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CALIFORNIA HERMITS. Men Passing Their Lives in Idle Solitude on the Mountains Top. Is man essentially a social animal? The scientists say so. But in the mountains of California there are almost enough men who for years have led a life of utter solitude to disprove the generalization. These mountain hermits can be found scattered through the Sierras and the coast range from one end of the state to the other. They are particularly numerous through this region, centering about the Yosemite valley and extending far back into the high Sierras. Some of them were once guides in the valley, others have been miners, and some again seem to have taken up the life of solitude simply because they like it. To this class belongs old P. R. Gibson, "Old Gib," as he is generally called. He lives on a mountain ranch. He is seventy-five years old, but is possessed of as much physical strength and endurance as the average man of half his age. He came thirty years ago from Tennessee, where he left a wife and a large family of children. One of his sons came to see him recently and tried to induce him to visit his former home, but "Old Gib" steadfastly refused to leave his little ranch and solitary cabin. He has never seen his nearest relatives try their utmost to persuade him to go to town and at least look at a train of cars. But his invariable answer is: "Do you think I'm going down there to be blown up by one of them there blamed engines? Not me!" Nearly all the men who live this life of solitude very long get a bit queer in the head, and "Old Gib" is no exception to the rule. He has a rigmorale description of himself which declares that he is the best man in the United States or other territories, either directly or indirectly, financially, commercially, ecclesiastically or unchurchified. The old man is a hard worker, and when he is not busy on his ranch he is working energetically making "shakes"—that is, charcoal splint and sawed by hand from big pine trees. Old man Lambert, who has a cabin in the high Sierras some thirty miles back of the Yosemite, is another of the mountain hermits. He has neither ranch nor mining claim, but he has a few dollars in his pocket and an occasional few dollars earned from camping parties. He has lived alone in that same spot for years and years, and will in all likelihood stay there until he dies. There are months at a time that he does not see another human being. A party of campers one summer found him making a huge stone wall that seemed to have no purpose whatever. In surprise they asked him what he was piling up those stones for. "Why," he said, "a man's got to do something, or he'll go crazy, or he'll go wrong, sure."—Cor. Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle. Schooling at Twenty Dollars a Year. However moderate the expenses of a student of the present time may be, he can hardly reach the extremely modest sum which sufficed for Jean Marmontel, a French poet, during the reign of Louis XV. "Marmontel" he speaks of his school life as follows: "I was lodged, as was the custom of the school, with five other scholars at the house of an honest mechanic. My provisions for a week consisted of a loaf of bread, a piece of beef, a little cheese, a piece of bacon and two or three pounds of soap. My mother had added to them a dozen apples. This was the weekly provision of the best fed scholar of the school. The miserable lot of me and my fellow scholars, her trouble, her care, her lamp, her bed, her housework, including even the vegetables of her little garden which she used for our soup, each of us gave her twelve pence helpfully a month. "We were not allowed to have any clothes, I lost my father between four and five pounds a year. This was much to him and an expense of which I was very anxious to see him relieved. How It Feels to Be in a Railway Wreck. A man who has never been in a wreck wouldn't believe how long it takes for the cars to get together piling up," said another. "After the first crash there is a rebound clear to the back of the train, and then the whole thing takes another lunge, something gives way, and another crash follows, and so on. Then there's another jerk backward and another lunge, and it seems as if the cracking and groaning and tumbling kept on for five minutes. When a man is mixed up with the trucks under the wheels it seems like an axe." "Make it an hour and a half," said an ex-brakeman as he scratched his nose with the only clawlike finger remaining at the end of a twisted and shriveled stump of a hand. The crowd knew how he had been dug out with a derrick and hauled at the joke.—Chicago News-Record. King's Daughters in Turkey. Smyrna, Turkey, has an ancient circle of King's Daughters engaged in the practical charitable work for which this order is noted. By sewing, embroidering, scrubbing floors, blackening shoes, or any work for which money would be paid, they have distinguished themselves among the poor, visited the sick, educated children, provided medicines, paid rents and done other similar acts of charity. On holidays they divide into committees for the purpose of decorating the rooms where poor families live and providing small remembrances for the children.—New York Sun. Never Reads Criticisms. Mr. Santley, the eminent baritone, declares that since 1861 he has rarely read a criticism that has been passed upon his singing. In that year he was taken severely to task for a performance at the Birmingham festival, and the remarks of the critic so affected him that he determined to read no more criticisms. If he performs, distinguished and not distinguished, and follows the example, what heartburnings would be saved.—London Tit-Bits. Miles' Nerve & Liver Pills. Act on a new principle—regulating the liver, stomach and bowels through the nerves. A new discovery. Dr. Miles' Pills speedily cure biliousness, bad taste, torpid bowels, constipation. Unequalled for men, women, children. Smallest, mildest, surest! 50 doses 25 cents. Samples free at A. G. Daley's drug store. Shoppers should not fall to read Brager's "ad."

AT THE BABY'S BEDTIME. This is baby's bedtime: My little one comes to me In her snowy little nightgown And kneels down at my knee, And I fancy a sweet child angel Is for a time my guest. As she says her little prayers over With her hands upon her breast. "Now I lay me," she whispers In low voice, "down to sleep, I pray the Lord—and the blue eyes Half close—"my soul to keep. If I should die—"oh, the silver At my heart—"before I wake, I pray the Lord—and the eyelids Drop low—"my soul to take." Then I lift up the little one, clasping Her close to my loving heart, And give her warm, good night kisses Till the closed lids break apart. As the leaves do, folding a flower, And the violets of her eyes Look up in their sweet devotion And smile at me angelic. "Good night," she whispers me softly And sleepily, with a kiss That lingers with me in slumber, And I pray my little one, As I think of the little one dreaming With her head against my breast, Till my sleep is as light as a feather, As her dreaming is of rest. —Eben E. Rexford. A Strange Death. Thomas Odell, a young man of twenty-two years, living seven miles back of Greenup, Ky., has met death in a strange manner. He had been a puzzle to physicians for several years. He was affected by what he ate to such an extent that when he indulged in beef eating about an hour afterward he would become restless and wander out in search of cattle and bellow as an ox, and would get down on his hands and knees and eat grass like a cow. When he partook of mutton his actions were those of a sheep, and he would plaintively bleat like a lamb. When a chicken he would go out and scratch for worms, which he would devour with apparent relish. After eating fish he would wander to the creek and go on swimming. One day his father killed several squirrels, of which the son ate heartily for dinner. He left the house shortly after and was followed by the father. The father saw his son jumping nimbly from limb to limb, at the same time barking like a squirrel. He called for him to come down, but this only seemed to make the boy want to escape, and he attempted to jump from one tree to another, but missed and fell to the ground, a mangled, breathless mass of humanity, and expired in less than five minutes.—Atlanta Constitution. A Military Handkerchief. Permission for soldiers to carry pocket handkerchiefs will now probably be given, for the military authorities have sanctioned a military handkerchief patented by Lieutenant Colonel Fulton. On this handkerchief is printed all sorts of useful information concerning the use and construction of the Lee-Medford rifle, the alphabet used by army signallers, general rules to be observed in any position in which a soldier may find himself on campaign, the various bugle calls and other things, many of which are so nicely illustrated that it would be a thousand pities to use it in the manner naturally prompted by a cutting "nor-easter."—Loomis Mercury. In a Railroad Wreck. "Say, these things are mighty funny afterward," said the baggage man, "but when they happen it's nothing to laugh about. When we bumped into that freight just out of Chicago three years ago I was sitting back in the car checking up. It threw me around as if I was started to crawl for the back door. The tender telescoped and came through at me. It didn't stop till I was within four feet of the back of the car, and I sat there waiting for it to catch me. I remember just as it hit me that I was thinking of getting out, but I was so dizzy and dizzy through at me every figure looked ten feet high. When it stopped I could reach out and touch it."—Chicago News-Record. A Beautiful Toast. On a grand day in the old chivalric times, when the lady of each knightly house was pledged by name, when it came to St. Leon's turn he lifted the sparkling cup on high and gave them a toast. It threw me around as if I was started to crawl for the back door. The tender telescoped and came through at me. It didn't stop till I was within four feet of the back of the car, and I sat there waiting for it to catch me. I remember just as it hit me that I was thinking of getting out, but I was so dizzy and dizzy through at me every figure looked ten feet high. When it stopped I could reach out and touch it."—Chicago News-Record. Always Willing to Loan. Merchant (to persistent peddler)—Oh, don't bother me this morning. I wish you'd kindly leave me alone. Morris Abrams (producing wad)—Why, shertly, my friend, how much and vot interest vill you gif?—Kate Fields's Washington. In chronic cases of neuralgia, rheumatism, or gout, where the disturbing cause is a certain acid which poisons the blood, Salivation Oil should be taken in connection with the alkaline treatment usually prescribed by physicians, which dissolves and neutralizes the poison. The liniment has the most soothing effect in relieving the inflammation and relieving the pain. Dr. A. C. Taylor, the druggist, give ten reasons why Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is the best. 1. It will cure a severe cold in less time than any other treatment. 2. It does not suppress a cough or cold, but loosens and relieves it. 3. It relieves the lungs, which is of great importance in treating a cold. 4. It is the only remedy that will cause the expansion of mucus from the air cells of the lungs. 5. It renders the mucus less tenacious and easier to expectorate. 6. If freely used as soon as the first symptoms appear, it will cure a severe cold in a single day. 7. It will prevent croup and avert all danger of diphtheria arising from that dreaded disease. 8. It has cured thousands of cases of croup, and careful inquiry fails to discover a single case in which it has ever failed. 9. It does not contain opium, chloroform, nor any other injurious substance. There is not the least danger in giving it to children. 10. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy acts in perfect harmony with nature and aids nature in relieving the lungs, and freeing the system of morbid matter, accumulated by cause of the cold. 50 cents per bottle. THE TIMES is only one dollar a year Subscribe to it.

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