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AUNT MASIE, THE SNAKE WOMAN.

Death of a Queer Creature Who Lived In a Hut With Hundreds of Snakes.

There has recently died a well known character of this neighborhood known as "Aunt Masie Huggins," or the "snake woman," who lived an isolated life, with snakes as her only friends. She had built herself a hovel, composed of branches of trees, clay and other debris, which, though often washed down by the rains, she would build up again. This novel residence is said to have been fairly alive with snakes of every local variety, hanging from overhead, lying under foot and creeping from the chinks in the wall. The woman subsisted on the products of a small garden near her cabin, which she cultivated herself. With the exception of the necessary intercourse with those from whom she purchased the few things she required, she was never known for over 30 years to have held any conversation with any human being. She could often be met after dark walking through the town with her strange companions twined about her arms, her neck and nestling in her bosom, with their ugly heads protruding, hissing at every one that passed.

On these occasions, however, when hailed or questioned she would make no reply. Once some boys of the neighborhood prowling about her cabin found several of the snakes on the outside and killed them, and before they were aware of it Aunt Masie appeared in the doorway armed with a shotgun, which she let fly at the crowd. None of the boys was killed, but one of them was shot through the ear, and the rest scattered in a hurry. That the woman's mind was affected there seems little doubt. Her only son while out hunting in the woods was bitten by a rattlesnake, and days afterward his swollen and discolored body was found. This appeared to craze his mother, who left her home, saying the the snakes were calling her to come and live with them and that they would give her back her boy.

She is said to have come of a good family and to have been well educated. When discovered, she had been dead for days, and the snakes were crawling over the body, but fled on the appearance of strangers and have not been seen near the cabin since. By those who have seen her surrounded by her queer adopted family it has been estimated that there must have been at least 200 of them, numbering among them several venomous varieties. The woman did not claim to have charmed them, as the saying goes, but it is probable that her perfect fearlessness tamed them.—Okolona (Miss.) Cor. Philadelphia Times.

Arab Horsemen In Exhibition.

The great delight of the Arab horseman is the fantasiya. The entries contain all manner of horsemen, armed and unarmed, who ride more or less wild figures to more or less monotonous drumming music, and who end by the most excited and exciting pot pourri of feat riding. They stand in their stirrups and throw their guns in the air, whirl them about in the most approved warlike style and fire them at intervals in what seems an uncalled for and dangerous fashion. They rear, wheel, kick, buck, rush, stop, turn and twist their horses like so many tumblers, shouting meanwhile, yelling, screaming like so many devils. No picture can do justice to the kaleidoscopic fervor and wildness of the scene if there are many riders engaged in it. It is a seething whirlpool of wild, unmeaning, half merry, half fanatical excitement, in which no end of excellent horsemanship comes to the fore.

From time to time the riders stop and rank themselves for a rest on one side, then out come individuals to show what, single, their steeds can do. They pirouette and plunge and dance, and then make a rush at full gallop to one or other side, stop suddenly and wheel about. There is no specific art in what they do; each man has trained his horse on his own untrained ideas. They have a close seat, clinging with their heels, and exhibit a great deal of skill in their gymnastic exercises, but once seen the fantasiya loses its interest. All semi-wild nations do about the same tricks on horseback. I think our Indian easily excel them all, while nothing I have ever seen in fantasiya in the faintest degree approaches in delicacy and difficulty the fine work of a school trained horse in the hands of a master of the art.—Colonel T. A. Dodge, U. S. A., in Harper's.

Mrs. Carlisle's Washington House.

Mrs. John G. Carlisle has for a number of years been extremely desirous of purchasing the old Taylor octagon house, about which hangs such a wealth of romantic legend. The house with its fine possibilities is fast falling to decay, but the price of $60,000 having been set upon it by those having the property in charge, it is likely to remain tenantless for some while longer. The present Taylor heirs are both minors, who, while willing to part with the historic old place if their price can be obtained for it, state that if this arrangement cannot be effected they will finally take up their own home therein.

In the octagon room above the entrance was signed the famous treaty of Ghent. The table upon which the papers were signed is now owned by a member of the Taylor family living in Virginia. Mrs. Carlisle has several times within the past two months expressed a desire to own and restore what was once one of the most beautiful houses in Washington, but the amount asked for the property is deemed exorbitant.—Kate Field's Washington.

The Throne Saved by Oysters.

Oysters once played an important part in English history. One of the objections of George I to the throne of England was that he could not find in all England oysters to his liking. He grumbled at their queer taste and want of flavor and threatened to return to Hanover. As the departure of the king might lead to the return of the Stuarts, his ministers devoted themselves to finding out which sort of oysters the monarch liked. On discovering that he was fond of stale oysters no time was lost in procuring some with a good strong rankness about them. The king smacked his lips and consented to remain on the throne. —San Francisco Argonaut.

A Feminine Weakness.

Did you ever notice the weakness women have for marking their letters "personal?" They seem to think that by so marking the envelope the letter will get to its destination quicker, through the same line of reasoning which some years ago led women to write on envelopes "in haste," supposing that the postman would immediately start on a run with them.

This habit of writing "personal" sometimes leads to very embarrassing results. I have known a purely business communication addressed in unmistakable feminine hand and marked "personal" to raise a lively row in an unusually peaceful family. —New York Herald.

His Bright Prospects.

Mr. Gotham—Before consenting to your engagement with my daughter I must know something of your prospects.

Young Mr. Lakeside—I am an only son, my parents have rented a house near the Chicago fair grounds and have two vacant rooms which they let to lodgers.

Mr. Gotham—Bless you, my children.—New York Weekly.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Telescopes were first made by Jansen in 1590.

Rochester has a company of deaf mute soldiers.

Europe now imports every year 660,000 tons of meat.

Ceylon has cinnamon plantations covering 35,000 acres.

In the rock of Gibraltar there are 70 miles of tunnels.

The Union Pacific railroad crosses nine mountain ranges.

The Chinese live longer than people of any other nation.

The anchors of the steamship Campania weigh 8½ tons each.

Either I will find a way or I will make one.—Sir P. Sidney.

Rembrandt's father is said to have been a miller and farmer.

A teaspoonful of microbes contains over 1,000,000 individuals.

In all countries more marriages take place in June than in any other month.

The queen of Corea has a lady physician who gets a salary of $15,000 yearly.

The most prolific of opera composers was Piccini. He wrote over 300 operas.

A rattlesnake in the zoo at Atlanta has not eaten anything since last August.

Unbearable boorishness can be changed to bearable eccentricity by the acquisition of wealth.

Marshal Bessieres was a farmer's boy, and after enlisting as a private rose from the ranks.

Southern Pacific locomotives will soon use for fuel bricks made of coal dust and asphaltum.

Celluloid is paper chemically treated, reduced again to pulp and then molded into its final form.

Some characters are like the black billiard ball—not black, but called so because of one black spot.

We are haunted by an ideal life, and it is because we have within us the beginning and the possibility of it.—Phillips Brooks.

A man going shopping with his wife is usually a most woebegone looking object. His face always bears upon it the marks of despair.

Perhaps you have heard of "Spartacus to the Gladiators." Its author, the Rev. Elijah Kellogg, still preaches at Harpswell, Me., although over 80.

A Beverly (Mass.) man was fined $5 for slapping his wife in the face and $15 for assaulting the policeman who arrested him. There seems to be something wrong with the Beverly police court's tariff.

Getting Information In Congress.

Stewart L. Woodford was a member of congress from Brooklyn not long after the war. He was one of the sensible chaps who didn't know it all at the beginning.

For a month or so early in the session he had to spend a great deal of time in the departments, and so he looked around for somebody to keep him headed right on the rare occasions when he appeared in the house.

There was a very shrewd looking person who frequently occupied a seat near by, and Woodford was so struck by his appearance that he got in the habit of asking his advice whenever in doubt about a question.

One day he strolled in during a roll call just before his name was reached. He didn't know what was up, but his unknown friend, as usual, told him how to vote.

When the result was announced, he discovered to his chagrin that he had voted against most of the other members of his party. That worried him a little, but he kept mum, and sure enough a few days later it appeared that he had voted right and that the other fellows were wrong.

Then it occurred to him to find out the name of the far seeing member who always knew about everything and never took any part in debate. So he turned to a friend for information.

"What is his name?" repeated his friend in response to the question. "Why, my dear fellow, he is not a member at all. He is the clerk of the postoffice committee."

Woodford tells this tale himself, so it must be true.—New York Recorder.

Decorative Iron Work.

The production of wrought iron work of a decorative character has increased very much in the last few years, and some of the gates, grilles and railings now turned out in this country are of artistic excellence that has never been surpassed, according to many of the best judges. The tools used are of the simplest nature—a hammer, pliers, pinchers, chisels and gravers, and the quality of the work depends on the skill of the smith. The operation of making a little spiral 4 or 5 inches long will show the nature of the work. The smith heats up a bar of iron and then hammers it for a few seconds. By repeating this a second time the bar is considerably elongated and tapered off at the end until it resembles a rat's tail.

After a third heating it is rounded over the nose of the anvil by a series of light quick blows of the hammer. By repeated heating and hammering additional curves are produced, until finally all the spirals are hammered into a tight coil like the convolutions of a snail shell. The pinchers are then brought into play, coils are forced apart and drawn out until they form a tapering spiral. A deft touch of the pliers on the rat tail point gives it its exact kink, and the object is complete. All the work is done by eye, and the entire operation takes but three or four minutes.—New York Telegram.

Agricultural Implements For Europe.

The export of agricultural implements to European countries is steadily on the increase. To Great Britain and Germany there is an increase of about 20 per cent within two years. To the Argentine Republic the exports have quadrupled. Our reapers and self binders are lighter of draft, neater and about 25 per cent cheaper than the English article. In plows the English makers do not properly chill the points, and this renders their iron brittle. It is said that Americans could extend their trade in plows if they would adopt the iron beamed style so much used abroad. Wagons and buggies cannot be sold abroad unless they have an "undercut." Otherwise we make the correct article.—Hardware.

Photographing Wild Animals.

The Duke of Newcastle's speciality in amateur photography is to secure portraits of rare wild animals in their native surroundings. He is traveling in quest of these with Mr. Gambier Bolton, a member of the Royal Geographical society and well known as one of the most expert amateur photographers of animals in the world. The two proceeded from the World's fair to California, where one of their chief objects is to photograph the big sea lions on the cliffs, trading up to them from off shore on a tug. —London Tit-Bits.

The Benefits of Solitude.

I hold the theory that the child exerts on the child, as the friction of life on man, the greatest educational influence, while our most valuable acquisition in the time of our development through nature, art and circumstance is the fruit of hours spent in quietude, desirable for our growing youth and absolutely essential for our future philosopher, poet and artist. Personally, I am indebted for my full fruition, rounded out by a mother's influence, to the solitary contemplations which marked the saddest period of my life.—George Eberstein Forum.

MURDERED IN BROAD DAYLIGHT!
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It was not a matter of choice but one of necessity. We have an immense Summer Stock on hand and a Big Winter Stock to come with no place to put it.
We cannot store our Summer Stock in the cellar its "too damp." We don't care to pay high storage rates.
WE WOULD RATHER SEE THE PUBLIC GET THE BENEFIT!
THUS YOU SEE WE HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO
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AND THIS WE HAVE DONE
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All our 18, 16, 14, 12 dollar	Men's Suits	at	$7.50
" " 12, 10, 8 dollar	" "	at	5.95
" " 8, 7, 6 dollar	" "	at	3.69
" " 7, 6, 5 dollar	Men's Pants	at	2.98
" " 4, 3, 2 dollar	" "	at	1.65
" " 2 and 1 dollar	" "	at	.69
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500 dozens	Men's Linen White Shirts	at	.42
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