

LONG JOURNEY FOR WORM.

Prof. William M. Woodworth Travels Seven Thousand Miles for a Queer Creature.

Prof. William M. Woodworth, of Harvard, came up from Samoa on the Alameda, says the San Francisco Examiner. He accompanied the Agassiz scientific expedition to the South Sea islands a year or so ago, and this second visit was made in the interests of the museum of comparative anatomy of Harvard, to investigate the "palolo," a curious marine worm which has long been a scientific mystery.

"The palolo, which is found near the Fiji and Samoan islands," said Mr. Woodworth, "measures 12 to 14 inches in length and is about the thickness of woolen yarn. On two days in the year the sea is thick with it, like vermicelli soup. The natives bake it in breadfruit, and esteem it a great delicacy. It looks like spinach and tastes fishy."

"Only twice in the year does the palolo come to the surface, in October and November, and then only at sunrise on the tenth day after the full moon. The natives gather from great distances and make a festival of the occasion. The weather, which is invariably bad at that time, is known as 'palolo weather,' and October and November are known respectively as 'the month of the little palolo' and 'the month of the big palolo,' because of the greater quantity of palolo that appears in the latter month."

The palolo has never been scientifically classified, though Fricklander was on the right track when he hazarded a guess in 1896. It is an annelid marine worm, living on coral rocks. I detached several specimens from the rocks below the surface, and found that the palolo is really only the tail of the creature. The stock, so to speak, on which the palolo grows is a sea worm resembling those that bore in the piles along San Francisco bay, and the long appendage is thrown off at the breeding seasons."

FINED FOR HAVING WHISKERS.

Missouri University Student Found Guilty After a Novel Trial.

A young man was tried by a jury before a large audience in the chapel of Missouri university at Columbia, Mo., the other night for wearing a full beard.

The defendant, R. M. Pickell, of Hamilton, Mo., belonged to an order composed of law students which is known as the Missouri University Whiskers club. The sole object of the club is to abolish whiskers in the law department.

Pickell has a sweetheart who recently told him she liked whiskers. After a mental struggle between love and loyalty Pickell began to grow a beard. The offense was promptly reported to the club, and proceedings were instituted to fine him two dollars and expel him.

A row resulted, and it was finally determined to settle the matter by trial before a judge and jury of law students in the university chapel. Everybody was invited, and in spite of the zero weather a big crowd was present.

George Henderson, of Columbia, a brother of Judge W. W. Henderson, of St. Louis, presided as judge. George H. English, of Kansas City, and Joseph McIntyre, of Mexico, Mo., appeared as attorneys for the club, while Irving Bart, of Columbia, and A. V. Coppledge, of Everton, Mo., appeared for the defendant.

The jury decided in favor of the club, and Pickell was fined and expelled.

DIVORCE IN THE KLDONIKE.

A Little Irregular, It May Be, But It Accomplishes the Desired Purpose, Nevertheless.

Divorce procedure in the Klondike may not be provided with all the modern improvements, but it accomplishes the desired purpose as effectually as the most enlightened court in South Dakota. At Circle City not long ago, says Law Notes, an Indian woman, Ellen by name, sought a divorce from her husband, Jim Finney, on the ground of cruel and unusual punishment. A meeting of the miners was called, and about 60 of them assembled to deliberate on the case. It came out in the evidence that Ellen was so sturdy a lady that her husband was forced to furnish her with whisky in large quantities before he could beat her with any satisfaction. Finney admitted having given her the whisky, but asserted that he couldn't get along with her without doing so. He further alleged in his defense that Ellen was the best dressed squaw in Circle City. After careful deliberation the miners decided unanimously to release Ellen a vinculo matrimonii. She was also awarded the dog and the sewing machine as alimony.

Mrs. Gould Helps a Young Pastor.

Miss Heton M. Gould has given \$100 to the Methodist Episcopal church in Glenville, small hamlet two miles west of Lyndhurst, her country home, in Tarrytown-on-the-Hudson. Miss Gould recently attended service at the Glenville church, and was much impressed with the little structure and its young pastor, Rev. Richard H. Coons. The fact that there is a roadhouse a short distance from the church, and that it is frequented by the young men of the settlement, was brought to Miss Gould's attention, and it is believed her object in making the contribution was to encourage and aid the pastor in his efforts to dissuade the men from patronizing the place.

Married in the Ruins.

A determined bridal party at Strood, near Rochester, England, on reaching the church found that the building was on fire. It waited around till the fire was put out and made the pastor perform the ceremony in the ruins.

MONKEYS TO TALK.

Effort to Be Made by Scientists to Teach Them a Language.

The Anthropoid Ape Said to Have Human-Like Vocal Organs—Step in Advance of Prof. Garner's Efforts.

Prof. Garner tried for many years to learn how to talk to monkeys in their own language. He went to Africa, lived in a cage in forests there, and did his best to discover the meaning of the little animals' chatter. He afterwards left his cage and other apparatus at Cincinnati's zoological garden. Now scientists are going to turn the tables and teach apes to speak man's language. A writer in Collier's Weekly has this to say of the new plan:

"We learn that Prof. Edwin D. Conklin, who has been instrumental in establishing the animal experiment station for the University of Pennsylvania, is convinced that there is no reason why monkeys should not be taught to talk in some civilized language. Just which language is best adapted for the purpose, and which species of anthropoid ape should be selected for experiment, has not yet been finally determined. It would, of course, be out of the question to teach a dog to speak for his vocal organs are not of the proper shape and correlation to produce articulate sounds. The anthropoid, on the other hand, or, for that matter, all monkeys, have their human-like organs ready made. Those

who doubt the success of the experiment point out that anthropoid apes have not yet brought forth successive generations in captivity, and that, therefore, the effect of teaching on predisposition would not be transmitted. Many scientists, however, believe that captivity is no more an insuperable bar to propagation in the case of the anthropoid apes than it originally was in the case of other animals which have been long since domesticated, and that, consequently, the cumulative effect of environment can be made to tell upon the suitability of the vocal organs of monkeys for articulate speech. This is, at all events, one of many interesting experiments which will be enough to suggest the nature of the information.

THE COAST DEFENSES.

Are in No Condition to Meet Attacks of a Foreign Foe—Mistake to Economize in This Direction.

No one except officers concerned with the subject realized the desperate situation of this country as regards its coast defenses when war was declared last April. If there be any disposition at the capitol to cut down the proposed appropriations for fortifications those who are most disposed to be unduly economical will be allowed to read some of the reports in the possession of Gen. Wilson, chief of engineers. It is not deemed advisable to give out these reports in full, since they contain much confidential data, but a few selections of striking passages of accounts of inspections of the southern so-called forts will be enough to suggest the nature of the information.

When the department people realized that war was inevitable there was great effort made to put the partially equipped emplacements in an efficient condition. As a matter of fact, although the information could not even be hinted at at the time, these forts were never in condition to be of any service against an enemy, and it is disquieting to think what would have been the result had the Spanish government possessed the means of reaching our coast with the proper engines of destruction. Gen. Wilson himself made an extended trip along the southern coast. He wrote at once to the war department: "The supply of powder on hand for the high-power guns defending this coast would not keep them in action one hour."

BOY BRANDED WITH HOT STEEL.

Some Lads Who Do Not Like Him Use Cruel Methods of Torturing Him.

The citizens of Sodus Point, a small village in New York, are aroused over the branding of a 12-year-old son of Daniel Williams by three boys of the names of Newport, Washington and Davis, all between the ages of 12 and 17, two of them being colored.

The three boys persuaded young Williams to enter the basement of the Methodist church, where they stripped him of his clothing and proceeded at once to heat the blades of their jack-knives in the furnace fire. Then they applied the hot steel to the flesh of the Williams lad, branding him until the odor of the burning flesh was almost stifling.

Despite the lad's cries, his persecutors continued to torture him by applying the hot knife blades. His body was burned to his knees. Then he was let go.

When arrested the boys refused to state any reason why they committed the crime, save that they did not like the Williams boy very well.

CURIOS SEAL UNEARTHED.

Chicago Woman Picks Up an Oddity in Jewelry in a Toocin Pawnshop.

A unique piece of jewelry has recently found an owner in Chicago after a precarious existence among the pawnshops. It is an old seal, fashioned oddly of gold, with a curious inscription and almost hieroglyphic insignia cut into the stone imbedded in the bottom of the queer pyramidal pendant. A secret spring sends part of the gold casing flying upward with a jerky motion, revealing an interior cavity, with two additional secret seals of different stones. One is inscribed in the odd cabalistic design of the outer intaglio, but the tiny one is left blank. The whole design is so strikingly antique and unusual that it has attracted considerable attention from connoisseurs of old jewelry, one of whom took impressions of the two intaglios to forward to the authorities at Washington for explanation. In the interval the position of the sound-post in a violin may change a poor-sounding instrument into a fine one. The reason has never been satisfactorily ascertained.

An Electric Lighthouse.

The French government is building at Cape Grisnez an electric lighthouse which will be invisible at a distance of 48 miles. It will equal the light of 3,000,000 ordinary candles.

Japan's Cotton Mills.

In Brazil there are said to be 300 languages and dialects spoken by the Indians. Japan has 75 cotton-spinning mills.

FORTUNE FOR JOHN DUSS.

Sois Surviveur of the Economy Society Is Heir to Four Millions of Dollars.

With the death of a half-dozen aged and infirm religious aetics John Duss, the adopted child of the famous Harmony society of Pennsylvania, will step into a fortune of \$4,000,000.

John Duss is the last and youngest member, yet the "patriarch" of the colony. He succeeds to its immense property through a chain of romantic circumstances.

Away back at the beginning of the century George Rapp became so obnoxious to the Prussian government, through his socialist doctrines, that he was banished from that country. He finally established a communistic settlement at Economy, Pa., in 1836. The colony flourished and grew rich. No member was permitted to marry, and the settlement grew only by election to membership. All lands and goods were held in common, and it was believed that at the death of Father Rapp Christ would make His second appearance. Father Rapp died; the early members grew old and unable to work hard. They rented their land to tenants and lived at ease. In order that all should have plenty, no new members were elected. John Duss was the only child the community had ever had in its borders. His mother, a soldier's widow, brought him there in 1862. Now only seven of the people are left. They are childless and infirm, clinging to life by a slender thread, and John Duss is the head of the society. He will inherit all of the question to teach a dog to speak for his vocal organs are not of the proper shape and correlation to produce articulate sounds. The anthropoid, on the other hand, or, for that matter, all monkeys, have their human-like organs ready made. Those

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