

REPTILE TO BE DREADED

South American Snake Whose Bite Is Quickly Fatal. It is more than 20 years since the deadly South American snake known as bushmaster...

For obvious reasons it is difficult to obtain exact measurements of a live serpent, but the newcomer appears to be about nine feet long. It is evidently partial to moisture...

Where De Quincy Went to Church. St. Peter's church, Manchester, England, which is shortly to be pulled down, is the church which De Quincy attended as a lad...

First Use of Ice Cream. Though the ancient Greeks and Romans used ice for table purposes to get through the hot months of summer...

Divorce-Law Suggestion. A clergyman was calling against divorce. "We ought to have the divorce law that was enforced in ancient Greece..."

High Prices in Japan. This is a time of high prices in Japan. The cost of everything has advanced enormously.

Sailor Knew His Business. Capt. Moriarty, of the British navy, who has just died in England at the age of 81, had a great deal to do with the early attempts to establish telegraphic communication between England and America...

Explaining It. This talk about millions of dollars for the Panama canal gets me, remarked St. Slocum. "That's a power of money for just a canal."

MOOSE FOR NEW ZEALAND

Canada Will Bend a Hard to the Antipodes. An interesting attempt is to be made to acclimatize the moose in New Zealand...

The moose is a magnificent animal, but like all beasts of its size, certain to become extinguished at the hands of man in any country where it is not protected.

Questions Worth Answering. Col. Sanger's bloodhounds, when they found three-year-old Raymond Dowd in Nine-mile swamp, near Sangerville, Otsego county...

Famous St. Bernard Dogs. Motor cars have been adopted by the monks of St. Bernard, which innovation has caused some people to wonder if the dogs of that famous hospice will be replaced in the life-saving business by automobiles...

Flattering the Judge. Uncle Solon Chase, of Chase's Mills, Me., famous throughout the country as the expounder of the "them steers" doctrine, is as famous locally for his rough-and-ready appearance.

City Gudgeons Are Easy. There are certain confidence games so grossly crude that all the victim may expect is a laugh. There is no sympathy for him and he deserves what he gets...

Only Too Well Satisfied. The husband who is always growling over everything from his meals to his laundry looked up from his paper and remarked loudly: "Madam, I see where a Chicago man went from home, remained 30 years and then returned and gave his wife \$5,000."

Thankful for Doughnuts. A Sunday school teacher in Dover, Mass., was teaching a Thanksgiving lesson. She requested her class to tell her what they were thankful for, and said she would write each answer on the blackboard.

PROGRESS OF CHINA

EARNEST EFFORTS TO RAISE PLANE OF ORIENTAL EMPIRE. English Language Coming Into Use and Modern Schools Being Established—Empire Joining in Civilization Movement.

Shanghai, China.—No nation on earth has made more progress in the last five years than China. Even Japan, which has sprung to the rank of a world power from the seclusion of an oriental despotism, is not excepted by the high authority who makes this statement.

A more vital indication of progress is found in the recent imperial decree making some mastery of western learning a condition of future employment in the government service.

A still more striking sign that this decree is found in the fact that Yuan Shih Kai, the leading Viceroy of the empire, has already established more than 5,000 primary and secondary schools in the Chih province in order to prepare the young people of his province for the new government courses.

This creates a strong demand for American teachers, but the pay is too low to justify young people coming from the United States to accept these minor positions. In lieu of American and English teachers, the Japanese are being employed to teach western learning, and in some cases the English language.

An indication pointing to the influence of Japan in China is found in the fact that 11,000 Chinese students are now in Tokio striving to secure from the government institutions and private schools the western learning.

Perhaps the most striking indication of the Chinese desire for western progress is found in the recent imperial decree attempting to establish the Christian Sabbath. The decree makes Sunday a legal holiday. It is not probable that the decree will be largely followed throughout China, as, indeed, it is not probable that Chang Chih-tung's decree in regard to the New Testament will be largely observed.

May Free Oldest Prisoner. Delavan, O.—Leading citizens here are circulating petitions to be presented to the board of pardons of the Ohio penitentiary, asking for the release of John Taborn, the oldest prisoner in the United States in point of service.

MAGNETIC POLE IS LOCATED

Explorer Amundsen, However, Must Spend Three Years in Calculations. Seattle, Wash.—Capt. Roald Amundsen, the discoverer of the northwest passage, has reached Seattle on the steamship Saratoga from Nome.

My observations extend over a period of three years and it will take three years to calculate them out," said he. "Until that time it is utterly impossible to say positively what I have accomplished by my observations. I believe, however, that I have located the north magnetic pole. I can not say as yet whether it is a shifting point or extends over a large area."

We also took careful observations of the aurora borealis and I believe my observations will show that this phenomenon has a marked effect upon the compass. Our zoological and ethnological collection has been carefully attended to and is fairly complete.

Some weeks ago Axton was annoyed by a tomcat, which sat on the back fence at his home and made the night hideous. The cat had also bounced on some of the chickens owned by Axton and carried them away. Axton resolved to do away with the cat.

Hard Labor Is Punishment Given to All Wanderers. Wallace, Idaho.—Either to leave Wallace or to toil for wages, or to toil for the city at the end of a chain with a heavy ball attached to prevent flight are the alternatives left the hoboes by Chief of Police Victor Langley.

The officers the other morning ran three vans out of town and incarcerated four, and the chief of police says the end is not yet, as there are others he knows to be in hiding about, and he is looking for them. The men arrested were put to work cleaning up the alleys in the saloon section of the city, all but the best behaved of the prisoners being laboring at the end of a ball and chain.

New Haven, Conn.—William B. Hunter, a milkman at Naugatuck, sent word to his customers the other day that he could not furnish them with milk as usual, because his herd of cows had stomach ache. A milk farm in the town resulted, and hurry calls were sent to this city for milk to supply the babies and children.

Marcellus.—The duke of the Abruzzi, who has arrived here, has just made announcement that one of the most important scientific results achieved in his latest explorations in the interior of Africa was the discovery of a river never before described in a geography. He marked its course and measured its volume and flow.

GAT INHERITS FINE HOUSE

Property Worth \$40,000 Now Belongs to Lone Feline. Wilkesbarre, Pa.—Blackie, the survivor of the two cats to whom Benjamin Dilley, of this city, bequeathed a property worth \$40,000, mourns his mate, Pinkie, who died the other day, and is inconsolable.

Blackie's life will now be solitary, for the cats were not allowed out of doors. He will remain in the house with Miss Ruch, and everything will be provided for his comfort. He has now all the little delicacies, which he likes best, including fish on Fridays, catnip, milk every day, meat, occasionally boiled chestnuts and shrimps.

Chrisney, Ind.—The famous "cat case" of the town of Chrisney against David Axton has come to a close. This case is the withdrawal of the appeal by the town of Chrisney, which was taken to the circuit court from Justice Sandage's court at Gentryville.

Fort Worth, Tex.—The celebrated land case of Joseph Schmidt against various claimants at Vernon, this state, involving 100,000 acres of Panhandle land valued at more than half a million dollars, has been won by the plaintiff.

Washington.—Although the death of Red Cloud has been reported at various times during the last few years, that famous old Sioux warrior and scalp taker, the mention of whose name back in the seventies would strike terror to the hearts of the settlers along the Big and Little Platte, is living, hale and hearty, at Pine Ridge agency, apparently many leagues this side of the happy hunting grounds.

Omaha, Neb.—Mrs. Blanche Patterson, of Omaha, filed a petition for divorce on the charge that her husband loved her so much that it bothered the life out of her. In the petition Mrs. Patterson says that John, her husband, loves her society so much he will not go out and work but hangs around home all the time watching her do washing for a living.

Train Stopped by a Rat. Berlin.—As an express train was passing through Minden at three o'clock in the morning it suddenly came to a standstill, for the signal on the line stood at danger. The engineer and conductor, after a wait, proceeded to the signal box to investigate, and the signal man claimed he could not work the signal. An examination of the lever was made, and it was found that a large rat had got entangled in the mechanism. The rat was released, the necessary signal then given, and the train proceeded.

Picks Tomb in Rock. Fulton, Ky.—Two years ago James Browder, an eccentric citizen of Fulton, had a solid rock hewn into a grave for himself. He also reclined in the stone sepulcher to see whether or not a casket he had purchased would fit properly. Then for one year he kept a chunk of raw meat in the rock to test its preservative qualities. The other day his body was buried in it, after being wrapped in 40 yards of linen which he bought some time ago.

JAPANESE FOOLED THE FAKER

Fingers Had Been Trained for Just That Kind of Thing. The street faker who was selling cement near the steps of the courthouse stood behind a little table on which was conspicuously displayed the sign: "A box of this cement given free to anybody who can break any of these apart."

There were spoils, blocks of wood and other articles that had been cemented together, and most of them bore marks of having been struggled with by persons with grimy hands in vain attempts to wrench them apart. A warthy little fellow, who had stopped in front of the faker's stand pointed to a round peg that appeared to have been dipped in the cement and driven into a wood-sized chunk of wood, and asked him what would be the reward for pulling it out.

Before the annual congress of German anthropologists at Gortitz, Prof. Blau, a well known authority on diseases of the ear, read an interesting paper on the formation of the ears of criminals and lunatics. Prof. Blau has taken accurate measurements of 1,061 ears of these 255 are the ears of lunatics and 242 those of male criminals. The examination, moreover, was confined to men of one race and one country.

Prof. Blau added the curious remark that an abnormal development of the outer border was more noticeable among criminals charged with sexual crime than among other classes of criminals.

Simple Words of "Now I Lay Me" Set-aside Forgotten. If a census could be made, one would probably be amazed at the vast number of grown folks who close their day with the unfrank "Now I lay me."

Many of them make it the conclusion of prayer involving more elaborate petitions, prayer actually said as they kneel at their bedside. Many, in a subconscious protest against the formalism which dominates so much of the public and private devotions of the times, do not kneel, but they do not forget the words they learned to lip as babies.

Some, immersed in world affairs and carrying their business cares and worries into the realm of their dreams, may not consciously plan to pray, but they find their minds dwelling at midnight upon the familiar lines and they are better men and women for that.

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Spelled. "Are you making anything of a bit with Miss Prettygirl?" "I fear not. Can't seem to interest her. I have lauded her beauty, but my strongest superlative make absolutely no impression." "Hold on! I forgot to tell you, old man. She was formerly engaged to the press agent of a circus."