LANDING A BIG STURGEON.

me With a Fish Nearly as An Excitin ng As a Man.

Recently as putting in an afternoon at Petaluma Creek, fishing for salmon trout or anything else. It is a tide-water stream, emptying into San Pablo Bay, and during a good portion of the year it is frequented by a variety of salt water fishes. The sturgeon is a sly biter, and somtimes "mouths" the bait ten or fifteen minutes before taking hold. On this occasion I had baited with a small smelt and thrown into deep water from a small wharf. The wind was blowing a gale, so it was hard to tell when one had a bite. The poles were scattered along the wharf taking care of themselves, when one of them began to act queer. The line would slacken slowly several inches, then grow taut, the tip of the pole bending, then the line would slacken again. It did this for several minutes without change, and I could not make up my mind whether to pull or not. Then suddenly the line slackened several feet. This is almost a sure indication of a sturgeon. Quick as possible I struck and felt the hook stick into something distressingly like a snag, it seemed so heavy and sluggish; but you "can't most always sometimes tell."

Slowly something below seemed to wake up, for all the world like a locomotive moving a heavy train. Then, as it gained headway, it got madder and madder, and the reel hummed louder and louder, until it screamed like a little fiend. Two hundred feet of line ran out in a few seconds, and then, with a splash as if a horse had fallen into the water, three feet of big, drab-colored fish plunged into the air. He was evidently too big to jump out all at once. Then he started back up stream, and, in spite of all the train I dared back up on him, ran out nearly every foot of the line from the reel. My heart was in my mouth for fear of an accident, but he stopped just at the right time. This fish fought like a demon for one hour and a half actual time, and seemed determined not to come to gaff. A Frenchman happened along just then, and I begged him to use the gaff. He stepped on a rock near the water edge, but the fish came up, and, seemingly with malice aforethought, with one flap of his tail wet the kind helper from head to foot. He stepped up and out as gracefully as possible. The fish was finally landed and found to weigh exactly forty pounds and to measure fifty eight inches in length. While making a slower fight than the trout, the sturgeon's mad rushes are thrilling and exciting, and I believe the most tastidious angler will vote him a game fish after he has once landed a big fellow with light tackle.

Frequently I have taken them in on an eight-ounce split bamboo fly rod, with smallest gut hook baited with worm. Then their fight is particularly pleasing, but I would not care to try one above four feet in length on that kind of tackle, as half a day is too long to take in landing one fish.

Wearing the Slipper.

Mowry, one of the early writers on the habits and customs of the African tribes, tells an amusing story of a lady's slipper which by some chance was carried anto the country back of Cape Colony, and handed embroidered white satin.

the tribes a year later, he found that every woman of distinction possessed a rule imitation of this slipper, made usually of bark. She wore it only on occasions of great importance, tied to a string and hung about her neck, and showed it with complacent smiles to the stranger, to prove that she kept up with the fashions as well as her white sisters.

This seems absurd enough to us, but have we not, also, customs that are quite as ridiculous ?

the Middle States, said, a few months ago, "Five eighths of my pupils take lessons in music. Of these, probably, five in a hundred an ordinary town. The company determinpatience it demands.

school, keep up thr ugh life their practice | work it is intended to do. This engine comenough to sing simple songs and hymns, and | bines all the qualities of the large fire engines, to play the sweet, familiar melodies of which and is yet so light that it can be drawn by Government Land has just been opened for settletheir parents or children are fond. They a few men. Already a number of villages are not scientific performers, but their music have purchased this engine, and in every Pine and hard wood timber is easily accessible. gives pleasure in their homes, and often soothes and quiets their own strained nerves.

"But the great majority of girls who learn music only do it because it is considered the proper thing for a girl in good society means, are heavily taxed for years to pay for their lessons and a piano is purchased at a large outlay. When the girl comes home from school, she has learned, perhaps, by the sacrifice of an hour's labor a day for years, to strum three or four marches and waltzes. She plays them until everybody is tired of them; but she never opens the piano to give pleasure to herself or others.

"The same thing is true, in a less degree, of girls who learn to paint without any love

for the art." Nothing can widen or beautify the horizon of a woman's life more surely than one of these arts, if faithfully loved and used. But to waste money, time and labor on them simply to "be in the fashion," is as foolish in the white woman as it is for the black to hang for show a ball-slipper about her neck which she never can wear upon her feet.

Where English Beer Is Sent.

A very interesting list is that of the countries to which English beer is sent. While Roumania showed its bad taste by only taking three barrels all told, China imported 8, 127 barrels during 1888, and even France, 9 631. The fact that the small community at Aden drank 4 274 barrels of British beer during 1888 only confirms the popular notion as to the very arid and thirsty nature of that sunburned rock. In Egypt the consumption in 1888 of so large a quantity as 9,217 barrels was doubtless due in great measure to the British occupation, while the 37 barrels sent to Persia during the last year were doubtless intended either for the Shah's palace or the British embassy. Who shall say, though, where British beer will not penetrate next, when five barrels were sent all the way to Muscat, and no less than 61 (in spite of the French President's partiality for the wines of his country) to Madagascar? We shall probably find .Thibet in the list next year .- [London Figaro.

Once more the House of Lords has rejected the Deceased Wife's Sister Bill.

HOW AN ACTRESS GOT A GOWN.

Acting the Role of the Goddess of Liberty with a Paterson Charlot for a Stage.

"Before I made a hit," said an actress, who now need give no thought to the future, "I used to see some rainy days. At one time, a few years ago, I was without an engagement, and also without money, except a small hoard that I religiously parcelled out into weekly amounts that should pay my board for six weeks. After that, the deluge, I thought, and in the mean time I needed a dress desperately. I was not presentable to go and see managers in my old clothes, but where the dress was coming from I could not guess. One morning started out, feeling that something must be done, and wandered around among the dramatic agencies and theatrical intelligence offices all day without hearing of anything. I was about to go back to my boarding place, discouraged, when I thought of one I had not visited. I went there, found the manager in and alone, twirling a telegram in his hand.

" Anything for me?" I asked as gayly as I could.

"' Nothing I'm afraid—unless,' he added suddenly, 'you'd do this,' and he indicated the telegram.

Liberty for the dome of the chariot.' "I flushed with anger to have it offered

"'Better take it. Kate.' went on the manager. I think he had seen the despair in my face when I went in. It'll give you a bit of pocket money. Twenty five dollars for one day's work isn't bad.'

"It tempted me. I hesitated. " When? I faltered.

"'To-morrow, They have been disappointed, and despatched to me just now. was on the point of sending to a party who'll be only too glad to go as you came in. You'd suit better, though, than she; you're a large, majestic figure, and your long hair will add to the imposing effect. Better go, Kate,' he finished, persuasively: 'no one will know.'

"I'll go,' I said defiantly, and I did. Took an early train, peering furtively everywhere for any chance acquaintance of whose presence I stood in mortal dread. Found the committee, got a long white dress draped with a flag, let down my hair, put on a gold crown, set my face 1000 an ugiy scowl and mounted the dome. All day it seemed to me that old chariot rumbled around the streets. I was in an agony lest some one should recognize me, but I don't believe my own brother, if I had one, would have known

"Two old German women followed me for some blocks. 'Oh, vat a cross lady !' said one, referring to me.

"'Yah,' said the other, 'she veel not laff,' and then, as they walked along, 'she veel not efen smile.'

"The day came to an end at last. I got my money and hurried back to New York. The next day I read an account of the festival in the papers, in which the fact was chronicled that an extraordinarily ugly woman personated the Goddess of Liberty. For once, though, my vanity was not wounded. I got the dress, and whether it was about with delight and admiration among that or not, the very first week I were it I the Hottentots. It was a ball-slipper of got an engagement which turned out to be a very successful one-the beginning, indeed When Captain Mowry travelled among of may prosperity. But I have never forgotten that dreadful day."

Fire Protection.

The success of the Waterous Engine Co., of Brantford, in the manufacture of fire engines has been quite unique in the history of machinery in Canada. With their usual acuteness and far-seeing ability they saw that hundreds of the smaller towns and villages in the country were without any kind The head of a seminary for girls, in one of of fire protection, simply because heretofcre the hand fire engines had proved useless, and become musicians; they love the art and | ed to remedy this deplorable state of affairs, give to it the large amount of time, labor and | and have produced an engine which has already attained a more than provincial re-"Of the others, a few girls, after leaving putation for its perfect adaptability for the THE LIBERALITY OF UNCLE SAM .- Gives case it has given the utmost satisfaction, some municipalities actually stating their preference for it over the large engine, even if it cost the same money. The Messrs. Waterous will be glad to furnish any parto do. Their parents, however small their | ticulars which villages needing an engine require.

Against Tobacco.

The Anti-Tobacco Association of St John, N. B., have published the prize essays on tobacco written by Rev. Mr. Wilson and Miss Bigney. Mr. Wilson mentions that, at the lowest estimate, the money consumed yearly on tobacco would construct ten railroads around the globe at a cost of \$25 000 | Portland, Boston and Philadelphia; and during sumper mile, and leave a surplus of \$162,500. 000. It would, we think, be a desirable thing fortnightly. to have ten railroads round the globe. pro. vided the locomotives could be prevented from smoking, but we are afraid that Mr. Wilson has left out of account the engineering difficulties in the way of bridging the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans ; the cost of which would use up the surpulus of \$162 500,000. Miss Bigney says that a few drops of the essential oil of toabcco would kill a man. The comparatively small number of men who have met death in this manner shows the difficulty of extracting the essential oil. Miss Bigney quotes another writer who says that if his dog were to acquire the tobacco habit he would shoot him. Most men, we think, would do the same. What could be more annoying than to come home and find your dog sitting on the front steps and camly puffing away at the Havanas for which you pay ten dollars a box ? A man is not bound to find a dog in tobacco, and if the dog's life is miserable without the weed, it is the part of humanity as well as of economy to shoot him.

Charlie, what are you doing with your thumb in baby's mouth ?" Charlie (complacently looking at the deluded infant sucking itself cross-eyed and red in the face) -" Weaning it, my dear." Mrs. Younghusband-" Yor horrid thing, that isn't the way to wean it." Charlie-(plaintively)-"Well, didn't the nurse say it must be fed on pap ?

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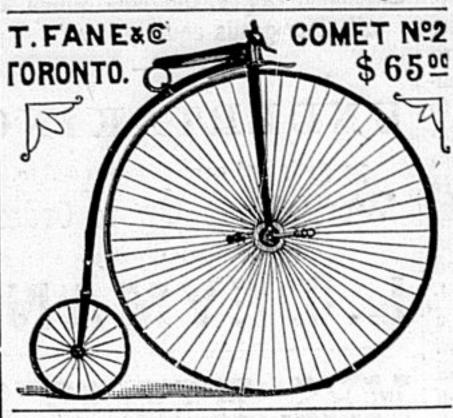
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