

AN HONORED DOG.

The Intelligent Animal Was Accorded a Pleasant Reception by Great Britain's Queen.

BLEACHING A NEGRO.

A Strange Story from Vienna Describing the Wonderful Effect of Electricity.

Two years ago, according to the Vienna Fremdenblatt, a Viennese merchant brought back from a business trip in Africa a Soudanese negro 19 years old, named Ibul Lacho.

Ibul soon learned the ways of Vienna, beginning with the German language, astonishing the boulevards with elegant costumes and finally acquiring certain fashionable nervous disorders.

Strange to say, Ibul began to grow white, gradually passing through the coffee-and-milk stages until he became in complexion Caucasian, though the shape of his face remained unchanged.

American physicians will hardly know how seriously to take this report. It is well known, however, that negroes are much more susceptible to the action of electricity than white men.

SIZE OF ANIMALS.

Certain Species of Our Day Are Much Smaller Than They Were in Early Eras.

Most of the gigantic animals of geological eras belonged to species which have completely vanished, and of those which have living representatives it is difficult to say whether they have undergone a true change of size or whether their modern examples are merely survivals of smaller contemporary varieties.

Queer Blunder at a Wedding.

A marriage of a singular character recently took place at the registrar's office, Langport, England. The bride and bridegroom, supported by the usual escort, having presented themselves, the registrar requested the witnesses to be seated, and, addressing the bridegroom and lady, who remained standing, elicited from them solemn declarations of knowing no lawful impediment to be joined in matrimony.

BANDS ON BATTLE FIELDS.

Music Has an Inspiring Effect and Aids in Dispelling Weariness on the March.

The utility of music in matters pertaining to war is probably one of the greatest forces. At the present day, in all the armies of the world, musical war signals are considered not only useful, but absolutely indispensable.

Probably savages are the most susceptible to the warlike feeling inspired by a certain class of music. It arouses their anger, incites their fanaticism, and by accompanying their war dances in time of peace it arouses their lust of war.

The German army includes more than 10,000 military musicians. Other powerful nations on the continent employ rather less numbers in military bands.

ENGLISH PLUCK.

In This Instance It Was Rough and Not Overdone, But It Won the Victoria Cross.

Maybe it was at Isandula, with Lord Chelmsford's army, or it may have been during the Zulu war, says Collier's Weekly, after an engagement in which the British troops were defeated by Cetewayo's black warriors, and were compelled to fly for their lives, an English cavalryman, whose scraggy little pony limped from an assegai slash, detached himself from the retreat and galloped back upon the charging Zulus.

"Get out of this. Bill, ye bloomin' lift—the black beggars'll skewer ye!" gasped the wounded man.

FAST EXPRESS TRAINS.

Two Eastern Specials That Run More Than a Mile a Minute on Regular Schedule.

The 60-minute flyers on both the Pennsylvania and Reading railroads to Atlantic City are establishing a record for time. The regular schedule of the Pennsylvania railroad's Atlantic City flyer was 85 miles an hour from Camden to Winslow Junction, and 75 miles an hour from the latter point to Absecon.

An Objectionable Answer.

"Questions to one's household management are always objectionable unless they come from intimate friends who are anxious to give or take counsel in the affairs of daily life," says Mrs. Humphrey, in her chat on "Social Blunders and How to Avoid Them," in the Young Woman.

Hard on Wheelwomen.

In the course of a speech the other day Lord Salisbury declared that "if a new Dante arose to write a new 'Inferno' its lowest circle would be tenanted by the ladies who dress themselves in the bicycle skirt or knickerbockers."

HORSE MEAT PATTIES.

After Swindling His Patrons for Eight Years a Paris Provision Merchant Is Caught.

Perdon, provision merchant of Paris, has been justly sent to prison for eight months on a charge of selling horse patties, says the Paris correspondent of the London Telegraph.

This alleged pot of goose liver was simply horseflesh, and, as an official analyst remarked in court, it was bad at that. Perdon also sold pots or jars of alleged patties of duck, pheasant, quail, hare and lark, but they were all of the same foundation.

The letters "M. H." were originally intended to mean honorable mention, but being brought to bay in court, Perdon tried to defend himself by asserting that they signified "melange hippopotamique," and that surely the customers knew what they were buying.

MILLIONS OF STEPS.

A London Bus Conductor Does a Little Figuring on His Extraordinary Footwork.

You know how tiring it is to climb up a flight of steps, even when they are well made and nicely upholstered, but the chances are that you have never given the bus conductor a thought, although he probably climbs more stairs than any other individual in the world, says the New York Telegram.

"There are," he said, "nine steps from the platform to the top of the bus, and it is rather underrating to say that I climb that flight of steps 12 times an hour during the 15 hours I am on duty every day; 20 would be nearer the mark, but to be on the safe side we will put it down as 12."

"Nine steps at 12 times an hour, 15 hours a day, seven days a week, makes the nice little total of 11,340 a week, 45,360 a month or 539,680 a year. The number of times I step off the bus and on again and the incidental number of steps I climb like any other individual in the ordinary course of life brings the annual total up, I reckon, to 600,000 steps a year."

FISHING OFF A MAN-OF-WAR.

One Particularly Exciting Catch Which Raised a Row Among the Jackies.

The followers of Izaak Walton on board a man-of-war are wont to ply the gentle art (with a line alone) from over the ship's side during the evening. A subaltern, who was not particularly liked by his junior messmates, was one day so engaged, when a midshipman, seeing the line depending from the "chairs" above, reached out of one of the main deck ports and gave it a couple of violent tugs, in imitation of a fishing line.

This time the midshipman was more elaborate, for getting a companion to keep the necessary strain upon the upper portion, he hauled up the lower part of the fishing line and attached to the hook an old shoe, an empty bottle, a holy stone and a sardine tin. Having carefully lowered these to the full extent of the line, he gave it a more powerful pull than ever, and the expectant fisherman above hauled in as fast as he could, hand over hand.

Divorces in England.

In 1891 the population of England and Wales was about 20,000,000. In that year 256 divorce suits were entered. Ten years later there were 410 suits among 23,000,000 population. In 1891 there were 618 out of 26,000,000, and last year there were 823 out of 31,000,000.

Bacteria in Hailstones.

The organisms of hailstones have been investigated on two occasions by E. C. Harrison, a Canadian bacteriologist, who has found numerous bacteria and molds, including a bacillus and a coccus hitherto undescribed. The character of the germs confirms Bujwid's theory that surface water is carried up by storms and frozen, producing hail.

HISTORY OF THE DONKEY.

In the Far East the Diminutive Animal Has the Appreciation of All Classes.

The best donkeys come from Arabia. They have clean, smooth coats, hold their heads high and are used only for riding purposes. Many are sent to Persia, where they sell for high sums. They are well looked after and their harnesses are of the richest.

In the far east the donkey for centuries has received the appreciation of all classes. A fine Arab steed, used solely for the saddle, exists in Syria and a smaller kind is devoted to the use of the women when they wish to ride abroad.

As one goes farther east the donkeys diminish in stature, and in India the tiny animal called a donkey is used only by the people of the lower caste. Europe, Malta and Spain supply the finest donkeys, and its parts of Italy and France good specimens may be secured.

Although the donkey was known in England in the reign of the earlier Saxons, it was not common, for it became extinct till the reign of Elizabeth. The wild origin of the donkey is supposed to have been the koulik or onager, which exists in herds in Persia and similar lands. The skin is used for making shagreen leather. The donkey is coming into general favor abroad, and even America may soon become accustomed to seeing children driving donkey carts or invalids taking a much-needed airing drawn by the patient little animals, which make good pets and are so much less expensive than a pony.

GOLD MINING.

There Is Reason to Believe It May Be Carried on Profitably in the Philippines.

At this distance and with the slight exploratory work which has been carried on in the Philippine islands, says the Engineering Magazine, the minerals that can be profitably exported are best known. Mr. George F. Becker in his recent investigation has given a very clear view of the present mineral exploration in the Philippines, and has shown that gold is found in a great number of localities in the archipelago, from northern Luzon to central Mindanao.

In most cases the gold is detrital, and is found either in existing water courses or in deposits now deserted by the current. It is said that in Mindanao some of the gravels are in an elevated position and adapted to hydraulic mining. There are no data at hand which indicate decisively the value of any of the placers, but the fact that they are washed largely with coconut shells for pans by the natives is an indication of their rich deposits or quite coarse gold.

In the province of Abra, at the northern end of Luzon, there are placers, and the River Abra itself yields auriferous gravel. In Le Planto there are gold quartz veins as well as gravels, and here also is the best developed deposit of copper ores, although these are also reported from a great number of localities on the islands of Luzon, Mindoro, Capul, Masbate, Panay and Mindanao. The last island is practically unexplored and full of possibilities.

USES FOR CORUNDUM.

For Abrasive Purposes in Work on Metals It May Supplant Emery.

There will probably soon be employment for the large deposits of corundum in North Carolina, as uses for that mineral in the arts are being found. This mineral is the crystallized oxide of alumina, and, though it is essentially of India, it is found in gem form not only in North Carolina, but to some extent in Georgia, and there are valuable deposits of it in British Ontario.

In Nature is an article setting forth the uses and value of corundum, and it appears that it is employed chiefly for abrasive purposes, mostly in the form of corundum wheels, which are said to be twice as effective and durable as emery wheels. Corundum wheels may be regarded as rotary files, the cutting points of which never grow dull. They are rapidly replacing files for cutting down metal surfaces, and taking the place of grindstones for sharpening tools. We are told that while a file is useless when it has lost five per cent of its weight, the corundum grains throughout a wheel retain their cutting power so that it can be worked until 90 per cent of its weight is worn off. Thus, while it has been estimated that to remove one pound weight of iron with a file costs 65 cents, the same amount of work can be done with an emery or corundum wheel in about one-eighth of the time and at one-seventh of the cost.

Gold Production.

A close race is that in gold production in the United States, Australia and South Africa. Last year the United States lost the first place, but may be expected to regain it. The figures for 1898 were: South Africa, \$90,000,000; Australia, \$67,792,000, and the United States, \$65,792,000. Australia, like this country, is getting more gold from low-grade ores, and gold is also obtained by dredging machinery from the ooze at the bottom of streams. Australian gold coins originally had a greenish tint, but the silver that caused it is now extracted by a chemical process.

Amunition for Old Iron.

A cargo of shells, originally intended for the use of Spanish guns in the war with the United States, recently arrived at Glasgow, Scotland. The charges had been extracted from them and ready Spain took advantage of the recent rise in the price of metal to get hold of an honest penny by selling them for old iron. The shells are of all sizes.

A FOX IN A FOLD.

Reynard Fald with His Life for His Attempt to Get a Feast of Young Lambs.

Sheep do not often go fox-hunting, but when the fox comes to them, events may take the course they did on the Denton farm at East Somerset, New York. The owner of the farm brought a large deer fox to town, says the World, and offered to "treat" if anyone could tell in 20 guesses how the fox had met his death.

Of course, everybody gave it up, and then Mr. Denton reminded them that he is a sheep-raiser, and has a large flock of Dorsets, of which he is especially proud. With their large horns these sheep make a formidable show, and they are so cross that it is as much as a stranger's life is worth to venture across a field in which they are pastured. Last summer a tramp was overtaken by a Dorset, and would have been killed, but for Mr. Denton's intervention.

Of late a score of lambs have been born, and the bucks are more belligerent than ever. One night Denton was about retiring when he heard loud bleating in the fold near the house, and believing that dogs were around and perhaps attacking the lambs, hastened outdoors to investigate.

For a time the bucks refused to allow him to enter the fold, but presently they calmed down, and he went in. There lay a fox, recently killed and bleeding from numerous wounds. A horn of one of the sheep had entered Reynard's body back of the shoulder-blade, and then his life had been trampled out. The fox's hide showed more than 40 holes made by the sharp hoofs and horns.

STUDENTS WITHOUT MONEY.

If They Are Able and Energetic They Can Readily Make Their Way Through College.

There is no reason why a student's food should cost him one cent, writes Jesse Lynch Williams, advising young men how to work their way through college, in Ladies' Home Journal. Every freshman has just as much right, and certainly has as good a chance, to get up an eating club among his own classmates as the upper classmen have. A club means merely a tableful of eight or sixteen more or less congenial fellows generally classmates. The man who runs the club does not cater for it. In most cases he does absolutely nothing except gather the crowd together at the beginning of the year, and in return he receives his own meals free of charge. When he has once started it a man can generally run a club all through his course. As for clothes, a student ought to be able to earn them during the long three months of summer. The present generation does not wait on table at summer hotels, but it frequently manages the hotels or acts as clerks. Many hotel proprietors prefer college men because they are apt to be gentlemen, and they are good at organizing athletic games, etc. Other students act as bathing masters, or managers of boat houses, or correspondents of city papers at watering places, or even as professional entertainers at summer hotels where young men are scarce.

AN UNCUT DIAMOND.

As Large as a Hickory Nut and Worth Nearly One Hundred Thousand Dollars.

A New York jeweler the other day brought out a small package no larger than a hen's egg which was wrapped up in a common piece of white paper. Undoing it he showed what appeared to be yellowish white pebbles about the size of a large hickory nut, says the Sun of that city.

"A mere trifle," he said, "but worth nearly \$100,000."

The onlooker was amazed and took it in his hand. "You mean \$100," he suggested.

"No, \$100,000. It is a South African diamond that is still uncut, and there are about 150 carats in it. At the rate of \$50 a carat this would make more than \$75,000, but, of course, the larger stones are more valuable. I suppose this is the largest diamond ever brought to this country. The name of the importer? That's a secret which we are not allowed to divulge."

Now that uncut diamonds are free of duty the importations are on a much larger scale than heretofore. The one in question has been considerably ground down, but had no polish or sparkle to suggest that it was a diamond at all.

SHIP'S CHINA AND SILVER.

There Is Enough of It to Supply All the Residents of a Good-Sized Town.

Helen C. Candee gives an interesting view of "Housekeeping on an Ocean Steamship," in Ladies' Home Journal, thus describing the vessel's china and silver: "There are a thousand spoons for soup, the same number for tea, and half that number for coffee and dessert. The heaviest fork drawer contains a thousand dinner forks, and next to that is the same number of breakfast forks. For raw oysters there are 300 forks provided, and for fish about the same number. Knives follow closely the same figures, 1,000 each of dinner and breakfast sizes, 600 for dessert, and 260 for fruit. The pantry is lined with shelves which are fitted with racks in which stand high piles of china, secure from the motion of the stormiest sea. The plate-warmer holds many of them, but there are enough left to stock a china shop. There are 1,200 cups and saucers for coffee, tea and bouillon; there are over 400 water tumblers, and other glasses in smaller proportion. The plates of the popular size number 2,200, and the soup plates are only 450."

LIVING IN A SUN BOX.

A New Australian Institution for the Treatment of Consumption.

In two Australian towns away up in the mountains there are now institutions for the treatment of consumption by the "new method," which calls for little beside fresh air and food. The "sun box," which the Australian doctors consider essential, is described by the Melbourne Argus as a frame structure, open at the top, about six by ten feet in size.

"Why, I lived in a sun box for years when I first came to the country, but we used to call it a hut in those days!" some readers will be ready to exclaim.

There is this difference, however, between a hut and a sun box, that the former is a fixture, unless a bush fire or a hurricane comes along, whereas a sun box should be constructed on a pivot, or, failing that, on wheels, so that its front may be readily turned away from the wind. The reason is that while fresh, pure air and sunlight mean renewed health to the consumptive patient, the sun boxes, which must be taken indoors whenever the wind blows, but, given your sun box to present its back to the wind, no matter what quarter it comes from, and the patient may remain in it all day.

In each of these boxes two or three patients are placed on mattresses, and there they lie all day long and drink in the pure mountain air. If they are weak their food is taken to them, otherwise they get it in the home.

Photographs show the treatment being carried out right among the gleaming mountain snows—with the convalescent patients engaged in snow-balling!

FIRST DAILY WAS WRITTEN.

London's Earliest Newspaper Was in the Manuscript of Its Correspondents.

It has been discovered that what may be called the first daily newspaper was a manuscript letter written by salaried correspondents and forwarded to them every 24 hours from London to the provinces. That was in the days of the early Stuarts.

During the commonwealth these London letters were printed in type and circulated in large numbers. Even so long ago as 1650 the law of libel was such as to be characterized by Judge Scroggs as making any newspaper publication illegal and tending to provoke a breach of the peace.

Defoe, the author of "Robinson Crusoe," was one of the early journalists, his paper being called the Review. Then there was Tutchin, whose weekly publication, the Observer, cost, according to evidence he gave in a court of justice, half a guinea to print, though the typesetter evidently raised his price to 20 shillings. The Observer had a certified circulation of 266 copies.

Afterward there came the Grants, Steele, Addison and Johnson, who might have lived in the vicinity of Grubb street, but were court favorites for all that.

The Times employed the first foreign correspondent in the person of Henry Crabb Robinson, and succeeded in "scooping" the government itself in the news of the battle of Waterloo.

A GREAT MAN.

He Was Known Only as "Blocker" When His Identity Was Discovered.

Talking about bishops, the other afternoon a distinguished, stately man, clad in the garb of a minister, was over at the fish commission spending a half hour in watching the gyrations of the specimens in the tank, says the Washington Post. One of the scientists of the institution, a young ichthyologist, whose papers on the subject of deep sea investigation are attracting attention throughout the world, happened, in passing by the tank, to notice the minister. He studied the stately visitor for a minute, and then walked up to him.

"Am I right," he inquired, "in supposing you to be Right Rev. Lucien Lee Kinsolving, Episcopal bishop of Brazil?"

"You are," replied the stately man, regarding his questioner wonderingly.

"Well, then, hello, 'Blocker!'" said the scientist, jovially, holding out his hand.

"Why, hello, there, Charlie!" warmly replied Right Rev. Lucien Lee Kinsolving, Episcopal bishop of Brazil, squeezing the young scientist's hand.

Diagram: The two men had been chums in a boarding school down in Virginia when they were boys, and they hadn't seen each other since. The bishop's nickname among the boys was "Blocker."

The Car as a Toy.

The car was taught English, which he speaks without any accent, by a Mr. Heath, a gentleman who was very fond of boxing. An interesting picture is given by a French writer of the early life of the young ruler of the Russians. Nicholas and his brothers were brought up with very little ceremony, though they were well educated, particularly in religious matters. But their Sundays were not passed in a fashion which the old Puritans would have approved of, for on that particular day they entertained at dinner their boy and girl friends, and very lively those banquets were. The manners at the table of the future czar and his brothers and friends remind one rather of the days of Peter the Great and the way in which that monarch "carried on," for we are told that "there was no end to the tricks the host and their small guests played. From end to end of the table there used to be continuous firing of bread pellets, which were perpetually striking princely noses or landing in royal mouths."