

# Things Queer and Curious

## On a Newfoundland River



Lovers of Nature in her wild aspects will find much to give them delight in Newfoundland. The scenery there often is striking and spectacular, a specimen being here pictured. This is Breakfast Head, on the Humboldt river.

## PRUSSIA'S OLDEST WOMAN PLANTS GETTING PERILOUS

In Prussia today there lives a woman who has completed her one hundred and twenty-fifth birthday. Census officials have been interested in her case for the last 50 years, first on account of her marvelous memory, and more lately because of her longevity. She is now almost blind, and bent fairly in two with rheumatism. She has been transferred, within the last year, to a Catholic institution where she will be cared for, her children having all died, one son recently at the age of eighty-nine. Another was a Jesuit priest, who died in 1910 at the age of one hundred. Her daughter died the very day the mother attained her one hundred and twenty-fifth year, aged ninety-four. She had, in all, ten children, three dying in infancy. Her descendants number nearly three hundred, counting many great-grandchildren. Her married life extended over eighty-five years, and she has been 25 years a widow. She was married in 1801, at the age of fifteen.

Until within five years she remembered perfectly the Napoleonic wars and prominent officials of Prussia consulted her as to happenings which were matters of historical dispute in the vicinity of Germany where she first saw the light. In order to confirm his dates, an Italian historian, ten years ago, traveled to Prussia to interview her at the suggestion of the keeper of archives in Potsdam.

## OBSERVE ANCIENT CEREMONY



The ancient ceremony of the planting of the "penny hedge," or horn-garth, was observed recently near Whitby, England. The custom is supposed to be of feudal origin. Its observance is connected with a farm about six miles from Whitby near Robin Hood's Bay, and if the ceremony be not duly observed "on the morn of the eve of Ascension Day" the farm lands must revert to the holder or holders of the manorial rights. The tenant of the farm along with the bailiff lays the hedge with "ten stakes, ten strout-awyers, and ten yedders." The ancient horn is blown, the tenant shouts, "Out on ye, out on ye," and the ceremony is over.

## BONES OF PRIMITIVE MEN

Eleven skeletons of primitive men, with foreheads sloping directly back from the eyes, and with two rows of teeth in the front of the upper jaw, have been uncovered in Craigshill, at Ellensburg, Wash. They were found about 20 feet below the surface, 20 feet back from the face of the slope, in a cement rock formation over which was a layer of shale. The rock was perfectly dry.

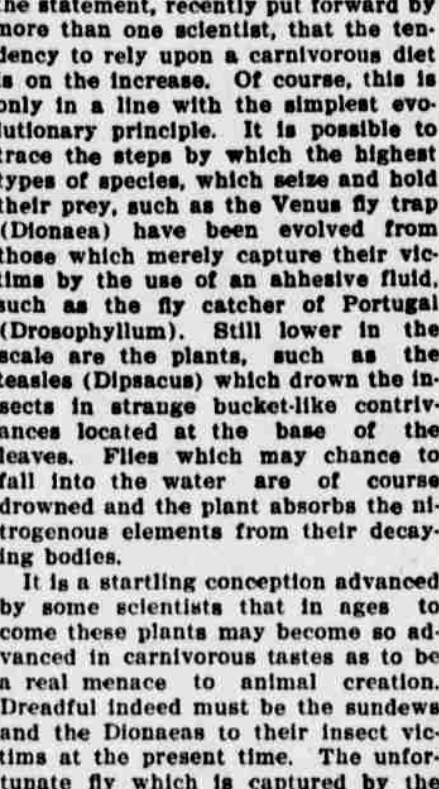
The jaw bones, which easily break, are so large that they will go around the face of the man of today. The other bones are also much larger than those of the ordinary man. The femur is 20 inches long. Indicating, scientists say, a man of 80 inches tall.

J. P. Munson, professor of biology in the state normal school, visited the spot and pronounced them the bones of a primitive man. The teeth in front are worn almost down to the jaw bones, due, Dr. Munson says, to eating uncooked foods and crushing hard substances with the teeth. The sloping skull, he says, shows an extremely low order of intelligence, far earlier than that of the Indians known to the whites.

the bait would be in the form of some sweet-tasting secretion. On alighting, the birds would probably not find the adhesive fluid which the leaves would produce more than slightly annoying. The movements which they would make in an endeavor to free themselves, would be all-sufficient to give the stimulus to the sensitive tentacles. These would rapidly close in on their prey, and in a few moments escape would be out of the question. Finally, the unfortunate birds would perish miserably, the bodies in their decay yielding to the plant the nitrogenous matter desired.

The butterworts are at the present time innocent-looking plants rather attractive in appearance. These species, as is well known, find their home in boggy tracts, where they spread their foliage on the surface of the ground in the form of a rosette. If the leaves of the butterwort are closely examined, it will be seen that they are thickly covered with two sets of glands, one set of which is plainly visible to the naked eye. This visible set resembles a miniature mushroom, while the other set is microscopic and is formed of eight cells grouped after the manner of a wart or a knob. It is the practice of these glands whenever they come into contact with any object to pour out copiously a mucilaginous fluid, which acts much in the same way as bird lime. Acid secretion is also produced, which aids the leaf in the digestion of the object—supposing that the capture should be an insect. In order to make assurance doubly sure, the edge of the leaf in certain species is seen to curl slowly inward. Now we can imagine that in the very far-away future with which we are dealing, the Pinguicula will develop leaves which will hardly be less than five or six feet in length. These lying along the surface of the ground will make a special appeal to grazing animals.

## BELL TOWER OF VILNA

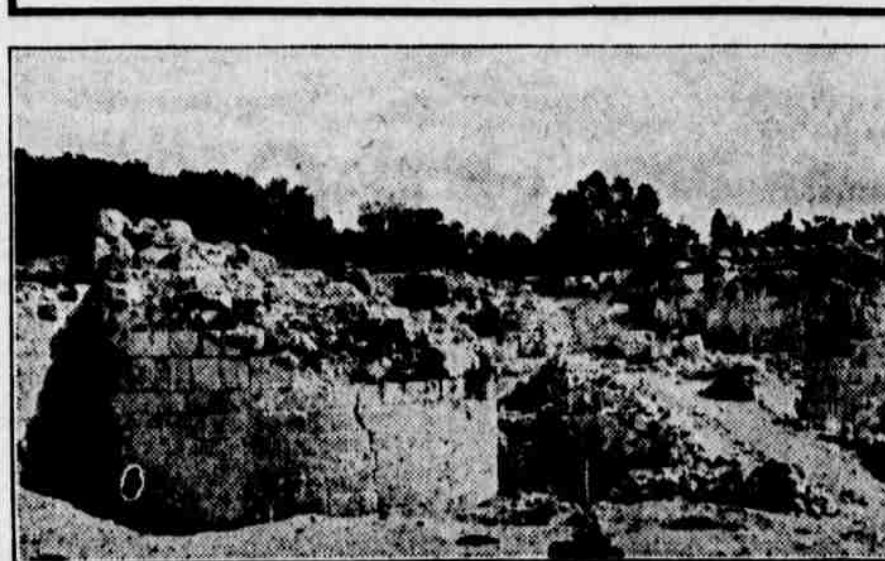


Dating back to the days of very early Christianity, the bell tower of Vilna, Russia, is an edifice of great interest. Despite the fact that Vilna now is a great industrial center, its authorities are careful in the preservation of such antiquities as the bell tower, the old cathedral and other structures.

## CITY LOTTERY FOR A BRIDE

The city of Smolensk in Russian occasionally holds a municipal lottery in which the first prize is a girl. Some 5,000 tickets are sold at a ruble each and the proceeds go to the girl's dowry. If she does not like the man who wins her, and refuses to marry him, she has to give him half the dowry. But cases of refusal are rare.

## Jewish Gate of Samaria



One of the most interesting and valuable discoveries so far recorded in the field of Biblical archeology has been the recent unearthing at Samaria in northern Palestine of the palace of a Hebrew king, believed to be the "Ivory house" of Ahab. Labels with Hebrew writing, which seem to have been in actual use during the lifetime and perhaps in the households of Omri and Ahab, have also been found, as well as fragments of pottery and other interesting remains. It was in the palace here that Ahab dwelt with Queen Jezebel and where Naboth had his vineyard. Among the ruins many inscriptions have been found containing Biblical names and there is a frequent reference to a vineyard, which is believed may be the vineyard of Naboth. This is the first and only palace of a Hebrew king ever found, and accordingly regarded as unique and of the deepest interest to archeologists. The picture shows

## HOODOO RING THAT PARTED FOND HEARTS

NEW YORK.—When Frank M. Ladd stood on the end of the iron pier at Atlantic City the other day with Miss Jeanette Carberry and threw a carat and a half solitaire diamond ring as far as he could into the waters of the Atlantic some of the spectators thought him insane. But as the ring flashed and sank Ladd turned and said, "Thank heaven it's gone," and Miss Carberry sighed happily.

The act probably dispensed for all time with the hoodoo engagement ring that four times caused Mr. Ladd to figure in broken engagements and which five times he placed upon the finger of Miss Carberry, where now a new cut diamond flashes. Unless some luckless loving couple dallying in the sand at Atlantic City some time dig up the solitaire the hoodoo will remain with the mermaids.

The story of the ill luck that has followed the ring and its peculiar adventures leads toward the realm of uncanny mysteries. No explanation yet has been offered, no theory evolved beyond that the whole thing must have been the work of some human enemy of either Ladd or his fiancée. Nothing Extraordinary in Principals. Mr. Ladd is a New Yorker; that is, he has a business in New York but resides in Brooklyn, down in the Prospect park south district. Miss Carberry lives in the same neighborhood with her parents, and until two years ago was assistant buyer for a big New York wholesale millinery establishment.

Mr. Ladd has a small apartment and takes breakfast with a family named Brecher, consisting of the father, mother, and one child, a boy of twelve. While on friendly terms with the Brechers, it cannot be said that Ladd is at all intimate with them. He sees them at breakfast, but seldom at any other time, as he lunches in New York and usually dines in town and returns to his apartment during the evening.

Their First Meeting. Ladd met Miss Carberry in the fall of 1909. They fell in love with each other and their engagement was announced in January, the date of their marriage being set for June 27. Evidently Ladd felt tolerably certain that he would be accepted even before he made the formal proposal, as he admits that the week before they became engaged he gave an order for a pure white diamond solitaire and ordered it set in a high ring of old red Guinea gold.

Miss Carberry first put on the ring the evening of January 7 when she accepted Mr. Ladd's proposal. She was much pleased with the ring itself, besides she seemed unusually happy and wore the ring proudly. The following Friday Mr. Ladd called to take her to the theater. She wore the ring and distinctly remembered that after Mr. Ladd kissed her good-night and started away she turned out the light, and as she started to her boudoir she stopped on the staircase and kissed the ring. The following morning the ring was missing.

The Ring Disappears. Miss Carberry made a hasty search of her room and her bed, then summoned her mother, informed her of the loss, and told her to take everything in the room and hallway to pieces and find the ring, as Mr. Ladd was going to call that evening and she would not want him to know. Her



Finds Ring in a Sealed Envelope.

mother searched for several hours in vain. Miss Carberry returned from the office and together they searched the entire house. The girl was mortified and distressed.

Instead of telling Mr. Ladd, she telephoned him that she was sick and for him to come the following night. She remained at home from the office and searched the house again. That evening Ladd came. She hoped he would not observe the fact that the ring was missing, but as luck would have it he tried to kiss her hand before he

had been in the house five minutes, and observed that the ring was gone.

"So soon, sweetheart?" he asked. Then Miss Carberry confessed. "It must have slipped off while I slept," she said. "I never, never would have taken it off. But we have searched high and low and can't find it."

Breach Widens to Final Break. Mr. Ladd pretended that it did not matter, but evidently he felt a little hurt. The girl imagined that he was suspicious, and when day after day passed with no trace of the ring she grew proudly silent and refused further explanations. They parted in anger and she wrote a note breaking the engagement—and both of them were miserable.

Two days after that the ring reappeared inside the wrapping paper around a piece of meat from the market, which Miss Carberry unwrapped when she took it out of the icebox. The girl, at the insistence of her mother, wrote to Mr. Ladd, returning the ring and stating that she had found it in a peculiar place and expressing regret that its loss had caused them to quarrel. Ladd hurried to her as soon as he got the note and begged her to forgive him and to wear the ring again.

Again Wore Engagement Ring. As no one outside the immediate family knew of the broken engagement, they kissed, made up, vowed never again to allow such trivialities to mar their perfect happiness. Miss Carberry wore her ring again, proudly exhibiting it to her friends.

Four days later Miss Carberry accepted Mr. Ladd's suggestion to meet her at luncheon. They had a jolly little luncheon, and Miss Carberry and Ladd both remember that she had the ring on her engagement finger when they were eating the salad. A man friend of Mr. Ladd's entered and stopped at the table to speak to him, and was presented to Miss Carberry proudly as his fiancée. Miss Carberry extended her hand, and the ring was missing. She observed its loss almost immediately, and as soon as the friend had passed on she whispered:

Disappeared at Luncheon. "My ring! It's gone!" There was a quick search. The ring had disappeared, vanished completely.



Ring Suddenly Turns Up in Package of Meat.

It was not on the floor, on the table, anywhere.

"Maybe you slipped it off for fear Joe would see you were engaged," suggested Ladd hopefully and tactfully.

Miss Carberry indignantly denied this, and called his attention to the fact that she had been proud when he introduced her as his fiancée. They parted with increased coldness. Ladd said he was glad the ring was lost, but he did not say it as if he meant it. Another misunderstanding that lasted for weeks resulted, and then there was a quarrel, and the engagement was broken again.

The day after the breaking of the engagement the ring made its reappearance. Miss Carberry found it in an envelope on her desk at home. She waited almost a month before she notified Ladd of the recovery of the ring. Although both had been so positive that she wore it at the luncheon, they agreed they must have been mistaken.

That time Miss Carberry wore the ring exactly seven days, and was so careful that she placed a tight guard ring above it on her engagement finger. On the seventh day, a Sunday, she went to spend the day with some friends.

## Guard Ring Remains on Finger.

After dinner, late in the afternoon, she went to a room upstairs with three other girls to prepare to return to the city, and the ring disappeared. Oddly enough, the guard ring was on the finger, and so far as she could recall, it never had been off. She was almost frantic with anxiety, fearing another break in her engagement.

She determined to make every effort to recover the ring, and not let Mr. Ladd know of its third disappearance until Tuesday evening, when he was to call. He did not call Tuesday evening. Instead there came a cool little note asking her to explain why she had left the ring on his desk and if she was desirous of breaking the engagement why she did not say so and have it over with instead of indulging in trickery with the ring.

The note made her angry. She

wrote, stating the facts of the case, denied having been within three miles of his office, and asked him to explain how he came in possession of the ring. They did not see each other, because Miss Carberry was so angry over his reply to her note that she refused to see him.

## Renewal of Affairs Most Curious.

That quarrel was so serious that it was more than a year before they spoke again, and the manner of the renewal of their love affair was more cu-



Ladd Finally Throws the Ring into the Atlantic Ocean.

rious than anything else. The details are not complete, because Mr. Ladd is rather reticent in regard to the intermission in their courtship. It is known, however, that he met a Miss Mat MacCallum of Albany, that they became engaged, and that he gave her the engagement ring.

Probably he became engaged to Miss MacCallum while piqued over losing Miss Carberry. At any rate, Miss MacCallum wore the ring for nearly a month. Then it disappeared as mysteriously as it had done before. The girl either was deceitful or rather frightened over the loss, and instead of confessing it she wrote and broke the engagement and stated that she never had cared enough for him to marry him and that their engagement had been a mistake. She did not mention the ring.

## Ring Returns to Owner.

Three days after he received the letter from Miss MacCallum he received a nice little note from Miss Carberry. She thanked him for sending the ring, showing her that in spite of misunderstandings he still trusted her. The ring, she said, was left on her desk in the office where she was employed, without a message, but she understood it to mean that he was weary of their foolish quarrel.

Puzzled and upset over the affair, Ladd called upon her, and after being convinced that there was no danger he confessed everything and was forgiven. They agreed to be married in three weeks and Ladd jokingly insisted that a wedding ring was necessary to hold that engagement ring on her finger.

## Ring Found on Ladd's Desk.

Two nights afterward the ring disappeared again, while she slept, Miss Carberry insisted, and the following day Ladd found it circling a twisted spile of paper on his desk. On the paper were two words, "Ha! Ha!" written in a large, bold hand, and those two words furnish the only clew to the mystery.

Instead of writing Ladd went direct to the home of his fiancée and demanded to know whether she were trifling with him. The result was another quarrel and a separation, more tears, and they parted, Miss Carberry declaring she never wanted to see his face again. He stood it a month, then wrote, begging forgiveness. After proper time he was permitted to call to "explain."

Ladd proved resourceful that time. He brought a new engagement ring, and he pledged himself to throw the other away if she would accept him again. She agreed that if the new ring would remain on her finger for two months she would marry him and they would know that the other ring was hoodooed.

For two months the new ring sparkled on the third finger of her left hand. Then the date was set and a short time ago they ran down to Atlantic City for a little outing and threw away the hoodooed ring that had caused them so much trouble.

## Solving the Old Problem.

When Sir Thomas Lipton was a small boy in Scotland, he dropped into a church one Sunday morning and was put by himself in a pew directly in front of the minister, who preached a sermon on the text, "Am I my brother's keeper?"

The parson, who was unusually eloquent, talked on this theme for about forty minutes, and finally worked up to the climax of his remarks. He kept his gaze fixed directly on the little Lipton, who began to fidget and look very self-conscious. At last, after an overwhelming outpouring of long words, the minister, his eyes blazing, made a quick gesture and shouted at the boy:

"Am I my brother's keeper?" Lipton could stand the strain no longer, and replied, in a meek voice: "No, sir."—The Popular Magazine.