

**KILLED INVADER OF HER NEST**

Shrewd Tactics of Crow Resulted in the Death of Defenseless Predatory Cobra.

If the testimony offered by an English naturalist in Ceylon be given full credence, then the cobra is not so dangerous a snake as popular reputation makes him. In at least two instances, reports this naturalist, cobras were chased by large birds. In neither case did the snake seem to have any hypnotic power, such as is generally credited to snakes in general. A crow was seen fighting an intruder into its nest. The crow was circling at close quarters and pecking hard at the nest, cawing loudly all the time. The nest was some 40 feet above the ground. Presently a snake came out of the nest and started to descend, with the crow in hot pursuit pecking at the cobra continually. The snake took refuge about ten feet down in a clump of dead ferns from which it was chased out by the crow. It came from branch to branch until it reached a large horizontal limb, which stretched out about 20 feet. Here the snake was at a great disadvantage, inasmuch as it could not turn upon the crow. The latter seemed fully to appreciate the situation and its tactics were excellent. It would peck hard at the spine close to the tail and then peck near the snake's neck. At each peck pieces of the snake's skin were torn out; whereupon the cobra would lie quite motionless. But just as soon as it evinced signs of again attempting to escape the crow would recommence its attacks with extraordinary surety of aim. After 15 minutes the cobra was dead.—Harper's Weekly.

**BELL OF TRAGIC MEMORIES**

Has Remarkable History That Will Strike the Reader as Being Typically Russian.

The Kamauille Kokoko, or "Bell With the Ear Torn Off," had a most romantic history. In the sixteenth century Prince Dimitri, the rightful heir to the Russian throne, was deposed by a revolt led by Boris Godunov, who was afterward proclaimed czar. The seat of government was then at Uglich and thither Dimitri was sent, in order that he might remain under the direct observation of the usurper. Boris, fearing that the populace might awake to the justice of the claims of the young prince, planned the assassination of Dimitri. He was one day stabled in a courtyard. None of the bystanders showed any disposition to aid him. A priest, however, from the cathedral belfry, saw the crime and immediately began tolling the great bell, which was held sacred and rung only on unusual occasions, such as at a coronation or the death of a czar. Furious at this tacit expression of reproach, the czar commanded that the priest should be tortured and executed and that the bell should be taken down and placed beside the body of its ringer. This order was fulfilled, and the bell was beaten with clubs by the entire populace, the czar Boris being at their head. The czar then decreed that the bell should be exiled to Tobolsk and that one of its hangers be removed to indicate its disgrace.—Harper's Weekly.

**"That Will Do."**

Big as a house was one of the two arguing at the corner and he saved the air with arm and mighty fist. My, but he was laying down the law to the other fellow—a little chap— and in such a public place it was the more humiliating. The big man's anger was at its height and his words the loudest and strongest, when the little fellow turned to face him and quietly said: "That will do." Did you ever have a small man, with a little red on his cheek bones and eyes between blue and gray bore you with these eyes and remark: "That will do?" Well, it did do.

**Westminster Catechisms.**

The longer and shorter Catechisms of Westminster, along with the confession of faith of Westminster, the documents which contain the creed of the Church of Scotland, are accepted by the Presbyterian church of the United States and of other English-speaking lands. No party in the American Presbyterian church has disclaimed the Westminster standards openly, although of course there are some who do not follow them very closely. The Westminster catechisms are not to be supplanted by the intermediate catechism adopted by the Presbyterian general assembly at Louisville, Ky., during the week which ended May 25.

**Formula for Rapid Firing.**

The rifle for rapid firing should have shotgun trigger pull, shotgun fit and the sights must be such as can be caught instantly without effort in alignment. The hands grasp the piece firmly, not with the rifleman's loose grip, but the left arm pushes forward while the right draws back, and the trigger is pulled by transferring the drawing back force to the trigger finger, and not by any conscious crooking of that finger. The moment the best cover, the mark the bullet must be under way, be the aim good or bad.—Outing.

**HUNTER TELLS "TRUE" STORY**

Full and Particular Account of an Affair in Which He and a Bear Figured.

"I had proceeded in this way a few steps, when suddenly I saw, about eight feet away on the curving border of the spruces, running directly at me what appeared to be a large bear. I had just time to push forward the butt of my rifle and yell, when the bear collided with me, knocking me down. It seemed to turn slightly to the left as I pushed my rifle into it, and I clearly recall its shoulder striking my left hip, its head striking just above my left knee, while its claws struck my shin so that it is now black and blue. I had the sensation of one about to be mauled and dropped. As I fell to the right my rifle dropped, and in my confusion, I grabbed with my left hand the animal's fur, while I remember having a quick, foolish thought of the small knife in my pocket. "The bear was, I believe, more surprised than I. I felt its fur slip through my hand, as it quickly turned to its right, and, swinging about, ran back over the hill without any attempt to bite or strike me. Rising, as the bear wheeled, I picked up my rifle and shot as the animal was disappearing. The bullet struck it, evidently high in the back. Immediately I took up its trail, followed it down into the woods and on the flats for over an hour, and at last lost the impressions on hard ground. Its tracks showed that it had kept running for more than a mile, and then settled down to a walk on the timbered ridges, continuing to a flat country below. For the first mile I saw, at intervals, considerable blood on the leaves of brush and trunks of trees about three feet up from the ground, but afterward saw no more. "Who will believe this remarkable incident? Certainly if another had related it to me, I might have thought it some mistake owing to excitement. "Twice I have had the good luck to see the action of a bear when it crossed unexpectedly the fresh trail of a man—once in Mexico, and again last summer on the Macmillan River, when a bear crossed Selous' trail. In both cases the bear jumped in great fright and ran at full speed."—Charles Sheldon, in Scribner's Magazine.

**NERVE OF NEW YORK WOMAN**

Remarkable Display of "Cheek" by Mistress of Doggie Who Was Getting an Outing.

I think there is a particular brand of "cheek" otherwise known as "nerve," among the women of New York, writes an observer. It's the calmest, coolest kind, almost unbelievable, it's so egotistic, and so stupid that it's amusing. Here's an instance, and I assure you it's no fairy tale. I was in a big house furnishing establishment, and in came a woman with a little dog. She said she didn't like just what she wanted, but she'd like to go through the shop. They said all right, and a clerk took her round. I followed along. The woman priced a few things, looked casually at others and finally made ready to leave. "I like your shop very much," she said, "and I'll come again. It's an outing for doggie. Good-by!" "An outing for doggie!" gasped the clerk, starting to follow her. "Yes. He's been smelling the varnish. He simply loves varnish. I'll bring him again. Good-by!" Should she be in jail or in a lunatic asylum?

**Homeless Immigrants.**

In the storage office of a European steamship line, sat and-eyed men and women of the storage type. "America too swift for 'em, eh?" said a brisk American passing through. "Going back home, eh?" "Nothing of the kind," said a clerk. "The poor devils haven't been here long enough to find out whether they will be a failure or not. Just at present they are knocked out by homesickness. That is why they are here. "The individuals comprising this particular group came over alone. They have no friends here and the loneliness has scored them. A visit to the office of the steamship line that brought them over is about the best brooder they can find. "Here they can at least see the picture of the ship they came in, and maybe strike up a conversation with some one who is buying a ticket to go back. They'll hang around here off and on for several weeks until the sharp edge of their homesickness has worn off."

**Real Literary Crumbs.**

The librarian opened the book wide and shook it hard. "Looking for possible love letters and moments?" a visitor asked. "No; bread crumbs," said the librarian. "Subsequent readers do not mind love letters, but they do object to bread crumbs. Half the books brought back have crumbs tucked away between the leaves. That shows what a studious town we are. Our people are so enamored of literature that they can't stop reading long enough to eat. Also it shows that in lonely towns we are. Only people who live alone a great deal read anything except the newspaper at meal time. And it shows what a slovenly town we are. In the interests of hygiene and aesthetics those voracious readers who cram their heads and their stomachs at the same time ought to clean their books of crumbs, but they never do."

**FEAR TO DISPLAY EMOTION**

Mistaken Sense of What is Dignified is a Common Fault of the Times.

This is not an age in which clear distinctions are made in the meaning of terms. Grotesque errors arise through haphazard conclusions drawn from this loose method of reasoning. One of the popular misconceptions is that the display of emotion on the part of men is belittling and indicative of weakness of character, disgraceful and shameful to the victor, says a writer in the Pittsburg Gazette Times. It is claimed by some that the natural processes of materialism and the hardening of men's natures by the struggle for success that the age demands has brought about this contempt for anything like a display of emotion on the part of men. It may be questioned, however, whether this explains the assumed respect for callousness that is so marked a feature of the times. There is a false idea around as to what emotion is, and a mistaken conception as to its proper expression. Hysteria is one of our national diseases. The excesses into which it leads men and women have become the subject of widespread contempt, sensible people, feeling an instinctive aversion for this sort of exaggerated feeling, have fallen into the error of mistaking sane, human emotion for hysteria and have gone to the extreme in their effort to avoid any expression of feeling as "womanish," puerile and unmanly.

**MARKET AFFECTED BY STRIKE**

Scarcity of Drugs in New York Result of Cessation of Work in English Coal Mines.

An aftermath of the recent coal strike in Great Britain has been that the New York market for crude drugs has become almost bare of many botanical products usually brought to this port from the sources of supply in British ships. The scarcity of supplies has stiffened the crude drug market in many spots, despite the meager character of the buying within the last few weeks, and the approaching total exhaustion of the stock of several commodities is strongly suggested. The demands of the city trade are still relatively greater than from the west and south, but it is believed that purchasing of guaiac and other drugs will soon be greatly augmented in the southwest by the disastrous floods which have inundated that section of the country. Among the most important advances in prices noted have been sharp up-lifts in menthol, short and long buchu leaves, Cascara, ipecac, celery seed, cloves, cascaro sagrada, gum canadensis, kava kava, decorticated cardamom, balsam tolu and Para balsam copaiba.—Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter.

**Ticked Buffaloes.**

How a Yankee railroad man once tried to protect telegraph poles in western Kansas from the buffalo and signally failed is related by H. J. Barber, a pioneer of panhandle country. "Early settlers remember that for miles you could see a white polished belt on every telegraph pole where buffalo had scratched their shaggy hides when tormented by buffalo gnats. I was told that many poles were broken by the vast army of scratching animals. A certain railroad official who lived in Boston, where the shoes were made, bought all the pegging awls on the market and had the section men drive them into the posts until they look like giant castles. "The herds came and saw and conquered. They fought for first place at the poles and ticked their many hides with the awls, which were broken by the joyful bulls that still scratched on the remnants, until the poles fell. Needless to say, the remaining awls were withdrawn from service at once."

**Towns Without Taxes.**

It was recently reported from Germany that there was a little town within the empire in which there were no taxes. The town possessed benefactions, the revenues from which enabled it to pay its way without the intervention of the tax gatherer.

France never likes to be outdone by anything German, so a Paris contemporary has set itself the task of finding a parallel. Something more than a parallel has been discovered, for not only are there no taxes, but the timber on the communal lands are sufficient to grant each person a small annuity. This happy land is Montmarion, in the Midi. There are seven elevators in the hamlet, so to avoid anything like rivalry the seven return themselves to the local council. Cutting down the trees and selling them is sufficient to provide a livelihood for these simple people, whose tastes are so modest that they may be termed by some uncivilized.

**Dependent on Wood Pulp.**

Mr. Frank Lloyd, at the annual dinner of the British Wood Pulp association, spoke of the serious effect upon the industry of the drought in Scandinavia, and, referring to the rapid development of the industry, pointed out how dependent paper makers now were upon wood pulp. If they had to rely on straw, etc., as was the case only about twenty-five years ago, his mill at Sittingbourne "would alone require a string of carts over four miles long, and at least 40,000,000 gallons of water every twenty-four hours."

**OPENED WEST POINT IN 1802**

Great Training School Has Turned Out Some Efficient Officers for Uncle Sam.

The selection of West Point as the place for the national military academy was due, says Mrs. C. R. Miller in Leslie's Weekly, to its advantages from a military viewpoint, for its rugged beauty and its severe climate were calculated to be beneficial in the foundation of that sort of character so essential to a successful officer. The academy was formally opened July 4, 1802, with ten cadets and five officers as instructors. Its success is said to be due to the administrative ability of General Sylvanus Thayer, who became its superintendent in 1817 and served as such for 16 years. This officer is known as the Father of West Point. Since the opening of the academy, including the class of 1911, more than five thousand officers have been graduated.

A cadet's education costs the government about \$3,500. All cadets are on the same footing. The pay of a cadet is \$600 a year and one ration per day, or commutation thereof at 20 cents a day. The total is about \$709.50, to commence with his admission to the academy. Immediately after his admission the young man must spend about \$160 for uniforms. After graduation the cadet is eligible to the rank of second lieutenant and is appointed to whatever branch of the service his record entitles him. Those who are highest in class honors are generally appointed to the engineer corps.

An act of congress authorizing the expenditure of \$5,800,000 for the reconstruction of the United States Military Academy was passed in June, 1902, and at a later session of congress \$1,700,000 additional was allowed.

**WILL STICK TO WATER WAGON**

No More Convivial Times for Boston Man, After an Experience in Rhode Island.

The confidential clerk of a Boston financial establishment, who is noted for his scrupulousness, explained thus to a party of friends the other evening why for two months he has confined his convivial exercises to the consumption of buttermilk, apollinaris and other innocuous beverages: "I hit it up pretty strong one week in March," he said, "and when I came to I was in Providence, broke, I hadn't the heart to wire home for money, and set out to walk the forty-four miles between me and Boston. I got lifts from farmers and slept in a barn one night, and the next day got along as far as Stoughton. I was passing a humble home in the woods when I smelled corned beef and cabbage cooking. I simply couldn't pass that house without eating. "Resolved to send the housewife a dollar if she fed me, I made known my almost agonizing hunger. She promptly set me down to the best tasting meal I had ever known and I was working at it man fashion when the young hopeful of the house, about 4 years old, began a dismal wailing. 'Keep still, Mikey,' said the mother, 'or I'll have the bum ate yet.' I felt a lump in my throat that stopped the passage of food for more than a minute. I then realized as I hadn't before just what my spree had done to my appearance. "Mikey immediately checked his grief, and was maintaining perfect silence when his mother addressed me, saying, 'If Mikey cries again you'll ate him, won't you, Mr. Tramp?' I told him you'd wash him," I answered. I've been on the wagon since."

**Park Seats to Make Money.**

San Jose, Cal., is trying in its park a bench devised by E. W. Allen for use in connection with the free seats. It is a swinging seat so arranged that until a nickel is deposited in a slot, the back is tilted forward and the seat downward, so that it can not be used. A coin releases it, however, and provides a rocking seat for two persons. As soon as they leave the seat swings back to its former position, and requires another nickel to unlock it. In sunny places the bench is placed under a canopy. The inventor believes that on Sundays and other times, when there are unusual crowds in the park, many people will be willing to spend a nickel for a comfortable seat for their exclusive use.—The Survey.

**The Time of Her Life.**

The new colored domestic, fresh from Kentucky, took her first "Thursday afternoon off" and failed to return to prepare the seven o'clock dinner for the family. Next morning she reappeared rather "domstic." "Why, Sibbie," said the lady of the house, "you look sick. What is the matter?" "Yes'm, I done been sick, awful sick, but it was wuth it. Dat dollah you given me, I spent every cent of it an' I done had de time of my life. What I done with it? Well, missus, I tell de truf an' no more's de truf. I bought ten glasses of soda and went to ten of dese movable pietus shows. My, my, one can't have no sich time in Kalintucky."—Indianapolis News.

**WHY "NEED" LIFE BELTS.**

One of the great trans-Atlantic steamship companies has determined to make use of the system of carrying boats on deck known as "nesting." Nesting requires a boat of special construction, for the standard lifeboat could not be nested above two, or at the outside three, deep.

**PROSPERITY CAME IN JUMPS**

Good Story From Which Private John Allen Drew a Rule to Guide His Conduct.

Private John Allen, during his long service as representative of Mississippi in congress, was impromptu on one occasion to make an after-dinner speech at a banquet at which he was to be a guest. "No!" said the "private," "I will make a before-dinner speech but none after dinner." When reminded that a before-dinner speech was quite out of the ordinary, and was asked for his reason for desiring to make his speech before dinner, he told the following story: "There was a ne'er-do-well that lived near Tupelo, my home town, some years ago named Bill Jones. Bill had a brother Bob, who had gone to Texas quite a while before, and reports said that he was enjoying a fair share of worldly prosperity. When a Texan, from the town in which Bob had located, came to Tupelo, he looked up Bob, who said to him: "Tell Bob that I have a large family, and things are against me somehow, and if he can give me a little assistance it will be greatly appreciated."

He continued on this strain for some time so that the Texan to relieve the situation proposed that they have a drink. The drink was disposed of, and Bill was cheered up considerably; began to tell what a good crop he would have this year, etc. Another drink was taken with a like result, and after about the fourth had been disposed of, he slapped the Texan on the back and said: "When you see Bob, you tell him if he or any of his friends need any money, just draw on me for it, and they will get it."

**OLD FRIENDS ARE WITH US.**

The Wild Man of the Woods and the Man Who Won't Give a Tip Both Here.

Old friends are returning with summer. The wild man, who now emerges from a cave in Connecticut and now prefers the Maine woods with a village near by where he can frighten school children, is reported as caught in Tarrytown, N. Y., but he is probably an impostor, for he gave his name and admitted that he was hungry. The real wild man is nameless, and in trackless solitudes or visiting a settlement is cheerfully omnivorous, and skillful in obtaining food from nature and from man. And again there is the formation of a National Anti-Tipping association. We read a few days ago of a Londoner who in one year traveled considerably over 100 miles to find barbers' shops where his "unbending attitude on the tip question" was unknown and thus spent about \$30 on bus and cab fares. He soon exhausted London and the suburbs, and now, unable to shave himself, grows a beard. These anti-tipping associations labor in vain, for there are always foolish men and women, who, not sure of themselves and wishing to impress others, tip extravagantly.—Phillip Hall in Boston Herald.

**Man of His Word.**

"Central," he said patiently, "you have given me the wrong number seven times now. If you do it again I shall report you. I want Weebahen 7-50 V."

There was a whirring, a clicking, then a clicking whirring. "Hello," he said, "is this you, Dolly?" "Yes," answered a sweet voice, put up to it, of course, by its fair owner.

"This is Lawrence Seelingham. I called up to tell you that if you don't marry me I'll go to Africa and be shot by lions."

"I'll marry you, foolish boy. You've never asked me before, you know." "What! Who is this?" "Dolly Darlingham."

He hung up the receiver as if he had been shot. Central had given him the wrong connection again!

On his way to the jeweler's to buy Dolly Darlingham a diamond solitaire he stepped in at the Beestone telephone office to report the operator, for in all things Lawrence Seelingham was a man of his word.—Philadelphia Evening Times.

**Improved Gas Light.**

According to the Scientific American, experiments are at present in progress in Paris as the result of which it is hoped to secure an increased light efficiency from incandescent gas burners. Under present conditions the gas pressure in the mains is sufficient to draw a certain amount of air into the burner, where it becomes mixed with the gas, causing the characteristic blue flame. But the amount of air thus drawn into the flame is only about three times that of the gas, whereas, for the best effect, the ration should be five to one. It has been found that by compressing the gas in the mains the desirable ratio of air can be caused to enter the flame. One of the boulevards in Paris has lamps working on this system, and the results are exceedingly satisfactory.

**Has Learned Different Language.**

Mrs. E. J. Camp, the first white woman who ever made a permanent missionary home in Central Arabia, is now engaged in special charitable work in Maine. Mrs. Camp speaks and reads Arabic like a native.

**TAKE NATURALLY TO WATER**

All Animals Except Man Able to Swim Without Any Laborious Teaching.

Nearly all animals are better swimmers than men and take to the water naturally, while he has to learn to propel himself. The rhinoceros and hippopotamus are wonderful swimmers and divers, while the Indian elephant crosses great rivers with heavy loads. The elk and the reindeer are first class swimmers. The elk keeps his head above water and crosses directly from bank to bank to avoid turning. The reindeer, on the other hand, turns as often as he likes, keeping his head only a little above the surface. But of all swimmers of all climes the best, though not the swiftest, is the polar bear, who passes half his time in the water swimming and diving. His swimming power is nothing short of miraculous if it be remembered that the water in the regions he frequents is invariably cold and that cold is normally prohibitive to good swimming. There are bears that can swim from forty to fifty kilometres without great effort.

One of the swiftest swimming animals is the squirrel. A sportsman on one occasion having at hand a squirrel born in captivity, which had never seen water, wanted to see if it could swim, and took it with him in a row-boat to the center of a lake. The squirrel turned toward the bank, head and paws above the water, back and tail underneath it, and began to swim so rapidly that it was with the greatest difficulty that the man recovered it when it neared the shallow water near the land. It is said that even many non-aquatic birds will swim like ducks if an attempt be made to drown them.—Harper's Weekly.

**MADE ALL THE DIFFERENCE**

Wife's Gentle and Refining Influences Counted, Or Was the Gallant Colonel Afraid?

A soldier, being photographed, happened to mention the name of the regiment to which he belonged, whereupon the photographer said that he had photographed the colonel of the same regiment, and showed the private a copy.

"Well," said the soldier, "I've seen Col. — a good many times on the parade grounds, to say nothing of South Africa, and he never looked like that."

"Yes," said the photographer, "but you must remember that the colonel was neither on the parade ground nor in South Africa when he was photographed."

"Well, but I've seen him alone, and he always looks as if he were going to jump down your throat. In this you'd think he couldn't say 'bo' to a goose. Was he alone when he came here?"

"Well, no," said the photographer, with unconscious irony, "he had his wife with him."

"Oh," said the soldier, thoughtfully, "that accounts for it."—Tit-Bits.

**Precaution Led to Disaster.**

A marine disaster of curious origin is recorded by a recent British Board of Trade report. Some months ago the steamship Hardy had in its cargo a large quantity of metallic sodium and chloride of potash—the former, as is well known, taking fire and burning in water, while the latter is so energetic an oxidizer that it is liable to explode violently when heated in the presence of combustible matter. As an extra precaution against trouble these dangerous substances were carried on deck. This proved an unfortunate mistake, however, for a heavy sea burst open the chests containing two tons of sodium, which in a few minutes set fire to the vessel in many places. As the flames reached the chlorate of potash, a violent explosion broke the ship in two, finishing the destruction. The misdirected efforts to ensure safety were blamed for the loss, and it was concluded that the cargo would have been quite safe if the sodium had been properly packed and stowed below deck.

**Good Prospects for Panama.**

As an example of a money-making enterprise the Suez canal is hard to beat. The company is restrained by its charter from making more than a certain percentage of profit, and one of the principal worries of the management is to dispose of its surplus cash. With the best will in the world only so much can be spent in maintenance and improvements and reduced rates generally mean an increased income.

That is what has happened now. By the report read at the annual meeting held in Paris the other day it was shown that the company's revenues during the year which the report covered aggregated \$77,761,000, an increase over the preceding year of \$226,000, and so to meet the emergency thus presented another reduction of rates was ordered. In this instance the advance was the more notable because political troubles had interfered with the Chinese trade.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

**Road Accidents in Great Britain.**

A marked increase in the number of road accidents is noted in the United Kingdom. The total rose from 28,022 in 1909 to 35,310 in 1911, of which motor vehicles caused 20,222. Statistics for the London metropolitan area show that every 655 hundred motor cars killed five times as many persons and injured three times as many as every one hundred horse-drawn cabs.