

A JONAH ON SHIPBOARD.

Misfortunes Soon Make a Crew Believe a Passenger a "Hoodoo."

It does not take a long series of misfortunes overtaking a ship to convince her crew that a lineal descendant of Jonah and an inheritor of his disagreeable disqualifications is a passenger. So deeply rooted is this idea that when once it has been aroused with respect to any member of a ship's company, that person is in evil case, and, given fitting opportunity, would actually be in danger of his life.

AN ECCENTRIC INVENTOR.

Worked in Secret for Thirty-Five Years on Perpetual Motion Machine.

The sale of the effects of the late Jesse Horn, an eccentric farmer living in the Flatwoods district, will doubtless attract a very large crowd of the curious, says a Rome (Ga.) correspondent of the St. Louis Republic. Among the things listed for the sale is one perpetual motion machine. For 35 years Horn worked every spare moment on his machine, often working feverishly far into the night.

Floyd has another eccentric old fellow, who was for years imbued with the idea that he could invent a flying machine. His name is Poole, and his mental equipage is not of the best. One day Poole got the machine fixed to his liking, and, after bidding his wife and children a solemn farewell, crawled out on the roof of his cabin from the summit of which he announced that he was going to fly to Heaven.

EXPRESSIVE AMERICANISM.

A Peculiarly Which an Intelligent Tallier in London Failed to Understand.

"When I go over to the old country I am going to get a lot of clothes to bring back with me," said a well-known Windsorite who went abroad recently, according to the Chicago Inter Ocean.

"Oh," said his hearer, "if that is the case, I have a brother who is a tallier in London, and I will give you a letter of introduction, and write him telling him to use you right."

"Dear Brother: The bearer, Mr. —, is from our place and wishes to get a lot of clothes in London. He has all sorts of money. Soak him. Yours affectionately."

QUAINT DOLL HEADS.

Some of Metal Included Nowadays in the Variety Supplied to the Dealers.

Years ago doll heads were made of wood, carved out by hand, and great numbers of dolls were sold that were entirely of wood, with jointed arms and legs. Some dolls of this sort, looking quaint enough now, though they were once so common, are still sold, but the great bulk of the dolls now made have bodies of cloth or leather, with heads of china, bisque, or papier-mache.

In the process by which these heads are made, many dies are used in the production of a single head, the metal being worked to its final shape gradually. The first die makes but a barely perceptible impression upon the piece of sheet metal from which the head is to be formed.

A LOST KING.

That Was Centuries Ago, But His Faithful People Still Wait for His Coming.

In olden times, when European kings were as plentiful as Kentucky colons are to-day, it was not an exceptional occurrence for a king to disappear and never be heard of again.

It is like some old story of the masters, and certainly few sweeter stories of painters and their mothers have ever been told.

CLOTH CARRIES PERFUME.

Novelty That One Dressmaker Is Dividing Among Her Favorite Customers.

A dressmaker, recently returned from Paris, brought a small but very valuable piece of red material, which she is going to divide sparingly among her most favored customers. After awhile, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, it will be accessible to a larger circle, as the material will ultimately be put upon the market.

Many other expedients have been tried, such as small sachets sewed in the draperies, but none of them is so simple as this cloth, which is laid in the lining or otherwise concealed about the waists.

When the material goes on the market there is little danger that this new invention will ever become common. The price is prohibitive to any but women who are willing to pay for what they want, whatever it may cost.

COCKROACH RACES.

New York Men Who Bet Heavily on Speed Contests Between the Insects.

Cockroaches furnish excellent sport when raced. At least one man in New York makes a business of this pastime, and those who have attended his exhibitions in a long room on the top floor of an east side building care no more for poker or horse racing, roulette or faro bank, says the New York Press.

FIGHTING HORNETS.

Boys Who Would Attack Them Should Profit by This Valuable Advice.

Boys who propose to bombard hornets' nests may find valuable information in the description, by Henry Laney, in the Scientific American, of the way these insects defend their homes.

In making such a charge, Mr. Laney says, the hornet flies "with head and tail together," and the sting is driven deep. But if the boy gets behind a tree or bush, and throws from shelter, he is likely to escape, because the hornet seems to possess little power of locating the enemy at sight.

Julian Ralph's Great Find.

Julian Ralph tells of his delight in finding green corn in Europe. In the course of many years of extensive travel on the continent he had never seen an ear. He recently stopped at a hotel in Paris and met a porter in the hall carrying a basket of genuine American green corn.

In Germany potato bread is used by the natives of Thuringia to feed their horses, especially when they are worked hard in very cold weather. The animals thrive on it, and their health and strength are excellent.

FILIPINO IS GULLIBLE.

This Is Shown by Some Not Very Sealy Tricks of the Yankee Soldiers.

The native Filipino has the reputation of being the shrewdest among the Asiatic races. Like the Parsee, he is known as the Yankee of the orient, says the Philadelphia Press.

He lost no opportunity to trim up his occidental Yankee brother whenever the opportunity presented itself, but the American Yankee, and particularly he of the Pennsylvania breed, usually gave him a Roland for his Oliver.

Shortly after their arrival in Manila the officers of some of the companies found these identification badges in the hands of the Filipino merchants, upon whom the Pennsylvanians had imposed them as quarter dollars in return for articles of barter.

Another trick of the Yankee soldier was to take a new copper penny, mill the edges of it with a file, polish the coin till it shone like gold, and then pass it upon the gullible and unsuspecting natives as a five-dollar gold piece.

The gullibility of the native in this regard led some of the men to write home for samples of confederate scrip, which, when duly received, were put in circulation among the yellow packets as bona-fide American greenbacks, the natives willingly accepting them as standard paper money of the United States.

THE CREVALLES.

Constantly Circling Fishes at the Aquarium That the Children Call the "Merry-Go-Rounds."

Children looking at the crevalles in their tank at the aquarium call them the merry-go-round fishes, because they are constantly circling around their tank, following one another like the animals of the merry-go-round. The crevalles are singularly nervous and sensitive, and they are always on the go, says the New York Sun.

These crevalles have now been in captivity more than a year, which is perhaps longer than any were ever kept before; certainly longer than any have been kept in the aquarium, these being the first to be carried through a winter, which was made possible by the extension of the aquarium's warmed salt water supply, so that some others than tropical fishes could have the benefits of it.

Besides being nervous and sensitive and easily frightened fish the crevalle is a fish of beauty with its sides of solid, silvery pearl.

UNCLE SAM SLOW.

He Takes as Much Time Settling a Sixteen-Cent Bill as Others That Are Larger.

A grizzled veteran of two big wars and several smaller Indian combats was relating stories of his experience, while in the service of Uncle Sam. One of them that will show you Uncle Samuel one of the real business men of the world is told by the veteran, as follows:

"I went through the civil war, and rose from the volunteer ranks to a first lieutenant, and was assigned to the regular army. In June, 1873, while attached to the quartermaster's department of my troop I disposed of some oil to private parties. In selling the oil I sold one gallon more than I had, and turned the money over to headquarters before I discovered my mistake.

RESTLESS ANIMALS.

They Are Always Walking About in Their Cages Because They Need Exercise.

When you see the animals in the park menageries pacing back and forth restlessly in their cages do not take it for granted that the creatures are unhappy or even discontented. It may be that the lion or the tiger or the polar bear that moves about with apparently ceaseless activity is only taking his daily exercise, without which he would pine and die soon.

WOMEN OF BABYLONIA.

Marriage Contracts 2,500 Years Ago Were Very Carefully Drawn Up.

A recent treatise by Victor Marx, a German scientist, defines the position of women in Babylonia during the period of 604-485 B. C., as illustrated by the contract literature of the times. The contracts indicate that Babylonian maidens held property in their own right, and that there were definite marriage stipulations relating to dowry, incidentally indicating the dependence of the son on his father's wishes in the choice of a wife.

The dowry contracts were definite, stating the amount and nature of the property to be given, providing for payment by installments and arranging for payment by a brother in case of the father's decease, the dowry being regarded as a legally collectible debt, payable in kind if money were lacking.

The legal recipient of the dowry was the son-in-law, yet the daughter (wife) retained such proprietary interest therein that, if invested in realty by the husband, it was in his wife's name.

There are indications that husband and wife enjoyed approximately equal rights with respect to property, the control of children, etc.; there is little reference to the husband's duty to support the wife, though it appears that in case of divorce the husband paid alimony according to his means.

Apparently the regulations governing the contracts studied pertained chiefly to urban life; certainly the regulations seem hardly in accord with the customs prevailing among contemporary nomadic tribes, and still maintained among their descendants of similar habit.

A HEROIC NUN.

Rewarded by the King of the Belgians for Her Noble Conduct as a Nurse.

King Leopold has just bestowed on Sister Teresa Hickey, an English nun of the Apostoline community established in Belgium, the civic medal of the first class (a decoration instituted as a reward of conspicuous civic merit), in recognition of her heroic services to the people during the outbreak of a terrible epidemic which ravaged the district of Oordegem, in Flanders. So great was the consternation of the inhabitants that no one would venture to approach the houses in which the victims lay dying, says the Westminster Gazette.

Public manifestations of gratitude for her inestimable services were rendered by the people, and her conduct having come under the notice of the government, the king has rewarded her self-sacrifice by bestowal of the honor mentioned. Sister Teresa has been in Belgium for nearly 30 years.

GIRL STUDENTS MUST MARRY.

Russian Universities Require That Women Must Be Married on Entering.

If a girl in Russia wishes to study at any of the universities in that country etiquette does not allow her to do so until she is married, so she goes through the civil ceremony of marriage with a man student, whom very probably she has never seen before, and this marriage is quite legal, though perhaps they may never speak to each other again, says Stray Stories.

On the other hand, if they like each other, and they wish it, they are married for life. If they don't, the marriage is dissolved when their university course is finished, and they are free to marry some one else.

The celebrated mathematician, Sonya Kovalerski, went through the marriage ceremony with a student whom she then saw for the first time, and who afterward became her husband.

The education of women in Russia stands better than in most European countries, owing to the persistent efforts of the Russian women themselves. By 1886 they had managed to get four university colleges for women, with 1,442 students; one medical academy, with 500 students, and numerous intermediate schools. There are 700 women doctors in Russia, of whom nearly one-half are employed in the civil service.

Pestiferous Higher Criticism.

The Home Magazine recalls a good story which Dr. Newman Hall used to tell on the lecture platform. An illiterate negro preacher said to his congregation: "My brethren, when de fust man Adam was made he was made ob wet clay, and set up agin de palings to dry."

France loses every year by infectious and contagious diseases 240,000 lives, or nearly double the number of lives lost in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. According to the Pharmaceutical Journal, a committee has been formed to organize a public subscription in aid of scientific research of methods of preventing and treating these diseases.

Only One Copper.

There is only one country in the world, and probably only one, which gets along with a single policeman; that is Iceland.

BIRD SISTER OF CHARITY.

Affection Manifested by a Java Sparrow When its Companion Was Merely Wounded.

Milne-Edwards, director of the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, relates the following story of two Java sparrows:

"They were both hens and in the same aviary with a parrot, which took a dislike to one of them. One day the parrot picked a quarrel with one of the sparrows, tore out its feathers and finally broke its leg with a blow of its beak. The poor little thing could no longer stay on a perch. It lay shivering on the ground, to the evident grief of the companion bird. She went about the aviary picking up straws, feathers and leaves to make a bed for the invalid. She accomplished wonders of dexterous management in lifting up the featherless sufferer and placing it on the perch. But the weather was cold at night. The charitable bird placed itself beside the one with the broken leg, and extended a wing over it to keep it warm. The position must have been uncomfortable, not to say painful, but M. Milne-Edwards never came at night to see how "this feathered sister of charity" was behaving without finding it with its wing lovingly extended. The invalid died. The other bird began to mope, lost appetite, withdrew into a corner, drooped and died also. Was it instinct that prompted it to make a bed and keep the other bird warm? No, it was sentiment, and charitable sentiment, guided by reason. That bird was not only charitable, but virtuous, and really deserved the Montyon prize.

COST OF THE CUP DEFENDER.

The American Racing Yacht Has Cost Its Owners a Handsome Fortune.

A correspondent of the Army and Navy Journal having applied to it for information on the subject, that paper answers that the cost of the building of the Columbia has been variously estimated at from \$100,000 to \$150,000 and for the Shamrock at from \$150,000 to \$200,000. It then adds:

"A summary of the cost of the Shamrock, based on estimates from various sources, is as follows: Construction and rig, \$200,000; pay roll officers and men, including sailmakers and carpenters (80 men), for four months at average of \$40, \$12,500; provisions for men and officers at \$5 a week for 18 weeks, \$7,200; clothing for crew, \$1,000; for dry docking twice, \$600; tender at \$150 a day for 60 days, \$9,000; tugboat at \$60 a day for 60 days, \$3,600; derrick and lighter services, \$500; lighter for storage of spars for six weeks, \$600; freight for spars and sails by steamer, \$500; passage for 30 workmen, riggers, etc., \$1,800; general expenses, incidentals, etc., \$5,000; total, \$242,600. If the special services of the designer, Mr. Pile, and of Sailmaker Ratsey, who came to this country, are a charge against the account the sum would, of course, be so much augmented. Recapitulation shows that the Erin and Shamrock represent a first cost of \$725,000. The cost of running the Erin increases the expenses to \$875,000."

THE MEANEST LOVER.

Fortune Certainly Did Favor His Ex-Fiancee When He Jilted Her.

"My roommate is a chap of extraordinary financial genius," remarked a railroad clerk of this city, says the New Orleans Times-Democrat. "He is a native of California, and five or six years ago he spent a season on a sugar plantation in Hawaii. He was engaged at the time, and while he was there he corresponded regularly with his fiancée. Afterward they quarreled and the match was broken off, but the poor girl thought his letters were beautiful, and treasured them religiously.

"Quite recently he saw on a paper that the Hawaiian stamps of the period of his stay there had become very scarce and valuable, and he immediately sat down and wrote to his own sweetheart, demanding his letters. He said he was soon to be married and felt it his duty to destroy 'em; he appealed to her 'better feelings' and all that, and, to make a long story short, she sent them back. They were yellow with age, and had suspicious stains that looked like tears, but he wasn't moved a bit. He promptly cut off all the stamps and sent them to a New York agency, and got a check for \$42.

"Our landlady, who knows about it, says he is a perfect brute, and will come to a bad end. I am afraid so myself. I think he is doomed to become a millionaire."

A Splendid Present.

In one of the dormitories (presented by the three children of Waldorf Astor) of the home at Bath, the bedsteads are brass, the window-panes of leaded glass and the hangings are of pretty flowered cretonne, says the New York Commercial Advertiser. The room is as dainty as a rich child's nursery. When little girls are brought into this room for the first time they invariably stand in the doorway, looking around admiringly, but not seeming to realize that this is where they are to sleep. Many of these children have never slept on any kind of a bedstead before, and the letters and postcards they send home next morning usually contain allusions to the "gold beds."

Breaks the Record in Omalets.

News has come from Kef. Tunis, of the manufacture of the largest omelet on record. A company of the Third African battalion stationed there, at the request of the neighboring farmers, set out on an expedition to annihilate the swarms of sparrows which were devastating the crops, says the New York Tribune. The soldiers brought back as spoils of war 5,000 eggs, and the regimental cook contrived, with the help of other ingredients, to make an omelet nearly seven feet in circumference.