

AN UNGANNY STONE.

The Diamond Which Brought Misfortune Always to Its Possessor.

Some years ago a Paris jeweler told a story of one diamond which had passed over his counter no less than eleven times, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. It was a beautiful stone of nearly four carats, of perfect color and lustre, but easily identified by means of a small "feather" in the tip of the lowest part. He bought it from an East India dealer and had it set in a ring. It was sold to a Countess in 1869, just before the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war. The Countess died in a few weeks, and the ring was worn by her husband. He was killed in the siege of Paris, and a few days after his death the ring was brought into the store for sale by a common soldier. He was arrested and the ring sent to the family of the dead Count.

Before the siege ended they brought in the ring and sold it to the dealer in order to procure money to buy food. Directly after the siege it passed into the hands of an English tourist, who visited the city to get a look at the ruin wrought by the Communists, and a year later back came the stone from the Indian buyer of the firm, who, on being written to and desired to tell how he got it, stated that it had been the property of an English tourist hunter who had been killed by a tiger, and his friends sold the ring to get means to send the body home.

The stone was reset and soon found a purchaser in a prominent member of the demi-monde, who not long after was murdered in her room. Among the articles taken by the murderer was the ring, and the firm began to wonder how soon it would turn up. They had not long to wait for all their people had by this time learned about the stone, and were on the lookout for it. After six months it was found in the showcase of a jeweler in London, who had brought it from a firm in Amsterdam. It was brought by the Paris agent and sent back to be started a fresh on its travels. It was purchased again by a woman of the town, who six weeks later was drawn out of the Seine with the gem on her finger, and by a strange coincidence, it was offered to the firm that sold it by the police agents, the court having jurisdiction having ordered it to be sold. And so it went from hand to hand, attended with misfortune at every change, and usually bringing death to the possessor. Laborers in the Golconda mines used to say that when a stone was bled in blood when first taken from the earth it caused the shedding of blood wherever it went, and the story of one such ill-omened gem goes far to confirm belief in such a superstition.

Why the Black Man is Black.

Why the black man should be so black is a question which, from early childhood, has exercised the minds of us. Our nurses used to tell us that it was "because he was born so," which sounds at first hearing a fairly clinching answer. Modern science likes to get a little deeper into things, and many ingenious and conflicting theories have been put forward by scientists to account for the peculiarity. Some would have it that certain varieties of primitive man spent too much of their time exposed to the sun—the moisture of the air preventing them from being baked instead of baked—and grew more and more tanned by slow degrees until they orbited at last into the perfect negro. The latest inquirer into the subject, Mr. A. H. Keane, adds a new element to those of solar heat and moisture. His theory is that an excess of vegetable food, yielding more carbon than can be assimilated, is largely responsible. Once betrayed into vegetarianism, our "colored brethren" grew, through processes of heredity, even darker and darker, and the black work has probably, by this time, gone so far that even a changed diet, persisted in through countless generations, would not now avail to change the Ethiopian's skin.—London Graphic.

Dogs in Madagascar.

Dogs are allowed to roam at large in Madagascar, and in their frequent excursions they have frequently to pass over the streams of this swampy island. Here they are waylaid by those horrid alligators, which regard a dog as a dainty morsel. This is how the canine quadrupeds contrive to dodge the "cocandrilles," as the French linemen call them. They will assemble in a pack of half a dozen or more near the bank of the river, and commence barking with all their might. When a pack of alligators are seen converging to this spot in eager expectation of a copious feast. When all the alligators of the neighborhood are got together the dogs start off at a gallop and cross the river in safety 200 or 300 yards up stream. A remarkable proof this of the instinct and intelligence of animals.

The Oldest Engine.

An old Newcome engine, near Bristol, England, is perhaps, the oldest steam engine now working. It seems to have been built about the year 1745, and is still employed about five hours a day for jumping water from a coal pit. The cylinder is five and one-half feet in diameter, and the piston has a beam twenty-four feet long and about four feet deep, built up of many oak beams trussed together, and works with a curious creaking noise. The total weight is about five tons. Steam is now taken from some boilers in a neighboring establishment, the pressure being reduced for this engine to two and one-half pounds. The indicated horse-power is only fifty-two and the efficiency.

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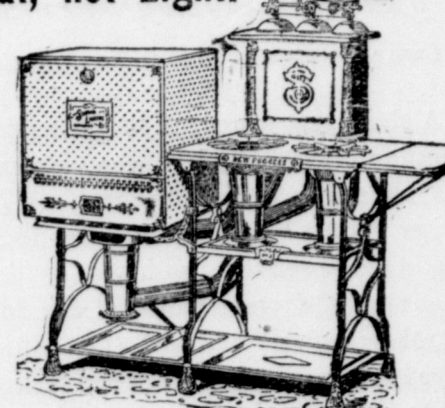
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STEEL WOOL.

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Steel wool is an interesting product, the subject of a recent German patent, and is intended for use in all cases where sandpaper, emery paper, pumice stone and materials of a kindred nature are employed. In bulk it resembles both in appearance and to the touch, the hair commonly used for stuffing mattresses and chairs. The ordinary by-product known as steel shavings has for many years been used for rough work, in which the coarser grades of sandpaper are used; but the objections to the use of these shavings for the finer work of rubbing down varnish or paint on woods and for polishing metals were the harshness of, and lack of uniformity in, the threads, and the edges of the shavings being very sharp, thereby cutting instead of polishing; and being of many different sizes and shapes, would leave an uneven surface.

The idea of making a machine to overcome these difficulties originated years ago in Switzerland with an observing German, who noticed painters gathering the refuse derived from the manufacture of reed for looms, and picking therefrom the finer grades for the use in rubbing down wood and metal work generally. Upon examination he found that this refuse consisted of flat ribbons of steel, the borders of which were planed off, and before being assorted was an admixture of fine and coarse grades. He discovered two defects in the material; first it was impossible to obtain any appreciable quantity of a uniform grade, and, second, the temper and quality of the steel were such that only indifferent results could be obtained.

Eventually he built a machine for the manufacturing of shred steel or steel threads uniformly fine in quality, but still containing sufficient cutting properties, and so delicate in texture that instead of steel shavings he called it steel wool. Then by carefully studying the temper and quality of steel best adapted to his needs he was enabled to perfect this product. The advantages claimed for steel wool are that it cuts more quickly and uniformly than sandpaper, does not clog or gum, and being both flexible and perfectly homogeneous, adapts itself readily to the shapes of carvings and mouldings.

THE LOST WAS FOUND.

The House Number Looked Strange and Transom Turned Over.

If any one had told him he was drunk he would not have resented it, but would have made an effort to maintain his equilibrium and dignity long enough to explain that he was only a little oozy-woozy. He realized that he lived at 206 Irvington street, and that his residence was on the right hand side as he walked along homeward. The uncertain light of early dawn, combined with the blur in his eyes, rendered it necessary for him to stop in front of every house and gravely brace himself against the railings until he could focus his eyesight on the number.

Finally he identified his house, but after arguing with himself for a couple of minutes he came to the conclusion that he was just woozy enough to make mistakes possible, so to be absolutely certain he balanced himself against the front fence and studied the number on the transom. Instead of 206 he saw 509. He rubbed his eyes and looked again, but the number had not changed. It was still 509. Then he wondered how it happened that he had got on the wrong side of the street and three blocks too far out, made a zigzag across the street and started back, but before he had walked three blocks he came to the end of the street.

The weary pilgrim was bewildered. He couldn't understand it, but getting his directions, shaped his course out the street on the right side and kept on until he came to 509 again. He studied it from every possible point of view, even trying to stand on his head to read it, but it reverently remained 509.

Utterly bewildered, he sat down on the steps, and waited till a policeman came along. "I'm lost," he explained. "I wanted to go to 206 Irvington street." "This is the place right here," declared the officer. "Can't be. This is 509." "No, it ain't; it's 206, but the transom is turned over." The lost was found.—San Francisco Post.

The Waltz 100 Years Ago.

I was engaged in looking at these fine people when a lady and gentleman came whirling by and had almost overwhelmed me. I could not imagine what they were about. I had scarcely extricated myself from the danger with which they threatened me when another and another couple came twisting by in like manner. I found on inquiry that this was a favorite German dance called a waltz, and is performed in the following manner:

The lady and gentleman stand face to face. The gentleman puts his arm around the lady's waist and with the other hand he gets firm hold of her arm. You would at first think they are going to wrestle. Thus prepared, and the gentleman having got so good a purchase upon the lady, they begin to spin around and around, with a velocity which would make me giddy in half a minute.—Twining Papers, 1781.

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I CURED A HORSE, badly torn by a pitch fork, with MINARD'S LINIMENT.

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DOGS WERE HIS TEXT.

A Chicago Clergyman Talks About the Fidelity of Man's Faithful Friend.

The Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones preached his annual humane sermon at Oakland Music Hall (All Souls' Church) yesterday morning, taking for his subject "Dogs' Faithfulness." Among other things he instanced the following achievements of dogs made in history and in song:

"Perhaps the most developed skill and conscience in the canine world is found among sheep dogs. One of these belonging to a Cumberland farmer, on the idle and cruel bet of the master, took a flock of sheep from Cumberland to Liverpool, a distance of over a hundred miles. The master won the wager, but lost the dog, who died soon after the feat was accomplished.

"Istone, in his book on the dog, tells of a Fileshire dog driving a flock of sheep seventeen miles, returning at intervals to bring along her whelps, which she had brought into the world on her way.

"What of that Pompeian dog who was found stretched over the body of its young master? He wore a collar upon which was inscribed the heroic story that he saved the life of his young master three times—once from the robbers, once from robbers, and once from the wolves.

"Coming to the sublime fidelity of the Newfoundland dog and the St. Bernard, I have time for but two illustrations: The Newfoundland dog who in 1789 escaped to the shore from shipwreck off Yarmouth with the captain's pocketbook in his mouth. He kept it until he had picked a man whom he could trust, and to him he offered up his precious burden.

"The story of old Barry, the great St. Bernard whose stuffed body is the attraction of the Bernese Museum, has gone around the world—he who has been the means of rescuing forty-two persons from death on Alpine heights and then fell a victim to his benevolence, being killed by a traveller who mistook his preserver for a wolf.

"Turn through English poetry in search of dogs, and by what a delightful company you find yourself surrounded. Beginning with poor Tom's curs in 'Lear' we find Burns' 'Two Dogs,' Cowper's 'Dog Beau,' Wordsworth's 'Little Music,' and that other dog of Wordsworth who was found in the neighborhood of his master's skeleton, who had lost his life three months before. A sadder fate awaited the faithful dog of the geographer Mitchell, who lost his life in the Alleghenies, and the dead body of his faithful dog was found months afterward lying near the body of his master.

"Mary Howitt has given us the story of 'Keeper,' Mrs. Browning her faithful little dog 'Flush,' Timothy Titcomb his 'Blanco,' and Mrs. Barbauld, Sir Walter Scott, Mrs. Sigourney, Thomas Campbell, Lewis Morris, have all had their dogs. Matthew Arnold has given us 'Geist's Grave' and 'Kaiser Daid,' while Trowbridge has given us 'Roger,' the Faithful Vega-bond, and Hans Breitman tells us that the one thing 'about' dat dog dat's not for sale, 'tis the vag of dat dog's tail.' Robert Browning had his dog 'Tray,' which suggests Stephen Foster's 'Old Dog Tray.'

"We cannot take leave of these dogs of literature without noticing the two grandest of them all—Argos, the faithful hound of Odysseus, who, neglected and dying on the dung heap, alone of all the waiting friends in Ithaca, recognizes his master in his own personality, and then, after twenty years waiting, died; and the great dog of the Hindu epic, the Mahabharata. The dog followed the Prince after all his human companions had fallen out by the way, clear up to the gates of heaven, and there when the great god Indra refused the dog admission the Prince refused to enter without him."—Chicago Tribune.

ENGLISH CAFE DWELLERS.

Evidences of Them Found in the Regions Made Merry by Robin Hood.

The town of Nottingham is 124 miles north of London. A part of the low-lying ground close to the River Trent, where floods sometimes occur, but the rest of the town is built on a series of red sandstone hills.

It is situated on the southeastern fringe of the great Derbyshire coal field, and the historic forest of Sherwood formerly spread almost up to the city walls. Now this forest has, in a great measure, been cut down and this has reduced the rainfall, raised the temperature and rendered the climate of the town dryer and more bracing than it used to be. The mean annual rainfall is now 25 inches and the temperature 47 degrees. As sandstone is soft and easily cut, it is only natural that the early dwellers in caves came and lived in holes dug in the hills of Nottingham; particularly as the forest, close at hand, was a good hunting ground, where game could be captured for food. Bronze and other tools employed by these early and prehistoric inhabitants are occasionally found, and the first name known to have been given to the place was Snottingsham. This, in Celtic, means 'the home among the rocks.' Afterward it became one of the towns of the kingdom of Mecca, and in the ninth and tenth centuries was one of the chief northern strongholds of the Danes. Already what is now known as the Castlehill was a strongly fortified position, and it was in his attempt to capture this fortress that Alfred the Great was signally defeated by the Danes. Two hundred years later, when William the Conqueror, in his turn, subjugated the Saxons, he rebuilt the castle of Nottingham and placed it under the command of his natural son, William Peverel. But it was here also that Saxon resistance continued for many a long year; for it was in the great forest hard by that Robin Hood and her merry men dwelt. These outlaws were Saxons who were dissatisfied with the Norman rule and preferred a life of brigandage to submission. The holes dug in the rocks, the passages made through the sandstone mountains, enabled these bold foresters to occasionally appear in the town and close under the Norman battlements.—Philadelphia Telegraph.



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Over 3 to 5 lbs.....	20
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To Woodstock, Newburg, Jct., Mowat, Macan, Fort Elgin and intermediate points, 3 pounds and under.....	15
Over 3 to 5 lbs.....	20
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To Lunenburg, River Horton, Digby, Pictou, Halifax, Dartmouth and intermediate points, 2 lbs. and under.....	15
3 lbs. and under.....	20
Over 3 to 5 lbs.....	25
Over 5 to 7 lbs.....	30
Over 7 to 10 lbs.....	35
To St. Leonard's, Edmundston and intermediate points, 2 lbs. and under.....	15
Over 2 lbs. and not over 5 lbs.....	20
Over 5 lbs. and not over 7 lbs.....	25
Over 7 lbs. and not over 10 lbs.....	30
Over 10 lbs. and not over 15 lbs.....	40
Over 15 lbs. and not over 20 lbs.....	50
Over 20 lbs. and not over 25 lbs.....	60
Over 25 lbs. and not over 30 lbs.....	70
Over 30 lbs. and not over 35 lbs.....	80
Over 35 lbs. and not over 40 lbs.....	90
Over 40 lbs. and not over 45 lbs.....	100
Over 45 lbs. and not over 50 lbs.....	110
Over 50 lbs. and not over 55 lbs.....	120
Over 55 lbs. and not over 60 lbs.....	130