

CUBA IS HOME OF BANANA

Tropical Fruit Used in Every Known Form by Natives of the Island.

The Cuban children like bananas as well as Americans do. Their mothers take green bananas in the oven. If you should prick the skin of a banana with a fork and bake it 40 minutes, I think you would like the mass well as the little Cubans.

If bananas could talk, this is what they would say:

I came from Cuba. While I was living near the top of a tall tree with its great, broad leaves, I saw a banana farm planted near us in the swampy woods. The trees were left standing to shade the men from the hot sun while they cut away the brush. They measured the farm with long ropes six yards apart. This rope was stretched along the ground, and small shoots from banana trees were planted at every rod.

The man who owned the farm only got 30 cents for a large bunch and 15 cents for small ones. When the boat reached New York, the best bunches were sold for five dollars. There are as many kinds of bananas as there are varieties of apples.

NEW WORDS PASS QUICKLY

"Odd," Remarks Wall Street Man, "How Soon They Are Hurled Aside."

"It's odd," remarked the Wall Street man to a New York World reporter, "how seldom a foreign phrase like New York, and how pitifully it is overworked when it does land, and how ruthlessly it is hurled aside and forgotten even before its successor arrives. It takes a war, as a rule, to bring some foreign word to popular notice here. Take the expression 'Danakil' for instance. Not one New Yorker in ten thousand had ever heard that word until the Jap-Russ war started. Yet nowadays, from vaudeville stage to department store, you hear 'Danakil' as though it were a choice bit of slang. A very few years ago a certain German American episode in connection with the Spanish war gave us the 'Hock' habit. Schoolboys yelled 'hock' at each other. Youths pledged each other with 'hock' over foaming steins, and 'hock' was incorporated into popular songs. You seldom hear it now. Then, during the first days of our war with Spain, the expression 'Manana' was imported. Soaringly, amusingly, jocosely, it was uttered everywhere. Newspapers took it up, and employers slipped it into lectures to their clerks on laziness. Yet who says 'manana' in this country? Up to the 'manana' period the French phrase 'in de ciels' was all the rage. Clothes were named for it, and people wrote to the papers asking how to pronounce it. Never before or since has a foreign expression had such a vogue. Yet to-day it is as dead as the late lamented J. Caesar. What will be next? And what preceded 'in de ciels'? Why know? I don't care one.

Blow at Tobacco.

It was reserved for Eliza Mowry Blyden, a Connecticut reformer, to point out the real source of all the evils which afflict the human race. "If all lands for raising tobacco," she says in a letter to a Norwich paper, "were divided into homesteads, all money spent for tobacco were used to buy and build homes, all time wasted in raising tobacco were employed in improving their homes, all laborers could have some comforts, clear heads, prosperity, health and happiness, no poverty, drunkenness, no crime. Single tax socialism, prohibition do not reach the roots. Break your chains by abolishing tobacco, the demoralizing cause."

Admiral Rojestvensky.

Thirty years ago Admiral Rojestvensky was naval attaché of the Russian embassy in London. By his many graces, and especially in walking, he turned the heads of all the marriageable girls of the English aristocracy. Whenever he led the coalition his hostess was simply transported with joy. At an evening party not a very long ago a noble dame, who had known a lady in waiting to Queen Victoria, was heard to murmur the admiral's name which she pronounced with perfect and even melodious ease. "Ah," she said with a sigh, "I wanted to marry him."

SLAUGHTER FOR FUR

VAST NUMBER OF BEARING ANIMALS KILLED EACH YEAR.

Some in Dire Need of Protection to Prevent Extinction - Those That Are the Most Valuable.

Few persons not connected with the fur trade have any notion of the enormous destruction of animal life which takes place each year among fur-bearing animals, or of the extraordinary way in which the supply of these animals appears to keep up.

There are only a few species which seem to be verging toward extinction; such are the sea otter, the beaver over large tracts of country, certain sorts of fur seals and a west African monkey. Northern Asia and northern North America still produce vast quantities of fur and will long continue to do so, says an authority.

Perhaps the most valuable fur in the world is that of the sea otter, formerly abundant on the shores of the Pacific ocean in northern Asia and North America, but now in great danger of extermination, unless it shall soon be efficiently protected. Between 1772 and 1774, 10,000 skins of the sea otter were taken in the Aleutian Islands, and the fur was so eagerly sought after that at the end of the eighteenth century 120,000 skins were taken each year.

The results of such destruction could not be doubtful. The number killed soon fell to 15,000 each year and in 1867, when Alaska was sold to the United States, it was 700. In 1901 it was 406, while in 1903 Messrs. Lamson & Co., of London, sold 463 skins, but they had none in January, 1904, and none in October. It is not unusual for a sea otter skin to sell for \$500, while remarkably good skins may bring two or three or five times that price.

The only skin which approaches the sea otter in value is that of the black or silver fox. It is said that good skins of the black fox have been sold in St. Petersburg at \$1,500 to \$4,000. A pair of silver skins in London sold for \$2,400, while a single skin is said to have brought \$1,000.

JAPS HAVE CAUSE FOR JOY

Capture of Port Arthur Restores to Them Prize That Was Wrested from Them.

The fall of Port Arthur has brought to Japan a spectacular revenge such as rarely comes in history. The spoils of a decade ago is now, for the time at least, avenged, says the Kansas City Star of recent date.

On September 18, 1894, Japan destroyed the Chinese fleet in the battle of the Yalu river. On November 22 it captured Port Arthur. In February, 1895, Weihaiwei fell. On April 17 it signed with China the treaty of Shimonoseki, by which the Peking government ceded the lower end of the Liaotung peninsula, including Port Arthur, and agreed to pay an indemnity of \$25,000,000. Two days later the Russian, German and French ministers presented a joint note in Tokio declaring the Japanese occupation of the peninsula to be a menace to the Chinese government and to the independence of Korea and to be thus detrimental to the lasting peace of the orient. Therefore, it called for the retrocession of the territory to China for an additional indemnity.

Russia had a powerful fleet in Chinese waters. Japan had an insignificant one. It yielded to superior force, accepted \$300,000,000 and agreed to the evacuation. Immediately afterward Russia leased the harbor from China. Thereby giving the lie to every reason advanced for the withdrawal of Japan.

The rejoicing at Tokio is augmented by the fact that the fortunes of war have enabled Japan to wrest back from Russia the very prize which the czar snatched away ten years ago.

Humors of the Law

Law and equity are two things which God has joined together and man has put asunder. When a prisoner in Justice Maule's court was asked whether he had anything to say why sentence should not be pronounced upon him, he replied: "I wish God may strike me dead if I stole the ducks." Maule waited for about a minute, and then said: "Prisoner as providence has not interfered, I must, three months' hard labor." A mayor on taking his seat on the bench for the first time informed the bar that during his year of office he would spare no effort to be neither partial nor impartial. Address of Sir Albert Rolfe in London.

CALL IT AMERICAN.

NAME GIVEN TO MURDEROUS DUEL IN GERMANY.

Mysterious Deaths for Which Every Ordinary Cause Is Wanting Is Brought About Through Its Agency.

"Nothing could be more incongruous with Germany's claim to a foremost place in modern civilization than the fact that her social life has been disfigured by the most revolting instances of the brutal custom of duelling which have horrified humanity in recent times," says the London King. "Only a short time since a particularly shocking instance occurred, when a young officer, on the eve of his marriage, was dragged from his wedding festivities to fight a comrade, to whom, under the influence of drink, he had quite unwittingly offered some trivial flout. His comrade was perfectly ready to accept his offered apology, but certain bloody-minded superiors, with the countenance of the colonel of the regiment, formed themselves into a 'court of honor' and decided that the young men must fight. They did so, and the unhappy bridegroom fell mortally wounded. And this cruel and atrocious crime is chargeable against the social institutions of a country which, during the South African war, claimed the right to exercise a censorship over others in the interests of humanity." The punishment inflicted by the Kaiser upon the authors of this atrocity was swift, but wholly inadequate where nothing short of the capital penalty was demanded.

"Of all the devices which man's lower nature has conceived for the extinction of his fellow man, the most gruesome, deadly and difficult to repress is that known as the American duel. In Germany, especially, this has been, and still is, responsible for many mysterious deaths for which every ordinary cause is wanting. Nothing more is needed, than for two men, who have decided that one of them must die in settlement of their dispute, to meet in the presence of seconds for the spin of a coin, a cast with dice, or some other form of lottery.

"The loser at this horrible assignation is there and then placed under an obligation to destroy himself within a stipulated period, and it becomes the duty of his seconds to see that the compact is fulfilled. For a strong, active man still in love with life to be suddenly confronted with this awful necessity for self-extermination is to add a surpassing horror to the final doom of human nature.

"Some little while since a friend of the writer was seated in a big opera house in a German town. His gaze was attracted to a neighboring box, in which an officer was seated alone. He was a handsome young fellow, with almost a boyish face. But in spite of the general gaiety of the scene an expression of such utter hopelessness and depression of soul was visible on his features that the compassion and interest of the observer was deeply stirred.

"By chance he discovered next day an explanation of what had interested him. It had been the boy's last night on earth, which he had spent at the opera alone. Afterward he had returned to his quarters, and there, with a pistol, had as in honor bound, put a termination to the existence which was still pleasant and dear to him. The ordinary suicide may be weary of life or mentally deranged, but in such cases as the above there is a reversal of such conditions which terribly intensifies the horror of such an exit from the world.

"An even more horrible instance of the above system came under my notice a few years ago, and Germany is again the scene. A man whom the turn of a card had consigned to self-slaughter within a period of 12 months waived in his resolution. He had fallen in love, and the influence of this passion inspired him with a new and stronger desire for life. He even married, and sent an appealing letter to his adversary, begging that he would mercifully release him from the fatal obligation under which he was placed. The reply was a chilling reminder of his honor and of his bond. Still he could not bring himself to part with all that had become so dear to him, but unflinchingly and at regular intervals arrived the ill-omened demand for the life which was not his own. The persistence of his bloody-minded adversary at last succeeded in preying upon his mind, and one night the unhappy man wrote a farewell letter to his wife, and sent a bullet through his head.

"While such hideous customs disgrace the social life of our German friends they will do well to adopt a less critical attitude toward others. And if the Kaiser devoted himself to the eradication of this stigma from the present generation of his countrymen he would do far more to deserve the gratitude of posterity than by any triumphs in the political arena or the achievement of vast naval ambitions."

Nest Building Africans.

Travelers who have returned from the heart of Africa and the Australasian continent tell wonderful stories of nest-building people who inhabit the wilds of those countries. In the bushmen of Australia are known the lowest order of men that is known. They are primitive; that they do not know enough to build even the simplest form of hut for shelter. The nearest they can approach to it is to gather a lot of twigs and grass and taking them into a thicket or jungle, build a nest for a home. The nest is usually built large enough for the family, and if the latter is very numerous, then the nests are of a very large size. Sometimes the foliage above will form a natural covering, but there is never any attempt at constructing a protection from the rain and storms.

IS A VERY TRYING ORDEAL

Why Men Get So Tired When Being Fitted by the Tailor for New Clothes.

"Did you ever watch a man having a suit of clothes tried on?" asked a downtown tailor a few days ago of one of his customers, who was standing patiently as every crease in the newly made coat was being analyzed in order that it might be smoothed out in the finishing.

"No!" continued the man with the tape measure, according to the Washington Star. "Well, you will never understand what it is to have tailor-made clothes tried on until you make a point of watching some one else. You can't understand by going through the operation yourself. Are you aware that you have been gazing like a man working into the small hours and longing for his bed? You didn't know what made you so sleepy? Now, I'll tell you it's the measuring that does it. It's nothing peculiar to you. Why it is I don't know, but a man who can stand the strain of hours of physical exercise, or who can sit at his desk engaged in long trying mental work all day long without showing fatigue, will go all to pieces in 15 minutes under the hands of his tailor.

"I usually give a strong man 15 minutes to get played out. At the end of that time he begins to gape and he stretches as much as he can without throwing the tailor entirely away from him. Then his fatigue grows rapidly. Many a man has fallen down before he was aware how entirely exhausted he has been under the ordeal of posing for the tailor. Not long ago one of my customers, weighing over 300 pounds, and a man reputed to have extraordinary strength, fell flat on the floor and nearly crumpled me in going down. I tell you, you have to watch a man after he has been standing in this way for 15 minutes.

"The worst of it is men do not understand how soon they become exhausted standing erect without moving. Usually when they begin to gape they try to hide their fatigue. They don't understand how it is. They fight against it. But it's no use. Why is it they give out standing quietly when they could walk five miles without feeling tired?"

"I put this question to my physician some time ago and he pulled down one of his books on anatomy for me to look at. He opened it at a page on which the muscular system was shown. He pointed out the muscles that are used in walking and in all classes of exercise. He showed how the back is rested by a change of position. Then he pointed out the muscles that are brought into play in the act of standing erect. They are never used except by those whose duties require such standing for long periods of time. The orderly develops them as he stands at an officer's door. The clerk behind the counter learns to use them. The ordinary man at a reception also finds what it is to stand erect and to use those muscles to a certain extent, and he often wonders what it is that made him so tired. But the height of development is only had in posing for the tailor. The next time you have to stand for your measure or to have clothes tried on, don't think it is unusual when you find that you are ready to drop down when the ordeal is over."

RACE SUICIDE IN TURKEY.

Families Becoming Small to Such a Degree as to Alarm Government.

Turkey it seems is also confronted with the problem of race suicide. This is the more remarkable in Turkey because the prophet Mahomet made provisions which he thought would prevent such a state of affairs. The rule among the Turks 650 years ago was to marry young, every man to have several wives, and each to rear a large family.

But all this is changing. The Turk nowadays does not marry until late and then he usually has but one wife, and the families are becoming small to such a degree as to alarm the government. The Sultan is trying to remedy this matter. He is afraid his empire will be depopulated. So he has just recently issued an order on the subject by which he abolishes a great deal of the expensive display connected with Turkish marriages. He probably hopes in this way to make marriage easier and less expensive and so encourage the Turks to marry earlier and perhaps often.

"Brewing" on Bank Notes.

Probably one of the oddest claims ever made on a bank is recorded as having been made against the National Bank of Belgium. An old peasant woman had laid on the grass a jacket containing bank notes of small denomination for \$48 in the pocket, and while she was at work her pet nanny-goat had got at the notes, which it had eaten. The animal was killed, and the chewed paper recovered from the stomach was submitted in support of a claim for compensation, which the bank paid after verifying the facts by chemical analysis and other inquiry.

Queer Trip for Health.

A wretched looking prairie schooner, propelled by two skin and bone horses, stopped one day lately for repairs in Stroud. The old navigator of the craft said it had been on the road the last five months. They left North Carolina last June and traveled ever since. He said that he and his family were out for their health. They ate nothing but meats ever since they started on their long tour. Their health is mending. -Kansas City Journal.

Always Fresh.

He-Solomon said there is nothing new under the sun. She-But he forgot one thing. "What's that?" "Scandal." -Detroit Free Press.

QUEER COUP OF GAMBLERS

Interesting Reflections Suggested by Recent Shooting in New York City.

That a gambler who has been shot and mortally wounded by another gambler should doggedly refuse to identify and accuse his assailant, and that the assailant, on his part, when brought to the bedside of his dying victim, should refuse to take his hand—these things seem to ordinary men and women almost incredible, says the New York Times. But ordinary men and women must bear in mind the fact that gamblers are not of their kind; that they have altogether different ideas of conduct; that their emotions and passions are different and their conceptions of honor something quite out of the ordinary.

Of these two gamblers it might without any risk whatever be assumed that all their lives it has been their highest desire to feel themselves to be and to be generally looked upon as "dead-game sports." The obligation not to "peach," which notoriously inheres in the quality of "dead-gameness" was recognized as binding by the gambler who in peril of immediate dissolution would not identify and accuse the man who was known by the police and the bystanders to have shot him.

He was able to take care of himself, he said, that is, he asked no favors of the law, not even the posthumous favor of doing his murderer to death in the electric chair. There are hundreds, maybe thousands, of tough youngsters in this city now ripening for lives of crime whose highest ambition it is to be considered dead-game sports. None of the honors and rewards of life commonly prized by men and women in degenerates would be held by these youngsters in any such esteem.

The murderer's refusal to take the proffered hand of his victim is readily accounted for on grounds of temperament and moral organization. The man who shot Roche seems to be a wholly unnormal being, a man with the low nervous organization of the brute and with all the refinements of the high faculties.

There are many such men walking the streets of New York, or of any other of the world's greatest cities, men to whom the forgiveness of an enemy even upon the always death-bed would seem weakness. Equally with his victim this gambler would be incapable of invoking the aid of the law to redress a private grievance.

BLUFF THAT ALWAYS WINS.

Reason the Young Man Here Described Drives Tandem and Puts on Style.

"I believe there are more bluffs made in this city than in any other in the nation," granted an old urbanite, as he looked out of the window on the crowds passing along Fifth avenue the other day, relates the New York Press. "And, in spite of the fact that we pride ourselves on being so sharp, I know of no other place where they prove so effective. Did you notice that young man who just drove by in a tandem? I happen to know something about him, and I can tell you he is a case in point.

"Looks all right, you say? Of course, he does, and that is the whole thing. He is working the tandem bluff, and it looks as if it might be the making of him. "He has not laid by a penny of his own, and certainly he does not own the team he drives. But here is his plan of operations, and notice how closely it hinges on the tandem arrangement of his team. In the first place he is likely to refuse credit and plenty of it to a man who wants to hire a tandem or twice a week. He sizes him up obviously as a young blood with 'money to burn' just the sort a keen horseman is anxious to have on his books. But the quiet young gentleman who wants to hire a victoria or a coupe for a couple of hours is likely to find he is expected to pay up at the end of his outing.

"It is the same along the avenue. No tailor or hatter dares to appear too cautious with a man who dashes up behind his own tandem, and his credit goes up with a bound, though a man might drive a pair to a pole for a year without exciting any comment. Even his friends and acquaintances are impressed by the show he makes; and by a few such well-judged appearances that man you just saw has established himself in circles both business and social to which in reality he has no earthly right to belong. In case you ever want to try it the tandem bluff is a certain winner."

Slang.

"Slang," said the college professor, who was sitting with me for his health, "is utterly without meaning to the educated person." "Hey, there, you four-eyed wisdom feeder!" called the sailor who had been watching current happenings instead of listening to the man of knowledge, "git a move on and play belly-chock real sudden, or that blum-in' dingle-hock 'll knock your blum-in' nut off!" And the professor changed his position quite some prompt, thereby a-savin' of his skull. -Judge.

Magnesian in California.

Magnesian, which is used in the making of fire brick and other fireproof building materials, has been discovered in large quantities in Santa Clara and Stanislaus counties, California. They are the only known deposits in the United States. Hitherto America has imported magnesian from Greece and Syria.

Paper-Making in Africa.

South Africa is to enter the paper-making world, it having been found that a kind of grass which grows there makes an excellent grade of paper. British manufacturers are already putting up mills there.

GIRL'S LUNG IN STOMACH.

Death Reveals Her Heart on Right Side and the Other Organs Displaced.

Atlantic City, N. J.—One of the most interesting cases ever brought to the attention of medical men in this city is that of Amy Price, 12 years old, who died at her home here the other day. The child had been a sufferer for years, and, although she was treated by the most able physicians and specialists, the nature of her ailments was so peculiar that she obtained no relief. A consultation of many of the local physicians was held a short time ago regarding this little girl, and the statement is made that the position of the various organs of the body in this case was contrary to nature and startling to the medical world.

The doctors declared that little Amy's heart was on the right side, instead of the left, and that one lung was in the stomach, while the position of the intestines when this lung roared was changed to another part of her body. Not only this, the physicians declared, but the position of other internal organs was completely changed.

After the little girl died, physicians who had attended her requested that they be permitted to hold an autopsy, but the request was denied. They said the result of an autopsy, they felt sure, would be of the greatest interest and importance to the medical world. They say they are unable to account for the fact that the girl lived 13 years with her heart on her right side, one lung in the stomach, and with her internal organs placed in various parts of her body, the entire arrangement being contrary to all laws of nature.

SIGHT BETTER THAN RICHES

Unfortunate Laborer Who Gets Big Verdict for His Lost Eyes.

Boston—"Oh, my sight, my sight, give me back my sight. I would rather be able to see than to have all the money in the world," said William Kilmartin, laborer, who was awarded a verdict for \$14,500 by the superior court. Kilmartin was in the employ of the city and was ordered by the foreman to pick in a ledge of stone on Selwyn street, Roslindale, February 27, 1904.

With the sinking of the pick in a small crevice of the ledge a thunderous explosion occurred which hurled Kilmartin to the ground, blowing the sight from his eyes and otherwise seriously injuring him.

After spending some time in a critical condition in the hospital he was finally brought around alive.

Kilmartin was found by a reporter lying in a dismal, low-ceilinged room. Here he has spent almost all of the four years since the accident occurred.

He is a man of large frame and formerly was of unusual physical strength. "There," he said, pointing to a picture on the wall, "there's my picture. Look at me now. I am only a shadow of what I was."

"I do not know what I shall do with my money," he continued. "I am so entirely dependent upon relatives that I can do nothing unless they help me some way."

Kilmartin is unmarried. He said that just before the accident he was going to be married. "But," he added, "I have given up all hope of that now."

SHIPMENTS OF CAYUSES.

Thousands of the Ponies Sent from Flathead Reservation to Minnesota—Bring Good Prices.

"As near as I can learn in the neighborhood of 4,000 head of cayuse horses have been shipped from the Flathead reservation, in Montana, this year," said J. L. Sloane, chief clerk at the Flathead agency, while talking to a reporter recently. "These horses are shipped both east and west, and bring fairly good prices. Several hundred head of cayuses have also been shipped, and the reservation has been well cleaned of the lower grade of horses and cattle. I believe this has been the greatest shipping year for live stock in the history of the reservation. There is not range enough to accommodate all the animals, and it is a matter of necessity that they be shipped out of the country."

"There is one eastern firm that has devised a way to make money out of the ordinary cayuse. One of the firm's agents has spent considerable time in our part of the country this summer, and has purchased a large number of the animals that have been shipped east. The firm buys yearling colts from the Indians, and takes them to a ranch somewhere in Minnesota. On the ranch the colts are well fed for a year, at the end of which time it is said they bring good prices. It is said that by feeding these colts for a year in this manner they make twice as good animals as they would if left on the Montana range, and I am told the firm is making money."

Patch Stomach with Rubber.

New York—A peculiar and extremely delicate surgical operation has been performed at a hospital at Mount Vernon, and probably will save the life of Antonio Stranino, whose stomach had been partly torn out by a dynamite explosion. Coils of rubber tubing were inserted in the stomach after part of it had been removed. By forcing food through this tubing it is hoped to preserve the man's life.

Where He Drew the Line.

A burglar who entered a house at Concord, N. H., cooked himself a meal and shaved, using the razor which belonged to the man of the house. There were no indications, however, that he ran the risk of taking a bath.