

Lion Hunting.

We were once camped in a grove on the bank of a creek, our party numbering over thirty people. We had horses, oxen, wagons and dogs, and were spread out over two acres of ground. It was in the lion country, and they might be expected to approach at night, but on the second afternoon of our camp, while all were engaged in cleaning up and making repairs, an alarm was suddenly raised. I supposed that some of the animals stampeded, and ran around the wagon to get a clear view of the space between us and the creek. This creek was 200 feet away, and was so nearly dry that one could step across it. The bank on the other side was rocky ground, pretty thickly covered with scrub, and right on the brink stood one of the largest lions I ever saw. He was out in full view, head and tail up, and stood so still for a moment that I doubted if he was alive.

There was a light breeze blowing toward us, and as soon as our animals got the scent it required the efforts of every native to prevent them from breaking away. My guns were being cleaned and oiled, and my two white companions were looking after their horses. No one had the least idea that the lion meant mischief, and we were presently dumbfounded to see him spring across the creek and come walking into camp. We measured his leap and found it to be twenty-eight feet. He made it without an effort. I was to the right of him, and the center of the camp was his objective point. The lion advanced at a walk, uttering no sound, and the shouts, screams and whoops of the men, backed by the bellowing of the cattle and the snorts of the horses, had no effect on him.

We had a new milch cow tied to a wheel of one of the wagons, and the lion advanced to within thirty feet of her, and then made a spring which landed him fairly upon her back. She fell in a heap, and he seized her by the neck, gave her two or three shakes, which broke the grass rope around her head, and he then got his right shoulder under her and started off. The cow weighed at least 500 pounds, but he carried her with perfect ease, her hind feet dragging on the ground. At the creek he made a jump of eleven feet, ascended a sloping bank without a halt, and soon disappeared in the broken ground with his prey. He was gone before we had a gun ready. Indeed, we were lucky not to have lost half our animals. I was no greenhorn in the animal business at that date, but this was the first time I had ever witnessed such cheek in a lion. Had I been told that he had such courage and coolness I should have laughed the statement to scorn.

As soon as order had been restored the three of us mounted our horses and, preceded by five or six natives and their dogs, crossed the creek and took up the trail. After going about half a mile we discovered the lion sitting beside the carcass in a little hollow. He was sitting up like a dog, head turned towards us, but as soon as he saw us divide he ran off with his tail down evidently thoroughly alarmed, and such was his speed that we soon lost him. We could count on his returning to the body during the night, and the natives were therefore set to work to dig a pit and conceal it. They regarded the lion as being as cunning as he was wise, and the pit was dug near the body, but thirty feet away from it and in the direction in which it was believed he would drag the body.

If a lion or tiger leaves a body during the day and returns to it at night the first act is to drag it some distance, as if fearing an ambush. While the rule is not invariable, it holds good in most cases. During the night a dozen lions scented around our camp, but without causing any alarm, and soon after daylight the natives went out to investigate the trap. No hunter ever had such a windfall before or since. As night came several lions must have scented the carcass, and gathered for a feast. The rightful owner objected, of course, and there was a fight, the result of which was that three full grown males tumbled into one pit. The fact did not prevent others from picking the carcass clean. One of the captives was the cheeky old fellow who had entered our camp, and the other two were fully as large. In the course of the forenoon we had them out and in the cages, and two of them are in the United States to-day in zoological gardens.

There are plenty of instances where men have been seized by lions and lived to relate the particulars, though no two agree as to sensations. A week subsequent to our capture of the three lions I had been out with some of the natives to prepare a bait in a rocky ravine. We had built a stout pen of rocks and logs and placed a calf as a bait. The sun was nearly down as we started for camp, and no one had the least suspicion of the presence of danger until a lion, which had been crouching beside a bush, sprang out and knocked me down. In springing upon his prey the lion or the tiger strikes as he seizes. This blow of the paw, if it falls on the right spot, disables the victim at once.

I was so near this fellow that he simply reared up, seized me by the shoulder and pulled me down, and I was flat on the earth before I realized what had happened. I was on my back, and he stood with both paws on my middle, facing the natives and growling savagely. The men ran off about 300 feet and then halted, which was doubtless the reason why I was carried off at once. I can say without conceit that I was fairly cool. It had come so suddenly that I had not had time to get rattled. I had been told by an old Boer hunter, if I ever found myself in this fix, to appeal to the lion's fears. Had I moved my arm to get my pistol, the beast would have lowered his head and seized my throat. So long as I lay quiet he would reason that I was dead, and give his attention to the natives.

All of a sudden I barked out like a dog, followed by a growl, and that beast jumped twenty feet in his surprise. He came down between me and the natives, and I turned enough to see his tail was down and that he was scared. I uttered further barks and growls, but without moving a hand, and, after making a circle clear around me, the lion suddenly bolted and went off with a screech which would last him a week. If you had picked up a stick and discovered it to be a snake you would do just as the lion did. He supposed he had pulled down a man. The man turned into a dog. It appealed to his fears.

After the lion had gone I grew so weak that I had to be carried to camp. He had inflicted a pretty bad bite on my shoulder, and it was a fortnight before I could hold my gun for an offhand shot. I had the presence of a fourth captive during this time to console me, however. No animal went near the calf on the first or second night, but on

the third we captured a fine half-grown male, and got him caged without trouble. Curiously enough, he had offered the call to violence, being overcome by the situation, and when we found him the two seemed on the best terms.—[Cor. New York Sun.

A Cause for Sore Throat.

"A novel incident resulting from a habit of very common prevalence among nervous people was brought to my notice recently," said a leading physician of Philadelphia. "A young lady presented herself at my office and complained of a constant irritation in her throat. Two weeks previously she had been taken with a very severe attack of sore throat, which was treated by the family physician. Under his care, she said, the inflammation quickly subsided, but there still remained a sensation of irritation. Examination revealed a small fleshy-looking object about the size of a kernel of wheat adherent to the tissue posterior to the left tonsil by the one end. The other parts of the throat were normal. The little mass could not be detached by a cotton covered probe, but by the use of forceps it was easily removed, and, on examination, proved to be a piece of finger nail, which had become embedded in a cheesy deposit. A broken piece of the nail was also removed from under the mucous membrane at the same spot by a sharp-pointed probe.

"The lady then confessed to the habit of biting her finger nails, and, moreover, could remember that a day or two previous to her throat trouble a piece of nail she had bitten off had become lost in her mouth, but, after it had caused a fit of coughing, she had forgotten all about it until reminded by the discovery."

Two Queer Facts.

The economical reforms in the Queen's household, to which it is said the Prince of Wales has been decidedly opposed, have revealed a couple of queer facts. The custom has been to present Epiphany offerings of "gold, frankincense, and myrrh" on behalf of the sovereign at the altar of the Chapel Royal of St. James's Palace. The offering was supposed to consist of fifty sovereigns, until Prince Albert, who had a keen scent for abuses, once went to the vestry before the services and opened the box, where he found ten shillings only. It was explained that an old habit gave the rest of the money to certain officials as perquisites. Another queer custom appropriated at the beginning of each year fifty-two bottles of royal Madeira, whereby the officiating clergy at St. James's were supposed to regale themselves each Sunday after morning service. Yet none of the clergy had ever seen a drop of it.

Cats in Egypt.

In Egypt ladies used to carry their devotion to their feline pets as far as to go into mourning for them when they died. And how do you think they went into mourning? Why, by shaving off their eyebrows! Favorite cats used to be embalmed, too, and I know of no quarter or more grotesque objects than the mummified cats which may be seen at the British Museum. Even now cats are held in high esteem in Egypt, and in at least one of the Khedive's palaces at Cairo there is a tree ration distributed every day to any cats that may care to apply.

Jacob's Mistake.

"Vell," said Mr. Isaacstein to his clerk as he took off his coat, "how vos peeznis vile I vos oud?" "I sold a two-dollar pistol," replied the clerk. "Dot vos goot, Jacob—goot." "De shentleman wanted it to blow his brains oud," continued Jacob. "Oh!" said Mr. Isaacstein, dubiously, "dot vos bad, very bad. He would haf paid five tollars."

The preliminary survey for the projected railway for the Congo Free State has been recently completed. The Congo will have a brilliant future before it. It is rich in material resources and in facilities for transporting them. It is under the authority of the most pacific nation in Europe, and has up to the present been happily free from all international complications. The climate in certain localities is for the European trying. But it is tolerable, and it must in these days be a bad climate that will keep out enterprising merchants, as Burmah and India and Jamaica testify.

A venerable, white-haired clergyman of Philadelphia has recently been much gratified at receiving several requests from ladies for a lock of his hair. But the other day his wife received a note that put a different light on the subject. It ran as follows: "My dear Mrs. X.—Won't you please ask your good husband to send me just a little lock of his hair. We have all been taking lessons in making hair flowers. So many of the other girls asked him and he sent it to them, but I thought I would rather ask you to get it for me. Now, won't you please do this for me, it is so hard to get white hair for lilies of the valley."

After a prolonged conference a joint committee of the United States Senate and House of Representatives has agreed upon a bill establishing a new Executive department, to be known as the Department of Agriculture, the chief officer of which shall be Secretary of Agriculture. The number of the members of the Cabinet will thus be increased from seven to eight. It is said that the bill will be passed at once, and that President Cleveland will immediately thereafter make an appointment to the office. The gentleman upon whom his choice falls will have the pleasure of being a member of the Government for about three weeks.

Mr. Brudenell Carter an eminent English oculist, says that the near-sightedness of the present generation is due to two causes—the constant use of the eyes on near objects and popular ignorance concerning the range and scope of the visual function. The disease of the eye in looking at distant objects is said to be one of the effects of a civilization which renders it unnecessary for a man to keep a sharp lookout for beasts which he may eat or which may eat him, and Mr. Brudenell proposes that as this natural exercise is lost, an artificial stimulus to the cultivation of good eyesight should be given by offering prizes for it, just as prizes are now offered for rowing or running. The clerks and students of modern athletic clubs are probably just as strong as the mailed knights who fought in the lists hundreds of years ago; and it is reasonable to expect the artificial cultivation of the eyesight will be as successful as the artificial cultivation of the muscles.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The telegrams from India report an incident which is hardly as big as the moral attached thereto. A practical joker wanted to frighten a negro, whose only fault apparently was that he was supercilious. The joker attired himself in a white sheet and concealed his shrouded form in a dark wood near where the victim was to pass. He passed, and the spectre duly made its appearance. If the negro was supercilious the axe he carried on his shoulder was not, and the practical joker was laid flat by the terrified man, who at least ended the idiotic tricks of one person, for he is not living to perpetrate any more.

According to a special cable despatch in this morning's Mail, the collapse of the Electric Sugar Company has caused the breakdown of a magnificent scheme for the colonization of Palestine by the Jews. A gentleman who had invested largely in the shares of the fraudulent concern intended to devote his profits therefrom to the furtherance of this philanthropic plan. It is somewhat doubtful, however, whether any person so easily gulled as Mr. Roberts was by Professor Freund would have been equal to so large and so difficult a task as the re-peopling of Palestine with the widely-scattered descendants of its original inhabitants.

The Eiffel tower has been well advertised. The whole world has been hearing about it for months. The last reports were sensational in the extreme. It was said that the tower was out of plumb, and references were of course made to the tower of Pisa; that engineers were detailed to examine it with theodolites, etc. But it may, perhaps, not be generally known that the Eiffel tower has been built expressly with a view to the possibility of correcting at any time any deflection from the perpendicular by a sinking of the foundations. It is supported on four enormous hydraulic jacks, screws, as they are called. Probably these reports arose from the fact that observations were made to see whether it was necessary that these should be brought into requisition.

The Chinese Government appears to do its best to discourage the universal desire to enter the Civil Service. Applicants are examined every three years. At the last examination each of the 1,300 candidates entered a small, narrow and solitary booth in which he was practically imprisoned for an entire month, the examiners themselves, not being permitted to leave the enclosure. Soldiers armed with lances, watched the booths and saw that the rules were strictly observed. At one time there was a heavy rainstorm and many of the booths were flooded with water, in which the candidates squatted, working away patiently with their bamboo pencils. Only 86 out of the 1,300 succeeded.

Germany appears to be most unfortunate in all her colonizing experiments. Wherever in foreign lands she is brought into contact with other colonizing nations, misunderstandings and unpleasantnesses occur. At Angra Pequina it was thus. At Zanzibar it is the same. And Samoa is only another and signal proof of her want of tact. Germany apparently does not know how to deal with native character. In this she differs widely from England. The Anglo Saxon is looked up to and obeyed where the Teuton is hated and rebelled against. Wherein lies the secret of Germany's failure? It is probably to be found in the secret of England's success. And this, we think, her keen sense of justice; in Lord Dufferin's large phrase, her "angust impartiality."

The rumor that a committee of the British Medical Association were about to report that total abstinence had a relatively earlier mortality than drunkards, turns out to be unfounded. Dr. Isambard Owen, in speaking to the Pathological Society of London, said that the "Conclusions of the committee were based upon 4,234 returns of 178 practitioners in the British Islands, chiefly from England and Wales. The cases were taken consecutively from the death certificate books of the practitioners, the age, habits, occupation and cause of death of males of the age of 25 years and upwards being given, together with a scale of alcoholic habits and the presence or absence of gout. The results show that the average age at death steadily fell from 62 years and a fraction in the habitually temperate class to 52 and a fraction in the decidedly intemperate."

Too Much for the Lawyer.

A fellow was on trial before a police magistrate for stealing chickens. The proof was circumstantial, the main thing seeming to be that footmarks were found in the snow near the roost exactly corresponding with the prisoner's boots—patches, nails, and all. The prisoner's counsel thought he had a green one in the prosecutor's witness, who was apparently all that fancy painted him. Counsel put this question: "Now, how do you know that my client had on these boots last night? How do you know I hadn't them on?" The witness demurely answered: "Cause you didn't know they's any chickens there."—[Texas Siftings.

Moderate Men.

When the late Lord Beaconsfield first became Prime Minister one of his friends asked if he might venture upon a word of advice. "Yes, by all means," said the new Premier. "What is it?" It was with regard to ecclesiastical patronage—that he should be especially careful in the appointment of bishops to select moderate men. "Moderate men! moderate men!" exclaimed Mr. Disraeli. Then, after a pause, apparently questioning his adviser's intention:—"Ah, I see what you mean. You want me to appoint men without convictions!"

With double vigilance should we watch our actions, when we reflect that good and bad ones are never childless; and that in both cases, the offspring goes beyond the parent—every good begetting a better, every bad a worse.

Fault-finding is one of the ways in which men seek to appear wiser than they are. It seems to invest them with a degree of authority in the eyes of those who do not realize that it is one of the easiest of all things to find fault. To expose errors, to foretell difficulties, to criticize methods, to make objections, may all be done volubly by persons who have no power to originate better ways or to overcome the obstacles which they spread forth, and who are in every way inferior to those whom they criticize or contradict or interrogate.

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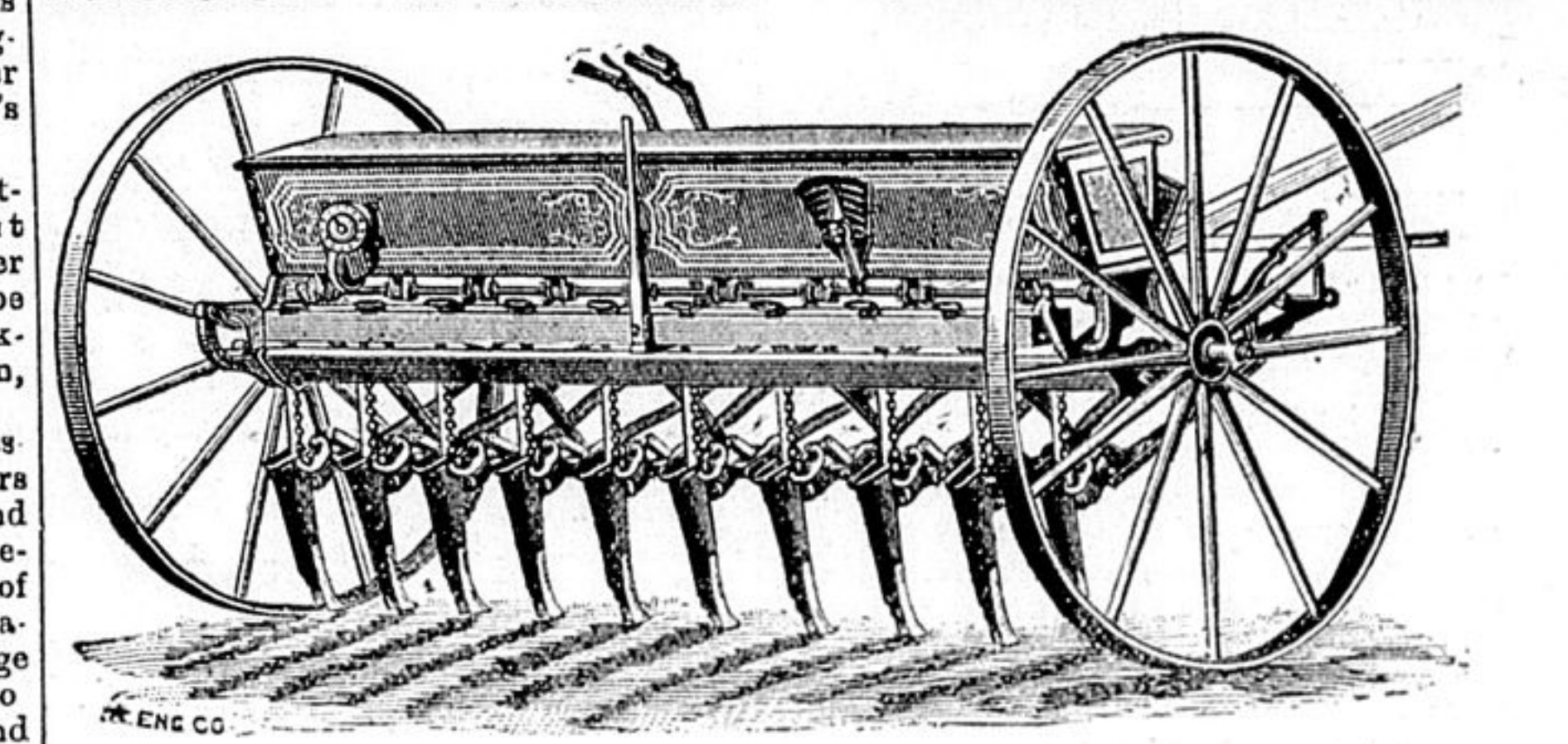
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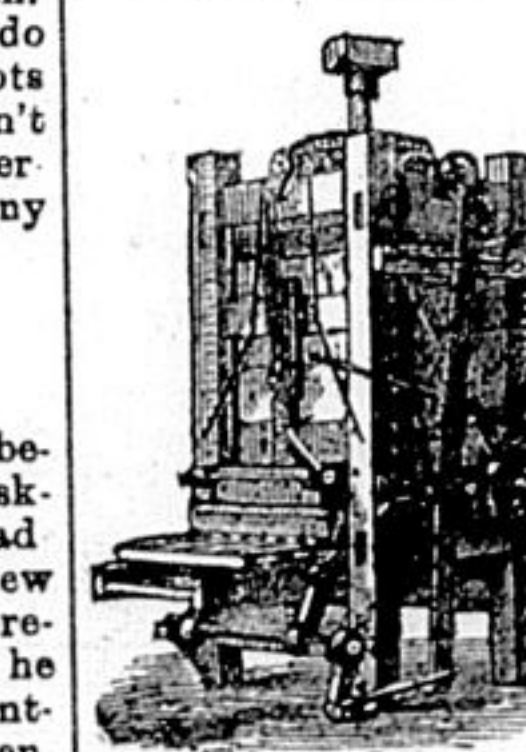
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