

The Bee's Home Magazine Page

Bleat of the Innocent Bystander

"I'm rounding up all the stray cats in New York," I notice," said the Troubled Tourist, but they are also rounding up all the shooting irons. Now are gentlemen visitors from the west going to assist in the extermination of the cat tribe unless they are permitted to tote their usual weapons around with them? I see they rounded up 50 cats in one night recently, but whether it was done by quick gun play or not I haven't been able to find out. I know I was tempted to draw a gun on a tomcat that roosted on the fence in the courtyard below my window the other night and used a cat language that was something scandalous, but I remembered your foolish law about wearing firearms as regular jewelry and more, and I kept my trusty forty-four in its sheath.

"I thought somebody might possibly hear it and make embarrassing inquiries."

"I never was able to pick a cat off a back fence at night, any way, without disturbing the neighbors, not even with a single barrel shotgun. Some people are just natural born exterminators, like the Connecticut farmer who killed 150 feet of snakes in seven minutes the other day," asserted only by his woodchuck dog, Spot. He was quiet about it and very few of the neighbors heard anything of it till he told them.

"Of course, if I'd had a woodchuck dog with me I might have been able to get this Thomas cat quiet and nice and maybe bag enough others to beat the 54 record."

"They didn't have any woodchuck dogs around the hotel that night, however, and while the cat swore on I looked around for something neat but not gaudy in the way of a chaser, I hesitated between a shoe and a bed slat, but I needed both and concluded they were too noisy. Then I glanced at a paper bag on the table and had an inspiration.



"I THREW AN ORANGE AT IT."

"I threw an orange at it—the cat. I mean."

"It was a nice soft orange, but I never heard a piece of fruit make so much noise. It might as well have been a brick."

"I missed the cat but I scored a perfectly good ball's eye on a night watchman in the next yard. It really woke him up, and if there were any folks in the block who didn't rush to his rescue it was because they were stone deaf, for he yelled that burglars had just handed him a compound, comminuted fracture of the skull. Everybody in the hotel went out to see about it but me. I went back to bed. That cat had gone away from there, so what was the use?"

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Musk Oxen First-Class Strategists

Dr. Hornaday, director of the Bronx zoo, thinks the visiting public severely appreciates the musk ox. The zoo has a herd of them which Paul Rainey brought to it alive and well from one of his hunting trips in the north.

The musk ox seems to excite neither romance, curiosity, nor interest of adventure, because he is a stolid creature and unresponsive. Yet, on any charge against his character and intelligence, the musk ox can prove an alibi.

In all the animal kingdom Dr. Hornaday does not find greater wisdom among any species than the musk ox displays in his defensive tactics.

"I don't know how long soldiers have been fighting in hollow squares," said Dr. Hornaday, to illustrate the sense of the musk ox, "but I understand they were not always acquainted with such tactics, and that at times they are the only tactics that can be employed to save the annihilation of troops, but I do know that musk oxen, living in the ice fields far back from the haunts of man, fight always in hollow squares when they meet their natural enemies."

"These tactics are probably what have saved the musk oxen in godly numbers from extinction. They have no chance against wolves when they scatter, but they successfully defend themselves by fighting in a compact body.

"A wolf depends on his trick of hamstringing to overcome the running musk ox, which is to snap at its legs, cutting the tendons and leaving the musk ox to be devoured at leisure. But, in the presence of a pack of wolves scattered musk oxen run to a common center and huddle fast into line for their hollow square, every one facing out.

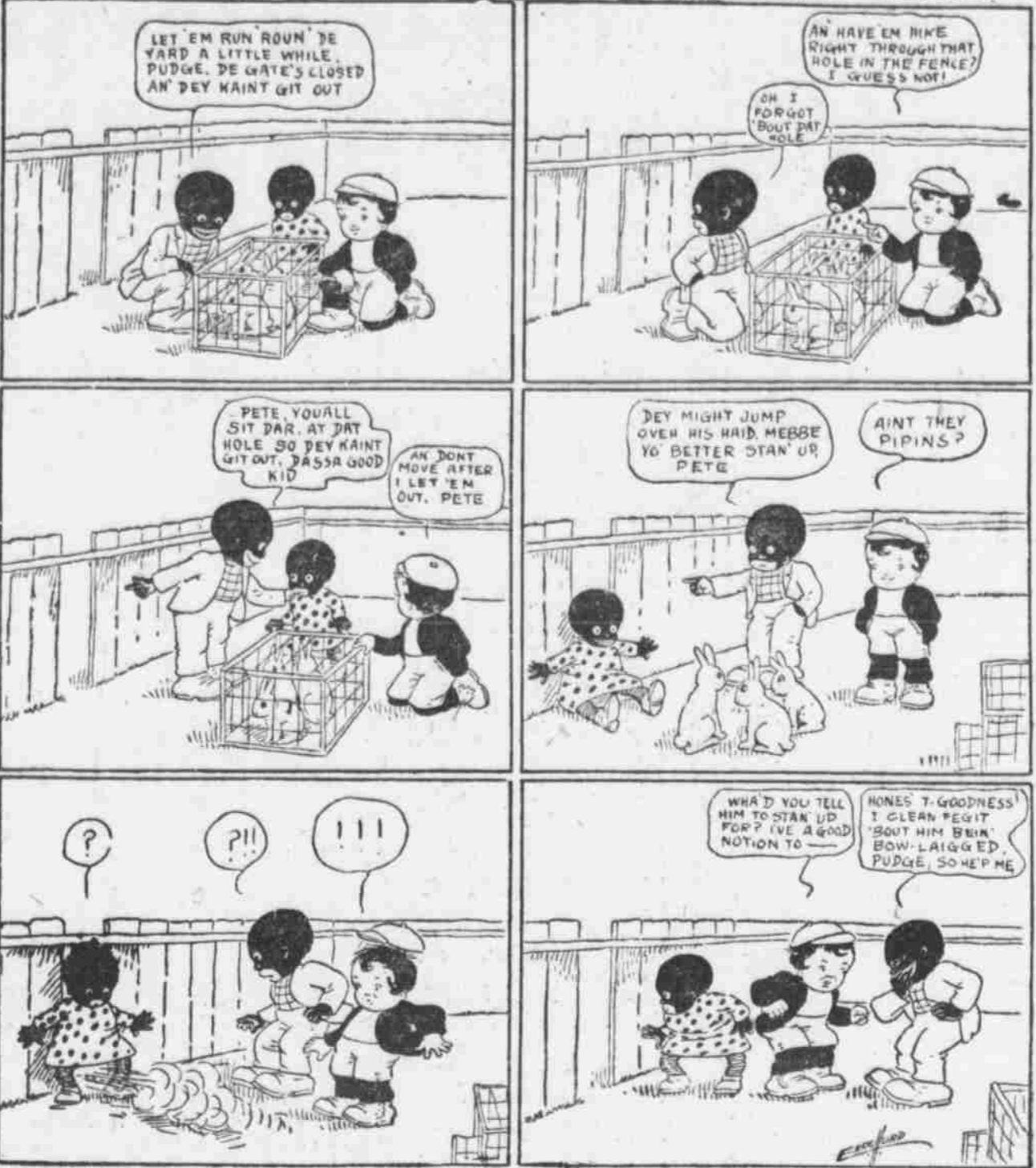
"No strength of assault nor repetition of assaults will serve to break their formation. They may die there, one by one in their places, but they won't break before a wolf or dog, because, somehow they have learned that to stand and fight together is their only chance.

"Hunters have remarked the peculiar fact that if they pursue the musk oxen without dogs the oxen will run from them, scatter and seek shelter. They do not form to resist bullets. If the hunter's dogs are ahead and they attempt to run the musk oxen, the oxen gather at once, face the dogs, and will stand until the last one is shot down.—New York Times.

PUDGE PERKINS' PETS

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By EARL HURD



Loretta's Looking Glass—Held Up to the Wishing Woman

"Oh, I wish I had a million. You only half mean it. Or you mean only half of it! Even a fourth might satisfy you. But you wish it just the same—the whole great amount. What you really want is enough money to get away from the particular worry that agitates you at the moment of utterance.

And you make your husband mighty miserable. Let's good husbands are changed into bad ones by this wishing habit. Oh! you may say you are only jesting! You may flip off the responsibility as you would a cinder from a dust-coat—if it would flip. But cinders like these have little points that adhere in the mind of the husband. He does not actually think that you really desire so much. But he does regard the wish as a vocalization of your discontent with what he can give you.

Women have a way of looking at what some other woman has, and wondering why the pretties are not for them, too. If Mrs. Blank has a sealskin and her husband is a lawyer, you ought to have a seal-skin, also. You wish for it. And you express your surprise that Mr. Blank can manage to have such decorations for his wife, while your lawyer must needs scrape pretty hard to get you a ready-made coat-suit.

Maybe Mrs. Blank's lawyer is a better one. He can earn more money. No, indeed! You cry. You will not acknowledge that! Your wifely loyalty jumps up in your arms, and you brandish your tin sword with great show. You certainly will not concede to Mrs. Blank the acumen of having chosen a smarter man than you did.

You call that display of toy weapons an evidence of your devotion to your lawyer-husband. It is not! It is a great, big, spectacular display of your own conceit! You will not acknowledge that your husband is less brilliant than some other husband—just because he is yours!

How dare you say that! Why! I should care anything that a woman's rage ever has or could invent—and some of them have achieved sinister distinction as the inventress of varied tortures—if I could, in the pain of the experience, find a way to wake you up to the harm you do with your absorbed and unrelenting wish habit. Why, women like, you drive men to acquire more than they can earn. You raise sons who are money maniacs before they are out of high school. Your daughters are mercenary creatures, looking forward toward marriage with millionaires. You are the chief priestess at the altar of mammon.

I have watched you wishing women. You are generally non-producers. Housekeeping

is a cross to you. Women who can live at fashionable family hotels are your envy. You throw up their luxury to the husband, who is doing his best, and you give him the idea that his stupidity and inability to corner the money market are keeping you from what you ought to have. Why ought you to have it? What have you done that makes you deserving? You are a troublesome, a wholesome distributor of discontent, and a creator of false ambitions. And you are as unhappy as

the ones you make miserable. Why don't you look at the worthy wives, the busy women, who are using their brains and talents to supply the dollar deficit? They recognize a limit to their husbands' earning capacity, and try to make the best of it. They are not goading men to misappropriation and misery. Their children are well dressed. Their houses are well kept. They do not sit around wishing; they are busy working. You ought to take pattern from them!

Minnesota to Stop Short-Weighting

Minnesota is this week sending out field men who will work under the provisions of a new weights and measures law. The inspectors were selected by competitive examination. John C. Connors, one of the first managers of a similar bureau in New York, who helped in the organization of the Minnesota department, is quoted in the St. Paul Dispatch as saying:

"Thousands of dollars will be saved annually to the people of Minnesota by the new department if conditions are anything like those in New York state, where a similar department was installed.

"The Minnesota department has the finest equipment of any weights and measures bureau in the country, and profiting by the mistakes made by earlier established bureaus, Minnesota should have and will have the greatest of them all.

"It is astonishing the amount of fraud and graft we discovered when the New York bureau went into operation. And the methods used were countless, but all of your kind. This destructive work was the more spectacular, and therefore got the most space in the magazines, but in real importance it did not compare with the detective work we did to discover the practices whereby, after the weights and measures were corrected, grocers and butchers still gave customers short weight.

"There is a little balance screw on the side of some scales, next to the grocer, and we found the manufacturers had in many cases made this easy to turn, so the man behind the counter could readjust this screw while the weighing was being done.

Even if the indicator was at zero when the weighing was begun, the rebalancing would be done by the customer a couple of ounces. These screws were placed where it was impossible in many cases for the customer to see what the clerk was doing.

"We prohibited the use of screws that could be turned by hand. They now must be operated only by a special instrument made for that purpose, and must be placed in a conspicuous place.

"We discovered another common method. There is a thumb screw on all scales by which the speed of the indicator may be regulated, causing it to revolve slowly and stop quickly, or to revolve rapidly and take half an hour or so to stop. Of course the customer does not care to wait for it to stop, and it is impossible for him to catch the exact weight as the roll revolves back and forth. The clerk calls out 'four pounds' and wraps the bundle up. The customer leaves for home with four or six ounces less than four pounds.

"This graft is small in the individual case, but in the aggregate it is tremendous. In New York state before the weights and measure law went into effect many families were being regularly cheated out of 11 cents on \$1. When a family spends from \$500 to \$1000 a year, this is a small matter.

"We found in order to get the best results we must interest the people. We started a publicity campaign asking all housekeepers to buy scales and measures and not to take anything for granted. Many did, and when they found they were being imposed on they informed us, which information we treated confidentially and sent a man to watch the shop reported."

The Minnesota bureau of weights and measures is under the Railroad and Warehouse commission.

It requires 12,000 elephants to supply 600 tons of ivory.

Men Who Helped to Make America

William Penn, writer, preacher and founder of Pennsylvania, was an English Quaker, and was born in London on October 24, 1644. He was the son of Admiral Sir William Penn.

Prompted by a desire to establish a colony where people might enjoy civil and religious freedom, Penn obtained from his sovereign, King Charles II, a tract of land west of the Delaware River, for wood or forest, thought Sylvania a good name for this new land covered with forests. Penn's own name was prefixed to this by the king in honor of Penn's father, and Pennsylvania's name was thus evolved.

From the duke of York the Quaker founder also obtained a grant of Delaware and the two states were founded in 1682.

Penn respected the rights of the Indians as well as those of the Swedes, who had already settled within the confines of Pennsylvania and Delaware. His famous "treaty of peace and friendship with the red men" was never sworn to and never broken.

Here are the words of William Penn while conferring with the Indians:

"The Great Spirit, who made us and thee, and who rules in heaven and earth, knows that I and my friends have a hearty desire to live in friendship with thee, and to serve thee to the utmost of our power. It is not our custom to use hostile weapons against our fellow creatures, for which reason we have come unarmed. Our object is not to do injury, and thus provoke the Great Spirit, but to do good. We are now met on the broad pathway of good



faith and good will, so that no advantage is to be taken on either side."

The great iron tree, under which this treaty was made, became celebrated on that account and when the British were quartered near it during the war of American Independence their general so respected it that, when his soldiers were cutting down every tree for firewood, he placed a sentinel under it, that not a branch of it might be touched. A few years ago it was blown down, when it was split into wood, and many cups, bowls and other articles made of it to be kept as memorials.

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Gotham of the '70s

What an odd, provincial, pleasant little old New York was that of the earliest seventies, just when the wave of affluence had begun to begin to strike its ideas and make it feel the impulse toward a progress never afterward to cease.

Broadway, a long unlovely thoroughfare, was filled with huddled buildings monotonous in line and tint. Madison squares were inclosed in high railings, removed in 1871, their grass and trees, as now a great relief to the eye, in passing. Fifth avenue, fringed on either side with telegraph poles, was abominably paved with irregular blocks of stones, so that a drive to the park or "away uptown to Fifth street" was accompanied by much wear and tear to the physical and nervous system. The celebrated and delightful Dr. Fordyce Barker used to say he actually could not recommend a convalescent patient to take the air, because of the necessary jolting in a carriage in any direction away from the residential quarter. Apart from the discomfort, the noise of continuous passage of vehicles knowing not rubber tires made open windows in one's home a perpetual trial. Certainly we modern gentlemen in asphalt streets have no high gret for that feature of the dear old days.—Mrs. Hurton Harrison in Boy

Naming the Baby



Nubs of Knowledge

- Some knowledge was possessed by the ancients 400 B. C. of the effect of iron rods in averting lightning.
- Irrigation for agricultural purposes was extensively practiced in Egypt 2,000 years prior to the advent of the Christian era.
- Democritus was the first who taught, in 428 B. C., that the milky way consisted of a confused multitude of stars.
- Painting began in 1621.
- Construction of the Paris boulevards commenced in 1858.
- Medical schools flourished at Bagdad and Salerno in 700.
- Musical notes were originally printed from movable types in 1585.
- Jacob Perkins of Philadelphia invented engraving on soft steel in 1818.
- Fohi, founder of the Chinese empire, taught the art of writing in 2580 B. C.
- A kangaroo has been known to leap seventy feet.
- The waltz was introduced into England at Almack's in 1815.
- Hammering is absolutely unknown among uncivilized people.
- Thomas occurs, on the average, thirty-nine times in every 1,000 names.
- Lancashire is the most populous British county, Middlesex second, Yorkshire third.
- Spiders are met with in the forest of Java whose webs are so strong that it requires a knife to cut through them.
- Seaweed do not obtain nourishment from the soil at the bottom of the sea, but from the matter contained in sea water.
- Wolves cause much damage in Russia. The yearly loss in domestic animals through their depredations is estimated at \$2,000,000.
- Starbuck began to be used in England in 1862.
- Boning machines were instituted in 628 B. C.
- The earliest known cook book was published at Venice in 1475.
- Sheathing of copper was first applied to the British ship Alarm in 1782.
- America's first tome was the Bay Psalm book. It was printed at Cambridge, Mass., in 1640.
- Bartholomew Columbus, brother of the renowned discoverer, introduced maps into England in 1459.
- Evening schools for instructing boys and girls who had to work all day originated in 1366 at Bristol, England.
- Every German regiment has a chiropractor in its ranks.

Great Women

- Anna Amalia, duchess of Saxe-Weimar, upon the death of her husband, Duke Ernest, in 1758, took the reins of government and reigned so well that the country received no harm from the seven years' war nor the famine of 1772. For thirty years she lived in the society of Goethe, Schiller and other noted scholars.
- Joanna Baillie, Scottish dramatist, published her first volume of "Plays of the Passions" in 1798. Sir Walter Scott acknowledged that her merit was so great as to prevent all attempts at competition on his part.
- Mrs. Adeline Patti-Nicolini, celebrated prima donna, was born in Spain in 1841. Her repertory included 100 operas, and during her professional career she never sang a false note. She now lives at Craig-y-Nos, in the Swansea valley of Wales.
- Mrs. Emma Willard, distinguished educator, was born in 1787 and died in 1870. She was founder of the Troy Female Seminary. She wrote "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep."
- Elizabeth and Emily Blackwell, physicians. They were known as the Doctors Blackwell and founded the Women's hospital and college of New York City.
- Sarah Siddons, English actress, was born in 1755 and died in 1841. She was esteemed for her surpassing genius and exemplary conduct in all the relations of life.
- Sappho, celebrated Greek poet, was born in 630 B. C. and died in 570 B. C. She invented the meter that bears her name.
- Mrs. Graceanna Lewis, naturalist, was born in 1821. She was author of many works in the field of natural history.
- The first school exclusively for adults was established in Mala, Merionethshire, Wales, in 1821.