A Boy Naturalist—Story of His Travels in Brazil.

Mr. Ernest Morris, the young naturalist, whose letters to the *World* from Brazil will be well remembered, returned on Sunday evening in the steamer *Rio Janeiro* from Para, and was visited yesterday at his hotel in Brooklyn by a *World* reporter. He is slightly unwell from the effects of his voyage, but was in good spirits and full of enthusiasm. This was his fourth trip to Brazil. "I have returned this time," said he, "not because I wanted to come home, but simply because I had not the outfit necessary to enable me to continue my explorations in that most interesting country. I have made an immense collection of specimens, and if I can dispose of it I shall return in June to explore the river Japura, which is a region almost entirely unvisited. You are aware that I went out as naturalist to the Mackie Scott expedition, and when that was abandoned in Para, I went on by myself to explore the upper rivers. Three thousand miles up the Amazon there is a place called Manaus, which is quite a commercial center. This is almost at the mouth of the Rio Negro, and from there I went with a boat and two Indians through the flooded forests of the Rio Negro, which is one of the most beautiful of the tributaries of the Amazon. It enters it from the north, 1000 miles from the sea. Its waters are almost of an inky color, the discoloration being caused by the vegetation on its banks. These are extremely rich in vegetation, and I have brought home some beautiful plants that I collected there. The banks are high and the country is but sparsely inhabited on account of the prevalence of fevers, for one thing, and the great scarcity of fish, game, and the farina which forms the staple of the food of the people. Forty miles up the Rio Negro there is a channel called Cruru, which connects it with the Rio Galaxuas, and the land between these two rivers is all flooded forests except a small strip of five miles near a lake called Lemons. One of my Indians became sick and I was obliged to leave him behind and push on through the thick undergrowth, and for fifteen days I thus pursued my solitary journey, sleeping on board of the canoe. The nights are peculiar. These forests are never still at night, and it seems as if all nature wakes as soon as the sun goes down. On the sixteenth day I arrived at a dilapidated palm hut, the hut and its inhabitants dirty in the extreme. A pot was on the fire, from which the arms of a monkey, which they were cooking for dinner, protruded, but notwithstanding the unpleasant surroundings, I sat down and made a hearty meal of a portion of the boiled monkey, for monkey meat, I would have you know, is food not to be despised. The vegetation of these forests is different in character from that of the lower Amazon, and I procured many beautiful orchids. I obtained three different varieties of cuttleys, and many other valuable and rare specimens. But although there are a great many of these plants they are hard to obtain, for to do so the trees have to be cut down, and this is a costly process. There is no rubber made near the Rio Negro, and all the inhabitants of this Lake Lemons country have to go up the river about seventy-five miles to get rubber, which is their principal article of trade; and as they work only three or four months out of the year they are, of course, extremely poor. They are all of Indian descent, but all shades of color are found among them. They live in filthy palm houses, and raise little but mandioca. Their morals are of a low order, and they are almost entirely without religion, although many of them have little wooden saints in their houses to which they resort in time of trouble. The women are made to do all the work, the men being shiftless and lazy. Lemons is the largest of an apparently endless chain of lakes which lies between the rivers. There is a little steamer which makes a trip every two months to San Isabella, which is 400 miles up the Rio Negro from Manaus, collecting the rubber and taking it to market. She makes the trip in four days. I remained in this upper country six weeks, collecting orchids, most of which I lost in consequence of their having rotted, the season being unusually rainy. All of these are for Mr. Erastus Corning, and for him I have 545 plants; then for myself I have collected about 7000 butterflies, 14,000 beetles and a number of moths. I have also brought home a specimen of what is called by the natives 'cat's-paw cotton,' which grows wild in this region, and which, I believe, can be made a most valuable article of merchandise. Its fiber is finer than any cotton and it has a sheen like floss silk.

"My ambition on my next voyage is to thoroughly explore the Japura river. It is said that there is a furo or creek connecting it with the Rio Negro, and I hope to ascend it and verify the existence of this creek, pass through it and come down by way of the Rio Negro. But to do this I must have an outfit which would cost $500. This would fit me out completely for the whole expedition, for I can live in Brazil for twenty cents a day. Shortly before leaving to come home I had quite an adventure. I was walking in the street in Manaus and I met Padre Anuncio, a priest who had charge of the largest church there. He was accompanied by a procession carrying a wooden image of the Virgin. I waited for it to pass, and as it came up I removed my hat. The priest commanded me to kneel. I told him I was of another faith and that I should not do so, and I explained to him in Portuguese that I was showing the utmost respect by the removal of my hat. But he again commanded me to kneel, and on my refusal he ordered the soldiers to arrest me. While passing the market place we met a French merchant, and the priest had him arrested also. The soldiers took us to the house of the Chief of Police, but he being absent we were taken to the jail. As soon as the Chief returned he heard our story and at once discharged us, saying that there was no law in Brazil which compelled any one to kneel. But I was not satisfied and I went to the President of the province. I had left my passport at Para, but fortunately I had with me a letter from Gov. Williams of Indiana, with the great seal of the State upon it, and this satisfied the President that my representations about myself were correct. The President warmly espoused our cause. We made our complaint in writing, and the priest was ordered to respond, which he did, stating that he acted under an authority higher than that of any President. On receipt of this the President suspended his ecclesiastical reverance and forbade him to teach any more in the colleges. The matter being laid before the Bishop of Para, whose see includes both provinces of Para and Manaus, he administered to the priest a sharp rebuke. This should be a lesson to all travelers not to omit to obtain a passport, and always to have it with them. I would also advise them never to dispute with a Brazilian on religious subjects. The feeling against Protestants is very strong among the lower classes. There are a few lodges of Masons in this region, and these are objects of bitter hatred among the common people, who confound Masons with Protestants, and dislike both."—*New York World.*

Egypt and Her Ruler.

The present position of the Khedive, or King, of Egypt, is a very peculiar one. The once proud empire of the Rameses and Pharaohs is now ruled over by a prince who is not only a vassal of the Sultan of Turkey, to whom he is forced to pay an annual tribute, but who is also subject to the control of two other foreign nations, England and France.

Egypt, up to within about seventy years, was long under the absolute power of the Turkish Sultans. The viceroys were Governors appointed by the Sultans to rule Egypt, just as they were appointed for Armenia, or any other Turkish province. But in 1811, the viceroy then in Egypt, Mehemet Ali, rebelled against Turkey, took possession of the country by force of arms, and assumed independent authority.

Mehemet's authority was, some years afterwards, recognized by the Sultan, on condition that he should continue to be nominally a vassal of Turkey, and should pay an annual tribute into her treasury. It was agreed that the sovereignty of Egypt should remain, by hereditary succession, in Mehemet's family. The tribute now paid by Egypt into the Turkish treasury is about $3,000,000 a year.

About thirteen years ago, the Sultan was obliged to grant still further concessions to the Viceroy. He permitted him to take the title of "Khedive," or King, to maintain armies, and make treaties with foreign powers, and allowed the succession of the Egyptian throne to pass direct from father to son, instead of descending, as in Turkey, to the eldest member of the reigning family.

The present Khedive of Egypt is a grandson of Mehemet Ali, the stout old soldier who won the Land of the Pyramids for his children. He is about fifty years of age, and a man of more than ordinary intelligence and culture. Though born and reared in the Egyptian court, he passed some years in Paris, engaged in study, and there acquired much of the French polish and elegance in manners.

In personal appearance, were it not for his red fez, or cap, you would scarcely take him for an Oriental. His complexion and hair are lighter than those of most Egyptians, and his bearing is that of a Western European.

On ascending the Egyptian throne, Ismail Pasha gave promise of introducing many reforms in his country. Such reforms were, indeed, sorely needed. Egypt had been wretchedly governed. Her people were ground down with taxes. The fellahs, or peasants, were cruelly oppressed, and the slave-trade was not only permitted but encouraged.

It soon appeared, however, that Ismail Pasha's zeal for reform was a pretense. He was seen to be a very ambitious man, intent on winning for himself an independent crown. He proved extravagant, and indifferent to the wretched condition of his people, who are still as much oppressed as ever.

He raised armies, and built a formidable fleet; and invaded the countries south of Egypt, which, one by one, he annexed. In order to meet the expenses of his operations, he borrowed large sums from England and France; and at last, being unable to pay even the interest on these debts, he was obliged to admit English and French statesmen into his Cabinet to regulate his affairs.

It is a curious fact that the Khedive's finance and foreign ministers are an Englishman and a Frenchman, while English and French men-of-war are anchored off the Egyptian coast, to compel him to submit to the terms of those nations, his creditors.

The recent trouble arose from the Khedive's attempt to cast aside these foreign advisers, and to rule with a Cabinet of natives. But in this he was not successful. He was obliged to restore the two Europeans to their places, and to consent that only those measures should become law to which they gave their consent.

The object of England and France in insisting that the Khedive should retain these officials is to see to it that the country is so governed as to insure the payment of the interest on the loans that have been made to him by them; and also, we may guess, that their political and military interests in the Eastern Mediterranean may be watched.—*Youths' Companion.*

PREDICTING PLAGUES.—Astronomers of a speculative turn of mind have suggested that there may be a connection between the variations of the spots on the face of the sun and excessive rains and droughts. Now comes Mr. B. G. Jenkins, Fellow of the British Royal Astronomical Society, who says that cholera, the black death, and other plagues, are the effect of planetary influences, and particularly of those of the four outer planets, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

He goes back for hundreds of years; asserts that all the plagues which have swept over Europe during that period can be accounted for by the movements and position of one or more of these planets, and concludes with this ominous prediction: "I would say that, within the next seven years, there will happen that which has not happened for hundreds of years; all the planets at or near their nearest point to the sun about the same time.

"It is true of the earth that its magnetic intensity is greatest about the time when it is near the sun; the same is probably true of all the planets; therefore we may expect extraordinary magnetic phenomena during the next seven years, and great plagues which will manifest themselves in all their intensity when Jupiter is about three years from his perihelion—that is, in 1883."—*Youths' Companion.*

Never despair. Many a boy who goes around with a yellow patch on his pantaloons may some day write a volume of poetry in blue and gold or have a silver plate on his poor.—[New York Herald.

To pick up money is lucky.

Hawk-Eyeisms.

The teachers of the "program" system of spelling have made one more step toward perfecting their method. They have now cut off the "ram" entirely, but they stick like death to their "prog."

The weather continues very changeable in central New York. A few days ago a man in that country was sunstruck right at the close of a snow storm, because he couldn't get his ulster off quick enough.

"The best thing," remarked David, looking up from the letter he was writing to Sadie, "the best thing that I know about this system of phonetic spelling is, that nine-tenths of the vocales spell it phonetic."

Last Friday the gnu in Barnum's great moral show got its back up and butted the breath out of its keeper and raised Ned in the menagerie generally. No stronger proof of the existence of a gnu rebellion is necessary.

"What killed Cleopatra?" asked the professor. The bite of a hasp," said the boy from Liverpool. "Land!" exclaimed the boy from Vermont, "what if she had sot down on the staple?" Prolonged and vociferous silence.

"Sufferer" writes us from Oquawka, "Is it wrong to kill a man who plays in a brass band, and lives next door to you?" Well, that depends, a great deal. If he plays the E flat, and has been playing seven or eight years, it would be very wrong. But if he plays the tuba, and has only been practicing about three weeks—kill him; kill him at once; go into his house and shoot him; we send you the loan of a gun by this mail.

A violent discussion has broken out in one of our city churches over the question, "Is it wrong for a Christian and a church member to chew gum?" The majority of the church appears disposed to admit chewing gum, but determined to draw the line rigidly somewhere, and the two factions will probably compromise by allowing the moderate use of gum, but making it a case for church discipline if a member chews paper wads and flaps them up against the ceiling during Sunday morning service.

It is a world of change, an age of vandalism and iconoclasm. The radiant sunrise and the cloudless skies this morning; the tossing clouds and the pitiless storms to-night. To-day we stand in speechless admiration before the bill boards of Barnum the magnificent, and to-morrow—the goat of happy hollow and the hill district pensively browses upon the gorgeous tropical scenery, the writhing boa, and the fierce Numidian lion, the Kentucky giant, the sleeping beauty and the lady whose clothes were destroyed in the Chicago fire. Sick transcript globular Monday.

Hawk-Eye Glances.

Stillwater Lumberman: The deadly croquet is doing its poisonous work in ruining the peace of families.

Derrick: The Pope has sent five thousand lires to the Hungarian sufferers. Eli Perkins is not among them.

St. Louis Spirit: Women adore millinery openings; but nothing short of a beer garden opening can stir the soul of man.

Five barrels of arnica arrived in this city yesterday, in anticipation of the opening of the base ball season.—*New Haven Register.*

Waterloo Observer: Perpetual motion has at last been accomplished. Indianapolis has a female sexton and now one bells tolls the other.

Philadelphia Bulletin: More frogs' legs are eaten in America than in France. And so there should be. Is not our national game croak eh?

Cincinnati Enquirer: You probably have noticed that a fly never expresses a positive opinion on any subject; he simply specks so. [Diagram furnished on application.]

Muscatine Tribune: "Did Christ revenge himself upon his enemies?" was asked at Sunday-school. "No, but he is going to," was answered by one of our promising young pupils.

Oshkosh Christian Advocate: "How dare you say 'damn' before me?" severely inquired a clergyman of a loafer. "How did I know you wanted to say 'damn' first?" retorted this bad man.

Whitehall Times: A sexton of one of our churches, on Sabbath morning, picked up a rose which some young lady had probably dropped from her bonnet. It was the last rose of some her.

Utica Observer: Base-balls are covered with horsehide tanned with alum, but base-ball players are covered with glory and tanned by the sun. P. S.—Sometimes they are tanned by the other club.

Detroit Free Press: Iowa wants to change the name of Skunk river to something more beautiful, but the inhabitants along the banks cry out as one man: "Skunk she is, and Skunk she shall be."

Norristown Herald: "Iowa has two hundred and twenty-four brass bands." Now we understand the drift of a long editorial entitled, "The Gloomy Outlook," which recently appeared in an Iowa paper.

New Haven Register: The four-year-old child is an admirable nucleus for a circus party. As many as fifteen persons have been known to take an afternoon off just to "see that the elephant didn't step on the little fellow."

Turners Falls Reporter: It is now said by a scientific authority that sleep commences in the feet and extends to the head. Possibly the custom of sitting with the feet toward the pulpit may have something to do with it.

Owego Record: "Pride in a woman destroys all symmetry and grace," says a proverb. If this be true, it occurs to us there's lots of symmetry and grace demolished every time a new spring bonnet comes up a church aisle.

Norristown Herald: The following testimonial of a certain patent medicine speaks for itself: "Dear Sir—Two months ago my wife could scarcely speak. She has taken two bottles of your 'Life Renewer,' and now she can't speak at all. Please send me two more bottles. I wouldn't be without it."

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