

## A PETRIFIED SNAKE.

Perfectly Formed and Fourteen Feet in Length.

Near the Cascade, three miles from Susquehanna, Pa., a party of bluestone quarrymen lately found a round stone projecting from the ground. It was in the way of teams hauling stones, and the men attempted to pull it up. The foreman instructed his men to dig up the stone and get it out of the way, says the Kansas City Journal.

They dug down a few feet, but did not reach the end of it. Another effort was made to pull it out, and it broke off. They continued to throw up the earth, and as a result three long pieces were broken off. At last the foreman concluded to see where it ended. After several hours were consumed in the work the end was reached. The men were surprised to find, when they finished their work, a perfectly-formed serpent's head and neck.

The foreman at once concluded that they had unearthed a petrified serpent. The pieces were placed together and formed a perfect snake 14 feet long. The eyes, nostrils and mouth are distinct and unmistakably marked, as are the dark and lighter brown spots upon the sides. The head is about six inches wide and decreases one-third in thickness from the top down.

The neck gradually grows smaller, and then the body increases in size until the middle is reached, where the diameter is six inches. From that point it declines to the tail. One piece is missing, evidently about one foot in length. The petrification of what are supposed to have been the fleshy parts of the monster has a color corresponding to red sandstone, while that of the vertebral is several shades lighter and softer.

## SHE WAS NOT A LAWYER.

Declined to Answer a Question and Gave Her Reason Why.

"Now," said the lawyer who was conducting the cross-examination, "will you please state how and where you first met this man?"

"I think," said the lady with the sharp nose, "that it was—"

"Never mind what you think," interrupted the lawyer. "We want facts here. We don't care what you think, and we haven't any time to waste in listening to what you think. Now, please tell us where and when it was that you first met this man?"

The witness made no reply, says the Cleveland Leader.

"Come, come," urged the lawyer. "I demand an answer to my question."

No response from the witness.

"You honor," said the lawyer, turning to the court, "I think I am entitled to an answer to the question I have put."

"The witness will please answer the question," said the court, in impressive tones.

"Can't," said the lady.

"Why not?"

"The court doesn't care to hear what I think, does it?"

"No."

"There's no use questioning me any further. I am not a lawyer. I can't talk without thinking."

So they called the next witness.

## TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE.

One Will Be Seen by the People of America on May 28, 1900.

The people of America will have a very unusual chance to see a total solar eclipse right here at home on May 28, 1900. Astronomers are even now studying the meteorological tables for past years in order to find the localities promising clearest skies, says the Washington Post.

The line of totality first touches the continent on the Pacific coast of Mexico, north of Cape Corrientes, pursuing a northeast course, leaving Mexico at the mouth of the Rio Grande, crossing the gulf of Mexico and entering the United States at Atchafalaya bay, Louisiana. The breadth of the line is about 50 miles. The eclipse will be total at New Orleans at about 8:22 a.m., Washington time. The eclipse will be visible in Macon, Raleigh, Norfolk and intermediate and neighboring points.

Crossing the ocean, the land first touched is near the port of Colombia, Spain, passing southeast across southern Europe and the Mediterranean sea. Thus all the astronomers in both hemispheres will be within easy distance and with every facility for using any amount of instrumental equipment. The greatest duration will be two minutes nine seconds, about the middle of the Atlantic ocean.

## TWO CROWNS OF IRON.

One Made of Gun Metal and One Carries a Nail from the Cross.

The crown of Roumania is composed of gun metal—made, in fact, out of a bit of old cannon captured at Plevna; that of Portugal has gems in it which have caused it to be valued at \$5,000,000.

The iron crown of Lombardy, which, by the by, is the oldest diadem in Europe, is only six inches in diameter. The question usually asked by those who behold it for the first time is: Where is the iron? For to all appears the crown consists of a broad circle of gold ornamented by an enameled of flowers. This, however, is but the outward case—with the coronet rests the iron itself. It is fashioned out of one of the nails by which Christ was fastened to the cross. The crown now rests in the Cathedral of Monza, Italy, and is under the care of the monks of the establishment. These holy men call attention to the fact that while no attempt has ever been made to clean the baser metal, still there is no sign of rust upon it—a fact which conclusively proves its sacred origin.

## Limit of Population.

Statisticians claim that the earth will not support more than about 5,994,000,000 people. The present population is estimated at 1,367,000,000, the increase being eight per cent, each decade. At that rate the utmost limit will be reached in the year 2072.

## THE SAGACIOUS BERGALL.

How It Scared Away an Eel Which It Had Failed to Dislodge by Force.

Lying up close against the end of an overhanging stone on the bottom of one of the tanks at the aquarium, says the New York Sun, was an eel about 15 inches in length. About six or eight inches of the eel's tail projected clear of the stone. Swimming about in the same tank there was a bergall about six inches in length, which presently took a notion that it would like to lie in there snug against the rock and the overhanging projection, and it came up at the tail end of the eel and tried to wedge it between the eel and the rock; that is, to crowd the eel away and take his remarks.

But the bergall couldn't do that; there is a good deal of strength in an eel, and this eel held its place firmly. The bergall hauled off a little distance and headed for the point where the rock and the side of the eel met, and made for it under full steam, but with the same result; it couldn't budge the eel, which still clung closely to the rock. Then the bergall backed off again and tried a change of tactics.

The eel's head was around on the other side of the rock, where it couldn't see what was going on at the rear. The bergall backed off and darted for the eel's tail and nipped it as hard as it could bite. The eel started as though it had been struck by lightning, and slid around the end of the rock and off to the other end of the tank, cutting in the water as it went letter S's of 14 different sizes and styles, while the bergall quickly took its place under the overhanging rock.

## WHAT BECOMES OF METALS?

The Various Ways in Which Some of Them Are Used.

The greater portion of the lead mined is converted into white lead, red lead and orange materials which are used as pigments for paints. Much lead is manufactured into sheet, some into buttons and other projectiles, and the only lead which comes back into the market in the form of scrap is that used for lead pipes.

Zinc is largely used in galvanizing steel or iron, in manufacturing brass, as a sheet zinc, and as oxide of zinc used in paint. The only zinc available for the new use is that used in making brass. Next to scrap iron and steel, scrap brass is found on the market.

Most of the world's zinc product is used in tin plates. Tin scrap is not available and, though many efforts have been made to utilize tin scrap, no considerable amount of metal has been obtained this way.

Next to iron and steel, copper is most used in metallic form, only a small portion being used in the salts of copper and blue vitriol. The great uses of copper are in the manufacturing of brass, of which it forms two-thirds, in electrical conductors, sheet roofing, cooking utensils and pipes.

Just what becomes of the enormous amount of metal mined every year is a mystery, as a very small proportion is returned in the form of scrap material.

## YOUR NOSE.

What That Special Feature Tells of Your Character.

A nose thick and fat is an unfavorable feature with men as well as women, usually signifying that the character is predominated by material instincts, while a turned-up nose with wide nostrils betokens a vain disposition, says an exchange.

Especially wide nostrils are signs of courage, strength and pride; small nostrils of weakness and timidity. Noses large in every respect are usually found among men, and when a woman possesses a large nose it indicates that she is masculine in character.

The nose, the form of which has so much to do with the beauty of the face, is amenable to culture, and we have it on the authority of a German physician that it is beyond dispute that during half an ordinary human life the nose is capable of receiving more noble form. The mental training of an individual has a great deal to do with shaping the nose.

The small, flat nose, found among women and called the soubrette nose, when occurring with an otherwise agreeable cast of countenance, indicates a gracious and cheerful naivete, combined with considerable curiosity. Such a nose is seldom found among men, and when a man is unfortunate enough to possess it he is characterized by weak and deficient sagacity.

## She Defeated Them.

The Oil City (Pa.) Derrick tells of a party of boys of about 11 years of age who were teasing a girl of about the same age who was hauling her little sister on hands. The girl evidently had a temper, and also self-reliance. Singing out the largest boy in the lot, she snailed him like an infuriated tomcat and had him thoroughly whipped, and was chasing him up the railroad track before the surprised spectators recovered presence of mind enough to part the combatants. The other boys viewed the fate of their late companion with consternation, and when the girl returned and resumed possession of the sled there was not one in the crowd with courage enough to resume the teasing operations.

## Making Petrified Men.

Petrified men and women are made to order in Minnesota. It has just been discovered at a place appropriately called Crookston that a colored woman named Phenice Finn had a cast of herself made, which was to be sold to a museum of natural history as a genuine human form in a state of petrification.

Cost of the Cuban War.

The cost of the Cuban war from February, 1895, to the end of 1897 is officially estimated at \$240,000,000.

Education Compulsory.

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## FRESHMAN GETS A LESSON.

Brynn Mawr Girls Teach a Sportive Harvard Youth Manieren.

A Chicago young man in Cambridge found recently that he could not make fun of the women's colleges with impunity. In his letters to his sister, reports the Chronicle of that city, he had spoken of her college as an incubator several times and said he wondered when the chicks would hatch and if they would take a postgraduate in a brooder. His sister didn't care much for that sort of thing from a brother, who was only a freshman himself, albeit a Harvard freshman, nor did the other Brynn Mawr girls, to whom she repeated his remarks.

On the day of the receipt of a letter from him saying he was coming down to inspect the "apparatus" the members of his sister's class held a meeting in her room. On his arrival, two days later, he was ushered with some ceremony into the reception-room.

After waiting 20 minutes a girl came in hurriedly, looked fairly at him and said "Oh!" Then she left abruptly. In five minutes a second girl rushed in, saying "Oh!" turned round and walked out. Five minutes later a third girl did likewise, and in another five minutes it happened again. This continued for just one hour, when all of the 20 girls that had said "Oh!" together with about as many more, all strangers, came in in a body, said "Oh!" and filed out.

Then the freshman's sister came in, by which time the youth was ready to collapse, and asked him how he liked the chicks, and if he didn't think they could peep prettily, after which she invited him to a spread in her room with the chicks, where they demonstrated they could pick up crumbs as well as peep.

## PIN HOLES IN THE CHECKS.

Only One of the Cashier's Precautions Overlooked by the Forger.

In the course of a lecture delivered recently on chemical tests used in discovering by the ink the age of documents, and whether there have been interpolations, Prof. C. A. Doremus told of a curious discovery in the case of a raised check, made by his father, who is an expert in chemistry and in documents. The interests involved in this case, says the New York Sun, were very large, and it was not practicable to tamper with or chemically treat. For purposes of testimony an enlarged photograph of the check was taken by Dr. Doremus, who was called as an expert in the case. The first trial resulted in no decision, and on the second trial, what purported to be the original check was produced. It was handed to the cashier of the bank for identification. He examined it and said:

"This is not the original check." "How do you know that?" demanded the amazed lawyer.

"Because in the heading of the original check I pricked a hole in the center of each of the 'o's with a pin," was the reply. "This check has not those holes."

In all other respects the check seemed to be identical. The court called for Dr. Doremus' photograph to be produced. It plainly showed the pin holes. Upon this the lawyer for the defense threw up his case, and the guilty substitutor of the false check fled the country.

## BOOK BUYERS.

Errors They Sometimes Make Are Quite Amusing.

During the recent book sale in this city, says the Chicago Chronicle, there were many calls for Henry Sienkiewicz's "Quo Vadis." One girl appeared with a card bearing this: "Quo Vadis?" by "Stinkwitz." Another reader asked for "Two Waders," by "Sinker," while a third demanded "That book by the man whose name ends in 'itch.'

"While the sale was going on a woman asked a wish girl:

"Can you find 'David Copperfield'?" "I'll see," said the girl, and disappeared. She presently returned and said:

"No, mom. He don't work here no more."

Another customer at the sale was a woman who drove up in her carriage. She explained to the clerk that she had just moved into her own house.

"The library," she said, "is one by twenty and the shelves run around the whole shootin' match." She looked at the stock of books and sweeping her hand over a lot of shelving containing about 1,500 volumes, she said: "Send those books up." As the assortment contained broken sets, odd volumes, duplicates and paper-covered novels, her "library" will be a motley collection.

Customer: "I can't pay you 50 cents for the 10 per cent return on account of the loss of the book." Seller: "Acte de vente par défaut." Felix J. Puig, Esq., aux frais de l'acquéreur.

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