

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 fero de se seems not to have advanced materially during the centuries.

The following facts are well vouched for and indeed were never questioned, says the Green Bag.

He seems to have contemplated suicide the greater part of his long life and during his later years the idea became a fixed purpose.

Hankford made good use of his wits and succeeded in accomplishing his purpose without incurring either unpleasant penalty.

One dark night he purposely crossed the keeper's path, and upon challenge made motions of resistance and escape.

THEIR SINGING HARD LABOR

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

Among people of average musical ability there is less singing than there used to be.

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

The Iron Crown of Italy

The historic iron crown of Italy has played a romantic role in the history of the peninsula.

The crown is of iron overlaid with gilt. Its significance was supposed to lay in the fact that the weight of royalty could never be lightened by its splendid exterior.

For a long time the crown was in the keeping of the famous monastery at Monza.

The crown belongs to the state, and the custodian of it is the legitimate representative of the basilica of Monza.

Light of the Firefly

The statement that the light of fireflies and other phosphorescent animals is produced without any sensible degree of heat has often been repeated without any information as to the quantity of heat that would be required to produce a similar amount of light by artificial methods.

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.

"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.

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 larnin', 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 up woods than book larnin'."

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 Sweet Marden in Success Magazine.

Nothing else so destroys the power to stand alone as the habit of leaning upon others.

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.

Use of Checks in France

The governor of the Banque de France has just sent to the director of the departmental branch offices a circular instructing them about the use of crossed checks.

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 \$98,000,000 francs and a monetary stock of 84 francs 58 centimes.

Destruction of Rats

An East Africa publication contains a description of a method of destroying rats, followed in Java, in which carbon bisulphide is employed.

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."

PICK ODD NOOKS FOR NESTS

Swallows Are Cunning Builders But Sometimes Select Peculiar Sites for Homes.

Swallows are diligent and cunning builders of nests but they are not always wise in their choice of a locality.

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 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.

This time the nest was almost totally destroyed, but help came from a probably unlooked-for quarter.

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BROWNING WAS NOT A SNOB

When a Cook Came to See Some Pictures 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.

Crushed by a Caddy

"It is not always safe to fish for compliments," says a Washington man, who travels quite a bit.

"I was going round the links one afternoon and making a dreadful exhibition of myself. I did not, however, know that my caddy was fully aware of this, as he seemed so blissfully unconscious that anything was wrong.

"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."

For Those Who Hear Not

The haliboy had fairly split his throat shouting directions to deaf persons who had called to see Mr. Schwartz.

Her Mind Relieved

"Charley, dear," said young Mrs. Torkins, "what is a jackpot?"

'BLUFF' AMONG THE NEGROES

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

Love of bluff is a curious characteristic of the negro. Sometimes the deadly razor becomes active with a vengeance, but countless other times it is merely flourished with frightful threats and boasts of its slashing qualities.

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 peaceful citizen next to me was taken to the hospital and I limped home with bird shot in my legs.

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.

A lord, for instance, at the table, and a pike was disbed up whole. Smaller fry, and the pike came on in slices.

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.

"Mrs. Andress Crossee, "Red Letter Days of My Life."

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King Corn

Corn, the gift of the new world to the old, is the king of grains.

Competition

"You still assert that competition is the life of trade?" "Oh, yes," said Mr. Dustin Stax.

RED CEDAR FOR BUILDINGS

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.

A Cleveland man is credited with bringing the first red cedar into this section. W. A. Gest, on a western trip several years ago, was attracted by the red cedar forests at Port Angeles, Wash.

Mr. Gest 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.

Arizona Government is Planning to Make Good Use of the Giant Saguara.

Saguara for telephone and telegraph poles is the latest idea and one that is to be tried out.

The government is to build a telephone system for the forestry service of the Coronado forest reserve.

Where they can be found in what approaches alignment, so that the line will not have a zig-sag too much, the saguara 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.

Along the proposed line it is difficult to set poles, owing to the rocky nature of the country traversed.

Changed Her Mind

A young couple had been courting for several years and the young man seemed to be in no hurry to marry.

Stricken With Generosity

A Scotsman brought his entire family of seven to visit a relative in London. They were entertained in a manner that left nothing to be asked for two weeks; theaters, suppers, car-rides about the city, excursions into the country.

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.

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.

When the divers arrive on the grounds they leap into the water at once and begin to gather oysters at the bottom.

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

Record Made by One of the Animals 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 3 feet 6 inches thick.

That done he attacked the wood. He worked hard, alternating his labor with dips in his bathing pond.

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.

A Cooking Feat in the Air. To cook a potato pie at the top of a chimney three hundred feet high by means of the heat generated in the fire below would seem an impossible task.

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.

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.

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 minutes after I got your letter. When I got to Canterbury I got a chase 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."

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Correcting Willie

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