Some Savages Talk by Whistling-Some Drum-Others Pinch Fingers.

At the last meeting of the Berlin Anthropological Scciety, Lieut. Quedenfeldt, a German officer who has lived on Gomero Island, one of the Canary group, described a whistling language which is used by the inhabitarbitrary series of signals or sounds ; it is described as ordinary speech translated into articulate whistling, each syllable having its own appropriate tone. The Gomero uses both fingers and lips when whistling, and Lieut. Quedenfeldt asserts that he can carry on a conversation with a neighbor a mile off, who perfectly understands all he is saying. The practice is confined to Gomero Island and is qui.e unknown in the other islands of the Archipelago. The adoption of the peculiar geological construction of Gomers Isalud. It is traversed by numerous gullies and deep ravines running out in all directions from the central plateau. As they are not bridged, they can only be crossed with great difficulty; hence a man living within a stone's throw of another in a straight line has often to go round many miles when he wishes to see and speak to his neighbor. This, it is conjectured, led to the adoption of whistling as a useful means of communi- . Their prayers went straight to heaven's gate, and at cation, which has gradually assumed the proportions of a true substitute for speech. It is described as being anything but unpleasing to the ear. This reminds one of the drum language of

the natives of the Cameroons, mentioned in Buchholz's book on the West of Africa, by means of which the most complicated messages can be conveyed to villages at a distance when occasions necessitate it. For this purpose a peculiarly shaped drum is employed. By dividing the surface into uneven halves the instrument on being struck may be made to yield two distinct notes. By these and shortening or lengthening the intervals between each note, a code is established, with a regular sequence of taps, strokes, and intervals capable of expressing every syllable in the language. All the natives understand this code; and so highly elaborated is it, that a chief can by its means summo n to his presence any village whom he desires to see, intimating to the latter at the same time the purpose for which he is required. In this way, too, messages can be sent from village to village over wide stretches of country—the drummer in one hamlet transmitting to the next the gnals he'hears-and with extraordinary rapidity. Buchholz had proof on one occasion of the utility of this drum language and its capabilities as a medium of communication. The negro who had charge of his cance obtained leave one morning to attend te some private business of his own, which took him to the other side of the river. The man remained away an unreasonable time, and Buchholz got very angry, as he was waiting to leave the place. Another negro suggested that they should drum for him. The drummer was sent for and instructed to inform the missing servant that his master was very angry with him, and that he was to return at once. In a few minutes the man returned with the inevitable apologies for the length of time he had been away. He had perfectly understood the message drummed out to him, as Buchholz ascertained by inquiring of him.

Equally curious is the so-called sign language, or finger speech of Oriental traders, largely employed on the east coast of Africa, in the direction of Zanzibar. Walking through a market place in this region of the world, the traveller will often witness a strange sight. A couple of grave, longbearded Arebs will step aside, each will put his hand up the other's capacious sleeve, and the pair will then begin apparently to pinch each other's fingers for a few minutes. Often the performance will be varied. One will unroll his long turban cloth, or perhaps lift up his long mantle and then cover his hand, and concealed beneath this the pinching of the fingers will proceed as before. The initiated know that this is a method of bargaining by means of a code of finger speech understood by Eastern traders from southern Arabia and northern Africa to the horders of Persia. It has been adopted in the first instance for a simple reason. In the East, especially along the coast of the Red Sea, Zanzibar, and southern Arabia, all business is transacted in the open air. And in all such transactions the bystanders, idlers, riff-raff, and meddlesome busybodies generally contrive to have a good deal to say, tendering their advice to both buyer and seller. The unwritten etiquette of the East requires that such friendly counsel should not be resented. But as the merchants and dealers find it an unmitigated nuisance and a great hindrance to business, they have adopted a certain code of finger signs, which they exchange when bargaining, with their hands concealed under their sleeves or turban cloth. Each finger and each joint of a finger represents a certain figure. So the pair can bargain by the hour -as they often do-to their heart's content, and none of the noisy and gaping busybodies around them be any the wiser

Progress under Difficulties.

my friends, you are interested in the future prosperity of Dakota, ain't you? Dakota Citizen-In what way?

ing the marvellous agricultural, horticultural and floricultural resources of this wonderful section and calling upon farmers everywhere to sell out and come to this ises before the public."

"Oh! Want money for postage, eh?" which is to bear them to the outer world ishing experiment in railroad building. has got stuck half a mile from the station. and we want you to shoulder a shovel and help dig it out of the snow."-||Omaha World.

The Far-Reaching

Perfume of a good name heralds the claim that Putnam's Painless Corn Extractor is sure, certain, and painless remedy for corns. Fifty imitations prove it to be the best. At druggists.

Curate (visiting a poor cabman down with bronchitis)-"Have you been in the habit this?" of going to church?" Poor Cabby (faintly) -"Can't say I hev, sir; but" (eagerly) "I've druv a good many parties there, sir !"

In the Dakota Blizzard.

The sun shone fair in the clear, crisp air-Dakota, at In winter array is cold, they say, if tried by an East-

But Chambers was a Western man, on the frontier And his boys went along, with a laugh and song, to help drive the cattle home,

ants. The language does not consist of any The old man's eye caught the gleam on high of sullen, yellow cloud, And lo. the light faded out from the sky, and far on the prairie a loud,

Fierce roar was heard, and with never a word, save Home, while the storm allows !" He sped one boy back, while he kept the track with the other lad and the cows.

The air filled up like a frozen cup, each drop had the point of a thorn. Each gasp for breath seemed certain death; it grey black, though the hour was morn !

whistling language is said to be due to the They staggered on with faces wan and courage grown "Lie down, my son, my darling son, and this coat

about you fold.' But the man in anguish walked up and down and and tumbled at last to his knees. For the coat that wrapped the boy so warm left the

father bare to freeze-And he felt the cold hand at his heart. "Up, up, my boy, I say; Kneel for a moment by my side and let me hear you

dawn the faithful bound Bayed for the rescue till the boy by tender hands

His father low in the drifted snow lay stiff, and yet still he smiled As though in death he seemed to know he had died to save his child!

> Light in Darkness. BY PHEBE CARY,

Do we think of the light and sunshine, Of the blessings left us still, When we sit and ponder darkly And blindly o'er life's ill, How should we dispel the shadows Of still and deep despair, And lessen the weight of anguish Which every heart must bear !

The clouds may rest on the present, And sorrow on days that are gone, But no night is so utterly cheerless That we may not look for the dawn And there is no human being With so wholly dark a lot, But the heart by turning the picture May find some sunny spot.

For, as in the days of Winter, When the snow-drifts whiten the hill, Some birds in the air will flutter And warble to cheer us still; So, if we would hark to the music, Some hope with a starry wing In the days of our darkess sorrow

> Things Never Done. BY ATTAKAPAS

Will sit in the heart and sing.

Greater deeds than have ever been seen, Brighter songs than the poet has sung, Are the things that are dreamed and tried, I ween, But which have never been done.

The fairest picture the artist paints Is hung on the wal of his brain; On his canvas rests but the shadow faint Of what he wished to attain.

Above success hovers ever the thought, Marring sadly its bliss ; Better than this was the thing I sought— Better, far better, than this.

For, strive as we may, we cannot grasp The visions that lure us on— They are ever held in our mental clasp, And our best is never done.

But this fancy does oft my senses woo; That perhaps in the world to come We shall find the things we have tried to do But which have never been done.

A Bridge Across the Oxus.

A little over two weeks ago last Wednesday the first train of cars crossed the long bridge that has been thrown over the Oxus River in Russian Central Asia. This structure, which is nearly a thousand feet longer than the Brooklyn Bridge, including its approaches, spans a classic river, of which very little was known thirty years ago except through the writings of the old his torians, who described the exploits of Alexander and Tamerlane. The man who ten years ago had predicted that to-day iron rails would stretch over wide deserts and the upper course of the famous Oxus, which had been reached in modern times by only three or four disguised white men, would have been looked upon as a visionary enthusiast.

The road bed has been graded for nearly the entire distance between the Oxus and Samarcand, and, with the completion of the bridge, the work of laying the track will rapidly proceed. Within the next three months it is expected that the trans-Caspian railroad will be completed to Samarcand and trains running from the Caspian Sea to the capital of the Mongol conqueror.

This road is remarkable not only because it pushes far into inner Asia, but also because some unique problems in railroad construction have been solved by its successful progress. Many engineers said a railroad could not be maintained through the shifting sands of the Kara-Kum desert. But Gen. Annenkoff, by covering parts of his roadway with clay, by placing in his embankments layers Dakota Immigration Commissioner-Say, of the branches of a desert shrub, and by cultivating along parts of the route many thousands of desert plants whose roots retain the sand, has thus far maintained his road "You would like to see population pour bed without deterioration. The problem of in upon us by the million, wouldn't you? a water supply was solved by bringing water Of course you would. Well sir, we have in pipes from mountains that skirt two

had sixteen tons of pamphlets printed, show- hundred miles of the route; also by canals from the Murghab, while artesian wells are the source of supply between Merv and the Oxus. In a region that is destitute of fuel, and where the cold is at times intense, pegarden of the gods. But we need a little troleum has been utilized to drive the locohelp to get these beautifully written treat- motives and to heat the sixty railroad stations

along the way. Russia may indeed be proud of the success, And this seems to be the ladies' mission "No, we've got that fixed. But the train now well assured, of her unique, and aston-

He Knew What He Was Talking About.

One stormy night about four months ago a little girl came into a family up town where there was already a boy three or four years old. One bad evening this week the father and mother were going out and the boy wanted to go along and take the baby. To this the mother objected strenuously, and for a final argument she said :

take little sister out such a stormy night as ought to be punctual."

"Well, I don't care," he replied. "It and replied in the same language, "When was a good deal stormier than this the a woman has the misfortune to dine with night she come here."

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The Point of View.

A great lot of every person's time is devoted to making faces at other persons.

The unmitigated respect of no one man ir ever given, very long, to any other man. No man ever thinks himself wrong-not even when for policy's sake he admits himself to be in error, It is always the other

fellow who really is mistaken. When two or more persons are agreed, on a given point, they warmly applaud each other's wisdom. When they disagree, they feel contempt for each other, even if they don't express it.

Idiocy, pig-headedness or crankism marks every man whose tenets differ from ours.

The society man snuffs up his nose at the scientist, and the scientist looks with disgust on the society man.

Each regards the employment and diversicns of the other as a waste of time.

From the social point of view, the scientist is a dry, musty old fogy; and from the latter's point of view, the society man is a

buttermilky, rattle-pated ass. Both are right, and both are wrong. This may sound paradoxical, but it is

Everything depends on the point of view, and it runs all through life in every direc-

All earth is either a heaven or a fool's paradise-just as you happen to look at

The daw likes his own voice better than that of a nightingale, and the donkey can't understand why his outlines should be less admired than those of a blooded horse. Several critics attend a play, and no two

of them agree on its merits. A book is published by a famous author, and some people call it good, and some call

Women of taste differ on questions of dress and deportment.

One person prefers beer to coffee, and another cheese to oranges. It is wholly a matter of where you sit, as to whether you see most of the heads or the

heels of a ballet. Nothing is judged according to definite standards. There is no system of reasoning by which to reach just conclusions. The giddy, foolish old world, plethoric enough of some things, is badly barren of others, and chief among these is the lack of appre-

ciation of ethics. Now, all things are matters of personal warp and bias-all points of view.

If a man has corns, he thinks they are awful things; and if he hasn't he laughs at the fuss which others make about them. The tramp thinks that vast riches should

be legislated against; and the millionaire thinks that the laborer has as much as he

The reformer howls against the abuse of power, until he has power to abuse; and the preacher moralfzes against yielding to temptation, until somebody tempts him.

Man owes his narrowness to being more familiar with the contents of his own hide than he is with the individuality of others, and to thinking that because he is himself, he must, necessarily, be nearer right than those who differ from him.

All men are either fools or philosophers, just as you please; and all life is filled with wisdom and goodness, or evil and lunacy, just as you have a mind to accept it. There is no way of getting at any of it definitely, for there are no balances to weigh it in, and no standards of measurement.

There is nothing, anywhere, but the point

Curiosities of Courtship.

A California miner having amassed quite fortune, was returning by ship to New York, to visit old friends and to find himself a wife. A young woman on board the ship serving in the capacity of nursery governess to the family of a merchant on board, pleased him much by her neat and modest appearance. Hotherefore introduced himself one day, and broke the ice of his purpose with one reckless plunge: "Madam, my name is ---, my parents and family reside in New Hampshire; I have property amounting to \$200,000, and expect to engage in business in -....... I am a perfectly temperate man, and I can give you good reference to testify to my general upright character. I am unmarried and want a wife; will you marry me?" The lady took in the character of the suitor at once. "Thank you," she said, "I will," and on landing they were forthwith married. How the Princess Louise, of Savoy, ever

recovered from her humiliation after having offered herself in marriage to Charles, Duke of Bourbon, only to receive a grave but positive refusal, few women can understand. Ladies, however, are permitted to assist a bashful wooer when

Either he fears his fate too much Or his desert too small, Who fears to put it to the touch Or win and lose it all.

More shrewd still was the young ladyand more daring-who told her admirer that she was a mind-reader, and could read what was going on in his mind at that moment ; that he wanted to propose to her but did not know how to do it, which, of course, relieved the young man from his embarrassment permanently.

A very bashful man having succeeded in winning a wife, a lady relative teased him to tell her how he ever plucked up courage enough to propose.

" Now, tell the truth, N-," said she ' Did not the lady have to do the courting "N-no," answered the gentleman; "but I

own she smoothed over the hard places for

in courtship—to smooth over the hard

Unexpected Repartee.

A Russian lady had been invited to dine with M. de Talleyrand at the time when he was Minister of Foreign Affairs, but was unfortunately detained an hour beyond her time. The famished guests were in the sulks and kept looking at their watches.

pany said in Greek to his neighbor : "When "But, my son, don't you know we can't a woman is neither young nor beautiful she

barbarians she always comes soon enough."

Watson's cough drops are the best in the world for the throat and chest, for the voice unequalled. See that the letters R. & T. W. are stamped on each drop.

There is nothing under the face of the sky that can be quite so stuck up as a sheet of

three cent stamps when it tries to. HUB! Coven CURE cures in one minute.

On the wedding tour. He (sentimentally) -"Darling, do you love me better than your first husband?' She-"Certainly, my

dear. He's dead." Ocean Steamship Passengers Via New York should take the Erie railway, as it is not only the shortest and best line, but lands people close to the piers of

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The next 20, 810 cach. The next 40. 3rd. — 50 4th. — 30 The next 415. The next 820, 1 each. After 50 thousand letters have been received, the senders of the next eleven hundred letters will re-

ceive gifts as follows : The next 10. \$15 cach. The next 15, 10 each. The next 40. 5 cach. The next 470, After 100 thousand letters have been received, the

senders of the next one thousand letters will receive

After 180 thousand letters have been received, the will receive gifts as follows:

Any person may send any number of times for any of above collections.

If three cents extra is sent, I will send in April a printed list of the names of all persons who are enti-ted to the gifts. Iks and kept looking at their watches.

When she arrived at last one of the comany said in Greek to his neighbor: "When woman is neither young nor beautiful she ught to be punctual."

Whereupon the lady turned sharp round whereupon the lady turned sharp round and replied in the same language, "When

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PHE GRAY MEDICINE CO., Toronto.

"If I cannot once or twice in a quar-strainst an honest man, I have it with your Worship." Another cause besides Ursu nos and her mother's ailment disturb Mr. Egremont, and His agent, by name solicitor at Redcastle, came refregable proofs of gross pe be part of the bailiff who m farm which supplied the tables, and showed him that i

CHAPTER XX.-WOL

ary to make a thorough invest Change of system. In point of fact, Mr. Egrem ferred being moderately che rting himself to investigate, h oing beyond moderation, and t ad been too public to be passe ome home and sat by, whi Mr. Bulfinch did the work sade it evident to him that the con of long standing, and carried consivance of the coachman, of the had before Mrs. Egremo cok. Indeed, it was the hom Mrs. Egremont had les shore refusal to connive had br be discovery.

Gregorio's share in all was sui

and Alice's heart leapt Her husband would be wholly is evil genius were once depar Peremont would not see it. H ection to sacrifice the coachmanderlings, with the bailiff an amily, and felt none of the pit ad for the pretty, silly, ha anghters; but as to the ooh! the poor fellow had bee ray all this time—whatever I ad been in the dark ages, long Bridgefield knew its mistress; igner, and that was enough to "I can show you facts and aid Mr. Bulfinch "I daresay, a year or more

fort in private. "Indeed, I ou know; I am afraid Gregori "His little perquisites, my ines better servant than the

Alice held her tongue then,

"Yes, he always is—is re omehow I see it is under pr Mr. Egremont laughed.

see; why, you don't conside In the Churh of Rome-10th Edition-cheaper is thaving a full-grown mist or everything—Gregorio an hat satisfy you?"

RTICK ""Tis not the money, but orio is a bad—not a good—i "Ho, ho! she wants to ious footman and coachma hank you, my dear Edda, Tho was it who said, ' Voles The Rectory likewise had

> then Alice had to confess could move her husband ag anon even lashed himself of you how it is, Alwyn, my good with your house seep that fellow." "I am not aware what des on expect me to do with i

aswered the elder brother

orio's dismissal, and there v

Poor Alice, on her side, ittle Master and then wond haritable to do so. For ecome war to the knife Whether his master told hi ore his own evil conscienc al intuition of servants, h the pressure for his di visited it on her as much a Ostwardly deferential, he oy and her in a hundred ag leve to the housemaids t cotions to his master, yet by overt cause of comp erry and sting her under enor, and he knew very v form of annoyance his master that any trade was to be removed rootic. This would hav assere of stupefying Mi old influence; while th

ries to Gregorio. But there was no doub head profited by her the looked tired, and rotty, but she had gain well as in more really the mist her styness had passed av to take her place in s somewhat silent. and apon her entire tor much of mt, and even for In the house ore than his p ther men-servan

ratio had become a second seco ber uncle, or Ever