

EASTERN BRIDALS.

Traces of Primitive Practices to Be Found in the Modern Marriage Service. All nations originally captured their brides, and ancient this article in Blackwood's Magazine gives us some interesting particulars.

Lo! how the woman once was wooed! Forth leaped the savage from his lair. He felled her, and to nuptials rode. He dragged her bleeding by the hair.

Among the tribes of Western China the brutal savagery of the first assault has disappeared. Among the Lolos in Western China, the bride, on her wedding morn, perches herself on the topmost branch of a large tree, while the elder female members of the family, seated on the lower limbs, aimed with sticks. The bridegroom then clambers up the tree, assailed on all sides by blows, pushes and punches from the dowagers, and it is not until he has broken through the defense, and captured the prize, that he is allowed to carry off his bride.

On the marriage morn no traces of grief disfigure the fair bride; and as soon as the best man is announced a large, red silk wrapper is thrown over the bride's head and face; thus veiled, she is conducted by the best man to the sedan chair in waiting. Accompanied by maids, flower-girls and flower-bearers, she is carried to the door of her new home. As the chair stops the bridegroom comes out and taps on the door with his fan, upon which it is opened up by the bridesmaids, who help the bride to alight. She is not, however, allowed to enter the house in the ordinary way, but is borne across the threshold on the back of a servant and over a charcoal fire. What may be the meaning of this, and why the bride over a charcoal fire would be hard to determine. It has been suggested that it may be either an act of purification or the fire may possibly have been originally intended to serve as a bar against the rescuing force, and to prevent the possibility of escape on the part of the bride. Having once been safely deposited in the reception hall, the lady prostrates herself before her husband, and submits to have the red veil lifted by her lord with a fan.

FEATHERED PETS.

How to Take Care of Canaries and Other Birds in the House. Do not hang your bird merely where his cage looks pretty, advises a writer in Our Dumb Animals. Nor must you fly to the other extreme, and place him in a glare of sunlight, even in winter. Birds suffer and die from this cause. The best way is to give him his choice; put him in the sun and shade a part of his cage, so that he may do as he likes. You will notice that he often sits in the shade.

Remember and take care about placing him in a draft, or too close to even a closed window, except on warm summer days. It is as great a mistake to put him where he will be subject to the dry, burning heat of a furnace or stove. Do not hang his cage too high nor too low, but let him breathe the pure air which you breathe yourself.

From November till June wrap his cage nightly in a warm shawl or draw over it a thick flannel cover, and never place the cage on the floor, as I saw advised not long ago.

Your birds need variety as well as you, bird-store men and bird-book writers to the contrary, notwithstanding. Give him every day, beside his seed and fresh water, a bit of green food, lettuce, sorrel, chickweed, plantain (leaf or ends), or a slice of banana or apple, and fasten the delicacy so that it can not fall to the floor. A dainty bird will not touch it if it falls. Also, now and then, perhaps three times a week, give him a slice or two of raw beef the size of a pin head larger if it's a mocking bird. He may look askance at first, and turn his wise, black eyes upon it with curiosity, but will soon relish it, and eagerly snatch it from your finger, and it takes the place of the insects he would add to his bill of fare if he were free!

In fact, try to keep in mind that the little fellow has likes and dislikes, pain and discomfort, happiness and pleasure, much as you have yourself, and you will be well repaid by his brightness and vivacity.

THE SNAKE'S CHARM.

Has It Really the Power to Fascinate Its Smaller Victims? Concerning the power of a snake to charm birds and fowls, and even human beings, there has always been doubt and discussion. The Popular Science Monthly recently printed some curious anecdotes on this subject. Here is one of them: A gentleman from Iowa says that one day while going through his poultry yard he noticed a turkey-hen with neck stretched to the utmost, eyes distended and wings slightly raised, gazing most intently upon some object on the ground three or four feet from where it stood. Watching it for some moments he found that the turkey moved slowly around the attracting object in a circle, without withdrawing its gaze for a moment. After it had made a full circle he approached to learn the cause of its extraordinary behavior and found that the attracting object was a small striped snake partially concealed by some small weeds.

Finally, satisfied that the condition of the fowls on seeing the reptile was purely an objective one, the writer took a stick and approached the snake to kill it. It was dead already—and most noteworthy point of all—its head was crushed out of all semblance to its original shape and covered with dirt.

The conclusion the writer reached was that small animals passed into a subjective or hypnotic condition on being suddenly brought in view of serpents, of which all animals, great and small, appear to stand in dread. Accepting this, he says, we have the fascination of birds and small beasts by snakes as a scientific fact.

Snakes Killed by Electricity. According to a German scientific journal, they are using electricity in India to prevent snakes going into dwellings. Before all the doors and around the house two wires are laid, isolated from one another and connected with an induction apparatus. When the snake attempts to enter the house or go under it he completes the circuit as he crawls over the two wires, and if the shock he gets doesn't kill him it is likely to frighten him so that he goes away from there as soon as he can.



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EAST SIDE.

Table with columns: Station, Time, and Direction. Includes stations like Coburg Mill, West Selo, and various times for eastward and westward travel.

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The above trains connect at YAQUINA with the Oregon Development Co's Line of Steamships between Yaquina and San Francisco.

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STEAMERS, FROM SAN FRANCISCO: Willamette Valley Thursday, May 2; Willamette Valley Friday, May 9; Willamette Valley Saturday, May 16.

This company reserves the right to change sailing dates without notice. N. B.—Passengers from Portland and all Willamette Valley points can make close connection with the trains of the YAQUINA ROUTE at Albany or Corvallis, and if destined to San Francisco, should arrange to arrive at Yaquina the evening before date of sailing.

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TIME TABLE—RIVER DIVISION.

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For freight and passenger rates apply to the captains and purveyors of the respective boats, or to W. M. Hoag, agent, 200 and 202 Front street, Portland; Gilbert Bros., agents, Salem; E. M. Adair, agent, Albany; C. A. Miller, agent, Corvallis or to our general freight and passenger agent, Corvallis, O. & C. trains connect at Albany and Corvallis. F. W. BOWEN, Superintendent, Wm. HOAG, General Manager.

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