and your with his and your bee with his and your ble bee with his and your bumble bee with his and your nable bumble bee with his and your inable bumble bee with his and your bominable bumble bee with his and your abominable bumble bee with his.

Here pause and take a good breath before you go on. Then at it again.

T-a-i-l, and there's your tail and your his tail and your with his tail and your bee with his tail and your ble bee with his tail and your bumble bee with his tail and your ble bumble bee with his tail and your nable bumble bee with his tail and your inable bumble bee with his tail and your bominable bumble bee with his tail and your abominable bumble bee with his tail; c-u-t, and there's your cut and your tail cut and your his tail cut and your with his tail cut and your bee with his tail cut and your ble bee with his tail cut and your bumble bee with his tail cut and your ble bumble bee with his tail cut and your nable bumble bee with his tail cut and your inable bumble bee with his tail cut and your bominable bumble bee with his tail cut and your abominable bumble bee with his tail cut; o-ff, and there's your off and your cut off and your tail cut off and your his tail cut off and your with his tail cut off and your bee with his tail cut off and your ble bee with his tail cut off and your bumble bee with his tail cut off and your ble bumble bee with his tail cut off and your nable bumble bee with his tail cut off and your inable bumble bee with his tail cut off and your bominable bumble bee with his tail cut off and your abominable bumble bee with his tail cut clear off.

And by the time you are finished you are glad indeed that one bumble bee at least hasn't any tail.

Sailing Under the Sea.

When Jules Verne wrote his story, "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea," in which he describes how a certain Captain Nemo navigated a submarine ship under the surface of the ocean, few people dreamed that Jules Verne's imaginary marine wonder would ever become a reality. But a sub-marine boat already has been built. It was launched on May 17 at Elizabeth, N. J., and it bears the name "Holland," after its inventor. It is 55 feet lond and 11 feet in diameter, and it can sail as well under water as on the surface. In case of war it could be loaded with torpedoes and run under water until it was beneath the enemy's biggest warship, when the torpedoes could be placed and the great vessel blown to atoms.

Just think of skimming along the bottom of the sea in such a boat and think what a fight there would be if two such boats belonging to hostile navies should meet under water!

We should feel proud, too, that the inventor of this ship is an American.

Procession of Worms Fifty Feet Long.

In the deep pine forests of Norway wood-cutters sometimes find a serpent-like object nearly fifty feet long crawling slowly over the ground. If they did not know that it was made up of millions of little worms they might be frightened by its peculiar appearance. These worms, called the sciara, gather during July and August in large numbers, preparatory to migrating in search of food or for change of condition. When setting out on this journey they stick themselves together and form a huge serpent-like mass, often reaching a length of between forty and fifty feet, and several inches in thickness. As the sciara is only on an average about three thirty-seconds of an inch in length, and barely wider than a fine needle, the number required to compose a line of the size above mentioned is enormous. Their pace is very slow, and upon meeting an obstacle, such as a stick or stone, they will either writhe over or around it, sometimes breaking into two bodies for this purpose. M. Guerin-Meneville, a celebrated French naturalist, says that if the rear portion of this wonderful snake-like procession be brought into contact with the front part, and a sort of circle formed, the insects will keep moving round in that circle for hours without apparently noticing that they are not getting on in their journey. If the procession be broken in two, the portions will re-unite in a short time. The Norwegian peasants, when they meet one of these trains, will lay some article of their clothing, such as a belt or handkerchief, on the ground in front of it. If the procession passes over it it is regarded as a good sign, but if it makes a way round the reverse is believed.

A Substitute for Amputation.

"A new and simple mode of treatment has been introduced in France," says the Medical Times, "by which, it is claimed, a large proportion of injured limbs now usually amputated can be saved. The method, which is due to Dr. Reclus, was recently described before the French Congress of Surgery, and is thus explained:

"'Whatever the extent or gravity of the lesions, he never, under any circumstances, amputates the injured limb, but merely wraps it in antiseptic substances by a veritable embalming process, leaving nature to separate the dead from the living tissues. This method of treatment possesses the double advantage of being much less fatal than surgical exaresis, and of preserving for the use of the patient, if not the entire limb, at any rate a much larger part than would be left by amputation.

"'He advocates this very conservative treatment on account of the excellent effects of hot water, which he uses freely. After the skin has been shaved and cleansed from all fatty substances by ether, etc., in the usual way a jet of hot water 60 to 62 degrees C. (140 to 144 degrees), but not higher, is made to irrigate all the injured surfaces and to penetrate into all the hollows and under the detached parts of the wound without exception. This is the only way of removing all clots and to wash away all foreign bodies, together with the micro-organisms they may contain. The advantages of hot water at this high temperature are threefold: First, hot water at this temperature is antiseptic, heat greatly increases the potency of antiseptic substances; second, it is hemstatic (blood-staunching); third, it helps to compensate for the loss of heat resulting from the bleeding, and especially from the traumatic shock. After the "embalming" process and the dead tissue has been separated from the living, the surgeon has nothing to do except to divide the bone at a suitable spot. According to Reclus the results attained are remarkable.'"

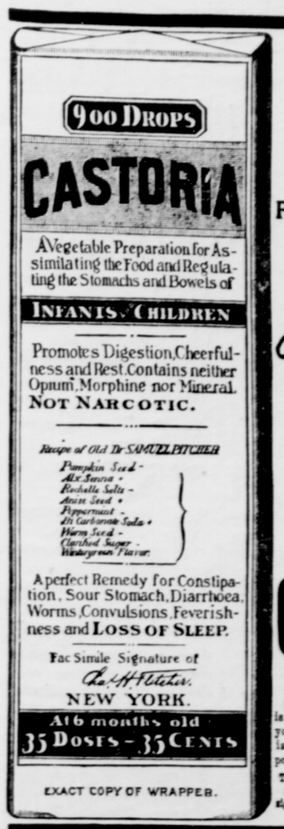
The Real Cure.

Mr. Henpeck—Doctor, my wife tells me that you have advised her to go to the seaside for two months.

Physician—Yes.

Mr. Henpeck—Do you think she needs rest?

Physician—No; but you do.—Tit-Bits



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