

Without Fur Or Feather

19. The Countess of... explained to an audience... plume for persons... as prominently as... she wore neither fur... years," she said, "I... avoided wearing any... plume of birds save... in recent years, ow... has come to my know... vicious cruelty practi... I have not worn... side on every side this... every woman's head... adorned with the plume of birds... Ladies who have taken to wearing... little tails of fur around their necks... are now not happy unless they have... the whole breast spread out about... them. My own physcic aura objects... to having dead birds and beasts hung... all around as modes of decapitation."

The gathering was promoted by a committee formed for the preservation of birds, in view of the possible introduction at the present session of Parliament of a bill to abolish the trade in the skins and plumage of birds, with the exception of ostriches, better ducks and domestic fowls.

One Quaint English Village

About fifty miles out of London is a village which has fewer modern utilities than any town in the British Isles. It is to-day almost as it was when Oliver Cromwell and his army were in the field. Elmley is the name of this quaint place. It is an island and the home of a population of about forty men, women and children, whose industry is sheep herding. Within walking distance for the average Englishman from London, this little place does not know what a telephone is. It has not a shop, nor lamps, nor roads, nor other things to be found in nearly every nook and corner of the world. Even in far off China, where religious superstition has kept out things of the Western world, telephones, telegraph, electric lights and many other things of modern times will be found.

Elmley has not been visited by an automobile in the memory of the oldest inhabitant of the place, who is now in his eightieth year. An automobile in Elmley would be sure to cause a lot of excitement among the forty persons who live there. The place is little known by Englishmen, for in Baedeker's "London and its Environs" not a word is to be found about it, nor is the place mentioned as being in the limits of London.

This might be explained by the fact that the only interest in Elmley to visitors would be the antiquity of the place. But Lippincott's Gazetteer of the World, which from the size of the volume would lead one to believe that at least Elmley would be found in its proper place, has no mention of it, although every other hamlet in the British Isles is probably recorded in the book. Elmley is owned by Oxford University. Deeded to the school no doubt by a good wisher of the institution, it contains about 2,000 acres and a church and school, besides the home of the islanders. The church and school were built in this sparsely populated place because of the dangers in reaching the mainland in winter. The current is always swift. It is shallow and the river bank is mud knee deep.

There is a ferry from the mainland to the island, but this is not any too safe. During the day the signal, or the ferry man is to open a white painted door of a shack opposite the ferry landing. At night a lighted candle wigwagged over the head is the signal that service is required.

Crossed From Alaska To Asia In Two Days.

MONTREAL, Feb. 17.—Claiming to be the only white man who has crossed the Behring Straits, between Asia and America, on foot, Charles Brouard, of North-Sea, England, is in Montreal preparing for an eighteen day trip across the ice. He will look him two days, and 27th, 1899. He was accompanied by two Eskimos and a

Siberian coast, and was rescued by the San Francisco whaler Belvidere from an Indian chief, who stole his provisions and left him to his own resources.

Last Victim Of The Boer War.

An explosion due to a most extraordinary cause occurred recently at Crediton, in Devon, with Rev. Henry John Hodgson as the victim. For ten years or more Mr. Hodgson has had in his sitting room at the Chantry, Dear street a Boer artillery shell in use as a door weight. Of the fact that it was a live shell he had not the faintest idea. He had it in his possession in a sword bayonet of French manufacture, and yesterday he decided to bend the bayonet and attach it as a hook to the shell. Accordingly he put the point of the bayonet into the fire until the metal had become white hot, and then, taking out the percussion cap of the shell, he inserted the end of the hot bayonet in the hole. Instantly there was a terrific explosion. Mr. Hodgson's right leg was fractured below the knee, his right wrist terribly lacerated, and his face badly burned by the ignited powder. The plate glass in the French window was blown out, most of the furniture in the room was smashed to bits, and a hole pierced in the floor where the shell lay. Fragments of shell were found in different parts of the room and embedded in the walls, the furniture, and the garden.

Infantry Steps.

The marching step of Russian infantry is 27 1/2 in., the French, Italian and Austrian soldiers manage 29 in., the Germans do 31 in., and the British 31 1/2 in.

Catching Fish In Inter State Waters

Washington, Feb. 20.—Uniform regulations governing the catching of food fish in inter-state waters are necessary to save the dwindling fish supply of the country, is the opinion of Dr. Hugh M. Smith, Federal commissioner of fisheries. In a statement to the House committee on merchant marine and fisheries Dr. Smith expresses himself in favor of the Linticum bill for that purpose.

He declares that fishing is gradually disappearing in Chesapeake Bay because of the laxity and difference in State laws and regulations and asserts that conditions on the Great Lakes were even worse.

He says that the dumping of sewer and oil and coal tars, particularly into the Hudson River and Delaware Bay, are destroying the fish.

Kansas City, Mo., held a "Boys-go-to-Church" recently, on which all the services were placed in charge of the boys, even to the choirs and sermons. The churches were crowded in most cases with both boys and their elders.

London, Feb. 18.—John Parnell, who is writing reminiscences of his brother, the late Charles Stewart Parnell, tells how his mother lost the famous Irish leader when he was a baby.

She was nursing him when an unexpected visitor was announced. She hastily showed the infant into a drawer which she shut hurriedly and then greeted her visitor. When the latter left the mother was utterly unable to recall where she had put the baby who, after she had made a long and frantic search, proclaimed his whereabouts by muffled howls.

Lloyd-George's Gold Has Become Worse

London, Feb. 20.—Notwithstanding the fact that he is suffering from an attack of influenza, Mr. Lloyd-George attended yesterday's session of the House of Commons. As a result of this rashness, his condition became worse, and he had to return to bed. His temperature last night was 102.

DANGER IN A DIARY.

People in the habit of noting their candid opinions in diaries should, says the London Chronicle, be careful when showing them to other people. Shirley Brooks records that "Delane, the editor of the Times, Sir William Russell, and Lord Hartington were in a railway carriage, when some dispute arose about a date Russel affirmed that he knew, having made an entry in his diary. This was in his travelling case, and he produced it. He found the page but not being able to read—his glass having slipped into his trousers—he gave it to Delane to read who, read, "John Delane tells me such is the case."

UNUSUAL COLD IN EUROPE.

While New York City lately endured the temporary discomfort of a drop in the temperature to the lowest record in fourteen years, Central Europe, according to despatches, has been experiencing the severest winter in a generation. In Eastern Russia 150 deaths from freezing were reported in one day, and stories of peasants devoured by wolves were current. This, fortunately, is a condition to which even the bleakest regions of America offer no parallel.

TONGUES OF AMERICAN FOREIGN BORN.

Out of ninety odd million people now living in the United States over 32,000,000 were born in foreign countries. Of these foreign born over 10,000,000 have English as the Mother-tongue. 8,817,000 German, 2,151,000 Italian, 1,707,000 Polish, 1,676,000 Yiddish or Hebrew, 1,445,000 Swedish, 1,357,000 French, (these are mainly French-Canadian), and over 1,000,000 Norwegian. Other mother-tongues are spoken by 4,000,000 of various race.

POLITE, BUT POINTED.

A stern old preacher had issued to his people a command against dancing, believing it to be a device of the devil.

A few of the young people disobeyed and attended a dance given at a neighboring town. Finally it reached the ears of the preacher, and meeting one of the culprits on the street one morning, said in a stern voice, "Good morning, child of the devil!"

"Good morning, father!" smiling answered the pretty miss.

Critical Period In Church of England

TORONTO, Feb. 20.—A cable to the Mail and Empire says: "Very Rev. Henry Waco, Dean of Canterbury, has raised in an impassioned manner the cry that the English Church is in danger from Romanizing tendencies. He told the convocation of Westminster, yesterday, that the present was the most critical period in the history of the Church of England, since the Reformation. The deepest controversies that ever divided the church are now in progress."

The Dean declared that there is an active, earnest and powerful body among the clergy which is avowedly aiming to bring the ceremonial and doctrine of the Church in harmony with those of the Church of Rome. They had advocated, he said, the re-introduction of the invocation of the saints and the worship of the Virgin. Those on his (Evangelical) side of the Church would exert every power they possessed, parliamentary or otherwise, to prevent any such changes, on effect of which would be to preclude, forever, the possibility of the re-union of Christians in England, as even the most orthodox non-conformists would have nothing to do with a Romanizing of the Church.

The Dean said he did not know whether it was too late to secure peace, but a continuance of the present line was certain to bring civil war within the Church and this would entail its national ruin. In protesting against the enactments of the Welsh Church Bill interfering with the constitution of the convocation of Canterbury, the Archbishop of Canterbury explained that the protest previously made was against the bill as a whole, this one being aimed at the particular provision whereby bishops and the clergy of the Church of Wales will cease to be members of the convocation.

The Bishop of Oxford characterized these proposals in the bill, which were made without the consent of the Church as serious violation of spiritual liberty.

The Bishop of Hereford, one of the three Bishops supporting the government dissociated himself from the resolution, declaring that parliament had the right to legislate according to the will of the electors. He denied that there was unwarranted interference on the part of the state. This statement was made before a joint meeting of the lower house.

At a joint meeting, a resolution in the sense of the Archbishop of Canterbury's remarks, was adopted nem con.

LONDON, Feb. 20.—The Kikuyu controversy was considered at a crowded meeting of the English Church Union, held last night at Westminster. Viscount Halifax, who presided, submitted a resolution reaffirming that no one was a lawful priest or bishop except by episcopal consecration. It was to be feared that the proposals made at Kikuyu would result in the establishment of the

undenominational in its principles, and that the scheme for federation was one which it would be impossible for members of the church to accept. Lord Shaftesbury thought the movement was a revival of the attempt of the seventeenth century Puritans to capture the church, and under the guise of Christian charity to break the barriers constituting the church. The resolution was unanimously passed. (Montreal Gazette)

LONDON, Feb. 17.—A memorial signed by 675 priests of the Diocese of London was presented to the Upper House of Convocation to-day. The memorial expresses grave anxiety as to the denial of certain fundamental truths of the faith of some who hold office in the Church.

The priests also deplore the "wide spread tendency to approach the problem of reunion among Christians in a way that is clearly inconsistent with the belief that Episcopal ordination is essential to the valid ministry of the word and the sacraments."

The memorialists ask for the repudiation of the claim of some clergy to reject the miracles of Jesus' birth of the Virgin and the actual resurrection of His body from the tomb.

In submitting the petition, the Bishop of London said that he would move at the next session that steps be taken to allay the widespread uneasiness in the Church of England. Books are being published by some of the clergy which seemed to deny the great miracles. In three cases the authors had been removed from or had resigned their offices in the Church.

Unionist members of the Lords and Commons have decided that Unionist peers should support the motion of Baron Amphil for an inquiry into the charges brought by the newspapers of the purchase of titles by subscriptions to party fun's.

An unusual natural phenomenon was witnessed recently in Berwick, Me., by H. R. Schulmaler, in the form of a huge halo about the moon, extending from the horizon to the zenith. It appeared about 4.30 a. m. when the temperature was about 30 below zero, and resembled a huge hoop rolling along the horizon.

FOR A BRUISE.

To prevent a bruise from becoming discolored apply to it a cloth which has been wrung out in water as hot as can be borne comfortably, and change it as it becomes cold. If hot water cannot be procured, the next best thing is to moisten some dry starch with cold water and to cover the bruised part with it.

"Pity the blind!" Yes, pity those Whom day and night enclose In equal dark; to whom the sun's keen flame And pitchy night time are the same. But pity most the blind Who cannot see That to be kind Is life's felicity.

—Richard Watson Gilder.

Some people always prefer to live on the top floor so they can look down on their neighbors.

For several days Mrs. W. U. Parsons has provided free lunch for 100 children attending the Irving School near her home in Tarrytown, N. Y. The school is in a country district and because of the snow the children have been unable to go home at noon.

A big pine measuring four feet in diameter at the base, 75 feet tall, and containing approximately 2,500 feet of lumber, was perfectly cut near Pigeon Hill, South Paris, Me.,

NEST IN CACTUS STALKS

Mexican Woodpecker Makes Its Home In Giant Plant

There is a species of woodpecker in northern Mexico that frequently makes its nest in the stalk of one of the large cactuses—the giant cereus—which abound on the plains in that region.

Undismayed by the spines that cover the trunk of the huge plant, the bird clears a space, and with great labor digs a short tunnel and a flask-shaped cavity in the tough, fibrous wood.

Both the male and female woodpecker work at the task, and they use the same nest for several years unless the growth of the plant disturbs it. Such a nest is safe from all natural enemies.

Occasionally this handsome woodpecker—Centurus elegans—digs its

tunnel in the trunk of a palm instead of the cactus—a circumstance likely to lead to the destruction of the tree. After the young have flown and the nest is left empty, the small seeds of the wild fig are often carried into it by birds or bats.

The moisture of the rainy season causes the seeds to germinate and to grow tendrils that before long reach the ground and take root. The wild fig grows rapidly until in a few years it wholly envelops the palm and suffocates it.

STRANGE CHEQUES

Documents Will be Honored Even When Not Written on Paper

A cheque, as an order for payment, if otherwise valid, is perfectly good if made out on material other than the orthodox form provided by the bank.

Some time ago a cheque written on an oyster shell was drawn for a sum of \$5.00, presented, and cashed by a bank at Atlantic City, New Jersey. It was plainly written, and nobody thought of dishonoring it on that account.

There is a Manchester cabinet-maker who frequently draws cheques on thin slices of wood lying about his workshop. If his cheque book is handy he uses it, but if it is not, then a slip of wood has to serve.

Cheques have been drawn on collars and cuffs, or portions of them, and duly cashed.

A cheque for \$100 is held as a curiosity by the bank on which it was drawn. It is made out on the leather tongue of a boot, as the outcome of a wager respecting the payment of such a cheque. Two business men were disputing one day about the obligation of a bank to honor a cheque so drawn, whereon the one who upheld its validity undid his boot, cut out the tongue, and forthwith plainly wrote a cheque upon it. Both then went to the bank, where it was presented and cashed.

Batting Eye a Myth

"People who think a batsman keeps his eye on the ball from the moment the pitcher delivers it until he connects, or misses, are badly mistaken," says Cobb.

"A man hits a baseball by instinct. He sees the ball leave the pitcher's hand, of course, but doesn't keep his eye glued on it until he hits. If he did, his batting average would be minus zero or thereabouts.

"A man hits by instinct in the game of baseball. The natural batsman is the chap who doesn't have to worry about the ball. He simply steps up, and biffs away. The light hitter seldom improves, no matter what he does to increase his efficiency."

Cobb has applied his baseball hitting methods to golf. Instead of driving the gutta percha from a tee, he has a caddy throw the ball to him, and when it bounces an inch or so above the ground he swats it. Ty easily drives the ball when it is thrown, but finds it hard to hit when it is resting on a tee.

Lajole's Tip on Eyesight

Napoleon Lajole says that young baseball players pay too much attention to developing speed without giving a thought to what he considers the most important asset in an aspiring recruit. Lajole says a perfect pair of eyes can do more to make a player successful than any adjunct. Plenty of nerve, intelligence and strength enter into it, but the largest item is good eyesight.

Indigestion

If you are suffering from indigestion and the attendant distressed stomach, you should give Mi-o-na, the guaranteed remedy a trial. Mr. William Shafer of 230 Queen's St. S., Berlin, Ont., says "For years I have been a sufferer from acute indigestion, which caused the most distressing pains in my stomach. I decided to try Booth's Mi-o-na Tablets and they have done me more good than anything I have ever used. I am now more free from this trouble than I have been for years. I am pleased to endorse and recommend this remedy to all who suffer with stomach trouble."

Remember Mi-o-na Tablets are guaranteed to cure acute or chronic indigestion and turn the old stomach into a new one in a few weeks. All druggists 50c. a box or postpaid from The R. T. Booth Co. Ltd., Fort Erie, Ont. Sold and guaranteed by E. W. Mair.