

ARE UNCANNY FOES.

GREAT BRITAIN'S TROUBLES IN SOMALILAND AND THIBET.

The "Mad Mullah" and the Grand Lama Hard Customers to Handle—Personalities and Powers.

Never before has this country been opposed by two such mysterious and unaccountable forces as she is grappling with at the present time, says London Tit-Bits.

Not only no Englishman, but no white man at all, has ever set eyes on the person of the grand lama, who never leaves his palace at Lhasa, to which city no whites are permitted admission.

Some very extraordinary duties devolve upon this prime minister. It is the tradition of the grand lama, brought down from time immemorial, that they never live long, but that when they are about 15 the spirit carries them away.

They visit the house in question, and to their joy find a child exactly answering to the description given by the prime minister, who, of course, though he does not tell them so, has been there before.

He sits upon a fancy oriental throne, wearing a yellow hat and a yellow garment. The last grand lama, it was seen by anybody was described as being bright and fair, with rosy cheeks and large and penetrating eyes.

Once a year the grand lama is vindicated before all his people, as it were, by a curious proceeding. A "demon" is brought out to toss dice against the grand lama's representative.

Now the "Mad Mullah," who is giving so much trouble to us out in Somaliland, is a much more practical person, but only a little less mysterious.

One day a Mohammedan missionary came along and offered to buy him from his parents and to train him up to a religious life.

He is now about 33 years of age, is tall and thin, with a dark skin and a small, grating beard. He is a very learned man, eloquent and possessed of much conjuring ability.

A Spanish naturalist, Dr. Ribera, has proved that fish can hear and distinguish sounds and words. Concealing himself behind a bush, he taught the carp in a pond to come to the surface for food every time he spoke a certain sentence.

Mrs. Housekeeper—Back again? Aren't you the man I gave a pie to this morning? Hungry Hawkins—Yes'm. I came back ter see if yer wouldn't gimme some dyspepsia tablets—Philadelphia Ledger.

WORLD'S SUPPLY OF OPIUM.

An Industry That Is Far More Extensive Than the People of This Country Know For.

Few people have any idea of the vast areas given over wholly to the cultivation of opium. The consumption and the manufacture of this drug, far from being on the decline, are on the increase to an almost incredible extent.

In the district of Bengal alone there are nearly 1,000,000 acres devoted exclusively to the cultivation of the poppy. Its cultivation is legalized and in every way encouraged by the British government.

There is a fierce dispute going on just now as to the relative merits or demerits of opium. Many eminent men in the scientific world openly declare that opium is a blessing.

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ATHLETIC SPORTS DO GOOD

Considerable Physical Prowess Shown by Women Who Indulge in Them.

For many years past the girls at the several institutions of learning maintained for their especial benefit have been indulging secretly in athletic training. The result is found to-day, says an exchange, in a more perfect womanhood, physically considered.

That we to-day have so many of them is a blessing the real worth of which will surely be proved later on. The outdoor girl of to-day is to be the mother of a race of stalwarts of the future.

Not Ready for College.

An anxious mother wrote to President Eliot, of Harvard, asking how her son was progressing at the university. The reassuring reply gave no hint that the youth was not under Dr. Eliot's personal supervision.

A company has been formed to develop the great Victoria falls, on the Zambezi river, in Africa, as a source of electric energy. These falls rank among the greatest cataracts in existence.

A JAPANESE LEGEND.

KOREA HAS LONG BEEN CONSIDERED PROMISED LAND.

Pretty Story of an Empress Who Spoke for the Gods and Took Up the Reins of Government.

There is an old Japanese legend that in the year 230 of our era Emperor Chial, a skillful lute player, was one day performing on his favorite instrument in the presence of his queen and the prime minister.

This is the legend, says a London paper, which is in the mouth of every Japanese, the end of the legend telling us that Queen Gingo Kogo, after the death of the emperor, took up the reins of government.

At this early time Korean civilization was in its greatest splendor. Manufactures and trade enjoyed the highest prosperity. In fact, a few natives of Pakke, flying to Japan to escape the power of Silla, introduced among the Japanese the sacred Buddhist sutras and those arts in which the Japanese later became proficient.

From this time the thirteenth century, commenced the incursions of the Japanese pirates, who filled the entire coast of the peninsula with terror. The great dream of conquest, however, was not brought to a climax until 1592, when the famous Hideyoshi, the celebrated Japanese Napoleon, who desired to unite under his power all the territory of the extreme orient, as a first step toward this ambition sent his two generals, Kato Kiyomasa and Katoishi Yukitaka, the latter a Christian, against Korea with an army of 150,000 men.

All attempts at peace, however, were fruitless because of the exorbitant demands of Hideyoshi and the latter again ordered his troops to proceed north. Seoul again fell into their hands, but the Koreans, who in the meantime had had time to reorganize their forces and to obtain new troops from China, this time opposed a fierce resistance.

Peat has heretofore been made into coal or coke for fuel by a slow and tedious process based upon air-drying. But the steadily increasing demand for fuel, led a few years ago, to the invention of retort ovens for drying peat, which ordinarily contains 80 per cent. of water.

CURED BY HIS OWN TALK.

When the Young Man Saw His "Boozy Monologue" in Print He Signed the Pledge.

"There goes a young man whom I saved from going to the dogs through drink," remarked a court stenographer, relating the New York Press.

"I was sitting in an uptown restaurant one evening when he came in with some fellow and took a seat at a table without seeing me. He was just drunk enough to be talkative about his private affairs and on the impulse of the moment I pulled out my notebook and took a full shorthand report of every word he said.

"Great heavens, Jack," he gasped, "what is this, anyhow?" "It's a stenographic report of your monologue at ———'s last evening," I replied, and gave him a brief explanation.

"THE HORSE BLEW FIRST."

And His Owner Got the Dose of Medicine Intended for the Ailing Animal.

An Irishman who owned a sick horse went to see a veterinary doctor up town some days ago, says the New York Times.

Armed with the medicine and these instructions, Mike departed. Next day he was back at the doctor's office.

SLANG NAMES FOR COINS.

Odd Terms Used in Different Countries to Designate Certain Pieces of Money.

Probably every country possesses peculiar or "slang" terms in everyday use for its coins. For instance, a "nickel" very well defines the American five-cent piece of currency, and a "red cent" is equally expressive, says London Tit-Bits.

In Scotland a man who "flies kites" is probably not worth a "boodle," which is an imaginary coin slightly differing from the same term in America.

In England the same person would not be worth a "mag." A "kite" is an accommodation bill; a "mag" is the smallest copper coin of the realm.

Fortune-Telling. "So you think you could read my future if I would let you hold my hand?" asks the maiden.

"Well, don't you think it shows more consideration for you than to go out and figure on the stars?" he asked.

ONCE IN ERUPTION.

MOUNT RAINIER FORMERLY AN ACTIVE VOLCANO.

Recent Tremblings Give Evidence of Internal Fires Which Threaten to Again Burst Forth in Upheaval.

It is now the generally accepted belief among men of science that Mount Rainier, one of the loftiest mountain peaks on the continent of North America, was once an active volcano, belching out immense volumes of fire, smoke and lava.

At intervals during the past 20 or 40 years steam and smoke have been seen to issue from the ragged summit. Those who in the years past have ascended Mount Rainier have found hot springs gushing forth from the rocks, have discovered places where the heat had melted away the snow and ice.

From these known facts it is practically certain that Mount Rainier was once in an eruptive condition and that deep down in the heart of the peak the fires are still smoldering.

When, therefore, this old mountain very recently gave forth unmistakable signs of travail the general conclusion was that it was all due to some internal conflict, that the long pent-up and smoldering fires were again threatening to burst out.

Through the aid of powerful field and marine glasses the crest of the peak has been very closely scanned by hundreds of eager and curious people.

It is estimated that hundreds of acres—stipendous masses of rock and earth—must have slid away from the crest in order to present such an altered appearance.

Probably the largest mouse ever killed was shot in Alaska last summer by Lord Alphonso and party in the Kenai peninsula. This mouse weighed 1576 pounds and measured 75 feet to the top of his shoulders, the skull and horns.

A Record Mouse.

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TIGHT WAISTS HERE AGAIN.

According to Dainty Fashion's Dictates They Will Be Worn the Coming Season.

Tight waists are again coming into vogue, and of course, ladies women with slender waists will be seen on every band. The fashion is an uncomfortable one for the majority, but that makes no difference; it has been decreed and the woman must obey or be outside the pale of fashion.

There is to be no more deception. The coming waist is to be plain and built lightly over the corset so as to conform to the figure as required and rearranged by the corset. The unduly stout cannot have a sort of veil floating down to conceal unenviable proportions.

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HE MERELY "LOOKED IN."

But He Looked in the Office Instead of the Newspaper as He Was Instructed.

Only a narrow alley separates the pressrooms of two of the afternoon papers of Chicago. Both go to press at the same hour. When the warm copies of the three o'clock edition of one paper come forth, a copy is taken at once to the city editor of the other paper, who scans it closely to catch for his own later edition anything he may have missed.

"I didn't send anybody over. Why?" The editor of the Newsletter related the incident.

"What did he look like? Oh, I say, here, I know. That was my wild man. I hired him yesterday. It's his last job. I told him to look in the Newsletter and see what they were getting on the school story that we haven't got about the school story."

Sugar and Starch.

Continued overindulgence in the sweets is quite certain to cause dyspepsia and constipation. Of course, all the cereals contain more or less starch, but wheat, rye and barley contain less than most other grains. Starch composes about one-fifth of potatoes, one-half of peas, beans, wheat, rye and oats, and three-fourths of rice and Indian corn.

How to Live One Hundred Years. Dr. John B. Rich, of New York City, who is 94 years of age, recently gave an address on how to live 100 years, in which he said: "Be good-natured; be clean; exercise; be comfortable; sleep in the most comfortable bed you can get; don't eat twice as much as you need, and don't eat food that will abuse that poor old muscle, the human stomach."