

**ELEPHANT GREAT IN CRIME.**

The Animal's Intellectual Powers Are Most Apparent in His Schemes for Revenge.

Few more impressive confidences can be imparted than one in which a Hindoo describes how he knows his elephant intends to destroy him. It is all so seemingly trivial, and yet in reality of such deadly significance. His story is so full of details that prove the man's profound understanding of what he is talking about that one remains equally amazed at the brute's power to dissemble and its intended victim's insight into the would-be murderer's character. And yet, from the psychological standpoint, an elephant never gives any other such indication of mental power as is exhibited in its revenge. That patient, watchful, implacable hatred, often provoked simply because a man is in attendance upon another animal (for it is the rule with tuskers to detest their next neighbors), speaks more conclusively of a high intellectual guide than all stories, true or false, that have been told of their ability. Such concentration and fixedness of purpose, such careful, unrelaxed vigilance, such perfect and consistent pretense, and when the time comes, such desperate, unhesitating energy as homicidal animals exhibit, are impossible without a very considerable, although in this instance, very irregular, development, says Outing.

No one can deny that if this creature is great at all its greatness shows itself in its crimes. These have caused it to be worshipped in the east, where men venerate nothing but merciless, irresponsible force, and where an exhibition of those qualities and traits described fully account for the formula: "My lord, the elephant."

**NOT A COWARD.**

The Strange Effect of Nervous Strain on a Brave Little Soldier in Cuba.

Nervous excitement is responsible for much that might pass for cowardice. The author of "A Cuban Expedition" speaks of one dreadful day, when he and his comrades sat in a wet ditch and waited, concealed, while the Spaniards were so near that escape seemed almost impossible.

The discomfort of our predicament—up to the middle in mud and water, with the rain pouring down on us—was at the moment unfeeling, in our excitement and eagerness in watching the enemy. Little Joe Storey, who was next to me, was trembling all over. Suddenly he grasped my arm and whispered:

"Oh, what shall I do? I must scream or fire off my rifle! I can't help it!" I, too, felt that he would do either the one or the other, and I whispered back the first thing that occurred to me.

"Storey," I said, "if you make the least noise, I'll stab you to death!" Then I told him to keep his eyes closed, and try to think of something else, until he heard the first shot fired. After that he might shout as loudly as he liked. I put one arm about his neck and drew him close to me. There, trembling, he rested like a quiet child. Presently his excitement wore off, and he became used to the situation; then he was heartily ashamed of his breakdown.

But Storey was not a coward. He was a gallant little soul in action, and only his tortured nerves were responsible for this temporary revolt.

**WIVES NEEDED.**

Necessity Compels Relaxation of Mismogynist Cecil Rhodes' Rule in South Africa.

British South Africa is sadly in need of wives, according to late accounts from that land of diamond mines and millionaires. The chartered company of which Cecil Rhodes is the head has for years frowned on the idea of marriage among its mounted police, civil servants and other employees. This objection has amounted to practical prohibition, and is well known to have been the result of Rhodes' misogynist views, he being a confirmed woman hater. In the past year or two a number of his best men have left the company's service rather than subscribe to Sir Cecil's peculiar notions to the extent of remaining single for life. The result has been that other leading members of the chartered company have taken the matter up. They pointed out that unless a reversal of policy were manifested things would soon assume a serious aspect, as important affairs would be left in the hands of the least reliable of the company's servants. Sir Cecil gave the matter due consideration, and, finding that the protest had most substantial grounds, has surrendered. Accordingly an edict has gone forth among the chartered company's officials promising that preference in promotion will be given to married men, and advising all those who can do so to enter forthwith into the bonds of matrimony.

**The Sultan's Throne-room.**

The throne-room of the sultan, at Constantinople, is a gorgeous sight. The gilding is unequalled by any other building in Europe, and from the ceiling hangs a superb Venetian chandelier, the 200 lights of which make a gleam like that of a veritable sun. At each of the four corners of the room tall candelabra in beacarat glass are placed, and the throne is a huge seat covered with red velvet, and having arms and back of pure gold.

**Vines Are Long Lived.**

The vine attains a great age, continuing fruitful for at least 400 years. It is supposed to be equal to the oak as regards longevity.

**Murdered Rulers of Russia.**

Of the 11 emperors and empresses of Russia between Peter I. and Alexander II. four have been assassinated.

**PIG WITH A BROKEN LEG.**

An Indiana Woman's Effort to Have Her Queer Pet's Injured Member Set.

The physicians at the city dispensary have all sorts of patients, but a new record was made the other day says the Indianapolis News, when a woman brought a pig there to have its leg set. She drove up in a carriage and exhibited a five-weeks-old pig, with a broken leg, and entered into negotiations to have the injured member repaired. While she was talking she paused ever and anon to hold a milk bottle to the little sufferer's mouth, to stop its pitiful cries.

Dr. Kennedy informed her that it was not in their regular line to practice on pigs, but the case might be taken—for consideration. Dr. Pink asked her why she did not go to a veterinary surgeon and she said he would charge too much for the work. Dr. Pink offered to set the limb for 50 cents.

"Oh, you're awful high," the woman almost screamed. "I studied medicine myself, and have an idea of what you ought to charge. I'll give you a quarter."

But Dr. Pink would not come down, and the woman finally consented to pay the price. The doctor was about to begin the operation, and had given the pig's leg a preliminary pull, which made the bottle again necessary, when the woman was struck with an idea.

"I suppose you guarantee your work," she said. "I think so much of the little fellow, and I want to know that his leg won't be crooked when he gets well."

Dr. Pink would not agree to guarantee the job without additional pay. He informed the woman that it would cost an additional dollar to guarantee it. This almost caused the woman to faint, and as soon as she could recover from the shock, she grabbed the reins and drove away.

**EMANCIPATED WOMAN.**

She Is Found in Italy as Well as in the United States—How She Works There.

Though in Italy the so-called "emancipation" of women is by no means so far advanced as in England or the United States, there are few countries in Europe where the political influence of women is greater than in Italy. The influence, though great, is not, however, always apparent, for it is chiefly exercised indirectly and privately by the women of the upper classes. Instead of forming themselves into associations and leagues and international unions and organizations and competing with political orators, the Italian women interested in political work quietly, and certainly not less efficaciously than their more "emancipated" sisters.

As a rule, Italian women work by means of the old French expedient, the salon. In Rome alone there are no fewer than a dozen salons devoted almost entirely to the discussion of political topics. Each salon has its own political "color," which is generally that of the husband or father or friend of the mistress of the house; but while the thread and web of the politics carried on in a salon is spun and woven by the men who frequent it, the personal influence of the mistress of the house acts on each one of her guests, modifying views, and softening, or it may be accentuating, the roughness of ambition. As long as they remain in their salon Italian political women are in every way admirable.

**BEEES IN HIS HUNTING COAT.**

Pockets Full of Honey for a Soldier When He Came Home from the War.

Asa Witham, a farmer of Blanchard, Me., has been a member of the Dover company, Maine volunteer militia, for two years, and is counted one of the best marksmen in his regiment. Last May when he was waiting for the government to call the troops to Augusta he went out one afternoon and shot six rabbits. On his return a messenger met him in the doorway and told him he must take the next train for the state capital. As his canvas hunting coat was wet with the blood of the rabbits he hung it up on the limb of an apple tree, remarking that it would be well washed by the time he returned from the war.

Witham was mustered in and went to Chickamauga, where he was on duty every day until a month ago, when his regiment was ordered back to Augusta. He was sent home on a month's furlough. Being somewhat exhausted from a continuous diet ofhardtack and bacon, he thought he would try his luck at partridge shooting before setting down to farmwork. The canvas coat was hanging from the limb in the orchard, but when Witham went to put it on he found that it was already occupied by a swarm of bees, which had taken possession of the garment during his absence. With the aid of a sulphur smudge fire he expelled the insects, and secured 22 pounds of white comb honey.

**A Queer Verdict.**

Upon the Isle of Man, where sheep-stealing is evidently a serious offense, John Dixon was recently sentenced to three years' imprisonment for it. The exact words of the jury were: "Not having satisfactorily accounted to the minds of the jury for the possession of the sheep, we find the prisoner guilty." What puzzles the lawyers is this: Can a man be legally jailed on such a verdict?

**Otter Is a Speedy Swimmer.**

The otter is the fastest swimming quadruped known. In the water it exhibits an astonishing agility, swimming in a nearly horizontal position with the greatest ease, diving and darting along beneath the surface with a speed equal, if not superior, to that of many fishes.

**THESE INDIANS ARE RICH.**

A Family of Ten Osages Have an Annual Income of \$200 Each.

The Osage Indians, according to Gen. Pollock's annual report, own over 800 acres of land for each man, woman and child, each receiving an annuity of over \$200. As an illustration, if an Indian and his wife have eight children, the annual cash income of the family is over \$2,000.

Indian Agent Stephens, of the Crow Creeks, reports that a serious nuisance and detriment to progress is intertribal visiting, demoralizing to the Indians.

Capt. Cornish, of the Uintah and Ouray agency in Utah, complains in his report that there never has been any settlement of the claim of the Uncompaggre, White River and Southern Utes on account of the cession of about 8,000,000 acres of land to the United States under a treaty of 1880 in consideration of certain benefits. The treaty required that the land should be subject to cash entry only and that the proceeds after reimbursement to the United States for sums appropriated and set aside in the Ute act and paying for lands which might be ceded to the Utes by the United States, outside of their reservation at \$1.25 per acre, should be deposited to their credit in the treasury, the interest payable to the Utes annually with the rest of their annuity money. This claim is still unsettled.

**STUPIDITY OF A WASP.**

An Instance Which Goes to Show That Ancient Instinct Is Not Infallible.

It is generally supposed that instinct unerringly teaches birds and insects the best way in which to build their homes or nests, and also to provide for their offspring. The following incident, recently under personal observation, will show that instinct is not always infallible, says the Scientific American:

A friend placed three small empty vials in an open box, on a shelf, in an upright position, in close contact, and they were uncorked. A short time afterward it was a matter of surprise to find that these had been appropriated by a female mud wasp. She had placed a goodly number of spiders in the center vial, doubtless intended to serve as food for her future brood, then proceeded to deposit her eggs in those on either side. She next closed lightly the mouths of all three receptacles with a hard lime cement. Having finished her work, she then doubtless went on her way, satisfied all had been done for her offspring that a thoughtful mother could do.

But just think of the sensations of those little wasps when they come in a lifetime, for, while starving in their sealed cages, they can plainly see through the impenetrable glass walls, the bountiful supply of food which was provided for their use.

**ANIMAL BENEVOLENCE.**

An Instance Which Shows That Dumb Beasts Can Be as Kind as Men.

A herd of wild Asian buffaloes will charge any foe, even a tiger, to save the life of one of their number who has been wounded.

Elephants, baboons and other animals will do the same thing in a wild state.

On the other hand, monkeys have been known to fall upon one of their number who is ill and drown him, possibly as an act of mercy. Similarly wolves destroy one of the pack which becomes helpless.

If an otter is trapped his brother otters will run around him all night showing the utmost concern.

A writer in the London Spectator states that he has seen sparrows in groups discussing and lamenting when one of their number had fallen into a trap. Next day when a robin was caught the sparrows paid no attention.

He adds that he had seen a big pig try to help a smaller one through a hole in the fence piling by pulling at its head.

St. John tells of a Highland shepherd whose cat brought him some edible bird nearly every day in the year.

**FISH HAUNT SUNKEN SHIPS.**

"Sweeping for Wrecks" Is an Interesting Process Practiced by New York Bay Anglers.

Reefs, mussel beds and old sunken wrecks are always frequented by fish and the anglers search for them with great patience. "Sweeping" for wrecks is an interesting operation. When the men have an idea of just about where a wreck is located they start off to "sweep." When they believe that they have reached the neighborhood of the wreck they shorten sail, if the wind is stiff, and lower little drags or grapnels sometimes formed of big squids lashed together. With the shortened sail the boat is made to walk about gently until the drags catch the wreck. Then she is "shaken out" and "killed." All hands except the skipper commence to fish on the bottom with small hooks and convincing evidence that the boat is over the wreck is produced by the hooking of a blackfish. Ranges or landmarks are then taken and the wreck is captured. In among the old rotting timbers sheephead and big blackfish love to lurk, and in the eddies formed by the old hulk all sorts of game fish are apt to loiter. It is believed that there are many old wrecks, which, if located would delight the hearts of the anglers.

**Shooting Through Glass.**

A musket ball may be fired through a pane of glass, making a hole the size of the ball, without cracking the glass. If the glass be suspended by a thread it will make no difference, and the thread will not even vibrate.

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