

Wonderful Tales Told of Monster Serpents

From time immemorial the sea serpent has figured in story and legend. Pliny, the Roman naturalist (23-79 A. D.), tells of enormous water and land serpents, some so large that whole armies were sent against them. The hardy Norse fishermen gave thrilling stories of sea monsters. Olaus Magnus, a Swedish bishop, wrote of "a very large serpent of length upward of 200 feet and 20 feet in diameter, with a row of hairs 2 feet in length hanging from the neck, sharp scales of dark color, and brilliant, flaming eyes. It attacks boats and snatches away the men by raising itself high out of the water, and devours them." Hans Egede, a Norwegian missionary to Greenland, tells of encountering, on July 6, 1734, "a very terrible sea animal, which raised itself so high above the water that its head reached above our maintop. It had a long, sharp snout, and blew like a whale." The oarfish, with a body from 25 to 30 feet long, and almost as thin as a ribbon, is believed by some naturalists to be the creature which gave rise to many remarkable yarns, told from ancient days until now, of "sea serpents." The silvery body, crossed with dusky stripes, the grotesque head and face, with enlarged fins tipped with red, waving above like a horse's mane, might well give foundation, it is said, to almost any story. Still no one can definitely say that the sea serpent does not exist.

Humming Bird Small but Famed as Fighter

A man's bravery can never be judged by his size. Frequently the midget has the spirit of a raging lion while the big, hulking 200-pounder has the timorous heart of a rabbit. The same law of nature applies to birds, Kendrick Kimball writes, in the Detroit News.

The humming bird, sometimes called the "jewel of the air" because of his flashing luster, is only three inches in length, but his courage knows no boundaries. Humming birds are fearless. They will attack a hawk, a crow or an eagle, and against such a nimble adversary the bigger bird would have no chance.

With his rapier bill, which he thrusts into flowers for their nectar, the humming bird is capable of dealing an adversary a sharp prick which would discourage further aggressiveness. Among themselves, the humming birds fight frequently. Like skilled fencers, they thrust at one another with their long, needle-like bills, ducking and darting so fast that the eye can hardly follow them as they maneuver for openings.

Here Endeth the Lesson

A thrifty Scotch farmer started off each day by reading a chapter from the Bible to his field hands. One morning during the harvesting season, he struck the sixth chapter of Chronicles, which consists of 81 verses of genealogical names. He droned on until he came to:

"And Shallum begat Hilkiah, and Hilkiah begat Azariah, and Azariah begat Seraiah, and Seraiah begat Johozadak."

Then he paused and looked over the leaf.

"Weel, my friends," he said, "they begat one another right down to the end o' the page and a lang way over on the iither side, so we'll jist leave them to it. Off wi' ye to yer work."

—Boston Transcript.

Nature Always Fair

How just is Nature in distributing her gifts. As a tribute to the gossamer skin she doles to the true blondes and the Titian blondes, she is greedy in the coloring pigment, for eyelashes and eyebrows. With the stirring, vivacious beauty of the Black-eyed-Susan type, she mingled a nice brownish skin, none too delicate perhaps, but which is far more resistant to sun and wind than that of the fairlike blondes. To the face that is not perfect in any sense, she adds the body silhouette of a beautiful dryad. In each case, there is sure to be one feature, fact or figure that is nearly beautiful.—The Dance Magazine.

First Maple Sirup

Maple sugar making is an ancient art entirely confined to the North American continent. Before the advent of the white man, the Indian had learned to extract and concentrate the sap of the maple tree. On the approach of spring the trees were gashed with the tomahawk, and a wooden chip or spout inserted to direct the fluid drop by drop into a receptacle on the ground. The sap was caught in a birch bark dish and boiled in earthen kettles. The small quantity of dark, thick sirup thus made was the only sugar available to the Indians and is stated by early writers to have been highly prized.

Few Left-Handed People

From the meager information accessible on the subject it appears that primitive peoples are as predominantly right handed as civilized peoples. Any theory which seeks to explain the origin of right handedness must go back farther than civilization. According to the bureau of American ethnology, there are very few cases of left handedness among the present-day Indians. It is supposed by that authority that the Indians were predominantly right handed before their contact with Europeans.

Royal Splendor That Once Dazzled Europe

Europe was dazzled by a display of royal pomp unequalled in the history of pageantry, when Henry VIII met Francis I of France on the Field of the Cloth of Gold.

For his entertainment a temporary palace was built at Guines, near Calais, covering three acres. No fewer than 2,500 tents stood around it to house the knights and ladies of his splendid train. Their chapel had 35 priests to serve it and for the 20-odd days they were in France 2,200 sheep went to form one item of their menu.

There is a picture in Hampton court which will give you some idea of the splendor of the day. It shows the Great Harry, that giant ship, with her sails of damask cloth of gold and four royal standards flying from her fore'sle, sailing out of Dover harbor. Other ships, bearing Yeomen of the Guard, drummers, fifers and banner bearers, are making ready to follow, and the water is thronged with small boats full of spectators, one of whom is graphically represented in the act of being seasick.

The diplomatic results of this magnificent display of wealth and power, it is said to read, were as near nothing as doesn't matter.

Chairman Didn't Quite Get Idea of Lecture

Being a Scot, and therefore a sentimentalist, I have always had an appreciative eye for good-looking women.

As a consequence of many wanderings I thought I could give a lecture about the ladies of many lands. I gathered a lot of pretty photographs—ladies walking in Hyde park, dusky maidens dancing in the South Sea islands, and that kind of thing—and wove a cheery lecture. "Sovereign Woman: Being the Impression of a Man in Thirty-eight Countries." It went well.

I delivered it in a Surrey residential town. My chairman, who had entertained me ardently at dinner, said the customary things a chairman is expected to say—information culled from "Who's Who"—and concluded by remarking, "Now I will call upon our lecturer to give you his experiences with 38 women in different countries!" The audience roared. I blushed. The chairman inquired in a loud whisper, "Have I said anything wrong?"—Sir John Foster Fraser in London Graphic.

Disappointing

The big house in the wood had been untenanted for years and was supposed to be haunted.

In despair the owner had the place redecorated, fitted with electric light and every possible labor-saving device, and offered the whole concern at a very modest rental.

Later he happened to hear that a man had been shown over the house, and in great excitement he rang up the agent.

"Is it true some one's taken that house at last?" he asked.

"The agent's voice was sad.

"So far he's only taken the electric light fittings," he replied. "Perhaps he'll come back for the rest."

Not Case of Attraction

When two small objects are floating near each other in a basin of water why are they suddenly drawn together as if by a magnet? The bureau of standards says that the weight of the floating particles stretches the surface of the water, forming a dimple when the two particles come close enough; the two dimples coalesce into one, throwing the particles together. The action is due to surface tension, in virtue of which the surface is constantly striving to reduce its exposed area to a minimum.—Washington Star.

Problem

Last year I asked my best girl to marry me and she refused. I got even with her by marrying her mother. Then my father married the girl. Now what am I to myself?

When I married the girl's mother the girl became my daughter and when my father married my daughter she became my mother. Who am I?

My mother's mother, who is my wife, must be my grandmother. Since I am my grandmother's husband, I am, therefore, my own grandfather.—Vancouver Province.

Where the Shed Horns Go

Why aren't the woods full of the horns which deer and moose shed every winter? The answer, according to a writer in Field and Stream, is that they are eaten by rodents.

"Many," says the sport monthly, "have been found partly eaten which have the teeth marks of mice, chipmunks, squirrels, ground squirrels and porcupines. Horns disappear quickly after they are shed, as few are found in the woods."

Versatile Publishers

The Centrolzdat, central publishing house of the Soviet republics, faces a big task in supplying books to the various small nations of Russia in their respective tongues. Most of the books are textbooks, printed to supply the demand of the newly liberated, backward peoples for education and knowledge. Six fundamental alphabets are used to print the 42 dialects: Russian, Latin, Hebrew, Arabic, Gothic and East Gothic.

Ancients Stored Wine in Earthenware Jars

The vessels chiefly used in the early days for holding wine were invariably the skins of animals. These skins were formed into crude bags and the seams were cemented with pitch or resin. Such were the wineskins successfully employed by the wily Gibeonites in their negotiations with Joshua. These were succeeded by the earthenware jars known as amphorae, the size and shape of which are obviously modeled on the primitive wineskin. The amphorae was glazed inside and not outside, the glazing being a resinous composition evidently copied from that used for wineskins. Its capacity was about three gallons, and its aperture was at the thick end or top, unlike the wineskin, which was filled and emptied at the thin end or bottom. This simple but thoroughly practical vessel for containing wine remained in use without change for many centuries in Egypt, Greece and Rome. It was stored by thrusting the small end into the cellar floor of dry sand. When the first tier was completed it was covered up deeply with more dry sand, another tier of amphorae was placed above it, also smothered in sand, and there it was left for years to mature at an even temperature.

Time Has Swallowed Up Ancient Marvels

Of the seven wonders of the ancient world the only satisfactory survival is the first group, the pyramids and the great sphinx. The foundation and many fragments of the mausoleum have been disclosed by modern excavation; the structure was destroyed by an earthquake. Mounds indicating the position of the walls and gardens of Babylon have also been identified.

The Colossus, composed of brass cast in pieces, was overturned by an earthquake in 224 B. C. The pieces lay there for many centuries, until the Turks took Rhodes. They sold the brass to a merchant, who is said to have employed 900 camels to carry it away.

The temple of Diana was burned in 356 B. C., by Erostartus, an obscure individual who thought thus to make himself famous. It was rebuilt in a less pretentious manner, and survived until the coming of the Goths in A. D. 256. Barbarian invaders are thought to have destroyed also the Olympian Jove and the pharos of Alexandria.

Red Flood Lighting

That effective flood lighting of buildings need not be necessarily of white or light color, and that the use of lights is not restricted to white lights has been demonstrated by the use of red lights exclusively on a large manufacturing plant located on the principal railroad between Philadelphia and New York. This building is of brick and built on simple lines. When the white lights were tried the lines of mortar between the bricks seemed to be offensively accentuated. The white were replaced by red lamps and the effect was more than satisfactory. The structure seemed to stand out from the surrounding properties and its impressive size was made apparent without unduly revealing the homely lines.

Saskatchewan River

Saskatchewan is an Indian name meaning "swift-flowing" or "rapid," and although it is the name now borne by the great river which rises in Alberta and flows through Saskatchewan and Manitoba into Lake Winnipeg, it was not its original name. Saskatchewan was given by the Indians to more than one stream. For example, it was an early appellation of the present Minnedosa river. In Manitoba, while Saskatchewan is the name of a tributary to Severn river, Ontario.

Family Devotions

When tea was over at the children's party, the hostess asked the smallest boy if he would say grace?

"What's that?" asked the honored guest.

"Why, don't you know?" said the surprised hostess. "What does your father say when he has had a good dinner?"

The small boy searched his memory, then replied:

"He rubs his chest and says: 'Richard is himself again!'"—The Outlook.

Correct

Little Betty was bragging about her ability to add. Her uncle gave her a problem to solve.

"If I gave you two rabbits in the morning and three rabbits in the afternoon how many rabbits would you have?" inquired the uncle.

"Six," cried little Betty.

"Just as I thought. Two and three are six," answered the uncle.

"But uncle," said little Betty earnestly, "I already have one."

Mouse as Advertisement

A mouse that catches flies was the novel window display used recently by an automobile man in Sydney, Australia. Heedless of the large crowd watching him, the tiny rodent would dart from his hiding place in a corner and spring up the window pane or take a flying leap. He would always "get" his fly. He kept the window clear of all the buzzers, and the dealer says he was the best and cheapest attraction he ever had.

The Perfect Picnicker

Saw a teamster at his midday meal. His table was the earth and his cutlery a rather battered looking ax. The menu consisted of a tin of bully beef, a bottle of tomato sauce and a loaf of bread.

The beef was hacked open with the ax, the peck of the sauce bottle was scooped off, also with the ax, and the bread was torn into lumps in his hands. A billy of cold water washed it down. For simplicity and an entire absence of fuss or frill I'll say that the teamster's methods take the bun.—Sydney Bulletin.

PLEASANT GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH MAKING IMPROVEMENTS

Important improvements are under way at Pleasant Green Baptist church, Twenty-second and Paul streets, Rev. Z. C. McGee, pastor, which clearly prove that "the people of this energetic and earnest congregation have a mind to work." Nightly and Saturday afternoons, after their usual daily work is done, men of the congregation are busily engaged in excavating under the building and the pile of earth beside the church, which, by the way, is free for anyone who wants to haul it away, shows how diligently they have labored.

The excavation will provide a large basement room which is to be fitted up and used temporarily for the usual religious services while improvements on the main auditorium are being made. These include the removal of the plastered ceiling and the raising and trussing of the roof, the extension of the east wall of the church some twelve or fifteen feet to the east line of the property, thus substantially enlarging the edifice, and veneering or stuccoing the whole exterior, making an attractive church building of the bungalow type.

When the main auditorium is finished the basement will be used for entertainments and Sunday school purposes and the main auditorium for worship. Pastor McGee states that the work of improvement will proceed as rapidly as the money is provided so that when it is completed the congregation will not be burdened with debt. The contribution of their labor by the men of the congregation under the foremanship of Mr. Shelton Pearl represents a substantial sum.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank our many true friends for their kindness shown during the brief illness and death of our beloved wife and mother, Jessie Peoples, who departed this life Thursday night, July 24. We are also very grateful for their comforting words and beautiful floral offerings.

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ANOTHER AL SMITH CLUB

Governor Alfred E. Smith was indorsed for the presidency by 35 men and women members of a colored Al Smith for President club formed at a meeting Tuesday night at 1811 No. Twenty-fourth street. Plans for a campaign in support of the democratic candidate were made.

These officers were elected: A. Stuart, president; Harry Leland, vice-president; K. Hudson, second vice-president; Mrs. George Wheeler, third vice-president; Dr. W. W. Peebles, secretary; John O. Woods, assistant secretary; W. R. Estell, recording secretary; J. A. Harris, treasurer; Rev. J. C. Brewer, chairman of the publicity committee.

KNIGHTS OF TABOR HOLD ANNUAL MEETING

The Knights and Daughters of Tabor and Order of Twelve of Kansas and Nebraska jurisdiction, held their 37th annual grand session at Lawrence, Kansas, July 10th to 14th. This was one among the best sessions ever held. The order is showing a decided progress. Several amendments were made for the benefit of the order.

The session had as a visitor Mrs. Mattie Scott of Des Moines, Iowa. She is the international grand high priestess of the world order. She was presented with a beautiful basket of flowers as also was Daughter Emma Gaines, G. H. P. Daughter Lenora Gray, V. G. P., was presented with a beautiful bouquet from district No. 5, Omaha.

Sir A. M. Harrold, C. G. M., was presented with a beautiful silver loving cup from the jurisdiction, showing the respect and esteem in which he is held. Daughter Sarah Forbes, C. G. R., was presented with a beautiful bedspread purchased from the art department, for her faithful services.

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