

FIVE FEET OF LIZARD.

Faculties of the Japanese Salamander—Powerful Jaws of the Reptile.

Superintendent Ohnimus, of Woodward's Gardens a few days ago shipped away one of the ugliest and most repulsive looking object ever at the gardens or anywhere else, says the San Francisco Examiner.

It was the Japanese salamander. For six years the reptile has lived in a pond about four feet in depth, and except when the water was drawn off to be replaced by some that was fresher, has been seen but two or three times by visitors or any body else. It usually rested on the bottom, apparently in a dormant shape, or moving sluggishly about, and lived on animalcules and tadpoles.

The reptile is over five feet in length, and formed very much like an alligator, with the exception of the head, which is broad and rounded, about twice the size of a dinner-plate. At the ends of the short, straight legs are feet with five fingers, resembling hands. The leathery skin is of a dark brown color, dotted with yellowish spots.

Sometimes when the water was drained off Mr. Ohnimus would experiment with the reptile, and found that although usually very slow of movement, when aroused it could travel like a flash, and the strong, toothless jaw could snap a large, heavy cane in two as though it were a match.

Before it was purchased by Mr. Woodward he secured it for exhibition, paying \$50 a day for three months, and the salamander was a drawing card. This specimen is said to be the third one of the kind ever in captivity and the largest known. It was captured in one of the interior lakes of Japan, the only place where they have been found.

Comparatively little is known of the habits of this particular species. The popular belief has been that the salamander had not been furnished with eyes, but a series of experiments made with this one by the use of a powerful lens and other means, demonstrated that it is the possessor of one pair, but so exceedingly small in size that it is very difficult to distinguish them.

It has nothing in common with the salamanders of Pliny, Aristotle and Dioscorides, to which were attributed all sorts of malefic powers, such as being as poisonous as aconite, so venomous that a touch of its saliva caused the hair to fall out, and capacity to put out fire merely by walking through it. Asbestos was formerly called salamander's hair, and even Marco Polo insisted that asbestos was the plumage of the salamander.

The Japanese reptile at all events is merely a toothless amphibious lizard of huge measurements and are a rare thing under the sun.

Baron Henry Von Siebold, secretary of the German legation in Japan, is said to be the purchaser and to have paid \$1,000 for the creature. It was placed in a long box, and with a plentiful supply of wet blankets wrapped about it, was sent on its voyage to form an attraction in one of the largest museums in Germany.

Baron Von Siebold's father, an eminent naturalist with a world-wide fame, was the first to bring the attention of the scientific world to the Japanese salamander, and had the privilege of giving it a scientific name that bears some resemblance to his own.

HE GUYED THE FARMER.

But the Old Man Was Only Haxseed On the Outside.

He was a gay young officer, and Uncle Sam was in luck to have such a hired man, says the Philadelphia Times. The car was crowded, and he had to set his bright new uniform right down beside a dingy old farmer-looking chap.

"Well, my avuncular relative," said he speaking up so that the passengers might have a chance to join in the laugh, "what promise does the of whom one touch makes us all akin hold forth touching the particular of farinaceous cereals?"

The passengers—those who understood him and those who didn't, snickered.

"How's the wheat crop, he?" replied the dingy personage. "Fust-rate, fust-rate."

"Is that which fell alike by the wayside, into barren places, and upon good ground completely subterranean?"

The passengers laughed.

"Is the seed all under ground, eh?" said the countryman. "Sure, all the seed's done and things are sproutin'."

"Has your retina been impressed by any members of the advance guard of the cantharis v.t.t.t.?"

The passengers giggled.

"Seen any potato bugs, eh?" said the rustic, "you bet; seen lots of potato bugs, but nary an army worm."

"No?" said the gay young officer, hastily heading off an incipient laugh.

"And why is the army worm no longer with you?"

"Well," said the old professor from the Podunk agricultural college, "I heard that most of them had been jagged for duplicating their pay accounts."

The passengers roared.

Taking Fish by Electricity.

"There is no longer any need of the fairy tales told by amateur fishermen," said an electrical expert last night.

Wizard Edison has turned out a fish hook, or rather a hook for all sorts of fish, from the cod down to the minnow, that will stun the fish the moment it touches the hook. If a man gets a bite at all he is sure of his fish.

"The trouble with the amateur fisherman is that he cannot land his capture, but with this new electrical device he will have no trouble in catching all the fish he wants if they are biting."—New York Telegram.

THE USE OF GLASS.

Its First Discovery Is Lost in the Mists of the Past.

Since the days when Pliny's fabled Phœnician mariners were supposed to have discovered the art of making glass by burning seaweed on the sandy shore the art of glass-making has made enormous strides. But the Phœnicians were not the discoverers. The Egyptians know about glass long before them, as is proved not alone by many pictures of glass blowers on the old tombs and monuments, but by the discovery of the article itself in many forms in excavations at Egypt, Ninevah, Troy and Alexandria. The arts of cutting, grinding, gilding and coloring glass were practiced 370 years before Christ. Pieces in the forms of lenses, vases and bottles have been found in Rome, Pompeii and Herculaneum, but no windows. The first glass windows in England were introduced by the Abbott Benedict A. D. 674. The Venetian glassmakers and glassblowers were celebrated in the thirteenth century as they are celebrated to-day.

The manufacture of glass was one of the earliest industries in this country, and to-day the glass manufacturers—especially the mirror manufacturers—stand among the foremost and best in the world. The first factory spoken of was at Salem, Mass., and was the property of one Ananias Conklin, the position of his factory is even now known as Glasshouse Field. In 1746 there was a factory at Jamestown, Va., and in 1750 there was another at Germantown, Mass. But the first of which any real history exists was organized by Robert Hewes of Boston at Temple, N. H., 1790.

To begin to enumerate the uses to which glass is put one would have to enumerate every trade, every kind of building, every walk and employment in life, every step in life from the baby's bottle to the glass covered wreath upon the grave, every science and scientific experiment; there is not a single movement in the life of man or woman, that does not include the employment of glass. The great firm of Siemens Bros., of Berlin, have for many years been ever trying to produce a glass that shall be strong enough and flexible enough to act for railroad sleepers, ties and wheels.

Some slight idea of the vastness of the amount of glass used for windows, says the Recorder, and mirrors may be obtained when it is stated that for several years past the sum of money annually paid in premiums for insurance has reached close upon \$700,000, a sum representing glass to the actual value of \$23,000,000. Nor does this by any means include the whole of the glass thus used, for assuredly there are many people who do not insure at all and some who only do so partially. In a large hotel now building in New York city there will be 3,600 sashes, each about four feet square, without counting the large windows on the ground floor. A still better idea of the quantity of glass used throughout the United States may be obtained from the estimate that during the coming year there will be manufactured and imported some 89,500,000 square feet of plate mirror and sheet glass. In detail, 12,000,000 square feet of plate, 40,000,000 square feet of window or sheet glass, 4,000,000 square feet of mirrors and 5,000,000 square feet of colored, ceiling, floor and roofing glass. This is all to be manufactured in the United States. Then there are orders in hand abroad for importation into America amounting to 3,500,000 square feet of mirror glass, 25,000,000 square feet of window glass and 800,000 square feet of colored, ceiling, flooring and roofing glass.

THE EMPTY CRADLE.

The Woman Sat Rocking It and the Baby Was Safe.

It was a woman's voice crooning sweetly the old lullaby:

"Hush-my-dear-lye-still-and-stumber, And as she sung she rocked an empty cradle with her foot, keeping time with its melancholy refrain. From the nestling of the blankets it looked as if the baby had only just been lifted out.

A man passing heard the singing and retraced his steps so that he could look through the open door into the little plainly furnished room.

"Excuse me, ma'am," he said respectfully, "but I noticed that you were rocking an empty cradle. I reckon you never heard of the superstition."

"I am not superstitious," said the woman:

"Holy-angels-guard-thy-bed."

"Excuse me, ma'am, but folks told my wife that if she didn't stop rocking the cradle when the baby wasn't in it something would happen—an' it did. The baby died when he was a year old!"

"My baby won't die," answered the mother, "he's been an angel these three months an' when I feel so bad that I can't live another minute I come in here and make believe he's asleep. It does me good an' mebbe God lets him know, and it comforts him. Is that superstition?"

"No, ma'am, I reckon not, an' I hope you'll excuse me."

The man walked on bearing his own burden of sorrow with him, and the desolate mother rocked the empty cradle and resumed her plaintive monody:

"Heavenly-blessings-without-number Gently-fall-upon-thy-head."

—Detroit Free Press.

Prevention of Imprudent Borrowing.

The Egyptians had a very remarkable ordinance to prevent persons from borrowing imprudently. An Egyptian was not permitted to borrow without giving to his creditor in pledge the body of his father. It was deemed both an implety and an infamy not to redeem so sacred a pledge. A person who died without discharging that duty was deprived of the customary honors paid to the dead.

GEORGE PUT HIS FOOT IN IT.

He Had Noticed the Pretty Waiter Girls at Luncheon.

"Why is it, George," began Mrs. Mann, according to the Boston Transcript, "that you never come home noons now? Can it be that you are getting tired of your little wife?"

"Nonsense!" exclaimed Mr. Mann, with a laugh.

"Then perhaps it is my cooking that you object to. I suppose they have ever so much better things at the places where you go down-town."

"Oh, it isn't that at all. The fact is, I have so much to do now; I am so hurried, you understand, that really I can't take the time to come home."

"There is one thing I want to ask you, George?"

"Well, what is it?"

"Do they have girl waiters where you take your luncheon?"

"Yes—that is, I think so; why do you ask?"

"Oh, it doesn't matter if you never took enough notice to find out; but they tell me that in some of the restaurants they have girl waiters, and that the men flirt with them awfully."

"But, of course, darling, you would not think that of me?"

"No, George—I don't think you would flirt with anybody."

"Of course not; but you did worry just a tiny bit about those pretty table girls?"

"Why, George, what are you saying? You speak of them as being pretty, and you know that you were unable to tell me for certain whether there were any girls there at all. Oh, what a blundering fellow!"

"I mean that I have heard the men speak of pretty table girls at places where they lunched and I suppose I got from that the idea that all table girls are pretty."

Mrs. Mann (after a pause): "George, do you think you would enjoy your meals better at home if I should put on a white skirt over my dress and put on a white waist, with a big broad collar around my neck?"

"What in the world put that into your head?"

"Why, that is the way the waiter girls dress, isn't it?"

"And what of that?"

"Nothing; only, perhaps, if I looked like one of those waiter girls you would just as lief come home to lunch as to go to an eating-house."

"But, my dear, do you think you could ever look like a waiter girl, whatever you had on?"

"You mean by that, I suppose, that I ain't pretty enough. If that is what you think of your wife, George Mann, the sooner we separate the better for both of us. To think that I ever should be treated in such an outrageous manner as this!"

Chicago's Well-Used Library.

The report of the public library board for the fiscal year ended June 1, sets forth that the number of books taken to homes from the library and sub-stations during the year, being 1,173,586 volumes, is greater than in the case of any similar institution in the world. Manchester, England, is not a close second, with 975,944 volumes. Boston, Mass., comes next, with 847,321 volumes. Birmingham, England, is the fourth, with a record of 818,312. The total number of volumes held by the library is 217,203. Accessions for the year equaled 10,485. The aggregate number of books, periodicals, etc., in use during the year, including books of reference, was 2,542,244, an increase of 57,192 over the previous year. The attendance at the central reading room, and at the sub-stations, was materially greater than for the preceding year. A great demand is noted for additional reading rooms throughout the city, notably in those districts of dense population where the poorer people live. Lack of funds has prevented extension to as great a degree as is desirable. For the reason that space is limited, as well as money, comparatively few volumes were purchased during the year. All this will be changed after January 1, when the move will be made to the new building on the lake front. More money will be available, while space will be ample.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

More Than a Trifle.

It was only a little blossom, Just the merest bit of bloom, But it brought a glimpse of summer To the little darkened room.

It was only a glad "Good morning," As she passed along the way; But it spread the morning's glory Over the livelong day.

Only a song, but the music, Though simply pure and sweet, Brought back to better pathways The reckless roving feet.

Only! In our blind wisdom How dare we say it at all? Since the ages alone can tell us Which is the great or small.

—Selected.

The Grass Widow.

Mr. Frankstown—"There goes young Mr. Homewood cycling with that pretty grass widow."

Mr. Point Breeze—"Yes; he's deeply infatuated with her. He tells me he can't live without her."

Mr. Frankstown—"That's odd. I know her former husband very well and he confided to me that he could not live with her."—Washington Times.

A Compliment Indeed.

He—I'm going to pay you the highest compliment a man can pay a woman. She—This is so sudden. He—I know it, but I came away without my pocketbook—can you lend me a dollar until to-morrow?

WHAT ROME TEACHES

In the Year 1900 Rome Will Take This Country and Keep It—Hecker.

She Boasts That Religious Liberty is Only Endured Until the Opposite Side can Be Put into Effect Without Injury to the Roman Church.

Education outside of the Catholic Church is a damnable heresy.—Pope Pius IX.

Education must be controlled by Catholic authorities, even to war and bloodshed.—Catholic World.

I frankly confess that the Catholics stand before the country as the enemies of the public schools.—Father Phelan.

I would as soon administer sacrament to a dog as to Catholics who send their children to public schools.—Father Walker.

The public schools have produced nothing but a godless generation of thieves and blackguards.—Father Schaner.

It will be a glorious day in this country when under the laws the school system will be shivered to pieces.—Catholic Telegraph.

The public schools are nurseries of vice; they are godless and unless suppressed will prove the damnation of this country.—Father Walker.

We must take part in the elections, move in a solid mass in every state against the party pledged to sustain the integrity of the public schools.—McCloskey.

The common schools of this country are sinks of moral pollution and nurseries of hell.—Chicago Tablet.

The time is not far away when the Roman Catholic Church of the Republic of the United States, at the order of the Pope, will refuse to pay their school tax, and will send bullets to the breasts of the government agents rather than pay it. It will come quickly at the click of a trigger, and will be obeyed, of course, as coming from Almighty God.—Mgr. Capel.

"We hate Protestantism; we detest it with our whole heart and soul."—Catholic Visitor.

"No man has a right to choose his religion."—Archbishop Hughes in Freeman's Journal, Jan. 29, 1852.

"If Catholics ever gain sufficient numerical majority in this country, religious freedom is at an end."—Catholic Shepherd of the Valley, Nov. 23, 1851.

"Protestantism, of every form, has not, and never can have any right where Catholicity is triumphant."—Dr. O. A. Brownson's Catholic Review, June, 1851.

"We have taken this principle for a basis: That the Catholic religion with all its rights, ought to be exclusively dominant, in such sort, that every other worship shall be banished and interdicted."—Pius IX. in his allocution to a Consistory of Cardinals, September, 1851.

"Protestantism—why, we should draw and quarter it, and hang up the crow's head. We would tear it with pincers and fire it with hot irons! Fill it with molten lead and sink it in hell fire one hundred fathoms deep."—Father Phelan, Editor Western Watchman.

"Religious liberty is merely endured until the opposite side can be carried into effect, without peril to the Catholic Church."—Bishop O'Connor.

The Roman Catholic is to wield his vote for the purpose of securing Catholic ascendancy in this country."—Father Hecker, in the Catholic World, July, 1870.

"Undoubtedly it is the intention of the Pope to possess this country. In this intention he is aided by the Jesuits and Catholic prelates and priests."—Brownson's Catholic Review, July, 1864.

When a Catholic candidate is on a ticket and his opponent is a non-Catholic, let the Catholic candidate have the vote, no matter what he represents."—Catholic Review, July, 1894.

"In case of conflicting laws between the two powers, the laws of the church must prevail over the state."—Pius IX. Syllabus 1864.

"We hold the state to be only an inferior court, receiving its authority from the church and liable to have its decrees reversed upon appeal."—Brownson's Essays, p. 282.

"We do not accept this government or hold it to be any government at all, or as capable of performing any of the proper functions of government. If the American government is to be sustained and preserved at all, it must be by the rejection of the principles of the Reformation (that is, the government by the people), and the acceptance of the Catholic principle, which is the government of the pope."—Catholic World, September, 1871.

"I acknowledge no civil power."—Cardinal Manning, speaking in the name of the Pope. S. R. S., 1873.

"The Pope, as the head and mouth-piece of the Catholic Church, administers its discipline and issues orders to which every Catholic under pain of sin must yield obedience."—Catholic World, of August, 1863.

"In 1900 Rome will take this country and keep it."—Priest Hecker.

"The will of the Pope is the supreme law of all lands."—Archbishop Ireland.

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