

ORPHANS IN AUSTRALIA.

They Are All Wards of the State and Carefully Protected.

There are no orphans in Australia. That is not because parents never die there, but because when they do the state at once steps in to the rescue of their little ones.

Unless some near relative manifests a desire to assume the responsibility and can demonstrate his ability to do so the child is committed to the children's council, which selects some home among the farmers of the country.

After thirteen the state feels that its ward should earn more than board and lodging. At that age, therefore, he is hired out, usually, however, to the foster parents who have been previously taking care of him.

FATE OF THE GRIZZLY.

The Tenderfoot Was Anxious to Get the Full Particulars.

An Idaho guide whose services were retained by some wealthy young easterners desirous of hunting in the north-west evidently took them to be the greenest of tenderfoots, since he undertook to chaff them with a recital something as follows:

"It was my first grizzly, so I was mighty proud to kill him in a hand to hand struggle. We started to fight about sunrise. When he finally gave up the ghost the sun was going down."

At this point the guide paused to note the effect of his story. Not a word was said by the easterners, so the guide added very slowly, "for the second time."

"I gather, then," said one young gentleman, a dapper little Bostonian, "that it required a period of two days to enable you to dispose of that grizzly."

"Two days and a night," said the guide, with a grin. "That grizzly died mighty hard."

"Choked to death?" asked the Bostonian.

"Yes, sir," said the guide. "Pardon me," continued the Hubber, "but what did you try to get him to swallow?"—Lippincott's.

In London Clubland.

In some of the ultra exclusive clubs, says the London Tatler, it is a serious breach of etiquette for one member to speak to another without obtaining a ceremonious introduction beforehand.

A Knocker That Meant Life.

So cruel were some of the punishments meted out to criminals in England centuries ago that it was small wonder the poor wretches claimed the "right of sanctuary." If they reached a church or some other privileged place the law could not touch them.

Natural Tweezers.

Indian tweezers are simply a small pair of clamshells, with edges clean and bling unbroken. "The old time Indians," writes Ernest Thompson Seton in "The Book of Woodcraft and Indian Lore," "had occasionally a straggly beard. They had no razor, but they managed to do without one."

Her Help.

"The fact of the matter is, I never amounted to anything before I was married."

Made a Hit.

"Did you make a hit with your speech at the banquet last night?"

His Point of View.

Laudford—Sir, the other tenants will not stay in the flat if you insist on playing the cornet. Mr. Toots—I'm glad of that. They were very annoying.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A MOVEMENT IN SCALPS.

One of Them, Though, For Good Reason, Was Firmly Fixed.

One day when Professor Powell was describing the class in anatomy he was describing the manner in which the various muscles of the scalp perform their several functions, says ex-Governor Theodore T. Geer, reminiscent of his schooldays in "Fifty Years in Oregon."

He had a shaggy head of hair and could turn his scalp almost halfway round his head. The success that attended his maiden effort was so astonishingly complete that it brought forth a roar of laughter, in which the professor heartily joined, although his mouth was where his right eye usually was and his ears were under his chin.

When order was finally restored each member of the class tried it, with varying degrees of success. But Tom Niklin's effort was a hopeless failure, although his superhuman attempts to move his scalp were as laughable as Professor Powell's grotesque success had been.

"Thomas, what is the matter with your head?"

"I don't know, sir," replied Tom, "unless I am the only one in the room whose head is so full of brains that they crowd his scalp."

SLEEP OF THE ELEPHANT.

What Little There Is Seems, as a Rule, to Be Taken Standing.

It is doubted whether, in the wild state, elephants ever lie down. Gordon Cumming thought he had found evidence in marks upon the ground that the adult bulls did stretch themselves out at full length for a few hours' rest at about midnight, but he contended that the young and the cows always remained on their feet.

Another authority, Selous, has expressed doubt whether even the old bulls lie down. He tells of one herd that was known to have kept moving and feeding throughout the twenty-four hours. "Except when rolling in mud and water," he says, "it is likely that an African elephant never lies down during its whole life."

However this may be, the most competent authorities seem to agree that this animal sleeps less and more lightly than any other. J. L. Kipling, the father of the writer, estimated the period of slumber taken standing up to average about four hours in the twenty-four, and this estimate has been employed by the son in an amusing passage for one of his stories, "Moti Gaj," wherein the sleep of the elephant is represented as consisting of an hour's fidgeting on one side and a similar period's fidgeting on the other, followed throughout the rest of the night "by long, low, rumbling soliloquies."—Harper's Weekly.

Big Timber of Guiana.

The greenheart of British Guiana is one of the most remarkable and useful trees in the world. Of the three varieties—yellow, black and maintop—all are durable if cut at maturity and grow to such dimensions that logs can be had from eighteen to twenty-four inches square and seventy feet long.

Ballooning a Bonanza.

"Is it true that you farmers are hostile to balloonists?" ventured the young aeronaut who had descended in the barnyard.

Reassuring Him.

"I thought I told you not to eat any porterhouse steak without my permission."

The Modern Cinderella.

One day the teacher during recess told the children the story of Cinderella. The next day, to test their memory, she asked them:

Gravitation.

Examiner—What do you know about the power of the earth's attraction? Candidate—It is the strongest at about 2 o'clock in the morning.—Pilegenda Blatter.

A Great Thinker.

Wigwag—Young Screecher is a great thinker. Wigwag—Indeed! Wigwag—Yes; he thinks he can sing.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

QUEER WAYS OF THE ARAB.

His Methods of Life and His Contempt For Womankind.

An Arab on entering a house removes his shoes, but not his hat. He mounts his horse upon the right side, while his wife milks the cow on the left side. In writing a letter he puts nearly all the compliments on the outside. His head must be wrapped up warm, even in the summer, while his feet may well enough go naked in winter.

Every article of merchandise which is liquid he weighs, but he measures wheat, barley and a few other articles. He reads and writes from right to left. He eats scarcely anything for breakfast, about as much for dinner, but after the work day is done he sits down to a hot meal swimming in oil or, better yet, boiled butter.

His sons eat with him, but the females of his house wait till his lordship has done. He rides a donkey when traveling, his wife walking behind. He laughs at the idea of walking in the street with his wife or even vacating his seat for a woman. If he be an artisan he does work sitting, perhaps using his feet to hold what his hands are engaged upon.

He drinks cold water with a spoon, but never bathes in it unless his home be on the seashore. He is rarely seen drunk, is deficient in affection for his kindred, has little curiosity and no imitation, no wish to improve his mind.—Everyday Life.

FEEDS THE BRUTES.

London's Restaurant That Caters to Domestic Animals Only.

One of the most interesting restaurants in the world is one in which the only diners are domestic animals. The restaurant is in Westminster, London. The sign on the window reads:

RESTAURANT FOR DOMESTIC ANIMALS. ENGLISH MEAT ONLY. FRESH TWICE DAILY.

The restaurant is arranged so that the domestic animals which patronize it may be perfectly comfortable while they are getting their meals. Those that wish to do so may sit down while eating. The women who serve the diners are very fond of animals and know the wants of each particular customer. One of the regular callers at the restaurant, a dog, prefers having his meals in private, so instead of eating his luncheon in the restaurant he walks from his home to the place every day, buys his luncheon and carries it home. He pays his own bill at the end of each week, carrying the money tied in a little wallet around his neck.

Cats, canary birds, goldfish, parrots, monkeys, squirrels and goats are also provided for in the restaurant. There is a branch of the establishment at 123 York road, Battersea.—New York Herald.

Clogs.

Clogs, against which the Lancashire mill girls are rebelling, were at one time worn by women of all classes. The more refined variety of the clog had a thin wooden sole, which was cut transversely in two pieces, attached to each other by a hinge. Dainty brass and polished leather appurtenances gave a finish to the article. Anne Bracegirdle, the most beautiful actress of her day, was a wearer of clogs. Horace Walpole relates in one of his letters that "Mrs. Bracegirdle breakfasted with me this morning. As she went out and wanted her clogs she turned to me and said, 'I remember at the playhouse they used to call for Mrs. Oldfield's chair, Mrs. Barry's clogs and Mrs. Bracegirdle's pattens.'"—London Spectator.

The Real Villain.

"Are you the villain in this troupe?" asked the baggage man who was handling theatrical trunks.

"No," replied the youth with black curly hair. "I used to be, but the real villain is the treasurer of the company, and by this time he must be about 500 miles on his way to somewhere else."—Washington Star.

Educating the Heathen.

"Brother Harlesty, can't you make your contribution for the education of the heathen a little larger than usual this year?"

"Dr. Goodman, I'm more than doubling it. I have just started that youngest boy of mine to college."—Chicago Tribune.

Not the Right Way.

"Have you hot and cold water in your house?"

"Too much of both."

"My wife is always pouring cold water on my plans or keeping me in hot water."—Baltimore American.

A Great Thinker.

Wigwag—Young Screecher is a great thinker. Wigwag—Indeed! Wigwag—Yes; he thinks he can sing.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

The fault is always as great as he that commits it.—French Proverb.

SECONDHAND ORANGE SKINS.

Sweepings of English Theaters Are Sold to the Jammakers.

Now and then one sees in the English papers advertisements announcing that so-and-so has a large stock of orange skins for sale. As a matter of recommendation as to quality the advertisement concludes with the statement that they are from such and such a music hall.

There is a big business in second-hand orange skins, lemon peel, etc., on the other side of the Atlantic. Most of them are bought by makers of jams and marmalade. This was brought out when there was an investigation of the preserving industry in England.

In certain portions of the theaters and music halls of London and other large British cities the seats are not reserved. Admittance to the pit is generally sixpence. Once a person leaves his seat it is immediately grabbed by some one else. In order to get a good seat one must come early. One grows hungry as the hours go by before the performance ends. The favorite sustenance of those who sit in these cheap seats is oranges.

They consume them in large quantities and throw the skins on the floor. After each performance the skins are carefully gathered up and sold to dealers.—New York Sun.

FROZEN BY FISH POWER.

Truthful Tale About Making Ice Cream in Nova Scotia.

Not all the fish prevaricators live in the United States, according to the Mariner's Advocate. An editor recently received the following letter:

"I have read an interesting account of singling fish in your paper. It recalled to me the memory of a rather remarkable fish we have in Nova Scotia. It is known as the 'frost lump,' because it may be frozen like a lump of ice, but if placed in water in that condition it soon thaws out and swims around as vigorously as ever. The natives make use of this property to make ice cream. The fish is caught, frozen and placed in the cream. In thawing out it freezes the cream, and its movements at the same time beat the mixture, making it smooth."

Taking them by and large, from Moosehead lake to Puget sound and from the upper Mississippi to the gulf, we have some very capable and industrious fish lars in this country. But we hand the reel and rod over to Nova Scotia. We have talent in this country, but Nova Scotia is the abode of genius.

The Apostle of Greenland.

The conversion of the Eskimo in that remote and bleak dependency of Denmark, Greenland, was agitated as early as 1710 by Hans Egede, who has become historic as the apostle of Greenland. In that year he published as a pamphlet "A Proposition For Greenland's Conversion and Enlightenment."

This was welcomed with no great warmth by the clergy and was violently opposed by mercantile interests. In four years he had succeeded to such an extent that he founded a training college for missionaries in Copenhagen. May 3, 1721, he sailed for Greenland with a small party of mission workers. He was greatly disappointed to find that the Norse colony, left for many years to its own resources, had wholly vanished. He turned, therefore, all his efforts to the conversion of the Eskimo and met with marked success, becoming bishop in 1740. In this office and its trying duties he was succeeded by his son, Paul.—New York Sun.

The Harmony of Colors.

The principle that the sensation of white results from the equal excitement of sensations produced by the three fundamental radiations is deduced naturally from an analysis of the rules of the harmony of colors. Colored lights do not focus at the same point. Therefore the eye must seize different distances at the same time in order to see when different colored surfaces touch. The difference of refrangibility of the different colored rays causes some colors to stand out and others to stand back. Red is the most "flying" or "tapering" of the colors, a red object always appearing to be farther away than a blue object, though it is seen on the same plane and in the same light.—Harper's.

Manufacturing the Truth.

A gentleman was staying at an English country house, when, hearing a great clatter below one morning, he looked out and saw a couple of grooms holding one of the servant-maids on a horse, which they led with difficulty once round the yard. He asked them what it all meant.

"Well, you see, sir," said they, "we're going to take the horse to market to be sold, and we want to be able to say that he has carried a lady."

Didn't Care For the Money.

"You advertised for a young lady to be married in a cage of lions."

"That's right. Fifty plunks. Where's your young man?"

"Don't you provide the man? What do you suppose was my object in going into this affair?"—Pittsburgh Post.

Too Bright.

"Didn't you win anything in your suit for damages?"

"No."

"Why didn't you engage a bright lawyer to take your part?"

"I did, but he took my all."—Philadelphia Press.

The highest and most profitable lesson is the true knowledge and lowest esteem of ourselves.—Thomas a Kempis.

THE MAKING OF WORDS.

Curious Origin of Some of Our Most Common Expressions.

In the "Romance of Words," a publication by an English author, much space is devoted to "aphesis," which means a gradual or unintentional loss of an unaccented vowel at the beginning of a word. This kind of word shrinkage is more common than one might suppose.

Sometimes the middle syllable of a word will be slurred to the point of extinction. From Mary Magdalene, tearful and penitent, comes the word maudlin. Sacristan is contracted into sexton; the old French word paralysis becomes palsy; hydrophis becomes dropsy, and the word procurator becomes proctor in English. Bethlehem Hospital For Lunatics, established in London, came to be telescoped into bedlam, which was Majoribanks Marshbanks. Peel is for appeal, mend for amend, lone for alone, fender, whether before a fireplace or outside a ship, is for defender; fence for defense, taint for attain.

The word peach, commonly regarded as English thief slang, goes back to the time of Shakespeare and is related to impeach, though used to indicate informing against an accomplice. The word cad is for Scotch caddie, once an errand boy, now familiar in connection with golf. Caddie is from the French word cadet, meaning a junior or younger brother.—Indianapolis News.

SURGERY ON THE SKULL.

The Operation of Trepanning Was Common in Ancient Times.

While the medical profession is agreed that some rough form of surgery must have existed from very ancient times, it has always been a matter of wonder that so complex and delicate an operation as trepanning should also be one of the oldest.

There is authentic record of this operation dating back to the time of Hippocrates, who wrote treatises on fractures, dislocations and wounds of the head, wherein he described the method of procedure to be followed in the case of a fractured skull. His idea was to cut away a piece of bone so that the pressure on the brain might be relieved.

The annals of this era also show that a file was used for this purpose, which, at a time when modern anaesthetics were unknown, must have been, to say the least, painful.

According to Holmes, the operation of removing pieces of bone was performed long before historic times. The effects on the skull are easily seen after death and are visible as long as the bones are preserved. From inspection of certain skulls of the later stone age in ancient Britain there has been derived the conclusion that some of these had undergone the operation, which must have been performed with a stone implement.—Harper's Weekly.

Origin of St. James' Palace.

Henry VIII, when he built St. James' palace designed it for a country residence to take the place of the manor of Lennington, where he had been in the habit of going for a change of air. He pulled down the hospital dedicated to St. James the Less and on its site, as Hollinshed tells us, "built a goodly manor and made a faire parke for his greater comoditie and pleasure."

The palace stood in the midst of fields well stocked with game, and these were inclosed as its private demesne. Even while residing here Henry held his court first at Westminster and then at Whitehall after he had taken the latter palace from Wolsey. It was not until 1697, when Whitehall was destroyed by fire, that St. James' palace became the London residence of monarchs.—London Standard.

An Odd Legacy.

Thomas Jefferson, the founder of the Jefferson family of actors, was remembered curiously in the will of Weston, who was himself an esteemed member of Garrick's company. Weston's will contained this item:

"I have played under the management of Mr. Jefferson at Richmond and received from him every politeness. I therefore leave him all my stock of prudence, it being the only good quality I think he stands in need of."

Wellington and Waterloo.

Helme, in speaking of Wellington's good luck at Waterloo, says: "This man has the bad fortune to meet with good fortune when the greatest man of the world is unfortunate. We see in him the victory of stupidity over genius—Arthur Wellington triumphant when Napoleon Bonaparte was overwhelmed. Wellington and Napoleon! It is a wonderful phenomenon that the human mind can at the same time think of both these names."

Good Excuse.

"Why do you keep me waiting on this corner two hours?" demanded the irate husband. "You said you were merely going to step in to see how Mrs. Gabbie was."

"Well, she insisted on telling me."—Washington Herald.

His Preference.

"Oh, for the wings of a dove!" cried the poet with the unbarbered hair. "Order what you like," answered the prosaic person with a clean shave, "but tell the waiter to bring me the breast of a chicken."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Inquisitive.

Willie—Paw, do you know everything? Paw—Yes, my son. Why do you ask? Willie—Well, does the spur of the moment cause time to fly?—Cincinnati Enquirer.

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