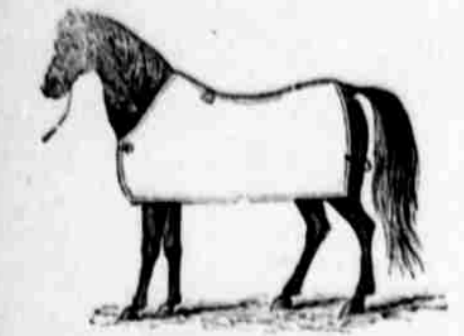


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IN THE HEART OF AFRICA.

F. C. Selous Describes a Trip Over a Portion of Dr. Livingstone's Old Route. F. C. Selous attended a recent meeting in Cape Town for the purpose of describing his journey he made last year to the country of the Mashukulumbwe, a tribe of savages whose habitat is north of the Zambezi.

Four or five days' traveling brought them to the first Batonga town, and here he might mention that in 1877 he made a journey down the banks of the Zambezi, traveling among the Batonga the whole time. These people had never seen a white man since Livingstone and Kirk came up the river in 1861, and they turned out to be very friendly indeed.

Monze was a very old, shriveled up man, but remembered Livingstone's visit quite well, and although it was thirty-five years ago he spoke of it as if it had happened but a few years since. Monze told him how Livingstone had gone on a low hill near by, called Owkessi-Kessi, and had used an instrument, which, from his description, was evidently a compass or sextant.

He also made his way thither, facing them with his rifle, determined if any man ran against it to pull the trigger and take the consequences. While backing away thus he fell, and as he did so a body of Mashukulumbwe rushed from the grass to the camp, two falling upon the top of him. He then turned on his hands and glided into the long grass. For the moment he was safe, but he, however, determined to put a long distance between himself and the village before daylight. He then swam across the river Magoico, and after several hairbreadth escapes and thrilling adventures, during which his rifle was stolen and an attempt was made to murder him, he reached the village of Sikakanga, whence he proceeded amidst great hardships to Pandamatanka. Here he found the remnants of his party.—Pall Mall Gazette.

The Result Resulted. In the last Ohio legislature was a representative who had been elected and re-elected until he was serving his fifteenth term. At the opening of the session the first bill introduced was to grant authority to a certain Thomas Shields to construct a mill dam on a certain river. Some one bumbled up the fact that this bill had been regularly introduced and as regularly killed through the efforts of the old timer at every session for a dozen years, and when he was asked to explain he said:

"It's just this way: A dam there would be all right, but Shields is down on me, and the minute a bill is passed he'll lay for and give me a whaling. So long as I can stave off his bill he will let me alone, hoping to get it through the next session."

"But the people favor a dam there, and it is hardly fair to keep them out of one because you and Shields have a quarrel."

Three days later, as some members were going home from an evening session, they found a bundle of something against a fence. When lifted up and undone it proved to be the maimed remains of the objector to the mill dam. They recovered consciousness when handed, and when one of the finders asked what had happened a voice faintly answered:

"I met Shields here about half an hour ago, and the result resulted just as I said it would. He not only pounded me, but he added the twelve years' interest."—New York Sun.

The Fat Man's Story.

The boys had been looking at the fat man for some time as he strolled up and down the depot platform smoking a good cigar and his face wearing a look of contentment, and one of them finally observed that it was a good time for him to tell a story.

"Oh, yes they will!" he cried in chorus. "Well, one day in the fifties I was journeying across a Kansas prairie on foot. One morning I got up to find fifty miles of tall, dry grass between me and the hills. A strong breeze sprang up with the sun, and I had scarcely started on my way before I discovered a great smoke to windward. The Indians had set fire to the prairie to kill off the rattlesnakes, you know."

"But, hang it, man, you escaped!" "I did." "You don't show any scars of burns."

"Well, get to the point." "I will. I waited until the flames were not over a mile away, then I took my balloon off my back, pressed the button which permitted the natural gas to flow in from the reservoir, and, taking my seat in the chair, I shot up into the air about 500 feet and let the flames sweep under me. One of my boot heels was a little scorched, but that was all the damage done."

"Do you tell that for truth!" angrily demanded the starch man from Oswego. "The solemn truth, gentlemen. Our company is now doing a general banking and balloon business—same style of balloons. We can and do underwrite all others. Send in your orders early and avoid the winter rush. That's all."

Jonah the Second. J. W. Kessler, late commander's clerk, United States Navy, now a resident of Honesdale, Pa., told the following story to a Philadelphia Press reporter of a very remarkable experience of an American sailor with a whale.

He says: George Leonard, an acting master in the United States Navy during the civil war, and stationed on board the gunboat Katabidin, West Gulf blockading squadron, in 1862, told a story of heroism, and exhibited marks on his body that corroborated his words. The year 1850 found Leonard as one of the crew on the ship Enterprise, a whaler in the North Pacific.

One day he was stationed in the bow of a whaleboat a long distance from the ship, with a brave crew who had sighted a whale and marked him for the purpose of regaining the boat, while he himself was caught by the whale between his jaws, his position being inside the monster's mouth, with nothing protruding but one of his arms. In this manner the man was in reality within the jaws of death itself.

The whale, now maddened by his fast flowing blood, made a rush for the boat. Remarkable and horrible to relate, Leonard's friend had managed to regain the boat, while he himself was caught by the whale between his jaws, his position being inside the monster's mouth, with nothing protruding but one of his arms. In this manner the man was in reality within the jaws of death itself.

The imprisoned man, after all this, had not lost his presence of mind. He mustered his entire bodily strength to reach the boat, and in a powerful manner he daily bracing himself in such a position as to compel the fish to spread his jaws. At the same time, with his arm that was free, he grabbed the sheath knife out of its socket, cutting right and left. No sooner was there a sufficient opening made than Leonard forced his body out.

Up to the surface he swam, when, most strange to say, he found himself within an arm's length of his boat. He was saved. The monster of the whale's violence and the death of its teeth were very plainly visible on Leonard's arms, and he was always pointed out by his brother naval officers as "The second Jonah."

Your Billions of Ancestors. Did you ever think how many male and female ancestors were required to bring you into the world? First, it was necessary that you should have a father and mother. That makes two human beings. Each of them must have had a father and mother. That makes four more human beings. Again, each of them must have had a father and mother, making eight more human beings. So on we go back to the time of Jesus Christ, fifty-six generations. The calculation thus resulting shows that 139,225,017,489,534,976 births must have taken place to bring you into this world—you who read these lines! All this since the birth of Christ—not since the beginning of time. According to Proctor, if from a single pair, for 5,000 years, each husband and wife had married at 21 years of age and there had been no deaths, the population of the earth would be 2,199,915 followed by 144 ciphers. It would require to hold this population a number of worlds the size of this, equal to 3,106,626 followed by 125 ciphers. The human mind shrinks in contemplating such immense numbers.—St. Louis Republic.

Married in Cotton. Two happy couples were married in the presence of 60,000 people at the Piedmont exposition, at Atlanta, Ga. Both couples were rigged out in full suits of cotton manufacture. The gentlemen were ill at ease, and neither had the fashionable cut in their garments, but the brides were gotten up without regard to expense. The dress of one was cut en train, with V neck front and back and short sleeves. It was made of white cotton bagging and elaborately draped and trimmed with white ribbon and wide white ruching like the train of a tulle. The bridegrooms were dressed in suits of cotton bagging, the coats double breasted Prince Alberts and the vests low cut. The buttons were green cotton bolts.—Frank Leslie's Newspaper.



No. 704.—Charade. Here's a man eager for his first; Strange what a most decided thirst Some men have for what is found In this, my whole. The crackling sound Of second being folded, greets The ear at home and on the streets.

No. 705.—A Concealed Quotation. In the following paragraph the curious and diligent seeker may find a familiar quotation from "Romeo and Juliet": "What sin have I committed?" said an American girl to her lover, when she sat on his best hat which he had laid on the sofa. He handed her a wet calla and arose to take his leave. His hobby was botany, but not hers, for she was an American schoolgirl. "I would prefer as mellow a pear as you can give me, Leonidas," she said, "to this wet thing you call a flower."

No. 706.—Easy Riddle. I am a little word composed of only five letters, yet so great is my weight that strong men have been crushed by me, and I have been known to destroy life by pressing too heavily upon those with whom I came in contact. I am of the plural number, yet by adding the letter S I become singular. If, before adding the letter S, you cut off my head and tail, what remains is a verb implying existence; if, instead of thus mutilating me, you place my second letter before my first, I am changed into what will make a poor man strive. My 3 2 1 4 is that in which many strive, but only one wins; my 5 1 2 3 4 means to alarm; my 5 4 3 2 is to burn; my 1 2 3 is very necessary in large cities; my 5 4 2 is enticing to many; my 2 1 4 is one; my 2 3 1 is not complete; my 4 2 3 is of wonderful and delicate construction; my 1 2 5 4 is visited very frequently by a physician, who frequently has more 1 2 3 4 5 than a follower of any other profession.

No. 707.—A Wise Saying. I am composed of 30 letters. My 27, 13, 24, 9, 4 are invariably quacks. My 18, 25, 1, 17, 3, 14, 30 are dear to me. My 2, 16, 2, 7, 2, 30 is in your eye. My 15, 29, 19, 8, 18 is what we all sigh for. My 30, 10, 5, 24 are used in games of chance. My 11, 28, 13, 3 is a small boy. My 5, 19, 30, 13, 14 goes through the press. My 15, 7, 11, 30 is frequently presented. My 25, 22, 5, 6 is part of a foot. My whole is a wise saying.



No. 708.—A Stitch Puzzle. Our girl readers will be the first to solve this rebus, which recently appeared in St. Nicholas. In the picture are suggested the names of fourteen different stitches used by needle women. What are they?

No. 709.—An Hour Glass. The central letters, reading downward, name one of the United States. The cross-words: 1 "One who throws, twists or winds silk." 2 "Educated," "directed." 3 "Coherency of motion," "speed," "dispatch." 4 "Concrete sugar," "water in a solid state." 5. In Ohio. 6 "Termination." 7 "An adhesive combination of flour and water," or "earth and water as prepared by the potter," etc. 8 "Dexterity," "an artful trick performed by jugglers." 9 "Severity, harshness."

No. 710.—A Pleasure Excursion. My (island near Maine) (city in North Carolina). I have been (city in Pennsylvania), but now will tell you about our trip. We went to see (city in Switzerland). There was (city in New Jersey), (city in Arkansas), (mountain in California), (city in Pennsylvania) and myself. (City in New Jersey), wore a (river in Utah), (animal in South America), (city in Arkansas) wore (city in China) flannel. I had to (point in Alaska) a (mountain in Oregon) and wore a (hills in Dakota) dress. We got an early (point in England). We went over a very (mountain) in (United States) (state in United States). (City in Switzerland) had been on the (cape near North Carolina) for us. As you must know (city in Switzerland) is very (mountains in West Virginia), and her floors were covered with (city in Europe) carpet. She showed us a (cape in South America) basket she made, also her lovely (river in Switzerland) pet cow. We staid over (strait in East Indies) and then came home. My (city of Nebraska), I must close. I (cape in North Carolina) we will get a (town of Wisconsin). (Cape of Greenland). City of Kansas.

Punians. Uncle and aunt—Pawnbroker and wife. An animal study—Pig and pen. Sweetmeats—Sugar cured ham. A high liver—The condor. A time lock—The prison step. On time—The landlord. Always on hand—The finger. Always on foot—The toe. Food for gossip—Tongue.

Punctuate as You Please. Every lady in every land Has twenty nails on each hand Five and twenty on hands and feet All this is true without deceit.

Key to the Puzzler. No. 697.—Numerical Enigma: Harriet Beecher Stowe. No. 698.—Hidden Words: Laurel; Ural, lea, are, era, lure, Lear, Ella, ell, real, ear, all. No. 699.—Illustrated Proverb: Never look a gift horse in the mouth. No. 700.—A Charade: Tad-pole. No. 701.—Cross Word Enigma: Wolfe. No. 702.—Drop Letter Proverb: Zeal without knowledge is the sister of folly. No. 703.—Curtailments: Age-d; ripe-plum-b; feet. Debt.

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