ANCIENT ENGLISH OAKS.

Interesting Stories About Some of the Old Trees in England.

Gardeners' Chronicle.

Among the ancient oaks of England, few are more interesting than the gigantic ruin now standing in an arable field on the banks of the Severn, near Shrewsbury. It is the sole remaining tree of those vast forests which gave Shrewsbury its Saxon name of Schobbesburgh. The Saxons seized this part of the country A. D. 577, when they burnt the Roman city of Uriconium, where Wroxeter now stands, four miles from the village of Cressage; and underneath this now decrepit dotard it is said that the earliest Christian missionaries of those times—and possibly St. Chad himself—preached to the heathen before churches had been built. The Cressage Oak—called by the Saxons Cristeache (Christ's Oak)—is probably not less than fourteen centuries old. The circumference of the trunk was about thirty feet, measured fairly at a height of five feet from the ground; but only about one-half of the shell of the hollow trunk now remains. It still bears fifteen living branches, each fifteen feet or sixteen feet in length. A young oak grows from the center of the hollow.

The noted oaks of England, thanks to those who have preserved them, thanks to the universal veneration for timber, and to a stirring and lengthened history, are innumerable. Windsor Forest is particularly rich in historic oaks, and Sherwood Forest, though disafforestated, still contains some memorial timber, like Needwood, once a crown forest, now a fine estate of well-farmed land. Dryden's

"Three centuries he grows and three he stays,
Supreme in state, and in three more decays,"

is a poetical statement, and some of the dates on trees cut down in Sherwood Forest, and marked down 600 years before, in the time of King John, prove that it is an under-estimate. The great Winfarthing Oak, in Norfolk, was called the "Old Oak" in the time of the Conquerer, and has been supposed to have attained the age of 1,500 years. The King Oak in Windsor Forest is upward of 1,000 years old.

Wire Fences Without Barbs.

Burlington Hawkeye.

The Clinton Age has found a new way to end the barb-wire controversy, and that is to dispense with the barb. That is certainly a very direct method—if it can be done. The Age asserts that the barb is a source of profit to the holder of the patent and not essential in a wire fence. Some years ago smooth wire fences were quite commonly used, but being poorly constructed, attached to stakes driven in the ground, or to posts set a great distance apart, the wire sagged, and became useless to turn cattle. About the time wire fences were being abandoned the barb was attached, and with that improvement the posts were well set, a rod apart, the wire drawn taut so that no sag was possible, and great pains were taken in building up the fence. The Age suggests that the additional expense of the barb, if put into an increase of the size and strength of the wire, with the same care taken in the construction, would make a better and more durable fence than the barb-wire, thereby dispensing with the cruel cattle-killing prongs. "The barb-wire fence is an inhuman invention," says the Age. "Whenever the West organizes a society to prevent cruelty to animals its first act will be to destroy the barb fences." With the restraint of hogs and sheep by law, many farmers find it practicable and economical to use only one barbed wire in a fence, and that at the top, using plain wire for the lower courses. For cattle three stretches of white wire (galvanized) which is easily seen, makes a good fence if kept well stretched and the posts planted firm and not too far apart.

The Wyoming Exhibit.

As soon as the exposition, at Den was decided upon Governor J. W. Hoyt, of Wyoming issued a proclamation calling for assistance in making a credible exhibit of the resources of their Territory. As the legislature had long before adjourned it was impossible to secure aid from the public treasury, and the Governor was obliged to rely wholly upon the contributions from counties and individuals. How well he has succeeded in his efforts to make known the many wonderful resources of this Territory is shown in the remarkable and beautiful display of her ores, economic products, industrial matererial and vast resources in the tasty pavilion at the north end of the main building. On each corner of the square occupied, are monuments from eight to ten feet in height; one of the rich red hematite ore found near Laramie City and used by the Union Pacific Railroad rolling mills; one of the fine, larch and spruce, excellent representatives of 15,000,000 acres of forest; and one of gold and copper ores and last that wonderful cube of soda sulphate, the existence of which the eastern newspapers still doubt This soda, which is a sample of the fifteen-foot bed of the Sweetwater valley, had to be cut up into huge cubes, which made the most novel and interesting monument in the building. On the sides are arranged eight glass cases filled with gold, copper, silver and iron ores, that rank well with other exhibits; chunks of bi-carbonate of soda, chemically pure, and found in vast deposits; alabaster and gypsum, from ledes that will last a generation; mica of good quality and quantity; with much other material of economic and industrial value. In the center of the square stands a huge column of coal, made up of the representatives of the vast veins, varying from four to forty feet in thickness that are found in almost every section of Wyoming. From the top of this pyramid festoons of red and white bunting droop gracefully down to the ends of the case next to the corner monuments, building and grouping all in a harmonious whole. Inside the square are tables with piles of asbestos and alabaster, and large and ornamental glasses filled with choice samples of mice, fine China kavlin, minerel paint, natural quicklime, crude petroleum, sulphur, graphite, bicarbonate of soda, sulphate of magnesia, and so on. Around the base of the coal monument are grouped piles of unsurpassed granites, marbles and building stones, and samples of work from the Union Pacific railroad rolling mills at Laramie.

Ornamental fronts have been built on the east and west sides, which bear appropriate inscriptions calling the attention of its visitor to the fact that Wyoming has already some 700,000 head of cattle, 450,000 sheep, 40,000 horses, 15,000,000 acres of pine lands, and vast resources in the way of material of industrial value, while her liberal laws, excellent climate, tillable soil and progressiveness offer every inducement to the settler.

Along with her mining and mineral, Wyoming claims the best cattle and sheep ranges in the United States. The Wyoming exhibit has several points worthy of mention. Being entirely open, the whole exhibit can be easily seen and attracts attention from the galleries; the monuments at the corners afford a view of the interior, one comes along the aisles before reaching the entrance proper; while the combination of monuments, cases, tables of glassware, etc., and the artistic taste shown in the combinations of colors, not only in materials and decorations but even in the carpet and trimmings of the tables, make it the most attractive of all the exhibits. Not one presents a more diversified or interesting collection of products that will attract the attention of the manufacturer than Wyoming. Beside the mineral exhibit there are two cases filled with its rare fossil turtles and other choice petrifications, for which the territory is famous, while photographs and specimens call to mind the "enchanted land" of the Yellowstone park. Wyoming has been but little known, and her products have been overshadowed by the little giant Colorado, but she is rapidly coming to the front and has no doubt a brilliant future. She stands upon the solid ground of vast resources and extraordinary advantages, capital from the east and even the old world is seeking opportunities in the cattle business, in minerals and in other new fields as never before. Ere long stamp mills, grist mills, saw mills, glass factories, oil refineries and a hundred sorts of mechanical industries will break the silence in now solitary places. The Wyoming exhibit is a beauty—the best arranged, most tasteful and artistic of all. It reflects great credit not only upon the territory, but also upon Governor Hoyt and his co-laborer, Professor Bailey, who have been untiring in their endeavors to make it a success. They have fought a good fight, and now find their reward in the high encomiums given by all visitors.

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A Fight Between Tarantulas.

Denver Tribune.

Many stories have been told of the venomous nature and vicious habits of the Arizona tarantula, but Messrs. H. H. Tammen & Co., No. 9 Windsor Hotel Block, dealers in curiosities, and a few of their patrons, recently saw an exhibition of the ugly creature's disposition, which shows that he is not afraid to battle with his own kind on an equal ground, and that he knows how to wreak vengeance upon the fallen foe with all the ferocity of a cannibal. Among other curiosities brought here with the collection referred to were two of these insects, both of which were full-grown. One was of the brown and the other of the black variety. The brown fellow was caged in a common cigar-box and the black one in a glass jar. As they could not be exhibited to advantage in contrivances of this kind, and as they were not very pleasant company to have running about loose, a box almost two feet square, with a glass top, was procured, on the bottom of which a layer of sand was spread to make the animals feel at home. The cover was then drawn, and the two spiders pitched into it from their separate cages. No sooner did the one discover the other's presence than they rushed at each other as viciously as two panthers, and immediately closed in deadly embrace. They came together with a bound, and then twining their long, hairy legs about each other, rolled over and over in the sand, biting each other savagely, and then tugged with all their might as if endeavoring to crush each other by sheer muscular power. Incredible as it may seem, this sort of warfare was kept up for six hours, during most of which time it could not be seen that either was gaining the slightest advantage, as neither showed any sign or disposition to end the fight except by the death of his adversary. At last the black one succumbed, and rolled over dead on the sand, while the victor immediately proceeded to reap the spoils of his long battle. Seizing his vanished enemy in his stout horns, or pincers, or whatever contrivance he has for that purpose, he rapidly tore him limb from limb, and coolly proceeded, in true cannibalistic fashion, to make a meal of him.

In a very short time nothing was left except a little pile of legs and pieces of shell to mark the spot where one tarantula had fallen and one had dined. Many persons who have passed the window within the past two or three days have doubtless mistaken this little piece of tarantulic debris for the real live animal when a closer inspection would have shown the vermin hidden away in one corner of the box, lazily digesting his rather disgusting meal. This monster may be seen to a little better advantage in a large glass jar, in which he looks as nice, fat, and deadly as a body could wish.

AN AERIAL ACCIDENT.

Miraculous Escape from Death of Professor Owings, the Daring Aeronaut—A Brief Interview With the Professor.

Kansas City Journal.

A reporter of the Journal yesterday morning had the pleasure of an introduction to Professor Owings, the celebrated aeronaut, who is to make the ascension at the new exposition grounds this afternoon.

The professor is a very quiet, unostentatious gentleman and not at all inclined to dilate on his wonderful adventures as a navigator of the air. The reporter, however, had learned that the professor had recently met with a narrow escape from a violent death while making an ascension from Atchison, Kas

After talking with the aeronaut a few moments, the reporter broached this subject.

"Yes, sir," said the professor, my balloon burst while making an ascension from Atchison a few days ago."

"Well, professor have you any objections to telling the readers of the Journal about this hair breadth escape of your?" queried the scribe.

The professor replied that he had no objections to giving a brief history of his adventures, and assisted by a few questions from the reporter, he related in substance the following somewhat

THRILLING STORY:

As the balloon moved slowly upward, a magnificent view was spread out before the aeronaut. A vast moving panorama, embracing all of the cities in that vicinity, the river, innumerable houses, groves and fields, the whole forming a picture of such transcendent loveliness as to fairly dazzle the beholder. While lost in contemplation of the sublime beauties of nature thus presented to his view, the air ship reached what the professor denominates as still space. As soon as this was encountered he began to ascend

WITH GREAT RAPIDITY,

at the same time he heard a crackling noise and it seemed as if his frail ship was going to pieces.

Fearing that the rapid expansion of gas in this rare atmosphere would

EXPLODE THE BALLOON,

the professor opened the valve in the crown, but the ascent was so rapid and consequently the pressure from above so great, that the gas could not escape, and in a moment

A TEARING NOISE

was heard. The now thoroughly alarmed aeronaut climbed up the ropes and discovered a rent in the balloon a yard long, from which the gas was rapidly escaping. The balloon now began to

DESCEND WITH FRIGHTFUL VELOCITY,

and the professor began to throw out packages of advertising matter, which was all he had with him in the way of ballast.

As the balloon rapidly neared the earth, what appeared to be a forest was described by the apparently doomed aeronaut, and fearing that he would be caught in the limbs of the trees, he climbed into the rigging and passed over in safety. Climbing back into the basket, he heaved out the anchor, but it was immediately broken. By this time terra firma was very close at hand, and in a moment he

STRUCK IN A CORNFIELD

about nine miles southwest of Atchison.

The professor had prepared himself for the inevitable, and was standing on the side of the basket, tightly clutching the valve rope, hoping that the gas would escape with sufficient rapidity to enable him to hold on to his balloon. Like a true sailor he was not willing to desert his ship in the hour of danger.

THE FORCE OF THE COLLISION

was even greater than the professor had anticipated and he was spinning over and over for a distance of twenty feet or more. He was considerably shaken up, but did not receive a scratch. The balloon thus being relieved of incumbrance, shot upward, and when at a great altitude exploded, emitting a cloud of dark-blue smoke. It then drifted slowly to the southward and descended in a grove thirteen miles from the city, where it was found by the professor the following day, he remaining all night at a farm house.

When the balloon disappeared from the gaze of the anxious spectators and the day wore on and the aeronaut failed to put in an appearance, all manner of rumors of

HIS HORRIBLE DEATH

were rife on the streets; people assembled in groups on the street and in subdued tones discussed the probable fate of the unfortunate professor. About 12 o'clock, however, on the day following, the people were at once astonished and gratified to behold Prof. Owings riding down the street in a farmer's wagon. He brought his beloved "ship" with him, and had it immediately sent to the ways for repairs.

Prof. Owings informed the reporter that he had made thirty ascensions previous to the one from Atchison, and that that was the first accident he had ever met with.

The balloon, "J. P. Pomeroy," was built by the professor himself, and he has every confidence in her ability to weather the gales and storms of the upper regions under most circumstances. The staunchest craft, however, that ever floated through air or water is liable to accident.

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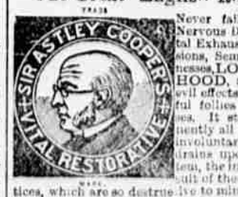

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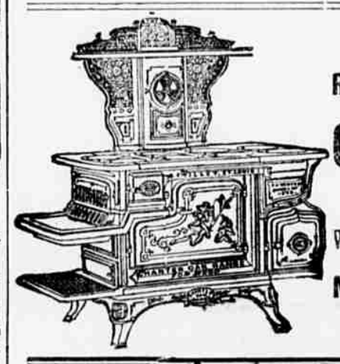

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