

PIC AND PYTHON IN BATTLE

Young Parker Vigorously Objects to Becoming a Meal of Big Serpent.

The curator and keepers of the zoo have an extremely delicate contract on their hands...

One of the pythons recently manifested a desire for something stronger than eggs, five rabbits and chickens.

A vicious fight followed. The pig recognized in the python his natural enemy, and he determined to sell his life dearly.

Every time the python prepared to strike the plucky little pig darted at him, being as only a python when angry.

The python was getting the worst of it when the pig, in charging, made an unlikely mistake. Instantly the snake's fangs were sunk into the porker's neck and he gave up the fight.

Then the python undertook to swallow his victim whole, first wrapping the body in its coils and giving it a terrific squeezing.

But the victory was dearly won, as it developed, for in swallowing the pig something happened to the snake's mouth. The injury was later found to be a badly ulcerated tooth, which the keepers found it necessary to lance.

A coachwhip snake, about six feet long, was killed and thrown into the python's cage. Fortunately the cannibal still retained a good appetite.

The small investor will save his money by keeping out of Wall street. There are many avenues open to him for the safe placing of his funds without getting into that atmosphere or attempting to sell his tiny craft on the troubled ocean of stormy speculation.

Opportunities are within the reach of every prudent and intelligent man or woman for the safe investment of a few hundreds or a few thousand dollars, but not in Wall street.

LOOKED LIKE REAL HAIR.

A Wig That Was Not to Be Likened to Anything in the Artistic Line.

A certain famous actor had for years obtained his wigs from a well-known maker. He always had the same man to attend to him, and liked him so much that he finally engaged him as his dresser.

"What is this?" he inquired of his dresser. "I ordered no new wig. I meant to have done so but I have been too busy."

"I made that wig for you, sir," replied the dresser. "Excuse me, sir, but your old one was getting 'orribly shabby."

The result was that the dresser made all the player's wigs afterwards, and the costumeur began to worry about the loss of a good customer.

"Who's making Mr. —'s wigs now?" asked the wig-maker, with a slight show of asperity.

"I am," said the dresser. "Humph!" taking a new wig from the dressing-table, "and is this a specimen of your work?"

"And do you really think," continued the costumeur, holding it at arm's length, "that this thing looks like a wig?"

"No, sir, I don't!" retorted the dresser. "I think it looks like the hair of the human head."

Science Aiding Agriculture. The achievements of college professors in showing an industry of modest standing but fundamental importance how to enhance its production have reached monumental results.

Dodging That Paid. Elderly Belle—Now, tell me, baron, really and truly, who was the greatest beauty at our ball last night?

The Description. First Bachelor—Suppose you saw some beautiful scowry coming over the Rockies. What was it like?

Second Ditto—It had gray eyes and brown hair. It sat just across the aisle from me.—Detroit Free Press.

"PUBLIC" IN WALL STREET.

The Strenuous Struggle in Which Many a Small Investor Is Ruined.

A continuous struggle for supremacy is ever going on in Wall street between the giants of finance, says a writer in Cent Per Cent.

Many of the active and popular stocks dealt in on the exchange are subject to constant manipulation. They are marked up and down 10, 20, 30 and sometimes 50 points without relation to the merits of the properties upon which these securities are based.

Against such skilled performance outsiders have small chance. A certain percentage of them are fortunate enough to get aboard the train with the "insiders," but this is usually purely a matter of gambling luck.

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Persons in Great City Who Can Number Friends on Their Fingers.

"While in New York this time," said the man from Alabama, according to the Herald, "I have observed one habit of certain people I met that impressed me as being very peculiar and also rather pathetic.

"This is not my calling list," said she. "That consists of only six names. The 102 are just acquaintances, and include the janitor, my washerwoman and the boy named Willie down in the grocery."

"Her admission struck me as really pitiful. 'Why don't you branch out?' I asked.

"Branch out?" she cried. "Oh, my dear man, if you had lived in New York for a while you wouldn't say anything about branching out. Besides I am not alone in my desolation. There are lots of other folks in this town in the same fix, only worse. They couldn't even get up to the hundred mark to save their lives."

Tired of Being Fired. Peter was a good workman, but he would go on spree. His employer was lenient, but when Peter turned up after having been absent for a couple of days without leave he discharged him.

Harold—Did your charity ball realize anything for charity? Grace—Well, rather. Old Mr. Riches sat in a draught, got pneumonia, died next day, and left a thousand pounds to an orphan asylum.—Casell's Journal.

GEHAZI ANCIENT "GRAFTER."

Story of the Bible That Has an Application in the Present Century.

The Bible lesson studies in the Sunday schools of the world one Sunday recently was the story of the healing of Naaman, the leper. Incidentally it leads up to a brief, but pointed, story of graft which has a very modern application, says the Chicago Daily News.

Naaman, who was the commander of the armies of Syria, was afflicted with the leprosy. A little Hebrew maid, a slave in his household, told of the wonderful power of Elisha, the prophet of the Lord in Israel, and suggested that Naaman go to Elisha for healing. Naaman did so, and was healed. Being a man of great wealth, and, as he was naturally delighted over his recovery, he offered Elisha a great sum of money and other costly gifts, which, of course, Elisha refused to accept.

Now, Elisha had a servant named Gehazi. Up to this time Gehazi, so far as the record shows, had always been an honest, trustworthy sort of man. But here a temptation to graft was presented which he did not resist.

Upon his return Elisha asked him about his absence. Another lie was necessary. He denied that he had been away from the house. Elisha, of course, knew what he had done. He accused him of the graft and pronounced the curse of leprosy upon him.

How many modern Gehazis there are! How many people are ever ready to work any little graft that comes in their way. How many public servants there are who take advantage of their positions just as did Gehazi to make money to which they are not legitimately entitled!

Long before the date of launching the Connecticut the naval constructors had made an accurate estimate of the rate at which the would gather headway in sliding down the ways, the speed at which she would enter the water and the distance which she would travel by her own momentum after she was fairly afloat.

The destruction of water pipes by electric currents that have escaped from trolley roads is occasionally reported from various parts of the country, although instances are less common to-day than five or ten years ago.

Adaptability of Filipinos. An interesting proof of the ability of the Filipinos to adapt themselves to vocations requiring intelligence, endurance, obedience and resourcefulness appears in the work of the Filipino members of the crew of the cable ship Burnside, engaged for the last year in constructing the Alaskan cable system.

Ghoulish Gifts. Among the Hooonotes, a tribe of savages in the interior of Luzon, A. Henry Savage Landor writes, "the wedding present given by the prospective groom to his sweetheart does not lack quaintness and consists of a human head, part of a breast and heart as well as a finger or two. Unless a man can produce these gifts he has to remain a bachelor, but these gifts are invariably procured. The 'inclined to wed' lies in wait in the high grass until an unsuspecting man, woman or child happens to pass that way.—Chicago Daily News.

Teachers in Philippines. On account of lack of funds, due to a decrease in the appropriation for education, about 200 teachers will be dropped from the teaching staff in the Philippine islands.

London's Amusements. Londoners are singularly well catered for in the matter of recreation. They have 53 theaters and 43 music halls. The attention which has been paid to outdoor recreation for Londoners during the last few years is testified by the following facts: In 1899 there were 49 open spaces available for recreation. They comprised an extent of 2,656 acres, and were maintained at a cost of £52,577. In 1903 the sum expended on the same purpose was £116,772. The number of places had increased to 103, their acreage to 4,879.—Smith's Weekly.

Insurance in Russia. The poor activity of the insurance business in Russia is shown by the fact that in the entire empire there are only 28,810 companies, while the amount of insurance taken out is only \$39,221,491.

LAUNCHING WEIGHT OF SHIP

It Is Less Than One-Half of the Great Boat Which Fully Equipped.

Considering the general excellence of the accounts given in the daily press of the launching of the Connecticut, it is surprising, says the Scientific American, that, one and all, they should have fallen into the error of speaking of the battleship as weighing, when she made her initial plunge into the water, some 16,600 tons, whereas, as a matter of fact, she did not weigh within 9,500 tons of that amount.

The oft-quoted 16,500 tons is the displacement, or actual weight, of the ship in her completed condition, with ammunition and all kinds of stores aboard, and 900 tons of coal in her bunkers.

Out of the water and on the ways the battleship looked larger than she ever will again, for the spectator viewed the whole mass of the vessel from keel to superstructure deck. The 26 feet of hull that from now on will be submerged beneath the water was visible and helped to give that predominant impression of bulk and weight which was so much the object of remark among the thousands who witnessed the launching.

By the time that the armor plating has been put in place along the water line and over the central broadside batteries upon the turrets, casemates and on the conning towers, some 4,000 tons of weight will have been added, bringing the total displacement of the ship up to about 11,000 tons.

Production of Corrosion Which Renders Insecure Bridges and Other Structures.

Punishment of Deserters. Lieut. Gen. Chaffee, in his annual report suggests that deserters be deprived of their civil rights as a cure for the growing evil of desertions from the army.

Traveled Trunks. Many have looked with awe upon suit cases and steamer trunks covered with labels of every size and color, and thought enviously of the advantages the traveled owners of such baggage had over the poor stay-at-homes.

Indirectly. Harold—Did your charity ball realize anything for charity? Grace—Well, rather. Old Mr. Riches sat in a draught, got pneumonia, died next day, and left a thousand pounds to an orphan asylum.—Casell's Journal.

FILIPINOS LIKE NEW MONEY.

Currency Formerly in Circulation in the Islands Gives Place to American Cash.

Following the recent legislation of congress providing for a currency system for the Philippine islands, the Philippines commission passed an act to discourage the further use of the currency formerly in circulation on the islands and designed to give the gold standard full force and effect, states the New York Sun.

The approach of October 1, when the first currency taking provisions became effective, caused a large export of Mexican pesos commercially, and a large influx of Spanish-Philippine coins in the treasury.

In September 1, 191, 500 Mexican pesos were exported and 510,522 Spanish-Philippine pesos came into the treasury and were withdrawn from circulation.

Business throughout the archipelago is conducted now mainly on the new basis. Banks and large dealers are cooperating with the government. Little old currency is left, and existing taxing provisions will eliminate that by January 1 next.

Importation of Them Does Not Meet with Favor Among the Natives.

In an evil hour the sugar planters of Hawaii imported a number of Porto Ricans to labor in their cane fields. The venture was an experiment, says the Chicago Record-Herald, and was tried because of the troublesome conditions of the local labor market.

A very short trial was sufficient, however, to convince the Hawaiian whites that a mistake had been made. According to their testimony the Porto Ricans are a most undesirable lot, and latterly public hatred has been aroused against them on account of the murder of a young man named Damon by one of their number.

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HOUSES IN ONE SOLID PIECE.

Novel Plan of Constructing Them of Concrete Is Tried in New York City.

A novel plan of house building has made its appearance in some of the suburbs, says the New York World. The usual way has been to build a house out of stone, brick or wood, in pieces which are mortared or nailed and can be sectionally taken apart.

Every one has seen the way in which the workmen on the subway mixed their concrete to make the lining and filling for the tunnel. In the new method of building house walls the concrete is mixed in much like manner and poured into a mold.

This system is cheaper than stone or brick and at the present price of lumber and shingles, than wood, unless the wooden house is finally constructed. Its advantage is also in permanency in painting and repairs.

The concrete of which the walls are built is more cheaply mixed than the concrete used for subway work, where there has to be a constant jar and more tensile strength required. The proportions on subway work are sand, on house work one part of cement to seven or eight parts of gravel or crushed stone insures a strong wall, if properly made and set, and if a coating of best quality Portland cement is washed over the outside.

Where gravel, small stones and sand are readily accessible and cheaply to be had, as they are in almost all of New York's suburbs, the main expense of a concrete house is for the cement. This can be lessened by using the cheaper grades of Rosendale cement for the main walls and using the more expensive Portland cement only as a wash.

If plenty of suitable stones have been found in digging the cellar, they may be used for the foundation, or the concrete construction may begin from the foundation trench and continue solidly to the roof.

The molds are either wood or metal, with a hollow core. The object of the core is to save material without loss of strength and to provide for an air circulation within the wall. Hollow concrete walls are cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter than a solid stone or brick wall.

Walls made in this manner may be tinted any color both inside and out by coloring the Portland cement wash. The color then cannot wear off, as it is part of the wall. Floor beams are set in the concrete as in a brick or stone wall now. Windows doors and frames are inserted as now.

Several of these concrete houses have been ornamented in a novel way by sculptor friends of the owners. The material is almost as soft as clay when first put up. It can readily be modeled into faces, figures, scroll work or any kind of designs. Skillfully done this concrete modeling gives the effect of stone carving at a small fraction of the expense.

AUTHOR OF STANDARD TIME. Devisor of the System Was Prof. Charles F. Dowd, Recently Deceased.

Few young persons of 35 or more who can remember the annoyance of gaining four minutes by changing to "Philadelphia time" at every crossing of the Hudson, or of losing 12 minutes when journeying eastward into "Boston time," says the New York World, knew to whom they mainly owed their deliverance until the death recently of Prof. Charles F. Dowd, of Saratoga, the author of the "standard time" system.

Dr. Dowd was a teacher. He made no fortune by his great service, but remained one of humanity's unknown benefactors. Before his work there were hundreds of time standards. Scarcely two railroads used the same. Now there are four—eastern, central, mountain and Pacific—and as each is just an hour from the next, a traveler can reckon time anywhere, even without resetting his watch.

The earth's circumference of 360 degrees is divided into 24 time belts of 15 degrees each, corresponding to the hours. These are disregarded at sea. But in Europe standard time is generally used except in France, which for some purposes still clings to "Paris time." Only Italy has gone so far as to print the afternoon hours upon its railway time tables as "13 o'clock" and so on up to "24 o'clock" at midnight.

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