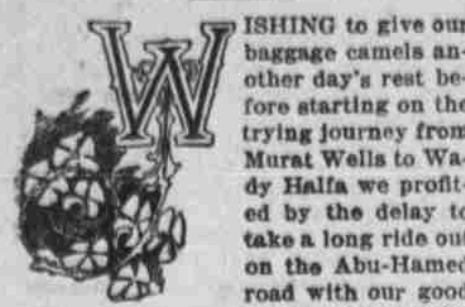


RIDING ON A DESERT.

A TRIP OVER THE SAHARA NOT ALWAYS UNPLEASANT.

The Bucking Camel and His Franks—Imagines Himself the Humming Bird, to Which Kipling's Fancy Compared It.



WISHING to give our baggage camels another day's rest before starting on the trying journey from Murat Wells to Wady Halfa we profited by the delay to take a long ride out on the Abu-Hamed road with our good friend Abdul Azim.

Boy, says a writer in the London News. The ostensible object of this excursion was to see a huge rock in the shape of a crocodile that Abdul Azim had discovered not long since about a couple of hours out from Murat and a few hundred yards away from the Abu-Hamed caravan track. This rock, said our guide, had never yet been seen by Europeans.

of the joyousness of things that he began suddenly to buck. Now, a bucking camel is, of all the pleasant sights in nature, the most laughable. The great beast seems at these moments of expansion to put off his camel nature and to imagine himself literally the humming bird to which Mr. Kipling's fancy has compared him.

For instance, when the spirit moves him to buck, the camel of a sudden hurls himself high into the air, spreading out all his splay limbs at right angles to his unwieldy carcass. And he alights, after this grotesque effort, with his feet all abroad, and a rock-splitting, spine-dissolving thud, only to make a fresh and more extravagant departure. It is a soul-stirring performance. He brings a marvelous perseverance to the exercise and will keep it up over half a mile of country. But it is the humming bird he is aping all the while, the graceful colibri flashing jewel-like into the air (here the camel projects himself into space) or poising feather-light on the oleander blossom (here he cracks a mountain on alighting). And he seems quite satisfied with the measure of success he attains, though it is at best a success d'estime.

An Ingenious Bicycle Lock. A locking device is looked upon as an essential feature to every wheel by all bicycle riders. An invention, patented by Max Gessler, and known as the "Gessler lock," is being placed on the market by Walter E. Lindsay & Co., of Milwaukee. The lock is placed inside the front tubing of the frame, and does not mar its appearance in the least. It is cylindrical in form, one inch long, and secured by means of a rubber washer expanded against the side of the tubing. The locking and unlocking is effected by means of a key which engages the bolt directly, forcing it outwardly or inwardly, locking the front wheel at an angle and thus bringing the bicycle out of operative position. Some of the points of superiority claimed for this lock are: First, it engages neither spokes nor

LOY'S ESSAY ON SHARKS.

He Shows Much Skill in Constructing a Fish Story.

An examiner of lads under 16 for the civil-service commission gave for a question, "Describe the habits of fish," says the London Church Times. Here is a literal transcript of one out of a batch of some hundreds of answers:

"The shark is about twenty feet long, and has five rows of teeth when the shark is going to catch its prey it turns on its side. The sharks are found in India, where they are very numerous in Africa, etc. The way to catch sharks is lowering a piece of meat on a sharp hook (and sailors will do it for amusement), and the shark is very hungry always, that he will grab at the meat and find himself caught.

"One of his foes are the sword fish it will go and run its sword through its stomach."

"When the shark has been floating about on the water for some time it gets a lot of small fish in its mouth and they will go and lay on the beach and let small birds come in their mouth and pick them off and will not hurt them. The shark can live in water and on land. Going from England to India, you will see sharks in the Nile, they will follow ships for many miles on purpose to get some meat, and then perhaps not get any. They are different kinds of sharks, the Black shark, etc.

"The shark is a very curious animal, it can lay its teeth down when not catching any food."

"Once upon a time there was a ship going to America, and on board some slaves the slaves were packed so close together that they could not live, and the captain of the ship you't let some come upon deck, and many of the slaves you't to jump overboard, and be eat with sharks, so the captain determined to stop it if he could. So one day a black slave woman was just in the act to jump overboard when the captain caught her, and had as many slaves as he could upon deck. And then he

TO STAIN FLOORS.

A Bit of Housewife Lore of Service at This Season.

The knowledge of the use of stains and varnishes and how to polish and clean furniture is invaluable to an economical housekeeper, who can easily, with the help of an intelligent maid, keep her house clean and bright and freshen it up when need be, without calling in the aid of an expensive workman. Formerly stains were confined to the colors nearly resembling natural woods, but of late all colors are used—greens, blues, reds and yellow—which partake in no sense of the nature of the paint, but stain pure and simple, showing the grain of the wood.

The most fashionable stain at present for cottage furniture is green, not sage green, but a good, old-fashioned regular green, which when rubbed well into the pores of the wood and then polished is really beautiful. The two transparent colors, Prussian blue and raw sienna, make, when mixed together, an excellent green, or if a brighter tint is desired, gamboge and Prussian blue. A very little of the latter goes a great way, as it is altogether the most powerful color known and completely overcomes any other pigment if mixed in equal proportions. In staining, it should be borne in mind that it is not paint, but stain, and that a very little should be used, a pound being sufficient to stain a whole set of furniture.

To get a good color the wood must be light. Oak, yellow or white pine, maple, any of these are suitable, and the more grained the better, the moire effect of birds-eye maple, the heavy markings of oak and the picturesque knot so often seen in yellow pine all coming out particularly well through the translucent color.

The best way to apply stain and bring out the grain of the wood is to put it on quite thick and rub it off with a linen or cotton rag, and it is absolutely necessary that the wood should be in its natural condition without paint or varnish. By sending a special order to the manufacturers it is easy to get sets of furniture without either; but if it is an old piece that is to be renovated it must be thoroughly scraped. After staining, a coat of hard oil finish may be applied as a filler, and then, after it is dry, it should be rubbed all over with the prepared beeswax that comes in cans for floors, and then rubbed with a flannel cloth until it is quite shiny and bright. After the wax is rubbed on it should be allowed to harden before polishing it. Prussian blue alone makes a very pretty peacock blue stain, raw sienna a yellow or orange, crimson lake a lovely red, burnt sienna an almost exact imitation of mahogany. All these are what are called transparent colors, and are, therefore, especially adapted for stains; but even opaque colors, if put on thin enough to show the grain of the wood, produce sometimes very pretty effects. White on certain woods has a milky, opalescent coloring that is very harmonious with delicate chintzes. Light blue, canary yellow, apple green and pink all may be used on woodwork as stains if applied in the way that house painters call "priming"—that is, one coat of paint put on so thin that it shows the markings of the wood beneath. Georgia pine looks particularly well when treated in this way.

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The Lingo Too Much For Her. Mr. Ferry—During the row, while the visitors were wrangling with the umpire, Batsy took the opportunity to sneak home amid the plaudits of the assembled rooters.

Mrs. Ferry—The ideal "Why should they applaud a man who is such a coward as to run home when trouble begins?"—Cincinnati Enquirer.

Blown from a Train. "I do not suppose that once in a hundred times we ever learn the real cause of a railroad accident," said a man who is always well posted on such matters, "when any one of the principals concerned is killed. In individual cases, where a man is lost from a train, and his body is found later beside the track, suicide is the first thing suggested, but you can never tell. A peculiar accident happened to a friend of mine. He was traveling eastward with some friends. He left them for a few moments to go to the smoking car. As he crossed from one car to the other—that was before the time of the vestibule trains—a strong wind that was blowing struck him and blew him to the ground. He was wearing a large circular coat, which acted as a balloon inflated with wind, and it was responsible for his being blown off the train, as well as for the fact that he landed on his feet unhurt. He walked some distance to the nearest station and telegraphed ahead to his friends that he was all right, and would come on by the next train. If he had been killed every one would have said 'suicide,' for the possibility of a man being blown from a train would seem to be an absurd idea."—New York Times.

The Teacher's Idea. "I suppose," said the school teacher's acquaintance, "that you are sorry to see vacation coming to a close."

"No," was the reply; "I think it has lasted long enough to serve its most important purpose."

"You mean that the pupils and their instructors have had a chance to recuperate?"

"No; that is an unimportant incident. What I mean is that vacation gives parents a chance to realize that their children are not the angels they always assume them to be when they get into trouble at school."—Washington Star.

Remedy for Red Hands. Red hands are often benefited by being washed in oatmeal water—that is, take some fine oatmeal, boil it in water for about an hour, strain, then silt and morning use the liquid to wash in; it, however, requires to be made fresh every day, as it soon turns sour, and smells very disagreeably. For exceptionally red and harsh hands a few grains of chloride of lime may be safely added to the soft warm water; you wash in, but remember to remove your rings, or they will be tarnished.

Horrible Section. One of the alleged dynamiters who have just been released from an English prison says he did not hear a single item of news from the outside world in all the years of his confinement. He did not even know that Parnell was dead. In our prisons, which have the same rules of silence and absolute seclusion, the inmates learn everything that is going on, both within and without the prison, by a system of signs that defies the watchfulness of the guards. Either English prisons are better governed than ours, or else the inmates of English prisons are less shrewd and sly than our convicts.—New York World.

The Only Opportunity. Mrs. Takkalot—What does make you talk so much in your sleep, Joseph? Joseph—Gosh! It's the only chance I ever get.

Guesses at Truth. The man who is surest of a thing is most likely to be mistaken. Knowledge is apt to be digested; ignorance alone is positively certain.

Passionate and romantic love never reasons because it is too fervid and intense to admit of any such calmness as is essential to reason. If it could reason would it not cease to be romantic or passionate?

To be entirely charming to a man a woman must retain a large part of her mystery.

As no man is a hero to his valet, no woman is a heroine to her husband.—Harper's Barar.

From the Chicago Post. The justice leaned over the desk and eyed the prisoner sharply, for he prided himself on being a judge of human nature.

"I suppose you work," he said sarcastically.

"Everyone," replied the prisoner tersely.

"Except me," corrected the judge, feeling that his position entitled him to last throw in the game of repartee.

And he was so pleased with his own success as a humorist that he made the fine only \$5 and costs.

I believe Pisco's Cure is the only medicine that will cure consumption.—Anna M. Ross, Williamsport, Pa., Nov. 12, '95.

The October number of the North American Review may fitly be called a campaign number. It contains articles on campaign subjects by Speaker Reed, the secretary of the navy, Andrew Carnegie, Bishop Merrill of the M. E. church, Louis Windmiller, and Judge Walter Clark, of the supreme court of North Carolina. Judge Clark's article is especially interesting as being an authoritative outline of the changes which he and other advocates of free silver would make in the constitution if Mr. Bryan is elected.

Hegeman's Campher Ice with Glycerine. Cures Chapped Hands and Face, Tender or Sore Feet, Chills, Piles, etc.—C. G. Clark Co., New Haven, Ct.

Two admirable serial stories will be published in Harper's weekly in the course of the year 1897. One, a New England story by Mary E. Wilkins, will begin in January, and the other, a tale of a Greek uprising against the Turks, by E. F. Benson, the author of "Dodo," will appear during the latter half of the year. Besides these more short stories will appear in the Weekly than it has been possible to publish during 1896. A sequel to "The House-Boat on the Styx," by John Kendrick Bangs, will also appear early in the year, illustrated by Peter Newell.

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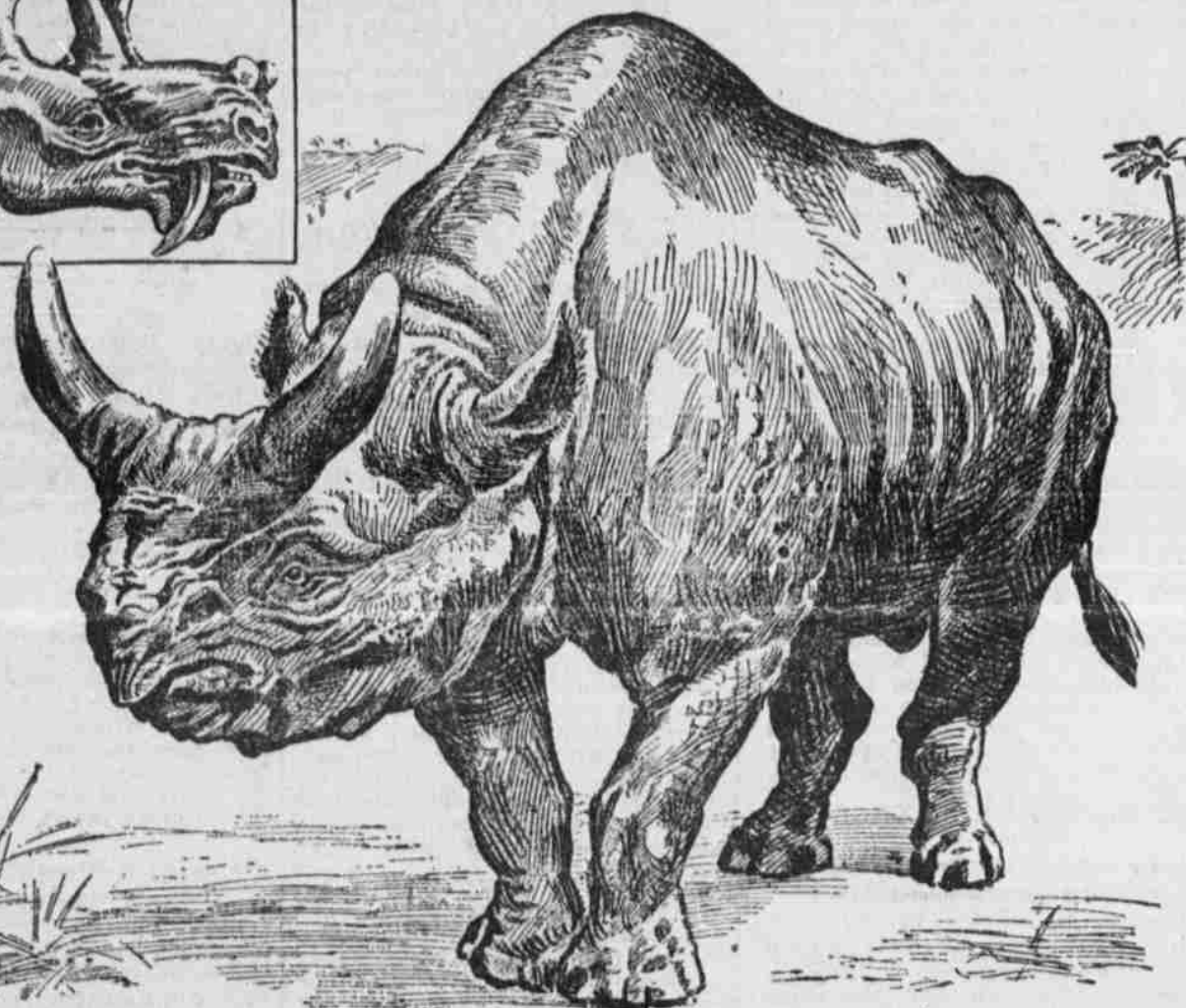
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MAMMOTH MONSTERS THAT LIVED IN AMERICA AGES AGO.



Time has brought many changes to the American continent. A trifle of one or two million years ago the region that is now Dakota, Utah and other states in the Rocky Mountains was blessed with a tropical climate, the arid plains of the present were lagoons filled with warm water and surrounded by waving palms and other vegetable growth to be found in torrid zones. The region was inhabited by animals, strange and weird—animals which have long since become extinct and their bones are now buried under three miles of solid rock.

Prof. Henry F. Osborn, curator in the American Museum of Natural History, has written an interesting story of these prehistoric animals, which appears in the September Century. Chas. Knight has drawn pictures of them

from descriptions furnished by Prof. Osborn and other scientists.

The great four-horned untathere was found in the Bridger region of Southern Wyoming and Utah. A picture of its head is reproduced, showing the peculiar formation of the horns and their arrangement. The body was longer, but in other respects resembled an elephant, and when grown it weighed two tons. Its brain weighed less than a pound. The untathere had less brain in proportion to its size than any other warm-blooded animal. With its tremendous body its brain was as small as that of a dog, and to this fact Prof. Osborn attributes the animal's early extinction.

The titanthere was another giant that flourished perhaps a half million years after the last than those of the

untathere, thus proving that the bones are plentiful in the South Dakota Lake basin, and are always found in a strata higher than those of the untathere, thus proving that its family tree does not extend backward so far. The pictures show what the animal looked like when alive. He was about the same size as the untathere, but had more brains and should have lived longer, but he failed to do so.

Among the fossils and skeletons of animals that have been extinct for a million years are found skeletons of turtles, alligators and garfish, exactly like those to be found at the present age. They have survived, whether they were fittest or not, and live to-day as their ancestors did two million years ago.

mate and partly to the thought that they were really at last well within the enemy's borders.

For, as Abdul Azim said, when we had ridden an hour or so, only one European since the Nile campaign had been nearer Khartoum than ourselves. This adventurous spirit was Col. Rundle Pasha, who in 1885 or 1886 rode so far toward Abu Hamed that from a hilltop he was able to see that town and the Nile.

Not alone were we affected by the lovely morning. Its glamour was over our escort of Abadeh (generally the most taciturn of folks), four of whom were conducting an eager argument at hot speed in the quaint, primitive language, with its absurd, bewildering "cl-l" interjected, it would seem quite involuntarily, at every third word. The others of our escort were chanting alternate verses of a lugubrious song, in whose refrain the moan of the akkoeb, the buzz of a saw and the creaking of an ungreased wagon wheel appeared to be deftly blended with the growling of a refractory camel.

The camels themselves appeared to be affected by the morning, or perhaps it was by the song. All of them demeaned themselves quite skittishly and one was so overcome by his sense

sprockets, doing away with the ruinous effect produced by attempting to ride before unlocking the machine. Second, hammers, files, pliers, nippers are harmless. The lock is out of sight, and cannot be gotten at. Third, it is non-pickable. Fourth, weighs less than two ounces, is easily operated, quickly adjusted, is always in the machine when needed; not in your pocket or at home.—Indianapolis Sentinel.

A Sure Way of Locating a Puncture.

"I picked up a new thing for riders of the wheel in New York a few days ago," suggested a popular wheelman. "Those who have had trouble in finding small punctures will appreciate it. You know the customary way to locate a puncture is to immerse the wheel in a tub of water. Wherever the air bubbles there will be found the puncture. In some cases, however, the air pressure is not sufficient to make the air bubbles. In cases of this kind lather some soap and smear it over the tire. A soap bubble will form then over every puncture, it matters not how small it is. Once located, nearly every rider knows what to do, or thinks he does, which is the same thing, for the great majority send them to the shops to be repaired, anyhow."—Washington Star.

The Only Opportunity. Mrs. Takkalot—What does make you talk so much in your sleep, Joseph? Joseph—Gosh! It's the only chance I ever get.