

FIND OLD MAHOGANY

COLLECTORS IN GEORGIA ARE AFTER NEGRO CABINS.

Odd Pieces of Antique Furniture Hurled Out Among the Rude Swamp Dwellings of the South.

Savannah, Ga.—Several of the curio shops in Savannah are kept by colored men. They have attained considerable sagacity in the purchase of antiques, especially of old mahogany furniture, and they talk as glibly of Sheraton, Chippendale and Colonial styles, inlay and veneer, as their white competitors.

"Where do you reckon I find most of the old mahogany?" asked one of these dealers, pausing in the work of preparing a Queen Anne bedstead for the porch. "In the negro cabins. Not the shanties in or near Savannah, nor those on the main traveled roads. All that furniture was picked up long ago. Now we have to take my wife in charge of the shop while I go off on a collecting trip for several days. I walk across the woods and fields, and find a little old shanty somewhere off in a pine clearing, where the children may have but one garment apiece and sleep every night in a mahogany bed.

"Once I happened at such a cabin just in time to keep a clawfoot bedstead from destruction. It was a chilly evening in spring, there was no firewood at hand, and the man of the house was just taking one of the posts of a splendid Colonial bed, which was in disuse in a shed, to the chopping block. A moment later it would have been on top of the crackling fire, pine kindlings in the smoky fireplace.

"The darkeys know nothing of the value of mahogany. It came to them from their friends or the plantation owners who put it away for newer pieces of fashion and so into the attic or the quarters, though the servants came into possession of most of it when the old homes were broken up after the war.

"Any of this generation of negroes would rather have an up-to-date dresser of pine wood brightly varnished or a white iron bedstead. I have sometimes exchanged new furniture with them for the old pieces which sell for a prize. That is always very satisfactory to the darkey. Although a dollar or two of ready money will buy anything in his house. That is why a negro can secure the old mahogany town here better than a white man. He understands the value of the mahogany and can live with it. When a white man succeeds in finding them in the market, the darkeys won't be disturbed and not likely to give him anything.

"It is almost impossible to see collectors from the north come down here. They are afraid of a machine and dash out on the country roads after old furniture and other curios. All that territory has been covered long ago. "Indeed, although Savannah is full of old mahogany, silver and porcelain, there is very little of it for sale, and what there is the owners know how to handle. I must confess, however, that I have about 10 per cent. of the pieces that I pick up in the negro cabins in the interior."

Fish Caught in Trap. County Commissioner George W. Roper of Lee Roy, Kan., tells a fish story that he insists is true. George says that William McKay, of Lee Roy, recently caught a catfish in an ordinary steel trap. And more than that, they say that Mr. McKay has been a fisherman a number of years and still a truthful man. The fish captured in this unusual manner was a yellow perch, weighing about nine pounds, and Mr. McKay's theory is that the fish swam over the trap which had been set in the edge of the water for milk, and in some manner he got his weight settled on the trigger, which went off and the steel jaws of the trap caught the fish.

Big Gator in Pasture. The largest alligator ever seen in Richmond, Ga., was brought in from Rosebud dairy farm a few days ago by Mr. O. T. Toole. His "kayship" measured ten feet four inches and tipped the beam at 350 pounds. Mr. Toole was walking through his pasture when his attention was attracted by the bellowing of a bunch of cows. He went to investigate the trouble and found the alligator snapping at the cows and trying to get within striking distance of them. Mr. Toole tried to capture the gator alive, but it showed so much fight that he finally had to shoot it.

Find Coins of Revolution. Farmers down in Richmond county, North Carolina, on Dry Creek, are panning up coins. On the south side of the creek copper pieces bearing the name of George Washington are being found, and on the north side the coins described bear the name of a King of England. A number of these coins have been gathered recently and it is supposed that they were left there by the revolutionary war. Mr. F. C. Hatcher, of this city, has a number of them.

Church Helps Servants. Sweden has a church that cares for servant girls. Swedish Congregational churches from all over the inland empire have just held a conference followed by a dedication of the handsome new \$10,000 church at Second and Duffin streets.

CHANCE FOR A DULL PUPIL.

Educational Experiment Which Has Solved Most Teaching Modern Problems.

The superintendent of the schools of Batavia, N. Y., has apparently solved one of the most vexing questions which have to do with modern education. It is a realization of the Pestalozzian theory that each pupil has a right to be educated personally for what he can best achieve. For many years it has been charged against the public school system that the standards were set for the clever pupils to the detriment of the backward and dull ones. If the "Batavia experiment," as it is called, proves after long trial to do what it is hoped it will then primary education will be infinitely bettered.

Mr. Kennedy, the originator of the scheme, proposed to the governing board of Batavia to procure the services of an extra teacher for each room whose duty it should be not to listen to recitations, but to help and encourage any pupils who were falling behind the class. It was to be entirely a work of sympathy and demanded great tact and discernment. The plan was tried in a single room and the result was so marked in both pupils and teachers that the experiment has spread rapidly and is being introduced in all the better schools in the United States.

Its value can not be overestimated. The teachers are stimulated to do less nagging, while the pupils themselves are relieved from going beyond their ability and strength. And the effect on health of the children was also marked. No books were taken home for night study and six times the number of pupils remained to graduate from the high school.

CARRIAGES OUST CAMELS.

Wealthy Arabians Have Taken to Riding in the American Vehicles.

Milk white Arabian steeds and all the other color of horses in Arabia, as carriers for travel or pleasure, are being displaced by American built carriages and carts.

Instead of mounting a feet-footed camel or a horse with the speed of the wind to make his excursions into the desert the Arabian climbs into a buggy or a cart built in Indiana or New York and drives off like any other civilized citizen. Consul Masterson at Aden, the chief city of Arabia, reports that of all vehicles imported during the last year three-fourths of them came from the United States.

The American hickory vehicles are preferred to those of India and England because of their stayer qualities. It has been found that the American built wagons, carriages and carts withstand the hot dry climate better than any others.

All of the 150 public carriages in Aden are of American manufacture and are handily constructed so that one horse may pull four passengers. The real Arab of wealth and fashion rides victoriously in the United States better than any other. He uses American harness because the makes of other countries are too heavy and cumbersome.

LUNACY AS A PROFESSION.

Isle of Wight Men Evict an Unaccountable Lark to Stay in An Asylum.

A man has just been discharged from the Isle of Wight asylum under extraordinary circumstances, having twice to be admitted as with such success that he was committed to that institution as a dangerous lunatic. Tom Aspin was so called on his career as a professional "lunatic" and he was the first inmate of the Isle of Wight asylum. At that time he was soon discharged, as the medical authorities were satisfied he was sane.

About a month ago he arrived at Cowes from Southampton, where, seemingly under the influence of drink, he was chasing children and women in the streets and acting in an extraordinary manner. When taken to the police station he spoke of military relations and millions of money, but as the local doctor suspected he was shamming he directed his removal to the workhouse.

There he indulged in window smashing and having done considerable damage he was removed to the asylum as a dangerous lunatic. The medical superintendent at once committed him and turned him out. The mysterious individual refused to return to the workhouse and has not since troubled the authorities.

Flying Across the Continent.

Across the continent in less than three days, which has just been accomplished by Railroad President Harriman, is a record which makes the hair of wildness to stand on end. It comes so close to Puck's circle of the earth that one has to blink a few times to see if this is an age of fact or only of oriental fables. There are still living many of the arizonans of 1849, men who braved every danger to reach the gold fields of California. Six months used to be a good time "limp for the trip to San Francisco. Now it is only 71 hours. Yet we must not forget that it was the men of courage and persistence who made the old month trip the eventful journey to the gold fields of California a mere pleasure trip instead of the event of a lifetime.

Sad Mistake. Some men think the only way to reform this world is to strike it down and try to wash it with the rain of their tears.

DECISION FREES CONVICTS

New Ruling of Attorney General Liberates Many Federal Prisoners.

Leavenworth, Kan.—A recent decision of the attorney general of the United States as to time allowance for convicts in the federal penitentiary at Fort Leavenworth will release about 70 of them within the next few months. Twenty-four are slated to be released just as soon as the written instructions from the attorney general detailing the plan are received. The record clerk of the prison is at present counting good time for the convicts, and it is thought that at least 35 will leave prison by May 17.

Previous to June, 1902, all convicts were given two months a year good time. In June, 1902, a new ruling, was made giving a convict ten days good time a month. The hardship worked on the old-time convicts was not clearly brought before the attorney general until recently. A convict sent up in May, 1902, to serve ten years got but two months a year off for behaving himself, but one sent up for the same period after July 1, 1902, received practically four months' good time, and would be released 20 months before the one who had come in first.

Among those who will be the first discharged are: Andrew J. Mathis and Mont Ballard, who, previous to their incarceration, were well-known residents of the Indian territory sent up to serve ten years each for being members of a posse that burned two Seminole Indians at the stake. Four of the posse were convicted, one is now serving a term in a northern prison, one recently died in prison and these two have been trying for some months to get their release. Mathis recently lost four fingers of his right hand in a machine at the prison while employed in the woodworking department.

HORSE VALUES HIGHER.

Popularity of Autos Gives Breeding a Setback and Prices Are Doubted.

Chicago.—Did you know that the price of horses had risen and that you probably wouldn't have a chance of getting one even if you had the price? Horses are dearer and scarcer than at any time in the history of the market, and what is stranger still, the condition appears to have been caused indirectly by the automobile.

Horses—good road runners—bring a large sum to their possessors in these days of machines. A first-class animal cannot be purchased for much less than \$500 to \$1000. It was only four or five years ago that less than that that sum would buy the best horse in the market, for ordinary family use. Racers brought more, of course. Draft horses now sell for \$225 to \$250, which is twice their cost a few years ago. And there is such a demand for them apparently at any price that a batch of animals brought into the local market is quickly disposed of.

There are few good animals to be had anyway, because the big breeders ceased operations a few years ago, because of the advent of the automobile. When the supply died out the demand began again and prices rose. There is a big demand also for American horses abroad, and that has drained the market.

J. S. Cooper, commission salesman at the Union stockyards, says: "Horses were never so high priced in this country. They are scarce, too. You have to hustle around a bit to find a good animal, and when you do you will discover the price is pretty steep. The demand from the east and abroad has caused the scarcity and the consequently sky-high prices. I have a batch of 200 horses which are for sale to-morrow. They will all go like hot cakes and the prices are from \$100 to \$500 each. That's pretty high for an average—about twice as high as three or four years ago."

LOST CHILD RETURNS AT 40

Woman of Two-Score Years Who Strayed Away When a Tot of Five.

Morrisstown, N. J.—Anne Mabree, niece of Mrs. Hester Mabree Lyons, arrived in Vernon, Sussex county, one day lately, from Texas, to visit her aunt after an absence of 35 years. When a child of five or six years, she followed an organ grinder from her home and has never been heard from until recently. She was unable to remember the name of the place where her home was, and her relatives, being unable to find her, mourned her as dead.

A few months ago she recalled to mind that she had heard of Wawayanda lake, and upon investigation found that it was situated in Sussex county.

The name of her aunt was recalled and in a short time she was exchanging letters with her long-sought relatives, and recently she was restored to her aunt, her only relative now living.

Historic Research in Ireland. There has just been published by the Royal Irish academy a half-year report on the result of three years' exploratory work among the caves of County Clare. No fewer than 1200 specimens of bones were forwarded in parcels to the Dublin museum for identification. Each of these parcels was carefully labeled, bearing a number corresponding with a map of the cave, giving the exact position and depth of the surface at which the specimens were discovered.

PARTICULAR INSECTS

ANTS ARE NOT SO WISE AS THEY ARE CLEAN.

Solomon's Advice to the Sluggard Is Disparaged by German Scientist—Facts of Interest.

According to Dr. Escherich, a learned entomologist of Strasburg university, Solomon erred in commending the ant to the sluggard as a shining example of wisdom and industry. The German savant thinks Solomon would have better justified his claim to ever lived had he exalted the ant as an exponent of cleanliness. He has just published the results of an exhaustive study of these wonderful insects. He combats the views of those investigators who assign to them almost human intelligence. But as exponents of that virtue which stands next to godliness he maintains that ants stand preeminent, and if the human race would pattern after them in this respect half the diseases on which doctors thrive would vanish.

Ants, he declares, abhor dirt in any form about their bodies. Nature has provided them with implements that serve the same purpose as combs and brushes in the hands of civilized folk, and they make far more effective use of them. They are never too busy to clean themselves. No job is so important to an ant that he won't knock off work to clean himself. He does not wait until his day's labors are finished to perform his ablutions. He is never too tired to lend another ant a hand—or, rather, a leg—to effect a thorough scouring. He will tolerate loading occasionally, for the professor asserts it is a mistake to suppose that ants are everlastingly hunting up jobs, but he won't put up with dirty neighbors. Cleanliness is the supreme law of the community.

But the professor rather detracts from the credit one would otherwise be disposed to give them for the practice of this most exemplary virtue by telling us that ants are driven to it by the conditions of their existence. "Without the most scrupulous cleanliness," he says, "they could not recognize each other nor communicate anything. The cohesion of the individual with its fellows is maintained solely through the medium of the sense of smell. If the ant is covered with dust the possibility of its being recognized is diminished to an extraordinary degree. The antennae in particular must always be kept clean, for it is only with their aid that the ant remains in close communication with its tribe."

It is their highly developed sense of cleanliness, the professor says, which also explains the ants' "funerals" about which so much has been written. Ants, it is well known, carry their dead to definite burial places, where they arrange them in most careful order. "The little creatures do not, however, do this with the object of providing their dead comrades with the last resting place," Dr. Escherich states; "they merely obey the impulse of cleanliness which impels them to remove all refuse from their nest and carry it away to a definite spot."

ENTIRE CANYON FOR CHURCH

Religious Rights and Clearances of the Hopi Indians of Grand Canyon.

The Paradise or Spirit House of the Hopi in Grand Canyon, and there is during certain important ceremonies, a messenger priest who makes a native deposit in the shrine erected there, to render a prayer offering of sacred cornmeal to the rising sun and carries back with him certain waters and herbs for use in further rites, writes Louis Allen, in the Craftsman. Shrines are everywhere in the vicinity of Hopi towns. Some are shrines to distant mountains, rivers, the ocean, some to prehistoric or traditional homes of ancestors or clans, and in nearly every field is some manner of shrine in which to deposit special prayer offerings prepared by the priests for the purpose, which the for unate ones proudly carry to the fields with perfect confidence in their efficacy. The indoor religious ceremonies are held in underground chambers known as kivas, of which there are 11 in Oraibi. Each man belongs to some one of the fraternities occupying these kivas.

Compliment for English.

Chinese Commissioner Szeung Chi Heng before leaving England for France recently paid the British quite a compliment in a farewell interview. He said: "What has chiefly impressed me is the dignity and solidity of your nation. There is a compactness of faith and conservatism which in spite of any political differences keeps the race well together. You remind me of the Chinese in this respect."

Detective Story.

With unerring accuracy he fastened the crime on the beautiful woman. "Aha!" he cried, as he wiped his brow and closed the last loophole. For then did Jones thankfully realize that he had his wife's waist buttoned all the way up the back.—N. Y. Sun.

Preliminary Profit.

Mrs. Glad-stub—Did your daughter marry well? Mrs. Elm Farm—Yes, indeed; she has a trip all over Europe before the year is out.

SEEKING TEXAS TREASURE

Prospectors Searching Old Shaft for Stores of Coin and Bullion.

San Antonio, Tex.—In many sections of south Texas buried treasure has been found during the past ten years. This has led to exploration for treasure, and there are several sections of the state where more or less activity is seen in delving for riches. One of the most interesting of these traditional sources of wealth is the Oliver mine, near Leander.

After years of intermittent search for the wealth of the Oliver mine, a shaft has been discovered which promises to be the place long sought after. A peculiar thing about the tradition of this mine is that it does not purport to carry wealth of its own, but is said to be the hiding place of vast quantities of silver coin and bullion hidden there more than 100 years ago, when the Spanish were trailing over the country.

The mine itself is said to have been worked with indifferent success by the Spaniards and was abandoned by them before the wealth that is said to lie buried in it was placed there, when the caravan was attacked by Indians.

The mine is now in the center of a pasture, and no evidence of its having been worked appears. But the old shaft is being cleared of the stones and earth that were thrown in it a century ago. It penetrates solid rock, and has easily been cleared to a depth of 50 feet, and the tradition and musty maps agree that at 80 feet the tunnel in which the treasure is stored will be encountered.

The excavations are being made by J. D. Knowles and A. B. Brooks, of that vicinity, and they are guarding the work with great care. They have exhibited several old Spanish coins, which are said to have been found in the shaft as they dug, and a heavy guard is posted about the workings each night. The tradition carries varying data as to the value of the treasure hidden, but the prospectors claim that it was several wagonloads of coin and bullion.

FORTUNES IN COAL LANDS

Sufficient Fuel in Mexico to Supply the Entire Country for Ages.

Monterey, Mexico.—According to a recent report from the State of Oaxaca there is enough coal in that state to revolutionize the fuel-consuming industries of the republic and open up mining and smelting enterprises in the southern part of Mexico on an extensive scale. The coal beds, which are situated about 80 miles northwest from the city of Oaxaca, and extend to the Pacific ocean, including hundreds of square miles of continuous coal lands. The deposits are in what is known as the Mexican country.

Other than the few prospectors that have been made, the beds have never been disturbed from their slumber, but lie near the surface and are ready for quick veins on the surface. Samples of the coal that have been procured from the ground have been found to run 60 per cent. in carbon. This is a high percentage of coal, and only a few dollars that is spent in its development. The coal extends nearly to the coast, making it possible to get the entire output of the field to the seaboard without transportation expense.

The owners of the land on which the deposits are situated are either ignorant or indifferent of their value and it is stated that the entire property can be purchased at the price of any other kind of land in the state, at probably the cost of a single building lot in New York. Set one has stepped forward to seize an opportunity that may mean a fortune as colossal as that of the Goulds or the Vanderbilts.

Kingdom Bequeathed.

King Leopold of Belgium is perhaps the only man in the world who has power to bequeath a kingdom in his will. This remarkable bequest however, is not to be a voluntary one, by a stroke of his pen Leopold II. can bequeath a nation to a nation—or to be literally correct, a state to a state. Should he die before the Congo-Free State has been finally annexed to Belgium, Leopold must leave the state which he now "rules" as practically a business concern, to his people, who have the right at any time to annex the country if they desire.

Aged Engineer.

Charles Hayes Haswell, 97 years old this month, is a practicing engineer in New York city and was an interesting figure at the laying of the new Engineers' club house corner stone by Mrs. Carnegie the other day. The old gentleman saw Robert Fulton's first steamboat on the Hudson river and expects to take a prominent part in the Fulton and Clermont centennial next year. In the civil war he was chief of the engineer corps in Gen. Burnside's expedition and received high praise for his work.

Old Cannon Dug Up.

One of the men employed at the Red Bank, Pa., battle monument site the other day struck a hard substance two feet and a half below the surface, and summoning help, unearthed a six-foot cannon weighing 700 pounds. The cannon is of English make, smooth bore and has five ribs. There are faint letters on it, but they cannot be distinguished. It was probably used in the famous battle of this point in 1777. It lay within only a few feet of the battle monument site.

VESSEL DELAYED BY SHARKS

For Twenty Days Sailors Saw Nothing but the Monsters All About Them.

When a ship is brought to a standstill for 24 hours by a school of sharks that extends in all directions to the horizon and when the vessel sails for the next 20 days amid nothing but sharks it is said by old salts that it promises to be a good season for fishing, says the Philadelphia Inquirer.

This is the story brought to Philadelphia by the captain of the American ship Babcock, from San Francisco, with a cargo of scrap iron. In fact, the captain hints at a tragedy, for, according to his story, the myriad of sharks left him in pursuit of another vessel.

The Babcock sailed from San Francisco November 24. When in latitude 5.25 north, longitude 23 west, on December 10, the crew became worried at the scores of sharks which began following the vessel. During the night the crew heard an awful splashing about the ship and with the morning light came the revelation that the ocean as far as the eye could see was covered with sharks. The breeze fell off and what remained was not sufficient to send the vessel through the mass of fish. A strong wind came after the vessel had been stranded amid the sharks for 24 hours and slow headway was possible. The captain decried that the sharks tried to reach the deck by climbing upon the backs of one another.

For 20 days the sailors could see nothing but sharks. They were hundreds of miles from any land and were getting thoroughly frightened, when along comes another vessel. The sharks saw that the new comer had the most men aboard and all went off in her trail, so that when New Year's day dawned the crew of the Babcock again saw a clear ocean.

ANTHRACITE PRODUCTION.

The Tonnage Last Year Was Largest in the History of the Industry.

According to a preliminary report on the production of anthracite in 1905, made public by the United States geological survey to-day, the tonnage during that year was the largest in the history of the industry. The official explanation of this is that it partly is due to the experience of the trade in the preceding severe winters and partly by the fear of impending trouble in the anthracite region, which caused both dealers and consumers to lay in heavier stocks. In 1905 the production of anthracite amounted to 63,339,152 long tons, value \$111,879,000. The average price of anthracite per ton was \$2.25, the average number of men employed in the mines was 163,400 and the average days worked 215.

An increase in the shipment of the smaller sizes of coal is noted. The disastrous effect of strikes on the trade is shown in the record for 1902, when the production of anthracite was only 50,000,000 long tons, worth \$75,000,000. The average price of coal per ton in that year was \$2.50, the average number of men employed was 153,100, and the average number of days worked 187,000.

ARIZONA'S FROZEN FOREST

They Which May Account for the Wonderful Petrifications.

In the long forgotten ages, perhaps long before man set foot upon the earth, the plants that were growing in Arizona just as in some part they are growing today, says O. J. Mullbacher, in the Arizona Magazine. But, by pre-arranged volcanic action upon the earth's crust, they were laid prostrate, and as they lay there, the seething, rushing waters of an immense inland sea, which in this region, sunk below the sea level, was upraised so high that the water could not flow. Again a particular depression made it a vast repository of rivers that drained the high peaks, and these great rivers were buried deep beneath the sand and silt, which time hardened to rock. But the upheaval of ages after reversed this process, and the outgoing waters in their mad rush constantly bore away this earthy covering, returning to the world the long buried forests of the ancient ages. But let the synthetic chemistry of nature, the alchemy of the ages, had transformed them into crystals of hardest stone, sparkling in variegated color tints. Thus, to-day, the "Petrified Forest" is one of the wonders of Arizona.

All the Aids to Comfort.

"Speaking of accommodating hotel clerks," remarked a Portland traveler, "the best I ever saw was in a town near Bangor. I reached the hotel late in the evening and was assigned to a pretty looking room. Just before I retired I heard a scuffling under the bed and looked under, expecting to see a burglar. Instead, I saw a couple of large rats just escaping into their hole. I dressed and went down to the office and put in a big kick. The clerk was as serene as a summer breeze.

She Had Principles.

"Mrs. West (recently divorced)—Don't you want the candy, Gertrude?" Little Girl—No, thank's. It's against my principles to accept gifts that are purchased with alimony.—Life.

Too Bony.

"When a man is a 'buff' looking fellow," said Uncle Eben, "you want to remember that you had advice an' sympathy in the job 'wastin' his time."—Washington Star.