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and in nearly every State of the

VOL. XXIX. NO. 43.

ELLICOTT CITY, MD., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1898.

FREE.

A winter prisoner, loath and long, From sun and song,

> A mellow music syllable from a tree Spring's herald robin caroled clear to me-"Free! Oh, free!" Ah, with what iterant lustihood,

> What buoyant mood.

Once more the melody and mirth

The waves of grain. And all the little laughters that there be

-Clinton Scollard in Bachelor of Arts.

A GLIMPSE OF ITALY.

A Peculiar Custom Which Would Bother on American-A Roman Funeral Is a Strange and Startling

Italy, the driver keeps to the left. The are thus pulled loose from the rocks, and soon the game is in the dingey. Thus the work goes on until a boatload is obtained, and then they are taken ashore and placed

The native Roman eats two meals a day, to 9 in the evening. Black coffee is a fa- going maceration, and the refuse is carried and are ready for market .- Philadelphia As for the owners of bicycles, they have his brother to use his wheel without a li-

Another peculiar custom is the way in which an Italian will beckon with his hand. In America people wave the hand toward them when they desire a person's approach. In Italy it is just the opposite. When an Italian waves a goodby to you with his hand, you imagine he is calling you back, and if he wants you to approach he motions with his hand as Americans do in making a gesture of repulsion.

evening papers with a liberal outflow of extras between. In Italy the papers reach the public about 9 o'clock at night. About every school door when classes for the day have been finished you will see a gathering of men and women. These

the books of their children. When the family wash is ready, the mother carries the basketful of clothes on her head to the public washhouse, ready for action. Every one loves the queen. She is very devout and every now and then

steals from her palace dressed in plain black and mingles with the worshipers in the churches. As for the king-well, that is another story. Bananas and peanuts are never seen in

Italy. As for hand organs and the festive | The decision was in the affirmative, and monkey, they are seldom seen in the city that is the law of England today. Some streets. A peasant from the mountains bringing in vegetables to sell to the city folks must pay a tax at the gate before he can enter the walls. At the first sign of snow Roman schoolboys have a holiday. There are a great many suicides in Rome, and the favorite way is to throw oneself over the Pincian wall or to go to a marriage."—Washington Star. the Suicide bridge out on the Alban hills and leap from it on to the rocks 300 feet below. And when a person has thus end ed his life the natives think it proper to cut a small cross on the spot where he or she plunged to death. As many as 11 crosses have been counted in as many feet and the bridge is rather long.

insult. To walk in the sunlight is to class yourself with dogs and barbarians. To enter a shop and to walk out without making a purchase is to call down upon your head the wrath of an Italian tongue, whose superlative curses would make a New York truckman green with envy. The reason of this is that the windows of the store contain everything in stock with marked prices, and the shopkeeper hates to talk unless there is a sale in prospect at the end. He may have done nothing but sit and doze for an hour before you enter, and he may do nothing else after you leave, but should you fail to buy he considers himself the most abused man in the city, whose time is lost upon fools in gen-

It is not always the native guide that is the best. One day at the Church of St. Peter in Romen party of American schoolboys were watching the crowds come and go when a swarthy faced man approached and asked in the purest Italian if they wished a guide. On the spur of the moment one of them answered him in Greek. The fellow gave them a keen look; then, with a broad grin and a still broader

brogue, said: "Arrah! Now, phwat are ye givin me? Sure, an I know ye are Americans, an it's mesel' that's Pat Bannigan." And that man could tell you more about Rome in five minutes than a native could in a

customed to—a Roman funeral. Of all wherever I go, and kind hostesses, with inal)—Certainly, sir, it's you. I'll get "Yes, papa."

THE WEB OF A SPIDER

CONSTRUCTION.

The Intelligence Displayed by the Insect In Manipulating Its Silken Thread Almost Savors of Reason. Photographing a Net.

scientific lines, has been studying the thelyphonides, a species of spider that builds its web over water along streams and rivers, with interesting results. The investigation was made for the purpose of getting photographs of the web. The web was obtained by placing a small wooden frame in the spider's way, and it was quickly covered with the perfectly woven silky thread. After securing the web, which in its natural state is comparatively invisible for photographic purposes, Dr. Laney proceeded first to make it tenacious by spraying it with an alcoholic solution of shellac from a medical atomizer. Though still comparatively invisible after this treatment, the web could be handled with ease without fear of tearing it. To develop the beautiful work of the spider, Dr. Laney, with another atomizer, sprayed the web with a solution of gallic acid, which made it appear as if frost had settled upon it. The web now seemed to be covered with the morning's dew. To complete the effect Dr. Laney captured the spider, put him in the death box and then coated him with shellac. Deftly placing the insect in the web in a natural position, he was sprayed with gallie acid. Using black velvet as a background, Dr. Laney succeeded in photographing one of the most beautiful and delicate pictures found

wonderful intelligence and mechanical skill in making these nets. Its instinct is far above that of the ordinary animal indeed it quite borders on reason. When a large spider desires to make a web for himself and he has some distance to stretch it, he does not swing himself, as most peo ple suppose, and let the wind or his own momentum take him where it will. He begins his web by starting the first guy very close up to the corner of the angle He attaches to the other side of the angle, making a short guy. Each guy increases in length, the spider always using the last guy made to carry the next one over until he attains the position in which he wishes to place his net. The last guy may be 10 feet long and the first one only a foot in

spiders, as I have observed, make the same kind of a net, with the same number of

strands and divisions. "Now he proceeds to put in the network by starting from the center, where he attaches his web, then with circular motion traveling from guy to guy, spinning web as he goes, and by its natural moisture sticks it to each guy, carefully carrying

the web in his hind feet to prevent it from touching except at the point desired by him. When he has a small distance of the inside completed, he goes to the outside o the net and finishes out any irregular part of the net that does not come within the radius of a circle. After the circle ha been attained the same rotary motion is kept up until the net is finished to th

"Here comes the most comic feature o net building—the test of the durability of the work by the spider himself. As soon as the net is finished he puts every guy through the severest test by sharp, brish jerks, seemingly sufficient to tear the whole net to pieces. The spider's antics just then are certainly amusing. If the spider finds the web is not taut, he will go to the end of the guy rope, stretch it unti the net suits him and reattach the guy. If the net still seems loose from the center the guy will be carried from the center to some convenient point to give the net its proper shape. This is only done when

of the insect. "The nets are perched so as to catch mosquitoes and small insects. The struggles of the prey generally seriously damage the nets. The spider himself in the morning demolishes the rest of the web for the day, with the exception of the main guy ropes, retires to a secluded quarter and again appears late in the afternoon, about 4:30 or 5 o'clock, and renews his net. It requires him about an hour and a half to construct the ordinary web. This work is done every day, rain or shine, and both male and female spiders are equally industrious. The baby spiders are taught industry, beginning net building right after their birth. They will select a cor ner in the big net of the parent and build a small web with the same accuracy and precision as the older insect.

life in its meshes, and when his work of refuses to aspirate. Sometimes her conbuilding is finished he pounces upon them sistent inaccuracy in this matter is amusravenously, consuming them in toto. You cannot knock or blow these spiders out of their nets, nor can they be taken un awares. When they fall, their own net is attached to them, and they can almost touch the water and then quickly run back on the silken string which they spun while falling. The web is always attached to them. When the main guy of the net beman. 'Is tex' was just suited to us folk.' comes too full of insect debris for conven-" 'Why, what was his text?' ience and comfort, the spider goes out, "'It were a tex' from the psalms, consuming all before him and at the same 'Stand in have and sin not''-it sounded

time spinning a fine web behind, entirely renewing the guy. "The silken thread is first liquid, but instantly becomes solidified when it comes in contact with the air, and when the spider drops out of his net, as if falling, it is indeed funny to see him run back again in an instant over the thread which he spun while falling."-Pittsburg Gazette,

> Tourist (who calls at village postoflice for a registered letter)—But why can't you let me have it? Identity?

Postmaster-llave you proof of your Tourist-No.

Postmaster-Don't you know any one is the village? Tourist-No.

Postmaster-liave you a photograph of yourself or anything? Tourist-Yes.

Postmaster (comparing photo with origu the letter.—Pearson's Weekly

A Quaint Custom. The marriage customs of nations are quaint. Here is one which is decidedly

An Old French Custom. to dinner for him to sond his servant with his knife, fork and spoon, or if he had no

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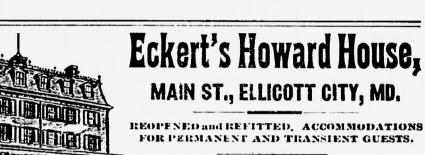
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But the young woman—and she came from New York city—explained to him that the real reason was that they sawed most of the wood. She showed the guests how the Italians hold the saw between their heels and knees and draw the log across the teeth. These are little things, but they go to make up a people's personality and are curious facts for foreigners. When one vehicle passes another in edestrians act in the same way. Some foreigners go through Italy from Naples to Milan and at the end wonder why it was

one, the colazione, or breakfast, at noon; the other, the pranzo, or dinner, from 7 vorite drink among the women at the cafes, but tea is seldom used. It costs usually 10 cents a cup. Italian bread is made without salt, which is under a heavy tax and is classed with tobacco and stamps. purchase the other two commodities. a hard time. Each rider must take out a wheel but his own and should he permi

cense the authorities would seize and re-

meet in the narrow passageways. It is a sight that is apt to come to a man in his sleep, and the dreams that follow it are pot always the most pleasant.—New York

specimens of other species are not the ac-

FISHING FOR SPONGES.

A jubilant word, The sponges of commerce and the dried tual animals, but merely their skeletons or framework. That which constitutes their vital parts is removed in preparing them for market. Sponges do not have the power of mo-

To that glad cry:
What sudden visions did it bring to me,
What dream delight, what vanished ecstasy!
"Free! Oh, free!"

Of the old earth! Once more the soft warm whisper of the

In vine and grass—no more chill secrecy!
"Free! Oh, free!"

STRANGE WAYS OF DOING THINGS IN THAT SUNNY LAND.

Sight to a Stranger. An old adage says, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do," but it is a question whether the average American tourist ever learns the customs of the Romans. Even people who have lived in the Eternal City fail to observe many of the traits and ways of the Romans in their daily life. An Englishman who was an old resident of Rome was put to shame by an American schoolteacher of 22 who asked him if he knew why they chopped so little wood in Italy. He had taken upon himself the office of general dispenser of information

among the guests, and, not being willing to confess ignorance, he blurted out: "Ah, yes; I fawncy it must be the want of wood hand the smallness of the hax."

Wherever one is sold there also you may license for himself. He can ride no other

tain the machine until a heavy fine was

In New York there are morning and

are the parents, who come to carry home

To refuse a pinch of snuff is a grievous

One grows careless in traveling, and many things slip the memory, but there is | Church's One Foundation' and cold chickone thing that it takes months to get ac- en. The hymn seems always to be chosen sights a burial procession in Italy is the strangest. It startles a man to turn a corner and to come suddenly into a gloomy street where the yellow glare of funeral torches throws grotesque shadows along the house walls. There is a quick glitter of censers, a low wail from the mourners, a measured tread of white robed, chanting priests, a smell of incense hanging in the hot air, and behind it all rises a great high object in black, and along its top lies the coffin. Flowers are piled around the dead, and following the hearse is a crowd of mourners, jostling one another as they

fow They Are Sighted and Brought WONDERFUL SKILL EXERCISED IN ITS fon possessed by most animals. They are nearly always attached to submerged ob-Dr. Henry Laney of Cumberland, who jects. Since it is impossible for them to does considerable experimenting along go in search of food, they can grow only in places where there is plenty of food such

as they require. They are more active in fresh than in still water and die in a short time if exposed to the air. The surface of a living sponge is covered with minute pores, through which water is imbibed, carrying with it both the air and the organic particles necessary for the support of life. Sponges are distributed through all seas and are classifled chiefly according to the structure of the skeleton. The Mediter-

ern and western Forida and parts of the The best sponge of commerce is found in the Mediterranean and is known as the Turkey, or Smyrna, sponge. It is obtained by divers, who go clad in armor when div-

ranean and the Red seas are the sponging

grounds of the old world. The grounds

of the new world are the Bahamas, south-

Sponges are usually obtained by fishing for them. When a spongo vessel arrives at the fishing grounds in the Bahamas, it is anchored, and the crew immediately get ready for work. The sponge fisher's outfit consists of a small boat called a "dingey," a long hook and a water glass. The sponge hook is a three pronged iron fork attached to the end of a very long pole. The water glass is simply a wooden water bucket with a bottom of common window

To use it the glass bottom is thrust into the water, the fisherman puts the bail around his neck and then buries his head deep in the bucket to exclude the light. There are always two men to each dingey -one to act as "sculler" and the other as "hooker." While the sculler propels the dingey along very slowly the hooker, in a kneeling position, keeps his head in the water glass, looking down in the water. When a good sponge is sighted, the hooker gives a signal, and the dingey stops. Together the sculler and hooker thrust the sponge hook down through the water and run it under the sponge. The roots

that the Italians persisted in getting into in crawls to be cured. The crawls are built by sticking pieces of brush or stakes into the sand just out of the water or where it is very shallow. They remain in the crawls while under-Usually they are left in the crawls for a week; then the fishermen remove them and give them a beating for the purpose of removing all chance impurities. After the beating they are thoroughly cleansed

LUCKY PARSONS.

They Can Marry Themselves and Save the Wedding Fee. "The law is very blank on the question which occasionally comes up as to the legal right of a clergyman to marry himself," observed a lawyer. "Of course there are not many clergymen who have ever contended that they had the legal as well as the ecclesiastical right to perform a marringe when they were personally parties to it, and there never will be, from the peculiar circumstances of the case. As far as the laws of this District are concerned, however, a clergyman is just as competent to marry himself as he is to marry others, for the reason that the laws do not say

anything to the contrary, and the clergy man's certificate that the marriage has been performed is all that is needed to make it lawful. "I am not up in ecclesiastical law to any great extent, and I am not able to explain the church ordinances, but as far as I can learn a clergyman of any of the leading denominations has all the church right to marry himself that he has to marry others. The court of queen's bench in Dublin on Nov. 16, 1855, had a case of this kind under consideration, the only point in issue being whether a clergyman could marry himself. The case was very fully argue and is reported in the reports of that court and quoted by many English law writers of the state laws may have thought it necessary to express an opinion in the matter, but I have never seen any. The case that I refer to is cited in the books as that of Beamish versus Beamish. It was a pro-

ceeding for a divorce, in which the question was raised that there never had been That Bothersome "H." Speaking of the letter "h," a writer in the Rochester Post-Express says: "Curiously enough, the 'h' is not dropped north of Yorkshire, and Scotland, with characteristic thriftiness, takes the utmost care of it. Ireland is prodigal in emphasizing it, and, so far as I know, the colonies are also sound on this point. Only England

ing enough. For example, there is a village in the eastern counties which rejoices in the name of Haw. A parishioner was asked what he thought of a strange preacher who had been holding a service in the vil-" 'Well,' he said, 'I liked the gentle-

o 'omely loike.' '' A Cheery Old Savage. The lord chief justice of Abyssinia is lescribed by a correspondent of The St. James Gazette as a cheery old gentleman, dressed in a huge black hat, with a green silk handkerchief tied around his head un derneath the bat, black silk cloak embroidered with gold, smart purple silk skirt underneath and continuations of the fair est linen. He was also armed with a long sword in a red scabbard, and his squires,

A great many Episcopal clergymen probably would sympathize with the English bishop who said recently: "The two things of which I am most tired are 'The quite extraordinary unanimity, providcold chicken for luncheon."-New York Tribune. Who Can Tellf

A Minister's Complaint.

"Well, go on."
"Why don't they bury the Dead sea?" Harpor's Bazar. When Virginia was first settled, auctions of wives were held at Jamestown.

Dr. Laney says: "The spider displays

length.
"The last two guys become the support of the net. These will each be re-enforced by at least six strands, all laid in the one cable, for the thorough support of the net. After this the spider travels to the point on the cable from which he wants to locate his net, attaches the web to that point and lets drop the next guy thereby laying the first angle guy of the net. Then he crawls back over the same guy to the top again and repeats the act until he has spun eight strands, which make 32 angular divisions in the net. All

necessary, displaying the great intelligence

"While building his net the spider takes

no notice of the accumulation of insect

running alongside, carried his rifle and gold mounted shield.

"Papa," said Tommy Tredway.
"Now, Tommy," replied Mr. Tredway. 'I shall answer only one more question today. So be careful what you ask."

Backwoodsmen of China still use the bow and arrow as a weapon.

barbarous: A Hottentot widow marrying again has to cut off the joint of a finger, which she gives to her new husband on their wedding day. Each time she becomes a widow and marries again she has to sacrifice one finger joint. Before the revolution in France it was

servant he carried them with him in his breeches posket,

customary when a gentleman was invited

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