

STREET OF FREAKS

Thoroughfare in Worcester, Mass., Queer Breeding Place.

Frog With Five Legs Was the Foundation of Museum of Curiosities Which is Constantly Gaining in Size.

Worcester, Mass.—By the recent arrival of a four-legged chicken and a tailless kitten at the homes of Mrs. William Scott and Mrs. Joseph Warble, Cairo street, this city has once more heightened its fame as the New England street of freak curiosities.

By one of the curious twists of chance this thoroughfare, although only a block in length and occupied by about 20 modest families, has arisen to a pinnacle of renown seldom equaled by any street in the world.

The advent recently of a Rhode Island Red hen with a brood of about 25 other children, and owned by Mrs. William Scott, 31 Cairo street, and the arrival the day following of a kitten minus a tail, a freak seldom heard of among cat fanciers, has resulted in bringing hundreds of curious people to get a glimpse of this street of freaks and its curiosities.

The four-legged chicken arrived on the peaceful scenes of Cairo street recently, the tenth in succession of the 25 fluffy babies that broke away from their shells and began to shrill little strains of joy skyward on that same morning.

Since Mr. Scott one afternoon about five years ago discovered a frog with five legs hopping about in his back yard and then a little later found himself the possessor of a cat with a screw tail, the advent of any commonplace freak arrival in his neighborhood has ceased to create much of a sensation, but when Peggy, the four-legged chicken, made an appearance there was a gathering of the neighbors, and it was conceded that Cairo street was easily outdistancing its reputation for being the birthplace of freaks.

The chicken was of the exact size of its multitude of brothers and sisters and appeared to have arrived from an ordinary sized egg. But there were the four legs—two stocky ones, upon which Peggy roamed about, and two others, one each just behind the two larger. The second pair were perfectly formed, only the legs were a little shorter, and for that reason did not permit the claws to touch the ground.

However, this did not seem to matter to the strangely formed Peggy, for she tumbled over her brothers and sisters as actively as any of the rest and piped defiance at every stranger among the many who came to see this feathered wonder.

But the wonder of the four-legged had scarcely been sounded when Mrs. Joseph Warble, who lives just across the street from the Scotts, announced the arrival of a cat minus a tail at her home.

Instantly attention became attracted across the street.

Interested neighbors from near and far, besides many strangers, took trips to Cairo street to the freak arrivals.

The tailless kitten, Rhodanthus by name, a tiny black ball of fur spotted with white, had assuredly maintained the reputation of Cairo street. Not a sign of a tail was apparent. Even the bobtail of the mother was missing on the son.

And just now the freak street residents are apparently waiting for the coming of the next freak wonder that will add to the roll of fame there.

For it is almost devoutly believed that a curiosity is due to happen along this thoroughfare at regular stated intervals of time.

The past history of the street, as recalled by its old residents, has included half a dozen animal deviations from the rule that have upon arrival stirred up a seven days' wonder in the district.

A few years ago a family who moved into one of the tenements there brought with it a live snake of the adder variety, which was kept in a glass cage covered with a mesh wire and was fed upon grasshoppers and tadpoles. The strange pet created so much terror along the street that finally its owner was obliged to move away. Only a short time later a resident of Cairo street, who owned a pair of geese which he kept in a pen in his back yard, found the twin one day rolling on the ground, apparently dying.

Investigation proved that a bottle containing wild cherries soaked in brandy had been emptied into the yard and that the reckless pair had gorged themselves upon the cherries until both had accumulated a staggering jag.

Another animal belonging to a resident of the street was a pet calf, with a stub tail and a penchant for gnawing bones and chasing cats like a dog. Another was a parrot that by screaming fire terrified the entire street on several midnight occasions.

Dishonest Students Deficient.

Madison, Wis.—That college students detected in dishonest work are greatly physically deficient, is proven by the statistics just compiled by Dr. J. C. Olson, medical examiner of men in the University of Wisconsin.

The physical measurements of 50 men who had come before the faculty committee on dishonesty charges, were compared with similar measurements of 5,000 of their classmates and in each case the delinquent was found to fall short in almost every item.

RICKSHAW WAS YANKEE IDEA

American First Suggested Glorified Go-Carts in Japan—Japanese Also Claims Credit.

London.—Twenty years or so ago when railways in Japan were yet few and motor cars undreamed of the common method of travel for natives and foreigners alike was the rickshaw.

Horses were scarce and of indifferent quality, the bicycle had hardly made its appearance in the far east, so practically the only means of getting about the country was by the main line of the railway between Tokyo and Hirogo was in the modified perambulator which is known all over the world as the rickshaw.

There are a number of versions of its invention and to whom credit should be given for it. The Japanese themselves claim it for a paralytic old gentleman of Kyoto, who some time before 1868, finding his palanquin uncomfortable, took to a little cart instead. The usual foreign account adopted by Mr. Black, the author of "Young Japan," is that an American named Gobie, half cobbler and half missionary, was the person to suggest the idea of a glorified go-cart somewhere about 1867.

The first official application to be allowed to manufacture rickshaws was, however, made in 1870. They were soon being turned out in hundreds and thousands, for the middle class Japanese found it a cheap and comfortable way of traveling long or short distances and there was an inexhaustible supply of men eager to turn themselves into beasts of burden in order to earn the high wages which the employment brought them. Curiously enough, though elsewhere the thing is called a rickshaw, in Japan it generally goes by the name of jin-riki.

Both are abbreviations of the real word, which is jin-riki-sha, meaning literally "man power vehicle," that is, a cart pulled by a man. Sometimes you hear kuruma used as an equivalent and that is a Japanese of the Chinese syllable sha. Ku-ruma-ya is a rickshaw puller and you would call it out in Japan when you wanted a rickshaw, just as we called "hansom" in the days when the hansom had not been driven off the ranks by the taxicab.

4 FORMS TO PHYSICAL WORLD

California Scientist Has Discovered Fundamental Upon Which It is Based, He Says.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Phillip W. T. E. Thomson has set local scientific circles agog by a claim to having discovered the fundamental upon which the physical world is reared.

He asserts that chemistry, the vegetable and mineral realms and mathematics in all its stages, have their bases in certain fixed and unvarying forms, which are only four in number.

He explains his new science, which he terms strometry, before a body of southern California educators.

Thomson declared that with the four units he illustrated with models, he could produce any geometric shape now known and many never dreamed of. There was no limit to the minuteness or the colossal proportions of the creations built of these forms. Combined in octaves or in series of seven, he said, they interpreted nature in its infinite variety from the tiniest molecule to the mightiest sun.

Thomson said there was no form of crystal, snowflake or any geometrical conception which he could not produce with a combination of two or more of his four units.

Scientific men who witnessed his demonstration admitted that he had achieved prodigious mechanical feats. With his block models he constructed a variety of designs, including the spiral forms appearing in vegetation.

GAME ROOSTERS KILL A DOG

Fox Terrier Reveals in Chase of Flock of Chickens Until He Meets His Waterloo.

Great Notch, N. J.—A party of five persons passing through here in an automobile noticed a flock of more than a hundred chickens in the yard surrounding the farmhouse of Hiram Van Tassel. The farmer's son, Edward, was sitting on a stump near by as one of the party sicked a fox terrier on the fowls. He broke the legs of several and chased the others about.

But when the terrier started for two game roosters he made a mistake. He snapped at one of them and the other rooster jumped on his back and drove its spurs through the dog's hide. The fight lasted for 15 minutes and the terrier had been spurred so many times it bled to death.

Modernizing Old Killarney.

Dublin.—At last the Killarney lakes are to be set free from the thrall and peril of the old rowing boat, which was the cause of so many disasters and loss of life when battling with the waves in the sudden storms for which the place is notorious. The first steam and motor vessels will be placed on the lakes for the coming season.

Make Record in Coaling.

Berlin.—The German battleship Schleswig-Holstein claims to have established a record in rapid coaling. The crew on a recent occasion shipped 700 tons in one hour and twenty-five minutes, of which 544 tons were shipped in the first hour.

ROMANCE OF COTTON

Cupid Makes His Way in Both From Massachusetts.

Message in Place of Goods Finally Finds Its Way to Mexico and Culminates in Marriage of Writer and Mexican Merchant.

Puebla, Mexico.—A pretty international love romance, which recently culminated in the marriage of Miss Nettie Belmont of Lowell, Mass., and Francisco de la Pena of Puebla, is the reigning society sensation of this beautiful mountain city of Mexico. The bride and bridegroom have arrived here and are now established in their own home.

Mrs. Pena is the daughter of a mill superintendent in Lowell. She was given the freedom of the factory and one day, three years ago, she wrote upon the smooth-pine board upon which a bolt of goods was about to be wrapped these words:

"Oh, I am very, very lonely; please do write me a letter. Nettie Belmont, 806 1/2 Mulberry street, Lowell, Mass."

This bolt of goods found its way in time to the Gran Centro de Lujos dry goods store, in this city. This store is owned by the wealthy Pena family, and Francisco de la Pena, son of the principal owner of the establishment, was assisting in waiting upon customers one day during the rush hours, when he found the inscription upon the pine board. He could not then read English, but his curiosity was aroused, and an English-speaking clerk in the store was called upon to translate the message. Young Mr. Pena made a careful note of the address and that night he wrote a letter to the young woman who had sent the appeal to this remote part of the continent. This letter was written in Spanish, but he had it translated into English. It contained a few formal sentences, saying that he would be glad to correspond with her.

Miss Belmont was surprised and delighted to receive a letter from a stranger in a foreign land. She replied to it and correspondence ensued. Mr. Pena became deeply interested in the American girl and devoted himself to the study of the English language that he might be prepared to converse with her when he met her. Miss Belmont soon found herself in love with the young man of the Latin race, who wrote such ardent sentences of affection in his letters. They exchanged photographs and were well pleased with each other's appearance.

Then came the marriage proposal. Miss Belmont's father objected strongly to the match, but Mr. Pena resolved to make a personal appeal for possession of the young lady, and accompanied by his father, the long trip from Puebla to Lowell was made several months ago. The senior Pena and his son were received at the home of Miss Belmont's parents and the young people there for the first time met each other personally. Their love for each other was as strong as ever and the objection of Mr. Belmont to the marriage was quickly overcome.

The Penas returned to Puebla after arranging for the wedding and after a lengthy honeymoon trip Mr. and Mrs. Pena are now in Puebla to make their permanent home.

RATTLESNAKE A BABY'S PET

Venomous Reptile Enjoyed Soft Strokes of Infant's Hand, But Fought Child's Mother.

Trinidad, Col.—Her sixteen-month-old daughter playing with a rattlesnake as she might with a kitten was the alarming sight that greeted Mrs. Arthur Wilkinson when she missed the little one and went in search of her.

The child had been playing in the house, but had wandered into the yard when her mother found her seated in the grass holding a rattlesnake in one hand and softly stroking it with the other.

The snake seemed to enjoy it. Mrs. Wilkinson knocked the reptile from her daughter's hand, who set up a cry for the return of her pet.

The snake showed fight to Mrs. Wilkinson, who killed it with a spade. It was two feet long and had four rattles.

Turkeys Save Potato Crop.

Gresley, Col.—The Thanksgiving day bird is being hailed in this community.

A. W. Fry, living a mile south of Pierson, discovered that turkeys had a penchant for potato bugs. He noticed his flock working in and out among the potato plants and investigated. They had practically rid a portion of the field of the destroyers.

He spread the news among neighbors. Now every potato grower has ordered turkeys with which to fight the bugs.

Mendicants Make Big Money.

New York.—That begging in New York streets is frequently a very profitable profession was shown by testimony in the night court here early this morning.

A beggar who was arrested was searched and \$64 was found in his pockets. The beggar testified that this was the result of two days' work on a Fourteenth street corner.

There are many beggars in New York, it is said, whose income from seeking alms averages from \$5 to \$15 a day the year round.

UNIQUE ANTI-GERM DEVICES

Ingenious Arrangement in Rendering Operating Theater in London Free From Dust.

London.—A number of novel and ingenious devices for rendering the operating theater as free as possible from disease germs have been installed at the new Hospital for Invalidd Gentlewomen, 19 Lisson grove, N. W., which was opened by the princess of Wales. Principal among the new germ destroyers are a large blue glass window looking south, a new dust-catching system of ventilation, and radiators which swing away from the walls to allow thorough cleansing.

The virtues of the large southern window were explained by one of the staff. "The reason no other hospital in London has a southern window or skylight is on account of the difficulty the operator experiences with the afternoon sun glistening on his instruments. The peculiar blue tint of our window has no actual germ-killing properties, but it allows us plenty of afternoon light to work with, and when the theater is not in use the colored glass is pushed aside and the theater may be flooded with sunlight, the best of nature's germ killers."

To prevent the entrance of dust into the operating room the air in the ventilating shaft is first passed over a specially prepared surface which is kept constantly moist. All the heavier dust particles are in this way sifted out of the air before it reaches the theater.

Every effort is made to allow the surgeon to devote the entire use of his hands to the operation itself. The electric lights, the ventilators, the fans, and the water taps are all worked by brass handles which the operator pushes to one side or the other with his elbows, thus obviating all risk of contaminating his fingers.

GRIZZLY IS FINALLY KILLED

Hunters Slaughter Famous Fugitive Bear, Which Has Terrified Ranchers for Years.

Blaine, Wash.—For 15 years ranchers and settlers on the Skalkits river valley near here have suffered from the depredations of a giant grizzly bear, whose haunt was believed to be in the wild crags of the Cascades. Large numbers of live stock have been killed every year by this same bear, whose gigantic footprints struck terror into the hearts of the ranchers.

This wild bear roamed the country from Lake Crater to the northern line of Skagit county, and it is estimated that every year he killed an average of 50 cattle, 200 calves and 300 hogs.

Organized hunts for him were fruitless and trained hunters and trappers attempted many times to bring back the big bear, on which the county grange has had a standing reward and bounty of \$150 for more than ten years. Hundreds of men gave up in despair when their bear dogs failed to locate the grizzly.

Recently Creed Con and Billy Bald, well known bear hunters of Olympia, Wash., with their pair of dogs, came to Blaine and announced that they would trail the bear to death. Locating the scene of his latest robbery, the dogs led the men for a chase in the wildest part of the United States for 25 miles.

The third day a great den was reached and here the dogs stopped and awaited their masters. Con and Bald came up and found the bear asleep in a small hole of the big den. The outside entrance to the den was ten feet in diameter. The dogs chased out the grizzly and a rifle ball killed him. He weighed 1,600 pounds.

SEARCH FOR RAREST OF BIRDS

Massachusetts Millionaire Finances Expedition in Quest of Spoon-bill Sandpiper.

Boston.—A strange quest for the spoonbill sandpiper will soon be begun by a group of men backed by the wealth of John E. Thayer, one of Massachusetts' foremost ornithologists and millionaires. Mr. Thayer says:

"The spoonbill sandpiper is one of the rarest birds known to ornithologists. There is no specimen in the Boston Museum of Natural History. Harvard's Agassiz museum has one. There are probably not a dozen specimens in the world. The nest and the eggs of the bird have never been found."

The expedition, which will soon sail north, is to seek the haunts of this bird and bring back, if possible, nests, eggs and specimens."

Thrush That Laughs.

New York.—Twenty-five rare birds from India, most of them varieties hitherto unrepresented in this country, have been added to the collection in Central park.

Among them are a pair of rare "laughing thrushes," no larger than robins, but with a "laugh" as loud as that of the most raucous voiced parrot in the aviary.

In the same cage with the thrushes are a pair of Indian jays, two pairs of black headed robins and a dozen sinners from Tibet.

Hatches Chick in Beesom.

Beaumont, Pa.—Mrs. Michael Rose of Portland carries off the palm for chicken hatching records. Out of a hatching of three dozen eggs the mother hen walked off the nest with 28 chicks. Mrs. Rose placed the thirty-sixth egg in her beesom, completing the incubation and the chick thus produced is the liveliest of the lot.

EAGLE ATTACKS CAT

Meets With Tremendous Surprise and Drops Its Prey.

Soon Returns and Renews Hostilities and Air is Filled With Fur and Feathers—Farmer Witness Calls It a Draw.

Goshen, Ind.—Jacob Eckleberger, a farmer, near Goshen, tells of a thrilling fight between a cat and an eagle. It was talons and beak against claws and teeth, and resulted in a draw.

Eckleberger was plowing in a field, and saw what at first he took to be a chicken hawk sweeping down on his barnyard. He thought it was after a chicken and stepped to the fence to watch the result. Closer inspection revealed it to be a small eagle. The bird swooped, struck and rose, but, to the farmer's surprise, it held in its talons not a chicken, but his large tom cat. The eagle held the cat by the back. The cat's four feet were extended and its tail pointed toward the zenith.

Forty feet from the ground, the cat gave a twist, wriggled from the grasp of the bird and fell to the earth, seemingly unharmed. The bird circled and made another swoop, but this time the cat was waiting for its feathered adversary and when the bird struck, things happened. For about three minutes the air was full of fur and feathers.

The eagle withdrew, baffled, to a distance of about 15 feet, dragging one wing. The cat had its back high in the air, and both cat and eagle were hissing and spitting. Finally, the cat crouched and began creeping slowly and steadily toward the eagle, its tail dragging. Its fighting blood was up.

The eagle stood with one foot lifted, turning its head from side to side, the better to observe its adversary. The feathers on its neck were ruffled. The cat hugged the ground a little closer and then sprang. It evidently expected the eagle to attempt to leap to one side, for it spread its legs far apart.

The cat, however, made a mistake. The eagle turned on its back and drove its talons into the cat's breast and tried to strike it in the eyes with its beak. The cat missed the bird's neck and got its wing. Then the air became full of fur and feathers again.

The farmer's little son had seen the encounter from the front of the house and ran as fast as he could toward the scene. He was afraid his pussy was going to be carried off. He about frightened the cat and it released its hold for a minute, the bird struggled free, ran about 20 feet and launched itself with heavy wing and badly tattered plumage in flight. The cat climbed the fence, mewed, licked its breast and mewed again, eyeing its fleeing adversary with baleful eye and switching tail.

Eckleberger says he would have given \$100 to have seen the finish of that fight. As it was he felt compelled to call it a draw. He says the cat never leaves the house now, but he gazes half anxiously, half expectantly, into the sky.

EEL SWATS WITH ITS TAIL

Lands on Fisherman's Jaw With Hard Swing as Man Goes Tumbling Into Jersey Canal.

Bloomfield, N. J.—An odd adventure befell an eel and a man in the Morris canal. Both were in great danger, but both finally got away safely.

The eel was eating its breakfast on the west side of the canal when Frank Tomaki of Leck street took a stand on the bank and dropped a hook and line in the water.

The eel rose to investigate. It had its mouth open and was about to swallow the worm on the hook when John Fritz of Franklin avenue, it is alleged, slipped up behind Tomaki and pushed him overboard. Tomaki, in falling, swung out his arms and unconsciously grabbed the neck of the eel with one hand and the hook with the other. The eel, in fright or rage, whichever it was, whirled its body out of the canal and gave Tomaki a slap with its tail in the face that made him let go its neck in a hurry. The eel then got away.

Fritz, meantime, stood on the bank and laughed at Tomaki's discomfiture. He is alleged to have run away though when he saw Johnson McQueen coming. McQueen had hard work saving Tomaki from drowning, inasmuch as Tomaki had got tangled in the line and was encumbered, too, by a heavy raincoat, and, to add to his troubles, couldn't use his right arm because the hook had caught in his thumb.

Badgers Are Pets.

Spokane, Wash.—A fad has been inaugurated by young women of Othello, Washington, which threatens to cause a rise in the badger market.

The fad is domesticating badgers for pets, and already several of these animals are enduring captivity. It is not an unusual sight to meet a badger on the streets of Othello on an afternoon, in tow of its fair mistress.

The animals seem to take kindly to their new spheres and submit peacefully to the fondling of admirers.

Drama Contains 26 Acts.

Vienna.—The manager of the Vienna municipal theater has received a play in 26 acts and a prologue, and the author promises to call and explain the beauties of the work. The manager will probably be out when the dramatist calls.

FINDS SERVANT IS COUNTESS

For Two Years Delka Romanoff, of Polish Nobility, Worked for Brooklyn Citizen.

New York.—At least one American citizen can boast of having had a bona fide countess as a servant. He is a wealthy Brooklyn manufacturer, M. L. Lehman, of No. 53 Park place. The servant, who has left them to go back to Russia, was the Countess Delka Romanoff, the wife of Count Ivan Romanoff, one of the nobility of Russian Poland.

Nearly two years ago Mrs. Lehman, in making the rounds of the various employment agencies, saw a young woman who looked particularly intelligent. The young woman said she was Delka Romanoff and was hired. Mrs. Lehman and her family regarded Delka as the best servant they ever had. Her wages were raised three times.

A little more than two years ago her husband, Count Ivan, who had a large estate, became embroiled in a political quarrel, and he was exiled and his lands confiscated. He was afraid to communicate with his wife for fear his mail would be tampered with. The wife only knew he had come to America. She brought her mother-in-law and her two children to America. While working for Mrs. Lehman, her children having been placed in a charitable institution, Delka would go from hospital to hospital to inquire about Ivan, believing that was the best way to trace him.

While she was on her way to the Kings County hospital she met a fellow-countryman who told her he had seen Ivan and where she could find him. That night she met her husband. All went to live in a home which Count Ivan established.

Last week, after they had started their little home, Mrs. Lehman said: "There came to our home, addressed to the Countess Delka Romanoff, a large package bearing a Russian postmark and numerous Russian seals. This letter informed her that she and her husband and her family could return; that the husband was pardoned for his political activity, and that his estates would be returned to him. On Saturday they sailed and we saw them off. I will not tell you on what steamer, because they do not want to attract any attention."

TOM-CAT IN THEIR MATTRESS

Retiring Couple Experience Variety of Sensations Before Discovering Stray Feline.

Darby, Pa.—A large stray cat of the masculine gender and with a voice like a lost soul caused several kinds of excitement and diversion in the residence of Edwin Smith of North Sixth street, Darby, the other night, which for a time baffled an explanation.

In the afternoon, while one of the bedroom windows was open, the cat entered the house and finally lodged itself comfortably between the springs and the mattress of the main bed and fell asleep.

Shortly after 11 o'clock Mr. and Mrs. Smith retired, and, after getting in bed, were aroused by hearing a terrific shriek, seemingly beneath them. At first it was thought that burglars were in the house, but finally, finding the big gray cat, which, finding the weight of the spring lifted, lost no time in making its escape.

JERSEY RATS TWO FEET LONG

School Pupils at Summit Make Detours to Avoid Pests, Which Drive Even Dogs Away.

of them—which infect the city garbage dumps, threaten to overrun the residence section of Summit, and the board of health has appealed to experts in New York city to provide a means for their extermination. Children on their way to school have been making long detours because of their fear of being bitten.

One of the rats seen recently by city employees is reported to be fully two feet long, and many of the others are nearly as large.

The rats have driven away the stray cats that used to get their living at the dumps, and the scarcity of wandering dogs has left the dog warden without a job.

Dogs Ate Cooked Sponges.

Pasadena, Cal.—Antropes upon the carcasses of several valuable dogs that were believed to have died of rabies has revealed a condition that probably explains the epidemic of "hydrophobia" which has aroused terror in Pasadena for several months and resulted in drastic orders for the destruction of unclaimed canines.

It is alleged that some miscreant has been scattering cooked sponge breadstuffs to be picked up and eaten by hungry dogs. The sponge is fried in beef drippings, pressed and cut into small slices. After it is eaten it swells and the dog dies in agony. An autopsy on a St. Bernard revealed that it had been eating sponge.

Affection Cracks Rib.

Media, Pa.—Mrs. Mester Yarnall is suffering from a broken rib, due to the "strong" affection of her son Albert. The young man had just made preparations to go to a dance, and before leaving the house followed his usual custom of embracing his parent. This time Albert held his mother too close and only released his hold when she cried out in pain. The young man, as soon as he realized that his mother was really injured, summoned a physician, who set the fracture.