

MANICURING A CHICAGO LION



Cy De Vry, the noted animal keeper of the zoo in Lincoln park, Chicago, is here seen cutting the claws of a big lion while attendants keep the brute's head back with poles.

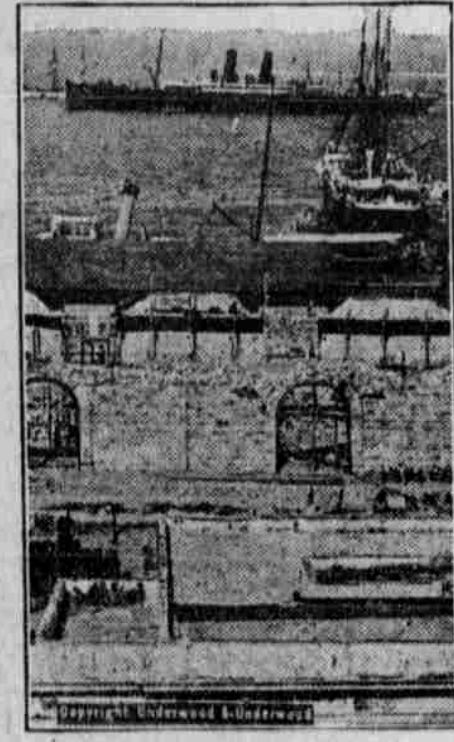
HORRORS OF OLD MEXICAN PRISON VIEWED BY SAILOR

San Juan de Ulloa in Vera Cruz, Terrible Spot.

AS SEEN BY NAVAL OFFICER

Young United States Navy Man Writes Letter to Mother Telling Story of Mexico's Political and Military Prison.

New York.—When the United States naval forces under Admiral Fletcher captured Vera Cruz last April 21, interest was immediately aroused among



Harbor of Vera Cruz.

those who were fairly acquainted with Vera Cruz history in the old fortress of San Juan de Ulloa. This ancient fortress, commanding the entrance to Vera Cruz harbor, would have dominated the entire situation on April 21, if it had been properly armed. In its early days it was considered impregnable but its armament has never been improved and latterly it has been used mainly as a prison. The tales that have hovered over this proud old fortress have in consequence been those of fiendish tortures, inquisitorial methods, and heartless cruelty, rather than those of gallant defense or heroic conduct.

Vera Cruz was in its early days subject to frequent attacks by buccaners and pirates, the city being actually sacked by these blood-thirsty gentlemen in 1653 and 1712. In consequence of these attacks the castle of San Juan de Ulloa (or Ulloa) was projected. Work was begun in 1582, and after many years of labor and the expenditure of the enormous sum of 40,000,000 pesos, a sum which equals today in value probably more than that amount of dollars, the castle was completed. It was built on an island just off the waterfront of the city which, with the causeway or breakwater connecting it with the mainland, practically forms the harbor.

The city and with it the castle was captured by the French in 1838; again by our forces under General Scott in 1847; and again by the French in 1862, being abandoned and turned over to the Mexicans after each of these occupations. In the recent capture of Vera Cruz by the American naval forces under

commandante, however, thought better of it, and said he would not fire unless fired upon. Nothing, therefore, ever happened though, as I said in my early letters, several nights they tried to escape over the causeway that connects it to the land to the northward. That was my job to watch for several nights.

Well, the fort surrendered about April 29 with no fighting. Commander Beach, commanding the Vestal (repair ship) was put in charge and found that he had some 700 prisoners on his hands in the dungeons. The conditions revealed were frightful. Fifty and sixty of the poor devils were huddled into each of the half dozen big cells. They are all nearly pitch dark, only a little light entering through a slit in the wall, four inches wide by three feet high, with thick iron bars across, through walls six feet thick. Here they have been for months; many for years. The officials had fled with all records of the crimes. About 500 were estimated to have been incarcerated because they wouldn't serve in Huerta's army.

About 100 were murderers and 100 more convicted of petty crimes. When G—and I got there all but 102 had been fed, clothed and liberated. Prof. Carlos V. Casacks, U. S. N., who was ordered to Vera Cruz from the naval academy to act as interpreter, got in touch with the federal officer that brought the prisoners from the Interior (Tabasco) and with his help was able to identify many of them. They had been living in utter filth for years, some of them starved and full of every conceivable disease. They never washed, and never saw the light of day. Many were in cells designed with the ceiling so low that they could not stand up or walk! Others in cells at the water edge, so that when the tide was high they had to stand to keep from drowning.

When they were taken from the dungeons few could walk without stumbling and half were nearly blind and had to have partial bandages over their eyes for a long time. They were kept in the open courtyard, clothed



Prison of San Juan de Ulloa in Vera Cruz.

and fed with the regular navy ration and all the cells fumigated after the various filth and vermin had been washed out with hose. As I say, there were 102 left yesterday. We saw them bathing in the moat with a dozen marines with loaded rifles around them. They were the most horrible looking lot of human beings it has ever been my fortune to look at. Later they came back to the courtyard for more "assorting," according to their crimes. Most of these were murderers, though some of them were innocent absolutely, had done nothing save perhaps agitate against the government. Many of them had blankets huddled around them and shivering with the ague. Their faces were seamed with vice and cruelty, their eyes shifting and disease of many kinds showing.

One old fellow had gray hair and beard, unkempt, shivering (temperature 90 degrees) and scantily clad. Through his brown skin were great leaden black blotches on his face and hands. His eyes were sunken and bloodshot. Lord knows what he had. Others were worse looking. Altogether it was a pitiful, pathetic, ghastly sight, which I remarked to Commander Beach, whereupon he replied, "My boy, you ought to have seen them two weeks ago!" That was enough. Can you imagine such a horrible scene?

And when a dozen were picked out after telling their stories, etc., to be fired today, most of them didn't want to go! They preferred to stay there and be fed by Uncle Sam to being shot by rebels or impressed by federals. Some of their yarns were heartrending. Casacks translated their stories, but I haven't time to write more as it is nearly 12. Good night.

RELIC IS GIVEN TO NAVY

Historic Constellation Cup Presented to Commodore Kearney, Given to Government.

Washington.—Secretary Daniels sent to James Lawrence Kearney, son of the late Commodore Lawrence Kearney of Perth Amboy, N. J., a letter accepting his donation of a cup to the historic old man-of-war Constellation, which was presented to the commodore by the officers of the Constellation in 1843.

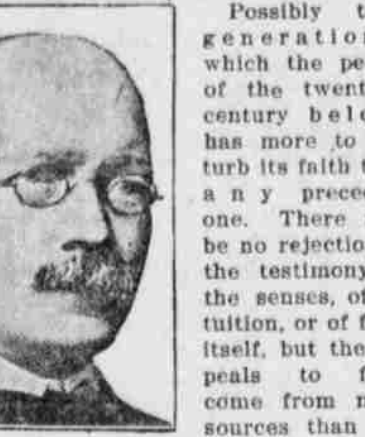
The cup is of china, four and one-half inches high and three and one-half inches in diameter and is artistically decorated with a painted scene representing the ships Constellation and Boston lying at anchor in a Chinese harbor.

The representations of the ships, it is said, are wonderfully accurate.

Faith Gives Confidence

By REV. J. H. RALSTON, Secretary of Correspondence Department, Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.

TEXT—And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. John 6:69.



The Appeal of Religion Has Changed.

In a former day, the appeal was to the acceptance of the evangelical teachings of the New Testament accepted by all denominations, and sometimes to the particular doctrines of the denominations, but now it is made to the acceptance of certain caricatures of Christianity known as Christian Science, Russellism, theosophy, etc., and said to say, with a very large response. This indicates that man is naturally religious. He wants something that will meet the demands of the spiritual craving within, and he is quite apt to take up with something that takes on the name of Christianity, or that professes to be biblical, and yet ridicules evangelical Christianity and offers a substitute for it, however fraudulent it may be.

The Search for Certainty.

Many are asking for certitude, or certainty, in the things of religion. How is a man to gain this certainty? In this consideration let us first note that there are various spheres of knowledge—physical, philosophical and spiritual. In the physical sphere the senses must be the witnesses, in the philosophical reason, and in the spiritual faith, although in the spiritual faith does not reject the witnessing of the senses and reason. In the physical sphere the testimony of the senses may be misleading, as one man may say an object is of one color, while another man says it is of a different color, the fact being that one of these is certainly color blind, and it may be that both of them are so. As far as philosophy is concerned, reason may take the reins in her mouth and plunge into the abyss of infidelity and atheism as was the case in France a century ago.

Faith Must Not Be Blind.

While the senses or reason may not apprehend what faith needs to apprehend, yet faith makes recognition of the testimony of history, personal experience, and of any revelation that God sees fit to make. In the case before us the disciples said that they believed and were sure that Jesus was the Christ, the son of the living God, the most important fact for man to apprehend, the minimum of Christian belief. We have said that faith rests on certain things that may not belong to the supernatural. The many false forms of religion to which we have referred, make strong appeals, that is, in the vehemence of them, and apparently in their sincerity, but when we ask for something in connection with them for our faith to rest upon, they have really nothing to give, except the ipse dixits of some man or woman who has repudiated all that we have revered and honored in the past. While there may be some facts presented, as in the alleged cases of healing, there is no appeal to that which is behind us, the experience of millions of Christian people through the centuries.

A Definite Faith.

The faith of the disciples was very definite. "We believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the son of the living God." The evidence of this definite faith is abundant as may be proved by the men who expressed it being perfectly willing to certify it by the sacrifice of wealth, position, and even life itself. That adherents of false forms of Christianity have made great sacrifices will not be questioned, but in connection with Christian sacrifice we have a law that has existed through twenty centuries, and the blessings that have come out of this spirit of sacrifice and realized by the individual have certified to the genuineness of the faith—they have new wealth, new position, and foretastes of the life that is not only eternal but in harmony with the life of God.

The agent in this assurance is nothing less than the holy spirit of God, which indicates supernatural origin. "No man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the holy ghost." Here is where the religion of Jesus Christ and the apostles is to be differentiated from any other religion. Notwithstanding that it is from above it does not relieve from personal responsibility, but the blessings in bearing the responsibility are so infinitely above anything that the world has to offer, that the responsibility may be forgotten.

A man with a long head seldom has a long face.—L. B. Coley.

WASHINGTON CITY SIDELIGHTS



Washington and Boston Connected by a Subway

WASHINGTON.—At last Washington and Boston are connected by a subway. That is rather startling, is it not? A very few knew such a project was under way. It is not a great big tunnel, however, and is not designed for passengers and freight, but is for the telephone lines between these two cities and the hundreds of intermediate points.

The crying necessity for this subway was emphasized at the time of the inauguration of President Taft in 1909 when the national capital was cut off from communication with the outside world for several hours by a severe sleet storm. The interruption in the service caused the telephone companies a heavy loss in revenues as well as in expenses for repairs, and plans were made during those awful hours for just exactly such a subway as is now being completed.

It has been found much cheaper to dig a trench for the wires than to string them over a line of poles, and the economy has been emphasized by the shortage of timber suitable for telephone poles, and then the very great advantage is that service can never be interrupted by storms as the overhead wires are. It is said that along each cable it is possible to conduct 99 telephone conversations at once and to send, at the same time, 296 telegraph messages.

In building the subway a trench was used which crawls along the right of way, leaving a trough large enough for the cables. Wherever streams were crossed the conduits are carried through creosoted ducts suspended from the bridges, or else in pipes which cross on the bridges. Pipes are only used in places where the bridges are liable to be submerged by spring freshets. At ordinary crossings iron is not used, because it rusts away and is liable to cause short circuit and to break down in the course of time.

Good commercial service is given over 450 miles in length. A few years ago the cables gave satisfactory service for a distance of a few miles.

Monkeys Enlivened Mrs. N. Longworth's Dinner

THOSE people who are prominent in the official life of Washington do not always have the privilege of selecting their own pets. Many come to them in the shape of "freak" gifts from all over the world, and often prove an embarrassment because they are alive and cannot be stored away in some safe and secure place, to be taken out only on occasion.

Thus it happened that Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, the daughter of former President Roosevelt, and wife of the distinguished Ohio representative, had presented to her among many other gifts, two little monkeys, who lost no mite in sustaining their reputation for mischievous antics, and they kept the Longworth household in a panic as to what was going to happen next. They were too nimble and quick to be punished for the evil of their ways, and so, week in and week out the monkeys had a lovely time of it. When Mr. and Mrs. Longworth entertained, the little creatures were shut up behind lock and key, and usually wore themselves out in their effort to break through, and went to sleep in consequence, from sheer exhaustion.

This had always insured the success of a party, without any disturbing interruptions, until one fateful night when Mrs. Longworth looked up to discover a monkey grinning at her from the top of a picture. It was only a second until the other one climbed up the corner of the cloth, and snatched a few nuts from some of the panic-stricken guests. His partner in crime leaped from the picture and perched himself upon the shoulder of a guest, and the details of what followed are not laid down in the directions given to polite society as to how to entertain.

"But," laughed a guest not long ago, "I shall never forget how utterly funny it was, nor how we all enjoyed it, just as soon as we were assured the monkeys would not eat us."

Story of the Tails Worn by Nigerian Women

THERE dwell in the remotest part of Nigeria, not yet under the complete control of the British, several tribes whose women wear tails and are proud of them. The information came to the National Geographic society the other day in a letter from Maj. A. J. N. Tremearne, who has served there both as a political and police officer. These tails, he said, play an important part in the social life of the people, for they are the sign of matronly dignity. A woman, on becoming a bride, casts away a simple girdle of twisted grass, which up to that time has been her sole adornment, and begins to wear an apron of leaves and a fancy tail.

"These tails are made of palm fiber, plaited or bound together with string and usually stained with a red earth, which is also used for the further adornment of the lady's body," Major Tremearne said. "Sometimes a Kaffir matron who desires to be a leader in the fashionable world, will wear a tiny iron bell just above the tail, but this is of rare occurrence and the bell is not often seen."

"To add further to their beauty, both the upper and lower lips of these women are pierced in order to admit a flat, round disc of wood called the Tichlak, which is usually about the size of a half-dollar. The object of this singularly discomfiting adornment is to prevent the women from eating dogs, which are considered the greatest delicacy by the men of the tribes. Both sexes decorate their bodies with regular designs. When girls arrive at marriageable age, two sets of parallel lines are cut both on the chest and the back, and as soon as possible after marriage headlines are made. These consist of a number of short cuts across the forehead."

Senator Smith Names Hotter Place Than Capital

HEAT has no terrors for Senator Mark Smith of Arizona, though he suggested the other night there was prospect that the members of the senate might get overheated and cut short the session. Senator Smith lives in a hot country that is hot.

"Yuma, Ariz., is said to be the hottest place in the United States," remarked Senator Smith. "I don't think I ever saw the thermometer higher than 125 degrees, but, bless you, there's a hotter place in California than Yuma. Down on the shores of the Salton sea, where it is 180 feet below the sea level, I have seen the mercury at 116 degrees at one o'clock in the morning. But neither at Yuma nor in the Salton sea is the weather so oppressive when the thermometer registers its highest as it is in Washington at this time."

"There isn't a drop of humidity in Yuma, and 125 degrees there is not more burdensome than 98 degrees in this city. One can walk through a clover field in that country at sunrise and not get the soles of his shoes even damp."

"I haven't been through the Salton sea section for two years. Then the water was receding at the rate of 15 feet a year. Once the Salton sea was a huge body of water, 100 feet deep."

