

BEARS SLY AS FOXES.

They Throw Lumps of Ice at Watermen to Stop and Capture Them.

In his native home the polar bear does not often meet with small boys anxious to treat him to buns and other dainties. The consequence is that Bruin has to devise many curious ways of securing his food, and none are more strange and interesting than that related by two trustworthy travelers in Greenland, that country of strange sights.

They have known the polar bear to take a stone or a huge lump of ice in his fore paws and from a favorable height, as a cliff or a precipitous ice hill, to hurl the missile down upon the head of a waterman—an enormous brute, often twice the size of the bear—and to stun him that Bruin could rush in and complete the destruction of his leisure, thus securing a month's rations.

The most useful food of the ice bear, as the Germans very appropriately call this beast, is the common seal of the arctic regions. The latter is the wariest animal of the north, and both Eskimo and polar bear need their best strategy to catch it.

In the summer time, when the snow is off the ice of the ocean shore and islets, the seals can be plentifully seen as black dots on the ice, probably asleep, but always near their holes, which lead down through the thick ice to the water below, and into which they can throw themselves by the least movement. Bruin, seeing one afar, walks up as near as he deems safe, and then begins crawling on his wary prey.

The seal, if the weather be sunny and pleasant, takes short naps, relieved by shorter moments when it is scanning the vicinity for signs of the enemy's approach. During those times the bear is very quiet and as still as death itself, with eyes apparently closed, though really a corner of each is kept open, and in this way he hopes the seal will take him for a heap of snow, an appearance which his coat readily helps him to assume.

During the naps he creeps forward with greater or less rapidity, according to his nearness to the seal and consequent fear of being seen or heard. When but ten or twelve yards away, and the seal is in the depths of a good nap, the bear rushes upon him, and with a single blow of his powerful paw knocks the smaller brute senseless and so far away from the hole that he cannot be seen by that wayward animal.

In winter time the ice is covered with snow, and this is followed out by the seal into a snow house, covering the hole in the ice and connecting it with the open sea with an aperture about the size of a shilling, called the blow hole, for it is through this that the seal breathes when he is in want of fresh air.

Here the bear watches for many a long hour, if necessary, and when the snorts of the seal are heard he rushes in the fragile dome of the snow house with his paw, impaling the seal on his curved claws, and proceeds to practically demonstrate how polar bears can subsist in an arctic winter.

Ingenuity of the Tahitians. The Tahitians are said to be the people most servicable to the traveler. They seem, in fact, to command at all times the principal conveniences of life.

Half an hour of daylight is sufficient for building a house of the stems and leaves of the febi-banna, and fire is produced by rubbing sticks.

If the running water is deeply sunk among stones by working in banana leaves they bring it to the surface.

The chase of eels, which in those dripping mountains become almost amphibious, offers another instance of their ingenuity.

They tear off with their teeth the fibrous bark of "puran" (Hibiscus tiliaceus), and a moment after apply it to smothering small fish.

If one is sent for fruit he will usually make a basket on the way by plaiting segments of a coconut leaf. A mat will be manufactured with almost equal ease. Clothing is always at hand, and a banana leaf serves for an umbrella. Tumblers and bottles are supplied by single joints of the bamboo, and casks and buckets by the long stems, and whether you ask for a hatchet, knife, spoon, toothbrush, or wash basin, the guides will never be found at a loss.

An English Advertisement.

The following advertisement is from a paper published in the north of England: "To Let—A house in Melville street, situated immediately alongside of a fine plum garden, from which an abundant supply of the most delicious fruit may be stolen during the season. Rent low, and the greater part taken in piuma."

Where There Are No Inns.

In some of the less accessible parts of Norway visited by tourists there are no inns in the villages. The government has now decided to grant in such cases a certain annual sum to the owner of a spacious house in each village, the proprietor agreeing, in turn, to accommodate four or more guests if called upon.

The Knife in Italy.

A Lega Contro il Coltello (League against the knife) has been formed among the workmen of Rome, its object being to aid in enforcing the law against the carrying of that weapon. Knives are the instruments used in the perpetration of upward of 4,000 homicides in Italy annually.

To Make a Cashmere Shawl.

The constant labor of four persons for an entire year is required to produce a cashmere shawl of the best quality.

BURNT WOOD ORNAMENTS.

The Manner in Which to Decorate With Burnt Wood.

The decoration of wood by the application of heated iron is an art of long standing, and many interesting examples of old work are occasionally to be found. For a trifling sum a complete apparatus may be bought, which includes a platinum point that is heated while the work is in progress, not by electricity, as many suppose, but by fumes of benzine, which is supplied by pressure on a rubber bellows which is connected by tubing to a bottle half filled with benzine. When beginning the work, the point should not be heated in any flame but that of an alcohol lamp. Any other flame would be liable to smoke and ruin the point. In burning outlines remember that to make a broad, firm line it is not necessary to press. The lines are to be touched, not incised. The point is held and guided much in the same manner as a drawing pencil, but some little practice is needed to enable the worker to pass it smoothly and readily over the wood, the tendency of all beginners being to allow it to rest and make dots. No discouragement, however, must be felt at this, as with a little practice the manipulation will become easy, and the worker be able to make dark or light strokes at will. Bold outlines and strongly burned backgrounds come out well on ordinary white wooden articles, such as tables, stools, chairs, bowls, plates, racks, etc.

Make Your Own Ozone.

Almost every person has noticed the peculiarly refreshing smell of clean linen, especially when just removed from the lines. But few people are aware that there is any connection between fresh, cool linen, just from the outside air, and the ozone of an apartment. It is stated that the atmosphere of an apartment may be charged with ozone by bringing into it damp linen sheets that have just been exposed to a dry, sharp wind; bringing them into the house and shaking them or waving them about in the air of the room will, according to the statements made, change the character of the air. This is a matter of importance to invalids, who often become exhausted from lack of ozone in the air they breathe. A means so simple and effective and one that is within the means of every person should be generally understood. It seems that all that is necessary is to bring the linen to the room immediately after it is taken from the lines out of doors and shake and whirl it about, when the character of the air will be altered at once.

He Knew How to Advertise.

An original form of an advertisement comes from Russia, where a shopkeeper posted up the following announcement:

"The reason why I have hitherto been able to sell my goods so much cheaper than anybody else is that I am a bachelor, and do not need to make a profit for the maintenance of a wife and children. It is now my duty to inform the public that this advantage will shortly be withdrawn from them, as I am about to be married. They will, therefore, do well to make their purchases at once at the old rate."

The result was that there was such a run on the shop that in the course of a few days this shopkeeper had made enough money to pay the expenses of his wedding on a very lavish scale.

A Famous Bell.

St. John's church, at Ellcottville, N. Y., has a bell that was made nearly two centuries ago in Spain and which for over 100 years sounded matin and vesper calls at a monastery on the outskirts of Malaga. The monastery was destroyed during a civil war and for years the bell lay among the ruins. It was finally brought to this country by a New England skipper and purchased for the Ellcottville church in 1838. It is 4 feet 2 inches in circumference at the top and a little over 7 feet at the base.

Lightest of Liquids.

Additional experiments by Professor Dewar have shown that liquid hydrogen is by far the lightest of all known liquids. Its density is one-fourteenth that of water and, curiously enough, this happens to be the same ratio of density that hydrogen in the gaseous state bears to air. Heretofore the lightest liquid known has been liquefied marsh gas, which possesses about two-fifths the density of water.

The World's Volcanoes.

There are 473 known volcanoes in the world, of which 270 are active; 80 in America, 24 in Asia, 20 in Africa; Java has 109, 28 active. In New Zealand, within an area of 137 miles, there are 63, ranging from 136 feet to 900 feet in height.

\$50,000 a Day.

Li Hung Chang is said to head the list of the great multi-millionaires of the world, and to be worth nearly one hundred million pounds. To this comfortable little sum it is computed that he is adding about \$50,000 a day.

Some One Suffers.

If a Chinaman dies while being tried for murder, the very fact of his dying is taken as evidence of his guilt. He has departed, but somebody must suffer; and his eldest son, if he has one, is sent to prison for a year.

Definition of An Optimist.

An optimist is a man who can keep on lying about the fish he caught until he persuades himself that it is true.

First Cup of Coffee.

Louis XIV. of France drank the first cup of coffee in Western Europe. Coffee was then worth \$34 a pound.

IN JAIL FOR DEBT.

A Debtor's Prison Where Immorality Reigned Supreme.

The King's Bench was the largest of all the debtors' prisons. It formerly stood on the east side of the High street, on the site of what is now the second street north of St. George's Church, London. This prison was taken down in 1758, and the debtors were removed to a larger and much more commodious place on the other side of the street south of Lamb street—the site is now marked by a number of new and very ugly houses and mean streets. In the year 1776 the prisoners had to lie two in a bed, and even for those who could pay there were not beds enough, and many slept on the floor of the chapel. There were 295 prisoners; in addition to the prisoners many of them had wives and children with them. There were 279 wives and 276 children—a total of 1,399 sleeping every night in the prison. There was a good water supply, but there was no infirmary, no resident surgeon, and no bath. Imagine a place containing 1,399 persons, and no bath and no infirmary! Among these prisoners, about a hundred years ago, was a certain Colonel George Hanger, who has left his "Memoirs" behind him for the edification of posterity. According to him the prison "rivaled the purities of Wapping, St. Giles, and St. James" in vice, debauchery, and drunkenness. The general immorality was so great that it was only possible, he says, to escape contagion by living separate, or by consorting only with the few gentlemen of honor who might be found there. "Otherwise a man will quickly sink into dissipation; he will lose every sense of honor and dignity, every moral principle and virtuous disposition."

Authors in China.

Authors in China have a lovely time. When the editor rejects a contribution he does not return it together with a cruelly polite little printed slip which states that "it is not because of any fault with the MS., but because of the present large supply on hand of matter of the same description" the article is returned. No; this is the kind of letter the Chinese editor writes:

"Illustrious Brother of the Sun and Moon! Behold thy servant at thy feet, who kisses the earth before thee and asks thy gracious permission to speak and live. We have read thy manuscript with delight. By the bones of our ancestors we swear that we have never found such manuscript! If we should print it, his majesty, the emperor, would command us to adopt it as a standard and never again print anything not equal to it. As that would not be possible within 10,000 years, we return thy manuscript, trembling and imploring thy pardon 10,000 times. My head is at thy feet and I am the slave of thy slave."

Courtesy could hardly be carried further, and whenever they decline an article the Chinese newspapers must make a friend of the author.

A Talking Crow.

Bethel, Me's, latest curiosity is a talking crow which entertains the boys and girls. The bird was found in the woods over a year ago when young, having fallen from its nest and broken a wing. It was taken home and cared for but showed no inclination to talk until a few months ago. It talks as well as parrots, but favors words containing "o" and "hello, hello, Moses, Ora. Whoa there!" cause the passersby to turn quickly at times.

A Long Voyage.

The unwieldiness of an empire which should embrace the Philippines is illustrated by the experience of a merchant skipper of Castine, Me. He left Manila in a sailing vessel for a voyage around the Cape, stopping at St. Helena. When he started there was no expectation of war; when he reached Maine the war was over.

Alcohol in Temperance Drinks.

One thousand, five hundred and eighty samples of temperance drinks were analyzed at the British government laboratory. Of this number, one-third were found to contain more than the 3 per cent. of alcohol allowed by law. Some of the samples contained as much as 6 to 8 per cent.

An Old Expression.

To "dance attendance" is an expression borrowed from the medieval custom which compelled the bride at a wedding to dance with whomsoever asked her. No matter how low the condition or how objectionable the person the bride could not refuse.

Benedictine Quince Juice.

Two teaspoonful of quince juice were recently administered to a sufferer from an aggravated case of hicoughs in Chillicothe, O., and cured after many other remedies had failed.

A Soliloquy.

"I must confess," remarked the hattered tin can, "that to the best of my knowledge I have never pointed a moral, but I have nevertheless adorned many a tail."

A Valuable Coin.

The largest gold coin in existence is worth about \$215. It is the ingot or "loaf" of Annam and its value is written on the coin with Indian ink.

Blindness in Australia.

The number of blind persons in Australia in proportion to the number of the population is considerably less than in

THE CAUSE OF DYSPEPSIA.

Loss of Vitality Known to be the Parent of This Dread Disease—The Method of Cure that Has Proved Most Successful.

From the Republican, Scranton, Penna.

The most common of all human ailments is deranged digestion; the most aggravating disease, inherited by man, dyspepsia. In its nature, varied in its forms it tortures its victims, baffles the skill of physicians and the power of medicine. The primary cause of dyspepsia is lack of vitality; the absence of nerve force; the loss of the life-sustaining elements of the blood. It is a truth that no organ can properly perform its function when the source of nutrition fails; when it is weakened on one hand and over-taxed on the other. When the stomach is robbed of the nourishment demanded by nature, assimilation ceases, natural gases are generated, the entire system responds to the discord. A practical illustration of the symptoms and torture of dyspepsia is furnished by the case of Joseph T. Vandyke, 440 Hickory St., Scranton, Pa. In telling his story Mr. Vandyke says: "Five years ago, I was afflicted with a trouble of the stomach, which was very aggravating. I had no appetite, could not enjoy myself at any time, and especially was the trouble severe when I awoke in the morning. I did not know what the ailment was, but it became steadily worse and I was in constant misery. "I called in my family physician, and he diagnosed the case as catarrh of the stomach. He prescribed for me and I had his prescription filled. I took nearly all of the medicine, but still the trouble became worse, and I felt that my condition was hopeless. My friends recommended various proprietary remedies, some of them among the best in the market, but I tried several of them without receiving benefit. After I had been suffering several months, and had secured no relief from any of the many remedies which I had taken, a friend of mine, by the name of Thomas Campbell, also a resident of this city, urged me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. I told him it would be a useless waste of money to buy them, as I was convinced that nothing could do me any good. "I was finally persuaded to buy a box and began to use the pills according to directions. Before I had taken the second box I began to feel relieved, and after taking a few more boxes I considered myself restored to health. The pills gave me new life, strength, ambition and happiness. "An unshilling specific is found in Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People for such diseases as locomotor ataxia, partial paralysis, St. Vitus' dance, sciatica, neuralgia, rheumatism, nervous headache, the after effect of a grippe, palpitation of the heart, pale and sallow complexion, that tired feeling resulting from nervous prostration, all diseases resulting from vitiated humors in the blood, such as scrofula, chronic erysipelas, etc. They are also a specific for troubles peculiar to females, such as suppressions, irregularities and all forms of weakness. In men they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork or excess of whatever nature. These pills are manufactured by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Salem, N. Y., and are sold only in boxes bearing the firm's trade-mark and wrapper at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50, and are never sold in bulk. They may be had of all druggists.

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A WONDERFUL CLOCK.

The Nearest Approach to a Perpetual Motion Machine Yet Discovered.

A Kankakee county, Ill., man is the possessor of one of the most wonderful clocks in the country. This clock is as near a perpetual motion machine as any piece of mechanism yet designed. The owner is not a perpetual motion crank, but is a jeweler named Peter M. Ravenskild, of Cahery, a town in the southwestern portion of Kankakee county.

The clock is the product of many years of study and labor and considerable expense. It keeps accurate time and will run for a year without the least attention from its owner.

The clock proper is run with a wheel 60 inches in circumference. From the outer surface of the circumference was suspended 120 cups, each one-half inch in diameter and a third of an inch deep. Each of forty of these cups, which are successive, contain steel balls three-eighths of an inch in diameter.

Every minute and a half as this wheel turns by the weight of these balls one of them falls out of its cup, rolls down an inclined plane 20 inches long, when, by its own weight, it reunites a broken circuit of electricity and is again elevated by a little car traveling along a steeper inclined plane to the top of the wheel, where it falls into a cup which stands vertical for a short time.

After the car discharges its cargo it returns to its original station from its own weight. From the time one of these balls is dropped into a cup until it is again dropped into another cup it travels 36 inches. Thus the work done by all the balls is equivalent to one ball traveling over one mile a day, 400 miles in one year, and during the lifetime of a person living threescore years the distance around the globe.

The electricity used is generated in an ordinary storage battery, which does not require any attention for fully a year.

Spain's Great Buildings.

Spain possesses one of the largest buildings in the world. It is at once a palace, a museum, a library, a picture gallery, a monastery, a church and a burial place. This wonderful edifice is called the Escorial, although the name is very generally corrupted both in England and America into "Escorial."

The Escorial was commenced in 1562 by order of Philip II. of Spain and was intended partly as a royal burial place for the kings of Spain and partly as a commemoration of Philip's victory over the French at St. Quentin in 1557. It is built entirely of granite, and measures 744 feet in length by 580 feet in breadth. At each corner is a tower 200 feet in height. The building is supposed to represent an enormous gridiron lying upside down, and this shape is believed to have reference to St. Lawrence, who was martyred on a gridiron.

Twenty-one years were spent in building it, and it cost \$12,000,000. It has been twice partly destroyed by lightning and was sacked by the French soldiers in 1808. There are 14,000 doors and 11,000 windows.

A High Railway.

The highest mountain railway in Europe, leading to the top of the Gornier Grat in Switzerland, situated between the Matterhorn and Monte Rosa, is about completed. It was begun in 1896. A train can take 110 passengers two miles above sea level. The power is furnished by the water which flows from a glacier, and is, therefore, most abundant in summer, when most needed.

How the Japanese Sleep.

The Japanese always bury their dead with the head to the north, and for this reason no Japanese will sleep with his head in that position. Many private houses and hotels have a diagram of the points of the compass pasted on the bedroom ceiling for the convenience of guests.

The Longest Plant.

The longest plant in the world is the seaweed. One tropical and subtropical variety is known which, when it reaches its full development, is at least 600 feet in length. Seaweed receives its nourishment from the air and mineral matter held in solution in the sea water.

An Electrical Well.

A well digger at Bar Harbor experienced several electrical shocks while down in a well, and was hurriedly drawn to the surface. He refused to descend again, and to test the matter a dog was lowered. When hauled up a few minutes later the animal was dead.

Length of Paris Streets.

The total length of the streets, avenues, boulevards, bridges, quays and thoroughfares of Paris generally is set down at about 600 miles, of which nearly 200 are planted with trees.

All the Difference in the World.

There is a great difference between being in the world, and having the world in us. Let a ship be in the water, and it is all right, but let the water be in the ship, and down she goes.

Spain's Resources.

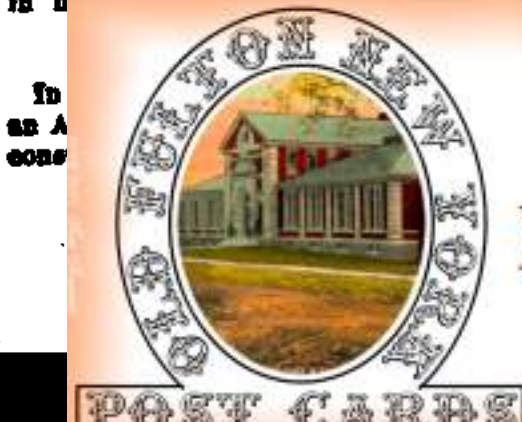
Spain has greater mineral resources than any other country in Europe, including iron, copper, zinc, silver, antimony, quicksilver, lead and gypsum.

A Sober Fact.

When a man's troubles drive him to drink, the drink brings on more troubles that drive him to drink again.

Cost of St. Peter's.

The cost of St. Peter's, Rome, was over \$14,000,000.



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