

THE COMMON GREEN LIZARD.

How He Enters the World, Gets His Living and Changes Color.

The most curious thing about the common green lizard is the way in which he comes into the world. His mother lays an egg, sometimes a number of eggs, and considers her parental duties done. She abandons the egg at once and pays no more attention to it. The egg soon hatches under the hot southern sun, and in due time the little lizard inside concludes that it is time to come out. After he makes the first crack in the shell five minutes do not elapse before he is a full fledged young lizard, skipping about the grass with the confidence of an old inhabitant, feeding himself with such small insects as he can catch. He knows no mother, no parental guidance, but is self-sustaining and self-confident from the moment of his appearance.

"I was standing on the front piazza one day when I first lived in the West Indies," a returned New Yorker said to a reporter, "when one of the colored boys who were sweeping ran up to me with outstretched hand, saying, 'Boss, do you want to see a lizard's egg?' He held in his hand a small egg, in size and color about like a bird's egg, and while I looked at it the top of the shell cracked in one place. The crackling extended rapidly, breaking in places into small pieces, and at a moment a young lizard put his head through. He looked about for an instant to see the new world he had discovered, put out his front paws, and like a flash he was entirely out of the shell. He ran up the boy's arm to the shoulder, then down his clothes to the ground, and was away in the grass almost before we had time to wink. He was one of the ordinary little green lizards, and on his first appearance he was about 1 1/2 inches long."

The fondness of lizards of some kinds for music is well known, and the green lizard has this musical taste stronger than most varieties. He will sit and listen for a long time to the music of a violin, a piano, or even to singing or whistling, showing his appreciation by the peculiar motion of his head that all lizards have when interested in anything. At home in the warm regions his sole food is flies and other small insects, which he catches readily, sometimes by plying in wait or snaking up as a cat does to a mouse, but more frequently by a spring. When he is in good condition, the green lizard moves so rapidly that it is hard for the eye to follow him.

The small green lizards are plentiful enough in the southern parts of Florida, but even there the supply of them is nothing compared with the myriads that swarm all over the West Indies. West Indians never think of harming one of the little creatures, but brought some of them to enter the houses, as they are very cleanly, and do good service in killing off the flies and small spiders.

Will he bite? Yes, the small green lizard will bite your finger if you encourage him to. He can give a pretty hard pinch, too, with his tiny teeth. But he cannot bite hard enough to puncture the skin, and his pinching is entirely harmless. Of the nearly 2,000 varieties of lizards there is only one kind that does any harm by its bite. This variety grows to a length of about 12 inches and lives in Mexico, but its appearance is so disgusting, its skin being covered with leoparding spots, that there is no danger of its being exported for some young woman's pet. The idea that any of the lizards or chameleons can at will assume the color of any article they stand upon is a popular fallacy. The green lizards sometimes change their color to brown or ash white, but this is about the extent of their ability, and the changes are governed largely by their physical condition. Sudden fright sometimes causes them to turn pale, as it does some larger animals.—New York Sun.

The Cowboy and His Mount.

Before I went west I had an idea that the chief pleasure and delight of the average cowboy lay in the amusement derived from riding a bucking pony, yet this is very far from being the actual state of the case. I never saw but one cowboy who expressed anything but repugnance to riding a bucking horse. No matter how well a man may ride, a good crowd hopping pony will make it most uncomfortable for him, even though the brute may not be able to dismount him.

There is or used to be, up at Meeker, in the White river country, a man named Ed Smizer, who could ride, as he expressed it, "anything that had hair on it." I have seen him sit a pony that bucked so hard that it not only gave him the nose-bleed, but brought blood from his ears as well. Smizer rode the horse until it was so weak that it could not stand up and then sold it for \$5. The man who bought it tried to ride it once, and broke his arm. The horse, which was a valuable one, was then turned out on the range. It led a herd from up in Yellow Jacket pass down the White river, and out by Grand Junction, some 500 miles, and it took three cowboys two weeks to round them back again. This is the only instance that I know of where a herd deliberately left their grazing ground, though. I have known cattle to drift 50 miles across the plains before a hard storm.—New York Mail and Express.

Iron Making in Early History.

Iron was used before history was written. The stone records of Egypt and the brick books of Nineveh mention it. Genesis (ix, 23) refers to Tubal-cain as "an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron," and in Deuteronomy (iii, 11) the bestial of the giant Og was "a bedstead of iron." The galleys of Tyre and Sidon traded in this metal. Chinese records ascribed to 2,000 B. C. refer to it. Homer speaks of it as superior to bronze. The bronze age came before the iron age, because copper, found as a nearly pure metal, easily fuses, and with another soft metal—tin or zinc—alloys into hard bronze, while iron, found only as an ore, must have the impurities burned and hammered out by great heat and force before it can be made into a tool.—Harper's Magazine.

A Definite Prayer.

Little Dick C—got into trouble with a schoolfellow the other day and agreed with him to "have it out" before school next morning. That evening, when Dick knelt to say his prayers, after the usual "Now I lay me" he added this special petition: "Oh, God, please make me strong as lions and things, 'cause I've got to lick a boy in the morning. Amen."—New York Journal.

The Sun and the Weather.

Dr. Zergler, a German scientist, thinks that it may be possible to forecast the weather by taking photographs of the sun's disk. He says that "circular or elliptical halos round the orb of day indicate violent storms, especially if the halos are dark in tint or of a large diameter. Lightning and magnetic disturbances may also be expected from these signs."

THE HUNTING LEOPARD.

An Animal, Swift as a Race Horse, Trained to Follow Traps.

In a few instances, that in our animal world seemed impossible, we managed to diminish the distance to the requisite point, and again the stage was illustrated. The hood was then slipped from the cheetah's head. He now the animals of course. His body curved all over with excitement, the tail straightened, and the hanks on his shoulders stood erect, while his eyes glowered, and he strained at the cord, which was held short. In a second it was unfastened, there was a yellow streak in the air, and the cheetah was bounding down some yards away. In this position, and taking advantage of a certain unevenness of the ground, which gave him cover, he stealthily crept forward toward a flock that was feeding some distance away from the others. Suddenly this antelope saw or scented his enemy, for he was off like the wind. He was, however, too late—the cheetah had been too quick for him. All there was to be seen was a flash, as the supreme rush was made. This movement of the cheetah is said to be, for the time it lasts, the quickest thing in the animal world, far surpassing the speed of a race horse. Certainly it surprised all of us who were intently watching the details of the scene being enacted in our view. The pace was so marvellously great that the cheetah actually sprang past the buck, although by this time the terrified animal was fairly stretched out at panic speed. This overshooting the mark by the cheetah had the effect of driving the antelope, which swerved off immediately from his line, into running round in a circle, with the cheetah on the outside.

The tongues were galloped up, and the excitement of the occupants can hardly be described. In my eagerness to see the finish, I jumped off and took to running, but the hunt was soon over, for before I could get quite up the cheetah got close to the buck, and with a spring at his haunches brought him to the ground. The leopard then suddenly released his hold and sprang at his victim's throat, throwing his prey over on its back, where it was held when we arrived at the spot. The cheetah was then crouching low, sucking the blood from the jugular vein, while tenaciously clinging with his mouth to the antelope's throat. The buck gave only a few spasmodic jerks and appeared to be dead, although probably not so in reality, but almost paralyzed by fear. One of the men stooped down and plunged a knife into the buck's neck close to the spot where the cheetah still held fast. This coup de grace not only terminated the poor thing's existence, but caused the blood to flow freely, which one of the men proceeded to catch in a large wooden bowl with a long handle, that he had brought for the purpose. When this was full, the hood was thrust over the cheetah's eyes, his fetters were replaced, and he was ultimately induced to let go his hold of the antelope by the bowl of steaming hot blood being slipped under his nose. Into this dainty reward for his trouble he at once plunged his head and with ferocious eagerness lapped up the whole of it.—Century.

The Glowworm.

When examined in the dark, the light is seen to proceed from the last three segments of the glowworm body, the under side of which emits it in an uncertain, wavering sort of way, the fact of its being handled seeming to alarm the insect. Schultz found that the animal possessed thin, whitish plates on the under side of these segments, each plate consisting of two layers—a front one, yellowish transparent and luminous, and a back one, white and opaque due to the presence of a great multitude of doubly reflecting granules, which Kolliker supposes to consist of urate of ammonia. He also found that branches of the insect's breathing tube (tracheae) ramify among the cells of the front layer, and end in starlike corpuscles. So much for the structure of the luminous apparatus, but as to the cause of the luminosity there is a variety of opinions. Some savants hold that it is due to a sort of natural combustion, and it is said that if a glowworm be placed in oxygen the light is greatly intensified for a time, but the animal seems either unable or unwilling to continue it. On the other hand, when Matteucci placed it in hydrogen and carbonic acid—gases which do not support combustion—the light still continued to be emitted for 30 or 40 minutes. Phosphorescent undoubtedly is its nature, and that is about all that science can at present affirm. As to the object of this display authorities differ. The common idea has always been that it is intended as a signal between the male and his mate.—Chambers's Journal.

Thickness of the Soap Bubble Film.

The most powerful of the modern microscopes will render a point only one-hundred thousandth part of an inch in diameter perfectly visible. While this is true beyond a doubt there are reasons for believing that a single molecule of matter is much smaller even than that. One reason for this belief has been deduced from calculations made on the soap bubble. Scientists have made measurements of the thickness of the envelope of soapy water inclosing the air of the bubble when it had become so thin as to produce rainbow tints. At the appearance of the shade of violet it was one-fourth of the thickness of the length of an ordinary violet wave of light—one-sixty thousandth of an inch—thus making the thickness equal to one two hundred thousandth of an inch. As the bubble continued to expand, a black patch formed near the end of the pipe from which the bubble was being blown. Measurements were then taken to ascertain the thickness of the black portion of the bubble, and the experimenters were astonished beyond measure when they found the thickness—or thinness—was only one-fifty millionth of an inch.—St. Louis Republic.

How "Tommy Atkins" Got His Name.

I am much obliged to the many correspondents who from time to time enlighten me as to the origin of the name Tommy Atkins. To save further trouble, however, I may as well mention once for all that I am in possession of what I believe to be all the information accessible on this important matter of history. I have always understood that "Thomas Atkins, Private," was the fancy signature appended to a specimen form of a soldier's account issued by the war office many years ago, and more than this I doubt whether anybody can tell.—London Truth.

Send Over the Receipt.

A Bristol gas consumer has broken the record for economy in gas consumption. When the meter taker went to read his meter the other day, the consumer, with a complacent air, assured him that he had been "economical indeed," but his complacency forsook him when he was told that his economy had resulted in his conversion from a debtor to a creditor. The meter showed that the company owned him half a crown!—Bristol (England) Mercury.

The Two Lincoln-Douglas Fights.

"President Abraham Lincoln and General Joe Shields, who married states, were arranged to fight a duel at Alton," said L. F. Taylor of that place. "It is remembered yet by the old settlers. Shields had offended a young lady at Springfield by attempting some liberty with her, and she got even by sending an article about it to a Springfield paper, signing a non-descript name. The next day General Shields called upon the editor and gave him 24 hours during which to divulge the name of the author or to take the consequences. The editor, who was a friend of Abraham Lincoln, called upon him and asked what to do. Not thinking it was a very serious affair, Lincoln promptly said, 'Tell him that I wrote it.' The editor did so, and General Shields challenged Lincoln to a duel, the latter accepting and showing broadsword as the weapons and an island opposite Alton as the place. The pistols and seconds went to the place appointed, when a chance remark of Lincoln that he hated to have to kill Shields because he had about writing an article in order to protect a lady brought about a reconciliation, and the duel failed to come off. Hundreds of people were on the bank of the river, and to carry out a joke a line was drawn up, placed in a skiff, the occupants fanning it with their hats as though it was an injured man, and the excitement was intense. It always remained a sore spot with Lincoln, and but little was ever said about it."

Unconscious Hero.

Charles G. Leland, in talking of the nervousness incident to being shelled during the war, says that his captain, Landis, who was exceptionally brave, was once giving orders to a private, when a shell burst almost between the two. The private flinched, but Landis gruffly remarked, "Never mind the shells, sir; they'll not hurt you till they hit you!" Long after the war Mr. Leland was walking with Theodore Fassit and told him a story of peril and heroism. "I don't see why I never can do anything fine or heroic like that!" said Fassit dolefully. "Theodore, I will tell you a story," continued the other. "Once upon a time there was a boy only 18 years of age, and it happened during the war that he was in a town, and the Confederates shelled it. Now, this boy had charge of four horses, and the general had told him to stay in one place, before a church, and he obeyed. The shells came thick and fast, and by and by one took a leg from one of the horses.

"The boy was in a bad way, but he staid on. After a time the general came along and asked him: "Why on earth are you stopping there?" "I was ordered to, sir," was his reply. "Get behind the church at once!" cried the general. "Why," exclaimed Fassit in amazement, "I was that boy!"—Youth's Companion.

Curious Flowers.

The Brazilian flower known as the running antelope is so called because its white petals have a series of well defined, dark colored lines and dots in which the imagination can readily trace the form of an antelope, with its limbs outstretched and head thrown back, seemingly fleeing for its life. In the "ornicature plant" one species has the imitative form on the petals, and another has it outlined in the ribs and shading of the leaves. The last mentioned curiosity bears a remarkably well executed likeness of the Duke of Wellington, and has on that account been named "Arthur and His Nose." Among the orchids the imitative form is entirely different in character, being exhibited in the shape of the flower itself. Some are exact counterfeits of bees, butterflies, moths, etc., while others take upon themselves the form of worms and beetles. Naturalists believe that in the first instance it is nature's trap to lure other bees, moths and butterflies, but in the case of the worm and the beetle, or chids or those that are the exact counterparts of toads, lizards and huge spiders, they do not attempt to explain.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

A Floating City.

The modern American man-of-war is a little world in itself, or perhaps more properly a floating city, with its inhabitants of many trades and professions. Not only are there a doctor to dose you and a chaplain to care for your spiritual welfare, but many cooks, several carpenters, skilled machinists, electricians, tailors, musicians and barbers. There is at least one clever sailorman told off as the ship's writer, which officer corresponds closely to the old-fashioned scrivener. It thus happens that one can have almost anything made aboard a ship, from an engrossed copy of a complimentary resolution to a complicated piece of machinery or cabinet work.—Philadelphia Press.

The Country Editor.

The most independent man on the face of the earth, says Zola, is the country editor. He prints what he pleases and is independent of strikes or unions. He has the pleasure of being the walking encyclopedia of his community and is the recognized authority on all topics, ranking above the physician and the village lawyer.

A new kind of fuel, made from solidified petroleum and other materials, is now being extensively manufactured in France. It is stated that its heat-producing properties are very great and that experiments to use it in engine furnaces have been of a most satisfactory nature.

Scarcely a stream issues from the lower slopes of the Andes, either to the Amazon on the east or the Pacific on the west, the sands of which are not auriferous. The amount of gold in that country must be almost fabulous.

John Rudd has removed his jewelry store to 317 North 16th street, Midland Hotel block.

Get your friends to add their names to our subscription list.

Friends can buy winter goods this month at greatly reduced prices at BALDWIN'S, 1315-17 N. 24th St.

Success Council No. 3, W. A. P. A., will meet the second and fourth Wednesdays in each month in G. A. R. hall, 118 North Fifteenth street.

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The Missouri Pacific Railway will sell round-trip tickets to all points in TEXAS at one fare for the round trip, on March 13th, April 10th and May 8th. Tickets are good for 30 days to make the trip. Stop-overs allowed.

Also on March 20th and April 24th will sell round trip tickets at one fare to points in southwest Missouri, to all points in Arkansas on the St. Louis Iron Mountain and Southern Railway, and quite a number of points in Mississippi and Alabama. For further information, address company's offices, northeast corner Thirteenth and Farnam streets, Omaha, Neb. J. O. PHILLIPPI, THOS. F. GODFREY, A. G. F. & P. A. P. & F. A.

Two Poor Old Girls in Black.

Air—"Two Little Girls in Blue." The pope, they say, is writing a play. And I wonder what 'twill be; A comedy bright, An opera light, Or a five-act tragedee! I'd like to bet All I can get, One feature it won't lack, Whatever it be. In it we'll see Two wretched old girls in black!

CHORUS. Two weak old girls in black, boys, Two wan old girls in black. They march up and down. All over the town, A-begging from Tom, Dick and Jack; They're begging from morn till eve, boys; The sight makes my heart to grieve. The priests all grow fat As they pass round the hat Through those two poor old girls in black!

He'll tell you they Forsake the way Your wives and your sisters tread; He'll try to show It's wrong you know. For really good folks to wed; That God made man. Upon a plan, Which of modesty shows a lack; That the proper sphere. Of woman dear, Is to be an old girl in black!

CHORUS. Two poor old girls in black, boys, Two wretched girls in black; Out they shall go, In sunshine and snow, And empty must not come back. Bishops must have their wine, boys. Priests upon dainties dine; Abnegate great. Have a palace of state, Through two poor old girls in black!—"Hafka," in American Constitution.

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You want the best bread and pastry? Then try the AMERICAN BAKERY, at 1818 St. Mary's avenue. Daily wagon delivery.

Eat Dyball's delicious Cream Candies, 1518 Douglas St.

Go to 2223 Leavenworth for estimates on carpenter work. DILLENBECK & CO.

Council No. 9, A. P. A. will meet hereafter in G. A. R. hall, 118 No. 15th st., first and third Mondays in each month. The members will govern themselves accordingly. By order of the secretary.

Try the AMERICAN BAKERY. Eat Dyball's Candies, 1518 Douglas St.

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Hot Springs, Ark., Without Change. On and after January 29th, the Missouri Pacific Railway will run a through sleeping car from Omaha to Hot Springs, Arkansas without change, via Kansas City, Ft. Smith and Little Rock, leaving Omaha daily at 10 p. m.

For further information, rates, etc., call at depot, Fifteenth and Webster, city ticket office, N. E. cor. Thirteenth and Farnam. J. O. PHILLIPPI, A. G. F. & P. A. 1-26-4 THOS. F. GODFREY, G. T. A.

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