

### SCORPIONS.

Their Abode in Lower Mexico—A Pleasant Place in Which to Sleep.

"If ever you should happen to go down into lower Mexico," said L. T. Stanley, the electrician, to a New York Sun man, "and should notice that your bed was set up on inverted tin pans, as you have seen the four corners of corn cribs fixed to keep out rats, and that the bed had a sheet stretched above it, running to a peak at the top like the roof of a house, don't say a word but get right in and go to sleep. If you shouldn't go to sleep as soon as you get in, and should hear something drop on the sheet roof above you and roll down and tumble on the floor at the side of the bed, lie still. By and by you will hear the same drop and roll and tumble, and it won't be long before it'll be drop, drop, drop, and roll, roll, roll, and plink, plink, plink, on the floor. Don't get up; if you do you might think you were struck with lightning as soon as you put your foot on the floor, for the chances are that you would step on a scorpion the first thing, and the scorpion has a stinger that he carries for instant and effective use. Scorpions are just about as plenty thereabouts as flies are at home. They hide by day and attend to business at night. The scorpion is a crab with a snake's tail with a spur on the end of it. It lies to get in bed with folks, and if it wasn't for the tin pans on the bed posts it would climb up and get in with you that way, and if the bed wasn't roofed with the sheet it would drop on you from the ceiling. When you get up in the morning you will be apt to find a few quarts of dead scorpions lying on the floor in front of the bed. They all committed suicide. After taping to get into bed with you a few times and being tumbled off the sheets every time or stopped by the tin pans they got mad and stuck their stingers in their heads and killed themselves. A scorpion will commit suicide on the slightest provocation. It has a temper as hot and as quick as kerosene on a kitchen fire. If a scorpion is passing by another one and happens to touch it there's a fight at once and two dead scorpions are the result. Put 100 scorpions in an inclosure and throw a little stick or a little piece of dirt among them and the scorpion that is nearest to where the stick or dirt falls will turn and tip his spur into his nearest neighbor and in less than two seconds the entire 100 will be mixed up in the fight. The way their stingers and claws and legs will fly is a sight to see. As long as there is one scorpion alive the fight goes on, for if one happens to survive the other ninety-nine he will pitch in and have it out with himself and the first thing he knows he is dead.

"It is a fact that scorpions, or alcarans as the Mexicans call them, are at certain seasons of the year as numerous almost as flies. They are within the cracks of the walls, between the bricks of the tiles on the floor, hiding inside your garments, darting everywhere with inconceivable rapidity, their tails, which hold the sting, ready to fly up with dangerous effect upon the slightest provocation. Turn a corner of a rug or table-spread and you disturb a flourishing colony of them. Shake your shoes in the morning and out they flop. Throw your bath sponge into the water and half a dozen of them dart out of its cool depths, into which they had lain themselves away during the night. It is not often that you see one of the mahogany-hued reptiles that is more than two inches long, but they sometimes show up with the formidable proportions of a five-inch length and all that it implies. There is a smaller variety than the mahogany scorpion. This one is yellow and ten times more vicious and dangerous. It is at midday that the bite or sting of these venomous little pests is most feared, as the natives say it is then most poisonous. The deserted old mines of Durango are simply scorpion hives. They have bred and increased there undisturbed for centuries. A few years ago the government took official notice of their deadly presence and placed a bounty on them, which is paid on the presentation of a scorpion's tail and sting at the office of the government agent. Many natives carry a brass tube, and in case of a bite from a scorpion it is pressed over the wound, on which it acts like the bleeding cup of a surgeon, and draws the poisoned blood out. A hollow key has been used successfully in the same way. Victims of the yellow scorpion's bite have been known to lie for days in convulsions, foaming at the mouth, and with stomach and limbs swollen as in dropsy. Others suffer no worse consequences than they might from an ordinary bee sting. Brandy taken until stupefaction follows is a favorite remedy for scorpion bites in Mexico, ammonia is also given with good results. There is nothing the Mexican or Texan fears more than the yellow or black scorpion of Durango except the bloating rattlesnake of Staked plains, and that is probably the most deadly reptile on the American continent."

### THE ORIENTAL WOMAN.

Breariness of the Life of the Human Female in the Far East.

It is rather a curious reflection that in those countries where women's rights are most completely non-existent, there the specially womanly duties of woman are the most grossly neglected, says the "Fort nightly Review." Travelers in Egypt, for instance, tell us that when the bells call the hour of prayer every man stops whatever work he is engaged in and prostrates himself to Allah. No woman takes any notice of the sound. She is too low in the scale of humanity to make her tribute to the almighty worthy of acceptance. She ranks in this respect almost with the brute creation. She is not withdrawn from her domestic duties by the claim of religion upon her time and thoughts. And yet the same travelers tell us that one of the horrors of Egyptian life is the fearful neglect from which the children suffer. The poor little creatures are incumbered by dirt and sores and are swarming with vermin. Children are frequently seen lying in their mothers' arms with six or eight flies in each eye. Ophthalmia and various kinds of blindness are of course very prevalent, although death releases an enormously large proportion of the children from their sufferings. Three out of every five children who are born die during infancy, and of those who survive one in every twenty is blind. This is being "thoroughly masculine" with a vengeance, and points an instructive moral as to the consequences upon the character of women of the denial of liberty, education, and responsibility. The harem life of oriental ladies of high rank is dull and vacuous to the last degree. They play with their jewels, eat sweetmeats, and smoke pipes, and thus their day passes. If their children are ill they are hopelessly bewildered and utterly unable to take care of them. They cling with touching reverence to any average English or American woman who may happen to visit them and implore her aid in doing the simplest kind of nursing and mothering for the ailing children. Nothing astonishes orientals more than the position of women in England. A Chinese mandarin has lately published his views on this subject. Women, he says, are even helped at meals before men. In his country the men eat first, and when they have quite finished, if anything is left, the women are allowed to have it. Another eastern, Seyd Ahmed Khan, was amazed to find that the servant-girl who waited upon him in lodgings in London could read and write; and he recorded his deliberate opinion that the little scrub in a London lodging, "compelled to work as a maid-servant for her living," was in reality superior in nearly all respects to Indian ladies of the highest rank. "Such," he adds, solemnly, "is the effect of education."

### A Pig Mistake.

A merchant whose articulation has a decided tendency in the direction of a lisp had engaged a clerk who was not aware of his vocal peculiarity.

"John," said the merchant who wished to lay in his winter stock of pork, "go out and buy for me two or three thows and pigs."

"Yes, sir," said John, much elated at the commission.

John returned late at night, looking as though he had performed a hard day's work.

"Did you get them?" asked the merchant.

"Only part of them," was the reply. "I bought all I could find; but there were only eight hundred to be had."

"Eight hundred! Eight hundred what, thir?" asked the astonished lisper.

"Eight hundred pigs," was the reply. You told me to buy two or three thousand pigs; but they are not to be found."

"Two or three thousand pigs! I did not tell you to do any such stupid thing. I thaid you should buy two or three thows and pig's!" exclaimed the merchant.

"That's just what I said," answered the clerk. "Two or three thousand pigs; I bought all I could find."

"The merchant now began to see the origin of the mistake. It was apparently a costly joke; but there was no remedy. The pigs had been fairly bought, and there was no way but to make the best of a bad bargain. The grunters were duly paid for and shut up, to be fattened for market. It so happened that pork took a sudden rise at that time, and the merchant realized a large profit on his involuntary investment."

### The Day of Rest.

The World's Sunday School Convention, at its recent session in London, drew up a form of memorial for presentation to certain European rulers in favour of better observance of the Lord's day in the countries under their sway. After setting forth among other things that Sunday school work in Europe has been much hampered by the general disregard of the day of rest, the memorialists say:

"Moved by these considerations we, with one accord, by our officers, earnestly petition your Majesty that, by your personal influence and by the constitutional power in your Majesty's hands, you will secure for the day of weekly rest the place given it in that decalog which all Christian lands recognize, and, for the good of the people and for the glory of God, promote its recognition as a delight, holy of the Lord and honourable." The memorial is to be presented to the Emperor of Germany, the King of Italy, and the President of the French Republic.

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The royalist spirit of Old England is safe in the keeping of the Holborn Guardians. In meeting lately they received a letter from the London County Council recommending the compulsory notification of outbreaks of infectious diseases. Thereupon a Guardian named Snearrard arose to declare: "Why, gentlemen, if this rule be passed, the Prince of Wales and the Queen would be bound to notify that measles had broken out in the royal residences." The recommendation was stamped upon.

\$50 Reward offered by the proprietors of Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy for an incurable case.

Some of the daintiest parasols of net and tulle are fringed all around with the petals of roses, poppies, lilies or ferns.

John Smith is the happiest man that I know, But wasn't he blue, though, not three months ago?

"My wife's running down just as fast as she can, And the doctors can't help her," and then this poor man Almost cried as he thought of the poor, suffering wife

Who seemed to be losing her hold upon life. "Smith, I know just how you feel," said a friend to whom he told his sad story. "My wife was troubled precisely as yours is. I don't just understand it, because I'm not a woman, but her back pained her, and she complained of dragging-down feelings, and a general weakness and I know that she had some of those diseases women are subject to, and had 'em bad, too. I read about Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription one day, and the first time I was at the drug store I bought a bottle of it and took it home to her. It worked wonders. In a short time she said she felt like another woman, and she began to hope that there was relief for her, after all. She kept on taking the medicine for a time, and now she's well. Get a bottle of the 'Prescription' and try it on your wife."

"I will," said Smith. And he did, and it cured her and that's why he's so happy to day.

A pretty heading for a lace or of the dress fabric is a ruche made of little butterfly bows which nearly meet.

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Lightning struck one of the towers of the Cologne Cathedral on June 22, and one-half of the enormous stone flower which crowns each spire fell shattered into the street. Lightning strikes there not infrequently, but rarely does any damage.

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10,000 in use in Canada; 25,000 in use in the United States. They are simple and cost less than other makes, while performing the same work. They start easy at 25 lbs., and work to 150 lbs.; Lift water 18 to 20 ft., and work from a head as well. Automatic and restarting when current to boiler is broken. Send for circular to main office, Penberthy Injector Co., Detroit Mich. Factories Windsor, Can. and Detroit, Mich. Mention this paper.



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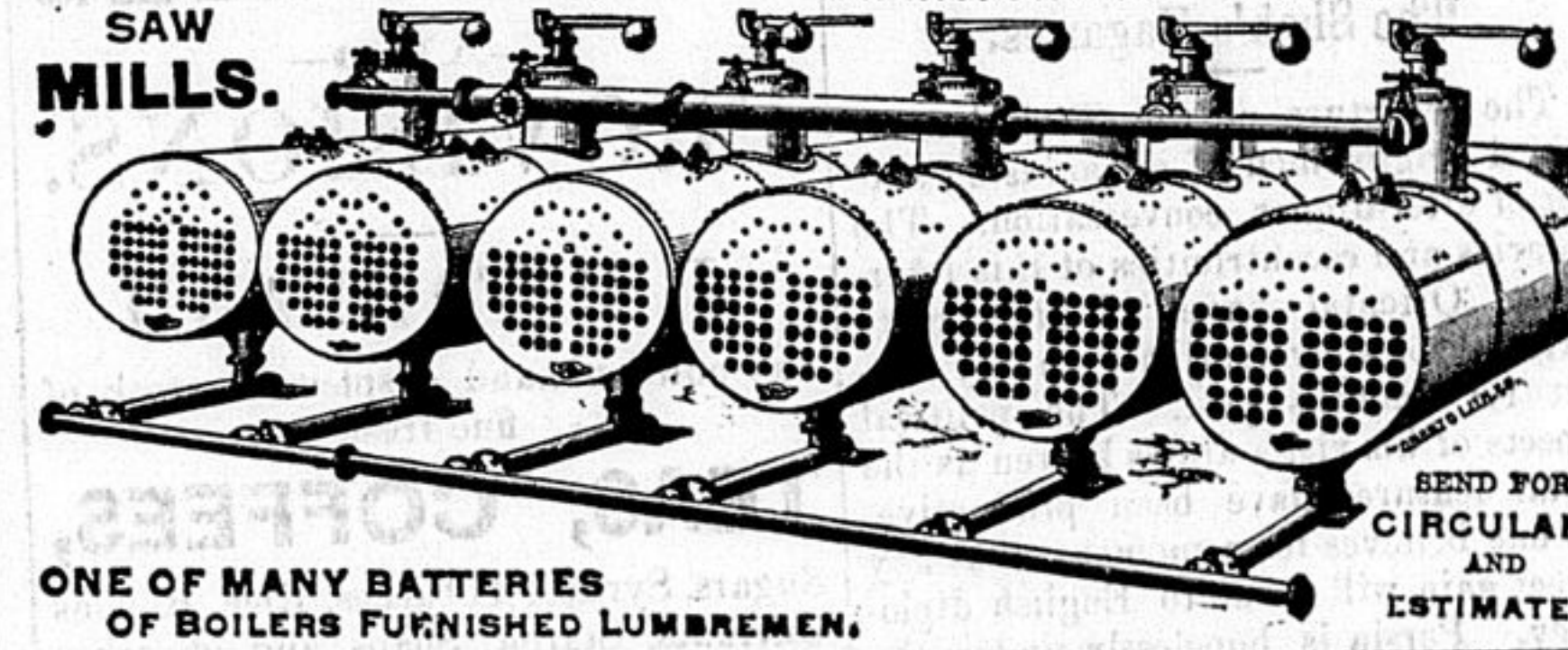
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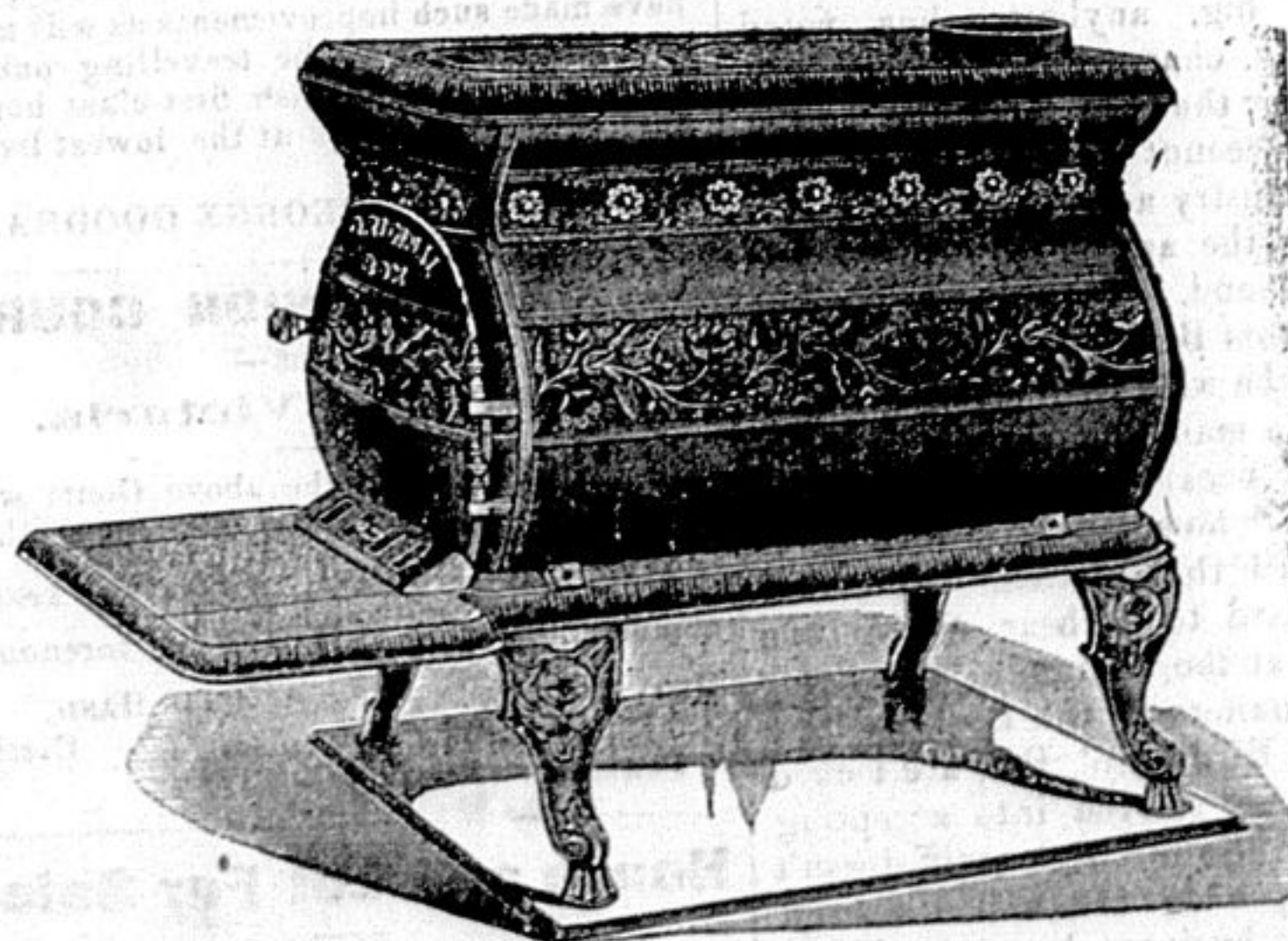
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