

TRADITION OF THE HORSESHOE.

How It Came to Be a Protection Against Evil Spirits.

In Morocco iron is considered a great protection against demons, who are the evil representatives, after all, of the hostile spirits. Hence it is usual to place a knife or dagger under a sick man's pillow, his illness, of course, being attributed to demoniacal possession. In India, records a writer in Cornhill Magazine, the mourner who performs the necessary but somewhat dangerous duty of putting fire into the dead man's mouth carries a key or a knife in his hand, to keep off the evil spirits. In short, a bit of iron is a very useful thing to have about you at any time if you desire to escape the unfavorable attention of the ghosts, the trolls, the fairies and the demons generally. This is a good reason for buying a pocketknife. It is also a reason for mailing up a horseshoe. "But why a horseshoe in particular?" you ask, "more than any other odd piece of iron?" Well, primarily, the good luck depends more upon the iron as iron than on the special shape or function of the horseshoe as a horseshoe.

But there are also many reasons why the superstition should happen to fix itself more particularly upon horseshoes. We must remember that in Europe, at least, it is the cattle, the horses and the domestic beasts in general that are especially liable to the hostile attacks of "the little people." Therefore the elves and trolls are most likely to be dredged on farms or in the country, where horses and cattle most do congregate. Now, if you want to nail up a bit of iron as a protection against the fiery darts of the evil ones on your stables or cowhouses (which is the place where one oftenest sees them), nothing is more likely to come handy to your purpose than a cast horseshoe. Besides, it has obvious congruity for the place and object, and it can be readily picked up in the roads almost anywhere. Furthermore, it is provided beforehand with convenient holes, by means of which you can readily hang it up, either over your own house door or over your sheds and stables. The various advantages of cheapness, ease and readiness for fixing would have given the horseshoe a fair start in life, it is believed, as a charm against fairies, trolls and evil spirits generally, even without any other more special advantages.

SOME BIG COUNTIES.

California Has One Bigger Than Four Eastern States Put Together.

East of the Rocky mountains there are only twelve counties in the United States containing more than 5,000 square miles. Not one of these is in New York state, the largest county of which, St. Lawrence, covers only 3,900 square miles. One of the twelve is Aroostook, the forest county of northern Maine, between New Brunswick and the St. Lawrence. Another is Dade county, Fla., which includes the everglades of Florida along the Atlantic coast, and has an area of 5,600 square miles and a total population of less than 900. Cherry county, Neb., in the extreme northeast of the state, with the Snake river dividing it in half, has an area of 5,668 miles. Three northern counties of Minnesota lying south of Manitoba and west of Lake Superior, Beltrami, Itasca and St. Louis, have respectively 5,040, 5,420 and 5,800 square miles. The last county includes the important city of Duluth, but the first has a population of only 300 and the second only of 750. The population of Duluth is 55,000.

Two counties of Idaho—Bingham, containing the lava fields, and Idaho, south of the Nez Perces' reservations—contain more than 10,000 square miles each. Two counties in Texas, Pecos and El Paso, have more than 5,000 square miles. Pecos, which is in the extreme west of the state, on the Rio Grande, has 6,700. El Paso, which adjoins it on the Rio Grande, has 9,750. One county of Colorado, Arapahoe, has an area of 5,220 square miles, but it is still more notable from the fact that it has a population of 150,000, including the city of Denver. Routt county, in the same state, has an area of 6,000 square miles. On the Pacific slope counties, like trees and fruits, are of gigantic size. Six counties of Oregon, three counties of Washington, seven counties of Nevada and seven counties of California have more than 5,000 square miles. The largest of all in the United States is the county of San Bernardino, to the east of Los Angeles. Its area is nearly 21,000 square miles, nearly half the size of New York state, and 5,000 miles larger than New Jersey, Delaware, Connecticut, and Rhode Island combined.

EAT THEIR DOGS.

Occasional Habits of the Chinese—Habits Like Pig-itis.

The first thing that strikes a visitor to a Corean village is the surprising subpopulation of dogs, says Harper's Weekly. Every house seems to possess a pack of these spiritless curs, which are a gray variety of the Chinese chow-dog. They display a more than passing interest in a European traveler, and a free use of one's stick is necessary to keep them at bay. On investigation one discovers that they form the staple article of diet of the population. Unlike most Asiatic races, the Coreans are meat eaters, and these dogs, being always at hand, afford the necessary food with the minimum of exertion and expense. Another curious feature of the Corean diet is the total absence of tea, the most universal beverage of eastern Asia.

Frequently one sees a Corean foraging for the evening meal. The method is simple, though unpleasant. He is armed with a short pole, to the end of which is attached a noose. This he throws over the head of the nearest dog, and then proceeds to screw the pole round till the noose tightens, and slowly throttles the dog, who is meanwhile prevented from getting to close quarters with its butcher by threats of the noose.

This occurs so frequently that

This magnificent animal, though a considerable source of revenue on account of its valuable skin, is nevertheless much dreaded by the natives. So serious are the ravages committed by them that the king was forced to organize a regiment of "royal tiger hunters," and these constitute the corps d'élite of the Corean army.

Traveling in Corea can hardly be described as luxurious. The Corean is not lavish of home comforts for himself, and he certainly provides a minimum of the same for the traveling foreigner. The average Corean hotel compares unfavorably with a modern pigsty, and one has to sleep as best one can in the midst of surprising dirt, a colony of cattle and fowls, and other things which shall be nameless.

ORIGIN OF NAVAL TITLES.

Borrowed Military Terms from the Arabs, the Spanish and the Portuguese.

In the early days the rank of admiral was unknown; the chief officer of a squadron was called a constable or justice. The term admiral as used now is derived from the Arabic "amir" or "emir," commander (as in "Amir-al-Bahr," commander of the sea). The early English form was "amiral," and is still preserved as such by the French. The Spanish and Portuguese forms are "almirante," the Italian "ammiraglio." The title captain is not a naval but a military one, says the Brooklyn Citizen. Under the older organization the real captain of a ship was a master, but a military officer was placed on board, though he knew nothing about nautical affairs. As the captain became bigger and bigger the master became smaller and smaller until, at the present day, he fills a subordinate position, which gradually becoming obsolete, being replaced by an officer under the title of a navigating lieutenant.

Commodore comes from the Spanish "comendador." The title lieutenant, borrowed directly from the French, is more modern, and is meant as a placeholder, or one who took the place of the captain when absent. Sub-lieutenant is still more modern, and at the same time a misnomer, as he never was a sub-lieutenant, but merely a mate, or one who assisted. In former days we had no cadets, but volunteers. However, with the gradual advance of politeness, the more seemly term of cadets was borrowed from the French, and adopted as the title of the young gentlemen in our navy.

In place of paymasters, the ships of old had purser, who looked after the provisions. The naval purser did more. He had charge of the stores of the ship and the money chest. Surgeons and surgeons' mates fulfilled the duties of the doctors. Chaplains are of modern introduction. Naval instructors and schoolmasters ruled in their stead. The term mate was a rather universal one and applied to all branches.

FROM THE LIARS' CLUB.

These Indigentible Yarns Told by Its Most Various Members.

In a Virginia forest the other day, says the New York Recorder, a very large tree was cut down, near the heart of which was found a lock of hair, or rather two, intertwined of darker and lighter masses. By carefully splitting the wood the initials "I. S." and "P. P." were discovered, faintly legible, in what must have been the bark several hundred years ago. By carefully counting the rings which covered the initials they were found to support the theory that the mystic letters stand for I-o-h-n, or "John Smith" and "Poohontas Howhaton," whose locks of hair had been in some romantic mood intrusted to the keeping of the cleft bark.

Not content with slaughtering wild ducks in the usual method, Henry Jones, of Currinck, procured a Gatling gun and loaded the cartridges with bird shot. Concealing himself, he waited until a large flock approached him at great speed with favoring wind. When they had nearly reached him he opened fire. The destruction was terrible, but such was the impetus of the birds and the force of the wind that almost the entire flock which he had slaughtered dropped dying upon his hiding place, and beneath their mangled bodies Jones perished miserably by retroactive suffocation.

A lady in Thomaston, Me., has a cat—Fanny—which had kittens, as cats so named frequently do. Hearing her mistress remark that the kittens must all be drowned Fanny removed them one day to a safe hiding place. After a day or two she brought them back to the mistress with a air of triumph. It was then seen that she had with teeth and claws torn to pieces an old canvas and cork life-preserved and fastened a piece of cork around each kitten's neck. Moved to pity by the sight, the mistress said: "Fanny, not one of your kittens shall ever be hurt." At this the intelligent mother took off the bits of cork and went to sleep in perfect confidence.

A Play Story.

Pyeng Yang, a city in Corea, was founded three thousand and sixteen years ago. It is known as the well-less city. Within its walls is not a single well, and all the water of the city is carried up by watermen from the river which washes its southern wall. Tradition shows that this has always been so, for it is said that when a Chinese general besieged it two thousand years ago, believing that he could compel its inhabitants to capitulate by cutting off their water supply, he was led to give up the attempt because the soldiers on the walls took fish scales and went through the motions of the baths, and the scales, glittering in the sun, looked in the eyes of the astonished besiegers to be drops of water.

A Tablet for a King.

A tablet recently set up at Naples commemorates the bravest act done by a king in this century, the visit of King Humbert to the cholera sufferers in 1884. It stands near the spot where the excommunicated king, Cardinal San Falice and the archbishop of Naples met while passing through the hospital in the neighborhood of Naples.

I Am Glad.

To tell Hood's Sarsaparilla has done for me. I had the grip and its ill effects settled all over me. I had cramps in my legs and frequently I had to get up at night and walk to relax the muscles. I also had stomach trouble. I then took Hood's Sarsaparilla. One bottle cured the cramp, and another has helped my stomach trouble greatly. I have taken 5 bottles and use Hood's Pills which are the best I ever took.

H. A. MELVIN, Sister, Oregon.

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Jan. 10, 1886.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his

intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before the county clerk of Linn county,

at Albany, Oregon, on February 23, 1886.

viz.: J. M. LINDLEY.

H. E. No. 9429, for the E. 1/4 N. W. 1/4, S. W. 1/4, N. E. 1/4, and N. E. 1/4 S. W. 1/4, Sec. 12, T. 12 S., R. L. W.

He names the following witness to

prove his continuous residence by

cutting of, said land, viz.: I. M. Tay-

lor, of Lebanon, Or., Jacob Fitzwater, of

Lebanon, Or., David Sylvester, of Lebanon, Or., J. C. Prior, of Lebanon, Or.

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