

HORROR OF AFRICAN NIGHT.

Traveler Describes Peculiar Conditions That Exist in Regions of the Dark Continent.

Caroline Kirkland, in her book on "Some African Highways," writes of night in the dark continent: "There is nothing so black as an African night, and I think that it is because the earth, being a deep red, offers no reflection to the faint starlight, such as we get in other lands. Instead it wallows up what slight glow there may be, and gives to the darkness a dense, velvety quality not to be found anywhere else. Overhead the stars glare more brilliantly than in northern latitudes, but they seem to cast no light, and the night is palpable suffocating, appalling and filled with a nameless horror which is quite indescribable."

In a single sentence the same writer gives a forcible idea of the sleeping sickness: "While there is nothing acutely distressing about this manner of dying, nothing to equal the terrors of other vital diseases like cancer or tuberculosis, there is something peculiarly sinister in the slow, stealthy, irresistible approach of death, whose course no known remedy can stay or alter."

Of African lions Miss Kirkland writes: "As a rule it is only old lions who attack human beings. They grow too decrepit to be able to catch the more agile antelopes who are their lawful prey, so, goaded by a hunger which age cannot wither or lessen, they pounce on unwary mortals."

Coming Down Easy.

Inquiries after the welfare of Patrick Conroy were answered by his devoted friend, Terence Dolan, who was at the Conroy's in the double capacity of nurse and cook. "No, he's not dangerously hurt at all," was Mr. Dolan's reply to a solemnly whispered question at the door.

"We heard he had a bad fall and was all broke to pieces," whispered the neighbor.

"'Tis a big story you've heard," said Mr. Dolan, in his cheerful roar. "Thru, he fell off'n the roof o' the Brady stables, where he was shingling and he broke his left leg, knocked out a couple of teeth and broke his collar-bone."

"Mind ye, if he'd have fell clear to the ground it might have hurted him bad, but sure there was a big pile of shingles and old lumber that broke his fall."—Youth's Companion

Hunger.

Hunger is God's instrument in bringing the idler to toil, and Hunger waits to work her will on the idler and the waster.—J. R. Green.

First Use of Kerosene.
"Kerosene" seems to have been first used in United States patent No. 12,612 of March 27, 1855, granted to Abraham Gesner of Williamsburg, N. Y., and assigned to the North American Kerosene Gas Light Company. In the preamble to his specification Gesner states that he has "invented and discovered a new and useful manufacture or composition of matter, being a new liquid hydrocarbon which I denominate 'kerosene.'" "Coal oil" was the term in general use before "kerosene" was invented.

Easy Enough to Reform.
Stop grumbling. Get up two hours earlier in the morning and do something out of your regular profession. Mind your own business and with all your might let other people's alone. Live within your means. Give away or sell your dog. Go to bed early. Talk less of your own peculiar gifts and virtues and more of those of your friends and neighbors. Be cheerful. Fulfill your promises. Pay your debts. Be yourself all you would see in others. Be a good man and stop grumbling.—Sheffield (Ia.) Press.

Judged by Their Trousers.
A study of the trouser legs, as seen in the photographs of our most noted men, bring the smile of contempt from even the most disinterested; and one wonders if anything could be uglier than the concealing folds of the clumsy elephantine outlines that are there to be seen. Breeches, knickers and kilts are all far more artistic and healthy.—London Tailor and Cutter.

Examination Fever.
Examination fever in a terribly acute form has been developed by a learned doctor of Cambridge university. It is nearly fifty years since he matriculated, and he has degrees in three faculties, but he still accumulates first classes in the special (or pass) B. A. degree examinations in various subjects; last month he added the ninth specimen to his collection.—London University Correspondent.

Daylight and Twilight.
A sad nature sheds forth twilight. A merry and mirthful nature brings daylight. A suspicious nature insensibly imparts its chill to every generous soul within its reach. A bold and frank nature overcomes meanness in men. Firmness makes them fine. Taste directs, stimulates and develops taste.—Henry Ward Beecher.

Drilling for "the Seventeenth."
Drill instructor Casey—Now, mln, yez will take one stip to the rare, thin one to the front, thin one to the rare agin, an' yez'll be as yez were before yez were as yez are now!—Judge.

LESSON BROUGHT HOME TO HIM.
A Wonderful Child Explains Other People's Viewpoint to Father.

He was a doctor, and not such a young doctor either. That is to say, he had been practicing for nearly ten years. An interesting event happened in his family and he found himself the father of a very fine girl, his first born. A patient who happened in about three days after the event didn't have a great deal of chance to talk about his particular ailments because the father was very eager to tell all about the child.

"I've helped to bring a lot of children into the world," said the doctor, "and I know a lot about them. But I want to tell you that this is about the finest I've ever seen. Now that may seem to you merely to be the enthusiasm of a father, but really I know it's so." And he went on for some time telling about the merits of his offspring, how she was a finely formed child and embraced all the perfections.

He had turned over the duties of attending to his wife and child to another doctor, as the custom is more or less among physicians. This was the reason for one thing the doctor said.

"One afternoon when the baby was only three days old she sneezed. Some way or another that made me nervous and so I decided to call up the doctor.

"It happened he wasn't at home and nothing would do but I must tell his wife all about it over the telephone. She just laughed at me and that sobered my excitement.

"Afterward I thought how angry I might have been had some one of my patients called me up on a foolish matter like that. It just goes to show that this sort of thing is done right along by folks who ought to know better."

Getting Into Practice.
It is often pleasanter to theorize than to perform. A young law student, says a writer in the Philadelphia Inquirer, was making a study of certain processes of his future profession. He showed an inclination to sit in the house and speculate idly, instead of doing some of the domestic tasks which stood waiting.

"Deduction is an interesting process," declared the youth to his father. "For example, there is a heap of ashes in the yard. That is evidence that the family has recently had fires."

"Well, John," interrupted his father, "suppose you pursue your studies a little farther by going out and seeing that pile of ashes."—Youth's Companion.

Woke Up with a Thirst.
Queen Elizabeth of England is reported to have drunk a quart of ale every day with her breakfast.

HANGMAN WAS ALSO SURGEON.
Until 100 Years Ago Executioners Were Permitted to Practice.

Two or three centuries ago executioners not infrequently performed surgical operations, says the British Medical Journal. This seems to have been particularly the case in Denmark. July 21, 1579, a license was issued by Frederick II. to Anders Froimut, executioner of Copenhagen, granting him the right to set bones and treat old wounds; he was expressly forbidden to meddle with recent wounds, in 1609 it is recorded in the municipal archives of Copenhagen that Gaspar, the hangman, had received four rix-dalers for the cure of two sick children in the infirmary. In 1638 Christian IV. summoned the executioner of Gluckstadt in Holstein to examine the diseased foot of the crown prince. In a letter addressed to Ole Worm, a leading Danish physician of the day, Henry Koster, physician-in-ordinary to the king, complains bitterly of the slight thus put upon him. He says that for two whole months the hangman, "who is as fit to treat the case as an ass is to play the lyre," had the case in hand and the doctor was not asked his advice. . . . Again, in 1681, Christian V. gave a fee of 200 rix-dalers to the Copenhagen hangman for curing the leg of a page. In 1732, Bergen, an executioner in Norway, was authorized by royal decree to practice surgery.

Even up to the early years of the nineteenth century this extraordinary association of surgery with the last penalty of the law continued. Erik Peterson, who was appointed public executioner at Trondhjem in 1796, served as surgeon to an infantry regiment in the war with Sweden, and retired in 1814 with the rank of surgeon-major. Frederick I. of Prussia chose his favorite hangman, Coblenz, to be his physician-in-ordinary. It might be suspected that this peculiar combination of functions had its origin in a satirical view of the art of healing; but in the records we have quoted we can trace nothing of the kind. Perhaps the executioner drove a trade in human fat and other things supposed to possess marvelous healing properties; he may thus have come to be credited with skill in healing, though the association surely represents the lowest degree to which the surgeon has ever fallen in public esteem and social position.

Choosing a Vocation.
It is very certain that no man is fit for everything; but it is almost certain, too, that there is scarcely any one man who is not fit for something, which something nature plainly points out to him by giving him tendency and propensity to it. I look upon common sense to be to the mind what conscience is to the heart—the faithful and constant monitor of what is right or wrong. And I am convinced that no man commits either a crime or a folly but against the manifest and sensible representations of the one or the other. Every man finds in himself, either from nature or education—for they are hard to distinguish—a peculiar bent and disposition to some particular character; and his struggling against it is the fruitless and endless labor of Sisyphus. Let him follow and cultivate that vocation; he will succeed in it, and be considerable in one way at least; whereas, if he departs from it, he will, at best, be inconsiderable, probably ridiculous.—Lord Chesterfield.

Dickens' Method of Speaking.
Before making a speech Charles Dickens would decide on his various heads and then in his mind's eye liken the whole subject to the tire of a cart wheel—he being the hub. From the hub to the tire he would run as many spokes as there were subjects to be treated and during the progress of the speech he would deal with each spoke separately, elaborating them as he went round the wheel; and when all the spokes dropped out one by one and nothing but the tire and space remained he would know that he had accomplished his task and that his speech was at an end.

American Girls Responsible.
Probably the American woman is answerable for a good deal of the unrest among the daughters of France for she comes among them with all sorts of daring projects and perfectly lovely clothes. She marries their brothers, she studies art music and literature in their country and she walks serenely on along the path of liberty, to the amazement of men angels and the Parisian.—The Queen.

Simulation Wins.
Some pretty long-headed philosophers hold that if you are not jealous of your wife you must make her think you are.—Detroit Free Press.

Great Britain Far Behind.
Within a circle of 50 miles in diameter, with its center in New York, there are more telephones than in all Great Britain.

Duty on Imported Negroes.
In 1652 a duty was imposed on negroes imported "into New Netherland to work on their Bouweries."

Russia's Rate of Growth.
The population of Russia is increasing at the rate of 2,500,000 a year.

Sustaining Power.
Were it not for hope the heart would break.—Irish Proverb.

First Postal Card.
The first postal card was sped on its way in 1879.

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MUSIC APPEALS TO ESKIMOS.
Voices Good and They Sing in Tune, According to Traveler in Regions of the North.

Music is one of the chief pleasures and accomplishments of the Eskimos. At the Labrador missions violins are used by them in the church choir, and brass bands are organized. In "Along the Labrador Coast" Dr. Townsend tells of an evening's entertainment with the Eskimos at Nain.

"For over an hour these natives sing to us," he says, "familiar music with Eskimo words—'Rock of Ages,' 'Holy Night,' interspersed with what I take to be secular songs. Their voices are harmonious and the singing is of a superior order. We return the compliment in the only way we can with a graphophone. It is indeed a terrible come-down to 'The Old Apple Tree' and 'Everybody Works But Father,' but the Eskimos seem to enjoy it, and greet the songs and their explanation by the interpreter with peals of laughter.

"A song in which a man beats his wife seems especially to amuse them. A Moravian brother told me that they

had been unable to win the Eskimo from the wife-beating habit. Even the wives resent any interference on this score.

"An Irish jig makes them shake with joy, and I am sure they would dance were there room to stir."

Terms for Inebriety.
According to Hotten, some of the terms denoting inebriety are as follows: Beery, bemused, boozey, bosky, comed, foggy, fou, fresh, hazy, elevated, kisky, lushy, moony, muggy, muzzy, on, screwed, stowed, tight and winy. In an intermediate class stand podgy, beargered, blued, cut, primed, lumpy, plowed, muddled, obfuscated, swikey, three sheets in the wind and topheavy. "But the acme," says the same authority, "is only obtained when the disguised individual 'can't see a hole in the ladder,' or when he is 'all mops and brooms,' or 'off his nut,' or 'with his main-brace well spliced,' or 'with the sun in his eyes,' or when he has 'lapped the gutter' and 'got the gravel rash,' or 'op the rantan,' or 'on the re-raw,' or when he is 'sewed up,' or 'regularly scampered.'"

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To our line of rugs we have lately added the Olson Fluff—a rug you are no doubt acquainted with and which gives the best of wear at moderate prices:

Size 27 inches by 45 inches\$1.45
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" 36 " " 72 "2.50

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TIME IS MONEY



We have more "time" than we really need, so propose to divide it with our readers. We still have on hand nineteen clocks like the illustration above. These little time keepers stand about 9 1-2 inches high, are handsomely finished in oxidized copper, are fitted with alarms, and are excellent timekeepers in every respect. If you want one renew your subscription for a year in advance and send us one new subscriber. Or, if preferable, renew your own subscription and pay 50 cents for the clock. This clock would sell regularly for \$1.50 or \$1.75. Order early as only a few remain.

The News-Herald.