HE PLANNED HIS OWN DEATH

How Sir William Hankford 500 Years Ago Evaded Law Against Committing Suicide.

Suicides often adopt ingenious methods, but the art of the felo de se seems not to have advanced materially during the centuries. The modern case of a heavily insured broker who pn a feigned hunting trip stood baredegged in a quagmire for hours and wilfully contracted a fatal pneumonia is matched in cleverness by one 500 rears old.

The following facts are well vouched for, and indeed were never questioned, says the Green Bag. Sir William Hankford, a judge of the king's bench in the reigns of Edward III, Henry IV, Henry V and Henry VI, and at the time of his death chief Justice of England, was a man of

melancholy temperament. He seems to have contemplated suicide the greater part of his long life and during his later years the idea became a fixed purpose. The act was of peculiarly serious consequences in those days for the reason that the law treated it as a capital crime. The offender was buried at the cross roads, with a stake driven through his body, and all his goods and property were forfeited to the crown, to the utter ruin of his family.

Hankford made good use of his wits and succeeded in accomplishing his purpose without incurring either unpleasant penalty. He gave open instructions to his gamekeeper, who had been troubled with poachers in the deer preserve, to challenge ail trespassers in the future and to shoot to kill if they would not stand and give an account.

One dark night he purposely crossed the keeper's path, and upon challenge made motions of resistance and escape. The faithful servant, failing to recognize his master, followed instruction to the letter, as was expected of him, and Sir William fell dead in his tracks. The whole truth of the affair was common knowledge, but it was impossible to establish a case of suicide by legal proof. The servant was protected by his instructions. Hankford had honorable burial and his estate passed to those whose interests as heirs he had so wisely considered.

THEIR SINGING HARD LABOR

People of Star Island, Says Cella Thaxter, Grind Out Sounds With Tremendous Exertion.

Among people of average musical ability there is less singing than there msed to be. Nearly everybody enjoys singing, and there was a time when mearly everybody was expected, on occasion, to sing. But from different causes—a more exacting standard, the rivalry of the phonograph, and other reasons—amateur singers are fewer athan they were. It is a matter for regret from one point of view, and from another for rejoicing.

In a recently published letter, Cella Thaxter tells how some of the Star Jaland folks during her long residence at the Isles of Shoals, used to sing.

"Their singing," she declared, "was firtuly astonishing, indeed, I might say, excruciating. They go at it precisely as if they were sawing wood, and grind out the sounds with such exertion that their faces become crimson and the perspiration stands in beads on their foreheads. Youth's Compan-

The Iron Crown of Italy.

The historic iron crown of Italy has played a romantic role in the history of the peninsula. It was made in the year 594 by the command, it is said, of Theodolinda, the widow of a Lombard king, on the occasion of her marriage to a duke of Turin.

The crown is of iron overlaid with gilt. Its significance was supposed to the fact that the weight of royalty could never be lightened by its splendid exterior. The iron of the inner portion was traditionally held to be one of the long nails used at the crucifixion.

For a long time the crown was in; the keeping of the famous monastery at Monza. In 774 it was brought forth to be placed upon the head of Charlemagne as "King of the Lom-"bards," and on later occasions it figured in the triumphs of Frederic IV and Charles V. Finally in the presence of all the representatives of state, the foreign envoys and princes and officers, Napoleon Bonaparte solemply united it to the crown of France.

The crown belongs to the state, and the custodian of it is the legitimate representative of the basilica of Monsa. The title of "grand custodian," however, pertains to the head of the order of Cavaliers.—Harper's Weekly.

Light of the Firefly.

The statement that the light of trefiles and other phosphorescent animals is produced without any sensible degree of heat has often been repeated without any information as to the iquantity of heat that would be required "to produce a similar amount of light by artificial methods. This information is supplied by Professor McIntosh. He says that a temperature approaching, 2.000 degrees Fabrenheit would be necessary to make a light equivalent to ithat emitted by an ordinary firefly. The enormous waste in all industrial methods of producing light is a matter of common knowledge, and the example of the firefly remains unimitated by man. The very simplicity of the mechanism employed by nature in phosphorescent animals is baiding. - Harper's Weekly.

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BETTER THAN BOOK LEARNING

Kentucky Mountaineer Preferred as Teacher Because He Could Lick Biggest Boy in School.

The colonel had gone up into the Kentucky mountains from the blue grass in command of a sawmill, and as soon as he had mobilized his forces in that field he began to maneuver in the matter of improving the people about his camp. What they needed most were better schools and he determined to take a hand in the selection of a proper teacher. To this end he called in one from his own section who had a college education, but no mountain experience. When he proposed this blue grass nurtured young man to the mountaineer trustees there was unanimous opposition in favor of one of their own kind, who had been teaching the school for some time, though his education was

of the most limited kind. "But," argued the colonel, "your man doesn't have the first rudiments of an education and the pupils might

as well have no teacher at all." "He's done better than anybody else ever done, colonel," replied the chairman of the board.

"That may be, but none of them has been educated properly to teach. My man has been through college and is superior to any teacher in the county.

The chairman didn't want any trouble with the colonel, nor did he want to yield his point.

"Mebbe he's jist what you say he is, colonel," he said persuasively, "and it ain't fer us to doubt that he has a powerful sight of book l'arnin', but, colonel, we have saw him and we have saw our man, and I wanter say fer this board of trustees that your man can't lick the biggest boy in school and our'n kin, and that counts fer a heap sight more in this neck uv woods than book l'arnin'." The colonel's candidate retired to the blue grass whence he came.

DO NOT LEAN UPON OTHERS

Learn to Stand Alone or You Never Will Become Strong or Original.

Power is the goal of every worthy ambition, and only weakness comes from imitation or dependence on others, says Orison Swett Marden in Success Magazine. Power is self-developed, self-generated. We cannot increase the strength of our muscles by sitting in a museum and letting another exercise for us.

Nothing else so destroys the power to stand alone as the habit of leaning upon others. If you lean, you willnever be strong or original. Stand alone or bury your ambition to be somebody in the world.

The man who tries to give his children a start in the world so that they will not have so hard a time as he had. is unknowingly bringing disaster upon them. What he calls giving them a start will probably give them a setback in the world. Young people need all the motive power they can get. They are naturally leaners, imitators, copiers, and it is easy for them to develop into echoes, imitations. They will not walk alone while you furnish crutches; they will lean upon you just as long as you will let them.

Use of Checks in France.

The governor of the Banque 40 France has just sent to the director of the departmental branch offices a circular instructing them about the use of crossed checks. The Temps in publishing these instructions points out the advantage of the English method of employing checks and then shows how the French system of making mayments immobilizes capital unproductively in purse, drawer or bank, whereas these sums converted into checks would be profitable not only to their, owner but also for the bank which employs them.

While the Bank of France has to face a bank note circulation of 5,000. 000,000 francs and the monetary stock is 211 francs 75 centimes per head of the contributions. England with a greater amount of business has a bank note circulation of 698,000,000 francs and a monetary stock of 84 france 58 centimes.

Destruction of Rats. An East Africa publication contains a description of a method of destroying rats, followed in Java, in which carbon bisulphate in employed. In carrying out the method a small quantity, usually about half a teaspoonful of the carbon bisulphide is poured into the rat hole and after waiting a few moments to let the liquid evaporate, the mixture of air and vapor is lighted, a small explosion resulting and filling the hole with poisonous gas, killing the rats instantly. Such a process practiced openly might be objectionable under some circumstances because of danger from fire resulting from the explosion and a field for invention appears to offer itself to provide some form of fire-proof gun or explosion chamber suitably formed to be inserted in the mouth of the rat hole and adapted to enclose the explosion and discharge the resulting noxious gas into the hole.—Scientific American.

That Explains. "I have a dog and a hen which are fast friends. Isn't that queer?" "I don't think so-merely natural

affinity."

-"In what way?" "I believe your hen and your dog are both setters."

PICK ODD NOOKS FOR NESTS

Swallows Are Conning Builders But Sometimes Select Precarious Sites for Homes.

Swallows are diligent and cauning builders of nests, but they are not always wise in their choice of a locality. In proof of this a couple of birds last year chose a secluded corner among the rafters of my barn and managed to hatch and rear their young

This year a couple, probably the same, repaired the nest and laid their eggs. But one morning both birds were found lying dead on the floor, the windows having been closed and the door locked by a too careful servant. A favorite place for a swallow to build its nest is the upper corner of a window.

This situation is to say the least precarious, as an energetic housemaid has merely unintentionally or otherwise to draw down the sash and the nest is at once in ruins. I remember once quite unintentionally acting the part of the energetic housemaid. I drew down the sash and managed just in time to save the structure from falling to pieces.

Supporting it with my hands, I told one of my boys to bring his schoolbag. and having fastened it securely to the window, deposited therein the remains of the nest and the young family of birds.

The parents were shy at first, but on closer investigation, having satisfied themselves that their little ones were still alive, they accommodated themselves to the situation and brought up their family in the usual way, sending them at length into the world doubtless all the wiser for their nurture in this abode of learning. A similar misfortune happened this summer to & swallow's nest in the window of a cottage in the Cheviot hills.

This time the nest was almost totally destroyed, but help came from a probably unlooked-for quarter. The dismayed cries of the feathered builders attracted their companions, who flocked around in large number and rendered every assistance in repairing the damage.—The Scotsman.

BROWNING WAS NOT A SNOB

When a Cook Came to See Some Plotures He Offered Her _His Arm.

A trivial anecdote occurs to me which has nothing to do with the "Countesses" who were supposed to absorb Mr. Browning overmuch. It appeared that on one occasion Mr. Browning's son had hired a room in a neighboring house in which to exhibit his pictures. In the temporary absence of the artist, Mr. Browning was doing the honors, the room being half filled with fashionable friends. Mr. Browning was standing near to door when a visitor, unannounced, made her appearance; he immediately shook hands with the stranger, or

tried to do so, when she exclaimed: "Oh, I beg your pardon, sir, I'm the cook. Mr. Barrett asked me to come and see his pictures." "And I am very glad to see you," said Mr. Browning, with ready courtesy. "Take my arm and I will show you around." -Mrs. Andress Crossee, "Red Letter Days of My Life."

Crushed by a Caddle. "It is not always safe to fish for compliments," says a Washington man, who travels quite a bit, "and I recently learned a lesson in this regard. from a caddle attached to a golf club near this town.

"I was going round the links one afternoon and making a dreadful exhibition of myself. I did not, however, know that my caddie was fully aware of this, as he seemed so blissfully unconscious that anything was wrong. He was a nice, freckled little Irishman, and I took quite a fancy to him, especially as never a hint came from him that I was doing badly. At the end of the round, in the hope of & 'jolly' from the lad, I ventured to ob-

"'I've been traveling for the last two months, and am dreadfully out of practice. That's why I'm in such bad form today."

"To which the caddle calmly replied: "Oh, then ye've played before, mir!'

For Those Who Hear Not.

The hallboy had fairly split his throat shouting directions to deaf persons who had called to see Mr. Schwartz. Mr. Schwartz fived in the fourth floor rear, right-hand apartment, through the long hall and up the back stairs. It took a good deal of shouting to make some folks understand that.

"I never saw so many deaf people in my life," said the boy. "What on earth are they all running up to

Schwartz's for?" "Mr. Schwartz has advertised a deaf man's phonograph for sale," said a neighbor. "He is very hard of hearing. The phonograph was made especially for him. It has an unusually loud tone. Nobody but the hard-ofhearing can live with such entertainment. Mr. Schwartz, to save trouble, has advertised for a deaf purchaser."

Her Mind Relieved. "Charley, dear," said young Mrs. Torkins, "what is a jackpot?" "Why-er-a jackpot is a general

contribution for purposes of charitable donation." "Oh! Do you know I was afraid it had something to do with the wickedness of politics!"

'BLUFF' AMONG THE NEGROES

Little Story of a Quarrel That Illustrates Their Love of Flourish and Poses.

Love of bluff is a curious charactaristic of the negro. Sometimes the deadly razor becomes active with a vergeance, but countless other dimes it is merely flourished with frightful threats and boastings of its slashing qualities. These are vanity poses. One night recently I saw a striking living picture of this kind. I was one of a crowd which got off an early morning elevated train. A negroquarrel was in progress in front of a house on the opposite side of the street and all stopped to watch it, One husky black was about to apply an axe to the cranium of a smaller negro, when an ally of the lesser one threatened the husky individual with a blackjack from behind. Thus it stood-if the axe fell on one skull the blackiack would descend on an other. Neither participant seemed willing to "start anything." There was the tableau and it simply died away like a moving picture climax on the acreen

Evidently this scene of inaction overtaxed the patience of the dusky spectators, for they broke the lull by tossing beer bottles at one another. This, too, was without ginger. Just as I stepped behind a telegraph pole to avoid the flying glass, an excited old darkey appeared at the door and fired a shotgun over the heads of the disputants.

A peaceful citizen next to me was taken to the hospital and I limped home with hird shot in my legs. The old man's bluff was effective and the careful blacks dispersed, seeking their beds to dream of flocks of chickens and trainloads of watermelons.

WHEN CARVING WAS AN ART

In Old Days the Slicing Was Suited to the importance of the Guest.

Carving was once a serious thing. The sixteenth century carver was a professional. He had to make the joint fit the guest. The size of his slices was the thing. Then he had to know his guests and cut accordingly.

A lord, for instance, at the table, and a pike was dished up whole. Smaller fry, and the pike came on in slices. The same procedure with pig. The rank of the diners decided whether it should appear at table in gold leaf or naked, whole or sliced. With bread, too, there was a difference.

New or three days old baked was at the discretion of the carver as he sized up the visitors. And as for the apportioning of the tidbits according to precedence there was no end. The old-time carver in fact was born and

then made. The eighteenth century was the day of the carving master. He taught hostesses the art. Lady Mary Montagu.

for instance, took three lessons a week "that she might be perfect on her father's public days, when, in order to perform her functions without interruptions, she was forced to eat her own dinner alone an hour or two beforehand."

The hostess carved while the host "nushed the bottle." She did more. She urged the guests to est more and more, and woe to her if she neglected a guest. The diner who was forced to help himself to a slice of anything nearly choked These diners of the eighteenth century liked being pressed. And the hostess welcomed the end of the feast.--London Chronicle.

Arabia's Laughing Plant, The laughing plant is not a flower that langhs, but one that creates laughter, if the printed accounts of travelers can be believed, says an English paper. It grows in Arabia and is called the laughing plant because the seeds produce effects like those caused by laughing gas. The flowers are of a bright yellow, and the seed pods are soft and woolly. while the seeds resemble small black beans. Only two or three grow in a pod. The natives dry and pulverize them, and the powder, taken in small doses, makes the soberest person behave like a circus clown or a madman, for he will dance, sing and laugh most boisterously and cut the most fantastic capers and be in an uproarlously ridiculous condition for about an hour. When the excitement ceases the exhausted exhibitor of these antics falls asleep, and when he awakens he has not the slightest remembrance of his frisky doings.

King Corn.

Corn, the gift of the new world to the old, is the king of grains. Each year some new use is found for it. Even after everything, seemingly, has been extracted from it there is left a valuable residuum known as corn bil cake, which is sold here and abroad and is used in the fattening of sheep and other animals. Nearly 50,-000,000 pounds of this material are annually shipped to Great Britain and Germany and there used by farmers. who find it cheaper than materials of a similar nature which they can grow at home.

Competition. "You still assert that competition is the life of trade?"

"Histor rebitorator / \$5,46

"Oh, yes," said Mr. Dustin Stax. "But we don't care to compete for a chance to sell our goods. What we want is to find people with their money out competing for the privilege of buying them."

RED CEDAR FOR BULDINGS

Some of This Excellent Material Is Estimated to Be Nearly Four Thousand Years Old.

It will surprise many to know that they have in their homes material estimated to be 4,000 years old. If the shingles or interior unish is red cedar or if you have a red cedar chest 't is possible that the wood antedates the history of this country by thousands

of years, says the Cleveland Leader. A Cleveland man is credited with bringing the first red cedar into this mection. W. A. Geist, on a western trip several years ago, was attracted by the red cedar forests at Port Angelus, Wash. He established a mill there and began shipping the cedar to the eastern market. Formerly the southern cedar was used in great quantities. but it is the claim of Mr. Geist that the product from the Pacific coast is growing in favor and the demand, for it is increasing.

It is a most durable wood and its use in a home guarantees that moths and other troublesome insects will not enter. It is used for wainscoting, mantels, cupboards, cabinets and especially for chests in which to store furs and clothing Mr. Geist exhibits a quantity of red cedar cut from a tree he estimates to be at least 3700 years of age. Three large cedars were found growing from a failen log which was five and one-half feet in diameter. The largest of the three trees growing from the fallen tree was ten and one-half feet in diameter. By counting the rings in both trees indicates that the fallen tree, still sound, is nearing its four thousandth birthday.

Mr. Geist is an expert upon red cedar and goes in for the history of the wonderful trees of Washington and other coast states as a biographer would the data upon the life of some famous man. He surrounds a bolt of shingle cedar with an interesting story. which goes back to the misty ages and something like reverence grows within the listener for this venerable work of nature.

Unquestionably the red cedar is the oldest material used in the construction of the home and few materials wifl outwear it, it being nearly inder structible except by fire.

TELEPHONE POLES OF CACTUS

Arizona Government Is Planning to Make Good Use of the Giant Sahuara.

Sahuara for telephone and telegraph poles is the latest idea and one that is to be tried out. It sounds plausible and it is believed that it will be more economical than the old style of poles. Its test is to come from Tucson.

The government is to build a telephone system for the forestry service of the Coronado forest reserve. The first of these lines to be built out of Tucson is to be used into the Catalinas, and it is there that the sahuara experiment is be tried.

Where they can be found in what approaches alignment, so that the line will not have a zig-zag too much, the sahuara up in the canons through which the line will pass are to be utilized for the purpose of attaching brackets to which the wires will be fastened. And so the secret is out. Along the proposed line it is dif-

ficult to set poles, owing to the rocky nature of the country traversed. Not only is this the case, but it is dif-Scult to get the poles up there is the hills to set, while the sahuaras are right there in many instances, and while not at a uniform distance this is not considered important.

Changed Her Mind. A young couple had been courting for several years and the young man seemed to be in no hurry to marry. Finally, one day, he said:

"Sal, I canna marry thee." "How's that?" asked she.

"I've changed my mind," said be. "Well, I'll tell thee what we'll do." haid she. "If folks know that it's thee as has given me up I shanna be able to get another chap; but if they thing I've given thee up I can get all I want. So we'll have banns published and when the wedding day comes the parson will say to thee. 'Wilt thou have this woman for thy wedded wife?' and thou must say. 'I will.' And when he says to me, 'Wilt thou h. ve this man to be thy wedded

husband?' I shall say, 'I winna.'" The day came, and when the minister asked the important question the man answered, "I will."

Then the parson said to the woman: "Wilt thou have this man to be thy wedded husband?" and she said: "I will."

"Why," said the young man furiously, "you said you would say 'I winna." "I know that," said the young woman, "but I've changed my mind since."—National Monthly.

Stricken With Generosity.

A Scotsman brought his entire famity of seven to visit a relative in London. They were entertained in a man-Her that left nothing to be asked for two weeks; theaters, suppers, cab-rides about the city, excursions into the country. The whole time McPherson never put his hand in his pocket to pay. for a thing.

When the family was going home, the Londoner and his cousin went into the buffet for a final glass. From force of habit he groped for his wallet; but Sandy gripped his arm.

"Na, na!" said he. "Ye've been verra gude ta me an' mine this fortnicht past: Mon, we'll has a toss for this lasht wee nippie!"—Success Magazine.

FEMALE DIVERS OF JAPAN

Women Who Begin at 13 to Search for Pearls in the Coast Waters.

The pearl divers of Japan are women Along the coast of the Bay of Ago and the Bay of Kokasho the thirteen and fourteen year-old girls, after they have finished their primary school

work, go to sea and learn to dive. They are in the water and learn to swim almost from babyhood and spend most of their time in the water except in the coldest season, from the end of December to the beginning of February. Even during the most inclement of seasons they sometimes dive for

They wear a special dress, white underwear and the hair twisted un into a hard knot. The eyes are protected by glasses to prevent the entrance of water. Tubs are suspended from the waist. In boat in command of a man is assigned to every five or ten women divers to carry them to and from the fishing grounds.

When the divers arrive on the grounds they leap into the water at once and begin to gather oysters at the bottom. The oyters are dropped into tubs suspended from their waists. When the vessels are filled the divers are raised to the surface and jump into the boats. They dive to a depth of from five to thirty fathoms without any special apparatus and retain their breath from one to three minutes.

Their ages vary from thirteen to forty years and between twenty-five and thirty-five they are at their prime. -Oriental Review.

YOUNG BEAVER'S DAY'S WORK

Record Made by One of the Animala in Regent's Park Gardens, London.

A young beaver in Regent's Park gardens, London, was once placed at work upon a tree 12 feet long and 2 feet 6 inches thick just as the town clocks sounded the hour of noon. The beaver began by barking the tree a foot above the ground.

That done he attacked the wood. He worked hard, alternating his labor with dips in his bathing pond. He bathed and labored alternately until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when he ate his supper of bread and carro's and paddled about in his pond until

half-past 5 o'clock. Ten minutes later, when only one inch of the tree's diameter remained intact, he bore upon his work and the tree fell. Before it fell the beaver ran as men run when they have bred a blast. Then as the tree lay on the ground he portioned it out mentally.

and again began to gnaw. He worked at intervals all night, cut the log into three parts, rolled two of the portions into the water and reserved the other third for his permanent shelt**e**r. The he took a bath.—Harper's Weekly."

A Cooking Feat in the Air. To cook a porato pie at the top of a chimney three hundred feet high by means of the heat generated in the fires below would seem an impossible task, vet such a feat was on one occasion accomplished by John Faulkner,

a famous Lancashire steeplejack. The incident was the outcome of a wager between Faulkner and the manager of a Manchester gas works, who doubted John's statement regarding the excessive heat.

A large iron kettle was procured, and this, being filled with necessary ingredients-sixty-six pounds in weight -was hoisted to the summit of the huge chimney stack. Faulkner placed the receptacle on the outer and coolest side of the brickwork, but despite this, the contents were found to be thoroughly cooked in one hour and twenty minutes, or ten minutes less than the stiplated time.

Faulkner won his wager and the pie, which, it is said, was slightly burned at the bottom, was afterwards distributed among the poor of the district.—Bystander.

The Useful Verb "To Get." There is no word, long or short, in

the English language capable of performing so much labor in a clear, intelligible sense as the verb to get: and here is an old-time specimen of its capabilities: "I got on horseback within ten min-

utes after after I got your letter. When I got to Canterbury I got a chaise for town; but I got wet through before I got to Canterbury and I have got such a cold as I shall not be able to get rid of in a hurry. I got to the treasury about noon, but first of all I got shaved and dressed. I soon got into the secret of getting a memorial before the board, but I could not get an answer then; however, I got intelligence from the messenger that I should most likely get one the next morning. As soon as I got back to my inn I got my supper. When I got up in the morning I got my breakfast and then got myself dressed that I ' might get out in time to get an answer to my memorial. As soon as I got it I got into the first chaise and got to Canterbury by 3 o'clock, and about tea time I got home."

Correcting Willie.

Papa and mamma and son Willie were crossing the ocean. Willie haddone something for which his mother thought he needed correction, but not feeling equal to the occasion she turned to her husband.

"John," she said, "can't you speak to Willie?"

Papa replied in a thin, weak voice, "Howdy, Willie."—Success Magazine.

L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLÉANS

on Louisian . tage time lief Etam du Bu . We published offer done me commerce des avantages exceptionnelle. Feix de Nabannowenti une francis de Confidence e Conf