

THE KING OF THE SKY.

AN EAGLE THAT MADE A DESPERATE FIGHT FOR LIBERTY.

Trapped, Shot, Bound and Blinded, the Bird Held the Field—Fought Enough for Farmer Williams, and He Was Glad to Turn His Share of It Over to Others.

"If any person who doubted that a wounded eagle was a desperate customer for a man to tackle," said Lewis Williams, of Berks county, Pa., "could have witnessed an encounter that I had with one on the Blue Mountain, in Tulpehocken township, he would have had his doubts removed in short order. I had been losing a good many chickens one fall, and supposing that they were being carried off by foxes I set a trap for Reynard. The morning after setting the trap I went out to look for it, and it was nowhere to be seen. It had been chained to a small stake in the ground, and the stake was also missing.

FIRST ROUND FOR THE BIRD.

As I was returning home I heard a great commotion among a big flock of crows in the woods a quarter of a mile up the mountain. The crows were cawing in such a furious chorus that their cries could have been heard for a mile. The birds were circling round the trap, and frequently a number of them would dart viciously down through the trees toward the ground. I was curious to know what could be causing this unusual proceeding among the crows, for they are birds that do not fool their time away for nothing. I walked up the mountain, and as I approached the spot where the crows were going on, the tumult among the crows increased. When I arrived within easy gunshot of the spot the flock withdrew to a more distant part of the woods, but kept up their hubbub and jawed and chattered in a way that left no doubt of their having been intensely disturbed by some unpleasant experience.

"I walked on, and had taken but a few steps when I heard a sound as of a chain being dragged along on the ground, and instantly concluded that it was the chain of my missing trap. I momentarily expected to see the fox, hampered by the trap on his legs, come into sight, believing that he had been attacked by the crows who had discovered him in his crippled condition. Imagine my surprise then when, instead of the fox making his appearance, an enormous bald eagle strutted out from behind a big tree, dragging the trap chain and stake. The jaws of the trap were fastened on one leg of the great bird, and I had with me an ordinary shotgun, with which I had expected to kill the fox if I found it in my trap. When the eagle saw me it rose with great difficulty from the ground, owing to the burden on the leg, and flew toward the top of a tall, dead tree. I fired at it as he came within range of my rifle, and he brought the bird to the ground. The eagle was such a splendid specimen that I resolved to capture it alive. I approached it with no thought of having any difficulty in accomplishing my purpose in the handicapped and crippled condition of the bird, but I found that I didn't know as much about bald eagles as I thought I did, for in spite of the crippled wing and the burden of the trap and chain, the eagle rushed upon me and attacked me with such fury that I turned and fled from the woods.

"At the edge of the woods I stopped, and at first thought I would go back and shoot the eagle, but my desire to have it alive was so strong that I determined to make every effort to capture it. I hurried home and got a stout rope and an empty feed bag.

A LITTLE DISFIGURED, BUT.

"The eagle no sooner saw me again than he rushed toward me with all the force in his command, hugging me and crying as he was, and forced the fighting at once. I had made a noise in one of my ropes. As the eagle came tearing toward me, his sound wing raised several inches from his side, the wounded one dragging helplessly and bleeding on the ground, his powerful hooked beak thrown open, and feathers on his neck bristling like the hair on an angry back, and the chain clanking as he dragged the heavy trap go his leg, he was a startling picture of intense hate and unbounded fury. I had never faced so fierce a presence, nor could I have imagined one.

"I knew that by the plan I had formed for capturing the eagle I could quickly overpower him if I could manage to get successfully so I stood my ground, and when the immense bird was almost near enough to me to strike me with his beak, I quickly tossed the nose over his head. It slipped down over his wing, and I drew it close by a sudden and strong jerk. I then ran to one side and tied the other end of the rope to the sapling. The eagle was now almost at the end of the rope, and striking me with a glance downward stroke, ripped my clothing from me, and made two deep furrows in my flesh clear to the waist. The blood streamed from the wound, and supposing that I was feebly hurt, I hurried home as fast as I could go. The eagle was trapped, shot, blind, and muzzled in a bag, and still he held the field.

"On reaching home I found that my wound was less than I supposed, but it was so frightful that I put me out of the notion of further contest with the eagle. I sent my boy to where a couple of men were threshing wheat west for me in a distant field, to tell them to go and finish the capture. They went and succeeded in overpowering the ugly bird, and brought him triumphantly in, followed nearly all the way by the flock of crows, whose cries were easily interpreted into shouts of rejoicing over the downfall of the terrible foe that had played such havoc with their over confident companions. The eagle was released from the trap and his sweep of wing measured. It was nearly eleven feet from tip to tip. He was tied to a strong stake in the yard, but his terrible temper forbade all attempt to care for the frightful wound the trap had inflicted on his leg and for the broken wing. He refused to eat, and died in three days. His stuffed figure is now in a Philadelphia museum."—New York Sun.

Chinese Wonders. Of works of art, the great wall of China may truthfully be said to be the most elaborate and extensive on the globe. It was built about the year 300 B. C., to protect China from the annual incursions of the Tartars. It is 1,500 miles long, and, where still intact, 30 feet high and broad enough to allow of six horsemen riding abreast on its top.

The imperial canal, also a Chinese work, is something over 900 miles long. A vast army of from 20,000 to 40,000 men are said to have been employed for a period of fifty years in its construction.—St. Louis Republic.

JEFFERSON DAVIS' OLD SLAVE.

He Was Probably the Wealthiest Colored Man in the South.

The wealthiest colored man in the south since the war, who was born a slave and set free by the emancipation proclamation, was Ben Montgomery, of Mississippi. He belonged to Mr. Jefferson Davis, first, and then to Mr. Jefferson Davis. For years before the war he was the secretary of the Hon. Joseph Davis, Mr. Jefferson Davis' elder brother. The Davises were large planters and owned the "Hurricane" plantation, consisting of three great cotton plantations at the extreme lower end of Warren county, Miss., and about eighty or twenty miles below Vicksburg. There were between 12,000 and 15,000 acres of the finest land on the Mississippi river in these plantations and 750 slaves.

All the letters respecting the business of Ben Montgomery, for thirty years, were written in Ben Montgomery. He frequently went to New Orleans on business for the Davises and carried with him once \$50,000 in money. He traveled with Mr. Davis all over the north, and could have run away fifty times had he wished. But he remained faithful and loyal to the last. The Davises noted for their kindness to their slaves. They had their "quarters" on their plantations, probably, than any planter in the south, excepting the Hamptons. They kept a physician always on the place, and in every way cared for their "colored people," as slaves were frequently called. When Mr. Jefferson Davis and his brother Joseph left their homes, one as the president of the Southern Confederacy and the other as a brigadier general, they put everything under Ben Montgomery's charge. He made the crops of 1861-62 and 1862-63, about 3,000 bales of cotton, and shipped it to New Orleans and sold it to foreign buyers for \$1,100 to 2,300 bales of cotton, besides an abundance of corn and hay. In 1874 or 1875, there still being a balance due on the payments, Mr. Davis took the property back, but left Ben Montgomery in full charge. These places yield a very handsome annual income to Mr. Davis, who, though he prefers to let the Mississippi stream take its course, yet visits his old home once a year and spends a few weeks with his friends of fifty years ago. As I have said, he was a very kind master, and, therefore, whenever he goes back to his former residence, all the old time Davis negroes, within fifty miles around come out to "Old Master Jeff" and have a great time. When Ben Montgomery died, in 1881, Mr. Davis went up to his funeral, and there was no sadder mourner than he who once had the fate of a people upon his shoulders at the grave of his old and life long friend, though his slave.—Washington Letter.

USES OF MIRRORS.

The use of a mirror for reflecting the sun seems to run from the extremes of boyish roguishness in flashing the sun's rays upon the eyes of some companion—or even older persons, if the distance be sufficient—and it then reaches to the other extreme of using it to reflect the sun's rays for lighthouse signals to the coast survey or army service, or to measure the deflection of a galvanometer needle. But there is a vast middle space of practical usage of mirrors, apart from that of individual vanity, which is rarely thought of.

In the boyhood days of the writer he remembers looking into a new pump which had been thoroughly spiced the night before it was to be placed in the well, by means of some rocks which were pushed in about midway and wedged against each other. Various plans for their removal had been suggested, the most practicable of which was to saw a pump in two and join it together again somehow. The writer suggested that a mirror be brought, and the sunlight flashed in to reveal the position of the stones. A bar of wrought iron was bent to a hook, suitable to the condition of affairs, and extricated the stones one by one, the mirror showing the openings of light so that the person could work efficiently and intelligently.

Objects lost in wells have been disclosed by means of the sun's rays thrown down upon them by mirrors. Dark basements in cities are lighted by means of mirror surface of total reflecting prisms, made out of decidedly cheap glass, and held in proper position in racks placed in alleyways, under gratings forming a part of the walk.—Electrical Review.

Had Cut His Eye Teeth, Anyhow.

There was a very old man from Meriwether county in attendance at Pike superior court. He was feeble in appearance, and, indeed, some of his old acquaintances asked him his age. "Well," he said, "if I live to see 84 I will be 115 years old. Another remarkable fact connected with my construction is that I haven't a tooth in my head." Opening his mouth and pointing to his smooth, toothless gums, he continued: "I was born that way. Wonderful as it may appear, my youngest son and eldest daughter were born that way also." The same old fellow, looking if he were standing at the other end of the corridor of life, with all the gravity of over a century hanging over him, seriously says to an acquaintance:

"You mark a dollar and give it to me, and I will put it with one of mine, and you can't tell for the life of you which one you marked." "You are mistaken," says the acquaintance, and the silver dollar is forthcoming, marked and handed over. Then the grave old man rattles it with one of his own and pockets both. "Give my dollar back," says the acquaintance. "No," interrupts the old man. "I said that if you would mark a dollar and give it to me you could not tell it from one of my own—that is, because I am not going to give you a chance. Remember, I did not ask you to loan me a dollar, but give it to me; you did so, and now I don't give to have any joking." The fellow grunts and goes away with a blank expression of countenance.—Savannah News.

True Fissure Veins.

There are very few of what would strictly be considered true fissure veins. The term is applied somewhat generally, and there are so many kinds of veins that it would be difficult to explain the distinction. It would be difficult even for a person well versed in geology and all the formations described by geologists and writers. The Conestock, for instance, is one of the youngest veins we have, though it is generally spoken of as a true fissure, and few people recognize the fact that it is not. The Granite mountain, I presume, would be termed a genuine true fissure by the majority of experts, and I think probably it is. It certainly has all of the requisites. Frequently, also, we find cross veins, in which the youngest one is by far the strongest.—Expert in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

SCOURGE OF PHTHISIS.

APPALING DEATH RATE IN PRISONS AND THE CAUSE.

Dr. Von Ziemssen Says That There Ought to Be More Air and Exercise for Prisoners and Healthful Recreation for School Children.

"The effect of lack of fresh air and insufficiency of outdoor muscular exercise can be best studied in prisons, asylums, convents and similar institutions." This Professor Dr. H. Von Ziemssen declares. "The curtailing of freedom and the privation of open air entail a row of factors," declares the learned doctor, "the potency of which individuals are unable to estimate. The air in the closed rooms, and especially in the dormitories, is not pure; it contains dust and fungi, is poor in oxygen, but rich in carbon dioxide and bad odors. On account of the sedentary life, respiration is not deep enough and the lungs are not well expanded. The absence of natural muscular activity, in vigorous and regular work, diminishes assimilation and reduces the need of nourishment, while the monotonous diet impairs the appetite."

Continuing, the writer charges that the diet is often poor, and that in jails there is penitence and anxiety for inmates, in penitents' contact with the dregs of mankind, and in cellular prisons there is solitariness and absence of all excitement. Under such weakening faculties the organism sinks into a depraved condition, and a wide door is opened for tubercle bacilli, which are ubiquitous in prisons.

Dr. Von Ziemssen declares that the huge proportions in which inmates of prisons succumb to consumption are not sufficiently known. He quotes from Baer to show that mortality from this disease in prisons is three or four times what it is on the outside. In the race generally it is computed at 14 to 45 per cent., while in prisons from 40 to 50 per cent. of all deaths is due to consumption. This rate varies greatly, however. In Austrian prisons during four years the mortality from consumption was 61 per cent. In the prisons of Bavaria it was but 38 per cent. The death rate seems to vary with the conditions of the buildings and of discipline. In American prisons, Dr. Von Ziemssen's statements are fully borne out.

After somewhat extended consideration of destructive tendencies of prison life, the doctor asks: "Why are not prisoners put at outdoor work? Why are they packed together in close working rooms and impure atmosphere? It has been found that the inmates of rural employments and to watch over them; why should it not be possible in the case of prisoners? Why not allow prisoners to indulge in athletic and other exercises? Surely it is not the intention of the law that the criminal, who is removed from society, should be made a more fit subject for the same? The penal code aims to punish and improve, not to make sick and slay."

He points out that while the condition of prisons has been immeasurably improved, and that in consequence those terrible epidemics of typhoid, scarlatina, dysentery, etc., which once dominated them have disappeared, tuberculosis remains a veritable scourge, being three or four times greater than that among the general population.

SAVE THE CHILDREN. Dr. Von Ziemssen especially condemns the cellular system, where he says the highest mortality from tuberculosis is found. He asserts that in collective prisons and houses of correction, where the deteriorated atmosphere of working rooms and dormitories is breathed in common by the prisoners, although the volume of air furnished is less than in the cellular system, and the healthy prisoners are associated with diseased inmates, still the mortality from consumption is less. This fact he ascribes to the ubiquitous nature of the tubercle bacilli and to the deprivation of outside air and outdoor work. Under the cellular system, as well as to physical causes, such as ennui, loneliness, repentance, longing for freedom, etc. He insists that the consideration of the health of the inmates of law makers. The alarming evil, he repeats, cannot be got rid of without changing the manner of working and increasing the supply of fresh air.

By Dr. Doherty confession is made that the criminal classes are more liable on account of their dissipated and vagabond lives to consumption and tuberculosis, but he adds that regard for the welfare of society, if not for the health of the convicts, should compel, since consumption is contagious, an earnest effort to diminish or destroy the danger from such prolific breeding places of the disease.

He also treats at length of the health of pupils in the public schools, suggests reforms, and points out the necessity of declaring that the case of cloister like seminaries, orphanages and educational institutions is similar to that of all trades and avocations which bring together a number of persons in crowded, unhealthy rooms and deprive them of fresh air and freedom, and that what has been said of the prisons applies to these institutions also. He suggests a state supervision of hygiene in seminaries and similar institutions, especially in girls' boarding schools.

He declares that it is shown in all cases that the more the free exercise of youth is limited in such institutions the more frequent is tuberculosis present. He highly commends the practice in English schools of the pupils devoting all their time out of school to outdoor exercises, and equally condemns the German curriculum, which compels too protracted hours of study, leaving but little time for exercises of any kind. The advantage is, he asserts, with the English children, who show differences in their complexion, their skin, bright glances and active movements. He thinks it is high time that school children should have a sufficiency of recreation, and that regular investigation, at least once a quarter, should be made into each pupil's vital capacity, a systematic noting of his weight in relation to size, to his muscular power, and also into the choice and supervision of games. Such regular investigations, made at least quarterly, would, in his judgment, furnish valuable information for the training of youth. Every catarrh, every swollen gland, every skin affection, every trouble, though apparently unimportant and hardly worthy of notice in a child free from a hereditary disposition, should receive careful attention and treatment.—Chicago Herald.

Cat Adopts a Chicken.

While looking for a mouse, a cat was in the cellar of his house he heard the peep of a chicken. Making an investigation, he found that an old cat belonging to him was kindly looking after a young chicken which she had found in an adjoining yard. She had taken the chicken down into the cellar, and having the cat's attention attracted by the peep of the little one with such interest as if it had been a kitten. When the wanderer was taken away from her she cried after it and appeared to be much distressed over its loss.—New Bedford (Me.) Standard.

Cheese is mentioned by Aristotle about 350 B. C. It is supposed that cheese making was introduced into England about the beginning of the Christian era, having been learned from the Romans.

BIG PAY OF FREAKS.

Some of the Oddities That Are Real Gold Mines in Themselves.

"Horrors! how can such creatures live?" exclaimed a country dame a few days ago, as she peered about with her eyes bulging out in surprise at the human curiosities in one of the museums of this city. "They make more money in one week than you do in six, all the same," and a little all wise street gamin laughed at the surprise of the country dame.

"That's true," murmured the museum proprietor, who had overheard the previous remarks, "and no one knows it better than I." The freak of nature possesses a veritable gold mine in himself. All prodigies, whether they be great or small, one eyed like the mythological Cyclops, or possessing as many heads as a hydra, can fill their purses, provided they muster extraordinary courage and strength in the grimly dressed and with tinsel on museum stunts. The salaries of some of these freaks are enormous, and not a few make as much money in the course of a year as the honored gentleman who occupies the presidential chair. Their salaries range from \$25 to \$1,000 a week, and are determined by the number of spectators who come to see the freaks. For instance, albinos with pink eyes and silken white hair receive from \$50 to \$500 a week, while those with eyes and hair of the same ruddy hue are valued at \$100 a week because of their rarity.

Among the high priced freaks are the so called "skeletons," who have no skin, and whose weekly salaries range from \$250 to \$500. To be a proper skeleton freak one must have bones, skin and a little blood, with all the vitals, but no flesh to speak of. Bow legged skeleton freaks are preferable to those who are a knock kneed, simply because they are scarcer. Such prodigies as woolly babies or infants, called "Linda Zentzo," who has a nail and hair on the body, face and limbs, are worth a great deal to the museum manager. They receive compensation of from \$500 to \$700 a week to sit on a museum stool. Rare curiosities like dog faced boys also come high. They, or rather their parents, guardians or owners, receive for putting them on exhibition salaries ranging from \$500 to \$2000 per week. Those having faces resembling pug dogs get \$500 a week, while others who more fortunately possess shepherd dog or greyhound faces bring \$750.

The star freaks in dime museums are, however, midgets, and Mexican ones, like the famous "Linda Zentzo," who has a nail and hair on the body, face and limbs, are worth a great deal to the museum manager. They receive compensation of from \$500 to \$700 a week to sit on a museum stool. Rare curiosities like dog faced boys also come high. They, or rather their parents, guardians or owners, receive for putting them on exhibition salaries ranging from \$500 to \$2000 per week. Those having faces resembling pug dogs get \$500 a week, while others who more fortunately possess shepherd dog or greyhound faces bring \$750.

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Martenfeldt found that if he placed the marble in the center of the plate and marked four or five spots on the edge of the plate and then asked the subject with which he experimented to tip the plate so that the marble would run across a particular spot, a considerable time elapsed before the subject could determine how to tip the plate to make a marble roll as required. When Martenfeldt complicated the apparatus and placed rings of pasteboard about the center of the plate, with holes for the marble to run through, the average results of his experiments gave a remarkable psychological law, which was that the "reaction time" depended upon the size of the circles of pasteboard, which made an impression upon the field of vision of the retina, and was in direct proportion to the diameters of the circles expressed in millimeters. He sent one of his disciples to Dr. Hermann Meyer, of Philadelphia, where it was seen by C. M. Crandall, the toy dealer.—The Doctor.

Did Eve Talk French? No subject has been more fertile of speculation than the origin of language, and on few, perhaps, can less satisfaction be obtained. The Jews positively insist that the Hebrew tongue is the primitive language, and that spoken by Adam and Eve. The Arabs, however, dispute the point on antiquity with the Hebrew. Of all the languages, except the Hebrew, the Syriac has had the greatest number of advocates, especially among eastern authors. Many maintain that the language spoken by Adam is lost and that the Hebrew, Chaldean and Arabic are only dialects of the original tongue. Gorpelin published a work in 1529 to prove that Dutch was the language spoken in paradise. Andre Kemp maintained that God spoke to Adam in Swedish. Adam answered in Danish, and Eve spoke in French, while the Persians believe that languages to have been spoken in paradise—Arabic, the most persuasive, by the serpent, Persian, the most poetic, by Adam and Eve, and Turkish, the most charming, by the Angel Gabriel. Erro claims Basque as the language spoken by Adam, and others would make the Polynesian as the primitive language of mankind. Leaving, however, these startling theories, we may sum up in the words of Darwin: "With respect to the origin of articulate languages, after having read on the one side the highly interesting works of Wedgwood, Farrar and Professor Schickler, and the celebrated lecture of Professor Max Muller on the other side, I cannot doubt that language owes its origin to the imitation and modification, aided by signs and gestures, of natural sounds, voices of other animals and man's own cries."—Current Literature.

Modern Witchcraft. A horrible case of murder for supposed witchcraft is reported from the Decatur. A village in Chenarr, Jalisco, certain shop-herds were suspected by the villagers, and these suspicions were accentuated in consequence of a severe epidemic of cholera. Two of the suspected men were seized, solemnly tried and condemned for witchcraft by the village commission, and sentenced to be hanged to death. There, in the presence of all the villagers, their teeth were extracted with pincers and their heads shaved. Subsequently they were buried up to their necks, and was piled round their heads, a fire was kindled, and the skulls were roasted into powder. Some thirty persons are reported to have died and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

Another case of murder for supposed witchcraft was recently tried at Bombay. The accused imputed the death of his father and mother and the illness of certain members of his family to the arts of an old woman and her son, who were hanged, with a thick stick. These cases are common, but are rarely brought to the notice of the British authorities.—Calcutta Dispatch to London Times.

Buffalo Bill's Father.

An Old time resident of Denver a day or two since related an incident of the original "Buffalo Bill" Cody, father of the present famous showman, which has never been in print. Old man Cody was a prominent figure on the plains in an early day, being the owner of an extensive trading post on the Arkansas, in the vicinity of Fort Larned. Late in the '50s he received information that the Indians proposed to clean out his ranch, which was an extensive adobe building surrounded by a stockade. He did not pay much attention to it, but the same news came from him, and he was at last confirmed by the arrival of a large band of Cheyennes and Arapahoes and Kiowas, who camped on the opposite side of a deep arroyo from the trading post, across which the military authorities had erected a bridge for the passage of supply trains.

The savages pretended to be very friendly and invited to trade, exchanging furs and skins for ammunition, but their real object was to burn the post and carry away Cody's scalps as a trophy—a fact of which the old frontiersman was well informed through the spies whom he had among them. The place was well armed, but not sufficiently manned to resist the attack of so formidable a band of red skins, and old Bill could not see what he could do to protect himself. In the stock yard of the post was an old howitzer which had been abandoned by some of the plains military expeditions, and this he carried up to the top of the post and placed it so that it would sweep the bridge. He had plenty of powder, but no other ammunition, so he loaded it with, and so he charged the gun with old mule shoes, nails, bits of iron and similar trinkets.

The cannon loaded, he awaited developments. Early one morning he observed an unusual movement in the camp of his pretended friends, and soon Billy arrived with a great number of the savages, a team toward the post. Cody was at his howitzer, match in hand. The painted devils crowded the long but narrow bridge, and just as the foremost reached the nearest bank he discharged his gun at clear range of the bridge. There was a wild howl of disappointed rage, a vision of dead Indians tumbling in the arroyo, of legs and arms and heads lying around loose with out claimants, and fleeing and frightened away excepting from the fatal bridge. Cody's single shot had saved his post, and he was always thereafter left in peaceful possession of his ranch. Just what struck them on the bridge the Indians never knew, and the survivors of the fatal charge always entertained the firm belief that "Buffalo Bill" was in league with the evil spirit, and, as such, a person to whom it was safe to give a wide berth.—Denver News.

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Martenfeldt found that if he placed the marble in the center of the plate and marked four or five spots on the edge of the plate and then asked the subject with which he experimented to tip the plate so that the marble would run across a particular spot, a considerable time elapsed before the subject could determine how to tip the plate to make a marble roll as required. When Martenfeldt complicated the apparatus and placed rings of pasteboard about the center of the plate, with holes for the marble to run through, the average results of his experiments gave a remarkable psychological law, which was that the "reaction time" depended upon the size of the circles of pasteboard, which made an impression upon the field of vision of the retina, and was in direct proportion to the diameters of the circles expressed in millimeters. He sent one of his disciples to Dr. Hermann Meyer, of Philadelphia, where it was seen by C. M. Crandall, the toy dealer.—The Doctor.

Did Eve Talk French? No subject has been more fertile of speculation than the origin of language, and on few, perhaps, can less satisfaction be obtained. The Jews positively insist that the Hebrew tongue is the primitive language, and that spoken by Adam and Eve. The Arabs, however, dispute the point on antiquity with the Hebrew. Of all the languages, except the Hebrew, the Syriac has had the greatest number of advocates, especially among eastern authors. Many maintain that the language spoken by Adam is lost and that the Hebrew, Chaldean and Arabic are only dialects of the original tongue. Gorpelin published a work in 1529 to prove that Dutch was the language spoken in paradise. Andre Kemp maintained that God spoke to Adam in Swedish. Adam answered in Danish, and Eve spoke in French, while the Persians believe that languages to have been spoken in paradise—Arabic, the most persuasive, by the serpent, Persian, the most poetic, by Adam and Eve, and Turkish, the most charming, by the Angel Gabriel. Erro claims Basque as the language spoken by Adam, and others would make the Polynesian as the primitive language of mankind. Leaving, however, these startling theories, we may sum up in the words of Darwin: "With respect to the origin of articulate languages, after having read on the one side the highly interesting works of Wedgwood, Farrar and Professor Schickler, and the celebrated lecture of Professor Max Muller on the other side, I cannot doubt that language owes its origin to the imitation and modification, aided by signs and gestures, of natural sounds, voices of other animals and man's own cries."—Current Literature.

Modern Witchcraft. A horrible case of murder for supposed witchcraft is reported from the Decatur. A village in Chenarr, Jalisco, certain shop-herds were suspected by the villagers, and these suspicions were accentuated in consequence of a severe epidemic of cholera. Two of the suspected men were seized, solemnly tried and condemned for witchcraft by the village commission, and sentenced to be hanged to death. There, in the presence of all the villagers, their teeth were extracted with pincers and their heads shaved. Subsequently they were buried up to their necks, and was piled round their heads, a fire was kindled, and the skulls were roasted into powder. Some thirty persons are reported to have died and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

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