

The Hermiston Herald

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"To thine own self be true, and it must follow as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man."

Ants Never Found at Loss in Finding Water

In a thirsty land where, as sometimes happens in South Africa, a three-years' drought dries up every blade of grass, the white ants always have water. The reason has been found by M. Marais, a South African naturalist. The ants are water-finders and well-sinkers.

On a Transvaal farm while a man's well was being sunk the borers came upon a tiny two-inch shaft running in to the earth. The ants had been there before them! They had sunk an ant well 65 feet deep to where water was to be found.

Up and down this shaft, night and day, water-carrying ants went, each bearing its drop of water. It took each ant half an hour to get down to the reservoir, draw its water, and bring it up to the nest. Then down again it went. There appeared to be night shifts and day shifts, and the night ants worked the hardest.

It may be true, as declared by M. Forel, the greatest living authority on ants, that they are creatures working almost wholly by instinct, and only to the extent of about 2 per cent by intelligent or reflective observation; but when it comes to water finding, their intuition makes them hard to beat.

Napoleon Untiring in Work He Set Himself

Many witnesses have testified to Napoleon Bonaparte's amazing powers of continued work. Roederer, who was his close companion during the consulate, wrote:

"He can work 18 hours at a stretch, it may be at one piece of work, it may be at several in turn. I have never seen his mind without a spring in it, not when he was physically tired, not when he was taking violent exercise, not even when he was angry."

Napoleon robbed hundreds of his fellow workers of youth and health because he demanded too much of them when he demanded from them what he extracted from himself, says Emil Ludwig in his biography of the Corsican. His private secretary would be sent for at a late hour and would get to bed at four in the morning; at seven the poor man would find new tasks ready for him and would be told they must be finished within two hours. During the consulate he would sometimes begin a sitting with his ministers at six in the evening and keep it up until five the next morning.—Detroit News.

Insect Hunters

Giant hunting grasshoppers nearly five inches long, that prey on small animals such as mice and the young of ground-nesting birds, are found in the Congo.

They rival the kangaroo as jumpers and can leap a considerable distance on to their prey. The hunting grasshopper is not so great a leaper in proportion to its size as the king grasshopper, the young of which, even before its wings are developed, can jump a hundred times its own length. Very few men can cover more than twice their own length in a jump.

The hunting grasshopper is the largest of all grasshoppers. Its great front lip hides a pair of jaws as effective as a hay-chopper, and its appetite makes it a plague to mankind.

"Fishing" With Stones

What was the very first missile employed by primitive man? It is stated that the Eskimos, Egyptians and the Chinese were the first placators, and they used spears centuries before the introduction of the net; but the mention of spears does not suggest an ancient date, whereas "stoning," which does not seem to be mentioned anywhere, would appear to be the handiest and most natural implement that primitive man would seize and use for his immediate purpose.

This method, strangely enough, is in common use today in some parts of India, particularly in the Northwest province, where the burly Pathan awaits by a river's brim, with stone in uplifted hand, to squash the heads of passing fish!

Contempt of Court

Motorists cannot be too careful in dealing with country magistrates when they get into trouble, as young Mr. Newall of Cambridge, Mass., discovered up in New Hampshire.

"The way of the transgressor is hard," opined the judge, as he extracted a fine of \$15 from the youth for speeding.

"Well, anyway, you have the rottenest roads around here that I have

ever seen," returned Newall. "Ten dollars extra for contempt of court," demanded the justice. "But I haven't said anything about you, judge," protested the culprit. "Oh, yes, ye hev! I'm road commissioner here as well as justice of the peace."

The Perfect Picnicker

Saw a teamster at his midday meal. His table was the earth and his cutlery a rather battered looking ax. The menu consisted of a tin of bully beef, a bottle of tomato sauce and a loaf of bread.

The beef was hacked open with the ax, the neck of the sauce bottle was knocked off, also with the ax, and the bread was torn into lumps in his hands. A hilly of cold water washed it down. For simplicity and an entire absence of fuss or frill I'll say that the teamster's methods take the bun.—Sydney Bulletin.

458 Years on One Farm

In Warwickshire, England, the Neale family, of Exhall grange, a few miles from Nuneaton, has for the uninterrupted period of 458 years farmed this particular land, and the connection was severed recently, when there was a sale.

First Maple Sirup

Maple sugar making is an ancient art entirely confined to the North American continent. Before the advent of the white man, the Indian had learned to extract and concentrate the sap of the maple tree. On the approach of spring the trees were gashed with the tomahawk, and a wooden chip or spout inserted to direct the fluid drop by drop into a receptacle on the ground. The sap was caught in a birch bark dish and boiled in earthen kettles. The small quantity of dark, thick sirup thus made was the only sugar available to the Indians and is stated by early writers to have been highly prized.

Few Left-Handed People

From the meager information accessible on the subject it appears that primitive peoples are as predominantly right handed as civilized peoples. Any theory which seeks to explain the origin of right handedness must go back farther than civilization. According to the bureau of American ethnology, there are very few cases of left handedness among the present-day Indians. It is supposed by that authority that the Indians were predominantly right handed before their contact with Europeans.

Humming Bird Small but Famed as Fighter

A man's bravery can never be judged by his size. Frequently the midget has the spirit of a raging lion while the big, hulking 200-pounder has the timorous heart of a rabbit. The same law of nature applies to birds, Kendrick Kimball writes, in the Detroit News.

The humming bird, sometimes called the "jewel of the air" because of his flashing luster, is only three inches in length, but his courage knows no boundaries. Humming birds are fearless. They will attack a hawk, a crow or an eagle, and against such a nimble adversary the bigger bird would have no chance.

With his rapier bill, which he thrusts into flowers for their nectar, the humming bird is capable of dealing an adversary a sharp prick which would discourage further aggressiveness. Among themselves, the humming birds fight frequently. Like skilled fencers, they thrust at one another with their long, needle-like bills, ducking and darting so fast that the eye can hardly follow them as they maneuver for openings.

Here Endeth the Lesson

A thrifty Scotch farmer started off each day by reading a chapter from the Bible to his field hands. One morning during the harvesting season, he struck the sixth chapter of Chronicles, which consists of 81 verses of genealogical names. He droned on until he came to:

"And Shallum begat Hilkiah, and Hilkiah begat Azariah, and Azariah begat Seraiah, and Seraiah begat Johoazak."

Then he paused and looked over the leaf.

"Weel, my friends," he said, "they begat one another right down to the end of the page and a lang way ower on the ither side, so we'll jist leave them to it. Off wi' ye to yer work."—Boston Transcript.

Nature Always Fair

How just is Nature in distributing her gifts. As a tribute for the gossamer skin she doles to the true blondes and the Titian blondes, she is greedy in the coloring pigment, for eyelashes and eyebrows. With the stirring, vivacious beauty of the Black-eyed-Susan type, she mingled a nice brownish skin, none too delicate perhaps, but which is far more resistant to sun and wind than that of the fairlike blondes. To the face that is not perfect in any sense, she adds the body silhouette of a beautiful dandy. In each case, there is sure to be one feature, fact or figure that is nearly beautiful.—The Dance Magazine.

Wonderful Tales Told of Monster Serpents

From time immemorial the sea serpent has figured in story and legend. Pliny, the Roman naturalist (23-79 A. D.) tells of enormous water and land serpents, some so large that whole armies were sent against them. The hardy Norse fishermen gave thrilling stories of sea monsters.

Olaus Magnus, a Swedish bishop, wrote of "a very large serpent of length upward of 200 feet and 20 feet in diameter, with a row of hairs 2 feet in length hanging from the neck, sharp scales of dark color, and brilliant, flaming eyes. It attacks boats and snatches away the men by raising itself high out of the water, and devours them." Hans Egede, a Norwegian missionary to Greenland, tells of encountering, on July 6, 1734, "a very terrible sea animal, which raised itself so high above the water that its head reached above our main-top. It had a long, sharp snout, and blew like a whale." The oarfish, with a body from 25 to 30 feet long, and almost as thin as a ribbon, is believed by some naturalists to be the creature which gave rise to many remarkable yarns, told from ancient days until now, of "sea serpents."

The silvery body, crossed with dusky stripes, the grotesque head and face, with enlarged fins tipped with red, waving above like a horse's mane, might well give foundation, it is said, to almost any story. Still no one can definitely say that the sea serpent does not exist.

Correct

Little Betty was bragging about her ability to add. Her uncle gave her a problem to solve.

"If I gave you two rabbits in the morning and three rabbits in the afternoon how many rabbits would you have?" inquired the uncle.

"Six," cried little Betty. "Just as I thought. Two and three are six," answered the uncle. "But uncle," said little Betty earnestly, "I already have one."

Mouse as Advertisement

A mouse that catches flies was the novel window display used recently by an automobile man in Sydney, Australia. Heedless of the large crowd watching him, the tiny rodent would dart from his hiding place in a corner and spring up the window pane or take a flying leap. He would always "get" his fly. He kept the window clear of all the buzzers, and the dealer says he was the best and cheapest attraction he ever had.

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—President W. J. Kerr, "Education for Reality," Dec. 1927.

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