

LEGEND OF SABLE ISLAND.

A Woman in White—A Bleeding Forefinger—And a Ring Sold in Halifax.

One of the grimmest legends of Sable Island dates from the wreck of the Amelia; and there is enough evidence of truth connected with it, writes Gustav Kobbe in Ainslie's, to show what bloody deeds were added on that occasion to the terrors of shipwreck. Capt. Torrens, who commanded the gunboat which was dispatched to Sable Island after the wreck of the Amelia, was one of the survivors of the second disaster. A passenger on the lost transport was Lady Copeland, on her way to join her husband. The captain of the gunboat had been told that she wore on her forefinger a ring of peculiar artifice.

The story has it that Capt. Torrens, wandering over the island one night in search of possible survivors, was attracted by the piteous whining of his dog in front of a small, open shelter, known to have existed at that time, but long since tumbled to pieces. Approaching the shelter, he was started to see the figure of a woman all in white and holding toward him the bleeding stump of a forefinger. While he was gazing at the apparition, it rose, silently glided past him and dove into the sea. But time and again thereafter the white woman with bleeding forefinger was seen wandering over the sandhills.

TORPEDO BOAT DESTROYERS.

The Most Dangerous Craft to Operate in Any of the Fleet.

The demands upon the officers and men of a torpedo boat destroyer are enormous, says Blackwood. Comfort as it is understood in a big ship is quite unknown. Even in what is known as moderate weather cooking is almost an impossibility, though this is less to be regretted, for the dura filia of the most injured seafarer often give way, and he feels a certain distaste for food when, besides the extremely lively motion given by the waves, the whole structure vibrates and trembles under the strokes of the engines and the kick of the propellers. The duties which torpedo boat destroyers would be called upon to undertake in war time are desperate in their risks.

The little ships are the enfants perdus of the fleet. Even if they can carry their deadly assault to a successful issue, it will only be by the greatest chance that they themselves escape destruction. The torpedo boat destroyer officers look coolly upon death as their more than probable fate, in action, but each thinks that every thing—himself, his ship and crew—will be well lost if he can only plant one deadly stroke which sends a battle-ship to the bottom. It is a comparison between a few thousand pounds' worth of structure, its armament and a crew of less than 50, all told, against a floating castle which represents more than a million of money and carries 700 or 800 of an enemy's seamen.

DEATH FROM BURNING.

Caused by Poison Created by Action of Heat Upon the Tissues.

An Italian physician, Dr. Azzarelli, tells us that burns cause death by poisons formed in the tissues by the action of the heat. According to Modern Medicine, he "divides the theories of the causes of death from burns into the following classes: 1. Death from shock or extreme pain. 2. Embolism, thrombosis and destruction of blood elements. 3. Pyemic infection through the burned surface. 4. Poisons formed by the action of heat on the tissues or auto-intoxication from deficient excretion by the skin. The author has shown by experimenting upon dogs and rabbits that the intoxication theory is the correct one. A chloroformed animal died in the same time and with the same symptoms as one not anesthetized. Section of the nerves supplying the burned part causes no alteration in the effect of the burns. Bodies of animals burned to death failed to show any embolism, thrombosis or great destruction of blood corpuscles. The rapidity of death was too great for the action of bacteria to be the cause. On the other hand, blood from burned animals and extracts of burned tissues were toxic to other animals, and caused death with symptoms similar to those of the burned animal."

Doctors for Alling Plants. A writer in the Contemporary Review urges the need of a new class of educated physicians whose business shall be the care and cure of disease-threatened and disease-stricken plants. "The time will come," he says, "when every agricultural district will have its plant doctor." He even foresees the development of specialties by plant doctors just as by other physicians, so that in many difficult and obscure cases of disease affecting valuable plants, the services of such specialists will be employed. The foundation of schools of practical plant pathology is urged as a matter of national importance.

Strikers Hanged. Strikers were hanged in England less than 100 years ago.

BRAZILIAN HAMMOCKS.

A Necessary Article in That Country and More Often Used Than Beds.

The passenger capacity of the vessels on the Amazon river is not limited by the number of berths or staterooms, which are seldom or never used except by the few foreign travelers, to dress in, but by the limit of hanging room for hammocks on the deck of the vessel. Everybody of necessity must have a hammock, says the Ledger Monthly, as the staterooms are unbearable at night. Even in the hotels hammocks are more used than beds. Some of them are very fine; those made of macaieira grass, with feather lace trimmings, are considered the best. It takes from several months to a year or more to make really good ones, and they bring anywhere from a hundred to five hundred dollars each.

STRINGS OF RARE PEARLS.

Many of the Dainty and Valuable Beauties Were Found in America.

A string of pearls of unusual size and purity, valued at the large sum of \$18,000, is being shown by a Cleveland (O.) firm, says the Plain Dealer, among other fine pearl necklaces and chains. Aside from the admiration which the intrinsic beauty of the gem challenges, wonder is felt that it is possible to gather together so many of them that size, color and beauty of luster. It takes many years to make up a string of such jewels, and this fact considerably enhances its value.

The same company has a large unset pearl which was brought in its original home within a piece of oyster shell by a soldier boy from Manila, who, in his turn purchased it from a native Filipino. This pearl is valued at \$600. It lies securely in the pearly niche hollowed out for it by nature within the shell, and is large and of exquisite purity of color.

Other strings of pearls vary at from \$6,000 to \$10,000, one at the latter price carrying a pendant of a bird in diamonds from whose beak hangs a tiny pearl. A dog collar of four strings of small pearls with diamond slides is very attractive. Several rings and brooches in which colored pearls are set bring large prices. These colored pearls, which are found with all the delicate tints of color from bronze through violet and rose, are highly esteemed by London merchants, and are rapidly bought up from the American states.

These are fresh water pearls, and are found chiefly in America, especially along the streams of Wisconsin and that vicinity.

PAYMENT OF PRIZE MONEY.

What the Law of the United States Provides in the Matter of Distribution.

The pending dispute as to the amounts of prize money to which Admiral Dewey and his men are entitled for the destruction of the Spanish fleet in Manila bay has led to an inquiry as to the scope of the law applying in such matters. It has learned that the revised statutes provide that if a prize vessel was of a superior or equal force to the captor, all the prize money goes to the captor; if it was inferior, half only goes to the captor and half to the government. The money is divided thus: To the fleet or squadron commander, one-twentieth; to the second in command, one-fiftieth; to the third in command, one-hundredth; to the fourth in command, one-hundredth; to the fifth in command, one-hundredth; to the sixth in command, one-hundredth; to the seventh in command, one-hundredth; to the eighth in command, one-hundredth; to the ninth in command, one-hundredth; to the tenth in command, one-hundredth; to the eleventh in command, one-hundredth; to the twelfth in command, one-hundredth; to the thirteenth in command, one-hundredth; to the fourteenth in command, one-hundredth; to the fifteenth in command, one-hundredth; to the sixteenth in command, one-hundredth; to the seventeenth in command, one-hundredth; to the eighteenth in command, one-hundredth; to the nineteenth in command, one-hundredth; to the twentieth in command, one-hundredth.

Railroads as Plant Distributors.

It has been noticed that many plants, not natives of the locality, are to be found growing in the neighborhood of great railroad yards. Sometimes the seeds of these plants have been brought thousands of miles from their natural habitat. Often they flourish and their new surroundings, and gradually spread over the surrounding country. Thus the railroads carry unsuspected emigrants, which travel to and from every point of the compass. In the Mississippi valley are to be found plants which, within a few years past, have been thus brought together, some from the Atlantic seaboard, some from the Gulf region, and some from the other side of the Rocky mountains.

TRUSTED BY WHITE MEN.

A Negro's Long Record of Fidelity as Collector for a Memphis Bank.

The northerner who is forever harping upon the manner in which the negro is kept down in the south might open his eyes in wonder at the many cases in which the negroes have been faithful in their services for many years to their employers, says the Memphis Scimitar, and, as a reward, hold positions of trust and are esteemed as honest as any man by the white people who know them. They are not put on a social equality with white people, but their station in life is far above that which the northerner sets as the rank of the negro in the south.

A fair illustration of this is to be had in the case of Prince A. Daniel, who for 26 years has been in the employ of the First national bank of Memphis. Daniel secured a position with the bank in 1874 as porter, and, after proving his efficiency and integrity, was given the work of collecting to do. Never in all the time of his service has he failed to account for every cent of money entrusted to him. His collections are always made accurately; in fact, he has yet to make his first mistake in a money transaction.

In executing his duties at the bank vast sums of money are handled by him, and the money is as safe in his hands as is the meat in the care of a butcher's dog.

So well is Daniel thought of by his employers that not long ago the bank gave him a trip to the north, his railroad fare and all traveling expenses to Chicago, Washington and other large cities being defrayed by the bank. The president of the bank gave him a letter of introduction to all of the banks in the cities he went to. This letter made him a welcome visitor wherever he went. He was looked upon as a kind of wonder, the idea of a negro holding a position of trust in the south being before that considered out of the question.

UNMIXABLE BABIES.

Their Names Written on Adhesive Plaster and Stuck on Their Backs.

There will be no Linnæus business of "mixing the babies up" in the obstetric ward of the Johns Hopkins hospital, says the Baltimore Sun, if the physicians and attendants in charge can prevent it. Usually there are from one to two dozen new-born babies in the ward and to the inexperienced eye they all look much alike. Even those accustomed to handle them sometimes have to look closely for distinguishing features or marks on the mites of humanity. When the nurses are being changed frequently in the course of their duties, the difficulties are increased of readily telling one baby from another. The doctors have hit upon a happy solution of the difficulty.

Each baby is tagged and it is tagged in a unique way. On a small square of adhesive plaster is written the baby's name. This plaster tag is then stuck tightly on the baby's back just between the shoulder blades. The tag is waterproof, so it is not affected by the baths given the baby. It holds on tightly until the time comes for the baby and its mother to leave the hospital, when the tag may be readily pulled off without causing the baby any pain.

Some persons have thought that the tagging was necessary to distinguish white from colored babies, but the physicians say that this is not the case. While all new-born babies are red, they say the babies of white parents are a pinkish color, while the slightest tinge of negro blood will give an unmistakable reddish tinge to the baby's skin, in addition to the other characteristics of the race.

A MAN OF COURAGE.

There Are Not Many Who Would Display Such Morality as Did He.

"A man of real courage; that is, courage as courage goes in politics," said a man of experience in political matters, according to the Washington Star, "is Solomon Hirsch, of Portland, Ore., and minister to Turkey under President Harrison. He is a millionaire, thereby being eligible to the United States senate, and was a senatorial candidate before the Oregon legislature in 1885. Matters were badly mixed, as they are likely to be at times, and there was a deadlock for 60 days. Hirsch was a member of the state senate and president of the body, and the vote was a tie between himself and his opponent during the whole time. And here is where the courage, or heroism, of the man came in. He had cast his vote for the other man and would not change it. His friends urged him with every argument in their power to vote for himself, break the deadlock and get the senatorship, but he did not believe it was the right thing to do, and notwithstanding the great prize and the perfectly legitimate manner by which he might have secured it he let a principle lead him in another direction, and in a compromise threw his forces to John H. Mitchell, who was elected. I don't know of an instance where greater moral courage in politics was ever shown than that, and I think it was more of a credit to Mr. Hirsch than to have been a United States senator."

Drying of Cavalry Horses.

According to an English engineering journal the horses of the Scots Greys now at the front in Africa have been dyed to resemble the color of khaki, rendering them less conspicuous in action.

Etiquette Bars Omnibus Riding.

Professional etiquette prevents French judges and judicial officers from riding in omnibuses.

HOW KAFFIRS BANK.

The Peculiar System of Saving Money Among the South African Natives.

The natives of that part of South Africa which to a great extent is inhabited by Bushmen and Hottentots have a peculiar system of banks and banking.

These Kaffirs, says Tit-Bits, among whom this curious system of banking obtains, live near Kaffraria, in the south of the Colony country. The natives come down south from their country to trade in the several villages and towns in large numbers, stay with the Boers for a time, then return to Kaffraria.

Their banking facilities are very primitive, and consist entirely of banks of deposit alone, without banks of discount or issue, and they have no checks. But still they enjoy banking privileges, such as they are.

From those who trade of their own number, they select one, who for the occasion is to be their banker. He is converted into a bank of deposit by putting all the money of those whose banker he is into a bag, and then they sally forth to the stores to buy whatever they want.

When an article is purchased by any of those who are in this banking arrangement the price of the article is taken by the banker from this deposit money bag, counted several times and then paid to the seller of the article, after which all the bank depositors cry out to the banker in the presence of the two witnesses selected:

"You owe me so much!" This is then repeated by the witnesses. The general accounting comes between the banker and his several depositors, when all desired purchases have been made, after which all the natives depart for their northern wilds.

WINTER IN SWITZERLAND.

In the Higher Altitudes We Are Told There Are Never Any Stormy Days.

There is no doubt that the plan of taking a winter holiday in Switzerland is being more largely adopted of late years, for all who try it discover the country is more lovely in winter than in summer. During December, January and February in the high Swiss altitudes, says the Chicago News, there are never any stormy days, and winter sports, such as tobogganing, skating, hockey on ice and sleighing, all offer ample opportunity for fun.

All this gaiety has developed within a few years. Fifteen years ago a shrewd man opened a big hotel at Grindelwald in winter, and the inhabitants around about were filled with amazement at the wild idea, for nobody ever imagined it would be anything but a big failure. Yet last winter guests had to be turned away.

New roads are being built, new hotels are springing up for the express accommodation of the winter travelers. Skating and tobogganing on the Engadine have become famous and the growth in popularity of St. Moritz is marvelous. Anything more beautiful than the lake there after the first frost before the snow has fallen cannot be imagined, while the ice-tobogganing is the fastest in the world.

CLEVER LITTLE CHINESE.

Wa Ting Fung's Son Had an Answer for a Very Puzzling Question.

The Chinese minister to the United States, Mr. Wu Ting Fung, has a little son who evinces a wonderful interest in the deeper subjects of life, says the Washington Post. Not long ago he was talking to some of his little playfellows and they were discussing the Sunday school. One boy was indignant over a text his teacher had given him to explain.

"It's a Chinese puzzle, anyway," said the boy to the Chinese minister's son. "In that case," said the little orient-al, "I guess I can tell you all about it. What is the question, anyway?"

The Sunday school student, the son of a naval officer, looked at the little Chinaman and answered:

"This is it: What's the meaning of the Bible question: 'In my Father's house there are many mansions?'"

The naval officer's son felt confident that he had "stumped" the minister's son. But he reckoned without his host. The little Chinaman looked with contempt at the American.

"Why, don't you know what that means? 'In my Father's house there are many mansions?' That is an apartment house."

Locking an Umbrella.

An umbrella that is useless to any one except its rightful owner may well be considered valuable. The New Orleans Times-Democrat says that a lawyer in that city possesses such an article, which he describes as follows: "I bought it in Germany years before last, and nobody can open it except myself. Do you notice that little keyhole in the side? Here is the key on the end of my watch chain, and until it is inserted and turned, the thing is absolutely immovable. Anybody else would find it harder to raise than a mortgage. On at least a dozen occasions the umbrella has been stolen or taken away by accident, if you prefer that term, but it has always found its way home. You see, my name is cut on the handle, and the umbrella itself is well known to all the attaches of the building. When they see a stranger struggling with it in the door on a rainy day, they promptly confiscate it and bring it back. I wonder that such umbrellas are not made in this country."

Electric Dredger.

Electrically operated dredges are now used on rivers and harbors, where immense quantities of material have to be handled quickly.

WELSH RABBIT OR RAREBIT.

Odd Nicknames Used in Various Climes for Some Common Articles of Food.

Here comes again for the 'steenth time that old question about the Welsh "rabbit" or "rarebit," says the New York Press funny man. In Paris it is "rarebit" on the bills of fare, or its equivalent in French, but our late dictionaries and our astute editors insist that it should be "rabbit." After half a day's search I arrive at the conclusion that it was originally "rare-bit," and that "rabbit" is a modern corruption. I say the highest authorities agree on this, but my editor says they don't, and what he says goes in this paper.

Certain of our lexicographers insist that "rabbit" as applied to cheese and toast, etc., is of jocular origin, but I am not sure that the people of Wales regard cheese thus prepared as their national dish. It is true that we have the "Cape Cod turkey," which is a codfish, and numerous other humorously applied special dishes. The lamb fry is a "mountain oyster," the calf is an "Essex lion," the calf's head is "mock turtle," the cured ham is "Glasgow chicken," red herrings are "Glasgow magistrates" or "Norfolk capons," the potato is an "Irish apricot," a "Murphy" or a "Munster plum," the shrimp is a "Gravesend sweetmeat," whisky is "wine of the country" or "hair of the dog," the rump of a fowl is the "peep's," "parson's" or "bishop's" nose; a bowie knife is an "Arkansas toothpick," a railroad porter is a "baggage smasher," a native of Nova Scotia is a "blue-nose," temper is "Irish," to walk is to "take shank's mare," etc.

MADCAPS IN WAR.

Promises of Decorations and Promotions Leads British Soldiers Into Daring Deeds.

The recklessness displayed by British generals and officers in war is partially explained by their eagerness to obtain personal advancement by bold and brilliant strokes. Decorations, promotions and peerages have for a long time been the rewards of officers who have taken high risks in warfare and exhibited audacity and dashing gallantry. British officers have unconsciously formed the habit of looking out for their own interests rather than of considering the safety of the soldiers fighting behind them, says Youth's Companion.

The officers are, with few exceptions, men of high birth and good social position. Gen. Hector Macdonald, the hero of Omdurman, is almost the only prominent figure in the army who has risen from the ranks. In the navy there is not one among the higher officers who has thus risen. They have been drawn mainly from the titled and wealthy classes.

Every British officer is eager for a chance to distinguish himself in a campaign so as to win medals and decorations and get on in the service. Slow, plodding work in the army is considered dull and out-of-fashion. There is a frenzy for madcap adventure and reckless audacity, and in South Africa some of the British reverses have been at least partially due to this cause.

KAISER'S MUSTACHES.

Emperor William Played Haroun-al-Raschid in the Streets of His Capital and Was Discovered.

The kaiser has been doing another odd thing, again illustrating the versatility of his character. On Christmas night he is said to have played the part of Haroun-al-Raschid, of Arabian Nights' fame. Disguising himself as an ordinary civilian, he left his palace and made a tour of the streets of his capital. He filled his pockets with new florin pieces and distributed them to the poor people that he met, says the New York Journal.

A fortunate coachman waiting for a fare suddenly found himself ten marks the richer, which were slipped into his hand as he sat disconsolately on his box. Before he could recover from his surprise the mysterious stranger had vanished. An old woman who was hurrying home to a fireless garret found five marks in her basket in turning out her menager Noel fare.

But the report soon spread about as to the identity of the mysterious stranger, and, much to his disgust, the emperor found his way back to the palace lined with supplicating beggars. Rumor says that he was recognized by his imperial mustaches. They are the only ones of their kind.

OLD COIN DIES DESTROYED.

Mint Officials Have No Further Use for 1800 Molds—Our Coins the Finest.

One thousand and seventy dies bearing the date of 1899, and used last year to coin hundreds of millions of all denominations of money, were destroyed at the Philadelphia mint January 2 in the presence of Superintendent Boyer, the assayer and chief coiner. The dies destroyed, says the Philadelphia Times, were for coining double eagles, eagles, half eagles, quarter eagles, silver dollars, half dollars, quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies. They were first thrown into the furnace 25 at a time, and on reaching a white heat were drawn out, one at a time and hammered into a mass of misshapen metal. Many of the reverse sides of the dies were kept for further use. The only obverse die used at the Philadelphia mint in 1899 and retained was the one used for striking off the La Fayette dollar, which is dated 1900. Every die used by the United States is engraved and then destroyed in this city, an account being kept of each die. The United States makes the finest coins in the world, ranking above England and Russia in the order named.

TWO REPORTS.

Chief Constructor Hinchborn Favors Accepting the Holland, the Submarine Craft.

Secretary Long received from the board on naval construction two reports on the Holland submarine boat. The Holland company had offered to sell the Holland to the government for \$165,000, to embody certain improvements in her and sell her for \$170,000, or, finally, to build two new and larger boats for \$170,000 each. Four of the members of the board united in a majority report favoring the rejection of the propositions, based on the fact that the company is now a delinquent in the case of the submarine boat Plunger, on account of which the government has already paid \$99,716, no likelihood of her completion in the near future. If the company makes satisfactory settlement for the Plunger, then the board will be willing to build one of the larger boats, but not to purchase the Holland.

The chief constructor, Admiral Hinchborn, submits a minority report declaring that the majority did not give sufficient credit and encouragement to the enterprise of the company. He declares that the results obtained with the Holland were very satisfactory, and that in view of the small cost of submarine boats the government should accept the Holland and order two larger boats. The immediate possession of the boat in an emergency would be an advantage, and her possession in the spring of 1898 (just before the Spanish war) would have been very marked in its effect.

MAY TAKE A WIFE.

Rumor to the Effect That the Head of the Vanderbilt House Is to Be Married.

Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt did not sail for Europe on the Campania the other day, although there was a report that he intended to do so. Instead, he was looking at cottages in Newport, where the rumor was that he intended to be married. To this, however, details were made from the most authoritative sources.

It was supposed that Mr. Vanderbilt would resume his journey around the world and rejoin his friends, who are now traveling in Asia.

Nearly a score of acquaintances of the young man were at the Cunard pier for the purpose of bidding him bon voyage. Not seeing his name upon the passenger list, they made inquiries of the purser, who told them Mr. Vanderbilt had not engaged passage.

Mr. Vanderbilt, when told of the report that he was about to be married, said that the house hunting, which was evidently the origin of the rumor, had no such significance. He explained that he expected to be alone next summer and that in the absence of the family he would take a house instead of opening "The Breakers."

CO-ED'S PLIGHT.

Her Calloused Neck Necessitates Wearing Street Gown to Party and It Causes Talk.

Northwestern university social circles at Evanston, Ill., were stirred the other day over the reported appearance of one of the college belles at a dancing party Tuesday night in an ordinary street costume. The young woman in question is a member of the ruling set at Northwestern, and since her first appearance has attracted widespread attention because of her gorgeous gown.

On the street she has worn high collars which produced a cautious on her neck. She did not realize this until the attempt for the party arrived. When she attended to wash the dark mark off it came as fiercely as a rubber band. Then she remembered having seen pictures in the street cars representing Little Eva turning Uncle Tom into a white man by the use of a certain burnisher. She scoured a cake and began to rub desperately. The mark grew redder as little particles of cuticle were peeled from her neck, and when she realized that she could not appear in evening dress, did the only thing possible under the circumstances—wore a street gown.

GIVES ADVICE TO HER SEX.

Mrs. Hetty Green Thinks Every Woman Should Have Business Education.

Mrs. Hetty Green, the richest business woman in the world, has a thoroughly characteristic article of advice to women in the Woman's Home Companion. Mrs. Green thinks every woman, be she maid, wife, mother or widow, should have a business training. In Mrs. Green's opinion every girl who enters upon her womanhood with her mind fully equipped with a business education will be saved from a great deal of pain and will find much more happiness in everyday life than the girl who becomes a woman with only the conventional sort of schooling—the schooling that teaches her how to read, write, sing, cook and sew.

As the English Boy Saw It.

An English weekly recently asked for short essays by boys on current topics and printed them, without editing. Here is a specimen: "Krugger and Kauterbulism is one. He is a man of blood. Mr. Chamberlain has wrote to him saying come out and fit give up the blind of the English you have took. He is a boar-dutchman and a wicked heathen. Lord Kitchener has sent for his goaty club and to bring back his scanderlus head ded or alive."

From Liquid to Linear Measure.

Kentucky hip pockets, says the St. Paul Globe, are measured now in revolver calibers, instead of pints and quarts.