

ST. JOHN N. B. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1895.

ONE OF THE GREAT FOUR.

HALIFAX A LEADING FORTRESS OF GREAT BRITAIN.

Description of the Eight Forts of Which this Fortress is Composed—The Armament Is Not of the Most Approved Type of Modern Times—Some Opinions.

HALIFAX, Sept. 5.—The four fortresses is the official term used by the British war office in speaking of the fortified stations at Halifax, Bermuda, Gibraltar and Malta. Regarding the impregnability of Halifax opinions differ. The fortifications here certainly are not fitted out with an armament at all equal to that of the other three. The probability is that unguarded by a fleet off the harbor, Halifax would not long show herself equal to a formidable attack. The names of the eight ports that comprise the "fortress of Halifax," and their location, follow:

Fort Cambridge and Fort Ogilvie; are close to one another, on the edge of Point Pleasant Park, at the southern extremity of the peninsula on which the city of Halifax is built.

York Redoubt, on an eminence on the western shore and commanding the entrance to the harbor.

Fort Charlotte, built on George's island, in the centre of the harbor and facing the entrance.

Ive's point battery and Fort McNab, and McNab's island, the large tract at the entrance to the harbor, or Fort Clarence, on the eastern side of the harbor, near Dartmouth.

The citadel, in the centre of the city, a star-shaped fort serves a useful purpose, but though formidable once as a fortification is now rather antiquated.

The armament of the forts is hardly up to date. The most of the guns are 10-inch and 9-inch rifled muzzle-loading. These guns are inferior to the type used at Gibraltar or Malta, for instance. The 10-inch 18-ton gun fires a projectile weighing 407 pounds, and requires a powder charge of 70 pounds to perforate 10-inches of iron at 1,000 yards range. The 9-inch 12-ton gun of course, weaker, firing a projectile of 254 pounds, and 8 inches of iron is all that the shot would penetrate. These guns are small compared with the breech-loadings guns on modern men-of-war. The heaviest guns on the United States Ship Texas, for instance, are two 12-inch 47-ton R. B. L. guns, throwing a projectile weighing 850 pounds, using a powder charge of 425 pounds, having a velocity of 2,050 feet per second, and able to penetrate 22 inches of steel at 1,000 yards.

There is one better gun in the fortress of Halifax than those previously mentioned. It is mounted on Fort McNab, the fortification farthest seaward. This gun is a 32-ton B. B. L., can throw a 500-pound projectile, penetrating 20 inches of armour at 1,000 yards. The war office originally intended to mount two guns of this class at Fort McNab.

This is the only gun that could make any defence in an artillery duel against a modern man-of-war.

General Montgomery-Moore, who commands the troops in British North America is said to have expressed himself as disappointed with the condition of the fortifications here on the occasion of his appointment two or three years ago.

During the past four years York Redoubt has been remodelled, and Fort McNab built, the former at a cost of \$150,000, and the latter at an expenditure of about \$75,000 exclusive of armament.

VOICE IN HIS STOMACH.

Doctors Say He Is a Ventriloquist and Negroes that He Has a Devil.

A remarkable case of natural and unconscious ventriloquism—a phenomenon which scientific men believe was responsible for most of the cases in which persons once were supposed to be possessed of devils—has caused much consternation among the superstitious and great interest among the scientific in Orangeburg, S. C. The history of the case is told by William L. Runkley of Claflin University, Orangeburg, in the Appeal.

The phenomenon appears in a thirteen year-old colored boy, the son of poor and illiterate parents. He was taken ill about a month ago, with violent pains in his stomach. The doctor was called and treated him for a week or more, but the boy grew no better. After he had been ill about nine days his parents began to hear strange noises, apparently in his stomach. They were inarticulate and faint at first, but daily grew stronger. They described them as like the crowing of a cock, the barking of a dog, and the lowing of a cow. In a few days intelligible sounds, expressions in human speech, were heard. A voice, sounding as from the boy's stomach, said: "Oh, Lord, I want to get out." "I'm so tired." "I'm hungry," and "You hurt me." The doctor was puzzled, and related the circumstances to other doctors.

The people in the village, especially the negroes, became much excited over the phenomenon, and the boy's home was thronged daily with curious visitors. The

boy averred that he could not control the voice, and that it was, in effect, a thing apart from his own consciousness. The voice said its name was Josephine. The superstitions colored folks became terribly wrought up over the case, especially as they treated the voice as an oracle, and the voice seemed very willing to accept the part. All manner of questions on religious and personal topics were asked, and the answers were taken as having a supernatural importance.

The doctors thought it couldn't be a case of ventriloquism, because the boy seemed really unable to control the voice, and the sounds came without his volition. The boys parents asserted that the voice prophesied and foretold all manner of things that came to pass. More than one superstitious person went to bed and doctored himself because the uncanny voice had predicted directly or indirectly, his early death. Mr. Bulkley visited the boy, and gives this account of his experience with him.

"I visited the boy's home and asked him to tell me his name. He did so [from his mouth]. I then said: 'Talk from your stomach.' He replied: 'I can't.' 'Well, then, make Josephine talk.' And he, to my great astonishment, said: 'Talk, Josephine.' The voice said: 'I won't do it.' 'Don't you want some candy?' 'No, I don't.' Thus I kept up a fusillade of questions to notice the effect. The response always came in a decidedly different voice from his, but the remarkable feature is that he makes so many absolutely distinct tones in his stomach, or bottom of his chest, without the least motion of the face or lips. His throat, however, moves, I put my hand there to make the test. His father claimed that Josephine could talk while George was eating, when he was sleeping, or simultaneously with him."

Medical men have gone from all parts of the state and surrounding states to study the case. One physician, Dr. J. S. Hydrick, thus sums the case:

"At first it was a case of unconscious ventriloquism; the boy did not know his gift. The noise surprised and frightened him. But now he knows his power and can speak or keep silent at will. You will notice that if anyone holds his ear to his stomach he will make the sounds; but if the investigator places his ear to the boy's larynx or holds it he will refrain from speaking." The theory of evil spirits taking possession of men and women is very old, and common to practically every people. The old sorcerers and witch doctors used ventriloquism to carry out their impetuous and miraculous cures, but once in a while a case of natural and unconscious ventriloquism occurred and helped out the situation all around. Most of the people round Orangeburg are illiterate, and believe strongly that the boy is possessed of a devil. Not a few are expecting the end of the world very soon, while all are expecting something interesting.

A Clover Party.

A four-leaf clover party is a pretty entertainment for a summer gathering, especially if the hostess has a country home, or a clover field in her yard. The way to utilize the clover is to decorate the house with its blossoms, both red and white. The linen and china should also be ornamented with clover blossoms. In the hall there should be a little rattan table, festooned with vines and clover blossoms, and covered with a green mat formed of ivy leaves. On this should stand a large glass punch bowl filled with iced lemonade, and surrounded by small glasses. A young girl in a dainty gown—it might be one of the new white delaines showing a clover leaf—should preside over the tempting beverage as only a young girl can. At the close of the luncheon or tea the guests may be invited to hunt for four-leaf clovers, and those finding the largest number may be rewarded with pretty clover pins, while the unfortunate who finds the smallest number may be given a pair of eyeglasses to aid her in some future search.

Men Invented Corsets.

The much maligned corset was invented and first worn by men. The earliest mention in the history of this article is by Aristophanes, who lived in the fifth century, B. C. In one of his comedies he ridicules a brother poet, who, inordinately vain of his personal beauty, was dissatisfied with the shape of his figure, which was far removed from ideal symmetry, being much too thin for his height. He therefore hit upon the plain of improving his physique by encasing his body in an under-cuirass, made of little pieces of wood. The idea was imitated later on by another man, the Emperor Antoninus Pius, who found great difficulties in persuading the Roman women to follow his example.

Among the Rumpocacy.

Mrs. Brand-New—I would like to get a first-class book on etiquette.

Mr. Brand-New—Any particular point you want to clear up?

Mrs. Brand-New—Yes; how to treat one's inferiors. You know, dear, it is only recently that we have had inferiors.

IS A BAD KIND OF SNAKE

THE RATTLE IS DANGEROUS IN A GOOD MANY WAYS.

It Does Not Bite but It Gets There Just the Same—Some Errors in Regard to Its Ways of Attack and Defence—Tough Yarns About Its Sagacity.

"Nobody was ever bitten by a rattlesnake, and nobody ever will be," said a man who has studied them. "And the reason is the best that could possibly be. A rattlesnake can't bite. It isn't likely that any creature that lives and is provided with teeth and jaws has less power of biting. The snake's jaws are not hinged. They are attached to each other by an elastic cartilage. Thus the snake has no leverage whatever in closing one jaw against the other, and if it attempted to injure by biting, it couldn't so much as pierce the skin. The fangs of a rattlesnake are driven into the flesh by a stroke, not a bite, as is well shown by the fact that punctures are made only by the armament of the upper jaw. The lower jaw has nothing to do with the act. A man striking a boat hook into a log is an exact representation of the manner in which the rattlesnake bites. So whenever any one tells you about some one else being bitten by a rattlesnake, bet him it isn't so. You'll win. It is an impossibility for a rattlesnake to bite.

"But, although the rattlesnake can't bite, if you're fooling around in a country where he is spending the summer, you want to keep your eye peeled. And there is one particular thing you don't want to forget. It is a common and widespread fallacy that a rattlesnake is entirely harmless so long as he is uncoiled. I believed that once, and found out by a startling personal experience that it wasn't so. It is true that when a rattlesnake is stretched at full length, with the muscles extended to the utmost, he could not strike an inch forward, but from that position he can strike backward his full length, and with lightning-like velocity. One day I dropped a big stone on the head of a big rattler that lay in this position, crushing the head, the stone lying partly on the head. After gazing for some time at the quivering reptile, so suddenly taken from life, I stooped down to remove his rattles. I had no sooner touched his tail than his mutilated head flew back, and almost grazing my cheek, struck the sleeve of my coat just below the shoulder, where both fangs were buried, pulling out the jaw and remaining in the sleeve as the snake fell back to the ground. They had not missed my cheek by more than a hair's breadth. With precaution I have made that test of a rattlesnake's capacity of striking in that way many times since then, and the snake always struck. The instinct is so strong in this reptile that I have known a rattler, two hours after its head was severed from its body, to strike back fiercely with its bleeding stump the instant its tail was touched.

"There is at least one case on record where this belief that a rattlesnake couldn't strike until it was in coil resulted fatally. The man was working in his garden, when he discovered a rattlesnake lying with only its rattles and two or three inches of its tail projecting from under the bottom rail of the fence on the side next to him, the rest of the snake being on the other side. The man, being unable to give the snake a blow that would kill it while it was in that position, thought he would seize its rattles, and pull it quickly out into full view and kill it with his hoe. He crept up and seized the rattles, but had no sooner touched them than the rattlesnake doubled back over the rail and sank its fangs in the hand that held its tail. The man killed the snake and hurried to the house, where he died in a short time.

"But the typical position of the rattlesnake when intent on deadly assault is the coil. This is not always a symmetrical spiral, but the body is massed in more or less regular folds, the muscles are contracted, and the reptile is literally an animate set spring. From this position the rattler can spring from one-half to two-thirds of its length. Before the stroke the mouth is opened wide, the fangs falling down from their sockets in the upper jaw and standing firmly in their position. The head is thrust forward, the half coils below it being straightened out to lengthen the neck and to give power to the strike. There is no preliminary motion. The stab is made with abrupt swiftness that defies escape of the victim. There is but one strike. The snake passes back into its coil again with the same swiftness that it threw itself out. As the fangs enter the flesh the venom is injected. If the thing struck at is beyond the rattler's reach, the snake has the power of squirting its venom in jets, which it can do to a distance of four feet or more. Dr. Weir Mitchell had a narrow escape once. An immense diamond-back rattler he had in his collection threw a teaspoonful of its venom in the way of this way in the Doctor's face, from a distance of four feet. It struck him on the forehead. If it had fallen an inch lower

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it would have entered his eyes, certainly blinding him, and perhaps killing him.

"Sometimes a rattlesnake loses its fangs in the flesh of the object it strikes, but that does only temporary damage to its deadly armory. There are plenty of incipient fangs lying in the jaw, only waiting for a chance like that to come forward and be in line for business. They grow very fast, and in the course of two or three days a rattlesnake that has lost its fangs is refitted with a brand new pair. This is a good thing to remember, for it is the popular belief that a rattler is made harmless by extracting its venom fangs. The only way to render one of these reptiles harmless besides killing it, is to apply red-hot iron to the cavities left by the fangs. This will destroy all the vitality of these dangerous parts and new fangs will not come in.

"The rattlesnake never pursues his way to attack anything. He will go out of his way to keep on his course if not cornered or teased. You may step within four inches of a rattlesnake and will not be disturbed by it if you keep right on your way. If you stop, the snake at once will take it for a challenge and hit you only too quick. It is said, as if by authority, that the rattlesnake never sounds his rattles until he has coiled. It is that so, rattlesnakes that I have seen must have been freaks, for they have rattled when lying at full length and even when moving, as well as in their coils. The rattler, when travelling, will cross lakes and streams, and he swims with his head and his rattles raised well above the water. The force with which a rattlesnake can strike is such that I once teased one into striking at a piece of bling as least a quarter of an inch thick, and he sent his fangs clear through it.

"I don't know whether rattlesnakes have the power of scent or not, but from what I have heard, and especially from what I have seen, it would seem to me that they not only have that power but have it to a most remarkable degree. One summer in northern Pennsylvania I killed a fine specimen of a rattler, and carried it out on a stick two miles to the place where I was stopping. A native of that locality on seeing the snake said:

"That's a she rattler and you folks around here want to watch out. Her mate will be along looking for her to-morrow or next day, sure!"

"I skinned the snake and took the carcass to the hog pen and gave it to the hogs and thought no more about it. Next forenoon I heard a loud scream from one of the women of the family, and she came running into the house declaring that she had seen a big rattlesnake on the front stoop.

"The first time," she said, "that a live rattlesnake has been around the house in twenty-five years."

"I hurried out, but could see nothing of the snake. It occurred to me then that the native had said about the mate of the dead snake following her. I walked toward the hog pen and there I discovered a rattlesnake moving to and fro on the ground in front of the sty, and acting as if it were looking for a place to get in. I watched the manoeuvres of the snake for a few minutes and then killed it. The snake was a male, and the native at once declared that it was the mate of the one I had killed the day before. The front stoop where this snake had just made its appearance at the house was the first place I had stopped with the dead snake and gone from there with it to the hog pen.

"I perhaps, in spite of the circumstantial evidence against it, would never have believed that this snake was anything else but one that had come casually to the premises, if a similar incident hadn't occurred a couple of days later. A man

who was working in haying on the place lived four miles distance and went home Saturday night to spend Sunday. On his way back Sunday afternoon he killed a rattlesnake in the road and brought it in. It happened to be a female, and warning was given that a lookout better be kept for its mate. As a matter of curiosity I took the dead snake from where it had been laid in the road near the house and took it to an old vacant house in a field half a mile down the road from the place where I was stopping. I left the snake there, and next day went back to the old house to see if any snake would follow it there, keeping watch along the road. Along in the middle of the forenoon I saw a big snake coming down the road and I got into a clump of bushes. The snake came into the field. It was a rattler and it made straight for the house. I followed it. It went in at the open door. The dead snake lay on the floor. The live one went up to it and around it several times, and then lay still as if thinking the matter over. I watched the snake for ten minutes and he never moved. Then I stepped inside the door. Like a flash the snake threw himself into a coil and faced me, glaring fiercely, and making his rattles sing. I didn't like his looks and shot him with my revolver. I no longer had any doubt that the snake of the week before was the mate to the one I had killed, and was satisfied that this one was the mate of the hired man's victim. But how had they followed the trails of their dead wives? That's what has always puzzled me."—N. Y. Sun.

of modern appliances for blowing forge fires has increased greatly in recent years, while the sale of bellows has not; but there are shipsmiths and boiler makers, wheelwrights, carriage and wagon makers, and others who still use bellows, and almost every horseshoer uses a bellows, and prefers it to any other means of blowing his fire, so that there are still sold thousands of bellows annually.—N. Y. Sun.

Novel Instrument of Death.

According to tradition Kenith, the legendary king of Scotland, was allured to his death in a most novel manner. Kenith had slain a son and brother of Fennella, who, to be avenged, ordered Wiltus, a famous silversmith, to construct a death dealing statue of silver. In its right hand the statue held a basin and in the left an apple of pure gold, both set with diamonds and other precious stones. To touch the apple was to defy death, it being so arranged that any one guilty of such vandalism would be immediately riddled by poisoned arrows shot from openings in the body of the statue. Kenith was invited to inspect the wonder, and, as Fennella had hoped, he tried to pluck the precious imitation fruit. But as soon as his hand touched the golden apple he was wounded by the arrows which shot out from the statue, and died where he fell.—Scottish American.

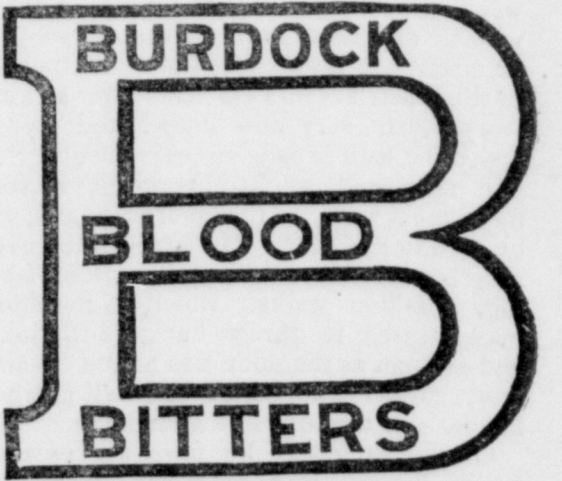
BELLOWS HOLD THEIR OWN.

Blacksmiths Stick to Them Despite of the Newer Power Blowers.

The blacksmith's bellows has three boards. When the bellows is set up in position the middle board is fixed; the upper and lower boards are movable. There is a valve in the middle board and in the lower board. When the bellows is not in use the lower board falls as far as the leather will permit it, and that compartment is then filled with air. With the working of the lever and the raising of the lower board the air in the lower compartment is forced through the valve in the middle board into the upper compartment, which is the reservoir, whence it flows through the nozzle of the bellows into the fire. When the pressure from below ceases the valve in the middle board closes, and the air is then forced out from the upper compartments or reservoir of the bellows by the weight of the upper board; sometimes this board is weighted to make it expel the air more rapidly and forcibly. The continuance of the blast is without the working of the lever, caused by the gradually sinking upper board of the bellows, may last for a quarter of a minute: it is a highly prized characteristic of the bellows. The blacksmith who is alone is thus enabled, if he should so desire, to use both hands at the fire; or he might go across the shop and be back, swaying the lever once more before the blast had ceased.

A good bellows will last for many years without repairs. Blacksmith's bellows are made in various sizes from 24-inch to 60-inch. The 36-inch is the size most commonly sold. The size is the width at the widest point. Bellows are longer than they are wide, and they are made of different lengths in the same width, ordinary, and long. There are about fifteen bellows manufacturers in the country, including three in New York and one in Brooklyn.

Manufacturing and other establishments supplied with power forges are nowadays equipped with power blowers; and there are also various hand blowers, some operated with a crank and some with a lever, and there are now used many portable forges and blowers combined. The sale



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