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A Strange Friendship.

Some one tells a story of a cow and a dog who have become inseparable companions, and their friendship came near being a serious matter for their owner. It was evidently the sympathy of the dog for the cow when her six-week-old calf was taken from her that first caused the attachment, for, as she roamed over the lot bellowing, he followed at a respectful distance, apparently puzzled by her antics. Then she began to notice him, and now they are always together.

The dog follows the cow all day, and when the latter is put in the barn at night Sport enters, and after jumping into the manger, stays there until morning. No entreaties nor persuasions on the parts of the dog's master can induce the animal to leave the manger until the cow is turned loose in the morning.

One day the cow was in a far corner of the lot, and Sport was but a short distance away, when their owner entered the field with a friend. He whistled for the dog, and the animal very reluctantly walked toward him. His master patted him, and told the visitor of the curious attachment between the two quadrupeds; but in playing with Sport's ear while he was talking, he accidentally hurt it.

The dog howled, and instantly the cow, which had been quietly grazing, raised her head and looked toward the group of men and animal. Evidently making up her mind on the instant that her friend was being badly treated, she change her attitude, and with head to the ground and tail erect, she was bearing down upon the astonished gentlemen. Fortunately there was a fence at hand, also fortunately they speedily cleared it. Sport sidled up to his protector, and they probably congratulated each other on routing the enemy so completely.

China's Superstitious Fears.

The attitude of China is well shown in a curious episode that was made known the other day. A "foreign" company obtained leave from the authorities to open up the shaft of an old coal mine near Shanghai. Tradition said, and the records attested it, that three hundred years ago the coal had been mined through that old shaft, and that some evil had befallen the men who had ventured there. A vague rumor told of the destruction of hundreds of Chinamen by fearsome means. Of course the English company didn't scare for that; but when they had reopened the pit and descended to the coal vein they found the bodies of one hundred and fifty coolies lying at the bottom of the shaft. The reports say that the bodies of these old workers were perfectly preserved thanks to the antiseptic properties of the exhalations from the coal, and the fire damp that had slain them, and there was ample time for examination before the advent of the fresh air caused them to crumble away. They might have been victims of a week from the time they were discovered for all the difference their looks or dress or ornaments disclosed. Three hundred years had passed since that colliery disaster had taken place and had left no trace on the outward appearance of the inhabitants of that district. Imagine a company of our forbears in the year of grace 1594! They would look like a different race almost. If Chinamen change with the times like that, one or two million men more or less armed will not avail her in a fight with her modernized ancient foe.

A Bullet Proof Shield.

The Duke of Cambridge lately visited the Cyclops Works of Messrs Charles Cammell & Company, Sheffield, and witnessed the testing of a bullet proof shield, manufactured by that firm, which was invented by Captain Boynton. The shield is simple in construction. It takes the form of a plate of specially prepared chrome steel, with a slot in the top for the soldier's rifle. The weight is less than one-half that of a life guardsman's cuirass, and the material has such powers of resistance that it is absolutely proof against the service bullet propelled by cordite through a Lee Metford barrel at 30 yards distance. A bullet which would pass completely through an oak plank 30 inches thick is powerless to do more than make a slight indentation on Captain Boynton's plate, which is only three sixteenths of an inch thick. Mr. Tucker, R. E., fired five shots at one plate from a Lee-Metford rifle, and at the request of the duke placed his shots as nearly as possible in the same spot. This extreme test was also withstood by the plate. There was no indication of anything like perforation. Each bullet struck the shield with more than a footton of energy. Before leaving, his royal highness expressed his satisfaction with the result of the test, inasmuch as not the slightest damage appeared to have been done to the shield.

Prospective Son-in-law: "Well, when it comes that, old man, you are not exactly the sort of a man I would like for a father-in-law, but, of course, we needn't be chummy, if we don't like."

City Editor. "Don't you thing we'd better send Waters?"—Chicago Tribune.

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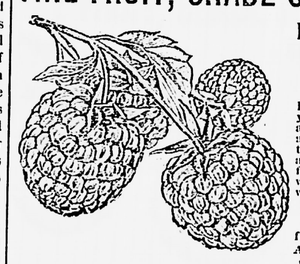
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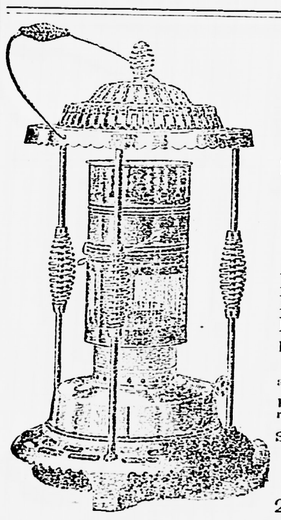
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