

## GOTHAM'S FLOATING VILLAGE.

It Ties Up in New York in Picturesque Fashion During the Winter Season.

Not only on the Chinese river Yangtse are floating villages found; Americans have them nearer home, no further than within New York harbor. Not ten minutes' walk from the Battery, at the old Coenties slip, hundreds of families spend the winter, listening to the swirling waters of the East river around and under their homes until the incoming swell rocks them to sleep of nights. Here it is that the canal boats are tied up for five months of the year, hundreds of them moored together in rows after rows, forming small towns, with streets and yards, in which children and dogs romp and play.

A picturesque sight it is, resembling in many respects the sampan villages of China, says the New York Sun. The little cabins protrude just far enough above the decks of the huge, clumsy barges to allow them a row of windows, screened by bits of lace curtains and green plants. Along the decks are stretched lines of washing, and tiny curls of smoke shoot up from miniature chimneys on the cabin roofs.

They are people by themselves, these boatmen and their families, and have their own ideas of what makes a home. Through the curtained windows you catch a glimpse of cozy parlors and kitchens. Green plants in flower pots and birds in cages are still visible. Here and there a cat shows itself in the doorway, as if it thought of coming out to inquire into the state of the weather, but never gets beyond; the fire-side below is too strong an attraction. Most of the cabins are divided into rooms, the parlors with carpeted floors, and pictures decorating the walls, and more than a few have shelves of books. Occasionally a cabin presents not quite so cheerful an appearance as the others. Through the bare window a lonely old man is seen cooking his supper, an old bachelor.

Most of the men are loafing about the decks, telling each other funny stories or discussing the prices which the potatoes or grain in the holds below will bring them. Now and then one takes a pull at a mooring rope or gives the handle of a pump a few jerks, but on the whole they take it easy, for their work for the summer is over.

Not so with the women. Here one is hanging out clothes, another peels potatoes, a third is spanking a child—all that are visible are busy. The general air of both men and women gives an impression of prosperity and comfort; all are plainly but well clothed. A stylish young miss comes down one of the piers with bundles under her arms. From the wharf she trips lightly on to the first boat, and disappears down the companionway of the cabin. Ten minutes later she emerges again in a loose woolen gown, a basket of clothes in her arms and some clothespines in her mouth.

## OUSTED A TRESPASSER.

A Sassy Sparrow Jumped a Woodpecker's Claim But Was Put to Flight.

"This last spring," said the man who is fond of watching bird-life, "a couple of red-headed woodpeckers started to build a nest in a telegraph pole near my home. The pole was an old one, having been spliced, and the birds started to dig out a hole at this point. I think that they thought when they sounded the spot that there was a rotten place within where it would be easy work making a nest. But they were doomed to be disappointed, for the pole was a firm one and the building of their home progressed slowly. They were gritty, however, and relieved each other at short intervals, and the 'tap, tap' of their bills went on steadily from sunrise to sunset.

"Their perseverance won out at last and they had a home that they might call their own. For the first time in several weeks they left the spot together, probably to celebrate the finishing of the nest. While they were away a sparrow chanced to discover the hole and proceeded at once to jump the claim during the absence of the rightful owners.

"When the woodpeckers returned from their celebration," said the bird-lover, according to the Detroit Free Press, "they discovered the sparrow tugging straw into their home as fast as it could be carried. If birds can swear, those two woodpeckers did when they went for that sparrow with blood in their eyes. From their actions I rather gained the idea that they tried to impress him with the fact that they hadn't been working on that hole for a month for the fun of the thing. I think under the situation that the intruder was lucky to escape with his life."

## Quick Death from Snake Bite.

To illustrate the quickness with which death comes from the bite of a big rattler: A resident of New York city was after quail with two fine pointers. After scattering a large covey he began to pick up a stray bird here and there. One fell about 50 yards ahead, and, calling to his dog: "Dead bird," he reloaded and slowly advanced. Just as the dog reached the bird he was seen to leap into the air a foot or two, the action being accompanied by a faint yelp. Now the quail fell, as I have said, only about 50 yards away, but when the hunter reached the spot the dog lay stone dead. He had been struck by a rattler six feet in length, and death was nearly instantaneous.—N. Y. Press.

## THE FIRST ADVERTISEMENT

It Was Printed as Early as 1643—Interesting Examples of Ancient Liners.

An interesting question has arisen as to the first advertisement to appear in a newspaper printed in the English language. In a paper called the Impartial Intelligencer, published in 1643, appeared an advertisement referring to the theft of two horses, and this has been commonly regarded as the first. The London Intelligencer, however, printed August 11, 1643, contained an advertisement of a book on the "Sovereign Power of Parliament," thus antedating the horse theft advertisement five years. After the appearance of these early advertisements, by slow degrees the practice of invoking the printer's aid gradually became prevalent until at the beginning of the eighteenth century the germ of advertising became fairly developed, says the Detroit Free Press.

Here are a few quaintly worded advertisements from the Observer Reformer, a London journal of September 10, 1704, which inserted advertisements of eight lines for a shilling:

"If any Hamburg or other merchant, who shall desire £200 with an apprentice, wants one, I can help."

"One has a pert boy, about ten years old, can write, read, and be very well recommended, she is willing he should serve some lady or gentleman."

"I want a cook-maid for a merchant."

"I sell chocolate made of the best nuts, without spice or perfume, and with vineloes and spice, from four to ten shillings the pound, and I know to be a great helper of bad stomachs and restorative to weak people, and I'll insure for their goodnes."

"If any will sell a free estate, within thirty miles of London, with or without a house, to the value of £100 the year, or thereabouts, I can help to a customer."

"If any divines or their relicts have complete sets of manuscript sermons upon the Epistles and Gospels, the Catechisms or Festivals, I can help to a customer."

"A fair house in Eastcheap, next to the Flour-de-lis, now in the tenure of a smith, with a fair yard, laid with free stone, and a vault underneath, with a cellar under the shop, down with the same stone, is to be sold. I have the disposal of it."

"I believe I could furnish all the nobility and gentry in England with valuable servants, and such as can have very good recommendation."

"About forty miles from London is a schoolmaster, has had such success with boys, as there are almost forty ministers and schoolmasters that were his scholars. His wife also teaches girls lacemaking, plain work, raising paste, sauces, and cookery to the degree of exactness. His price is £10 to £11 the year, with a pair of sheets and one spoon; to be returned, if desired; coaches and other conveniences pass every day within half a mile of the house; and 'tis but an easy day's journey to or from London."

"I know of several men whose friends would gladly have them matched, which I'll endeavor to do, as from time to time I shall hear of such whose circumstances are likely to agree, and I'll assure such as will come to me it shall be done with all the honor and secrecy imaginable. Their own parents shall not manage it more to their satisfaction and the more comes to me the better I shall be able to serve 'em."

In the year 1704 John Campbell, of Barton, in publishing the first number of the Barton News Letter, advertised for advertisements, and gave circulation to the first newspaper advertisement in this country, as follows:

"This 'News Letter' is to be continued Weekly, and all persons who have any Houses, Lands, Tenements, Farms, Ships, Vessels, Goods, Wares, or Merchandises, etc., to be Sold or Let, or servants Runaway, or Goods Stolen or Lost, may have the same inserted at a Reasonable Rate, from Twelve Pence, to Five Shillings, and not to exceed; Who may agree with John Campbell, Postmaster of Boston."

Couldn't Recognize Him.

"Yes, I have a pretty big mouth, for a fact," admitted the candid man, "but I have learned to keep it shut, and that counts for something when you take your levels. I received a lesson when I was a small boy that I have never forgotten. I was born and brought up on a farm and I had the country boy habit of going around with my mouth wide open, especially if there was anything unusual going on. One day an uncle, whom I had not seen for a year, paid us a visit.

"Hullo, uncle," said I, looking up at him with my mouth opened like a barn door.

"He looked at me for a moment without answering, and then said: 'Close your mouth, sonny, so I can see who you are.'

"I took the lesson to my heart," said the candid man, "and resolved that from that day I would not allow my mouth to conceal my identity."—Detroit Free Press.

Mentioned in History.

Mrs. Parvenue (patronizingly)—Were any of your ancestors men of note?

Mr. Flippant—Yes, madam, I should say so. One of them was the most famous admiral of his day, and commanded the allied forces of the world.

Mrs. Parvenue (with altered tone of deep respect)—Is it possible, Mr. Flippant? And what was his name?

Mr. Flippant—Noah, madam.—Stray Stories.

It Doesn't Pay.

It isn't worth while to be always complaining about your poverty.—Washington (la.) Democrat.

## AUTOMOBILE AS A MENACE.

Said That an Important Country Industry Is Being Driven Out of Trade Fields.

Slowly but surely the automobile is making its way into the country districts, and is supplanting one of the important industries of every country hamlet and village. This is true particularly in the New England states and in New York, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The country livery stables are supported almost entirely by traveling salesmen who sell groceries and provisions and other staple articles, as well as tobacco, cigars and cigarettes.

These men have certain regular routes which they cover at regular intervals, and usually have a standing order with liverymen in towns that are centrally located to take them out over their routes whenever they come to town. Scores of these men, however, have of late taken to the steam carriage as a means of getting about, and have canceled their orders with the liverymen. A representative of a big wholesale grocery house in Rochester is in town looking over the various steam carriages, with a view of purchasing one in the spring, says a New York exchange.

"I was going to wait for awhile longer," he said, "but I have figured the whole thing over, and I find that I can save quite a little money on a trip, and besides, I can cover my territory much quicker, and can lengthen out my routes. I don't know as I would get it, though, if my rival who works the same route had not gotten one some months ago, and I find he is beating me out on every trip."

"The way he works the scheme is to start out on Monday morning and work on to his most distant point, then strike 'em' across the territory and work back. We used to go out, say, to Newark, N. Y., hire a team there and drive south, taking in stores and villages not on the railroad, until we got over along the line of the Auburn road, then work back by another route and put up at Newark. The next day we started out to the north, going to the R. W. & O. and back. The next day we go on to Lyons, repeat the operation, then to Clyde, and so on. The same liveryman took me every time, and the prices were about the same each time, varying between six and eight dollars."

"With a steam carriage, however, my rival runs east to the end of his route without stopping for orders, then he starts back, running north and south, taking in all of the villages and stopping at the cross-road stores as well, and he gets about much quicker and covers more ground than he did before. We used to divide matters up a bit. He took a certain number of the merchants in out-of-the-way corners of the territory, and I took the others, and in that way we saved ourselves considerable expense and a lot of trouble. But of late I find that he has been running among out-of-the-way dealers, and he has sometimes gotten in ahead of me."

## ROYAL SECRET IN THE CLOCK.

It Was Stored for Nearly a Hundred Years in a Hidden Drawer of the Timepiece.

A Gallipolis special says the discovery of a manuscript in a secret drawer of an old clock in that city reveals a secret of the French court, and shows the reason for the visit to that city in 1789 of the duke of Orleans, afterward Louis Philippe of France. The discovery was made, says a Cincinnati report, by Claude M. Walk, who, wishing to make a device to place in his window to attract Christmas purchasers, went to the storage room, where odds and ends are kept, and found an old French clock that had been cast aside for many years. Taking it apart he found a secret drawer, in which, to his amazement, he discovered an old parchment MS. in French wrapped with a portion of a flannel skirt of a child, richly embroidered and bearing a monogram. A fine piece of lace was also with the manuscript.

Upon translation the manuscript purported to be a "true history of Adele de Alonquon." It was signed by Louis de Alonquon, and dated October 15, 1789. It was addressed to Adele, apparently to be given her when she grew to maturity. The substance of it was that Adele was the daughter of the duke of Orleans. The mother died at the child's birth, ignorant of the rank of its father. The writer was then placed in charge of the child and sent with it to Gallipolis, where there was a French colony. The story ran that he became her preceptor, and finally after the visit of the duke of Orleans to Gallipolis it was determined to send Adele to a Catholic school in France. Adele's mother not being of royal blood, the marriage was kept secret.

Mr. Walk has sent the papers to the French ambassador at Washington. Some portions of the papers, giving names and lineage, have not been made public.

Happy Savage.

Dr. Carl Lumbholz, of the American Museum of Natural History, who has lived among the wild Indian tribes of northwestern Mexico, sharing in the every day life and amusements of the people for several years, pronounces them to be a very intellectual race, although many of them still dwell in caves like their forefathers thousands of years ago. On the whole they lead a very happy existence, and among many of the tribes a higher degree of morality exists than in civilized countries. They are monogamists. Theft and many of the worst forms of dishonesty are unknown among them. They hold their land in common, and their principal food is Indian corn and beans.—Youth's Companion.

## FARMERS HAVE THEIR ZOOS.

Some in Winnebago and Boone County, Illinois, Raise Strange Animals.

Farmers and wealthy men of Winnebago and Boone counties are spending a large amount of money in collecting and propagating wild game and strange animals from many parts of the world, says the Chicago Daily News.

W. J. Knapp, who owns a large farm near the Freeport line of the Chicago & Northwestern railway, has a zoo of his own which has attracted attention from animal breeders in different parts of the country, and B. Eldredge, the wealthy manufacturer of Belvidere, has embarked in the propagation and protection of game animals and birds on a large scale.

Mr. Knapp began his work several years ago in a small way. A menagerie passing along the highway left a wounded bear by the roadside. Bruin had been given up to die, but Knapp took pity on the beast, carried him to his farm and nursed him back to life. From that time he has been adding to his collection until he has a good-sized zoo. There are elk, deer, monkeys and a lot of birds of fine feather. There is a pretty herd of Shetland ponies and a great pond in which there may be seen a large variety of trout. Not long ago he imported a zebu cow, which, with her tiny calf, came all the way from India. There are specimens of rare character, one of which is a loria which belongs to the quadrumanous tribe allied to the lemurs. Recently a pair of two-year-old buffalo was secured and the great beast is to be bred a herd of this great beast of the prairies. A pair of lions is also being nurtured for. The care of these animals entails an immense amount of work and expense, it having been necessary to provide an animal house for them.

The effort of Mr. Eldredge is more in the line of a game preserve. He has acquired a large tract of land north of Belvidere and will probably enlarge it. He has already turned loose a herd of deer, elk and other game animals and will add to the collection from time to time. Of the smaller game there are squirrels, rabbits, quail and pheasants. The entire preserve is inclosed in a high wire fence and the whole placed in charge of a game keeper.

The farmers of northern Illinois are becoming more and more stringent in the matter of prohibiting shooting on their farms. In Rockford township of Winnebago county the farmers have formed an association, and among other things the shooting matter is handled by the association, a member of which allows no hunting on his premises unless the hunter is accompanied by a representative of the farmer, and shooting on Sunday is not permitted at all on the farm of any member of the association. The result is that hunters are giving the locality a wide berth and are establishing hunting preserves in different swamp lands in Illinois and Wisconsin.

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## PITH AND POINT.

The less we parade our misfortunes the more sympathy we command.—O. Dewey.

If a man doesn't look frightened when his wife informs him that he talks in his sleep she can trust him implicitly.—Chicago Daily News.

After a man has given up the struggle of trying to be satisfactory, his obituary comes along, and says he always succeeded.—Athens Globe.

"An Alabama lawyer shot at a client and missed a vital spot." "Why did he do it?" "I dunno. Perhaps he wanted to administer his estate."—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Doctor—"Did you tell your advice and count until you fell asleep?" Patient—"I counted up to 18,000." Doctor—"And then you fell asleep?" Patient—"No, then it was time to get up."—Baltimore World.

Harry—"Now, what would you say, Uncle George, as to the right course to escape poverty?" "Uncle George—"When you have got enough money together to purchase and support a yacht, don't buy it!"—Boston Transcript.

Mrs. Figgitt—"My husband is a very reckless man about the house." Mrs. Droppin—"Too bad!" Mrs. Figgitt—"Yes; why, he even stepped on my Turkish rug yesterday. Just to think, I've had it seven years and it has never before been stepped on!"—Boston Journal.

Coming to the Point.—Mr. Grogan—"What a power of funerals they do be havin' at the church these days. Sure, it's shartened me thinking." Miss Casey—"Thinkin' av what?" Mr. Grogan—"That when it come time for my funeral would you be the widdy?"—Philadelphia Press.

## RUSSIAN POLICE METHODS.

Torture That Was Abolished by Alexander I. Extensively Practiced Under Nicholas II.

The century of the abolition in Russia of the torture as an organized system of legal inquiry has provided the Russian press with a text for numerous articles on the humanity and progress of their country. No doubt it was a great step to take, but it is still to be ratified in practice before Russia has any particular occasion to rejoice. In the old days the torture was applied to all suspects as a first means of inquiry; and when the unhappy wretch had been compelled to confess something—usually, as Empress Catherine expressed it, anything which was put into his mouth—he was subjected to a second "inquiry" by the same or more severe means, in order to secure confirmation of his first confession. Occasionally the whole process was repeated twice more, with a view to extorting the names of accomplices. The tortures applied were much the same as in other countries, but could be added to by the ingenuity of individual officials.

Thus, during the reign of Anne, when the ex-taliboy and favorite of the empress, Biron, was in power, it was a favorite form of torture to stand a culprit naked in the snow during the severe northern frosts of midwinter, and to drench him with buckets of water, either ice-cold or cold and hot alternately, a form of "inquiry" which had the disadvantage of too often killing the poor wretch before he had time to confess anything. Thumbscrews, the clog and every form of whipping and beating, with almost as many names for the various processes as are to be found in the dialogues of the slaves of Roman comedy, were everyday attributes of the old Russian halls of justice.

Just 100 years ago to-day Emperor Alexander I. abolished the torture as being a "shame and a reproach to all mankind." But he forgot to order the legal instruments of torture to be destroyed, and these lingered on, and were undoubtedly used for another quarter of a century. Officially the torture has, of course, actually disappeared—at any rate, those forms of it which require elaborate instruments for their application are no more to be found. In actual fact, however, says the London Standard's Moscow correspondent, and in secret, there is a great deal of torture going on in the most enlightened centers of the Russian empire at the present day and it is exercised by the police intrusted with the discovery of crime, the "detective police."

## Ropes of Human Hair.

The young fellows who make their living by gathering the eggs of sea fowl on the rocky island of St. Kilda, one of the Hebrides, consider themselves rich if they are possessed of a rope made of hair from the head of the girl they love. They use these ropes in swinging from the precipitous cliffs of the island. They vary in length, one of 40 or 50 feet being especially prized. The usual kind is a stout hempen cord, wrapped round and round with sheep's wool. Over this is a coating of horse hair and finally one of human hair. To manufacture such a rope is the work of years, but the St. Kilda girl saves her combings religiously. A curio collector who wanted to buy one of these ropes offered \$125 for it, but the offer was refused. The cord in question was covered with a veneer of red hair, the result of 30 years' collection from the heads of parents, aunts and cousins.—Detroit Free Press.

## Delightful Mr. Smith.

The Cook—Mr. Smith says you are a perfect fright.  
The Pretty Parlor Maid—He's a hateful old thing, anyway.  
The Cook—I heard him say so to Mrs. Smith.

The Pretty Parlor Maid—That's different. Do you know, I think Mr. Smith a most agreeable gentleman.—Boston Transcript.

## The Usual Way.

Treat a man well and he forgets it at once, but do him a mean turn and he will never forget you.—Washington (la.) Democrat.

## THE RUSSIAN FARMER.

Eager to Buy Reapers, Mowers, Harvesters, Rakes, Etc., of American Make.

Five complete shipments of American agricultural machinery will be forwarded from New York and Philadelphia to the Black sea within the next six weeks. These shipments will represent no less than 36,000 tons, which is an excess of some 80 per cent. over the entire direct consignments made during last year to the same part of the world. Wilson liners will carry the machinery, the freight for which was contracted for through Alfred H. Post & Co., of New York city. The first steamer, the Othello, has just sailed from Philadelphia. This vessel carries over 10,000 tons of reapers, mowers, harvesters, rakes, etc., to Odessa and Novorossisk for the South Russian markets. The McCormick Harvester company, of Chicago, shipped by the Othello nearly 9,000 tons of its specialties. This firm's shipments by itself made the largest cargo of machinery of any description that has ever been forwarded from this country to a foreign port, the record shipment to date being 7,000 tons, which was made to the Black sea by the Castello in February last. The balance of the Othello's cargo was made up of machinery turned out by the Deering Harvester company, of Chicago, and the Johnson Harvester company, of Batavia, N. Y.

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## BOY CURES ALL AILMENTS.

Michigan Youth Who, It is Alleged, Has Supernatural Powers of Treating Diseases.

John Griffin, who until recently resided near Gilead, recently has been found to possess great curative powers. To date he is reported to have cured over 400 cases, in nature covering a large proportion of the catalogue of human affliction.

Griffin's method is to place his hand on the afflicted part, simultaneously praying. While he cannot explain wherein lies his power, he attributes it to a divine gift at birth. He has visions and believes everything he dreams. He will undertake to cure only at certain times intervening the new and full moon and a night time.

The boy invariably bestows his services gratis and says that he believes what he does for the sick is charity well bestowed. He is not a member of any church and was never baptized in any faith. The young man is not familiar with the full extent of his power, as he has never set met with failure in his attempts to cure. The case is attracting widespread attention, especially in medical circles.

## TO ENDOW SCHOOLS.

Greater Part of Lady Cook's Wealth Will Be Used in Reform Work in England.

Lady Cook, formerly Tennessee Cladin, announces that she is about to enter reform work in England with the vigor and determination displayed by her when she advocated social reform in the United States. She intends to devote a considerable part of her large income to opening schools and conference halls for teaching her views and promoting practical charity, eventually endowing them, if they are successful, with her whole fortune. She says she knows that in doing this she will be executing the wishes of her deceased husband. She will aim to teach the people that the human body is the temple of God to enable them to understand their duties to themselves and their children.

## NEW NAMES FOR BABIES.

Latest Fad in England is the Invention of Odd and Peculiar Titles.

Some wonderful names are being devised for babies coming into the world this coronation year. Corona, Corolius and Edal are among some of those already bestowed, the last being composed of the first two syllables of the names of the king and queen. These, however, fall short in quaintness of the name borne by the little daughter of Sir Francis Knollys, who was christened Louvins, which is the result of putting together the first syllables of the names of the king's daughters, Louisa, Victoria and Maude. It is hardly possible for female coronation babies to be grateful at some future time for names that will fix their ages in so public a way.

## Lost the Lord's Nickel.

A little boy who goes to Sunday school every Sunday always receives a nickel from his father to place in the collection plate. Recently his father gave him two nickels, saying: "One is for the Lord and the other is for yourself." As it was too early to start for Sunday school, the little boy sat on the porch steps in the warm sunshine playing with the two nickels. After a while he dropped one of them and it disappeared down a crack. Without a moment's hesitation and still clutching the remaining coin in his clenched fist, he looked up at his father, exclaiming: "Oh, pop! There goes the Lord's nickel!"

## The Unobliging Both.

Gen. Botha came very near being captured again by the British. The latter arrived the other day where they expected to find Botha, but unfortunately, says the Chicago Inter-Ocean, he was not at home.

## Reading Between the Lines.

Mr. Schwab left Monte Carlo one day and arrived at Vienna the next, hence it is safe to conclude, says the Chicago Record-Herald, that he didn't have to walk.