

AIR OF MUSHROOM STIFLING

Age Pennsylvania Veteran Locked in Airtight Fungus Vault, Narrowly Escapes.

Harriburg, Pa.—To be penned in two hours in an airtight mushroom vault with the temperature high, lighting for his liberty, stripped of all his clothing except his underclothing, and finally to succeed in breaking the lock from the door to freedom, was the exciting experience of D. W. Smith, a caretaker on Capital Hill, who was temporarily filling the place of the regular night watchman.

Mr. Smith, a veteran of sixty-eight years of age, but vigorous, was making the usual rounds and stepped into the mushroom house, at the extreme south end of the conservatory, at all times heated and airtight. As he entered he closed the door, and, having made his examination, he sought to retire, but found the lock had caught, and it was impossible to get the door open.

All his efforts to force the door open or to shove the lock proved unavailing, and as the atmosphere grew hotter and closer he was forced to strip, after which he redoubled his efforts for freedom.

There was nothing in the shape of a tool in the room. In fact, it was utterly bare, with the exception of a piece of flooring ten feet long by four inches thick, and with this he attempted to break the lock.

For about two hours he battered at the lock and finally succeeded in forcing it from its fastenings, when he threw the door open and fell exhausted into the outer room. Strange to say the white-haired veteran was about the next morning as spry as ever and related his experience in great detail.

An after-examination of the lock showed that it had become rusted by dampness and it was impossible to force it.

BLACK CANARIES TUNEFUL

Songsters of Future Whose Notes Promise to Rival Those of Nightingale.

London.—The yellow-feathered canary, with its shrill voice, will soon be a bird of the past. The bird of the future must have the voice of a nightingale.

Breeders have also evolved a black-capped breed, in place of the familiar yellow bird.

Charles Baebl, large exhibitor at Sydenham, gave an interesting account of the efforts made to induce canaries to sing.

It is the sudden discovery that the lowest note on the water-organ (the instrument in general use for training the voices of singing birds) bears a remarkable resemblance to the "melting liquids of the nightingale," he explained, "that has caused the futter."

"Canaries could be induced to copy the other notes of the organ readily enough, he continued, "but it was always difficult to teach them this last one."

"From Germany I import every year about half a dozen bullfinches that pipe one definite air."

"They are taught by mouth by the grandchildren of an old German fancier."

"By a pleasing anomaly, two birds have just arrived whose only accomplishment in life are to pipe 'Rule, Britannia,' and 'God Save the King.'"

HAS NO FAITH IN WITCHCRAFT

Michigan Judge Severely Censures Participants in Lawsuit for Superstition.

Detroit, Mich.—"You all ought to be spanked for such superstition," exclaimed Justice Lemke the other day, when a number of women witnesses in the suit of Mrs. John Showertski against Mrs. Josephine Gawronski made a disturbance in his courtroom.

Belief in a witch doctor was at the bottom of the trouble. Mrs. Gawronski suffered with catarrh of the stomach, and a witch doctor told her that she had been bewitched.

She remembered that Mrs. Showertski had given her a drink at a wedding, and thought she had "wished" a witch incantation upon her at the time. She sought Mrs. Showertski and, it is alleged, pounded her, forcing her to repeat a formula taking back the spell.

The catarrh did not leave her, and at the behest of the witch doctor she is said to have beaten another woman.

Judge Lemke disgustedly ordered Mrs. Gawronski to pay Mrs. Showertski \$25.

Largest Natural Bridge.

Salt Lake City, Utah.—Spanning 374 feet and over 500 feet high, a natural bridge said to be the largest known has been discovered by members of the Utah Archaeological society, which has returned from an expedition along the Colorado river in northern Arizona and southern Utah.

The bridge is located four miles north of the Arizona line in the state of Utah, six miles east of the Colorado river.

On its top were found imbedded several fossils of remarkable size, indicating presence in earlier times of giant animal life.

HOW ERROR MAKES TROUBLE

Transformation of Word "Farm" into "France" Leads to Lawsuit Over Small Boy.

Chicago.—Although habeas corpus proceedings instigated by Mrs. Thurnau to compel Mrs. William R. Radmore to relinquish possession of seven-year-old Kerlin Thurnau were dismissed in the circuit court, the litigation disclosed an interesting story.

Several years ago, Mrs. Radmore says, Mrs. Agnes Thurnau, accompanied by her son, who was ill, applied for rooms at her boarding house, 1514 West Adams street. The mother admitted to Mrs. Thurnau that she was a circus and variety performer and said she was the wife of Edward D. Thurnau, a publisher. After nearly a year the mother went to the Pacific coast, leaving the child in Mrs. Radmore's care.

About two weeks ago, Mrs. Radmore says, she was preparing to move to the country for the summer when she received from Mrs. Thurnau a telegram asking that she send the child, to Los Angeles at once. She replied that she could not get the child ready and wanted to take him to the farm for a month before sending him west.

In the telegram the word "farm" read "France" when received by Mrs. Thurnau, and when Mrs. Thurnau saw that she telegraphed to her Chicago attorneys to begin habeas corpus proceedings.

As soon as Mrs. Radmore's story was told the proceedings were dropped. The child will be sent to its mother as soon as the farm outing is over.

IMPROVE IN ELECTRIC AGE

Use of Steam Power Held Responsible for Industrial Life Evils in Italy.

Milan.—Prof. Enrico Ferri, Lombroso's most illustrious disciple in criminal anthropology, attributes the growth of child crime in Italy to steam.

Discussing modern industrialism in relation to the phenomenon of youthful crime, he expressed conviction that the breaking up of family life, degeneracy in male physique, engulfment of women and children in white slavery and other evils, were traceable to the use of steam power.

This appalling state of things, he said, was destined to disappear with the coming reign of electricity, which would be universal, when, as science foresees it, man had discovered how to convert the heat of the sun by direct means into electrical energy. He stated that already in parts of the United States and Belgium sewing machine work in factories had been abolished, and women were able to work shorter hours in their own homes with machines driven by electricity.

Within a few years, he said, progressive government would be able to shorten the working time of those employed in industrial occupations and, what was still more imperative, from a criminological standpoint, to abolish night work.

\$200 PEARL FOR FEW CENTS

Hungry Sailor Luckily Spends Last of His Money for Oysters and is Rewarded.

New York.—"Here's the last quarter I've got in the world. Give me some oysters, and go as far as you like," was the combination of announcement and request with which John Olson, a sailor employed on the Scandinavian-American line, greeted William Gau, proprietor of a market in Hoboken, as he entered that establishment a few days ago.

Mr. Gau proceeded to open oysters. The sailor looked hungry, so he made haste.

As the third oyster was pried apart Mr. Gau uttered an exclamation. There was a big pearl. "Well, that's the best luck I've had in a long time," he observed. "Isn't it a beauty?"

"Wait a minute," piped up Olson. "Didn't I buy the oysters and didn't you take the money? My oyster, my pearl. Hand 'er over."

"The oysterman protested, but the sailor argued so convincingly that Mr. Gau finally acquiesced. They journeyed at once to a jeweler, who appraised the jewel at \$200 and threw in an exclamation of admiration upon its white color for good measure. It weighs about three carats, and the sailor thinks he will not have to worry about getting square meals for some time.

Window Breaker in Trance. Pottsville, Pa.—Absentminded Albert Frisbie the other day leaned against the plate glass of a store window, which broke suddenly and he was precipitated backward into the place.

The fright—for he was not out or otherwise injured—put him into a trance. Physicians, unable to arouse him, are puzzled over his condition. The accident occurred on the crowded main thoroughfare.

Onion Sin Peer Bank. Antigo, Wis.—Thinking it about as safe a place as any, William Jackson, a farmer of Rutledge, put \$20 in cash and a \$30 check in a collar bin and covered them with onions, but failed to tell his wife what he had done.

He gave it no more thought until he learned that his wife had sold some of the onions.

Search revealed the fact that the money had gone, and now he is looking for it among his customers.

GRATITUDE OF A STRAY DOG

Collie Finds Missing Heifers and Sheep for Farmer in Return for Kindness.

Jacksonville, N. J.—Kindness extended to a stray collie dog by Ferris MacWilliams in this village brought its reward when the dog recovered for MacWilliams two heifers and 11 sheep which had strayed off in the blinding snowstorm long before day light and were stalled in a huge drift a mile from home and on the road to Pompton.

"He's the smartest dog in northern New Jersey," MacWilliams said to a neighbor. "He will bring the sheep and cattle in at night and do everything connected with it except put up the bars. He tried to do that one day. I went out to the barnyard and saw him tugging away at one end of a fence rail and trying to lift it in place. When he saw me he barked for me to come and help him."

The heifers and sheep were put in a field near the MacWilliams home. When MacWilliams awoke a blinding snowstorm was raging, so he called his sons to go out with him to find the animals. The heifers and the sheep were not in the field and no trace of them could be found. The quest was abandoned until after breakfast. On the second trip Santa, the collie, went out with the men. Chilled to the bone by the bitter cold MacWilliams and his sons returned disheartened. They discovered, however, that Santa had not returned with them.

An hour afterward he appeared, barking delightedly. The kitchen door was opened, but he refused to enter. Seizing MacWilliams by the trousers leg he tried to pull him away from the house. That was hint enough for the farmer. He told his son Leonard to go with the dog. It was a cold and wearisome trip, but at the end of it the missing animals were found. Two wagons were pressed into use and the heifers and the sheep soon were under shelter.

DEAF "LISTEN" TO TOASTS

Chairman of Annual Banquet of English Club Terms it a "Babble of Fingers."

London.—Speeches in silence, toasts proposed without an uttered word—such were the features of the proceedings at a dinner at the annual banquet of the National Deaf club, attended by about 100 members and their friends.

Yet throughout the meal and the following proceedings conversation never ceased. "A babble of fingers" was how the chairman, A. J. Wilson, described it. One would notice the fingers of a diner working and twisting with wonderful quickness. Then his companions would smile broadly or utter a half chuckle. Evidently an amusing story had been related. Members talked gaily of their present enjoyment of the club's progress, of the day's sporting results and of the hundred and one topics of a public dinner, all in dumb show, or in the oral system, the forming of words by the lips without making word sounds.

Wilson has been deaf since he was a boy of 12, but he can speak and make a neat after-dinner speech. Out of respect for the guests present, he used the spoken words. He talked slowly and well, while behind him, on a chair, stood a man interpreting the speeches into the sign and finger language, while another, an expert in the oral system, made the speech with his lips without speaking.

NOT A SPINSTER AFTER ALL

Hidden Will Shows Pennsylvania Woman Had Kept Secret of Marriage for Years.

Lewistown, Pa.—Miss Rhoda Taylor, whose friends believed her to be a spinster, died recently, and in settling her estate the administrator advertised the farm, an old homestead with stock and implements, at public sale.

On the morning of the sale, when the auctioneer mounted the block, he announced that the affair was postponed indefinitely.

The supposed spinster's last will and testament had been found, and in it she bequeaths all her worldly goods to her husband, and attached to the document was a marriage certificate, showing that she had been married to Samuel Gulliland more than five years previous to her death.

Valuable Fox Pelt.

Averill, Mass.—A local hunter had a very successful day recently. Of fered \$800 for the hide of a black fox he killed, he is holding out for \$1,000. This is the first black fox seen in this part of the country for over 25 years.

The man was hunting two miles north of here when his dog began baying. He found the animal standing at the entrance of a hole into which he instantly retreated. The hunter blocked the entrance, then walked two miles and borrowed a spade. After digging 27 feet he found the fox and killed it with a blow on the head.

Draw Lots for Honors.

Traverse City, Mich.—To decide the honors of the class of 1910, Traverse City high school, it was necessary for Miss Bertha Stewart and Miss Cornelia Morrison to draw lots. For four years these two girls have been tied in their standings, both having maintained the remarkable average of 97 per cent in their studies. Miss Stewart won and will be valedictorian, while Miss Morrison will give the salutatory.

SOCIETY WOMEN ARE SCORED

Pastor Declares That They Will Aid Sick Dogs, but Deliberately Neglect Children.

Chicago.—Society women who play bridge whilst for the benefit of homeless dogs and cats and neglect destitute children living within their reach were criticised by the Rev. E. L. Williams, pastor of Grace Methodist Episcopal church, in an address on "Chicago's Submerged Tenth."

Mr. Williams related how he had called up on the telephone the woman who recently had managed a bridge whilst entertainment for the benefit of the homeless dogs and cats of her neighborhood.

"Was your entertainment a success?" Mr. Williams inquired.

"O yes," was the reply. "We had fifteen tables and the receipts were \$212."

"How do you take care of the homeless dogs and cats?" was the next question.

"We nurse them if they are sick and when they get well we find some one who will buy or take them. We follow up every case and see that the dear things are well taken care of. If the poor creatures cannot get well we give them a painless death."

"I immediately called up the Home for Destitute Children," said Mr. Williams, "and found many applicants were turned away from the home because there was no room for them. How I wished some of these poor children could get some of that dog money."

Mr. Williams also made a startling statement concerning the temptations to which young women are subjected.

"I have found men attending meetings at the mission," he said, "for the purpose of getting recruits for the red light district. I talked with one young woman whom I found slaving on the vaudeville stage and I warned her against the temptations with which she was surrounded. 'O, she said, 'I met with more temptations when I was working in one of the downtown stores as a model than I do here.'"

"As a result of the improved sanitary conditions under which society now lives, as compared with twenty years ago, one insurance company has declared a dividend of \$600,000 on policies thus benefited," was the declaration of the Rev. R. J. Wyckoff, pastor of Ravenswood Methodist church.

"This, I believe, illustrates the main work of the church. Instead of trying to cure people after they are sick, we ought to prevent them from becoming sick. Save a child and you save a life. Save a drunkard and what have you, after all?"

COLLAR BUTTON WINS SUIT

Complaining Husband in New York Divorce Case Swears it Was Not His Property.

New York.—John Reinburger, Tonkers, superintendent of the Waring Hat Manufacturing company of that place, was granted a divorce from his wife, Catharine, by Supreme Court Justice Mills. He was also given the custody of his two children, Philip, ten, and Margaret, eight.

An exhibit in the case, which, it is said, proved a convincing argument for the husband, was an innocent-looking collar button. Mr. Reinburger found the article in his home, but swore that it did not and never had belonged to him. He also testified that at the time of finding it he had questioned his wife and after two hours' evasion she admitted it was the property of another man.

Mrs. Reinburger, 28 years old and one of the most beautiful women of Tonkers, where she is well known for her performances in amateur theatricals. The chief witness for the husband was his son, Philip, who was compelled to take the stand against his mother and testify that on several occasions he had seen a "strange man" in his home who had given money to him and also to his sister if they would absent themselves from the premises.

COWBOY WANTS SMILING WIFE

Young Westerner Makes Unique Request—Prefers Good Humor to Great Wealth.

Cleveland, O.—A unique request has reached Mayor Baeber from Spokane, Wash. John J. Powell, a cowboy, has written that he wants an Ohio girl for a wife, and that he has heard that many beautiful ones reside in Cleveland.

He states that as Speaker Cannon has been besieged by girls wanting husbands, there certainly is one who would like to take pot luck with him. He says he wants a good-humored, good-looking wife, who is not worth a millbillion.

The cowboy's letter was accompanied by a photograph which shows him to be a handsome type of western young manhood, looking like a stage cowboy in all his glory. Powell states that he is just 30 years old.

Time Checked by Wireless. Boston.—The steamship Bulgaria exchanged Greenwich time by wireless with the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosser, while the ships were 200 miles apart. It has been necessary heretofore for ships to be near enough to make the exchange of time by signals.

The chronometer of the Bulgaria showed only three seconds difference when compared with the time flashed by the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosser, and only ten minutes were consumed in sending the request and the reply.

A PLEA FOR HOPEFULNESS

Writer Well Describes Pessimism as a Sin and the Pessimist a Man to Avoid.

Hopefulness is a true sign of greatness. It means a conviction that we are greater than our troubles, greater than the world itself, greater than death, and can hold our own whenever it comes. In the universe anywhere and through all eternity. Such conviction makes a man a god. It is better than riches or high position. It makes a poor man a king. A person who constantly fears or worries is practically an atheist. He has no faith in himself or any other being. He does not usually live long. Worry kills more than whisky; it really hardens the arteries.

No man has a right to kill his friends by a sad, morose countenance. A long face is a mark of religion. It is out of date just now and forever. Sour-looking people should be shut up in jail; they are dangerous. It is a good thing to throw back your shoulders, walk erect, and believe that you own the whole city. You do it as really as anyone else, and you feel better for the belief. Most of our troubles are fear for the future, only "bogies" which disappear when you walk up to them. There is a good time coming. It is here already. To doubt would be disloyalty. To falter would be sin.

CURIUS EFFECTS OF SCENTS

Penetrating Odors Have Been Known to Induce Unconsciousness and Even Death.

There is no evidence to support the theory that the smell of narcissus may cause influenza. But many strange cases are on record regarding the effects of the smell of flowers.

"A foreign officer," said a medical man, "one night went to sleep with a number of bunches of oleander—an evergreen shrub with red and white flowers—in his bedroom. In the morning he was found dead. The pungent smell of the oleander had asphyxiated him."

"Less serious is the case of a doctor who, after sitting for some time in a room where there were several bowls of jasmine, became exceedingly giddy. He removed the flowers, whereupon he was himself again at once."

"A number of oranges in a room has been known to make a man unconscious. I know also of the case of a man who, going to sleep in a store-room full of apricots, was discovered next day in an unconscious condition, and lay for some time in peril of his life."

The New Testament From Memory.

Today the Bible is the best memorized book in the world, and no doubt it could be entirely reconstructed from the minds of its students. One young woman alone could dictate the New Testament. She is Miss Lettie May Williams of North Carolina, now 19 years old. Some time ago Rev. J. A. Grendall, pastor of the local Baptist church, offered a prize for memorizing verses of Scripture.

On the day of the award Miss Williams had committed and recited to the committee 12,236 verses of Scripture, covering the entire New Testament excepting the two genealogies of Jesus in the first chapter of Matthew and the third chapter of Luke, and including liberal selections from Genesis, Psalms, Ecclesiastes and other parts of the Old Testament. The New Testament itself contains 7,956 verses and 190,000 words.

A Guilty Conscience.

"That view is rather unscientific," said, at a dinner party in New York, Dr. Simon Flexner, the head of the Rockefeller Institute.

"That view reminds me," continued Doctor Flexner, "of Hopkinson, who was wont to observe Lent very vigorously."

"But on a certain fast day, after three hours of golf, Hopkinson couldn't resist a luncheon of oboes. And as he munched his chops, a violent storm came up suddenly; a blue light filled the room, and then a terrific clap of thunder shook the building."

"Hopkinson, pale and shaky, laid down his knife and fork."

"What a fuss," he muttered, "over a mutton chop."

At Maxim's.

Addison Misner, the well-known first nighter, praised, at supper at the Cafe de l'Opera in New York, the wit of the Parisienne.

"I met my first Parisienne," said Mr. Misner, "in a restaurant in the Rue Royale, near the Place de la Concorde. She was very beautiful."

"How beautiful you are, made-moiseille," I said; "but you are very pale tonight."

"She turned to me with a smile."

BURMAH HOME OF THE RUBY

Practically All the Valuable Stones Are the Product of That Country's Mines.

All the world's great rubies come from the mines of the Mogok valley, India. There are four principal mines in the valley, in each of which modern tools and machinery are used, which facilitate the proper examination of a large amount of beryl or ruby-bearing clay each day. In the nearby valleys the Burmans still prosecute their searches in the old way, digging and washing by hand labor, but often with astonishing results. In the large workings the system has been reduced to a science, with corresponding results. The work goes on day and night. The ruby-bearing clay is extracted by the open quarry method of removing all the surface down to the valuable clay, which is then dug up, carried on trolleys to the steam cleansing mill, washed, passed through the sieves, and then examined for rubies and spinels. The beryl stretches almost everywhere along the Mogok valley, and wherever this clay exists rubies are to be found. Besides the pure ruby, spinel or balas rubies are found in large quantities in the same neighborhood. Wherever the ruby is found the spinel is sure to crop up close beside it. They are both crystals of alumina, but of different shapes. Except in a few rare cases the expert can easily distinguish between the two stones, although they are very much alike to the naked eye. The Burman is inclined to invest his savings in rubies and diamonds, which may be readily realized upon in times of financial stress. Rubies are more precious than diamonds, and are practically indestructible except by fire. During the season as many as 3,000 Burmans are employed in the mines.

STILL PERIL ON THE DEEP

Mariners Have No Real Reason to Complain of Lack of Excitement.

The vigilance of sailors, the multiplication of lighthouses and light-ships and the invention of devices of warning have still not robbed the seas of their might. If romance demands risk of life and limb, the drama of panic or of bravery, the struggle of man against the elements, then there is plenty of romance left. In the days of the clipper ships the sailor took spoils of islands and of ocean graveyards. These rocks and reefs still claim their booty. "By the blessings of God," said the devout Newfoundland leader, "we have been sent a run of fish and a few good wrecks. Cape Race, upon the Newfoundland coast, takes a heavy toll in property and human lives every winter. God, God, patrolled by scores of life savers and lighted its whole length, is mentioned in weak reports with unbroken regularity. The traveler upon a vessel passing Sandy Hook notes the signs of a wreck, and these signs continue; though salvagers are ever at work thereabouts. Hatteras maintains its ancient notoriety. The Lizard, upon the English coast, is strewn around with bulks of great steamers, and the Scilly islands are among the terrors of the deep, though their shores bristle with lighthouses. Those who like the spice of danger with their journeying about the earth have still no reason to complain.

All About the Codfish.

Bill Nye on codfish: "A correspondent of the New York Post says that the codfish frequents the table lands of the sea." The codfish no doubt does this to secure as nearly as possible a dry, bracing atmosphere. This pure air of the submarine table lands gives to the codfish that breadth of chest and depth of lungs that we have so often noticed. The glad, free smile of the codfish is largely attributed to the exhilaration of this oceanic altitudinism. The correspondent further says that the "codfish subsists largely on the sea cherry. Those who have not had the pleasure of seeing the codfish climb the cherry tree in search of food, or clubbing the fruit from the heavily laden branches with chunks of coral, have missed a very fine sight. The codfish, when at home rambling through the submarine forests, does not wear his vest unbuttoned, as he does while loafing around the grocery stores of the United States."

Food Value of Chestnuts.

The fruit of the chestnut tree is nearly as valuable as bread and more valuable than potatoes for dietetic purposes. Two pounds of chestnuts contain 113 grammes of starch and eight of fat.

The annual production of chestnuts in France is over 8,000,000 quintals of 220 pounds. That means food for many workmen. But the hide-tanners keep the product from the food-market by buying it in large quantities for use in their business. Producers make more profit by selling their chestnuts for tanning than by disposing of them for food.—Harper's Weekly.

Thackeray's Correction.

A distinguished foreigner visiting Epson Downs in Thackeray's company, noticed, St. James' Budget at arms, many men dressed as sailors who were not, to native and experienced eyes, the real article.

"Ah," said the visitor, "these are, I suppose, what you call your British tars?"

"Oh, no," replied Thackeray. "Only Epson salts."