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FROM BLACK TO WHITE

A Very Strange Freak of Nature-

Curious Case at a Montreal Institution. Can the leopard change his spots or the Ethiopian his skin? Nature loves the esoteric in all her processes. She is wider than the circumference of the Lick telescope. She is more minute than the microscope. She never burns to utter her secrets. The average man with a secret swells with importance. It oppresses him till the telling covers him with the cheap glory which is his first custodian. "Find me," nature says quietly. And that is her language to a Darwin or a Lyell, as it is to the Peter Simple who, pulling wild flowers in the woods, little dreams that if he knew their meaning he would know all the secret of

the universe. Nature evolves a rudimentary organ, and leaves it there for the puzzlement of the morphologist. Indifferent to criticism, she makes a long neck to accommodate the palate at the end of the neck which loves

the high leaves of the tree. Nature is always in earnest. She has a subtle sense of humor. Sometimes the humor is lambent; more often it is edged with a biting satire. But when the humor is merely playful, she makes the black man white. She is making Richard Symmonds white at her leisure. No hurry at all; the hands first, then the feet and legs, the him. breast, and, lastly, the face.

Symmonds is not surprised now. He is past that. But at first he was a frightened man. For Symmonds started out with being perfectly black-a color to which he had every natural right, his parents being full-blooded Africans.

But the white spots began to appear, and pushed the black skin away; and the white spread, and the black shrank back abashed. The white made traceries here and there, and broke up the black into islands and continents, until at last it overwhelmed the neck and chin, and lapped up (so to say), against the edge of the wide nostril. The nose was a prominence not easily conquered. It stands out as the strenuous sentinel of the upper face, guarding it from the dominance of the abnormal.

Symmonds thinks he will be a white man yet. He knows now that nature will not hurry about it. It took nature eight years to reach the nose. But he sees himself in ultimate vision a Caucasian. He is resigned to the metamorphosis.

"Doctaw," he says, "I done lost de pigwha's 'is name-pigment out on de color, an' dat I am agwine to be all white." Sixty years have whitened the hair of Richard Symmonds, but the kink is there still. It is thick, white and wooly, and it

crowns a face which, white below and black above, made its owner a comfortable living till villainy entered in, when charity had to be appealed to. -Symmonds was born a slave away down

in Louisville, Kentucky. When the war broke out he was eighteen. "Oh, I member de wah. I was er young foolden. Had good massa, but land sakes was silly den, and done run away. Jined Gen-

eral Sherman-you hear o' Sherman-an'e tuck me fo' his servan'." He blacked the boots of General Sherman, think of that; he rode, if not by his side, for five hundred mounted men came between them, at least behind him; he polished his

sabre, and he saw the fighting for five "Dunno names o' places, but saw de bullets fly all de time. See, dere is a woun'

in my right hand." He marched with Sherman to the sea; blacked his boots regularly, and he had

mander. The slaves were freed, the war ended; Symmonds returned to his master's estate, content to be called slave again. The master was gone, the slaves had dispersed; where there had been prosperity, there was now desolation.

Symmonds married, became the father of three children: his wife died; the children grew up; then the circus man came along, and Symmonds became a public Gibraltar. character.

He has been in New York, Chicago, Boslic flocked to see him. The integrity of nexation policy. England strengthened and the Czar-who probably sleeps badly- people. human nature made him happy; he had the fortifications of Gibraltar. Spaniards generally as early as three a.m. every luxury that a black and white man could desire on \$25 a week. In an evil hour he came to Montreal, under the management of a wretch, who, finding the dimes rather hard to collect, left him on the street without a cent.

Symmonds was next seen on the street wielding the shovel and pickaxe for the consideration of ninety cents a day. It was a painful descent. Familiarity soon took the edge off the phenomenon. The men who would have gazed upon him awestruck on the platform, called him the " Missing Link" with easy frankness, and exchanged salutations with him with the utmost nonchalance.

This is always the way. Compel the great to jostle with the ordinary, and there is no man to lift the hat of reverence. Let the abnormal be seen and felt at close quarters, and who is so verdant as to admit the miraculous?

The frost came and made iron of the soft streets, and Symmonds was glad to wend his way to the House of Refuge, where he payment of duty. may be seen, in the midst of a large company, making those bundles of kindling wood which the housekeeper buys from the grocer at the rate of one cent a bundle. "Arrah, sor, don't believe him," says

Symmond's right hand neighbor, "Shure it's schamin' he is. He's painted that's what's the matter wid him. Symmonds turned a look of silent rebuke

from those chocolate eyes, upon the man with the full flavored accent. "Oh, no," says Mr. McMillen, the superintendent, "there is no deception here.

Show us your arm Symmonds." The white shows tender and soft as the skin of a little child. The islands are mere specks; the continent on the forearm is being silted, silted away. The black first becomes brown; the brown is not certain of its status; it shrinks and recedes before the ports conquering white. And so with the feet and hands and breast. The Caucasian is

dominating the Ethiopian. The men now stop their work to hear Symmonds talking. The eyes show a whit- is your fourth dance with me. Why don't Registrar-General), 886 were bachelors and Originally, 7,897 carloads were received, ish gleam when he recalls the "wah." Dates you dance with some of the other girls?" | 114 were widowers; while of 1,000 women | leaving a balance of 5,351 carloads. The and places have gone, but he saw the bul- Charlie: "Well, the fact is I dance so who married, 919 were spinsters and 81 average is 50 carloads a day, and three lets flying, and he laughs to think what a badly I hate to ask them." time he had then when, young and well fed, of General Sherman's Scots.

100

Did he ever hear from, did he ever write so, his children?

"Write? Dunno nuffin 'bout writing or reading. Mas'r never 'low de slaves to read or write. Know nothin' 'bout chil'ren." Symmonds sits with great patience while the artist draws his features. The miracle in his face must be seen at first-hand. The two colors have so possessed themselves of the whole territory, that the effect, marked for the first time, is startling in the extreme. The white neck, chin and mouth, the black nose, cheeks and forehead, suggest an entity on the borderland of two kingdoms.

To meet that face suddenly, detached by darkness from the human body, would be an immense shock. One would vainly ask, "In what order of evolution am I to place this phenomenon?" For Symmond's full face is an organism that gives aptness to the rough christening of the men-"The missing link."

Nature is having her little joke. Symmonds himself suspects that she is playing toes are the boast of Getirge H. Ball, of with him. He looks at his arm in a whim- | Perrydalc. On. sical way, laughs quietly, and says, "Dunno, but 'spect dat dat pig-pig-pigment has has, her owner claims, laid five eggs inside done gone out'r my natural color." He is of two days. not vexed at all. No; but he thinks nature is very deep. He confesses his inability to fathom her. She does not mean him ill, he thinks, but to break him up into islands, and continents, and to find those islands slowly receding and disappearing, while he is sleeping, while he is working, -this is a puzzle which he frankly admits is beyond

There is no doubt that nature is laughing. She has her tongue in her cheek. For, when you recover from the first shock of the face, there is a grotesque humor in the present-

Symmonds is a freak. That is what the showmen call him. And that was the only endorsation of a name which nature was the first to give him.

And when the snow is gone, and the The diamond, though hard, is one of the robins whistle in the newly budding trees | most brittle stones. A fall on a wooden | Symmonds will face the world again, smil- floor will sometimes crack and ruin a fine ing at the trick of nature, which delights, specimen. now and then, to bewilder the ethnologists.

MOROCCO AND GIBRALTAR.

spaniards Had Much Trouble Holding Their Own in Northern Africa.

The Spaniards have had much trouble in holding their own in Morocco, says the New York Herald, and it is said that the government at Madrid would not be unwilling to exchange Melilla for Gibraltar. The possession of Gibraltar again is the dream of the Spaniard. All sorts of plans and compromises have been projected to bring about a realization of this dream, but so far without avail. When in 1887 Gibraltar was talked about once more, the Moscow Gazette, in October of that year, demanded a neutrality agreement. That paper said it believed that if all the powers interested should insist on such an agreement England would yield.

Many years have passed since the Span iards openly expressed their intention about the Rock of Gibraltar and Morocco The idea was to get the English out of Gibraltar, and then, possessing a hold on both sides of the straits, to accomplish the conquest and colonization of Morocco. Spaniards of all classes are indifferent to Eurorean politics, and their old hate of France and Napoleon has slowly died out, but if factory with cotton thread. one pronounce before them the words "Gibraltar" and "Morocco" one will at once notice the eager and ambitious desire to plant the flag of Castile on the Penon and in the territory of their old foes, the Moors of Africa. Thirteen years ago there was a great burst of enthusiasm in Spain over many a word and smile from the great com- this subject. At that time there were outrages on the part of the natives against foreigners. There was a diplomatic conference in Madrid to settle many vexed questions affecting all nations. That conference proved that Senor Canovas, the Spanish than the taking possession by any means of lahk thet."

declared that Spain must make the straits a very Dardanelles, bristling with Spanish fortifications. It was demanded that both shores of the straits of Gibraltar and the entrance of the Mediterranean should be in future placed under the guard of Spain, so that only those who were her friends could have access to the great Mediterran-

ean route toward the east. It is no new thing for the Spaniards to talk of offering to England some colony on the coast of Morocco in exchange for Gibraltar. In November, 1881, Senator Guelly Rente, a representative of the Havana university, made such a proposition to his government. Gibraltar is really a part of the Spanish dominions. Its occupation is not only offensive to Spanish pride, but materially affects Spanish interests. Gibthat smugglers and dealers in contraband rived. good have used it as a kinds of funnel through which to pour into Spain tobacco and other heavily taxed articles without

On the other hand, it is now becoming a question in England whether Gibraltar is after all so useful to it. Arnold Forster does not believe that it is of any further use to Great Britain. George Rendel, an eminent naval expert, who, about ten years ago, was a civil lord of the admiralty, was emphatic that Gibraltar was useless. He said it offered little or no security for a disabled or defeated fleet, and he pointed out that the British ships could be destroyed at their exposed anchorage by a long-range fire, which could be with difficulty combated by the guns of the fortress. Mr. Rendel added that no arsenal or navy yard would be reckoned secure that was not well out of contrasted Malta, Gibraltar, and Piymouth in that respect with Bizerta and Spezzia, very little to the advantage of the former

His Reason. Clara (fishing for a compliment) : " This

Neb., married at the age of 99.

FACTS IN FEW WORDS.

India has 131,600 lepers.

A French surgeon has devised an wificial larynx.

Very full cheeks indicate great digestive

The black diamond is so hard that it can not be polished. Learning the Hawaiian language is a so-

cial fad in Washington.

In Norway persons who have not been vaccinated are not allowed to vote at any election.

Several Shanghai chic ons with fifteen

A hen on a farm at Cromwell, Conn.,

Gambling debts are recoverable by law in France, Spain, Venezuela, and sometimes in Germany.

Electric ambulances are to be used in St. Louis. They will run when possible, on the

line of the street railways. A novel insurance company has been started in France, with the object of supplying girls with dowries when they marry. The remains of a race of Liliputians, believed to be the ancestors of the Mexican.

intervening space.

Formerly the Lord Mayor rode in his and lasting amusement. State procession from the Guildhall on horseback. The practice was discontinued in the reign of Queen Anre.

Sewing machines driven by electric motors have been fitted up in a large costume establishments in Paris. The current is obtained from the street mains.

monarch of all he surveyed is now inhabitherds of cattle that graze there. An Amsterdam lapidary has a machine

which can pierce a hole as small as one one-thousandth of an inch in diameter. The holes are made in diamonds, sapphires, and rubies. Cats are being extensively used in New

Zealand for the destruction of rabbits. The owners of one estate are so pleased with the efficacy of the new "cure," that they have just given an order for 500 cats.

It is a very great mistake to mend gloves with silk, as the silk will cut out the kid much sooner than cotton of equal fineness. Kid gloves are always sewn at the manu-

For preserving wire ropes carried under the earth's surface, a mixture of thirty-five parts of slaked lime and from fifty to sixty parts of tar is recommended. The compound is boiled and applied to the article hot. Some of the native women of Australia

have a queer idea of beauty. They cut themselves with shells, keep the wounds open for a long time, and when they heal huge scars are the result. These scars are deemed highly ornamental.

Show an average cockney some phoneticprime minister, intended to act in concert ally rendered cockneyisms on paper, and with Great Britain and not with France he will tell you that no one speaks like and Italy, and as a result the opposition that, but the exact form of disclaimer will to his government aimed at nothing less probably be: "Nowbody down't speak

Enthusiastic Russians are to give the Parisians a "Bell of Peace" in acknowledgment of the welcome accorded their seabell of the weight proposed.

Neuralgic pains may often be relieved instantly by the following simple method. Heat a flat-iron, put a double fold of flannel on the painful part, then move the iron to and fro on the flannel. The pain wil cease almost immediately.

shows no evidence of animal or vegetable still to keep her in subjection. life. It is from two to ten times as thick as the united thickness of all other rocks. the king to unsheath the sword, the Euro- by a Westphalian tailor recalls an anecdote It is the parent rock from which all other raltar is a free port, and the consequence is rocks have been directly or indirectly de- union, ought to intervene, armed with a

> A dogs' tailor flourishes in Paris. The tailor is a woman, and in her reception rooms Prince Bow-wow has rugs, water bowls, and biscuit jars to refresh him during the trying-on process. Here are the daintiest water-color pattern books to choose from, and anything from sealskin to chamois is provided.

> The occupations of the female prisoners in Strangeways Gaol include oakum-picking and making surplices for prison chaplains. Male prisoners are put on the treadmill to grind flour for making the prison bread. It is to be hoped they enjoy the truth of the old adage that bread that is earned is sweeter than beef that is stolen.

The cheetah, or hunting leopard, 31 feet high, is in India considered invaluable in the chase. Hooded as hawks were of old, 2 lb. 82 oz. when taken from the oven. range of the modern naval ordnance, and he it is taken out to deer hunts. When a deer a little alum or salt or rice meal be added or other animal is in sight, the hood is re- to the flour the loaf will weigh a couple of moved, and attention is directed to the ounces or so more. victim. The cheetah dodges through the jungle, springs upon his quarry, and

throttles him to death. Of 1,000 men married in 1891 in England and Wales (according to the report of the were widows. The proportions of bachelors and spinsters were the hig thes recorded. have been declining for many years.

PRINCIPAL BEING THE PRINCIPAL OF THE PRINCIPAL PRINCIPAL

With the cockneyest such a word as "much" becomes "metch"-"Ow metch is it?" Here is a sentence noted at the time in a crush of people coming away from a show where the sports had been signaled

"Now, ah lahked it." The Orientals have a simple method of cooling water. They fill a porous earthenware jar, and by the continual evaporation on the surface the water is soon cooled. Sometimes a heavy cloth is wrapped round A woman of Spring Hill, Mo., has baked the jar and kept continually wet. On the a loaf of bread from yeast thirty years hottest day water may be cooled in this way in a few hours' time without the use of

bridge of Suen-tchen-fow, 2,500 feet long, In the far west a girl who works in a and 20 feet wide. It has on each side 52 orable member, in calling me 'a thing,' said railroad restaurant is known as a "biscuit piers, upon which huge stones are laid, some of them 20 feet long. Many thousand tons him. But when he added 'that thing called of stone must have been used in the erection of this wonderful bridge, which is regarded he himself most wished to be, and therefore by engineers who have seen it as indicating I took the remark as a compliment." constructive talent as wonderful as that which raised the Egyptian Pyramids.

for charities has been introduced in Mel- children as "the man that put papa in a Mountebanks at the Princess's Theatre, a person who had succeeded in doing so. topical verse was introduced into the song, Paris has an insurance company that re- "Put a Penny in the Slot," asking the audfuses to issue policies on the lives of any lence for pence towards the funds of the a recent victory over "the rebels," where-Woman's Hospital. The appeal met with upon Fox and Barre, who were present, a most satisfactory response, the audience took him to task for applying such language showering coins on the stage, and altogether to "our fellow-subjects in America." £27 13s. 5d. was collected by this means during the week's run of The Mountebanks.

To hear cockney we must go to the streets or mix with the careless pleasurebent masses on a bank holiday. 'And we must listen heedfully, for peculiarities in speaking in the House, he was interrupt-Aztecs, were unearthed in east Tennes- people with whom one is more or less constantly in contact are apt to remain unnoticed. When "Erry Jowns" talks of his unmarried sister as Jemima Wren one interrupted by a new member !" may be forgiven if it dawn but slowly Again, when he was treating a matter of that the lady's name is Jemima Jones and public anxiety with his usual indifference that Wren stands for Ann. A country and jollity, the Duke of Newcastle expressed A powerful telescope may reveal as many | cousin will return from a ramble in London | some astonishment at his calmness. as 43,000,000 stars, of a number of which streets full of astonishment and bubbling the light takes 2,700 years to traverse the over with choice specimens of cockney vernacular, wherefrom he derives innocent | be as sorry as your grace; but since it will

The Sultan of Turkey is the most extravagant housekeeper in the world. According to a recent estimate his domestic budget runs thus :- Repairs, new furniture, mats, beds, etc., £500,000; toilet requisites, including rouge and enamel for the ladies of the harem, and jewelry, £2,000,-The island where Robinson Crusoe was | 000; extra extravagances, £2,600,000; clothes and furniture for the Sultan pered by about sixty people, who attend the sonally, £400,000; douceurs and wages, £800,000; gold and silver plate, £500,000; maintenance of five carriages and horses, £100,000—a total of £7,000,000.

Good shorthand writers are scarce in France. The post of shorthand writer in the Chamber of Deputies is vacant. The work is exceedingly laborious, and within the past few years four stenographers have become insane, two have lost their eyesight and many were knocked up through overwork or "writer's cramp." Some of the speakers in the Chamber are so rapid in their utterances as to be the despair of the shorthand writers. A dozen stenographers succeed one another every two minutes at the foot of the orators' tribune.

NORWAY AND SWEDEN.

Their Differences Approaching a Orisis-

King Oscar's Dilemma.

Radical interpretation of the Act of Union, | tapped it in the orthodox fashion, and took thereby surrendering the unity of foreign a hearty pinch. Mr. Arnold, thinking to Queen Christina of Spain rises every policy, upon which the alliance of the two rebuke him, said, in his mildest tones : Gen. Campos, who recently had a narrow morning at half-past five and goes out for a kingdoms consists, or of enforcing the "Mr. Blank, how much do you think it escape from the bomb of an anarchist, was walk. The German Emperor gets up at | Swedish reading of the act, against the costs you a year for snuff?" ton, and all the great centres, and the pub. among the strongest supporters of the rean- six, Francis Joseph of Austria before five manifest determination of the Norwegian Sweden, it appears, is prepared to use force. The Swedes, who were at first apa-

thetic, have been roused to such a pitch of exasperation that it will take little to goad men. It is to be a monster, but there is no them to action. The king is confident of tower in Paris strong enough to support a the support of the Swedes, and he will not surrender the Norwegian crown nor sacrifice the union, which he believes to be in dispensable to the safety of both Sweden and Norway. The first shot fired by Sweden will rally the Norwegian Radicals and Conservatives shoulder to shoulder in defence of their common nationality. Despite the superiority of her military re-Granite is the lowest rock in the earth's sources, Sweden would find it a hard task crust; it is the bed rock of the world. It to reduce Norway to subjection, and harder

If the sentiment of the Swedes compels | pean powers, who are the sponsors of the of the great Duke of Wellington. might act within limits, leading to an ar- the Duke to introduce into the army a rangement for the avoidance of a war bullet-proof jacket which he had invented. crisis. Opinion in Norway is, in the He produced a specimen. meantime, raised on only two issues-union

and monarchy or separation and a repub- good. Put it on, will you?" lic. But among the contingencies acute observers detect a third course—the creation of a throne in Norway, with Prince Waldemar, youngest son of the King of his men here; and let them load with ball-Denmark, as king.

Somehow sitting up close to people you don't like very wall never makes you any

The German and Austrian Alpine Society has erected 419 taverns on the mountains, where students can board at reduced rates.

A loaf made from 2 lb. of flour will weigh

Since November 1, 1,746 carloads of ex hibits have been shipped from the Fair. It is estimated that 800 carloads have been hauled from the grounds in wagons to Englewood and adjacent points for shipment. months more will be required to clear the buildings of all the exhibits. The shipment he had no sacre serious care than the shizing A colored Baptist preacher at Lincoln, The proportions of widowers and widows figures show that 10 per cent. of the foreign amounted to 758,680 reams, with a gross exhibits have been taken away.

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LORD NORTH.

Lord North, who was premier of England at the time of the American revolution, was by gun firing. Mother: "Wozh yer a man of unfailing good-humor and a droll frahtened wen 'e fahd the gen ?" Child : turn of expression. In "piping times of peace," says one, in writing of him, "he would have made an ideal minister, but in such a crisis as the American War he had not the courage to withstand the wrongheadedness of George III." When attacked, he was usually a model of calmness; but if he did reply to his antagonist, it was with unfailing good humor. One day a member of Parliament spoke of him as "that thing called a minister."

"Well, to be sure," said Lord North One of the sights of China is the antique afterward, patting his ample sides, "I am what was true, and I cannot be angry with a minister,' he referred to the thing which So amiable was the premier in private

life that one servant, a drunken, stupid A novel means of collecting subscriptions groom, was always distinguished by the bourne. During the performance of The passion." He was apparently the only While the Revolution was in progress

Lord North, at a city banquet, referred to "Well, then, to please you," said North,

with his inimitable air of raillery, "I will call them 'the gentlemen in opposition on the other side of the water." At one time, when Lord North was

ed by the barking of a dog, which had crept in unobserved "Mr. Speaker," said he, archly, "I am

"Faith, my lord duke," was the answer, "if fretting would make me thin, I would not have that effect, I bear it as well as I

The premier often indulged in real or seeming slumber, and one day an opponent stopped in the midst of an invective to exclaim, "Even now, in the midst of these perils, the noble lord is asleep !" "I wish I were !" rejoined the sleeper,

fervently. At another time he said to a friend at the beginning of a speech on the British navy: "Barre will give us our naval history from the beginning, not forgetting Sir Francis Drake and the Armada. Let me sleep on, and wake me when we come to our own time.

At length the friend roused him, and North exclaimed:

"Where are we now?"

"At the battle of La Hogue, my lord." "Oh, my dear friend, you have waked me a century too soon!" That he was not always cool, however, is

intelligence of the capitulation at Yorktown "He took the news as he would have taken a cannon ball in his breast," said the Secretary of State. "He opened his arms, exclaiming wildly as he paced up and down the room, 'O God, it is all over!' The e words he repeated many times in the greatest agitation and distress."

indicated by his manner of receiving the

Evenly Matched

Two clergymen totally different in char-A London special says :- The Times to- acter were yet firm friends. One was prim day contains one of its series of articles on and precise, especially careful of his linen. the situation in Sweden and Norway, the quiet in speech and manner; the other last of which appeared on Nov. 14: It says | careless as to dress, and a regular John that if the coming elections in Norway re- Bull in ways and words. The latter had sult in a large and militant Radical major- formed the habit of taking snuff, much to ity, the Conservative ministry will be bound | the digsust of his friend, who abhorred all to retire. The king will find himself face such practices. One day at a ministers' to face with the necessity of accepting the meeting, Mr. Blank pulled out his snuff-box,

> "Don't know," was the reply; "perhaps about as much as it does you for

He'd Had Enough of Them.

An illiterate young man once got a friend to write a letter for him to his sweetheart. The letter was rather prosaic for a loveletter, and he felt that an apology was due to his sweetheart for its lack of tender

nothings. It was as follows :--"Please excuse the mildness of this here letter, as the chap wot's 'ritin' it is a married man, and he says he carn't 'bide any soft soapings; it allus gives him the spaz-

Wellington and the Inventor-The invention of a bullet-proof uniform

A stranger gained admittance to the European mandate, as in 1814. Sweden War Office one busy morning and urged

> "Bullet-proof?" said the Duke. Very The man did so. The Duke rang the

bell : an officer appeared. "Tell Captain So-and-So to send two of

cartridge. When the Duke looked up from his writing presently, the inventor had dis-

A Dying Request.

Physician (to dying editor) : "My poor friend, I cannot conceal the truth from you any longer. You have only half-an-hour

Editor (feebly) : "Doctor, will you please tell the foreman, when I am gone, to place my obituary on the front page, top of column, next to pure reading matter ? I wonder if I am extravagant in indulging myself in that luxury for once in my life ! "

In Spain, Greece, Hungary, Portugal, and Switzerland a girl is considered of marriageable as soon as she has celebrated her

twelfth birthday. In two years 1891-93 the paper uced in the public departments of the Government weight of 7,870 tons.