THE SEA SERPENT APPEARS TO THE SCIENTIST

Tales Handed Down of Wonderful Creature—Monster Recently Seen by Well-Known Naturalists—Legs of the Sea-Snake.

Verily the perversity of mankind passeth all understanding! And if there be any who would challenge the justice of this aphorism, let him reflect for a moment on the fact that we talk of the Phoenix as if it were real, and of the sea-serpent as though it were a purely mythical beast! But the sea-serpent is probably himself to blame for this, inasmuch as he is indiscreet enough to show himself from time to time to those who go down to the sea in ships. Hence, as with other distinguished mortals, everybody who has occasion to cross the ocean burns for an opportunity to boast an acquaintance with this distinguished dweller in the deeps.

Naturally, "land-lubbers," out of pique and jealousy, belittle the experiences of those who profess to have seen this monster, and yet live! But, as a rule, in their efforts to crush, they have to use weapons obtained at second-hand; weapons borrowed from other ocean travelers who assure us, on their own experience, that the sea-serpent is a creature vainly imagined, a figment of the brain, a thing born of after-dinner orgies; it may even have a semblance of reality, but when analyzed it proves to be nothing more than a school of porpoises playing at "follow-my-leader," a gigantic cuttle-fish vainly waving its long arms in an endeavor to escape the grip of some hungry whale! On occasions, indeed, the sea-serpent has turned out to be nothing more interesting than a floating spar decorated with a tangle of sea-weed!

A vast amount has been written about the sea-serpent, but of all the

A HUGH EEL-LIKE NECK APPEARED.

stories that have been told, it is sad to reflect that those of clergymen surpass in wildness of elaboration even the yarns invented with intent to deceive." At least, so says Mr. Frank Bullen—and he ought to know!

One or two of the more serious accounts are worth repeating. No longer ago than 1891, one Peter Nelson, a quartermaster, and therefore "an honorable man," saw from the deck of the Rotomahana a beast with the head of an eel and fins ten feet long rise 30 feet out of the water. It was dark above, and white below. He gave a long account of this strange beast, yet, so far, those whom he intended to convert only reply that it was "very like a whale"—in short, that he saw nothing more than a whale "breaching."

Capt. McQuhae, of H. M. S. Daedalus, and his officers, in 1848 created a great sensation in England by a sea-serpent story which at the time was discredited by the late Prof. Sir Richard Owen. But time brings its revenges, for it may turn out that the professor was wrong. Briefly, he reported having seen an enormous serpent with head and shoulders some four feet out of the water, and some 60 feet of its body on the surface. It passed rapidly so close to the ship that a man's features at the same distance could easily have been distinguished. It had no fins, but something like seaweed washed about its back.

Now within the last few weeks the honor of the captain and his officers, or rather, their credit as observers, has been singularly vindicated, for at the last meeting of the London Zoological society Mr. E. B. Meade Waldo and Mr. M. J. Nicoll described a creature seen by them from the deck of the earl of Crawford's yacht, the Valhalla, which bears a remarkable resemblance to that seen from the Daedalus. These two gentlemen, accompanied Lord Crawford as naturalists during his usual winter cruise. Both are well-known naturalists, and one is a member of the council of the Zoological society. The story they unfolded to a breathlessly excited assembly of the Fellows is briefly this: When off Para on December 7, 1905 at ten a. m., they were standing on the deck of the yacht, when their attention was caught by a curious sail-like object of some four feet long and two feet high waving from side to side in the water. No sooner had they turned their glasses on to this strange object than there appeared a huge eel-like neck, some six feet long, and as thick as a man's thigh, and this neck was surmounted by a great turtle-like head with large eyes, now borne high above the sea, which was quite calm. It was dark colored above and silvery white below. After a few moments the head and neck were slowly lowered, and when level with the water were violently lashed from side to side, churning up the sea into a great sheet of foam, and then it vanished.

Adverse winds caused the ship to beat about so that at midnight they were only 20 miles from the scene of the morning. This is noteworthy, because when Mr. Nicoll came on deck after breakfast one of the officers came up and reported that during the night he saw a strange commotion in the water, officer "hailed the deck" and the look out man, and thus got witnesses to this weird phenomenon. Though the sea was calm, and there was a bright moon, nothing satisfactory could be made out owing to the "wash" which the creature was making; but in its movements it resembled a submarine traveling just below the surface.

Seriously, we can no longer regard the "sea-serpent" as a myth. There can be no question but that the ocean harbors some secret which we have not yet penetrated. It seems unlikely that this evasive creature should be a descendant of the old Plesiosaurs which became extinct millions of years ago, though the resemblance to those monsters is striking. More probably it will prove to be some bizarre form of reptile. But the resemblance between the descriptions given by these gentlemen and that given by the officers of the Daedalus agrees too closely to be passed by, and furthermore, both agree with the description of a similar creature seen off Tonquin some four years since. It is possible that it may even prove to be a "serpent." For it is well known that the land-snakes once possessed limbs, and some gigantic forms of sea-snake may well have preserved its limbs, though now transformed into paddles, like those of the turtle and whale

W. P. PYCRAFT.

Thoughtful people have doubts, but doubts ought not to be the sum total in life. Doubts ought to be like clouds that by and by are swept from the sky. We have got to have sun-up and sunlight, and the blanketing of the clouds must some time be torn away, and the sunlight must get at the flowers of the world, lest the flowers fail to bloom and exhale perfume to the sky.—William A. Quayle.

Can Walk Under Water.

Geneseo, N. Y., Man Gives Two Startling Exhibitions with Invention of His Own.

Rochester, N. Y.—A submarine contrivance which permits a person to walk under water has been invented by R. P. Lawton, of Geneseo. Already he has given two demonstrations of its power. Once he remained under water for an hour, the other time for 45 minutes.

Lawton's experiments were made at Silver lake. Clad in a bathing suit, he walked out toward the center of the lake, holding aloft a fish pole, to the top of which was attached a flag. He had remarked to some boys on shore that he was going for a walk in the lake. When the flag was about 40 feet from the shore it suddenly disappeared below the water. The boys waited for Lawton to reappear, and when he did not do so they gave the alarm.

Lawton reappeared soon afterwards, and explained his ability to walk under water. The crowd was skeptical, so Lawton climbed into his bathing suit again and gave another exhibition. He stayed under water this time for 45 minutes.

He will allow no one to see his contrivance. He says it is of the simplest kind, and weighs little more than a pound.

Chinese Coffins.

Chinese coffins are made of timber eight inches to ten inches thick. It is calculated, therefore, that over 8,000,000 feet of timber is utilized yearly for coffins in China.

Cleveland's Distinction.

Only one of the first 14 cities, in order of population, in the United States was named after a man. That city is Cleveland, O.

Genteel Poverty.

If one's income is limited the general rule is that one must live and die in a black hat.—Ladies' Field.

"Cruising for Salvage."

One man in New York says he makes a good living by what he calls cruising for salvage. He goes about in an automobile and follows novices trying to operate recently purchased machines. If the machines break down or stop he comes up in time to offer his services as a tug or to offer about half the value of the machine if the owner is so disgusted that he wishes to sell.

Throws Rays Half a Mile.

Light rays half a mile long and 24 times as powerful as the sort commonly in use are the new oxy-petrol lime lights that have been invented for the motorists. The lamp consists of an oxy-petrol blowpipe flame playing on a piece of specially refractory material. A reservoir of material is to be carried on the car and also a cylinder of compressed oxygen. Presumably a stream of oxygen under pressure is saturated with petrol vapor and burnt in the blowpipe and a small, extremely hot flame is produced, this being caused to impinge on something more refractory than lime.

At a Township Primary.

Martin, who is very hard of hearing, arose in the caucus and nominated one Mr. Brown for the office of justice of the peace.

Mr. Brown promptly arose and declined the nomination with thanks, and while he had the floor he nominated Mr. Martin for the office.

Martin, not understanding what Brown said, but evidently thinking it some modest remonstrance, arose and said:

"Gentlemen of the Convention: We now have before the house a man who is not only worthy, but is in every way competent, and I move that nominations be closed, and he be elected by acclamation, and it be made unanimous."—Judge's Magazine of Fun.

Iodine a Cure for Snake Bite.

For a sure cure for snake bite, take about seven drops of iodine, scarify and bathe the wound also with iodine. This remedy was first used by a medical officer in British service in India. It has cured both man and a number of animals; it never fails; it is really wonderful in its effects.

One instance I will relate. A young man working for me in the harvest field was bitten by a very large rattlesnake on one of his large toes. I gave him about seven drops of tincture of iodine on a little sugar, and to make doubly sure repeated the dose an hour later. His foot swelled, but next morning he was all right. I have had animals whose bodies have swelled considerably, but all have recovered from the bite.—Topeka Capital.

LIKE EDGE OF THE WORLD

Unalaska, in the Alaskan Islands, a Desolate Spot—Where White Men May Not Land.

Unalaska resembles other northern stations, having warehouses, docks, the inevitable Greek church and a score of wooden cabins. Whalers leave here for the Arctic regions.

Dutch Harbor is a station for our revenue fleet. There is much coming and going of ships of all nations; there are quite a formidable fleet, and only two ships out of twelve carry colors of the same country.

Just before entering the harbor one notices a detached rock high against the side of the cliff. It bears a striking resemblance to a Russian priest in full robes. Touched by the sunset light, he seemed to stand blessing the harbor.

Sailing north out into Behring sea, one looks back at the desolate, silent, treeless islands, which seem to wall the edge of the world. Hundreds of miles west they run toward Vladivostok.

Two hundred and forty miles north of Unalaska are the Pribilof islands; not large, but the greatest seal islands in the world. There are many fur seals around the shores of Behring sea and the Aleutian islands, but the great mass of them are bred on the Pribilof group. No white man is permitted to land on these breeding grounds without a permit, signed by the secretary of the treasury of the United States.—Outdoor Life.

THE CAMERA FIEND.

Man Was Not Satisfied with Ordinary Amusement Like Taking Pictures.

A well-known criminal lawyer one day sauntered into a police court just as a case was called. It appeared that the defendant had no attorney, and the judge glanced about the room to see whom he might assign to the case.

"I'll take it, judge," the late comer said, wishing to pass away the time.

"By the way, what is the man charged with?" the attorney presently asked.

"He's a camera fiend of the worst sort, Mr. Brown," the judge said with a slight smile. "I expect to send him to the workhouse for about three months."

"What!" the lawyer shouted, indignantly. "Your honor must be joking. Send a man to the rock pile for three months for a little harmless amusement like taking pictures?"

"Well," the judge said, mildly, "he don't take pictures much—it's the cameras he takes."

Sunday Rest in Italy.

The question of Sunday rest is being agitated to a large extent in Italy, and a commission was named some time ago which recommended that as far as possible an uninterrupted rest of from 32 to 36 hours should be insured to all the working classes, and that in case of public services, the men who worked on Sundays should have one day off in the week by turns, domestic servants being entitled to a half holiday a week. The law does not apply to fishermen.

International Cyclopedia.

The medical faculty of the Paris university plans an international technological encyclopedia. It is to be issued in ten languages, including "Esperanto," the world language.

Short ladies should avoid much trimming on their skirts, says a fashion writer. Yes, and so should long ladies if their husbands are short.

The people who believe most strongly in luck are those who never have any.

Boys will be boys, especially the gay old ones who have passed 60.

A friend in need usually needs all he can squeeze out of you.

The world likes a winner, but loves a good loser.

LOVE LORE.

It is easier to love and be wise than to be generous and have money.

Jealousy is green and does not harmonize with Love's hair and eyes.

Love laughs at locksmiths, because parents don't lock up their daughters any more.

When Poverty comes in at the door Truancy escapes her on the spot to do the spelling.

The glory of Love's blindness is that marriage is the only oculist that guarantees to restore the sight.

Don't complain of your lover's amateurishness. In this you have proof positive that you are the first.

Show me the sweethearts of the land, and I will confess myself that much more puzzled about the men.

Life gave a dinner, and, while it may not have been a feast from an epicure's point of view, it was a great success. The guest of honor was Love.

When Love begins to sicken and decay, sometimes the tonic of indifference will effect a quicker recovery than all the careful nursing in the world.

Railway Tariff Simplified.

Germany has just revised its railway tariff, which involves a multiplication of tickets. It is calculated that a traveler with a small family going from Mulhouse to Bale will find himself furnished with 60 tickets, in addition to which are those for baggage.

Ireland Loses Population.

The number of marriages registered in Ireland in 1904 was 22,961. The excess of births over deaths was 24,298, but this was more than offset by the emigration of 36,902 persons.

Rapid Increase in Population.

In eight years the population of Osaka, Japan, has increased from $11,800 to over 1,026,000. The number of factories has increased by 991.

Visits European Military Schools.

Col. Charles P. Echols, of West Point, who has been on the continent visiting military schools, is now in England on the same mission.

Rich Oil Fields of Africa.

The oil fields near Delagoa bay, in Africa, are expected to prove among the most productive in the world.

Two Profitable Postal Systems.

Next to Great Britain, Russia has the most profitable postal system, which nets over $20,000,000 a year.

English Language in Antwerp.

Nearly one-half of the shipping traffic to and from Antwerp is carried on under the British and American flags, and this has made Antwerp almost an English-speaking port. Free night schools for exclusive classes in English, organized by the city authorities, are attended by thousands of pupils, while special attention is paid to the study of English in all the grades of the day schools, public as well as private. This desire to popularize the English language is not confined to Belgium, but has extended to Germany as well, where schools of instruction have already been established at Munich and Nuremberg by the German government.

Avoid Government Service.

The students from the Italian universities and government school are no longer content to seek poorly paid government employment or to enter into the ranks of the overcrowded professions, but are seeking technical instruction so that they may join in the new movement and make an adequate future for themselves.