

A STORY OF SOCIETY.

Said That Mrs. Langtry Appealed to Wales in an Extremity.

He Promises to Aid Mrs. Astor's Daughter in London if She in Turn Will Favor the Actress.

It was said that Mrs. Langtry had permitted the statement to be made public that the prince of Wales requested Mrs. Astor to head the list of patronesses of Mrs. Langtry's bazaar at Sherry's.

Mrs. George Ogilvy Haig, Mrs. Astor's daughter, is in London. She used to be Mrs. Coleman Drayton, and her present husband is a whisky merchant.

"The story is a falsehood from beginning to end," said Mrs. Langtry. "The women of New York society are heartily in earnest in their desire to help a good cause, and I think that this is a poor time to spring such a stupid falsehood. There is absolutely no truth in it."

SURGICAL SCIENCE IN TEST.

A Strange Freak of Nature to Be Restored if Possible to Its Natural Form.

Dr. Labarre Jayne Leamy, of Philadelphia, is arranging with a number of prominent surgeons to perform what promises to be one of the most interesting surgical operations that has ever come under the notice of medical practitioners.

In speaking of the contemplated operation, Dr. Leamy said: "I regard the severance of the growth attached to Laloo as quite feasible from a surgical point of view. I have consulted several distinguished surgeons of this city and it seems to be the general opinion that the operation will be successful. The necessary arrangements will be made, the Indian now being on his way to Philadelphia."

Laloo is an East Indian and was born in Oudh 29 years ago. He is a man of considerable education and is credited with having made large sums exhibiting as a freak. The reason for his desire to be relieved of this growth is that he is desirous of wedding a young woman whose parents object to his present condition.

CRUELTY IN BULL RING.

Bull Defeats a Panther, a Lioness and a Bear in a Brutal Fight at Madrid.

A dispatch to the London Standard from Madrid says that a disgraceful scene occurred in the bull ring there. Twelve thousand spectators witnessed a struggle between a small panther and an old lioness, a large bear and a powerful bull. The bull soon terribly gored the panther and lioness. The bear gave the bull more trouble. It received several terrible lacerations, and a number of bad wounds, from which the blood flowed freely, before it gave in.

THE BLOW THAT CURED.

Aged Resident of Somerset, N. J., Whose Mind Was Cleared by the Fracturing of His Skull.

Surgeons and specialists in mental diseases will be deeply interested in the case of Frederick Barto, an aged resident of Somerset, N. J. Barto has lived for five days, though the front of his skull was torn away and its base fractured by a locomotive which struck him. He remains conscious, and even more surprising, before the accident Barto was a paralytic, walked with difficulty, supporting himself on a crutch and a cane. He was inclined to be melancholy. His mind was not clear. But now, after a frightful blow on the head, Barto's intellect is unclouded and he talks with much more intelligence than he has displayed for years. His physicians hope for his ultimate recovery.

Hope of Circular Insanity.

A French judge has declared that a man made by mad who writes poetry. However that may be, remarks the Los Angeles Times, the editor he sends it generally is.

A SMALL BOY'S RIDE.

Thrilling Demonstration of Ability to Run an Engine.

Falls Throttle Wide Open and Goes Tearing Down Road Like the Wind—Steam Gets Low and Prevents Disaster.

"I can run an engine, like papa," said three-year-old Fred Evans, as he was lifted down from the locomotive of the St. John's air line at Albina, Ore., the other day. He had mounted the engine at St. John's, pulled open the throttle and remained on the seat, alone on a mad ride of ten miles. The young engineer is the son of W. B. Evans, of St. John's, an engineer on the line. He had often been on the engine and the father had explained to him how the lever is pulled and the wheels started moving.

The engine lies over an hour at St. John's, and during this time, while Mr. Evans was at lunch, little Fred mounted the seat and opened wide the throttle. The machine was full of coal and water and was ready for the road. Several people saw the boy start, but no one was near enough to catch the engine. Master Mechanic Michael F. Brady at once began to telephone to stations along the line. Portsmouth and Peninsular were notified and men at these points tried to board the engine as it dashed by, but its speed was too great. Mr. Brady also notified the office at Albina, and a party of men ran out on the line northward to meet the wild engine.

In coming up the long grade toward Albina the steam died down a little. John Woods was the first man to meet the engine. He caught the hand rail and swung up, but in doing so he was dragged 50 feet. He at once turned off the steam and the engine slowed down and stopped. It was then that young Fred made the remark concerning his ability as an engineer. The boy was not scared at all, but seemed rather proud of his feat.

When the engine first dashed out of St. John's he was frightened, and as he came through Portsmouth like a shot out of a gun he was yelling lustily for "mamma." After going several miles further, however, he again became brave and held his position on the seat with composure, with his hand on the lever like a veteran.

RARE ARTICLES STOLEN.

Mme. de Rute the Victim of Burglars, Who Take Family Souvenirs.

Mme. de Rute, formerly Mile. Bonaparte Wyse, of Paris, has not been lucky lately. Some time ago a working jeweler made off with some of her precious gems, which he had pried out of rings, etc., and replaced with false stones chemise, presented by the municipality of Paris to Mile. Bonaparte Wyse on the occasion of her marriage to M. Ratazzi during the empire.

Another misfortune has now befallen her. A few days ago Mme. de Rute, formerly Mile. Ratazzi, and more formerly Mme. Bonaparte Wyse, went to make a short visit to Spain. Upon her return to Paris she found her apartments in the Boulevard Poissoniere had been entered by burglars and many rare and ancient articles of great value had been stolen, among them a collection of medals, perfect treasures to numismatists; some Renaissance vases, cunningly carved by Benvenuto Cellini, and a number of extremely valuable family souvenirs and relics.

OLD WOMAN KILLS WOLF.

The Animal Attacked Her Favorite Goat with Fatal Results to Himself.

A story comes from Cingoulume, France, that reverses the fable of the wolf and the lamb. An old woman named Ligard, in the commune of St. Cloud, had a goat grazing near her house, when it was set upon by a wolf. The goat was badly frightened, and in raising its head unwittingly impaled the wolf on its horns.

The dilemma of both animals was amusing, as both wolf and goat made desperate efforts to get free. The bleating of the goat was pitiful, and the old woman was in a state of terror. Neighbors came to her aid, however, and one of them caught the wolf by the tail, while the old woman, who had now plucked up courage, dispatched the mad animal with a knife.

Since the encounter the goat has suffered from a sort of St. Vitus' dance, but the old woman feels in a measure compensated, having received 100 francs for killing the wolf.

Ancient Egyptian Porcelain.

A sample of Egyptian porcelain found at Memphis was recently submitted to M. Le Chatelier for analysis, and the interesting fact was brought out that it was entirely different from the Chinese porcelain. This leads to the conclusion that the manufacture of true porcelain was known to the ancient Egyptians. To duplicate this particular kind of porcelain would require 40 parts of blue glass, 50 parts of fine sand and five parts of white clay.

An Unlucky Cat.

It is alleged that Count de Castellane has 10,000 pairs of trousers. But this is only a further proof, says the Chicago Times-Herald, that clothes do not necessarily make a man.

Has Lost Faith in Them.

After the prophecies of the London papers as to how long the Boer war would last, Gen Paul declines, says the Washington Star, to put much faith in their utterances.

COLLECTING CURIOS.

At the Request of Secretary Root Gen. Otis is Gathering Filipino Articles of Interest and Value.

As soon as Gen. Otis received the letter from Secretary Root asking that a collection of curios and interesting articles illustrative of the present war in the Philippines be preserved and shipped to this country he immediately issued orders to all his subordinates to collect such articles. In the collection so far made are a number of gaspico and bamboo cannon, wrapped with telegraph wire, which the Filipinos undertook to use in northern Luzon.

There are various kinds of weapons unknown in this country, besides valuable old documents, native clothing, hats of curious make and fabric, various flags of the Filipinos, copies of the insurgents' newspapers, proclamations signed by Aguinaldo, and quantities of Spanish and Filipino curiosities. The collection is growing rapidly, and will be further enriched by the various musical instruments of the music and song loving race, besides many fine specimens of bamboo carving.

The Smithsonian institution already has quite a large case of the stone carvings, bits of primitive pottery, and like interesting material for study. The Cuban collection receives by far the greatest attention of anything now in the national museum.

TUBERCULIN TEST.

Interesting Experiment Conducted at Storrs Agricultural College in Connecticut—Four Cows Used.

An interesting experiment has been conducted recently at the Storrs agricultural college in Connecticut, where four cows have been under observation, says the Utica Herald. They were subjected to the tuberculin test in March, 1898, and did not respond. In the next October they were tested again and all four responded. They were then placed in a light, airy stable where it is estimated each cow had 1,500 cubic feet of space. They were tested again in January, 1897, and all four again responded. The following April another test brought responses from only two and the other two showed no reaction whatever. In July of the same year still another test was made and there was no symptom indicating the presence of tuberculosis in any of the four. For two years their milk was fed to eight healthy calves, only one of which contracted the disease, and in that instance it appeared six months after it had stopped drinking the experimental milk, so that in all probability tuberculosis came from some other cause. These are the facts as scientifically reported. Veterinary surgeons, dairymen and farmers generally can draw their own inferences.

QUEER RAPPINGS.

Case of a Young Girl Puzzles Physicians in Michigan—Manifestations in Sick Room.

Physicians and laymen are deeply puzzled by the peculiar case of Harriet Clark, a 13-year-old girl, living at the home of her uncle, Joseph Trudell, of Calumet, Mich. Last Sunday night she retired in apparently perfect health. An hour later strange rappings and knockings began in her room. The girl was badly frightened and the family and neighbors were nonplused. Those who touched her received smart electric shocks, and the rappings increased in violence. Dr. A. G. MacLeod, a prominent and reputable physician, was summoned and was unable to give relief or stop the violent rapping, which continued from all the parts of the room. The girl continues in the same condition and the rapping, which is now intermittent, can be heard by neighbors for fully a hundred feet. The case has been investigated by other physicians and many curious people, but no explanation has been secured. The girl is much alarmed and the superstitious ones among the neighbors believe her possessed by a devil.

SKELTON OF A MASTODON.

Immense Bone Unearthed Near Rome, Ia., Evidently Part of the Remains of a Prehistoric Creature.

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad is spending in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000 in reducing grades and straightening curves on its main line between Chicago and Omaha. At Rome, Ia., the line crosses the Skunk river, and there a gang of men have been employed excavating for the foundations of a new double-track iron bridge. At a point 15 feet below the river bed, under the quicksand and just above the blue clay strata, Foreman Peter Mattson came across a T-shaped bone three feet high and four feet eight inches wide. It was taken out and carried in the tool car to Batavia, where it now is. Those who have since examined the bone pronounce it to be undoubtedly part of the skeleton of an animal of prehistoric times, probably that of a mastodon.

Counts by Sound, Not Tails.

Rev. Dr. Edward Everett Hall is a lover of animals, and in a public address at Boston the other day he said that he possessed less than 15 stray cats slept under his porch every night. If the good doctor has estimated the number of cats by the sounds produced it is barely possible, says the Chicago Times-Herald, that he places his figures too high.

Suggestion.

The Chicago Tribune has discovered that possibly the shooting of game may serve Kaiser Wilhelm as a safety valve.

Rhode Island Oyster Beds. Lands in extensive area are leased in Rhode Island to be overflowed and used for oyster beds.

THE BULL'S TRIUMPH.

One That Turned the Tables on His Assaultants in the Bull Ring.

Generally speaking, there can be but one end to a Spanish bullfight, the death of the bull. It is with a certain satisfaction, therefore, that one reads "a story told in Andalusia."

There was once a gentleman of noble blood, so the tale goes, who bred a famous race of bulls among the mountains. Not so very far away was a bull ring. One day the managers of the ring received an offer from the owner of the herd. He informed them that he had two bulls in magnificent condition which he was willing to send down for the forthcoming spectacle, and he appended a proposal.

"If these bulls are killed," he wrote, "I will bear the entire expense of the corrida—about \$5,000. You then shall have four others from my herd, and I will pay the matadores and their respective troupe. If these bulls are not killed, you must be responsible for the whole cost, as usual."

The proprietors of the ring accepted the offer with enthusiasm. They said horns did not grow on the bull which their matadores could not kill. And a Sunday was set aside for the trial.

On the appointed day a crowd invaded the Plaza de Toros. An hour before the time named on the posters every seat was filled. The two bulls had been driven in on the previous evening. They had been seen and approved by the usual official; they were perfect from their curving horns to their delicate hoofs. As the hour approached the excitement grew tense.

The trumpets sounded and the matadores appeared, clean-shaven, rigid-mouthed fellows, accompanied by their attendants, and circled round the arena. The people were half-blind with the fever of expectation. At length the president gave the signal, and the first of the two bulls thundered out into the ring of sand and sunshine.

Groups of capadors with their colored cloaks were waiting for him. He promptly charged the nearest, who made a pass with his cloth and swung aside. It is usual for a bull to follow the moving flap of the cloth and to disregard the man, but this bull would have nothing to do with the cloaks flourished in his face; he made steadily for his man and gored him.

This was an awkward departure, and in a very few minutes the bull cleared the ring. He took no notice of anything but the men and the horses. No skill, no artifice could keep him off.

Now it happens that the whole practice of bull-fighting is built up on the theory that a bull can be "played" with a cloth. This particular bull could not be, the foolishness of that line of conduct having been diligently instilled into him by his proud owner. He had been taught to make for the man. Matadores would be fewer if all bulls were trained in that way.—Pearson's.

A NEW ALLOY.

It Is Called Magnalium and It Is Lighter Still Than Aluminum.

Dr. Ludwig Mach has successfully alloyed aluminum with magnesium, and thereby obtained a compound which can be worked like brass, and which is lighter still than aluminum. These two metals are fitted for union. Their densities are: Magnesium, 1.75; aluminum, 2.75; they both melt at 800 degrees centigrade, and their dilatations amount to .023 and .027 millimeters per meter and per degree centigrade. The metallurgical properties depend upon the composition of the alloy. A ten per cent magnesium alloy resembles zinc, a 15 per cent alloy is like brass, and a 25 per cent alloy is a compound bronze. The alloys can be soldered, it is stated, though that point does not appear to be fully settled, keep well in dry and damp air, and give good castings. The well-known scientific instrument maker, Fuess, speaks favorably of some magnalium samples with from ten to twelve per cent of magnesium submitted to him. The alloy is almost as white as silver, and sufficiently hard to cut aluminum with a sharp-edged piece of magnalium. It can be turned, laced, etc., quite as well as brass, and is a millimeter pitch can be cut with ease. It does not file so readily as brass, but is superior in this respect to copper, zinc and aluminum. Magnalium is suitable for lens mountings, and would make good divided circles and arcs for instruments in which light weight is a consideration. If bought by volume it is a little less expensive than brass; but the statements concerning the strength of this new alloy, made by the Magnalium company, of Berlin, are said to be of any practical value.—Engineering.

Parrot.

Patti has two wonderful parrots, one of which talks all day long and imitates its mistress' trills and staccato in an amazing fashion, and can even compose the most elaborate melodies. The other parrot—Jumbo by name—is an oddity. Patti brought him in New York for \$200. He was reputed to be the finest talking parrot alive. Once in her possession he became dumb. In vain she tried to coax him to converse. Months went by, until one morning the prima donna awoke with a bad sore throat. "Send for the doctor!" she cried, "for I have to sing to-night." The doctor duly arrived. As he entered the room the parrot uttered his first and last words. "Oh, doctor!" he exclaimed, in a strong Yankee accent, "I'm so sick!" And since that day, now several years ago, he has not uttered a word.

Method in His Madness.

Edwin Gould says he doesn't believe his brother-in-law has lost any money. Possibly, says the Chicago Times-Herald, Edwin is taking this view in order to be an excuse for declining to be "touched."

Flowers for the Fair.

A little more enthusiasm in the adoption of John Ruskin's ideas during his life would, thinks the Chicago Tribune, have pleased him much better.

STICK STAMPS ON STRAIGHT.

Attention Is Called to the Irreverence of Standing Great Men on Their Heads.

"Did you ever happen to think," said A. V. Rawdon, of Kansas City, to the New York Tribune man, "of how much better it would be if people would affix stamps neatly and in upright position upon their letters instead of in the letter-skelter manner which is so generally prevalent? Besides, is it treating in fitting manner the memory of those great ones in the history of the Republic whose features are held in living memory by means of the post? The father of his country has not come down to us historically as one likely to enter the presence of a lady on his nose, or even when carrying you a notification that your bank account is overdrawn to do so while skating along on his left eyebrow."

"Do you think that he who wrote the sayings of Poor Richard and drew up the articles of confederation for the Albany convention would stand on his head, even were he conscious that it was his lot to carry around patent medicine advertisements and book notices? Would the conqueror of Appomattox, after his wonderful trip around the world, rest easy if he knew he was repeating that triumphant progress every day and entering the uttermost corners of the earth on his ear, his eye or fat on his back? Or, again, is it befitting that the stern and rugged conqueror of New Orleans and uncompromising opponent of the United States bank should enter your presence prone upon his right or left side? I shudder even to think of him as standing on his head, on account of the agony this position would cause him, due to his spikelike hair."

"By all means stick your stamps on straight. It looks better, and besides pays a more fitting tribute to the nation's dead."

THE NEBRASKA "DESERT."

Big Crops Now Grow Where a Noted Writer Once Lampooned the Idea.

Thirty years ago Nebraska was part of the "great American desert" in the imagination of eastern people, and even of eastern people living as far west as Chicago, remarked a long-whiskered stockman, as he looked around the Union depot, says the Chicago Inter Ocean.

Dye ever hear of E. D. Webster, who was private secretary of Seward in Lincoln's war cabinet? Well, E. D. Webster was a great man. He belonged to the old school of politics. He came out to Omaha after the war, and we were great friends, although Webster was 40 years older than I. We only differed about one thing. I thought Nebraska and Kansas and all that western country might be made to grow crops. Webster argued that the whole scheme was nonsensical.

"Tell you what I'll do," he said one day. "You take a peck of corn and plant it out there on that claim of yours. I'll take a box of Smith's lozenges and plant 'em on a strip of your corn, and I'll bet I raise the bigger crop."

Well, that's all; only last fall I gathered 80 bushels to the acre of 2 that he had planted.

PARIS UNSPEAKABLY LOVELY.

Artistic Uniformity of the Buildings Is One of the City's Great Charms.

In the Latin Quarter and in the Faubourg St. Germain, winding streets, dingy old houses, narrow footways and finely carved portals and casements give a hint of what old Paris must have been, writes a traveler, from Paris, to Ladies' Home Journal. Old Paris may have had its attractions, but modern Paris is unspeakably lovely. The French are essentially classic in their taste, and love order and form, and straight, strong lines. No Queen Anne houses, sky-scrapers, nor gingerbread work for them. The houses are all of gray stone, all of one height, and every one of them is almost equally as fine as its neighbor. One reason for this uniformity is that the French mind cannot endure irritating inequalities; but a more cogent reason is that when Louis Napoleon was rebuilding his capital he wanted everything very splendid, and so he put such an enormous tax on all buildings that did not conform to a certain standard of height and elegance that the builders found it cheaper to follow the royal regulations than to pay the tax.

Artists in Prison.

According to an apparently authentic article in a French periodical not less than 20,000 aristocrats are at present confined in the prisons of France. Russia stands first with 12,000 blue-blooded law breakers, while Italy deserves to be accorded second position, her places of detention harboring thousands of noblemen.

Trombone Trousers.

Sailors' trousers, or "trombone pants," as they have sometimes been called, expand in bell shape at the bottom so as to be more easily kicked off in case of the wearer's falling into the water.

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