

LONG-LIVED ANIMALS.

Stories that Show some Remarkable Phases of Animal Life.

Three score and ten are the years allotted to man, though the majority give up life's battle long before attaining the natural term. The king of beasts probably paws his native heath a similar length of time, for even in confinement he has been known to live this period. A lion called "Pompey" was in the Tower of London over seventy years, and another, brought from the River Gambia, died at the age of sixty-three. The elephant has the advantage of him in this respect.

Ajax captured an elephant from Porus, a king of India. He inscribed upon a plate particulars of this victory, and this being annexed to the animal it was set free. It turned up again three hundred and fifty years afterwards, still bearing the plate recording the circumstance.

To descend at once from the largest to the smallest of living creatures—the tortoise retains its life for a surprising length of time. A document, called the "Bishop's Barn," among the archives of Peterborough cathedral, contains some interesting particulars of a tortoise which dwelt in the palace garden over two hundred and twenty years. Bishop Marsh's predecessor remembered it over sixty years, and he was the seventh bishop who wore the mitre during its sojourn there. Its shell was perforated and attached to a chain in order to restrain its propensity to appropriate the fruit of the garden to its own use.

The Lambeth tortoise, which took up its quarters in the garden in the time of Archbishop Laud, about the year 1625, lived contentedly there till 1753, when it died through some neglect of the gardener. Its shell is preserved among the curiosities of the museum. Sir Robert Heron, Bart., in his notes, professes an acquaintance with two tortoises, which were brought over to this country from Rochelle, soon after the siege. At the time of his introduction to these creatures, which took place in 1827, they were in the possession of Mr. Reid, who resided near York.

Several specimens of the Indian tortoise promenade the garden of the Zoological society in apparent vigour, though each had seen over two hundred years.

In Grant Allan's story of the "Great Taboo," the action of which is recent, a mystery is cleared up by a parrot which landed on the island in the company of an English sailor during the reign of King Charles.

That parrots are a long-lived tribe is certain. That the domesticated creatures which amuse us by their conversational talents do not often compete with Methuselah is due perhaps to ignorance as to their natural mode of feeding, to change of climate, and to the confinement, which is not conducive to longevity in any animal. Instances are known, however, of parrots living in domestication a hundred years, and even more.

Le Vaillant mentions one he saw which had been caged ninety-three years. The *Magazine of Natural History* for 1838 states that a person who had been in possession of a grey parrot for thirty-two years obtained it from a relative who had kept it forty-one, its age thus being at least seventy-three years. The same journal mentions two parrots whose ages were known to be eighty-five and one hundred respectively. Professor Schulze of Göttingen relates that a parrot brought from Italy to France in 1633 was living in 1743 at the age of one hundred and ten.

The age to which the swan may attain affords naturalists an opportunity of showing some disparity in their estimates. Bacon set it down at a hundred, Goldsmith extends its career to three hundred years. Probably it is somewhere between.

At Alkmaar, Holland, in 1672, there flourished a swan which wore a collar bearing the date of 1572. In Molleson's museum there is a stuffed bird, known to fame as the "Old Swan of Dun," which died in 1823, aged two hundred years.

MONEY CARRIES DISEASE.

And How It Sometimes Does It—A Timely Word of Caution.

How careful we are if a contagious disease gets into a house to see that it is not carried to other houses, and yet one of the most potent means of carrying disease—the handling of money—is passed by daily unnoticed. In the June number of a medical journal published in Havana are the results of an analysis of bank notes by two Cuban physicians. They found that notes that had been in use for some time not only increased in weight from an accumulation of foreign material, but contained in addition, large numbers of microbes. In two notes they calculated there were 19,147 microbes. Nine different kinds were found. Among others, were those of diphtheria and consumption two of our most fatal and dreaded diseases.

Recently on one of the very hot days, an iceman to whom was handed a two-dollar note in payment for a bill, was seen to fold the bill and wipe the perspiration from his forehead with it, calling out at the same time to his fellow: "How is that for a handkerchief?" Who knows whether or not he had some skin disease?

The majority of men who handle money keep constantly in mind the fact that it is unclean, and never put their fingers in the mouth, yet moisten them with a sponge instead. I can recall several bank tellers who have died from tuberculosis, presumably caught from carelessness in handling money. Two have come under my personal observation.

Coins, as well as bank notes, may carry infection. Often they are so dirty that they stick together, and the putting of them in the mouth is an obnoxious practice that cannot be too strongly condemned. With women especially is this habit strong. Almost invariably when a woman goes shopping she carries her purse or a shopping bag in her hand, and if she desires to make change frequently puts the coin in her mouth while she closes her purse. This is an everyday occurrence. With newboys also is this true. Having their bundles of papers, the mouth is used as a third hand. For my part, after a coin has been in some one else's mouth I would want to know whose before I put it in my own. Besides people's pockets and hands are not always clean.

How frequently children are ill with scarlet fever or diphtheria or some other contagious disease are given coins in order to please them or as a bribe for taking medicine. Every crevice in the millling is liable to foster contagion. Whose child

will handle it next? Mine or yours? When I give my children pennies for their bank I am always fearful lest they acquire some dread disease.—*N. Y. Mail and Express.*

FIFTEEN DECISIVE BATTLES.

Some of the Great Events which Changed the Map of the World.

According to Lord Creasy, the fifteen decisive battles were those at Marathon, September, 490 B. C., when Miltiades, with 10,000 Greeks, defeated 100,000 Persians under Datis and Artaphernes; at Syracuse, September, 413 B. C., a great naval battle took place, the Athenians under Nicias and Demosthenes being defeated with a loss of 40,000 killed and wounded of their entire fleet; at Arbela, October, 331 B. C., Alexander the Great overthrew Darius Codomanus for the third time; at Matarus, 207 B. C., the Consul Livius and Nero cut to pieces Hasdrubal's army, sent to reinforce Hannibal; Arminius, in 9 A. D., when the Gauls overthrew the Romans under Varus and established the independence of Gaul; at Chalons, 451 A. D., Aetius and Theodoric utterly defeated Attila and prevented Europe from devastation; at Tours, October, 732, Charles Martel overthrew the Saracens under Abderrahman and broke the Moslem yoke from Europe; at Hastings, October, 1066, William of Normandy slew Harold II and obtained England's throne; at Orleans, 1429, Joan of Arc secured the independence of France; the defeat of the Spanish Armada, 1588, destroyed the hopes of the popes in England; the battle of Blenheim, August, 13, 1704, when Marlborough and Prince Eugene defeated Talarard, leading the French and the Bavarians, and thus preventing Louis XIV from carrying out his schemes; at Pultowa, July, 1709, Czar Peter utterly defeated Charles XII of Sweden, and established the Muscovite power; at Saratoga, October, 1777, General Gates defeated the British and General Burgoyne, and thus secured for the United States the alliance of France; at Valmy, September, 1792, the French Marshall, Kellerman, gained the upper hand for the French revolutionists over the Duke of Brunswick and the allied armies; at Waterloo, June 18, 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte commanded the French and the Duke of Wellington the British and their allies, and the victory broke up Napoleon's revolutionary plans. Two recent battles, not here included, are those at Gettysburg, July, 1863, and at Sedan, preparing, respectively, for the downfall of the Confederacy and the capture of Napoleon III and his army.

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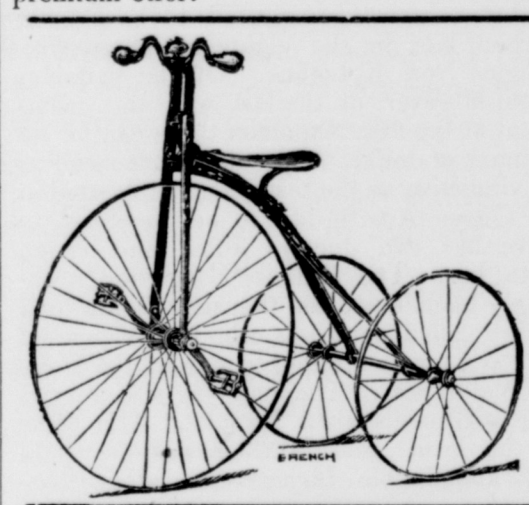
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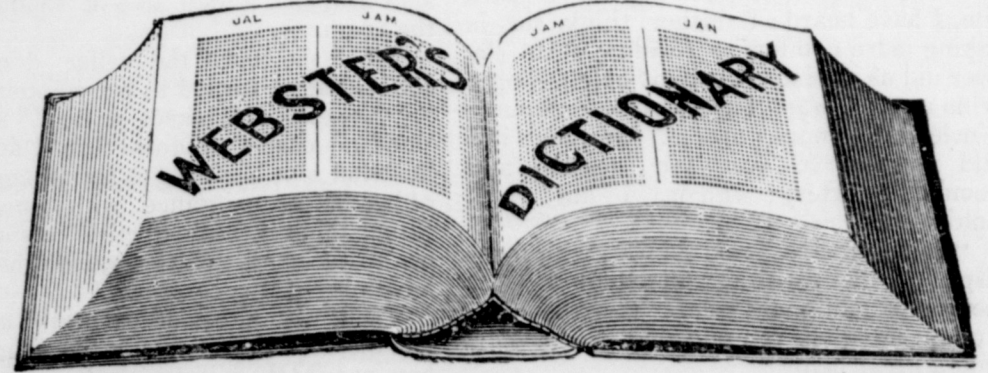
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