

FISH FIGHT WITH ELECTRICITY.

Nature Has Provided Some Species with a Storage Battery for Self-Defense. From the New York Evening Post: Perhaps one of the most interesting, as well as the most inexplicable, means of protection with which nature has provided any animal is that of electricity. My attention was called to this some few years ago in England on the occasion of a visit to the aquarium at Brighton. An electric fish was on exhibition; in the same room was a family of young alligators. The tanks were side by side, and some miscreant, unobserved, managed to drop an alligator into the tank of the fish. The consequence was the utter prostration of the reptile. There are three genera of fishes which possess the power of delivering an electric shock—the torpedo, the electric catfish or electric sheath fish and the electric eel. The torpedoes are rays, and are distributed over the Atlantic and the Indian oceans. It is said that individuals reach the weight of eighty and even 100 pounds. The electric catfish or sheath fish belongs to the siluridae, as also does the catfish of American streams, is a native of tropical Africa and attains a length of four feet. The electric eel, or, to call it by a less misleading name, the gymnotus, is a native of the marshes of Brazil and Guiana. The electric apparatus extends down each side of the lower part of the tail, and the shock delivered by one of the large fish, five or six feet in length, is capable of killing the most powerful animal. Humboldt has graphically described his experience with these strange creatures, and reports that certain rones were abandoned because of the number of horses destroyed by the fish in the pools on the route. The Indians secure them for food by driving horses into the water; and on these the fish exhaust their power, often killing the horses by their shocks. When the faculty of delivering an electric shock is exhausted the gymnotus draws near the bank to avoid the plunging quadrupeds, and falls an easy victim to the Indian's harpoon.

FREE TRADE IN KISSES.

New Brides in Roumania Would Shock Mrs. Grundy. I have just heard of a quaint foreign custom which makes me think it high time for Mrs. Grundy to go abroad, for I am sure it is one she would put down with a high hand, says a writer in Home Notes. In the old town of Helmagen, in Roumania, an annual fair is held on St. Theodore's day. On this occasion all the newly-wedded brides from the surrounding villages throng the town, but the widows who have remarried remain at home. The young women are generally attended by their mothers-in-law, and in their hands they bear pitchers of wine wreathed with flowers. They kiss every one they meet, and then present their jugs for a sip to be taken. The person so favored makes the bride a small gift. As it is considered an insult if the proffered wine be refused, the brides are careful to be reserved toward strangers, and only kiss those whom they think likely to partake of their wine. This kissing festival is celebrated in the public streets, in private houses, in the taverns, and, in fact, everywhere; but the origin of it is lost in obscurity. Some people suppose it to be a relic of times past when the Turks made raids into the country and carried off all the young women they could capture. Such of these as contrived to escape, returning to Helmagen at the time of the fair, embraced friends, relatives, and even strangers, who rejoiced with them and congratulated them on their happiness.

All About the Baby's Clothes.

The baby's bath, next to the baby's nap, is the most important event in the young autocrat's existence. In order that it may be the means of hygienic grace it is designed to be, it must be taken in water of a certain mild temperature, which should be set by the physician. And in order that the water may never be hotter or colder than that temperature a thermometer should be kept on hand to test it. The baby's clothes should be designed for the most warmth with the least possible weight. As far as possible bands should be avoided, and when they cannot be they should be yoke shape and of woven goods.

Babies' hoods of swansdown are pretty enough to reconcile their youthful wearers to the state of babyhood. They are of white silk outside, of white fur inside, and they are finished with frills of white chiffon about the face. Jackets made entirely of lambs' wool are among the bewitching things designed for infantile wear. They have big sleeves and are lined with quilted white silk.

A Record in Blood.

Many years ago a bloody drunken row occurred in Dahomea. Immediately afterward a man went up in front of the store where they all purchased the liquor and wrote the name of the barkeeper in blood on the rock pavement in front of the door. It is one of the principal sidewalks in front of the town, and has been traveled by thousands of people, and many drenching rains have fallen on those stones since, but the name has never rubbed or washed out and shows almost as plain as the day it was written.—Atlanta Constitution.

Done by Missionaries.

King Leopold of Belgium, chief of the Congo Free State, recently expressed, in a letter, his high appreciation of the services rendered to the state by a grammar of the language which Mr. Bentley, a Baptist missionary, had prepared. Another Baptist missionary, Mr. Grenfell, was knighted by the king.

Too Bad.

Mary—Cease your flirtations or I will put my hands over my eyes.
John (wishing to be complimented)—Ah, your lovely hands are the only thing I see.
—Tit-Bits.

PORTRAITS ON LEATHER.

Introduction Into This Country of a New Species of Art Work. A few months ago Miss Christiana Hetz arrived in Milwaukee from Munich, and introduced in the cream city a species of decorative work which had hitherto been practically unknown there. Miss Hetz is an artist from the crown of her head to the soles of her feet, an all-around artist, too, knowing how to paint beautiful modern things in oils and water colors as well as to reproduce in many fabrics the rare and costly relics of early German art work. She is as skillful with her needle as with her brush, as clever with the sharp tools of the woodcarver's outfit as she is with the little knives and queer instruments with which she cuts leather into intricate patterns, but most of all does she do wonderful pyrographic work on wood and leather, using, in a marvelous way, the red-hot point of a little iron needle to bring out light and shade. So far Miss Hetz has not put much of her work on exhibition, although she had several water colors hung at the exposition art gallery and a few pieces of burnt wood and leather work have been shown in art stores, but many have had a private inspection of her work. Notable among the pieces which she has is a head of Rembrandt done in wood and framed in a flat wooden frame, the picture and the decoration of the frame being done with the red-hot needle, the whole being in soft delicate shades of brown like an etching by the master himself. Another larger piece of work is a wooden chest covered with pyrographic ornamentation, with the top of leather similarly treated. Combining the illuminated and pyrographic work, Miss Hetz has made some beautiful cushion covers, chair backs and smaller pieces, the brilliant gilding and bright colors showing effectively on the rich brown background of the decorated leather. This particular form of work is having a great run in New York and Miss Hetz has received a number of commissions. The old Swedish work on wood and leather consists of geometrical designs in colors combined with scroll work in pyrography. The effect seems stiff at first, but grows upon the eye and pleases by its simplicity of color and form. The cut leather work consists of raised patterns in dark leather, and is especially suited for book bindings, chair backs and cushions. The work is imitated by machinery to a considerable extent in these degenerate days, but there is not the grace nor beauty in the machine work that is found in the labor by hand. Miss Hetz received her training in all these branches of decorative art work in the Munich schools and she has studied in the galleries and museums abroad, many of her patterns being exact copies of rare old articles in the national museum at Munich and the Germanic museum in Nuremberg. Antique French tapestries also furnish her with suggestions, while many of her patterns are original.

Sympathy for the Sake of Duty.

Sympathy, beautiful and pure, is apt to be marred by its being prompted merely by a sense of duty, and thus its true and natural spontaneity is veiled. It is true that the habit becomes second nature to us, and by habit we may do and develop honorable and charitable sympathy with all suffering, but the truly sympathetic are so born, and it is as impossible for them to enshroud their true desires and actions as it is "to soil a sunbeam by a touch." It is in the late youth and mature years that, as a rule, we see its most splendid achievements. In childhood it is apt to be in abeyance. In the old age of good people its beauty is enhanced, and yet in many instances, in the serene and yellow leaf, all that was of sympathy, what little there might have been, becomes bitterness, and the selfish man clings to what he has gained, coveting what he has not, with a tenacity which baffles description. All his treasures are on earth, and as he knows he must and shall leave them there can be no eternal hope in him, and his mind becomes centered on that which is of but short duration. He becomes "earthen," and the rest of his days are spent in sordid contemplation of what at best is but an idle dream.

Old Wine in New Bottles.

Christ has not promised to bear the burdens of those who borrow trouble. The best soldier in any army is the one who will obey orders the best. No man belongs to Christ in earnest who thinks he has a right to do as he pleases with his money. Give your child to the street, and you will give the world a thief. The love that will not suffer long and remain kind, is not the kind that comes from Christ. To know that it loves the law of Christ, is the soul's proof that it loves Christ. Heart work is something that cannot be paid for in money. Every man must pay his own tuition in the school of experience. The Bible declares that no one can be a true follower of Christ and lose by doing it. Whatever we would do if we had the power, is what God gives us credit for doing.—Ram's Horn.

He Was Well Informed.

First Thief (in hotel bedroom)—Go quiet, Jim. There's a woman asleep in that room.
Second Thief—It doesn't matter if she wakes up.
"It doesn't? One scream would bring half the folks in the house to the door."
"She won't scream. If she wakes up she'll throw the sheet over her head and keep still."
"Why will she?"
"Her hair is all up in curl papers."—Exchange.

The Happy Bridegroom.

"I have fifteen clocks I'd like to sell you."
"I don't buy stolen goods, sir."
"Why, they weren't stolen, my dear sir. I was married yesterday."—Tit-Bits.

HIS WORST BLOW YET FOR ROME!

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American Patriotic Papers.

The following is but a partial list and does not give the particulars, which the editor had hoped to give, but will be more representative in the future:

- AMERICAN. Kansas City, Missouri. Weekly, \$2.00 a year.
- AMERICAN. Omaha, Neb. Weekly, \$2.00 a year.
- AMERICAN. Chicago, Ill. Weekly, \$2.00 a year.
- Blade, Aurora, Ill., weekly, \$1.00.
- American. Memphis, Tenn. Weekly, \$1.00 a year.
- American, The. 1146 D Street, San Diego, Cal. Weekly, \$2.00 a year.
- American Citizen. Boston, Mass. Weekly, \$2.00 a year.
- American Eagle. Kansas City, Kas. Weekly, \$1.00 a year.
- American Patriot. 819 Market, San Francisco, Cal. Weekly, \$2.00 a year.
- A. P. A. Magazine. Box 2607, San Francisco, Cal. Monthly, \$3.00 a year.
- Banner of Liberty. Cleburn, Texas. Weekly, \$1.50 a year.
- Boston Daily Standard. Boston, Mass. 6 days a week, \$6.00 a year.
- Denver (Col.) American. Weekly, \$2.00 a year.
- Freedom's Banner. Louisville, Ky. Weekly, \$1.00 a year.
- Independent. Kenosha, Wisconsin. Weekly, \$1.00 a year.
- Independent Leader. Bridgeport, Conn. Weekly, \$1.50 a year.
- Justice. Louisville, Ky. Weekly, \$2.00 a year.
- Liberty. Galesburg, Ill. Weekly, \$1.50 a year.
- Nation, The. Omaha, Neb. Monthly, \$1.00 a year.
- Patriotic American. Detroit, Mich. Weekly, \$2.00 a year.
- Portland. Portland, Ore. Weekly, \$1.00 a year.
- Protestant Standard. Philadelphia Penn. Weekly, \$2.00 a year.
- San Francisco (California) American. Weekly, \$1.00 a year.
- Spirit of Seventy-Six. Seattle, Wash. Weekly, \$1.00 a year.
- Tocsin. Los Angeles, Cal. Weekly, \$2.00 a year.
- Toledo American. Toledo, Ohio. Weekly, \$1.50 a year.
- True American. St. Louis, Missouri. Weekly, \$1.00 a year.
- United American. Washington, D. C. Weekly, \$1.00 a year.
- W. A. P. A. Rock Island, Illinois. Monthly, 50c a year.

Examiner, Butte, Mont. Weekly. America, or Rome, Pine-Bluff, Ark. American Opinion, Rock Island, Ill. American Protestant, Cincinnati, Ohio.

American Citizen, Tusconbia, Washington.

Chicago Sentinel, Chicago, Ill. Erie Advertiser, Erie, Penn. Loyal American, Altoona, Penn. Leader, Bridgeport, Conn. Lowell Herald, Lowell, Mass.

Primitive Catholic, Brooklyn, N. Y. Progressive American, Lebanon, Pa. Southern Eagle, Augusta, Georgia. Triumph of Thought, San Francisco, Cal.

Wisconsin Patriot, Milwaukee, Wis. AMERICAN, Cripple Creek, Col. Weekly, \$2.00 a year.

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Should this notice be read by any of the surviving comrades of the Mexican war of 1846, serving under General Kearney, in Colonel Doniphan's division, who knew a comrade by the name of Joseph D. N. Thompson, of Missouri, who was of medium height, light complexion, brown hair, blue eyes and 35 years of age, and was born in White, Clay county, Tenn., of Irish parents, they will confer a favor on his heirs by writing and will be reimbursed for expense of postage. Address all letters to MRS. RACHEL T. ZOOK, 4339 Lake St., Omaha, Neb.

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