

AN ELEPHANT'S THOUGHTS.

How a Hindu Can Tell When the Animal Intends to Destroy Him.

Few more impressive confidences can be imparted than in which a Hindu describes how he knows his elephant intends to destroy him. It is all so seemingly trivial, and yet in reality of such deadly significance. His story is so full of details that prove the man's profound understanding of what he is talking about that one remains equally amazed at the brute's power to dissimilate and its intended victim's insight into this would-be murderer's character. And yet, from the psychological standpoint, an elephant never gives any other such indication of mental power as is exhibited in this revenge. That patient, watchful, implacable hatred, often provoked simply because a man is in attendance upon another animal (for it is the rule with tuskers to detest their next neighbors) speaks more conclusively of a high intellectual guide than all stories, true or false, that have been told of their ability. Such concentration and fixness of purpose, such careful, unrelaxed vigilance, such perfect and consistent pretense, and when the time comes, such desperate, unhesitating energy as homicidal animals exhibit are impossible without a very considerable, although in this instance very irregular, development, says Osting.

No one can deny that if this creature is great at all its greatness shows itself in its crimes. These have caused it to be worshiped in the east, where men venerate nothing but merciless, irresponsible force, and where an exhibition of those qualities and traits described fully accounts for the formula: "My lord, the elephant."

BICYCLE CRIES "STOP THIEF."

Minature Phonograph Is Attached Directly Underneath the Saddle.

An English bicycle "crank" who recently had two wheels stolen within many weeks comes forward with a novel invention to do away with bicycle thieves.

He would have the wheel as it is being ridden off by a thief cry out at every revolution of the treadles: "Stop thief!"

The young man has affixed a miniature phonograph to his bicycle, directly under the saddle. The phonograph is enclosed in a square box and the apparatus only weighs 2½ pounds. In the center of the box is the tin foil cell upon which he has recorded the words "Stop thief!" many times. A wire connects with the rear wheel of the bicycle, and with that the apparatus is complete.

When the young man enters a building he presses a button and his thief catcher is set. When the thief jumps onto the saddle and starts to ride away he is stopped by a voice which shouts apparently behind him: "Stop thief! Stop thief!"

The faster he rides the wheel the louder grows the pursuing voice, until finally the thief in disgust vaults off the wheel and leaves it to its fate.

A pressure of the button by the owner and the mechanism is detached and the wheel runs smoothly. The young inventor intends to apply for a patent as soon as he has the contrivance perfected.

THE RAILROAD ARMY.

A Larger Peace Establishment Than Any Country in the World Possesses.

The standing army of Russia is usually put at 800,000 men, of Germany at 600,000, of Austria at 275,000, and of Great Britain at 225,000, all on a peace footing. Yet there are, it appears by the last published report of the interstate commerce commission, 630,000 railroad employees in the United States, whose gross wages and salaries are nearly \$300,000,000 a year, or 62 per cent. of the operating expenses of the American railroads.

There are four employees, on the average, for each mile of railroad track.

There are 30,040 station agents, 35,667 engineers, 23,322 conductors, 43,768 switchmen, flagmen and watchmen, and 21,452 telegraph operators and dispatchers. At the present ratio of increase—there are now 50,000 more railway employees in the United States than there were in 1895—the total number will not be very far below 1,000,000 at the time of the next census.

Here is an army in which there is no mustering out and no war footing, for the railroad army of the United States, larger than the number of railroad employees of any other country, is essentially an army of peace, and it is steadily growing at a rate larger than the railroads themselves, taking the mileage as a measure of their importance.

Art for All.

Bill Nye discovered a cheap and simple invention for producing newspaper portraits. Item. One box containing 24 interchangeable parts of wood-cut portraits, including high and low relief heads, bald heads, flowing locks, an assortment of beards, several sets of eyes, several noses, several ears. Item. One screw-driver. Item. One screw-driver. Item. One oil-cap. When a great man dies or a great criminal rises to the surface, the photograph is laid before the operating artist, who in five minutes screws together an exact resemblance of the original. By this process anyone may become a pictorial artist.

Scottish Born Princess.

It is said that Princess Eva of Ratzeburg, who was born in 1857, is the only royal child born in Scotland for nearly 300 years—that is, since the birth of Charles I, in 1600.

AUTOCRAT OF ANTICOSTI

The Frenchman Who Purchased the Canadian Island Is Very Inconsiderate.

The sale of the island of Anticosti, in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, to M. Menier, the French chocolate king, and the subsequent actions of that gentleman and his agent in connection with the island seem likely to cause trouble soon, says an exchange. Since M. Menier got possession of the property he has acted as if he were an autocrat, and that the island has passed from under the sovereignty of Great Britain. His agent in charge is styled "governor of Anticosti," and the manner in which the law is being administered there against alleged squatters on the island savors more of medieval tyranny than of procedure under British law.

There are a number of alleged squatters at Fox bay, who have been there for over two years. M. Menier found them unsuitable as colonists, and decided to have them removed from the island and demolish their homes. The people refused to go. The proper course for M. Menier to pursue under British law was by action of ejectment, but he served a notice to quit merely upon the people, and sent a steam vessel with a squad of government police from Quebec to remove them. The people prayed for a little time to gather up their belongings, and it was granted only on condition that heads of families deliver up all arms in their possession and sign away their rights to remain on the island. It appears that the evicted people are Protestants, and considerable race feeling has been aroused.

SHOES FOR CELESTIAL WOMEN

Wherein These Articles Differ from Those Worn by American Ladies.

The Chinese woman's shoe is provided with a flat heel which alone serves as a point of support for the entire body. The point of the foot does not touch the ground, and the women walk sometimes like club-footed persons, says the New York Herald. They are not very steady upon their feet, and when they become aged have to use a cane. They walk with their arms slightly extended and performing the office of a balance pole, and the breast slightly forward; they seem to be endeavoring to preserve their center of gravity. When their heels are close together the slightest push may upset them.

A foot is so much the more appreciated in proportion as it is smaller. The Chinese woman is very modest when it is a question of her feet. A traveler says he has several times attended mandarins' wives, who were afflicted with foot troubles, and who consented only with great hesitation and blushing to allow themselves to be examined, and even then they so arranged themselves as to expose only the ailing part.

It may not be generally known that all Chinese women do not have deformed feet. This mutilation is more frequent in the south than in the north and in cities than in the rural districts.

LURE THE ALLIGATORS.

Hunters Imitate the Grunts of the Mother and Attract the Young.

The alligator is said to be in such request that it is rapidly disappearing from the settled parts of Florida, and even becoming scarce in such remote regions as the Everglades. A constant war is waged against it by the taxidermists and the dealers in curiosities.

A writer in Popular Science News says that the young are frequently lured from their lurking places by a poor imitation of the grunts of the mother, and men expert in mimicry sometimes capture large numbers in a day. The little creatures respond promptly to the calls, and pour out of the cavities in hot haste to see the caller.

The most expert "gator callers" the writer even knew were swamp rangers, both white and black, who were born and brought up within a short distance of an alligator swamp, and knew every intonation of the saurian's voice.

These men would make a matron charge wildly across a broad stream by imitating the frightened cries of her young, or lure a decrepit old bull from his cave by imitating the grunts of the female. They could, in fact, dupe both old and young, and often earned good sums by their art.

A Duel of Blankets.

A returned missionary from southeastern Alaska tells in the Midland Christian Advocate of a strange custom among the Indians of that region: When a difference arises between two of them and a friendly settlement seems impossible one of them threatens the other with dishonor. He will cover the face of his foe with shame. He executes his threat by tearing up a certain number of his own blankets. The only way his antagonist can get even with him is by tearing up a greater number of his own. If the contest is prolonged, it results in the destruction of all the blankets they have, each Indian destroying his own. The one who destroys the greater number is regarded as having won the fight.

Vesuvius' Accumulation of Lava.

The number of suicides throughout the ancient Austrian coin, the kreuzer, drops officially out of circulation, after currency of something like 400 years. It is retired in accordance with the convention establishing a copper currency of equal value for all parts of the empire. It used to be circulated freely in north as well as south Germany, but for the last quarter of a century has not gone beyond the Austrian frontier.

Suicides Increasing Yearly.

The number of suicides throughout the world is 180,000 yearly and is on the increase. The greatest number happen in June, the fewest in September, and nearly one-half between noon and noon.

SWAPPED BABY FOR DOG.

The Unusual Exchange That Was Made by Two New Jersey Women.

Any mother knows the comparative value of a baby and a puppy dog. It is infinity to nothing. Yet in Newark, N. J., a deal has just been concluded in which a real, live, plump, pretty chunk of humanity was swapped by its mother for a tiny fox terrier. The person who engineered the deal was Dr. Matthew T. Gaffney. Dr. Gaffney tells the following story of the barter, without giving the names of the parties:

White a young woman was boarding at the house of a young couple a child was born to her. She believed she would be unable to care for it properly, and asked the doctor to find a home for it. She would not let it go to an asylum. Mrs. F., the landlady, fell in love with the baby, and said she would give the world if it were hers. A few days ago, after the mother had left Mrs. F.'s house, the doctor saw there a beautiful fox terrier. He is a lover of dogs.

"What'll you take for it?" he asked.

"Wouldn't take \$100," Mrs. F. replied. "It's the finest breed dog in the city."

"Look here," said the doctor. "I love the dog, you love that little baby that was born here; we'll swap."

Mrs. F. thought he was jesting. When she learned he was not she clapped her hands in joy and called her husband, who congratulated her, and so the baby was traded for the pup.

The mother is content with the bargain,

as the doctor turned over to her as much money as the pup would cost if bought in the open market.

BAREFOOT CHILDREN.

With a barefoot child, etc.

It was an unusual thing the past summer to meet the "barefoot boy" at every turn among the smart set. Master Millionaire had discarded shoes and stockings for the hot weather and trudged through country grass and over seashore sand in the full blissfulness of barefootedness, says the Philadelphia Press.

This was an encroachment on the custom which has prevailed in the south for many years. Then the children of the best families run unshod all through the summer. Far from making their feet large and unshapely, as some have supposed, this freedom from footwear allows a natural development and prevents troubles of the feet. One tall and graceful southern woman, who never knew a summer in shoes until she was half grown, wears now a double A, size which anyone might envy, for few feet are narrow enough to carry it.

The healthfulness of this new fad is undoubtless. The principles of air baths are contained in it; all the foundations of physical culture are its footholds. A radical physician has lately declared that infants ought not to be burdened with any clothing at all for a time, so that their little bodies could absorb all the oxygen possible. The barefooted child in summer is a grown-up edition of his scheme.

The novelty of it attracts children at once, the freedom of it holds them and its healthfulness recommends it as a delightful experiment.

A FAHDLI BABY.

One That Was Four Months Old and Had Never Been Washed—A Traveler's Experience.

We went to a village called Abu Sheba, more under the mountains. We were shown about very civilly and taken to the door of a larger dar and asked if we wished to go in, says the Geographical Journal. We did not know if we were wanted, so made an indefinite answer. There was a difference of opinion, and at last they said the baba should go in; so I crossed the court and entered the house and had hardly done so, when my hand was seized and I was dragged by a man through black darkness round and round. I stepped high and as quickly as I could rushed after him. At the third round I saw a little light shining on the roughest possible earthen steps and was pulled into a little room, where I was greeted with cries of alarm by some women, and the court and entered the house and had hardly done so, when my hand was seized and I was dragged by a man through black darkness round and round. I stepped high and as quickly as I could rushed after him. 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