

THE GREAT DU CHAILLU.

What With the Celebrated Explorer. "Africa! well, that was my first love, but it is an old story now..."

Columbus I would say, "Which Columbus." But a friend with me tapped me on the shoulder and said...

HUNTING WITH BLOW GUNS.

Savages of Guiana who Use These Queer Weapons With Poisoned Arrows. The blow pipes used by the savages of Guiana for shooting poisoned arrows are very wonderful weapons indeed.

THE ENGLAND OF THE VIKING AGE. The Picts and Scots who so bothered the Romans were without doubt Scandinavian robbers.

Now what shall I say about Africa? Well things are certainly changed. Why almost everybody CALLED ME A LIAR.

for saying that I discovered the gorillas and other apes and the pigmies; yet they all believed Stanley. Well I was not a newspaper man. I did not know how to puff.

"No, as you say, one man cannot be everything, but many explorers have more than he. Why, in all his African journeys he never took a meal with his officers!

"There was Stairs, now," he continued. "He was of your own country. Ah, he was a noble fellow. I loved Stairs, and he is dead. Ah, well!"

"Oh, yes, some men believed in me. More Americans than Englishmen. At least, the English were more brutal in their expressions of disbelief.

"Did I know Livingstone? No; I never met him, but I know Grant. He is a grand man. He believed in me. Poor Speke! You know how he died! Shot himself when shooting with some friends. There is fate for you!

"Burton! ah, Burton, he was the noblest traveller of all. He was a very dear friend. He believed in me. He was a gentleman. He was a scholar. No traveller was educated as he was in sciences and Oriental languages.

"Curious, isn't it, that so many people think of a man who has accomplished things as a big man. Peary, ah, Peary is an exception; pure Viking type, tall, fair, yellow hair, and very handsome.

"The other day, at the Columbia exhibition in New York, I had an amusing encounter. I had got so tired hearing of Columbus. You know there were more than 400 pictures of him and no two alike. When a man would show me a picture of

ARE THERE ANY GHOSTS?

An Unbeliever's Statement. Mr. W. F. Brooke, an Englishman, says: "I do not believe in ghosts, but I do believe there are people who see them..."

I HEARD THE NOISES myself and at first was under the impression that some stowaway was in distress. I found out that this was not the case, so (having an idea) I commenced imitating various animals, and was soon delighted to hear myself answered.

VERY ACUTE HEARING.

and can generally locate a sound directly I hear it; but if I fail to discover in which direction it comes from directly, I make a minute examination of the doors and windows and floors.

UNEARTHLY SHRIEKS

as of a woman while being ill-treated had been heard by the neighbors, as well as by the late occupants. I stayed in the house by myself one evening, but failed to hear anything out of the common, until the lady, a few minutes before twelve, gave me a taste of her quality.

The King and the Peasants.

A Rome paper vouches for the truth of the following story:—King Humbert, while hunting recently in the north of the province of Lome, met some peasants who had formed a corporation among themselves to cultivate the land.

Executions in Greece.

The number of executions which annually take place in Greece is unusually large in proportion to the population of hardly two millions.

Fate of The Ben Douran.

The fate of the Glasgow ship Ben Douran, which has been posted as missing at Lloyd's, will probably never be known, but the following report of the master of the barque Gladys, which arrived at Hamburg on 1st October from Iquique, tells a terrible story...

Extraordinary Story of a Grand Duke.

Letters from Tashkend report that General Baranok, who recently died at that town, and is generally believed to have been poisoned by persons having cause to apprehend results of the administrative reforms which he was about to introduce in Turkestan, had in hand a commission of exceptional delicacy and difficulty.

The Latest from Uganda.

Private letters were received at the close of last week by Captain Lugard from Captain Williams, son of General Williams, of Pulbrook, Hants, dated Uganda, September 25. These letters reached Zanzibar on December 3, on which date, it is well to remember, a sensational report, said to be based on a telegram from Sir Gerald Portal to the Foreign Office, was circulated stating that Captain Williams was very ill and was proceeding to the coast, and that an interregnum would therefore occur in Uganda and the rest of Kitarra.

A Gigantic Turtle.

When Mauritius was ceded to Great Britain in 1810, there was a gigantic turtle in a court of the Artillery Barracks at Port Louis which is there still, although almost blind.

Fish-hatching in China.

Fish-hatching in China is sometimes conducted with the aid of a hen. The spawn is collected from the water's edge, and placed in an empty egg-shell. The egg is then sealed with wax and placed under a sitting hen.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Parts of the Atlantic Ocean are five miles in depth. Only one person in a thousand dies of old age. A physician says practice at singing wards of consumption. The first public library in Rome was founded 167 B. C. Three times as many herrings are consumed as any other kind of fish. Ten days per annum is the average amount of sickness in human life. A leopard recently shot in Bengal had killed at various times, 154 persons. China has vast undeveloped coal mines—twenty times more than all those of Europe. A celebrated doctor has decided that walking is the exercise most conducive to physical beauty in women. On the Royal Sovereign, the new English battleship, there are 800 electric lights, connected by thirty miles of wire. The ocean is more productive than the land. An acre of good fishing ground will yield more food than an acre of the best farm. Half armour was worn in the Continental armies until the present century. In exceptional cases body armour is still worn by special soldiers. The Argentine Republic lays claim to the longest shore railway in the world, which runs from Buenos Ayres to San Martin—a distance of about fifty miles. In certain parts of India coconut trees, once almost lifeless in appearance, have been made to yield abundantly by placing salt at the roots. The czar's personal expenses are about \$10,000,000 a year, which is over five millions more than Russia's annual appropriation for common schools. A footpad was lately captured in a Hungarian town, and with him a bear that he had tamed and taught to grapple with pedestrians whom he desired to rob. The German Government will not use any white horses in the army in future. In a battle the enemy can discern white horses at a considerable distance. It is estimated that 160,000 incandescent lamps are daily made in the United States. A recent decision of the United States Court of Appeals gives to the Edison Company the sole right to manufacture them. The monument to Alexander II. in the Kremlin is almost complete. It has a front of 160 feet. The interior will contain an immense bronze statue of the Emperor in coronation dress, the right hand extending in blessing. It has been found that bicyclists who ride to excess are afflicted with a catarrhal laryngitis. Mouth breathing and the rapidity and pressure with which large quantities of air are forced into the larynx are said to be the cause. There is a point near the famous stony cave, in the Catskill Mountains, where ice may be found on any day in the year. This locality is locally known as the Notch, and is walled in on all sides by steep mountains, some of which are more than 3,000 feet high. STRANGE CATS.—A lady in Germantown has a collection, among which is a Persian cat white as snow, a Manx cat—which means, it seems, a species of cats without tails—a sky-blue cat, and I don't know how many other strange varieties. She values her collection at five thousand dollars. Lean women who desire to accumulate a plump covering on their bones are advised to avoid worry, to cultivate calmness, to sleep eight hours every day, to take moderate exercises, to eat fattening foods, such as soup, butter, cream, fat and juicy meats, olive oil and farinaceous articles, and to take warm baths at night. The largest heathen temple in the world is in Serampatam, and it comprises a square, each side being one mile in length, inside of which are six other squares. The walls are 25 feet high and 5 feet thick, and the hall where pilgrims congregate is supported by a thousand pillars, each cut from a single block of stone. Some people suppose that rosewood takes its name from its colour, but that is a mistake. Rosewood is not red or yellow, but almost black. Its name comes from the fact that when first cut it exhales a perfume similar to that of a rose; and, although the dried rosewood of commerce retains no trace of this perfume, the name lingers as a relic of the early history of the wood. One of the curiosities of Lord Brassey's house in Park-lane is the marble figure of a sleeping infant reposing on crimson velvet cushions, which are arranged as a divan in the central hall of the museum. It is the sculptured portrait of one of the first Lady Brassey's children, who died of fever, and it is said the marble child was taken with her wherever she travelled. Every man in Russia must be provided with a passport, which must be annually renewed through the authorities of his village. When the commune refuses to forward the necessary documents, the absentee, who may be earning a good livelihood away from his village, is obliged immediately to return, to avoid arrest for the criminal offence of having no legal status. The ancient Romans considered February 29 a most critical season, always reckoning it among their unlucky days. That this belief has not by any means lost ground is evidenced by a deep-rooted dislike parents have to a child being born on Leap Day, it being a popular notion that to come into the world at such an odd time is ominous, as signifying the babe's speedy exit. Fish-hatching in China is sometimes conducted with the aid of a hen. The spawn is collected from the water's edge, and placed in an empty egg-shell. The egg is then sealed with wax and placed under a sitting hen. After some days the egg is carefully broken, and the swarm emptied into water well warmed by the sun. There the little fish are nursed until they are strong enough to be turned into a lake or stream. The Monte di Pietà at Rome, which has existed ever since 1585, is probably the most lenient pawnbroker's shop in the world. Any person who brings a pledge may borrow from £3 to £5 without paying any interest: but all that is lent above that sum is paid for at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum. At the end of two years, if the pledge is not redeemed nor interest of the money paid, it is sold, and the surplus of the debt is laid by for the owner, who has it in his power to demand it within one hundred years. Horse stealing is un- It is announced divided and will, afte two members in th ture. The transactions at house amounted in 1 compared with \$514, year. 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