

## NAVAJO TRADITION.

## HOW ALL ANIMAL LIFE WAS CONFINED IN A CAVERN.

Freedom First Found by a Locust—The Badger Follows—Prisoners Free at Last. Dispute Concerning the Use of Night and Day.

The Navajo Indians of Arizona have a tradition to the effect that while the earth was young and destitute of animal life the Great Spirit created twelve people—six men and six women—together with many species of animals, and confined them in a cavern of the San Francisco mountains, where they lived as a great, happy family for many years. But in course of time a restlessness possessed the prisoners. Though they had known nothing of freedom, all felt the oppression of their narrow limits, and vaguely yearned for a greater fulfillment of the dream or reality of living. But what could they do? All speculated on the situation to no purpose. Daily they jostled each other, little and big, clumsy and nimble, bipeds and quadrupeds, feathered and furred, winged and wingless, timid and bold. Every successive period of time was but a repetition of the past.

## OPENING THE WAY OUT.

None of the many puzzled brains could offer means of breaking the monotony, till a happy thought struck one of the most insignificant of the living mass. For want of other occupation a locust bored a hole in the wall and thereby opened the way for the enthusiasm and progress of the host of its comrades throughout the length and breadth of their underground world. The Great Spirit had so decreed it. They were there only for a time of incubation. At the destined hour, as the eagle bursts the shell that imprisons it, so the locust's tiny burrow should lead to the escape of all into the open world, where each could follow his inclinations unhampered.

The laboring locust had but a solitary witness. A badger watched with growing amusement the diminutive tunnel making. His eyes sparkled with interest as the locust labored energetically. He lay resting with his head between his fore paws in a most lazy attitude, but his face expressed animation and eagerness not much longer to be retained. As the tail of the locust disappeared the time for exertion had come. To follow the locust's movements further necessitated like energy. The locust's hole was too small for the badger's access, so he started a tunnel making of his own. By the time he reached the locust he was in no mood to give up the chase, so he passed on, scratching his way through the solid earth until he broke through the outer crust of the mountain, and in the joy and excitement of the moment he sprang into the ample space before him. The mountain side was steep, and he "landed" in the shallow edge of the lake in Montana valley. As he fell his fore feet struck deep into the mire, and his progeny even unto today have inherited black fore paws because of this incident of the world's first peeping.

The Navajos within the cavern, noting the departure of the badger, began a prospect. Finding the hole large enough for exit, they crept out, one after the other, and a train of all sizes and species of animals followed in their wake, as from Noah's ark.

## FRIGHTENED THEM AWAY.

As soon as all the prisoners were free, fire and smoke began to issue from the hole that had delivered them. This frightened them far away into the valley, and there they prepared to make themselves comfortable and live as their new advantages permitted. Food was plentiful in vegetable forms, but some varieties needed heat to make them good. At least the Navajos thought so, but they had no means of kindling a fire. This difficulty was soon overcome by sending a bat, a wolf and a squirrel after the needed element, fire. Going to a hole in the mountain, the wolf tilled some pitchy splinters to his tail, then turned and held it over the little volcano till it began to smoke and ignite. The bat then fanned it into flames with its wings and the squirrel carried it away to the Navajos. The people were delighted at getting the one missing essential to a happy life in the open world, and when, long after, a time came when the world's plenty had pampered their wills and fostered their greed and selfishness to the point of preying upon their fellow creatures for food, they still had the honor to vote never to eat wolf or squirrel flesh. Neither would they move camp without a live coal among their possessions. And even today the Navajos' gratitude to the trio is observed as the promise made to the fire getters of the tradition.

Between the Navajos and different animals there sprang up a dispute over the Great Spirit's intended use for night and day. All agreed that one should be asleep in sleep and one in action, but which should serve the one and which the other? It was settled at last. Those that wished to roam at night should do so and sleep by day, and vice versa. The heroic badger was among those who chose the mysteries of the darkness or the immediate dawn and dusk for thought and action and the bright and sunny hours as fit to be slept away in his cool underground nest. As the sun sank in the west upon their business meeting, the owl, bat, moth, and many other animals scattered out into the valley borders on their foraging exploits, while many kinds of birds flew to roost in the trees. Other animals lay down to sleep in sheltered parts of the forest, and the Navajos spread their waterproof blankets, the trophies of the women's industry, and enjoyed their couches under the starry sky in peaceful dreams.—Overland Monthly.

## The Great Actor's Methods.

Clara Morris, in speaking of actors and acting recently, said: "The really great actor must be capable of doing something more than to merely touch the biggest fool of the audience. He must make his audience absolutely forgetful of itself and be himself the direct and not the indirect cause of the emotional state into which it is thrown. To do this the actor must be himself a person of intense feeling and must for the time at least experience the emotion he is seeking to portray. Really great acting is a matter of feeling rather than of reasoning intelligence, and I doubt whether an actor who studies and puzzles over the subtleties of the author's meaning is not in danger of checking the manifestations of his own histrionic sense. No amount of art can make up the want of one real touch of nature."—New York Herald.

## Gaming Introduced.

According to Camden, gaming was introduced into England by the Saxons, and the loser was often made a slave to the winner, and sold in traffic, like other merchandise.

## STEWART AND VANDERBILT.

## Two Anecdotes Showing the Economical Turn of the Noted Millionaires.

Many persons who marvel at the wonderful accumulation of money possessed by some of their fellow citizens do not reflect upon the fact that these accumulations are often due to close economy in expenditure. A reporter lately came across two extraordinary instances of economy on the part of two millionaires, the late Alexander T. Stewart and the late William H. Vanderbilt.

"I shaved Mr. Stewart," said a Fifth avenue hotel barber, "for fifteen years steadily, when he was a patron of the Metropolitan hotel barbershop. In all that time he never once thought of presenting a gratuity. He paid the same price that any other man would for a shave or a hair cut, and that was the end of it. It was even more the custom then than now for regular patrons to tip their regular barbers once in a while, and particularly on Christmas or New Year's. Therefore, Mr. Stewart's omission was all the more singular.

"One afternoon, some years ago, Mr. Stewart dropped into the hotel barber shop and while he was in the chair a severe snow storm came up. I advised him, as he had been quite ill for some time, it would be advisable for him to take a coupe home. I went out to the bar and asked a cabman what was the lowest price for taking Mr. Stewart home. They all knew that there was no use asking a fancy price from him, and to I was told that I could get a coupe for him for \$1.25. I went back and reported. 'Too much—too much!' he said sharply. 'I can't afford any such price. I will ride home in a stage first, and that will only be ten cents,' and so he did."

This anecdote about Mr. Vanderbilt's care of money came from a porter of the Manhattan Beach hotel. "The summer before last," he said, "I was called to the office one afternoon, and told by the clerk that Mr. William H. Vanderbilt was in the house, and that he had mislaid his traveling bag. I was told to find it, if possible. I started out full of dreams of sudden wealth. I went by rail to Bay Ridge, paying my own fare, and found that the bag was not there. Then I paid another fare to New York, and searched all over the landing at the Battery. The bag was not to be found.

Then I paid another fare and went down to the island, and went over into the Oriental hotel, and there I found the bag. It had been taken to that hotel by mistake. I thrust myself up, dusted off the bag and carried it to Mr. Vanderbilt's room, knocked gently and was told to come in, and I presented the bag with a great flourish, and expected, of course, that I should at least get a \$10 bill, as I was out from \$1.25 to \$1.50 and several hours of searching. He said quickly: 'Thanks, porter; I am glad to get it,' and, opening the bag to see if the contents were all right, revealed the fact that there was only a single shirt in it. Then he snapped the bag shut, dived into his trousers pocket and fished out a quarter, by all that is holy. I left that room in a hurry, and you could have knocked me down with a feather when I got out into the hall."—New York Sun.

**Mobilization of the German Army.** It is in the arrangements for mobilization that the German army is wonderfully perfect. The mobilization is as follows: The active army is divided into eighteen army corps, each occupying a particular district and consisting of about 28,000 men. The general commanding the corps is responsible for its mobilization, and has in the stores the clothing, arms and equipment of the recruits and landwehr men. The details, however, are in the hands of the railroad authorities and the police bureau. Each soldier on quitting the active army reports himself to the bureau of police in his district, where his name, age, regiment and destination on mobilization are inscribed. From this data the police bureau furnishes the local railroad authorities with the number of trains required and their direction.

Suppose, now, the telegram for mobilization should be received. Each man thereupon presents himself at once at the police bureau and receives his pass for the journey, goes to the railroad station and is sent off immediately to the headquarters of his regiment. Arrived there, arms and clothing are served out, the officers appear, take command of their companies and regiments and in twenty-four hours an army of 500,000 men is raised to 1,500,000, and in three days can be placed on the frontier with all its parts complete save, of course, the mounted arms, which require three more days to be made ready on account of the necessity of requisitioning the horses.—Gordon Smith in Philadelphia Times.

## The Kaiser's Mysterious Philter.

There is current among the peasants of Bavaria a legend that the long life of Kaiser Wilhelm was due to a mysterious philter of which his imperial majesty alone possessed the secret. How the emperor obtained the magic beverage is not known. It was said to be a kind of spirit which, if it did not give him immortality, would enable him to live many years more, and supply him with sufficient bodily and mental power to retain the government of his vast empire in his own hands.

The legend furthermore states that the German sovereign condescended to make a present of a few drops of the charmed liquid to Marshal Moltke and Prince Bismarck, hence also their respectable age; but strange to say, he declined to give any of it to the crown prince, because he feared his heir would make use of his health, restored by the philter, to force him to abdicate. Several crowned heads have, it appears, applied to the emperor for his wonderful secret, but in vain. The czar, in particular, prayed for some of the spirit, and it was the refusal of the kaiser to oblige him which was the real cause of the present conflict between Russia and Germany.—New York Tribune.

## Great Loss of Force.

In a paper recently read before one of the English associations of engineers, the writer asserted that, according to present methods of dealing with the motive power of the steam engine, only some 30 per cent. was made available, 80 per cent. of the energy developed in the furnace being thrown away, and it is quite common to realize no greater efficiency than about 4 per cent. on the gross or potential energy of the fuel. In large factories, that unit of the power being concentrated in one or two great machines, condensation can be taken advantage of, and, with water heaters, and other appliances, double the above figures realized—but in the very best engines, with all the latest improvements and elaborations, not more than 12½ per cent. has ever been realized, nor is it possible to realize more, and even this 12½ per cent. can only be obtained by the finest of wire drawing and the best of coal.—New York Sun.

## The Heroic Method.

Soldiers in the Russian army are said to be cured of intemperance by a curious and heroic method. The inebriate is locked up, and given only food boiled in his favorite wretched spirit and water. He soon becomes horribly sick, but is kept on this diet until the very sight or scent of spirit creates in him an inextinguishable loathing for it.—Arkansas Traveler.

## A DIVER'S DESCRIPTION

## OF THE COSTUME WORN WHILE UNDER THE WATER.

Going Down to the Bottom of the Sea. The Diving Dress Invented by a Native of Switzerland—Signaling While Under Water.

"I first began diving in 1863," said Capt. Anthony Williams, the famous English diver. "I was a wrecker then, and was raising a sunken ship off the coast of Cornwall. I had working for me a diver who seemed a very lazy, careless sort of a fellow. I was paying him by the day, and once, after being under water for a long time, he came up and reported very little progress in his work. I was angry and expressed myself strongly. He retorted with: 'Try it yourself if you can do any better.'"

"All right," said I, 'let me have your diving dress and I will try it myself.' He thought I was only joking, but I wasn't. He doffed the dress, I put it on and down I went. I discharged him when I came up and have been doing my own diving ever since. "Did he mean to say that he was a diver? Then I will put mine on and give you an idea of one," and the captain retired to his stateroom, whence he presently emerged in full diving costume, except the heavy cast iron helmet, which several of the company raised from the deck and placed upon him, thus making his outfit complete. The dress is really two dresses, one within the other, each of India rubber. The stockings, pants and shirt are all made together as one garment, which the diver enters at the neck, feet first. The hands are left bare, the wrists of the rubber shirt sleeves tightly compressing the wrists. There is a copper breast plate, bearing upon its outer convex surface small screws, which are adjusted through holes in the neck of the shirt, which by means of nuts fastened upon the screws, is held so firmly in place as to render the entire dress, from the neck downward, absolutely air and water tight. Fitting with equal closeness to this breast plate is the helmet mentioned above. It completely encloses the head, and is supplied with three glasses—one in front and one at each side—to enable the diver to look in any direction. A pair of very thick leather shoes, made to lace up the front, and supplied with heavy leaden soles, completes the outfit.

"You see," said the captain, when his helmet had been removed, after everybody had had ample time to criticize his appearance in it, "it takes about fifteen minutes to put these things on, and when the diver is rigged in them all but the helmet there are placed across his shoulders ropes sustaining two leaden weights, one hanging at his back, the other at his breast. He then goes down a ladder into the water up to his armpits, and then the helmet is placed on him, the glass in front is screwed in place, and when everything is made ready he is made aware of the fact by a blow on the top of the helmet. He then goes down by means of a rope previously lowered, hand under hand, to the bottom of the sea. Sometimes, in very strong currents, it is necessary to make the weight extraordinarily heavy in order to hold the diver down, notwithstanding the fact that the dress alone weighs nearly 200 pounds, and yet I do not feel the weight of it down among the fishes any more than I do that of an ordinary suit of clothes out of the water. It was invented in Switzerland by a native of that country named Bauer, who spent a small competency in having it patented, and in trying to bring it into use, but he died a disappointed, heart broken pauper, leaving others to reap the benefit of his invention."

"Can you breathe as freely in your diving dress as you can out of it?"

"Yes, indeed. When ten or twelve fathoms under water my breathing is as wholly devoid of effort as it is when I am walking about on dry land. You know that by means of an air pump, worked by two men, the diver is supplied with air. Through a hose this air passes into the back of his helmet, and near its place of entrance is a spring valve for its escape. This valve can be controlled by the diver, but he usually sets it before going into the water, and seldom disturbs it afterward. The pressure of the air being greater than that of the water, a surplus of the former readily escapes. When this valve is not sufficient, the diver can open in his breastplate a similar spring valve, intended only for such an emergency. He can also regulate the amount of air pumped to him by signals upon the air hose to the men engaged in pumping. One pull upon the hose means more air; two pulls, less air, and two pulls and a shake, 'I want to come up.' These signals on the air hose are generally used by all divers, but each one of us has his own private code of signals on the life line, which is always fastened to the diver's waist, and by means of which he is drawn up out of water. These signals each diver writes down very carefully and gives to the man in charge of the life line. By means of these we can send up for tools, material, etc. When a lengthy communication is to be made we send up for a slate and write all we want to say. It is just as easy to read and write under water as out of it. One can see very plainly, all objects being greatly magnified."—Geoffrey Williston Christine in Chicago Journal.

## A Trick of Counterfeiters.

A gentleman now in one of the city banks, but formerly of the secret service department, said the other day that the public should be very careful in judging counterfeit money by one distinct feature in the bill. "I'll give you an idea of how these fellows work," he said. "They generally make two the same from which different bills are struck off. One of the plates is likely to be a trifle short or long. The public becomes aware of this, and base judgment of its genuineness by measuring a suspicious bill with one known to be good. Well, these fellows will then spring a bill on the town exactly right in length, and everything goes on serenely. They are a cute lot, I tell you, and have many schemes to get rid of their stuff. The fellow who does the shoving never carries more than one bill with him at a time. As soon as he gets rid of it he hands the change he receives to a confederate on the outside and receives another bill. When a party is suspected of trying to shove counterfeit money he should never be arrested on the spot, but should be watched until he meets his confederate on the outside; then you'll get the best man of the two, and most likely the principal. Women are used sometimes to shove the stuff, but they are not reliable, and most counterfeiters steer clear of them in their work."—Chicago News.

## The Lady Boarder.

"Not another morsel," exclaimed the new lady boarder, after eating enough for six able bodied coal heavers. "Not another morsel. Really, I don't know what will become of me; no appetite at all, you know. As my last landlady said, I don't eat enough to keep a bird alive."

The boarders said nothing, but they all began wondering whether the bird she referred to was an ostrich or Simbad's roe.—Boston Traveler.

## PARAGRAPHS OF INTEREST.

Forty-three of Iowa's many school houses are built of logs.

The dervishes of Tafilet, Morocco, have declared a holy war against the sultan.

On Feb. 3, a meeting was held in Tokio to celebrate the translation of the Bible into Japanese. It was begun in 1872.

A company has been formed in Berlin to manufacture electrical watches. Two small cells and a small electric motor take the place of the ordinary movement.

A steam logger, or snow locomotive, lately constructed, is in use in the logging camps of northern Michigan, where it draws with ease sleds holding 30,000 feet of logs over snow a foot deep.

There is still in force in Rhode Island a law forbidding the smoking of a cigar on the main street of any city in the state, and in Vermont the smoking of a cigar on the street on Sunday is made a misdemeanor.

A seed company in Atlanta has just sold to the czar of Russia, through the technological agent of the Russian government at Washington, 200 bushels of cotton seed, the first shipment from this country.

A Chinaman named Confucius has reached England on a visit from his native land. He claims to be a direct descendant in the seventy-second generation of the famous Confucius who gave China a religion.

A novel way to move a house was adopted at the railroad depot at Orlando, Fla., the other day. The house was slipped upon the railroad track, an engine was backed up and hitched on, and the house pulled along, sliding on the tracks.

A Swedish farmer has hit upon the idea of lighting his farm by electric lights, and has purchased a dynamo and connected it with a waterfall close by. The man intends also to employ it for working threshing machines and for similar work.

There are 14,000 acres of vineyards along the Hudson River valley and the average yield is four tons to the acre. At three cents per pound this means \$240 per acre to the grower. Some grow larger crops than this average and realize \$800 per acre in sales.

The pope's income from Peter's pence, which since 1870 has been the only source of revenue left to the papacy, amounts to 6,000,000 francs a year. On the occasion of his recent jubilee the Peter's pence presented to Pope Leo aggregated \$5,000,000 francs.

Macy Warner, who was hanged at Jefferson, Ind., for murder, made the following gallow's speech: "If any of you ever take a glass of whisky, before you put it to your lips think of Macy Warner, and look into the bottom of your glass and see if you can't see a rope there."

Barnum's latest big scheme was the writing of his autobiography on the fly leaf of 2,500 copies of his autobiography. He liked the fun so much that he refused to have the name lithographed, but insisted on writing his name in each copy. The books are for presentation to editors, governors, the president and other great Americans.

In the investigation as to frauds in food and other articles now making by the committee on agriculture of the house of representatives some disgusting exposures have been made. One witness testified that diseased swine are bought and turned into lard and their fat sold for household use. In one case 2,200 smothered hogs were thus used up, and animals suffering from hog cholera are put into the tanks and turned into lard for family use constantly.

## Industrial School for Negroes.

An interesting problem is being solved by Professor B. T. Washington, of Tuskegee, Ala. Professor Washington is a graduate of the Hampton (Va.) Normal and Agricultural institute, which has done so much for the industrial training of young colored men and women. Some seven years ago he started the Tuskegee normal school, with twenty pupils. Today he has 405 bright young men and women from all parts of the south receiving training in the school.

The school pays especial attention to increasing the industrial capacity of the negro in connection with his mental and moral training. At present there are twelve industries taught in the school. All materials used in building are manufactured on the place by the students. The course of study extends over a period of four years, during which time the students may learn, in addition to a regular school education, carpentering, blacksmithing, wheelwrighting, painting, brickmaking, masonry, farming, printing, cooking, laundry work and all household arts.—New York Sun.

## An American Sculptor's Work.

Larkin G. Mead, the American sculptor, who has so long resided in Florence, is engaged upon the most ambitious work of his life. It is a gigantic figure, a river god, which represents the Mississippi river. The figure is in an easy, half recumbent position. Around its flowing locks is twined a wreath of tobacco and cotton leaves. He holds in his right hand an ear of corn with trailing husks, half stripped from the gleaming kernels. The vegetation of the Mississippi valley is represented in the drapery and the features mentioned. An alligator burrows its way through the shelving sand under the lower part of the figure. The left foot is partially buried in the sand, indicating the shelving yielding soil of the valley. Mr. Mead expects to finish the work this year.—Chicago Times.

## Mr. Martin's Big Farm.

The Scotch estate of Mr. Bradley Martin covers 65,000 acres of land, and is about fifteen miles from Inverness. It has a water front on Loch Ness of nineteen miles. The deer forest includes 28,000 acres, and by the terms of his lease Mr. Martin is allowed to kill seventy-five stags a season. They are killed by stalking, not driving, as the former is regarded as the more skillful way. The big house on the estate will hold fifty guests, and the list for the season is already made out. Mr. Martin has loaned a small house, near his own, to Lady Alfred Paget, who will fill it with guests, largely recruited from America.—The Argonaut.

# The Plattsmouth Herald

Is enjoying a Boom in both its

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# The Year 1888

\* Will be one during which the subjects of national interest and importance will be strongly agitated and the election of a President will take place. The people of Cass County who would like to learn of

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of this year and would keep pace with the times should

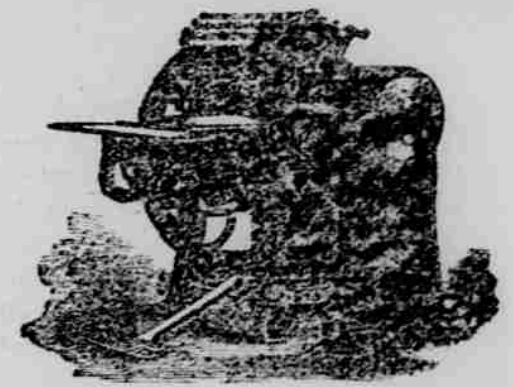
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