

HISTORY OF THE BEDSTEAD.

A Brief Account of Its Evolution in Great Britain—The Old Time Four Poster.

The late Lawson Tait was a man of many parts, and if he could not wield the pen so skillfully as the knife, at any rate as a writer he was by no means to be despised.

After a brief reference to the times of the Briton in Britain, the story brings us to the Norman era in that country, and shows us that the Norman—albeit his castle might be grim and forbidding outwardly—yet had a very fair notion of what constitutes a comfortable bedroom and bedstead, as well as more than rudimentary ideas on effective hygiene.

A pathetic picture is drawn of the trials attending the unwary visitor to London even in the seventies, when it was the rule to have vermin in all bedsteads used by the public, and bugs were made the subject of chronic jokes in all humorous writings and pantomimes.

"TOMMY" BY THE ACRE.

The Space That Will Be Covered on the South African Veldt by British Soldiers.

If a civilian were asked how much space upon the veldt a battalion of our infantry would occupy when marching, he would in all probability make a guess which would be utterly wide of the mark.

A battalion is generally about 800 strong, and when in column of route it occupies about 350 yards. When the march has been continued for more than an hour, however, 20 per cent. must be allowed to this estimate for straggling.

A field battery upon the march occupies about 240 yards, but as horses do not lag as men do only ten per cent. need be allowed for straggling.

Cavalry, when marching in sections—that is, four abreast—occupy as exactly as possible as many yards as there are men in the force. The rates of march of the various troops are as follows: A small body of infantry can travel at three miles an hour, or, at a pinch, the rate can be increased to about three and a half miles.

Natural Soap. Near Ashcroft, in British Columbia, are a number of small lakes, whose shores and bottoms are covered with a crust containing borax and soda in such quantities and proportions that when cut out it serves as a washing compound.

Only One. The Manager—You are the young man who was recommended to me as having no bad habits. The Applicant—Well, I can hardly say that, sir; I snore a little.—Yonkers Statesman.

KATE FIELD'S LOST LOVER.

An Aggravating Story That Was Set Afloat by the Mischievous "Gene" Field.

Editor Kohlsaat, of the Chicago Times-Herald, related a funny story, when in town recently, of the delight "Gene" Field took in teasing Kate Field, and how vexed she would be at the pranks he was continuously playing upon her.

"But the story that broke Kate Field's heart was written by 'Gene' when she was in Spain writing up the Spanish in 1895. It was one of the most ingenious and sensational fakes ever sprung on the public," said Mr. Kohlsaat.

"The thing purported to be a special from a correspondent at Madrid. Having first, in delicate fashion, announced that the duke of Matano had offered his hand to Miss Field and had been accepted, 'Gene' proceeded with the thrilling episode he had dreamed out:

"Miss Field had one day arrayed herself brilliantly in a lovely silk costume in which red and yellow, Spain's colors, largely predominated. She was to attend the bull fight with her lover. The arrival of Matano and his dual equipage, splendid attire and ceremonious attentions to his fiancée were elaborately set forth. Miss Field, in her gorgeous robes, accompanied the duke to the Plaza del Toros.

"Arrived at the plaza, the duke found the assemblage so large that he would not deign to mingle with the crowd that poured in at the main entrance, but bribed those in charge of the arena to let him pass through with his bride-to-be.

"It was an innovation that took the people by storm. The haughty courtier escorting the lovely girl, the mingled glitter and gleam of his gilded trappings and her silk draperies surpassed the great multitude that sat tier upon tier above the vast amphitheater.

"In this imposing manner the duke, his tinsamers and his retinue traversed the entire diameter of the arena. The first bull had not yet been brought in, and Miss Field and the duke were, for the time being, the whole attraction.

"Just as the duke made ready to assist his lady over the barricade, a wild cry rang out from the throng, a shout of terror, not of applause. Through some mistake, a bull had been admitted to the arena too soon and, glimpsing Miss Field's dress, rushed for her in headlong rage.

"Miss Field shrieked and fainted with terror, but the strong arms of the duke thrust her quickly over the barrier, where a hundred hands stretched upward to receive her limp figure, but her lover had no time to save himself, and the next instant the horns of the bull were buried in his vitals.

"Well," said Mr. Kohlsaat, "this story was copied everywhere, and the sympathy of the world went out to the lovely American who had lost her lover in this tragic manner.

"Only the other day," said Miss Field to me a short time before her death, "a young lady came to me and said: 'Oh, Miss Field, I have often longed to meet you and tell you how deeply I sympathized with you in the loss of your lover in Spain, that splendid fellow who—' and she was much frozen with astonishment when I cut her off and said 'rats!'"—Denver Post.

ON THE WRONG TACK.

There Was One Time When the Recruiting Officer Made a Mistake.

In the town of Adams, Mass., during the recent recruiting for the volunteer regiments for the Philippines, Corporal Conway was sitting in charge of the local recruiting office. From time immemorial the recruiting officer had been notoriously "all things to all men," and Corporal Conway was quite willing to give to promising recruits as favorable an account of the service as he could conscientiously.

"The recruits were for the most part volunteers from patriotism or for the love of adventure. Therefore when a tall, sturdy, solid-looking young farmer presented himself the corporal was not surprised to hear him ask:

"Say, mister, are you sure there's a goin' to be lots of fightin' out there?" "Lots of it—sure thing," answered the corporal, and he believed it.

"Goin' to have the 'tenden hall' that the newspapers talk about, an' marchin' 'n' up to the cannon's mouth, an' that 'ere kind o' thing?"

"Well, something a good deal like it, I fancy," said the corporal. "Duckets o' blood flowin' on the tented field, I suppose?"

"I guess you'll be able to see all the bloodshed that you want," answered the corporal, encouragingly. "Wal," said the young farmer, "it's jest this way. I kind o' like to go to war, but I live over here in Savoy—Savoy, you know. Savoy's a fine place. I ain't never seen any bloodshed there, 'ceptin' when you cut your finger or something like that. Savoy's a nice town, and I guess, come to think about it, I'll stay right there! Savoy's good enough for me."

He went away, and the recruiting officer was aware that for once he had made a mistake in his estimate of human nature.—Youth's Companion.

CHARGE OF THE LION.

Shooting the Onrushing King of Beasts at a Few Yards' Distance.

After we had gone 15 miles, winding in and out among the mimosa bushes, the two horsemen pointed overhead to the blazing zone, and I saw hundreds of vultures flying at an immense altitude. Dismounting and advancing alone on foot with my rifle, I soon caught sight of the dead camel. The lion was crouching behind it, and appeared almost exactly of the same color as his prey.

I was within 80 or 90 yards when the lion sprang out toward me and remained for some moments motionless in a defiant attitude, his forepaws extended, his head near the ground, but his back arched. Supposing he might be coming for me I reserved my fire—besides, the distance was too great for an absolutely certain shot—so that I might give him two barrels at close quarters as he was charging down on me. After that I knew I must trust to luck, as I had no second rifle or gun bearer, and should have no time to reload.

After we had thus regarded each other for some seconds, the lion turned slowly and lumbered heavily away. I was sorry, since he had not charged, that I had not fired, and sent a bullet screaming after him through the bushes, as better late than never. I was soon in the saddle and away upon his tracks at a gallop, accompanied by the mountain guides. The lion soon stopped under a small mimosa bush, crouching and glaring at us with waving tail as we rode round. I then approached on foot.

The brute was now swaying his tail and body from side to side with much energy, and clearly upon the point of charging down to kill me.

As I walked round to get a flank shot into his shoulder the lion moved so as to face me, keeping his body invisible and rendering a chance shot very hazardous, the brain being the only vital part to aim for. If one of the horsemen had only ventured near, or if the lion's attention could have been distracted for a moment toward another foe, he might have turned and given me my opportunity of fatally crippling him.

The only issue was now the death of the lion or of myself, or both. Which it was to be depended on the accuracy of my aim and the coolness of hand and eye. Every instant the beast, like a hawk cat after a bird, was working himself up for the inevitable charge, lashing his great flanks with his tail. I remember wondering at that supreme moment whether the popular superstition that on the end of his tail a lion has a claw or sharp point wherewith to goad himself on to the attack could have any groundwork of fact.

I now gave up all hope of an easy shot, and, feeling that further delay was impossible, as he might deliver his charge at any moment, I sat down, and, resting my elbows on my knees, fired twice at his head through the bush at a distance of about 60 yards. These shots failed to kill, and uttering hoarse growls, the lion edged round the bush, facing me and keeping low upon the ground. I reloaded quickly, and, standing upright so as to clear the grass, fired my right barrel downward at his head. The lion immediately rose to his feet and charged down upon me at full speed, running swift and low. Only my left barrel remained, and, covering his chest with the sights of my rifle as he neared me, I pulled the trigger when he was a few yards distant. Exactly what the lion did no man will ever know unless the natives saw. As I stepped hastily to one side, reloading, I was struck by a shower of stones, and half blinded by a shower of sand and dust. The lion must have passed close by me, and swung abruptly round under cover of the smoke.

When the dust cleared away I saw the lion under the bush again—the same old bush. He had delivered his charge, and it had failed. It was a sick and sorry beast, and evidently disconcerted and wounded unto death. I now had an easy side shot into his shoulder, and quickly put two bullets through his heart. I had seen one of the grandest sights of Africa—the charge upon one's self of the African lion, practically carried home—a charge that few have sustained and yet come off unharmed. One can have too much of a good thing, and the sight is not one that I should desire to see frequently.—H. Seton Karr, in Royal Magazine.

A New Mosquito.

Newark has a new breed of mosquitoes. This appalling intelligence is gleaned from one of the papers published in that city. These new mosquitoes are not to be kept out of houses by any of the screens now in use. They are so small that they get into the rooms of the unhappy residents of the flourishing city on the Passaic river and bite them with a ferocity hitherto unknown even in the state which is famous for its mosquitoes. The doctors are trying to comfort the people by telling them that these mosquitoes will eat malarial germs with more avidity than the ordinary New Jersey breed, but the people are not satisfied. Some of them are declaring that their board of health ought to do something about it. Just how the board of health can consistently take action looking toward the extermination of any insect which will eat the germs of malaria is not explained.—N. Y. Times.

Fair Offer.

Beggar—I've come to propose a scheme by which we can both get \$10,000.

Stock Broker—What is it?

"I've heard your daughter is about to be married and you are going to give her \$20,000."

"Yes."

"Well, I'll take her for \$10,000."

Judy.

Observant Bird.

"O, George!" squeaked the parrot, as soon as the young man came into the parlor, "how rough your face is!" Chicago Tribune.

EXPORTS OF IRON AND STEEL.

Will Amount for the Year to \$100,000,000, an Increase of \$20,000,000 Over Any Previous Year.

American manufacturers will sell to the outside world over \$100,000,000 worth of iron and steel in the calendar year 1906, or \$20,000,000 in excess of any earlier year in their history. There was for the month of October an increase of over \$2,000,000, as compared with the same month of last year, and for the ten months an increase of almost \$20,000,000. The October figures of exports of iron and steel and manufactures thereof are \$3,593,453, against \$7,299,185 in October of last year, and for the ten months \$36,162,258, against \$67,290,560 last year. Both in price and quantity the figures of the export trade show an increase, and in practically every article and class. Bar iron, for instance, shows an increase of nearly 100 per cent. In quantity exported in 1899, as compared with 1898; bars or rods of steel an increase of 30 per cent; wire rods of steel, 25 per cent; steel sheets and plates over 100 per cent, and wire nails an increase in round terms of 200 per cent. in quantity.

It is thus apparent that the frequent expressed belief that the increase in prices of iron and steel and manufactures thereof in the United States would cause an immediate and plainly perceptible decrease in our exportations was not justified. The corresponding rise in prices in other parts of the world and the continued increase in demand for products and manufactures of this character fully offset the increased price and increased demand at home, and this combination of an unusual demand from the home and foreign markets upon our manufactures readily accounts for the frequent reports of shortage in supplies of material and inability of American manufacturers to promptly fill all orders received.

LOVE AND MONEY.

Mrs. Sage Declares That Poverty Should Not Turn a Poor Man's Eyes from a Rich Girl.

Discussing problems of love and marriage in society, Mrs. Russell Sage says: "Much stress is often laid upon the fact that wealthy men are on the lookout for wealthy husbands for their daughters. This is not so. As a rule, a father prefers to see his daughter married to a good, honorable, ambitious man who has no fortune, rather than to an idle, fashionable fop who cares for nothing in life but clubs, clothes and a competency.

"Poor young men should not allow false pride to stand in the way of their accepting the love of a rich girl, for if a man has ambition the fortune is only a stepping stone to his goal.

"The income necessary for a young couple starting out in New York and wishing to continue in the fashionable set is altogether relative. The lowest possible figure is \$5,000 a year—but it could be done for that by careful expenditure and a wholesome disregard of opera boxes, theater tickets, carriages, etc.

"Many young men with rich fathers make the mistake of depending upon them for their future support, and for that reason make no effort to obtain employment for themselves."

BAPTIZED IN MOLASSES VAT.

The Sticky Experience of a Prowling Tramp in an Indiana Farmhouse.

A funny incident is reported from Chester township, Walsh county, wherein a tramp received unsought baptism in a vat of sorghum molasses. At the home of J. R. Hornung there is a shaft which extends from the second floor of the farm residence to the cellar. During the absence of the family a night or two ago a tramp entered the dwelling, and while prowling around the second floor fell into the open shaft and tumbled down two flights. At the base of the opening in the cellar stood a vat of sorghum molasses, into which the Wrenny Willy plunged. He was not seriously hurt, though considerably dazed by the tumble, but was covered from head to foot with the saccharine material, a liberal quantity of which splashed over the walls. His trampship crawled off to the hay mow and spent the night, and when discovered next morning, explained that he was drunk and wandered into the house by mistake. The family cleaned him up and sent him on his way.

ADMITS BIBLE TO SCHOOL.

State Superintendent Jackson, of Nebraska, Decides a Disturbing Dispute.

State Superintendent Jackson, of Nebraska, has decided that the Bible may be read in the public schools. The matter was laid before him in a case from a county, where one family in a district wanted the teacher enjoined from using the book, although all others favored it. In his decision Mr. Jackson says:

"There seems to be nothing in the laws of Nebraska that would prevent the simple reading of the Bible in our public schools. I am of the opinion that in this enlightened age and Christian land the public school teacher ought not to be deprived of reading, without written or oral comment, the Bible or of repeating the Lord's Prayer."

Big Libraries in China. The great libraries of Peking contain volumes of books numbered by the hundreds of thousands. In the archives of the government are still found the ancient predictions of eclipses made with great accuracy, together with works on astronomy which show a fair knowledge of that science.

TO HELP FARMING INDUSTRY.

Move Made by Prominent Citizens of New York to Aid the Farmers of the State.

A movement in the interest of the farmers of New York state and the farming industry is being developed by several wealthy men and women, whose interest was aroused in the subject during the general depression of five years ago, when many farmers were forced to give up their farms. They came to New York city in the hope of being able to support their families, but few met with even moderate success.

The leaders in the movement are ex-Mayor Abram S. Hewitt, Mrs. Seth Low, ex-Secretary of the Treasury John G. Carlisle, R. Fulton Cutting, William E. Dodge, Mrs. Josephine Shaw Lowell, Jacob H. Schiff, Walter L. Suddan and a number of others.

The committee has engaged the services of John T. Powell, an expert on the subject, to make an exhaustive investigation of the agricultural condition of the state.

Mr. Powell made a detailed study of the farming affairs in each county. Summarized, the report shows that where the conditions of the farmers was almost deplorable five years ago, by reason of the hard times, it is now the reverse. Mr. Powell's report showed that the farmers who had a scientific and broad knowledge of agriculture had much greater financial success than those who merely worked their land on old-fashioned methods.

He favored the establishment of a school near New York city for the scientific teaching of horticultural and other branches of agriculture.

The committee will further examine as to the need of such a school, and it will be established if it is found that it will benefit the farmers of the state.

GENUINE BOOK WORM.

Discovered Boring Through an Edition of Thomas Jefferson's Works in a New York Book Store.

In a little old book shop in Ann street, not far from Broadway, New York city, and much frequented by book worms of the human species, there is on exhibit a genuine book worm, one of the rarest of insects, and it is feeding upon the works of Thomas Jefferson. According to bibliophiles, it is ten years since a book worm has been seen in this city. Librarians and dealers in books have discovered their borings, but the creatures themselves have escaped. An offer of \$1000 was made for the last one that was found left, but the offer was refused and the worm mysteriously disappeared. Isaac Merzola, the owner of the Ann street book store, says that in his experience of 19 years he had seen only two genuine book worms. The first was found in a Nassau street shop ten years ago, and the second is now in his possession. The one he has now started at the back of an old volume entitled "Memoirs, Correspondence and Miscellaneous Writings of Thomas Jefferson."

It worked straight through to the front of the book, biting a hole about one-sixteenth of an inch in diameter. When it struck the front cover it strode about in the fly leaves, leaving a winding passage about three inches long. It then struck into the book again on the return journey to the back cover. When shown it was on page 49, which it had reached after two days' work. There are 216 pages in the book. The insect is about half an inch in length, white in color and has a brown head.

BIBLE TEXT ON AN ELEVATOR.

Kansas Grain Merchant Proves His Belief in a Positive and Moving Gospel.

The people of Lebanon, Kan., and passengers of the Rock Island railroad have been given a practical illustration of the proclaiming of God's word from the housetops. The big grain elevator owned by E. D. Hoyde, a devout Free Methodist, has been decorated by a sign painted with this Bible quotation: "Eternity is hell. He lifted up his eyes, being in torment. He is not deceived. God is not mocked. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My words shall not pass away. Fear God and keep His Commandments. For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

These texts are in bright letters, and may be read for miles over the level plains.

Mr. Hoyde is one of the wealthiest citizens of Lebanon, and a member of the town council and prominent in church and temperance work. He says a positive to "sped 'em," and he believes in disseminating it in every possible way.

Stuyvesant's Pear Tree. A tablet on the side wall of the building on the southeast corner of Thirtieth street and Third avenue, New York, says: "On this corner grew Petrus Stuyvesant's pear tree. Recalled to Holland in 1664. On his return he brought the pear tree and planted it as his memorial, by which," said he, "my name may be remembered." The pear tree flourished and bore fruit for over 200 years. The tablet placed here by the Holland Society of New York, September, 1896."

Rare Copper Coins. There is a premium on copper cents from 1793 to 1814, inclusive, and from 1816 to 1857, inclusive, the rarest being 1799, which sometimes brings \$25, and 1804, which has sold for \$25. Others that have brought one dollar or more are 1793, 1795, 1796, 1809 and 1811.

Discrimination. Montreal Le Presse will not accept an advertisement calculated to cause immigration to the United States.

CHANCE FOR WOMEN.

May Be Employed in the Compilation of the Census of 1900.

Their Efficiency as Enumerators and Clerks Proven by the Census Bureau at the Time of the Taking of the Last General Census.

Although the newspapers in referring to the enumerators and clerks to be employed by the government in gathering the census in 1900 have invariably used the masculine gender it is a fact that women are to take their place beside the men in this important work. Women were first employed in this labor in 1880. At that time the head of the census bureau was the late Gen. Francis A. Walker, whose attention was directed to the usefulness of women in gathering census statistics by Mrs. Lillie Devereux Blake. In accordance with her suggestion all the rules and regulations for the taking of the census of 1880 were so drawn that there was no discrimination on account of sex. As a consequence many women were employed throughout the country as enumerators, and in every case did good work, one woman in a western district making a record in the number of names she obtained in a thirty-six day section.

In 1890 women again found occupation as clerks and as census enumerators, though then, as now, the fact that women were eligible to these positions was not as widely known as it should have been.

There are many reasons why this employment for women is most suitable. In the first place, as the work only lasts for a few weeks or months, and then ceases absolutely, it has always been found difficult to find the best men for a labor which offers no permanency of support, while there are many women so situated that they are glad to have the opportunity to earn a good sum of money in some occupation which will not take the whole of their time. This service is not severe, especially in the large cities, where the dwellings are crowded together and a person can work all day in collecting the names of the inhabitants of a few blocks. Another point which deserves consideration is that the census enumerator as a rule sees only women in the homes which must be visited, as the calls are made during the hours when men are away on business.

TORPEDO PRACTICE REQUIRED.

Naval Authorities Decide That There Must Be Practical and Regular Instruction in This Direction.

Naval authorities have decided that there must be regular torpedo practice on ships of war, and orders have been issued which require this to the end that officers may become acquainted with the details of torpedo work. The order reads: "The commanding officer of every vessel other than a torpedo vessel shall cause each torpedo on the vessel under his command to be run at least once in each quarter, and in case of failure to carry out the provision of this paragraph a quarterly torpedo practice report, made upon the regular torpedo practice form, must state the reasons for this failure.

"Torpedo practice, according to the above, for the instruction of officers and men, shall be held as much often as circumstances will permit, and as the commander in chief, senior officer present, or commanding officer may deem advisable. Torpedo practice with the vessel dead in the water is of importance only so far as the care and adjustment of the torpedoes and the training of the inexperienced crews are concerned, and the commander in chief, senior officer present, or commanding officer, therefore, will use every effort to hold torpedo practice at the highest practicable speed, and when possible at a moving target. Every precaution must be taken to insure the recovery of a torpedo when fired for an exercise run, but it is not desired that the loss of an occasional loss of a torpedo shall prevent officers and men becoming thoroughly familiar with the weapon under probable service conditions of speed and helm angle of ship and air pressure in torpedo flask."

FIRST OF THE AUTOTRUCKS.

Makes Its Appearance on the Streets of New York City—Is Run by Compressed Air.

For the first time an autotruck was seen on the streets of New York. It was truck No. 5 of the New York Autotruck company, which was brought down from Providence, where the vehicles of the company are being built. The wagon is 16 feet long, and is run by compressed air. The motor is of 1 1/2-horse-power. The body of the wagon is of heavy board, about four inches thick. There are no shafts or axles. The seat for the driver is built directly over the front wheels. The compressed air cylinders are just in front of the rear wheels, and attached to the body of the truck.

Sale of Orchids in England. A collection of orchids made by Maj. Mason, of the Firs, Warwick, England, lately sold for \$15,520. Several cypripediums brought from \$500 to \$100, and one, a specimen of cypripedium insigne giganteum, the best of its class ever seen, fetched \$735. Nothing approaching these prices have ever been known in this country. Orchids in England have for a score of years almost equaled the prices of tulips in the tulip mania of Holland.

Visiting Burns' Birthplace. During the year ended September 30 the number of visitors to Burns' cottage, Ayr, was 42,490, being 4,290 more than in 1896, which was the previous record year.