

# WORLD WONDERS

## Is This Cellini's Face?



Annibale Benedetti, an obscure antiquary of Orvieto, has suddenly achieved fame by a discovery which has aroused great interest throughout Italy. Pausing one day recently in the Piazza delle Signorie at Florence to study Benvenuto Cellini's famous statue of Perseus, which stands in the Loggia del Lanzi, Signor Benedetti became aware that, viewed from the rear, the helmet is formed to represent a face which with the curling hair beneath it as a beard bears a marked resemblance to Cellini himself. The city "ciceroni" assert that they have long been aware of the existence of this face but have not attached any importance to it. It is strange to think that so interesting a feature of the statue has escaped the notice of art circles and students for a period of over 400 years.

## QUEER PORCUPINE ANT-EATER PLAGUE OF INDIAN MONKEYS



The remarkable animal here pictured is the porcupine ant-eater or proechimys of Western New Guinea. It is about the size of a large cat and belongs to the group of very primitive marsupials known as monotremes, of which the duck-billed platypus and the echidna of Australia are the best known types. The body of these extraordinary creatures is covered with short, blackish fur, mingled with sharp spines. The mouth is placed at the extremity of a long, trunk-like snout, which protects a long, worm-like tongue carrying a sticky secretion, and is used for capturing termites, upon which these creatures principally feed. The limbs are very powerful and the claws well adapted for digging. These animals are nocturnal in their habits, sleeping during the daytime in some crevice beneath a rock or log, the long snout being tucked away beneath the body. If alarmed while feeding, they immediately tuck the snout under the body and squat tight down to the ground, partially burying themselves in any dead leaves or rubbish that may be at hand.

A plague of monkeys some years ago sorely troubled the officials at a small station on the Saran railway, in Northwest India. Trucks full of grain for export were often stored up in the station, and the monkeys came down in large number from a neighboring grove to help themselves to the grain, picking holes in the tarpaulin roof of the wagons. The officials were wearied out with keeping watch and scaring away the thieves, who daily grew bolder, till an ingenious guard hit upon a stratagem. For several days sweets and fruits were put on the roofs of the wagons, with the result that the whole of the monkey colony were attracted to the spot, and soon became perfectly indifferent to man.

One morning, when they were all busily feeding, an engine was stealthily attached to the wagons, and suddenly the train moved off. The monkeys were quite scared, and made no attempt to escape, sitting crouched together till the train had gone several miles and stopped at a jungle. Then they wanted no hint to leave. Every monkey leaped down howling and fled into the jungle, whence they never returned to trouble the railway.

## CROW ONCE WAS A DELICACY

Peacock pie, which figured at the Elizabethan banquet held to celebrate Midsummer day, is not a delicacy likely to tempt all epicures. Still, most of us would rather eat peacock than some of the other birds consumed by our forefathers. In the thirteenth century the heron, the crane, the crow, the stork, the porcupine and the bittern were considered excellent for the table. Yet the hare and the partridge were despised as food, and neither was ever served in the houses of the wealthy.

## Cat and Rat Mummified



While excavating in Waterford, Ireland, workmen found the remarkable object here pictured. It is the mummy of a cat in the act of killing a rat, and it is evident the animals both met instantaneous death. They are wonderfully well preserved and the skin covering the skeletons is hard as dried leather.

## ODD CUSTOMS IN SCHWALM

Many quaint customs linger among the village folks who live in the valley of the Schwalm in western Germany. When a young man needs a wife he always chooses her from among the maidens of the valley. He does not waste much time between the engagement and the wedding. The young man asks the consent of the father, who, after discussing the bridegroom's property and the dowry of his daughter, and coming to a favorable conclusion, seals the important business by witnessing the handshake of the young couple in the presence of the relations. Two months later—always between the hay and corn harvest—the wedding takes place.

Preparations for the wedding feast occupy many days. A pig has been slaughtered and the sausages hang in long rows. About 80 cakes are baked in the ovens and clean, fresh straw is strewn on the floor. Garlands are made to adorn the house, and a great oakleaf wreath surrounding "A hearty welcome" is placed above the door of the festive house.

On the wedding morning the bride is awake early. At about 7:45 o'clock she is already dressed in her fullest wedding attire. She sits, looking very patient and dignified, putting on her bead the bridal crown which has taken at least an hour to prepare. It is trimmed with 25 rows of red, gray, and silver ribbons while the front is adorned with rosemary, glass balls, and flowers. The bride also wears an elaborate stomacher embroidered in gold and silver. The bridal outfit of 15 petticoats, a cloth skirt, satin pinafore, ornaments, stockings, gold embroidered garters, silk handkerchief and long gloves costs over 600 marks. For two years of married life the bride is permitted to wear lilac and green, but after that she dresses entirely in black.

To the hard-working Schwalmers folk a wedding is the brightest and gayest moment of their lives. The bridegroom in his long-skirted coat adorned with the dewing insignia has an imposing appearance. He, too, wears a gorgeous wedding headgear, an enormous erection almost hiding his whole face, composed of many silk ribbons, yellow, green, and orange. Perched upon the very top is a circular basket filled with red flowers, glass balls, and rosemary. The bridesmaids have so much gold embroidery upon their stomachers and ribbons that they absolutely glitter in the sunshine.

The guests and relations having greeted the young pair with a speech the wedding progress begins. Bells ring as the procession moves towards the church. With a serious dignity the bride steps to the side of the best man while the proud bridegroom walks beside the bridesmaids. The glittering procession stops at the little village church waiting for the end of the service. Presently the church door is opened and the procession enters the crowded building to the sound of the ringing of bells and the music of the organ.

The clergyman after addressing the bridal pair blesses them, and they seal their marriage by joining hands. No rings are exchanged.

## THIS MAY BE A METEORITE



One of the most curious of natural formations in Michigan is found at St. Ignace on the upper peninsula. It is a formation of seemingly volcanic rock called St. Anthony's Rock, and juts out of the earth and rises to a height of about 60 feet. There is a slight vegetation where dust has collected in the crevices. Many tourists and geologists visit the rock each year and the latter are of the opinion that it is a meteorite.

## OWN BABY HER GRANDCHILD

A woman who is stepmother to her own children and who has a step-granddaughter born in the direct line of descent, has been discovered near Kalamazoo, Mich. Mrs. Christiana Workinger is the mother of ten children. Her eldest daughter married Charles Strabel, and after becoming the mother of three children, died. Shortly afterward, Strabel married the second of Mrs. Workinger's daughters and was divorced from her. Then Mrs. Workinger, herself, was married to Strabel. A few days ago a baby was born to her. The child is the woman's own step-granddaughter. She is also grandmother of her own children.

## TWO BIG FAMILIES UNITED

William Moseley, seventy-three years old, father of 19 children by two previous marriages, and Mrs. Mattie Russell, fifty-five, mother of 12 children by two other marriages, have been married in Texarkana.

## LIABILITY OF TREES TO LIGHTNING



Peculiar Effect of Lightning on a Chestnut Tree in Eastern New York.

(By F. G. PLUMMER)

From early times there has been a belief that certain trees more than others are likely to be struck by lightning. The elder Pliny said: "Lightning never strikes the laurel." This tree was also called bay, and wreaths of its leaves were worn by ancient rulers both as a symbol of victory and as a protection from the lightning of the gods. Seneca and Plutarch held a similar belief, which may be traced down even to modern times, but the theory as now held includes a number of trees, different in various countries.

This belief was so firmly established that such trees as the beech, locust, holly, olive, walnut, birch, elder, mistletoe and live-for-ever, supposed to be effective in warding off lightning, were placed near dwellings. To this day there are many who still insist that the beech is never struck, while in parts of the United States the aspen is considered immune from lightning.

On the other hand, it was believed that such trees as the oaks, particularly cork oak, had a very bad reputation for attracting lightning, and this belief prevails even now. There is a proverb:

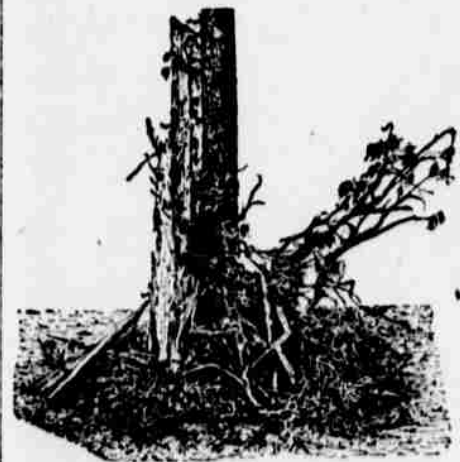
"Avoid the oak, flee from the spruce, but seek the beech."

And also:

"Beware the oak, it draws the stroke. Avoid the ash, it courts the flash. Creep under the thorn, 'twill save from harm."

Natives of South Africa have said regarding the mopane tree, which is often struck, "Lightning hates it," but they say that the morala tree is never touched. The Portuguese share this belief.

There was once a widespread belief in Europe that conifers were almost immune from lightning, but records



Yellow Pine, Arizona, Completely Shattered by Lightning.

made there showed that conifers rank third in liability to stroke. The persistent popular belief regarding immunity of some trees and liability of others have given rise to the following theories regarding trees most likely to be struck:

1. Tall trees: Because they reach high toward the electrically charged cloud, and therefore lessen the distance with the flash must traverse through the dielectric (air). Such trees are conceived to be a part of the earth, extending upward and inviting the stroke.
2. Trees with pointed crowns: Because they invite, to their one apex, a single full-pressure flash. Trees with rounded crowns, favor the diffusion of the flash into a spray.
3. Trees with pointed leaves: Because static electricity jumps most easily to and from pointed terminals.
4. Trees with smooth or shiny leaves: Because a smooth surface invites flashes, while a hairy or woolly surface, presenting a multitude of fine points, favors diffusion.
5. Trees with deeply grooved bark: Because bark deeply grooved longitudinally guides the current to the ground, and because the moist sapwood is close to the surface in the bottoms of the fissures.
6. Trees insulated: Because they are the only marks for the flash and are conductors.
7. Trees on high ground: Because

they are nearest to the storm cloud strata.

8. Trees on damp soil: Because the moisture makes a good contact between the tree and the earth.

9. Trees deeply rooted: Because the long roots give a better grounding and finish a more direct path to deeper and moister earth strata.

10. Trees with dead branches: Because they present alluring points.

11. Trees whose wood has high electric conductivity: Because the flash will select the path of least resistance.

12. Trees whose tissues are composed mostly of longitudinally arranged fibers and other elements: Because this arrangement would favor the transmission of the electric current.

13. Trees rich in starch: Because starches and sugars are better conductors than oils, resins and waxes.

But years of careful study and experimenting show that any kind of tree is likely to be struck by lightning.

In temperate climates thunderstorms, with lightning, occur most commonly during the summer usually in the afternoon. In the United States they are four or five times as frequent east of the Rocky mountains as west, omitting from consideration parts of Arizona and New Mexico. This is due, as explained later, to the generally mountainous condition of the west. Lightning is most frequent in Florida and Illinois.

In Cuba severe thunderstorms are frequent, and trees are often struck and killed. The pine only is reported ignited.

Lightning is extremely rare in Alaska, and no forest fires are known to have resulted from it. It does not follow that the trees most liable to ignition by lightning are the ones most responsible for forest fires. While in general one species may be more inflammable than another, the degree of inflammability varies with the locality and season. The tree most often struck and ignited in the west is the western yellow pine, which grows in open, park-like stands, where the fire hazard is small.

A tree may be set on fire by lightning and burn for days without the flames spreading to other trees or to the ground, and if the latter be free from litter, as is often the case in western yellow pine forests, the chances of the fire spreading are small. It is probable that the majority of forest fires caused by lightning striking trees is due to the presence of dry duff, humus or litter at the base of the tree. Another possibility is that some forest fires are started by lightning striking the ground and igniting the soil cover.

## OYSTER SHELLS FURNISH LIME

New York Experimental Station Proves That Food Is Quite Beneficial to Hens.

Some years ago a then well-known writer condemned the use of oyster shell as a food for furnishing lime so necessary in the construction of egg shell. His contention was that the oyster shell did not contribute lime sufficient for that purpose. However, the New York agricultural experiment station has vetoed that by proving that a pound of oyster shell contains sufficient lime to manufacture about seven dozens of eggs.

The proper way to feed oyster shell is to have a small box of it within reach so the fowls may help themselves at will. Mixing it in the morning mash is risky, as there is a likelihood that the hens will consume more than is required, and in consequence the shells of the eggs would become too hard. The hens know best when their system demands more lime. It is a very rare case when a hen gets too much if constantly with in reach.

## BEAVER AND OTTER BATTLE TO DEATH

Hunter Sees Animals Kill Each Other in Fierce Fight.

## FOUGHT UNDER WATER

They Came to the Surface Several Times to Blow the Water From Their Lungs, but Quickly Went at It Again.

Seaberry, N. Y.—An otter long known to woodsmen in this region as White Eye was killed in a fight with a beaver on Big brook a few days ago, according to Lem Lawson, who witnessed the encounter. The beaver also lost its life.

White Eye took its name from a circle of white hairs around its right eye. Fishermen on Big brook, the West Canada and Metcalf stream had often seen it and trappers knew the animal by the print made by its twisted foot in the snow. Lawson caught the otter in a No. 3 jump trap three years ago last spring, but the otter cramped the trap in a snag fork and pulled loose.

The beaver was an old male of the type known as a "scout." There had been no beavers on Big brook for many years, but the stocking of the Adirondacks with a few pairs has resulted in colonies all over the Adirondacks and the appearance of outlaw males in various parts of the woods. A year ago the scout beaver appeared on Big brook and took up its quarters in a hole in the bank at the upper alderbed. Working from this hole the animal built a dam across the brook, which is here only a few feet wide, and raised the level of the still water more than two feet.

The otter White Eye usually spent its winters on Big brook pond, but traveled during the summer. It had a hole in the bank near the head of the upper alderbed and when the beaver built the dam the water was raised enough to flood the otter's retreat. It is supposed by Lem Lawson that this was what started the fight between the beaver and the otter.

Lawson was still hunting deer along the headwaters, when he saw the beaver closely followed by White Eye, the otter.

He waited with interest and then heard a sharp barking sound, followed by a hoglike snuffling. The tops of the alder bushes began to wave back



The Beaver Was as Eager to Fight as the Otter.

and forth and little waves came rolling through the overflow, showing that the two were in violent combat. The water began to sprinkle around through the alders and fall on the open stillwater. After a minute or two the fighters came rolling over and over in the water through the alders into the open.

They broke apart after a moment and then the otter shot in again and the beaver carried it down. The water boiled up white over their paws, but there was a pink glow in the foam. They rolled over and over, the beaver throwing the otter half out of the water with one vicious uplift of its jaws, and the otter came boring down with a savage snapping of its jaws. Both animals were half choked by the underwater fighting.

The end came just as Lawson realized that the beaver was spilling a \$25 otter hide. He was trying to get a sight to shoot the beaver and so saved the otter's hide when the otter suddenly bored in under the beaver's stomach and cut it open. As the beaver rolled over, struggling helplessly, the otter knew that it had won, and came swimming down the stillwater, straight toward the hunter. There was a red gash through the white eye, and behind the otter the wake was crimson and foaming.

The otter crawled up on the dam and as the long, black body left the water Lawson saw four gashes on the right side, one nine inches long on the back, and on the right side of the otter's paunch was ripped open so badly that the heart and lungs were exposed.

The otter gave a quick shudder, began to roll over and over, and died within three feet of where Lawson crouched.