

**BEAUTIFUL TROPICAL FISHES.**

Many Fine Specimens Gathered in the Bermudas for the Aquariums of All Lands.

The collection of tropical fishes for various aquariums throughout the world, and especially for the American aquariums, is now a recognized industry in the Bermudas, says the Philadelphia Press.

It is carried on at all seasons, though for obvious reasons the fish are shipped north only in the summer months. As there are more than 150 varieties of fish in Bermudan waters, and every variety is found in abundance, it is not a difficult problem to secure good specimens. Only a few varieties reach this country, for the reason that tropical fish, as a rule, are unable to stand the trials of transportation. The ones on exhibition are the finest that can be caught.

The native fishermen go far and wide in search of specimens, for the aquarium will pay only for the best.

Possibly the most voracious fish they have to deal with are the groupers and morays. The groupers have peculiar habits. During the month of June, which is their spawning or "snapping" season, they gather at two spots on the south coast, known as "grouper grounds," and rarely are caught elsewhere.

Not many tropical fish are as ferocious as the moray, but most of the larger varieties are truly sporting fish.

**WORKING IN THE DARK.**

Discomforts of Mining Before the Invention of a Lamp Suitable for Underground Use.

The difficulties under which coal mining operations were carried on before the scientist Davy had invented his safety lamp must have been very great. In many mines the only alternative the medieval miner had to pitch darkness was the phosphorescent gleam from dried fish. The miner's implements, originally of stone or hard oak, gradually improved; but he was forced to work in almost complete darkness until Sir Humphrey Davy by his remarkable invention enabled him to light his way through the tunnels he had excavated with comparative safety, says a mining journal.

Agricola, an author who wrote about the middle of the sixteenth century, has left an elaborate treatise on coal mining as it was practiced during the middle ages. From this we learn that the horsegin, which survives to the present day in some of the mining districts of Great Britain and northern Europe, was the engine chiefly employed both for lifting the coal and for getting rid of the water. This latter object was also sometimes effected by means of pumps turned by windmills or by tunnels driven with great labor to an outlet at a lower level.

**AUTOCARS IN ENGLAND.**

There is a Strict Enforcement of the Law to Make Owners Regardful of Others.

In one respect, at least, the persecution of the automobilists is indirectly serving a useful purpose, reports London Truth. The majority of the victims belong to a class which has hitherto had little sympathy with the discontent of humbler folks at the quality of justices' justice. Now that the wealthy motorist is coming into personal contact with this kind of justice, he is beginning to revise his opinions. He sees that policemen are capable of making grievous mistakes and even deliberate misstatements, and that magistrates often exhibit the grossest incompetence and allow their judgments to be swayed by the most stupid prejudices.

It then occurs to the motorist that poachers and other delinquents may sometimes have equally good cause to complain of police evidence and magisterial bias, and so he comes finally to the conclusion that the administration of the law by the Great Unpaid is, after all, not undeserving of the contumely that has so long been poured upon it.

**LINES IN MAPLEWOOD.**

The Only Way to Find the Bird's-Eye is to Cut into the Tree.

Nobody seems to know what cause it is which produces those delicate and beautiful lines in maple, known as bird's-eye. Some people think they come from the hundreds of little branches which shoot out over the trunk of the tree as soon as a clearing is made around it. Expert timbermen say that is not the case. The only way to tell a bird's-eye maple tree is to cut it. There are no outward signs by which one can judge. The Railroad Gazette tells a story of the late George M. Pullman. Many years ago he was offered a mahogany log for \$3,000, to be cut into veneers. It was supposed to be a very fine piece of wood, but this could only be determined by cutting it. He declined the offer, but agreed to take the log cut into veneers for what it was worth. The owner had it saved and was paid \$7,000 for his veneers. Anyone who can discover the secret of determining the interior nature of wood from the outside will have a fortune.

**Feast on Butterflies.**

Millions of butterflies are eaten every year by the Australian aborigines. The insects congregate in vast quantities on the rocks of the Ilgung mountains, and the natives secure them by kindling fires of damp wood, and thus suffocating them. Then they are gathered in baskets, baked, sifted to remove the wings, and finally pressed into cakes.

**ENGLISH AT FOREIGN HOTELS.**

Words Put Together in a Fashion That is Something Fearful and Wonderful to Contemplate.

Many gems of the curious English of foreign hotel keepers have been given to the public. Among the best, says Stray Stories, is the tale of the host of a well-known establishment in Greece, who was wont to greet his guests in an effusive manner with: "What you prefare—a biftek or a chick-hen?"

Their astonishment at the mastery of the language was frequently deepened when, upon their return to the hotel a few hours later, they found nothing prepared. It was his only English sentence, and he did not understand a word of it.

This, however, is not quite equal to the placard in the possession of a naval officer just returned from Egypt. He procured it at a cafe chantant in Alexandria. It was printed in several languages, and this is the English part: "Every of the consummations of the coldness, one piastre besides. Every of the claim to be addressed directly of the direction. During of the repetitions the price of consummations to be the same that in every the other's coffee."

With the aid of the parallel passages in other languages the meaning is found as follows: "All leed drinks one piastre extra. All complaints should be made at the office. Notwithstanding the performance the prices will be the same as those of other cafes."

**THE FINISH AT MONTE CARLO.**

Those Who Lose Their All at the Gaming Tables Go Elsewhere with Their Misery.

One sees only the appearances of luxury and of gaiety in this glittering community. Despair would make a blot upon it. Those who have lost their fortunes disappear like magic, and while the newspapers announce on their first page, "Monsieur le Duc has left the azure coast and has returned to his sumptuous apartments," the poor devil goes to conceal his shame in some little shanty leat in the ocean of Parisian room, says Harper's Weekly. But all have not the courage to go away. Many stay. Of such not a word is heard. The cold, the rain, the fog, ruin, and death are and ought to be, according to the announcement of the company and the press, wholly unknown in this favored spot. Orange trees always in flower, palms trees always green, and the sky always blue, a continual fete, winners, fortunate gamblers, nobles, millionaires, counts, dukes, grand dukes, highnesses, and princes, princes, princes—that is what people want at Monte Carlo. A pistol shot is never heard, never wakes an echo, never causes a scandal. The walks where the cactuses stretch out in perspective toward the sea are always clean and well sanded. One never sees a drop of blood.

**THE TURKISH POST OFFICE.**

An Institution That Regards with Suspicion Anything of a Foreign Nature.

The Turk suspects everybody and everything, and no private act, no seclusion is safe from his intrusion. Every telegram sent from the public offices is at once reported to the authorities. No one can safely send a letter by the Turkish post unless he is willing to have it opened and read, and take the chances of having it confiscated if the censor finds anything that can be twisted into an insult to Mohammedanism, says Outing. As a result of this condition and the inability of foreigners residing in Turkey to communicate with any certainty with their friends, some of the great European nations have established post-offices of their own in Turkish cities, in which they employ only Europeans, use their own stamps, and watch their mail bags until they pass beyond the prying eyes of the Turks. In Salonica there are no fewer than five post-offices—British, Austrian, French, Servian and Turkish; in Constantinople, six. If one wishes to be sure of his mail, he must inquire at four of them at least; and if he really wants to have his letters reach their destination, he must send them through some post-office other than Turkish.

**Not Well Posted.**

Just how much the average Englishman knows about this country was illustrated in Washington a day or two ago. James Blackie, a traveler from London, asked the clerk in his hotel how far it was to Michigan, as he wished to call on a friend there. The clerk inquired to what part of Michigan Mr. Blackie wished to go. The traveler did not know exactly, but said: "I can easily find out in what part of the city he lives when I get there." "What city?" inquired the clerk. "Why, the city of Michigan, of course," said the intelligent Briton.

**Swedish Courtesy.**

When a train leaves a platform or a steamboat pier in Sweden, all the lookers on lift their hats to the departing passengers and bow to them, a compliment returned by the travelers. If you address the poorest person in the street you must lift your hat. A gentleman passing a lady on the stairs of a hotel must do the same. To enter the shop or a bank with one's hat on is a terrible breach of good manners. If you enter or leave a coffee room you must bow to all the occupants.

**Strength of the Saxons.**

An average Britisher is as strong as two Hindus.

**ABOUT MEN AND WOMEN.**

Both Have Their Fallings, But, According to This Writer, Men Are at a Disadvantage.

Women were put here to make the world look pretty, though the fashion papers have never guessed this, says a facetious writer.

They are fond of dressing, except at dances and dinner parties. A great traveler once met a lady friend, whom he had not seen for many years at a dance. "Why, how you have altered," said the lady. "I declare I should not have known you from Adam." "Nor I you," retorted the man, "from Eve." Another hobby is talking. They are quite as garrulous when sober as men are when in their cups, and their conversation is often just as well worth hearing.

As a rule, they have more heart than head. This is apt to render them thoughtless. A woman will walk to the end of a street, then turn sharply round without looking to see whether there is anyone immediately behind her, and as a consequence, gouge your eye out with the end of her sunshade. Sometimes she will beg your pardon, but I have known one to just flip the eye of the female into the gutter and sail serenely on without saying a word.

Men are what women marry. They drink and smoke and swear, and have ever so many pockets, but won't go to church. Perhaps if they wore bonnets they might. They are more logical than women, and also more zoological. Both men and women have sprung from monkeys, but the women certainly sprang farther than the men.

**VERY STRONG TOBACCO.**

Perique, Grown in the South and Put Up in Ropes, is Too Powerful for Most Smokers.

In many of the tobaccoists' shops perique tobacco, chopped into granulated form, is displayed for use by pipe smokers. This is the same perique that has been grown by Frenchmen and Spaniards in Louisiana since before our revolutionary war, says the New York Herald. It is a jet black intensely strong tobacco, famous for its flavor and its ability to wreck the nerves.

It is grown and made in St. James' parish, Louisiana, and the crop only amounts to about 100,000 pounds a year.

The makers follow the primitive processes which were in use 150 years ago. The stems are taken from the leaves and the latter put into a box, under a heavy gradual pressure. This causes the juice to run out, even through the wood of the boxes. A gradual process of fermentation and curing takes place.

At the end of three months the tobacco is rolled into "carrots" and wrapped in cloths, tightly bound with ropes. It is left in that way for a year before it is ready for market.

The flavor of perique is considered delicious by all pipe smokers, but is too strong. The tendency of smokers is continually toward lighter and lighter tobacco, and perique is now used almost solely for mixing with very mild tobaccos to flavor it.

**A NINETY-YEAR-OLD BABY.**

Giant Tortoise in the New York Zoo That is One of the Few Relics of the Pliocene Age.

All things considered, the biggest baby among all the wild animals owned by the New York Zoological society is an infant that is not an animal at all, but a reptile—one of the herd of testudo, or giant tortoises, natives of the Galapagos islands, says Woman's Home Companion. With his four companions he forms one of the few relics we have left to us of the life of the Pliocene age; these tortoises are the sole survivors of the prehistoric reptiles. The young testudo is the smallest in the herd; he weighs only 66 pounds. His exact age is not positively known, but it is variously estimated that he must have seen from 80 to 100 years. That seems rather old for a baby, but he is a child in arms compared with his relative—a testudo vicina—who carries on her broad back (it is four feet three inches by four feet seven and one-half inches) the weight of something over four centuries, and who tips the scale at 325 pounds.

**Americans in Canada.**

A newspaper correspondent who says that he has watched the changes in the population of Canada for 50 years denies that there has been a very large immigration from the United States to the western provinces, and makes the additional charge that the Canadian census is regularly padded. He says that the reports claimed an increase of 1,000,000 all of foreign birth between 1881 and 1891, while the statistics of immigration showed that but 38,000 persons of foreign birth had entered Canada during that period. He does not believe that more than 20,000 or 30,000 Americans have settled in western Canada.

**The Youngest Gartered Duke.**

Not for a century has the Garter been bestowed upon so young a man as the duke of Marlborough, Conspelo Vanderbilt's husband. Four of his seven predecessors in the dukedom got the Garter, as did six of the seven dukes of Rutland, six of the 11 dukes of Bedford, four of the ten dukes of Leeds, and all of the eight dukes of Devonshire.

**De Wet's Kinmen.**

Gen. De Wet, the Boer leader, contends that the name of De Witt or De Witt, so common in this country, originally was the same as his. Therefore, he claims to have many distant kinmen in the United States.

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