

FOUGHT AN EAGLE IN MID AIR.

A Lineman's Capture While at Work in San Bernardino Valley.

Bert Barnes, a telephone lineman, who resides in Los Angeles, Cal., was at work recently in the San Bernardino valley when he met with a lively experience. "I was alone in a lonely part of the valley and apparently there wasn't a living thing within rifle shot of me. I was just about to descend from the pole when I observed a shadow circling over the sand below me. Looking up I saw an eagle whirling around in the air, always keeping its glittering eyes fixed on me. For a weapon I had only my hammer, but I resolved to make that as serviceable as possible, and I had no time for misgivings as to the outcome of the encounter. Twice the monster came to the attack. A sudden turn and a setting of the wings brought the immense body very close to me. The talons were curved and the legs drawn up ready to strike. The heavy beak was half opened. I could only turn part way around as my 'climbers' of ankle spikes, upon which I depended for support, were firmly driven into the wood. It was fortunate that at the second attack the bird was directly before me, for it allowed me the full swing of my right arm, and swing I did, with a vengeance. It's no use for me to say where the blow struck. Things were too confused for me to judge just exactly, and I only know that a moment later the great brown bird lay fluttering on the ground at the bottom of the pole and my hammer lay beside it. The bird was not dead—only stunned. I climbed quickly down and securely tied it with some pieces of twine and I have it now alive."

THE TRAIN MAN'S DIALECT.

Lucid Description of a Collision Given by a Brakeman.

The train hand has a patois of his own. It is distinct from all other dialects and to the uninitiated it is an unknown tongue.

Mr. James Farnsworth, division passenger agent of the East Tennessee, gives a fair sample of it in an account of a brakeman's testimony on a trial of a suit for damages against the road. There had been a collision, a tail-end.

The witness was on the caboose of the forward train into which the engine of the second section plunged. He saw the second section approaching when it was some distance away.

"I was standing on de dink and saw her a-comin'. Mr. McCloughlin he pull de screamer for brakes, but he couldn't stop her. She come a bilin' and Lord how she did roar. Dat locomotive look as big as Kenesaw mountain. We were pillin' down grade fifty miles an hour. Mr. McCloughlin he pull back de calf tongue. De fire it did fly, but she kept a-comin' right on us. I saw it was no place for dis nigger and I jined de bird gang."

Trying to Reclaim the Mojave Desert.

The reclamation of 200,000 acres of the Mojave desert is one of the most stupendous enterprises ever undertaken in Southern California, and from the indications the enterprise will go through. The plan is to irrigate the large acreage near the mining town of Victor, in San Bernardino county, this side of the Needles. The company having the project under consideration is the Victor irrigation company. Some of the best engineers in the state have reported upon the enterprise as a most favorable one and very feasible. It is understood that the lanes thus irrigated will be colonized, when that part of the desert is expected to blossom as the rose.

Absurd Answers.

At an Eastern school of cookery, two passages from a recent examination paper are amusing. One question was: "Describe a thermometer and its notation." It brought forth this answer: "A thermometer has two good points, the boiling point and the freezing point. The former is useful for potatoes and the latter for ice cream." The other reply was elicited by the lecturer in giving a practical lesson on fish cookery, who said: "First you take the fish and wash it well, and then—Admit Papil, interrupting—How absurd! Just fancy having to wash a fish—and after it has spent all its life in water, too."

An Amazing Geographical Fact.

The shortest line that can be drawn upon the earth's surface, one end being at the mouth of the Mississippi river and the other at Peking, China, will cross the Behring straits. If you doubt this assertion, take a large globe and a piece of thread or string and make the measurements to suit yourself. When we begin the Mississippi river and Peking railroad, what do you say to commencing it at the Asiatic end of the line, so as to get cheap labor and cheap building material? We can easily ship our almond-eyed help back after the road is finished!

Brother Potherry.

"Brother Potherry," suddenly remarked Parson Wilgus in the midst of his discourse, "as you seem to be the only member of the congregation who is awake, it might be just as well for you to come up here in the pulpit, where I can repeat the rest of my sermon to you in a conversational tone. It will save my voice and also be less annoying to the tight sleepers."

A Friendless Man.

A convict died in the Connecticut state prison at the close of last week, who had been there eight years and had never received or sent a letter. When sick unto death he was asked by the warden if he wished his friends notified and replied that he had no friends to notify. He was 53 years of age.

LOCHINVAR IN A BUGGY.

Girl Elopes with Another Man on Her Wedding Night.

From Oakman, Walker county, Alabama, comes the story of a marriage which did not take place in the usual way. James Willingham, a prominent young farmer residing near Berry, was to have been married a few nights ago to a Miss Brown, one of the belles of Oakman. All preparations were made for the affair, which was expected to be the swell society event of the season. Willingham and four friends drove over from Berry to Oakman in buggies. They reached the home of the prospective bride's parents but a short time before the hour set for the marriage. The guests were rapidly gathering and the kitchen and dining-room presented a scene of great activity, where preparations were in progress for an elaborate wedding supper. Just before the arrival of the happy hour it was found that the bride was missing. Investigation brought to light the fact that a short time before she had quietly left the house and, having met another lover, had eloped with him. The pair drove rapidly across the country to Jasper and were married. Willingham took the matter good naturedly, but the assembled guests and the parents of the young lady were greatly shocked. However, at Willingham's suggestion the supper was served and all partook of it, none more heartily than the disappointed young man whose intended bride at that hour was hurrying to Jasper with a young farmer named J. T. Echols.

REVOLUTIONIZE SCIENCE.

No Toad Has Ever Been Found Inclosed in Solid Rock.

From the Milwaukee Journal: Stories of toads inclosed in solid rock are not at all uncommon, but of all the reported cases not one has ever been substantiated. When investigated it is found that they are made-up stories or that there was no toad or no rock or was a way for him to get in or out. People who find toads in solid rock must understand that it is an important matter. If ever there is one single case verified beyond dispute of finding a toad or any other living animal in an absolutely solid rock the science of geology will be swept from the realms of belief. The doctrine of evolution will crumble to airy nothings. Half of the exact sciences will have to be reorganized on an entirely new basis. Accumulated human knowledge will have to be revised from the bottom and most of what is so called rejected entirely. So the man who finds the toad had better be pretty sure that it is a toad in a solid rock, and while he is about it he had better have witnesses and photographs and every thing possible to be had in proof of his assertion, for it will be doubted. If he proves his case no man ever known will have such enduring fame. Just find the toad, gentlemen.

Just try a 10c box of Cascarets, the finest liver and bowel regulator ever made.

Pay your subscription.

Her Grace.

An Englishwoman of rank, a duchess, was very apt to forget to pay her bills. A milliner, whose large bill had been repeatedly ignored by the duchess, at last determined to send her little girl for the money which was so much needed. "Be sure and say 'your grace' to the duchess," said the anxious mother, and the child gravely promised to remember. When, after a long wait, she was ushered into the presence of her grace, the little girl dropped her a low courtesy, and then, folding her hands and closing her eyes, said softly: "For what I am about to receive, may the Lord make me truly thankful." As she opened her eyes and turned her wistful gaze on the duchess, that person turned very red and without delay made out a check for the amount due her milliner.

Note of Discard.

Persons organizing ecclesiastical processions should heed this solemn warning from an English critic who described a recent elaborate function: Any one who ties his handkerchief over his head (especially if he be a bishop, and his handkerchief a red one) strikes a note of discord that nothing can redeem.

Women Criminals Outnumber Men.

Russia's penal statistics show that in the domain of the czar the women criminals outnumber the men by nearly 50 per cent, just the contrary being the case in other countries. Most of the women criminals are unmarried, and the majority come from the laboring classes in the cities.

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CONCERNING PLANTS.

What Effect Transformation Has on Them—The Almond and Peach.

That the luscious peach has been derived from the hard-shelled almond can no longer be denied. It is said that the peach in its original soil was a virulent poison, and that the Persian warriors brought to Persia some of the seeds and planted them for the purpose of poisoning the points of their arrows, so as to render wounds caused by them to be fatal, but a change of climate and soil produced a fruit which is not only luscious but esteemed exceedingly healthful.

The small black sloe has been transformed into the juicy and golden yellow gage plum, says the Pittsburgh Commercial Gazette, and the most-delicious pippins owe their origin to the diminutive, acid crab apple. The savory cantelope, in a wild state in India, varies from the size of a plum to that of a lemon, and in most cases is either insipid or bitter.

In Sicily there is a wild grass which, when ripe at the end of the summer, is gathered by the peasantry, tied in bundles and set on fire, not, however, to be consumed, but for a mere scorching. The flame flies rapidly through the light husks and beard of the plant and leaves the seeds slightly roasted, in which state they are eaten with considerable relish by numbers of the rural population. The botanical name of this Sicilian grass is agilops or goat's eye, the Greeks having believed it to be a remedy for a disease that appears in one corner of the eye.

The most remarkable fact concerning this plant, the goat's eye, is that it has been proven by experiment to be the parent of cultivated wheat. This fact was accidentally discovered by a French agriculturist. He wished to determine what effect cultivation would have upon the goat's eye, and planted, remote from any field of grass that might mingle with it, a few of the seed. The first crop showed much difference from the original, being two or three times taller and more grains to the stalk. At the end of seven years' experimenting the yield was over 300 grains for each one planted, and the transformation was complete; every plant was a true representative of cultivated wheat. Later he sowed them in open fields, and in no instance have they returned to the form of the original goat's eye grass.

The same experiments have since been tried by the English Agricultural Society with the same results. The nearest form to true wheat now found growing wild is the creeping couch grass, a perennial closely agreeing in all essential particulars of structure with our cultivated annual wheat.

Everybody Says So.

Cascarets Candy Cathartic, the most wonderful medical discovery of the age, pleasant and refreshing to the taste, act gently and positively on kidneys, liver and bowels, cleansing the entire system, dispel colds, cure headache, fever, habitual constipation and biliousness. Please buy and try a box of C. C. C. today—10, 25, 50 cents. Sold and guaranteed to cure by all druggists.

Similar, but Different.

Landlord (to delinquent tenant)—Well, what do you propose to do about the rent? Tenant (examining own trousers)—"Oh, it's not so bad, ty tailor can fix it all right."

Population of Russia.

The revised returns of the Russian census gives the total population of that country at 129,000,000. This makes Russia third in rank among nations. China coming first, with an estimated population of 400,000,000, and the British empire next, with 298,000,300.

Displaced.

Watts—The displacement of men by machinery has been great in recent years. Potts—And it is still going on. Only yesterday I was going across Pennsylvania street and found myself displaced by a bicycle with great precipitancy.—Indianapolis Journal.

About the Sex of It.

He—The sum of woman's happiness may be put into three words—I love you. She—And the sum of man's happiness may also be expressed in three words—"Pay to boarder."

Mother-in-Law to Abeyants.

Abeyants' social code provides for a fair chance to young married couples by forbidding the bride's mother to visit her daughter till a year after the marriage.

Get your neighbor to subscribe.

Africa a Bone of Contention.

From the Lynchburg Advance: It has been predicted that Africa would be the theater of the great struggle between European powers in the next century, as America was in the last two centuries. Bishop Hartell of the Methodist Episcopal Church, after a close observation of the situation, indorses the opinion. There are already signs of the coming trouble. Germany is watching British progress in Africa with a jealous eye and only wants a pretext to interfere in order to stop that progress. The French are continually encroaching on the sphere of British influence, and though the French government disowns the acts of overzealous French officers, still the government holds whatever they acquire. Africa is a rich prize, and English, Germans and French, to say nothing of Italians, will all seek to gain as large a slice of the continent as possible. It requires no prophetic powers to predict that England will outstrip all her rivals in the race. She has a firm foothold now both in Egypt and South Africa and every year is acquiring additional territory. England is the great colonizer of the age, and her great naval power will give her an immense advantage in the coming struggle.

LETTING THE CAT ESCAPE.

Fanny Wanted to Tell Her Mother and Practically Succeeded.

George had proposed and been accepted for several weeks, but the girl's esteemed parents had not been informed of it and they were exceedingly anxious and curious to know how matters stood, says the Detroit Free Press. The other morning the mother began a little detective work on the daughter.

"Fannie," she said cautiously, hasn't George Smuggins been here every night this week?"

"Yes, mamma, every night so far," responded the dutiful Fannie.

"And this will be Saturday night?"

"Yes, mamma."

"He seems to be coming pretty often, doesn't he?"

"It doesn't seem to be very often to me, mamma."

"Oh," and the old lady elevated her eyebrows curiously. "Did you hear your father when he came in last night?"

"No, mamma," said the girl demurely.

"Oh, you didn't?" replied the mother quickly. "Didn't he see you sitting in George's lap as he came in?"

"No, mamma," and the girl never turned a hair.

"Well," snapped the old lady, feeling that she was foiled, "I'd like to know why he didn't."

"The girl smiled a gentle, forgiving, trusting, happy little smile.

"Because, mamma," she whispered, coming over to her—"because the parlor door was shut."

Hair and Physical Strength.

The discussion as to abundance of hair being evidence of strength has again come up, some arguing that there was nothing novel in Samson's strength being in his hair, and others that as a rule the strongest men are least blessed with an abundant hair covering. There are necessarily exceptions to all rules, but most feats of strength of modern times have been performed by people with luxuriant hair. There are five or six women now traveling with dime museum shows lifting enormous weights with their hands or teeth and performing other extraordinary feats of strength, and nearly all of them have magnificent heads of hair.

Among prize-fighters the same rule applies, and although athletes generally keep their hair cut very close to the head, they usually have a very thick growth of hair and are seldom bald. Ancient history is delved into a great deal in the discussion, but the fact remains that the strongest men of to-day have in almost every instance not only heavy heads of hair, but also quite a substantial growth on the chest and arms. It may be that excessive bodily vigor and activity promote the growth of hair, or that the hair itself is an evidence of strength, but which ever may be the cause and the effect the combination exists as a very general rule.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

An Expert Carver.

With a jack-knife James Ingram, of East Bradford, has carved on a dogwood cane a fox hunt, with a dozen hounds and a mounted hunter or two in the chase.

GOOD ADVICE.

From a Friend Often Saves Lives.

How many remedies are recommended to suffering persons by their friends. In a great many cases a cure is effected by a remedy recommended in such a way. Mrs. Frances M. Haggitt, 819 New street, Knoxville, Tenn., was suffering with female trouble (catarrh of the pelvic organs). Peruna was recommended to her by a friend. She took it and was cured. The following is an extract from a letter written by her to Dr. Hartman: "I suffered terribly with female weakness for two years. I took many different remedies, but they failed to cure me. A friend advised me to take Peruna after reading one of Dr. Hartman's advertisements. I got five bottles of Peruna. In four days after I began taking it I felt better, and in a short time was entirely cured. If it had not been for that medicine I would be dead now, for I kept getting worse all the time. I heartily recommend Dr. Hartman's treatment as the best in the world."

Dr. Hartman has written a book especially for women. It treats of the catarrhal diseases of women, and is of very great interest to catarrhal sufferers. "Health and Beauty" will be sent free by addressing the Peruna Drug Manufacturing Company, Columbus, Ohio. Ask your druggist for a free Peruna almanac for 1898.

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A Perfect Machine at a Popular Price.

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Why pay three times as much in order to secure a popular name? When you buy some machines you pay 75 per cent for the name and 25 per cent for the machine. We sell you a Sewing Machine that will sew, and charge you nothing for the name. If you do not like the name "Independent," paint red over it and call the machine what you will. We are doing the advertising, and it does not cost us much. We buy the machines direct from one of the largest manufacturers in the world at FACTORY COST, and we offer them to our subscribers at an exceptionally low price, and all we want in addition is One Subscriber. Our "Independent" Machine is a thoroughly first-class Family Sewing Machine, and is retained under its original name at \$65.00. Our arrangements with the manufacturers will not allow us to use their name, but instead we call it "Independent."

HIGH ARM, HIGH GRADE, NOISELESS, LIGHT RUNNING, SELF-THREADING, SEWING MACHINE.

Awarded the Medal Premium at the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago in 1893.

EVERY MACHINE WARRANTED.—A written warranty accompanies each Machine. All parts are interchangeable, and we can supply duplicates at any time. Each part of the Machine is fitted with such exactness that no trouble can arise with any part, as new pieces can be supplied with the assurance of a perfect fit.

Our "Independent" is a strictly high-grade Sewing Machine, and finished throughout in the best possible manner. It possesses all modern improvements, and its mechanical construction is such that in its acrobatic simplicity with great strength, thus insuring ease of running, durability, and making it impossible for the Machine to be put out of order. It sews fast and makes a perfect stitch with all kinds of thread and all classes of material. Always ready for use and unrivaled for speed, durability and quality of work.

Notice the following points of superiority.

THE HEAD swings on patent socket hinges, and is firmly held down by a thumb screw. It is strong, substantial, neat and handsome in design, and beautifully ornamented in gold. The bed plate has rounded corners and is inlaid or countersunk, making it flush with the top of the table. HIGHEST ARM—The space under the arm is 5 1/2 inches high and 9 inches long. This will admit the largest skirts, even quilts. IT IS SELF-THREADING—There are absolutely no holes to put the thread through except the eye of the needle. THE SHUTTLES is cylinder, open on the end, entirely self-threading, easy to put in or take out; bobbin holds a large amount of thread. THE STRITCH REGULATOR is on the bed of the Machine, beneath the bobbin winder, and has a scale showing the number of stitches to the inch, can be changed from 8 to 32 stitches to the inch. THE FEED is double and extends on both sides of the needle; never fails to take the goods through; never stops at seams; movement is positive; no springs to break and get out of order; can be raised and lowered at will. AUTOMATIC BOBBIN WINDER—An arrangement for filling the bobbin automatically and perfectly smooth without holding the thread. The Machine does not run while winding the bobbin. LIGHT RUNNING—The Machine is easy to run, does not fatigue the operator, makes little noise and sews rapidly. THE STRITCH is a double-lock stitch, the same on both sides, will not ravel, and can be changed without stopping the Machine. THE TENSION is a flat spring tension and will admit thread from 8 to 150 spool cotton without changing. Never gets out of order. THE NEEDLE is a straight, self-setting needle, flat on one side, and cannot be put in wrong. NEEDLE BAR is round, made of case-hardened steel, with oil cup at bottom to prevent oil from getting on the goods. ADJUSTABLE BEARINGS—All bearings are case-hardened steel and can be easily adjusted with a screwdriver. All lost motion can be taken up, and the Machine will last a life time. ATTACHMENTS—Each Machine is furnished with the following set of best steel attachments FREE: One Foot Hammer Feller, one Package of Needles, six Bobbins, one Wrench, one Screw Driver, one Shuttle Screw Driver, one Presser Foot, one Belt and Hook, one Oil Can filled with oil, one Gauge, one Gauge Screw, one Quilter, and one Instruction Book.

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