

END OF WONDERFUL GUN

Had the Duty to the Finish But the Strain Was More Than It Could Bear and Survive.

Not long ago an ex-governor of Michigan, a Cleveland capitalist, and several friends were in the big woods near Turtle Lake, guided by Sam Sampson, a famous hunter and trapper. Sam possesses a gun with a barrel five feet long, but once, according to his story, he had a still longer one.

"It was a wonderful gun," he said to the ex-governor. "I could kill a bear as far off as I could see 'em, and that gun was as knowing as a man. It hadn't been for that, it would never have busted!"

"How did you break it?" asked one of the hunters.

"I started it to death," said the old guide soberly. "I was out hunting one day when I saw a buck and seven deer a-come'n' close onto me. I pulled up old Beetle—that's what I called the gun—and was just goin' to let go when I heard an awful funny noise over my head.

"I looked up 'n' there was movin' ten million wild geese a'fittin' over me. There I was in a predicament. I wanted the geese 'n' I wanted the deer.

"At last I aimed at 'n' geese an' let 'em fly. Beetle must have known I wanted both, for that was the end of the old gun. The strain on her was too much, an' her barrel busted.

"It's about in one of 'em killed the buck, 'n' that 'n' other killed ten geese, and when Beetle died she kicked so hard I was knocked into a creek. But when I come out my head was full o' fish. I ain't never seen another such gun as Beetle."—Lippincott's Magazine.

NOTED SONS OF MINISTERS

On Every Line They Have Been Widely Known in Public Life in America.

It is probable that ministers' sons have exerted more influence in the United States than in any other country. Among teachers, lawyers, doctors, scientists, men of business and in the church there are a great host who have been the sons of ministers. Of the more notable men in our history who were sons of ministers we find in political life Cleveland, Clay, Buchanan, Arthur, Quar, Morton, Beveridge, Hughes and Duffner; among jurists, Field and Brewer; among educators, Woodrow Wilson, Faneur, James, Carroll, Lansbury; in history and literature, Simon, Parkman, Bancroft, Holmes, Emerson, Henry James, Lowell, Childs, Van Dyke; in invention and science, Cyrus W. Field, Samuel F. Morse and Agassiz; in the church, Beecher, Alexander, Hodge, Abbott, Peck, Jonathan Edwards; in philosophy, James.

In the Hall of Fame 51 famous Americans are honored. Of these 51 ten are the children of ministers: Agassiz, Beecher, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Henry Clay, Jonathan Edwards, Emerson, Lowell, Morse, Bancroft and Holmes.—Popular Science Monthly.

Clay Work for Children.

When it is raining or snowing some Saturday morning and the children can't go out, nothing will stop the riot so quickly as a bunch of clay for modeling. The Kansas Industrialist observes: "It is much like mud pie, but cleaner, and the children will leave a box of chocolate to get at it. A little practice will soon enable them to make many things.

The best clay can be procured in the form of a white powder, costing from two to four cents a pound. The rough clay, directly from the works, can be bought by the barrel at two cents or a little less a pound. It is best to let the material remain as powder until one or two days before using. Then pour water over as much as it is desired to use. Stir it occasionally. A small portion may be kept ready for use if wanted to prevent drying. A specially prepared sifted clay can be bought for 25 cents a pound. It comes in colors and is always ready for use.

Paint Put Backward From Japan.

The paint put is practically banished from Japan. That is the first thing you notice as you approach the coast; for the first adventurous fishing boat you pass is built, it would seem, of about half a dozen broad, unpainted deal planks. So with the sampans that cluster round your ship as soon as the anchor is dropped; they are all nature-colored, undecorated, and undressed by a single lick of the paint brush. So with the houses of the first Japanese street you enter, they are weathered to the silver-gray of unpainted pine. Such color as there is proceeds from the innumerable strips of calico, inscribed with huge hieroglyphics, which flap perpendicularly or horizontally before every house.

Cattle Are Up the Washing.

John Carr at Newman Butler used Frank Deegan for ten dollars damages for the alleged destruction of some clothing. The defendant's cattle had a tremendous appetite, said M. E. Knight, the plaintiff's attorney. One day the plaintiff had a washing out and those cattle made a meal of it.

In his evidence the plaintiff said the washing had been left bleaching on the ledge. When he saw the cows chomg of some sheets he pulled the remains out of their mouths. They had completely eaten a pair of trousers, a blouse and some other pieces.—London Globe.

KNOTS AS SIGN LANGUAGE

Wife Has Precedent for the Request She Often Makes, and Hubby Forgets.

"Tie a knot in your handkerchief, John, and you'll not forget it," says the wife, when she asks you to bring something home when you return from the city at night.

Rather simple system of mnemonics, isn't it? No complicated rigmorole of mystic numbers like most of the other memory systems, and one that we all know is wonderfully effective.

Did you ever stop to think what a wonderful part in the history of the world this simple tying of a knot has played? asks the Memphis Commercial Appeal. Of course, you remember the most famous knot and how Alexander untied it—with his sword.

But older even than that, though not so well known, is the history that Darius, on crossing the Istru on his Scythian expedition, left with the Greeks appointed to guard the bridge a thong with a number of knots in it. One was to be undone each day. If Darius did not return before the last knot was untied the forces were to tear down the bridge and depart.

Then knots have been used as a language—the "gulu" of the Incas of Peru consists of a number of thongs hanging from a top band, the meaning depending on the color of the thong and the number of knots tied in it, and their order of arrangement.

Among the Polynesian tribes the knot is used to make persons, things and places sacred—they are surrounded by strings tied in a certain kind of knot under mystic ceremonies and thus rendered "tabu"—inviolable. Among the Laplanders and Finlanders it is a popular custom by means of tying certain knots to raise the wind or to calm the storm.

Along in the middle ages witnesses to a document were known as nototors (knotters) because it was then the usage that when they signed their name they should also tie a knot in the string that was attached to the document.

So you see when wife asks you to tie a knot in your handkerchief so as not to forget her errand, she is only exercising a custom that has come down from the primitive times.

HUSK THE RICE BY HAND

Methods in Use in Burma Are Susceptible of Improvement, According to American Ideas.

The most popular method used by the Burmese for husking rice is by the "chike-set" or revolving mill, which is worked by hand. This mill is made of woven bamboo. The lower half is stationary, with a cone shaped head of hardwood and bamboo extending within the upper half, which revolves around this cone when pushed backward and forward by means of the handle. Hard bamboo twigs extending crosswise in the upper portion husk the rice against the cone. Between the two sections is a small opening through which the rice falls into a plate or basket.

The other method is by a wooden mortar, the pestle consisting of a block of wood at the end of a heavy bar working on a lever, which is raised and lowered by the weight of the operator's body as he steps on and off the further end of the bar. These machines are manufactured locally.

There is no doubt a considerable market in Burma for small rice machines capable of handling two hundred baskets per day of twelve hours, costing at 1.5. Rangoon about \$50. The basket is the unit of measure in the rice trade of Burma and consists of forty-seven pounds unhusked rice or seventy-five pounds cleaned white rice. The machine must be provided with separators and three outshoots, i. e., for white rice, coddie and husk.

Cross-Eyed Gunner.

There is a cross-eyed man in Cleveland who is an enthusiastic trap shooter. Furthermore, he is an expert. His record is a thing to be proud of. One day last autumn a nery friend ventured to question him thus:

"You are so horribly cross-eyed that I don't see how you are able to shoot straight."

"I'll tell you my secret. I squirt along the left barrel with my right eye; and I squirt along the right barrel with my left eye—"

"Yes?"

"And then I fire both barrels."

Which One Gets the Money.

"Who is the benevolent looking old gentleman riding along in a dilapidated buggy?"

"That's Dr. Soothers, who specializes in children's diseases. He's very successful in his practice."

"And who is the pompous looking man who just whirled past us in a magnificent automobile, with a chauffeur in livery?"

"Oh, that's Dr. Flimmlin, who makes a specialty of treating society's poodles."—Birmingham Age Herald.

Modern Conveniences.

Some stormy evening, when the whole family is gathered about the fire, take and discuss the feasibility of modern conveniences in the home. The kitchen sink, with hot and cold water; the bathroom, hot air, steam or hot water heat, are as much of a necessity for convenience and comfort in the country as in the city, and may be had as cheaply. Every farmer's family may and should know the facts regarding these desirable improvements.

WHY WOMEN LIVE LONGER

Physicians Ascribe Fact to a More Sheltered Existence, for One Thing.

Though doctors have long realized that, thanks to a better knowledge of sanitation and personal hygiene, people are living longer than formerly, the much greater relative longevity of women, as shown in the recently published national debt office's report on the mortality of government life annuitants, has come as a general surprise.

In a summary of these figures it was shown that the expectation of life of a woman of fifty is now more than a year greater than it was in 1876, while that of a man of the same age is only about three months greater.

Discussing the reasons of our increasing longevity, and in particular woman's stronger hold on life, physicians at St. Bartholomew's hospital advanced widely different theories. "The essential cause of death," one stated, "is a wearing out from overwork of our brain cells. Women may be just as brainy as men, but they do not work their brain cells as vigorously or as continuously as do their men relatives. If they did there would not be so great a disparity in the length of life of the two sexes."

Another consultant put down woman's greater expectation of life to the more sheltered existence she leads, and the lack of physically depressing competition which is part of nearly every man's life. "A woman may have hard work to do," he explained, "but, except for the few who work in offices or who follow professions, they work in their own homes, and at a pace they set for themselves. The home is also as a rule vastly more airy, sunny, and generally more wholesome than is her husband's shop or office."

MARVEL IN ANIMAL SOUND

Traveler Writes Feelingly of Wonderful Bray Put Forth by the Donkeys of China.

In all the east today the donkey is a favorite means of transportation, both for travelers and commercial burdens. It was so in the days of the patriarchs, Isaac and Jacob, and so it will remain probably for ages to come. But nothing in China is just like the same thing anywhere else in the world, the donkey being no exception. Dr. Chester of Nashville says: "Their grail is a rough, inaudible jog, and their bray is a unique phenomenon.

"The power of heredity, working through millenniums of isolation, with no modification from foreign admixture, has developed in the bray of the Chinese donkey a quality all its own. There are no words in English to describe the heart-rending pathos of it. It was as if an appeal to heaven against the cruelty and oppression of ages were at last finding utterance in one long, loud, undulating wail. And when our party of three met another party of six and all nine of the donkeys began at one time to exchange the compliments of the day, then pathos gave place to terror and one could only sit appalled and trembling as the mighty reverberation rolled away on its journey round the world."

Useful Pets in the Orient.

When I first took up my residence in Singapore one of the strangest things I saw was a number of lizards that crawled about the walls, says the London Telegraph. My first few days were spent in one of the largest and most up to date hotels, and I thought it strange that such things should be allowed "the run of the house."

On making inquiries, I learned that these little animals were called "chihaks," and are necessary in every house, as they do no harm to anything or anybody except the numerous insects (mosquitoes included) that all tropical countries are plagued with.

The chihak is treated with the greatest respect, and some of them are quite tame. There is one little fellow always on our dining table, and another can always be found under a fellow boarder's inboard. The boarder, being a "braw Scot," has christened his little friend "Wee Jock."

Fortune Telling.

Fortune telling is almost as old as the human race itself. We have no knowledge of the time when or place where it originated. We only know that the practice was in vogue as far back as we can go. Some claim that it had its beginning with the astrologers, who claimed that they were able to foretell the future by aid of the planets. The oldest of the nations were familiar with the practice, and by the gypsies it has been carried all over the world. It is perfectly natural for man to want to know about tomorrow and next year, and it required but little effort on his part to listen to the fortune tellers. To this day the business is carried on with profit by the gypsies and others who impose upon the credulity of the superstitious.

Heard the Rattle.

The witness on the stand was being subjected to cross-examination. In answering one question he nodded. Whereupon the court stenographer, who could not see the witness, demanded, "Answer that question."

The witness replied: "I did answer it; I nodded my head."

"Well, I heard the rattle, but could not tell whether it was up or down from side to side," answered the stenographer.—Law Notes.

KING EDWARD AS A 'DRUMMER'

England Had No Better Traveling Salesman Than He, According to Biographer.

King Edward VII. of England created a new type of monarch. Edward protected and enlarged the nation's resources. There was not in the whole United Kingdom a more industrious commercial traveler or a better merchant. He only wore the crown when it was absolutely necessary. He had mingled with men of all classes and professions, had had experiences to which crown princes are not usually exposed, had been on familiar terms with financiers and captains of industry, and had learned to look on the world with the eye of a comfortable gentleman. He was quickly at home everywhere. Whether he had to deal with the self-controlled Alexander or his volatile son, with Indian princes or Yankoes, with the fiery Delcane or the witty Clemenceau, he always struck the right note.

He was a lucky man. He enjoyed life from the day he left the nursery. Englishmen did not mind that. They would not have liked a morose and stingy monarch. Prince Bertie, who ate well, drank well, did well at the derby, at the tables, and settled the fashion of the season, was the man for them. It did not seem to them a serious misfortune that he was hostile to Bismarck, and at times went a little too far with shady people. He always drew his head out of the noose in time, and then gave England occasion for another chuckle.—From a Biographical Sketch by Maximilian Harden.

HAVE MANY YEARS OF LIFE

Residents of English Village Favored Beyond Other Mortals in Matter of Longevity.

Horndon-on-the-Hill, a village of six hundred persons, in the county of Essex, England, has attracted notice as being a spot where old age reigns in undisputed triumph. Walk through the picturesque narrow main street which twists across the hillside and from the doorways the passerby will see smiling at him the happy, ruddy faces of the ancients of Horndon. A London newspaper the other day found in this village, which by the way has not a doctor in it, twelve persons whose united ages are 1,049 years, these ages ranging from eighty-four to ninety years, while young persons, men and women of seventy-five and thereabout, were too numerous to deserve notice. One lad of eighty-six, who is on the way to be a philosopher, said: "A smile and a kiss made the world easy and do a lot of keeping one young, this and a fair share of work." In illustration of a part of this axiom he snatched a kiss from his wife, who is one year his senior. "You're nearly as bad as when you were young," said that lady, "and he wanted a lot of watching then."

More Study Family Tree.

The growing interest in ancestry indicates that Americans are coming to believe that it is of some consequence to know from whom they are descended, the Magazine of American History states. Long lines of ancestry are revealed in each person, and this ancestry, if understood, will assist materially in various directions.

One cannot know too much about himself and in acquiring a knowledge of his ancestors he is learning the most important facts about his own personality. This has been demonstrated many times.

Genealogy is the most fascinating branch of history. Everything else may be a mere catalogue of dates, but genealogy introduces the student to the actual personages and offers him the complete means of obtaining an accurate understanding of the occurrences of the past. The study of ancestry is becoming more popular and is, in numerous ways, revolutionizing the modern comprehension of events in the past.

Family Secrets.

A girl has plenty of time to decide on the details of her wedding before the man has figured out whether her eyes are blue or gray.

Being conservative in politics never keeps a man from being screamingly insurgent in the matter of ties and socks.

A really clever woman never makes the mistake of assuming that only a man can comprehend her cleverness.

You may cure the vices of a bad woman, conquer the shortcomings of the indifferent woman, but nothing will avail in the face of a good woman's prejudices.

The woman who "dares to be different" is talked about, the man who plays the game is merely tolerantly laughed at—but at best the woman wouldn't change places with him.—Lippincott's.

Boy's Good Guess.

The story is told of Judge McCannless of Wichita, who has the distinction of being the leanest man in the state, that he was one day walking along a street in Kansas City when he noticed that a hound dog was following him.

After he had gone a block and the dog was still trailing him, he turned to a street gamin and asked: "Boy, what do you suppose that dog is following me for?"

"Well, mister," said the boy, as he looked the judge over from head to foot, "I dunno exactly, but my idee is that he takes you for a bone."—Topeka Capital.

HIS FIRST SPAGHETTI FEAST

Alkali Eye Is Not Particularly Impressed With Delicacy So Popular Among Italians.

Thursday night we were asked to a spaghetti feast, and we air here to admit that we ain't the gayest yet that 'get' in spaghetti, nor did we eat the spaghetti later on. Believe us, if we ever eat anyone for a spaghetti feast we shall be prepared for food to the utmost extent by means of a clinic, or else we shall have a lady around his neck an' he starts ter strangle. Several times we got black in the face an' our dressed of tongue hung out 'ere we was rescued. We seen a statue once of some sort of a coon, we think it was a hoochie, consistin' of a father an' two sons in a struggle ter die with a mass of spaghetti. The stuff that is served on 'er side, we done plenty to that. Of course we ain't the sort of a duck that gives up without no struggle; we fit a plate of spaghetti all over the place before we give up, an' we say ter ourself that the spaghetti is haggard an' were out as we did before we surrendered. Before we get ter another spaghetti feast we air goin' ter fill a bath tub with the stuff an' git into it an' practice fer a day. We put up a long an' a noble fight, but we had ter end up by takin' a can of the spaghetti an' eatin' it. We think a spaghetti feast ought ter be called a fish dinner instead.—Alkali Eye.

NEW USE FOR PHONOGRAPH

Ingenuous "Mnemonic" Devised Plan That Kept Maid in the Straight and Proper Path.

A Brooklyn clubwoman who was going out of town for a few days was in a quandary over the problem of her husband's existence during her absence. The maid was Swedish and could neither read nor write English, yet she somehow must be told each day, as only the mistress could tell her, what should be done about the house. A moment's thought solved the problem. A list of each day's duties was made out. Next, a phonograph dealer was called up and instructed to send up a half dozen blank records. The ingenuous mistress then sat down in front of her machine and dictated her orders, using one record for each day's instructions. The records were then placed in their pasteboard cases, and the days on which they should be used were indicated on the outside by one, two, three and four straight lines, making a mistake impossible. As a result not only was everything in perfect order upon her return, but the novelty had so appealed to the maid that she had "played" her orders over and over until she could repeat them word for word.

Mysterious Stranger in Town.

"Something mighty queer about a fellow that was here last week," related the landlord of the Turpinware tavern. "He never looked about his room, set with apparent relish what was set before him, didn't try to flirt with the waitresses, and when I asked him if he was looking for land or seeking health or canvassing for something he politely replied that he wasn't. He went to bed and got up at reasonable hours, walked sedately about town bought 10-cent cigars as if he was used to 'em, answered civilly the remarks of practically every prominent citizen in town about the weather. He stayed three days, and then paid his bill without grumbling, made me a courteous good-by and went away with as little flutter as he had come. And on account of the consistent manner in which he minded his own business and let other people's affairs alone there has been a good deal of speculation about him ever since, the consensus of opinion being that he was either a famous detective, some kind of a slick swindler or a crazy man."

Diseases of Metals.

Metals suffer from contagious diseases analogous to those living beings. Among these diseases one of the most striking is that called "tin pest." Sometimes a block, a plate, or model of tin attacked by this disease crumbles and falls into dust, and sometimes warty protuberances appear on the surface of the metal. Various other metals suffer from a disease that manifests itself by a spontaneous recrystallization. The most remarkable cases occur with lead and hard-drawn brass. These diseases are not due, as has been thought, solely to moisture. Temperature plays a part in producing them. The most extraordinary fact, perhaps, is that the "tin pest" is capable of spreading by contagion.—Harper's Weekly.

Idios in Heading.

A church is successfully headed in Nuremberg by a large number of small units. A long tube heater is placed near the floor in front of the seat and along the back of the following pew, which acts as a fast warmer. The electric heating tube is a three-inch iron pipe which contains a small or tube wound with resistance wire. At each pew is a switch for cutting out the heater, and all the separate wires from the heaters run to connection boxes placed at different points under the floor. A perforated iron foot rest runs along above each heater. The church has a seating capacity of 1,300 and the length of pews is 1,750 feet in all.

MORAL NOT HARD TO FIND

Probably We All Have Known People to Whom This Chronicle Will Have Significance.

There was a large Thomas cat that had its habitation in a store. It was reported to be a fine blooded animal from a family of distinguished rat destroyers. The cat was a beauty and everybody round the store took a turn at furnishing grub suited to the taste of a blooded cat.

It was observed, however, that there was no reduction of the rat or mice population, and the proprietor of the store commenced to inquire into the reason why. He first tried the cat on a rat that had been caught in a trap, but the feline expressed no interest or animation. He looked at the rat and then walked away. The storekeeper was disappointed, but not entirely discouraged. He thought perhaps that cat's specialty was mice, and as he had a mouse or two that had been caught alive in a trap, he turned them loose in front of the cat, but it paid no more attention to them than a sheep would to a rare done beefsteak.

"I think," said the storekeeper, "that I am onto this situation. I will fire the next employe who gives that cat anything to eat." For two days the Thomas cat did a good deal of howling and wore a look of injured innocence. He felt that he had been wronged and was ready to start an insurrection, but as that didn't seem to get him anywhere, he turned loose on the rats and mice in a way that was surprising.

The second day after this change of program the rats held a convention to consider what ought to be done. When the leading orator among the rats arose, he said: "Fellow rats, this is no time for talk. What we want to do is to move. That cat hasn't any more natural ability than he had before, but he has concluded that he either has to hustle or starve, and I have discovered that when a cat gets in that frame of mind his neighborhood is no place for rats."

Many men and women, as well as cats, have never amounted to a whoop just because they never had to hustle.—Topeka Capital.

UNFITTED FOR HUMAN FOOD

Special Care Should Be Exercised in the Use of Either Frozen or Dried Eggs.

Frozen and dried eggs intended for human consumption are largely used for cooking purposes where inferiority may be concealed, as in baking cakes or making custards, omelets, pies, etc. The traffic in eggs sold for drying and freezing has greatly increased in the past few years. Strictly fresh marketable eggs in the shell command a high price and there is difficulty in meeting the demand for them; but large quantities of questionable eggs, often bought at very low prices, have been brought out for cooking purposes by disreputable firms, being preserved by freezing or drying until ready for use. Some dealers, however, manufacture a satisfactory product by the use of good eggs handled under proper conditions.

There is no objection to drying or freezing good eggs under proper sanitary conditions; in fact, there are some advantages to be gained by preserving eggs in this manner, although the manufacturing processes devised by man, as a rule, do not improve the quality of nature's work. Conditions of modern life and commerce must, however, be met, and dried eggs or eggs in a frozen condition may be shipped long distances, and require less space for transportation and storage than do eggs in the shell.

London's Kissing Spots.

The period of engagement was to them a period of licensed kissing. It was not always possible to meet beneath the moon. Humphrey grew where they could kiss in broad daylight. There was an Indian restaurant in the Strand (now pulled down for improvement), which had an upstairs dining room where nobody but themselves ever seemed to go, and then there was the National Gallery, surprisingly empty, where the screens holding the etchings gave them their desired privacy, and on Saturday afternoon they went in the upper circles of theaters, sometimes on purpose not to see the play, but to sit in the deserted lounges during the acting and enjoy each other's company.—"Mistier Than the Sword," by Alphonse Courlander.

Up in the Air Some.

A few days ago a Columbus (Ind.) man brought his three-and-a-half-year-old son to this city. The father had been explaining to the son that Indianapolis has some tall buildings and nothing in Columbus compared with them. They passed the Knights of Pythias building on a street car. The father pointed to the building. The boy looked, turned to his father, and said: "Believe me, kiddo, that's up in the air some."—Indianapolis News.

Got the Word Wanted.

Tom Moore composed slowly, and considered ten lines a big day's work. Sometimes he would struggle for days or weeks together to get a line just right. One day he and Washington Irving were riding in a cab in Paris. The vehicle jolted over a rock and nearly threw the passengers against the roof. "I've got it!" cried Moore, exultantly. "Got what?" asked Irving. "A word I've been after for a fortnight. This cab jolted it out of me."