

ANTS BIGGER THAN FOXES.

Pliny Could Discount Ananias in the Art of Drawing the Long Bow.

Pliny, that rare old gossip, tells, among his other extraordinary stories, that of the Bactrian method of obtaining gold. The sandy deserts of Bactria in the days of that historian were, so the old man says, literally swarming with ants "slightly bigger than foxes." These gigantic representatives of the genus homonoptera burrowed deeply into the sandy wastes, their tunnels and galleries often being hundreds of feet in extent. The earth removed from these burrows was always carried to the outside and thrown up in hills (remember Pliny says this) "of a bigness exceeding that of a palace." This debris—sand, earth, etc.—was soon found to be wonderfully rich in small nuggets of gold. The danger from the ants was greater, however, than that from the Indians in the early days of gold digging in the Western United States, and many stories are told of men who were literally devoured in a few moments by the fierce owners of some disturbed burrow. Some observing old hunter at last discovered that the giant ants slept during the hottest hours of the day. After that the seekers after the yellow metal only made their incursions at the proper time, and even then they only stayed long enough in the deserts to fill their sacks with the golden sand, which they took home to sift at leisure. With all this precaution the ants often "swiftly pursued the fleetest horses, and it was only by using various stratagems that the invaders managed to escape alive."

A FUNNY COURTSHIP.

A Swain Visits His Friend's Sweetheart and Wins Her Himself.

A romantic wedding took place in the Lee Avenue civil court in Brooklyn the other day, when Joseph Frankel and Miss Lena Rubenstein were married by Civil Justice E. Clarence Murphy. Frankel told his story to the judge.

"I have been in this city about eighteen months," he said. "I share a room with a young fellow of my own age, named Max Traum. Traum used to tell me about his sweetheart, Lena Rubenstein, who lived at 21 Ewen street, and, at his request, I called to see her. I loved her from the first. Traum never liked to meet his girl alone, so he used to take me with him time after time. He was a funny fellow, too, for when Lena would be playing the piano he would go to sleep on the sofa. Last night I went with Traum as usual to call upon Lena, and as usual he fell asleep. Then I told Lena that I loved her and she told me that the love was returned. I am not able to support a wife at present, but Lena and I thought it was best to get married without losing any time. That is why we came here to-day. When we leave here Lena will return to her home and I will go back to my boarding house and work until I have money enough to support my wife in proper style. When that time comes we will be married by a rabbi, but in the meantime Traum is out of it."

IT HAPPENS THAT WAY.

A Woman Talks About Her Neighbors and Then Wishes She Hadn't.

"I hear you have been moving?" she said as she found herself in the same seat with an acquaintance on a Detroit street car.

"Yes; we are down on Twelfth street now."

"And do you like the new place?"

"Quite well, but the family next door is just awful. There's about a million young 'uns, and the woman scolds and the man gets drunk and my husband declares he'll have the whole lot arrested."

"It's too bad you get alongside of such people. What did you say your number was?"

"No."

"Why, my sister lives at No. —, right below you! You must have reference to her!"

"Dear me, but—"

"I don't understand—"

"Excuse me, but I have to get off here. Do come down and see me. We never were so pleasantly situated. It is one of the nicest neighborhoods in all Detroit, and I'm almost lonesome to hear a child cry!"

She Knows a Real Villain.

Here is a story told by Hall Caine concerning Wilkie Collins: "The most successful character in 'The Woman in White' was not a Woman, but a man—Fosco, the fat villain. When the book was produced everybody was talking about the fat villain. Whilst the author was staying with his mother a lady visitor came. This lady said to Collins: 'You seem to have made a great success with your villain in 'The Lady in White.' I have read the book, I have studied this villain, but he is not half a villain; you don't know a real villain; you have imagined this villain. I know a villain, and the next time you want to do a villain come to me. I am very close to one; I have one constantly in my eye—in fact, it is my own husband!'" Wilkie Collins often told this story but withheld the name of the lady. It was the wife of Sir Edward Bulwer Lytton.

Traveling Libraries.

A system of traveling libraries that has been arranged according to law in New York state allows farmers good reading for almost the asking. A farmer can borrow a collection of 100 standard books for a period of six months on satisfactory guaranty against loss and the payment of \$5. These will be lent without other expense to any free library under the regents' supervision, or a petition of twenty-five taxpayers in any place which has not yet established such a library.

EGYPT EVER THE SAME.

Time Seems to Pass the Egyptian, for Nothing Changes in His Land.

The characters in the "Thousand and One Nights" may be almost imagined to step out of their setting of words and to take form and glow with the generous warmth of life before one's very eyes. The natives still drink the same coffee and out of the same cups; they smoke the same pipes; they wear generally the same dress; they play generally the same primitive instruments that whisper the same strange and plaintive tones; the funeral processions wend their way along the streets as of old; the popular festivals of moods are still observed with the same untiring capacity for enjoyment; the public reciters still practice their profession before admiring crowds; the water-carriers still carry their burdens so welcome to thirsty lips; except in the houses of the rich and thoroughly Europeanized, food is still eaten with the fingers and in the same manner, and the hands are washed in the same basins and ewers; the mosque of El-Azhar still attracts its crowds of students.

Even the old wooden locks and keys are still in use and the water jars are still kept cool in the lattice work of the overhanging mushrabiyyeh window frames. Instances of this sort might be multiplied a hundred-fold. It is indeed a wonderful change and contrast that is presented to the eye when you leave the European and enter the native quarter. And the mind and feelings turn in unison and become attuned to the changed scene. The sense of taking part in a new and different life steals over you and you temporarily throw off your affinity with the West and the nineteenth century. The clock of time is for the moment put back for you.

SHORT ON SAMPLES.

A New York Lawyer's Experience With a Party of Drummers.

A New York lawyer traveling in the Southwest found himself one evening in the smoking compartment of a sleeper, the other occupants of which were drummers.

The traveling salesman were, as usual, friendly and communicative. They talked of trade and of averaging expense accounts, and at last all became very well acquainted.

The lawyer, however, remained silent, communing with himself. He had been retained upon a delicate case and was traveling toward a city, the objective point also of the commercial tourists, to attach a stock of goods. He did not, therefore, care to reveal his identity.

After a while one of the drummers attempted to open up a conversation. His first remarks were civil enough and were promptly answered. Then the drummer made bold enough to ask him his business.

"What line do you carry?" he asked.

"I beg your pardon, I don't understand you," replied the lawyer.

"Traveling from New York?"

"Yes."

"What house?"

"Oh, I am in business for myself."

Then came a long interval, in which no one spoke. Finally, in desperation, the drummer asked: "May I inquire what you sell?"

"Certainly," replied the lawyer; "I am selling brains."

Another long interval, and then the drummer turned to one of his more communicative friends and whispered: "I say, Tom, that fellow carries a deuced small lot of samples."

LOVE LAUGHS AT LOCKS.

Wedding in a Memphis Jail, After Which the Groom Took a Solitary Tour.

Something of a social function occurred in the county jail at Memphis, lately, when Charles E. Ward, who is imprisoned for counterfeiting, was married to Miss Nora Alderson of Woodstock, Tenn. Ward is about 30 years old, while Miss Alderson is about 20. The ceremony was performed by Squire Garvin in the lobby of the jail, and was witnessed by a score or more of people, some friends of the parties, while others were attracted by the novelty of the proceedings.

Ward was a farmer until he tried to better his condition by making and passing counterfeit money. The money he made was a very rank counterfeit and easily detected, which is the cause of his present situation. Ward pleaded guilty to the charge of counterfeiting before the United States court, and his sentence is pending.

He has been engaged to Miss Alderson for four years, and she was willing to marry him regardless of the fact that for several years he will be compelled to make his residence in the penitentiary, and he thought it would be better for all parties concerned that it should be so.

Flows Far Above Sea Level.

The most elevated river in the world is the Desaguadero, in Bolivia. It is of considerable depth, and its whole length, from the village of Desaguadero, at the south extremity of Titicaca, to the north end of the Lake Avilagas, is about 180 miles. The average elevation of the valley or tableland of Desaguadero above the level of the sea is about 13,000 feet. The river whose source lies highest is the Indus, which rises on the north of the Kailas Parbat mountain in Thibet, 22,000 feet above sea level.

A Woman's Gift to Harvard.

The Harvard overseers have voted to name the Harvard Annex Radcliffe college. This is a somewhat tardy recognition of the first woman who encouraged the college with a gift of money, one Dame Moulton of England, whose maiden name was Anne Radcliffe, and who, in 1640, sent to the new world institution 100 pounds sterling for its benefit.

TRICKS OF A FAKIR.

How He Palm'd Off Plain Water for Cologne at Fifteen Cents a Bottle.

The atmosphere of Chicago on Dearborn from Madison to Monroe was edolent of perfume the other evening. The pleasant odors came from a basket which a peddler had placed on the sidewalk near the middle of the block. The basket when it was first placed there was filled with bottles of various designs and sizes. It did not need the husky shout of the peddler to proclaim his wares, for the atmosphere bore testimony to their character. He nevertheless lost no opportunity in telling that he had the finest perfumes on earth.

"Here's yer best brand o' cologne. Selling 'em out at ten and fifteen cents apiece. They're reel genuine 'slonge. There's enough in one o' these 'ere bottles to perfume six dozen 's handkerchers, and the perfume 'll never leave them till the handkerchers are worn out in washing."

The crowds around the basket were buying up the bottles almost as fast as he could hand them out to them. One of the purchasers was a cute young man who thought he could make his wife a nice present and not have it cost him very much. He handed over fifteen cents to the fakir and selected the nicest looking bottle in the basket. The purchaser then stepped into a hallway to have one smell of the contents. He drew off the cap, pulled out the cork, and placed the bottle to his nose. There was not a particle of odor in the pint of liquid. It was water and nothing else, except a little coloring stuff. He brought it back to the fakir and demanded his money back.

"You had better take it back," said the young man, as he placed his foot against the basket.

The peddler took the hint, gave back the fifteen cents, and took himself off to another quarter of the town. The sweet odors which permeated the air came from straw in the bottom of the basket, over which the fakir from time to time sprayed a little perfume from a bottle with a nozzle attachment.

PRISCILLA MERELY SMILED.

At the Man Who Tried to Propose to Her on the Street.

The neighbor was disturbed. His fingers twitched. The corners of his mouth drooped dismally, and he looked the picture of hopeless desperation until the gentle girl whispered: "Tell me all about it." Then he sighed and twisted his mustache.

"There's not much to tell," he remarked. "I tried to propose to a girl as we were walking through the shopping quarter to-day. That's all."

"Well?" smiled the gentle girl.

"And I failed most successfully. It was my last chance. We were going to meet some friends and I knew I wouldn't see her alone again before she left town. I began by saying: 'Priscilla, dear,' in the most lovelike tones imaginable, but a dozen trucks and a few cable car bells silenced my first efforts, and Priscilla never heard them. Then I pressed her hand and burst forth with an emphatic 'dearest.' When I turned toward her to see how she received my advances I found myself looking into the eyes of an elderly lady with three umbrellas and a bird cage. Priscilla had stopped to study some dress goods that filled the big window."

"We walked a full block before I felt strong enough to try again. I said, 'Can't you see that I love you?' to a red-nosed fat man. I whispered, 'Don't you care for me at all?' to a fellow who was peddling flowers, and finally shrieked, 'Priscilla, will you marry me?' into the ear of a stout lady, who immediately glowered through her lorgnette and made me wish that I could dissolve into thin air and float away on the breeze. "Through it all Priscilla was as sweet as she could be. She had a mischievous twinkle in her pretty eyes when I left her, and, but for that, I'd believe she was blissfully unaware of the violent attempt I had made to propose to her."

Took Her Nap Standing Up.

Janitor Eastman of the new schoolhouse in Perryville, Maine, says that while the pupils were at play in the yard the other day he looked out of the window and saw a number of them gathered around a little girl. Their actions indicated alarm, and he went out to see what the trouble was. He found the child to be sound asleep, while yet standing upon her feet. Janitor Eastman took the girl in his arms and carried her into one of the teachers' private rooms and fixed up a bed and pillow for her out of shawls and various kinds of wraps. Here she remained for over an hour, sleeping as soundly and as peacefully as though in her more comfortable bed at home. After her nap she appeared refreshed and was eager for play again.

Buckingham Palace Uninhabitable.

So serious have been the discoveries in connection with the sanitary condition of Buckingham palace that the question is now being discussed as to whether it can ever again be used as a royal residence. Not only is the drainage in a shocking condition, which will necessitate the expenditure of a fabulous sum to set aright, but it has also been found that one of the largest of the main sewers of the metropolis passes immediately under the palace, and that the gases arising therefrom permeate the foundations of the royal abode. The proposal to alter the course of the sewer in question is declared impracticable.

The Rich Chinese.

It appears to be a rule in China that the richer a man is the more he separates himself from his womenkind. A prosperous merchant never eats at the table with his wife and daughters; his son's food must be prepared separately and served in another room.

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40 YEARS THE STANDARD.

Fort Randall Military Reservation.

Land Commissioner Lamoreux, in response to a communication asking when the reserve will be open to settlement writes as follows:

"The odd-numbered sections in the Fort Randall Military reservation in Nebraska may be selected by Nebraska as school land indemnity within one year after the filing of the plats of survey. After the expiration of this time, the remaining tracts are to be appraised and opened to homestead settlement and entry at the appraised valuation under the act of March 3, 1893. This act virtually prohibits entry before such opening. The state boundary line through the reservation, was surveyed during the summer and fall of 1893, the field notes of which have not as yet been forwarded to this office by the contracting deputy surveyor. When the said notes shall have been received here an examination of the field work will be ordered as soon as the weather in Nebraska will permit. Thereafter, if the field work and the notes are found to be correct, on examination in this office, the same will be accepted and approved. Until this shall have been done it would be unpracticable to state approximately when the land embraced in the aforesaid reservation will be surveyed."

R. H. Townley, clerk of the state banking department, has completed a tabulated statement to be included in his annual statement which contains information of value to commercial men. It shows that in bank failures during the past year of financial depression Nebraska has fared surprisingly well and much better than many eastern states. According to his report there were 515 state banks during business under the state law November 5, 1893. Up to December 19, 1893, forty-five banks had discontinued, thirty-four new banks had commenced business, leaving a total of 504 in force, December 19, 1893. This shows that there are eleven banks less than there was one year ago. Of the forty-five banks which discontinued business only thirteen were in the hands of receivers, namely, the Farmers and Merchants of Bassett, State bank of Courtland, Farmers and Merchants of Elk Creek, State bank of Franklin, Bank of Hay Springs, Nebraska Savings of Lincoln, American Savings and the McCaughs' Savings of Omaha, Holt county bank of O'Neill, State Bank of Plainview, Bank of Rushville, Farmers' State of Shubert, and Dickson's of Wahoo. Few were bad failures and of this number in the hands of the receivers six have settled up and paid depositors. Therefore there have been only about seven complete failures among state banks during the past year, and one of that number may pay out. Some of the worst failures were national banks which are not controlled by the state banking department.

State Journal: State Treasurer Bartley was made defendant in a suit filed yesterday in the supreme court. The suit is in the form of a petition for a writ of mandamus by Robert A. Ewing, who has served as treasurer of Chase county for the past two years. The suit was filed yesterday by Stewart & Munger of this city as attorneys for Mr. Ewing and the prayer of the petition is for an order of the court compelling State Treasurer Bartley to receipt for \$2,553 paid into the state treasury October 10, 1893, and for the further sum of \$1,278 paid in January 4, 1894. These amounts comprise collections due the state from Treasurer Ewing, but Treasurer Bartley has declined to give a receipt for the same. The reason why he refuses does not appear in the papers on file, but Treasurer Bartley explained to a Journal reporter that the trouble is one of the many cases arising from the failure of the Capitol National bank. It appears that Mr. Ewing settled with the state, giving to the treasurer among other securities, a draft for \$3,000 on the Capitol National bank, which was received for by Deputy Bartlett. Before the draft could be cashed the bank failed. Treasurer Bartley says Mr. Ewing then agreed to return his receipt for the draft, but the matter has remained unsettled, and Treasurer Bartley has refused to give receipts for the two subsequent payments made by Mr. Ewing. The position of Mr. Ewing is that the state treasurer cannot apply subsequent payments on an account that has been received for. It is a question of who is to make good \$3,000 lost in the bank. The amount is not included in the state's claim against the bank, and it is claimed that the court has decided that negotiable paper is not money in such cases.

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LEGAL ADVERTISEMENTS.

LEGAL NOTICE.

To David Adams, Alkanah McKinney and wife Mrs. Alkanah McKinney, Millard F. Broder and wife Mrs. Millard F. Broder, Millard F. Breeden and wife Mrs. Millard F. Breeden, defendants: You will take notice that on the 15th day of January, 1894, Henry O. Stoddard, plaintiff herein, filed his petition in the district court of Holt county, Nebraska, against you and each of you, and also against Michael Lyons and wife, Alice E. Lyons, who are made defendants with you; the object and prayer being to foreclose a certain mortgage executed by the defendants, Michael Lyons and wife Alice E. Lyons, to the plaintiff upon the following described real estate, situated in Holt county, Nebraska, to-wit:

The south half of section twenty and the northeast quarter of section thirty, all in township twenty-eight, range twelve, west of the 6th P. M.

Which mortgage was given to secure the payment of three promissory notes, dated September 28, 1892, for the sum of \$500 each, due and payable in one, two and three years from date thereof; that there is now due upon said notes and mortgage by reason of the defendants' failure to pay the first note when due, when due, the interest due on the other two notes when due, the sum of \$2000, for which sum, with interest from this date, plaintiff prays for a decree that the defendants be required to pay the same or that said premises may be sold to satisfy the amount found due. Plaintiff further asks that the interest of each of said defendants may be required to be sold to satisfy the amount found due. Plaintiff is required to answer said petition on or before the 20th day of March, 1894.

Dated at O'Neill, Nebraska, this 13th day of January, 1894. R. K. DICKSON, Attorney for Plaintiff.

NOTICE.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF HOLT COUNTY, NEB.

C. F. PATTERGILL, Plaintiff.

Against

JOHN STODDARD, LAURA O. STODDARD, SCOTT T. JONES, ALLEN MARSHALL, EVA M. PRUGH AND JAMES G. WINSTANLEY, Defendants.

To John Stoddard, Laura O. Stoddard, Scott T. Jones, Allen Marshall, Eva M. Prugh and James G. Winstanley, non-resident defendants: You are hereby notified that on the 11th day of July, 1893, C. F. Pattergill, plaintiff herein, filed his petition in the district court of Holt county, Nebraska, against John Stoddard, Laura O. Stoddard, Scott T. Jones, Allen Marshall, Eva M. Prugh and James G. Winstanley, defendants, and on January 20, 1894, by leave of court amended said petition, the object and prayer of which are to foreclose a certain real estate mortgage executed on the 7th day of May, 1887, by John Stoddard and Laura O. Stoddard and in favor of C. F. Pattergill upon the property described as follows:

The northwest quarter of section twenty-six, in township thirty-two, north of range sixteen, west of the sixth P. M., in Holt county, Nebraska.

Said mortgage was given to secure the payment of one promissory note dated May 7, 1887, and due and payable April 1, 1892, given by John Stoddard to Scott T. Jones for the sum of six hundred dollars and interest which said note and mortgage were sold, assigned and delivered to the plaintiff for value before the commencement of this action and before said note became due; that there is now due and payable on said note and mortgage and for taxes on the above described premises paid by plaintiff the sum of eight hundred thirty-three dollars and thirty-three cents, interest at the rate of ten per cent per annum from the 15th day of May, 1893, for which sum with interest from May 15, 1893, plaintiff prays for a decree that the defendants pay the same and in default of such payment said premises may be sold to satisfy the amount found due.

You are required to answer said petition on or before the 5th day of March, 1894.

Dated at O'Neill, Neb., January 20, 1894. C. F. PATTERGILL, Plaintiff.

By LOOMIS & ABBOTT AND R. K. DICKSON, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF HOLT COUNTY, NEBRASKA.

Flora L. Gleashman, Plaintiff,

vs

Mary J. Conkle, wife and heir at law of Henry C. Conkle, deceased, and all the unknown heirs at law and legal representatives of Henry C. Conkle, deceased, Defendants.

NOTICE.

The above named defendants and each of them will take notice that on the 20th day of January, 1894, the above named plaintiff filed her petition in the district court of Holt county, Nebraska, against you and each of you, the object and prayer being to foreclose a certain mortgage executed by Henry C. Conkle, during his lifetime, and his wife, Mary J. Conkle, to the Nebraska Mortgage and Investment Co., upon the following described real estate, situated in Holt county, Nebraska, to-wit:

The southwest quarter of section nine (9) in township thirty-one (31), range ten (10), west of the 6th P. M., to secure the payment of one certain promissory note for \$225, dated August 13, 1888, and due September 1, 1892, bearing interest at 7 per cent per annum, payable semi-annually; that there is now due on said note, by reason of the defendant's failure to pay same when due and by reason of the defendant's failure to pay the taxes for the year 1891, in the sum of \$345, which amount plaintiff paid to protect her security, on the 24th day of March, 1894, making in all the sum of \$570.34, interest on said note and mortgage, with interest thereon from the 28th day of March, 1894, for which sum with interest from that date, plaintiff prays or decrees that the defendants be required to pay the same, or that the said premises may be sold to satisfy the amount found due. And praying that you and each of you be foreclosed of all interest in said land.

You are required to answer said petition on or before the 15th day of February, 1894.

Dated this 5th day of February, 1894.

R. K. DICKSON, Attorney for plaintiff

31-4

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