

## INTELLIGENT PETS.

### Some Interesting Stories About Cats.

Cats are like oysters, in that no one is neutral about them; everyone is, explicitly or implicitly, friendly or hostile to them. And they are like children in their power of discovering, by a rapid and sure instinct, who likes them or who does not. It is difficult to win their affection, and it is easy to forfeit what it is hard to win. But when given, their love, though less demonstrative, is more delicate and beautiful than that of a dog. Who that is on really intimate terms with a cat has not watched its dismay at the signs of packing up and leaving home? We ourselves have known a cat who would recognize his master's footsteps after a three months' absence, and come out to meet him in the hall, with tail erect, and purring all over as if to the very verge of bursting. And another cat we know who comes up every morning between 6 and 7 o'clock to wake his master, sits on the bed, and very gently feels first one eyelid and then the other with his paw. When an eye opens, but not till then, the cat sets up a loud purr, like the prayer of a fire worshiper to the rising sun. Those who say lightly that cats care only for places, and not for persons, should go to the cat show at the Crystal Palace, where they may see recognitions between cat and owner that will cure them of so shallow an opinion. When we were last there one striking instance fell in our way. Cats greatly dislike these exhibitions; a cat, as a rule, is like Queen Vashti, unwilling to be shown, even to the nobles, at the pleasure of an Ahasuerus. Shy, sensitive, wayward, and independent, a cat resents being placed upon a cushion in a wire cage, and exposed to an unintelligent criticism, to say nothing of the fingers, of a mob of sightseers. One very eminent cat belonging to the masters' common room at Christ Church, Oxford, whose size and beauty have on several occasions entailed on him the hard necessity of attending a cat show takes, it is said, three days to recover from the sense of disgust and humiliation which he feels, whether he gets a prize or not. On the occasion to which we refer, a row of distinguished cats were sitting with their backs turned to the sightseers. Two little girls presently pushed through the crowd to the cage of one of the largest, crying, "There's Dick!" The great cat turned round instantly, his face transfigured with joy, purred, and endeavored to scratch open the cage that he might rejoin his little friends.—*Spectator*.

### An Old Town.

New Orleans is a strange town, filled with mixed and motley people. And it is full of strange old things to paint; too. I dropped into the dreary old cathedral here, yesterday; a sweet place, a sacred place; full of story, romance and history; and such an air of religion and rest over it all. The cool air and the dim light in here, while all the world blazed and glared without make it a grateful resting place, indeed. People came and went dreamily and still; matrons with babies in arms, black men and white, old fishermen from Italy, fruit men from the further Sicily, pirates and robbers, may be, all coming here to dip their fingers in the holy water, cross themselves, kneel a moment, pray and pass on, and out to their respective robberies. But one, a little black-eyed and curly-headed Italian, or Moor, or negro, or the good Lord knows what, came lazily in, bare-footed, bare-headed, bare-armed; indeed, she was bare generally, save her great splendid shock of curly hair. And she was as beautiful—as beautiful to look upon—as she was indolent and dirty; and that is saying that she was about as dirty as possible. They are not a wicked people, although indolent and dirty. But here in the path of the sun, with the heavens blazing above you for half a year together, the people loose energy, and sleep at all times and seasons.

### YANKEE NOTIONS.

A Hyannis, Mass., woman has just finished a bed quilt made of 3,600 pieces. A lady in Portsmouth, much attached to her home, bought two houses and lots adjoining her own last week, and demolished the buildings in order to make room for a garden. Moses Miller, who built the first wharf in East Boston, joined his wife in celebrating the sixty-fifth anniversary of their marriage, on Friday evening, Feb. 27th. Mr. Miller is 91 and Mrs. Miller 87 years old. Mrs. Sally McNamara of Grafton, Mass., celebrated her 90th birthday last week in the house built by Joseph Merriam, her paternal ancestor five generations removed, in the year 1740. She served the birthday cake on a pewter dish which has been in the family more than a hundred years. A fashionably dressed woman went into a bookstore in Brocton, Mass., to get a copy of "Othello." When it was handed to her, she glanced at it a moment, and exclaimed: "Why, this is nothing but Shakespeare in verse. I don't want this. Give me the original version." She could not be convinced of her error, and refused to take the book. A. F. Cox, the temperance nominee for Mayor of Portland, believes not only that the use of liquor causes poverty and sin, but that tobacco and dogs have a potent influence in the same direction. He is a shoe manufacturer, and a year or two ago he asked a discouraged customer why he couldn't sell goods. "Because people are poor and the times are hard," was the reply. "Nonsense," said Cox. "You find me a family that does not keep a dog or use tobacco or liquor and I will give it a barrel of flour." He was in the town a week, and everybody heard of the offer, but no one claimed the flour.

## Slavery in Persia.

The best kind of slaves are the Habasshis, or so-called Abyssinians. These are of a high type. The lips are thin, the color light brown; there is often a distinct red in the cheeks; the hair is long, often nearly straight; both males and females have considerable pretensions to good looks. As much as \$80 or \$100 may be given for a healthy young Habasshi girl. As a rule these girls are bought not as servants but as wives. Young Habasshis of both sexes are purchased by the grandees of Persia as playmates and confidential servants for their sons and daughters. The girls become the confidantes of their young mistresses, and ultimately occupy the position of housekeepers or wardrobe-women. The young Habasshi boys are the playfellows and fellow-students of their youthful masters, often fulfilling the duties of "whipping boys." I have seen the little slave and playfellow of the Jellal-ud-dowleh, the son of the King's eldest son, a child of three, wrestling with his infant master, to the great amusement of his father. The two children seemed quite like brothers; and I was told that the only way of keeping the young Prince in order was to threaten the slave with a whipping. The little black boy some day or other will be a great personage, as, in all human probability, his master will be Shah of Persia. From this class of slaves are taken the eunuchs (few nowadays) maintained by the nobility. The few eunuch children imported are eagerly purchased at double or treble the price of ordinary slaves. As a rule, the Habasshis are delicate, and feel the sever winter of central and northern Persia. The greatest care is taken of them. They do no real work, and it is not expected of them. They are well clad, and often the master or mistress glories in lavishing money on the dress of a favorite slave.

Sometimes the Persian, by a fall in rank or through money losses, becomes unable to keep his slaves. Does he sell them? No; that would be too degrading. He simply frees them, and as a rule the slave is made a freedman very much against the grain. The Persian slave, then, is treated more as a child than as a slave. His master does not hesitate to mate him with his own daughter; and frequently a prepossessing slave may become the legitimate mistress of a household, or even a favorite wife, ruling her less fortunate white rivals. The servants have to take their chance; the warmest corner, the best food, the most solid and stylish clothing, are kept for the slave.

Eunuchs are owned only in the houses of the great and rich. Save in the harems of the Shah and his sons, one eunuch only rules over the flock of ladies, servants, slaves, and children, who are all under his absolute authority. I have only known two white eunuchs in a long experience of Persia, and these men had probably been political offenders or the sons of political criminals. Political pretenders are also frequently blinded; for in the East a blind king cannot reign. The eunuchs generally have their quarters in the harems themselves, and as a rule they seldom quit their precincts. When they do they are treated with great respect, on account of the powerful influence they wield.

The ladies themselves always treat their guardian with the greatest respect, address him as "Master," and invite him to be seated. Like the high officers of state, he carries a long wand of office, and this wand is often encrusted with gems. He often attends the daily council of his master if he be a provincial Governor, and there his advice is listened to with respect; and he takes precedence of all except the Minister, Vice-Governor, or Wazeer. Of course he plunges his hand into the political pie, much to his own advantage. He never refuses a bribe. He may do nothing for it, but his hand is ever open. The second eunuch of the harem apparent of Persia is a good horseman, a favorite boon companion, and a clever shot, generally popular as the prince of good fellows. But the eunuch ages soon. He is an old man at 40; and once seen he is never to be mistaken—his sunken shoulders, his beardless face, and his hollow cough mark him out distinctly.

In Persia, slaves are well fed, well clothed, and well treated; the people look on them as equals, not inferiors; color is no degradation; they are not put to hard labor; the law is the same practically for them as for others. Mothers are not separated from their children, or husbands from wives. They soon become absorbed by marriage among the Persians, and I can fancy no happier lot for the enslaved black than to be sold in Persia.

### The Russian Oil Region.

The Russian oil region covers an area of over 14,000 square miles, with forty-two oil wells in one district, over a hundred in another, and four hundred in a third, while there are still richer regions waiting to be developed to produce still greater results. One spouting well produces 2,000,000 gallons a day. The oil is found in places at a depth of a hundred feet, and no well has gone below eight hundred and seventy-five feet. Three Swedish brothers and a few Americans and Russians who have been in America have introduced method and system, pipe lines, oil-carrying barges and steamers, tank cars, refineries, joint stock companies, railroads, and now produce 800,000 tons of crude and 200,000 tons of refined petroleum, and are rapidly finding new markets. To sink a well in Russia costs now \$5,000 to \$15,000, and that in a region so poorly supplied that the owners have to house their men in barracks.

Webster's spelling book, it is said, still sells at the rate of a million copies a year. Though not so exciting as some novels, it nevertheless throws a potent spell over the reader.

## KITCHEN RECIPES.

**RAILWAY PUDDING.**—One tablespoonful flour, one tablespoonful pounded sugar, one egg, one teaspoonful baking powder. Mix all these ingredients well together, then add a little milk, sufficient to make into a thick batter. Pour into a buttered flat tin, and bake ten minutes in a quick oven. When cooked, spread over it a layer of preserve, and roll over three times while hot.

**DINGY PUDDING.**—Stir together the yolks of four eggs, 2 oz. of sugar, and 11 oz. of almonds, sliced in their peel. Then stir in 2 oz. of grated chocolate, two tablespoonfuls of grated brown bread, soaked in red wine, 2 oz. of currants, half a teaspoonful of allspice or six pounded cloves, and add the egg whites whisked to a snow. Steam the pudding in a covered mould, and serve with chocolate sauce poured over. Allow an hour and a half to steam.

**TO CLEAN WHITE MARBLE.**—In the weekly cleaning of a room dip a well-soaped flannel into powdered whiteness, and rub the white marble with it until it forms a good lather; then wash off with warm water and dry thoroughly. Twice a year use the following mixture: 1 lb. soda, 2 lbs. whiteness, 2 oz. potash, 1 lb. yellow soap, scraped; boil the soap and the soda together, and then add the whiteness and the potash; when cold, lay it thick over the marble and leave it all night or longer, then wash it off with soap and water. This mixture removes stains.

**LOBSTER SOUP.**—Boil and skim well three pints of liquor in which fish has been boiled, and stir into it two tablespoonfuls of fine wheat and one tablespoonful of potato flour mixed smoothly in a pint of milk. Stir over the fire until it is as thick as rich cream, when beat in the yolks of two eggs, gradually stirring for five minutes longer. Put in a teaspoonful of essence of lobster, and half a tin of the best tinned lobster. Draw the stewpan to the side of the fire, and let it stand for ten minutes, so that the lobster will get hot through without boiling. Salt will probably not be required; cayenne pepper to be used to taste. When finished break an ounce of butter into the soup, and stir until it is melted.

**TO FASTEN COLORS.**—Many thrifty housewives are annoyed, at the "wash," to find that the colored clothes have "run" in the drying; that is, the colors have got mixed up, or run into ugly brown patches. The following is a simple remedy, or rather preventive: After the articles have been well washed and rinsed, let them be put immediately into cold water, with a good deal of common salt, and allowed to lie for about five minutes, or scarcely that; then wring tightly and hang up to dry. They should not be let lie wet before being put in the salt and water, as even then they are "running." This process applies not only to woollen goods, but cotton as well, Oxford shirts, striped merino socks, and such things, being much improved by it. About three handfuls of salt to a pail of water. Of course the same water does several articles, but not too many, unless more salt is added, as the clothes absorb it.

**POTATO TURNOVERS.**—Mash, with a piece of butter, some dry, mealy potatoes, while they are warm; mix with them two or three beaten eggs, according to the quantity of potatoes. Dredge a paste board, spread on it the potatoes, a good half-inch thick. When cool, cut out squares or round cakes, 5 inches across. Put on each a large tablespoonful of any remains of meat or poultry minced small. Turn over half of the cake to cover it, coat them over with egg and breadcrumbs, and bake a delicate brown in a moderate oven. The minced meat for these should always be cooked, or at least partly so. Ham or pork, roasted or boiled, is very good, seasoned sparingly with powdered sage and a very little chives or onion; cold rashers of bacon left from table, or remains of cold mutton, or even fish. But whatever the meat, it should have its appropriate seasoning. Many small remnants may thus be made to go a good way, which might otherwise be thought too little to send to table, and therefore be wasted.

**GRAVY SOUP.**—This is a cheap family soup, and very good if the bones and vegetables are properly fried. The former are best done in the saucepan in which the soup is to be made, and afterwards the vegetables can be fried in the fat that comes from them. Fry brown the bone of a leg of mutton or ribs of beef, a few bones from which streaked bacon has been cut, a pound of onions and turnips, and a carrot. Put these, with a small bunch of sweet herbs, a dozen peppercorns, two teaspoonfuls of salt, into two quarts of water, and as soon as the pot boils skim thoroughly. Boil for an hour and a half, then put in a little celery or celery seed tied in muslin, and having boiled the soup for another half hour, strain and let it get cold. Take off all fat, and having boiled up the soup in a clean saucepan, thicken it with equal quantities of flour and potato flour mixed smoothly in cold water. The soup should now require no other addition, but, if desired, a tablespoonful or two of sherry, and a few drops of Chili vinegar may be used. Forecmeat balls or macaroni make the soup more nourishing, and small balls, made as for suet pudding, seasoned with pepper, salt, and a little minced parsley, are excellent.

A fond father presented his 4-year old boy with a trumpet, with which he was greatly infatuated. All day the boy tooted away delightedly, and at bedtime, when his grandmother told him to put the trumpet down and say his prayers, the little fellow said: "Oh, no; I'll tell you what let's do, grandma; you pray and I'll keep on blowing."

## JUSTICE IN RUSSIA.

### Collisions Between Juries and the Imperial Authorities.—Peasant Courts.

Twenty years ago the Czar Reformer substituted trial by jury for the system of Crown Judges. It is the general opinion at St. Petersburg, that next to the abolition of serfdom, the introduction of trial by jury has served for the moral elevation of the people far more than any other reform. The jury system, however, has not been introduced in all the provinces of European Russia. A part of the Caucasus and all of Siberia and Central Asia are still under the jurisdiction of the Crown Judges. Trial by the Crown Judges is usually called trial by Judge Shemiaka. Instead of listening to the testimony, that worthy Judge used to keep his eye on the caps of the plaintiff and defendant, in which was kept tangible and undisputed evidence in the shape of copper and silver coins. The balance of justice turned in favor of him whose cap contained the larger bundle. As the cap evidence cannot be conveniently presented before the public, the Crown Judges to this day hold court behind closed doors. And yet there are many Russians, Mr. Katkoff of the Moscow *Vedomosti* included, who give preference to the Crown Judges. In justice to the Russians, it must be said that the jury system is not quite compatible with the autocratic regime. The Czar, being the sole legislator, issues his laws regardless of the views of his people. Then the jurors, the people's representatives are called upon to pass a verdict according to their own convictions. But the trouble is that there are many things which, though forbidden by the imperial law, are justified by popular opinion. Hence come collisions between the Russian jury and the imperial authorities.

In a village stricken with famine the imperial tax collectors undertook to empty the village granary and drive away the domestic animals. Starvation stared the villagers in the face, and a peasant shouted to them:

"Brothers! Let us take sticks and drive away the tax collectors, who have come to rob us of our last crust of bread. The treasury may safely wait for our taxes, and at any rate the Czar would not starve us. To the sticks!"

And to the sticks they betook themselves and drove off the tax collectors. But the next day a regiment of soldiers came to the village, and the leader of the riot was put in chains and carried away. On the trial the Crown Attorney demanded that, according to the law, the defendant should be sent to the Siberian mines for twenty years. But the jury brought in a verdict of not guilty. The acquitted peasant however, was kidnapped by gendarmes and disappeared forever.

This is one of a thousand cases of collision between juries and the imperial authorities. It seems to me that the jury system, though far from being what it ought to be in the interests of justice is one of the most powerful factors which are undermining the autocracy.

There are some special courts here, such as the Merchants' Court, the Craftsmen's Court, the Church Courts, the Military Courts, the Land Surveying Courts, and others, in which specific offences are tried:

But there are many subjects of the Czar who quite ignore his law. Over fifty millions of peasants dispose of all their civil suits in their own way, by their own courts. If a peasant is caught stealing, if he drinks too much or beats his wife for no cause, if he indulges in idling while taxes are unpaid, if he does not pay his debts, if he offends a priest or somebody else—in all such and the like cases the villagers sit as a court of justice. Their verdicts are exceedingly plain and sensible. In all cases where damage or loss of property is involved, the guilty party is bound to make good the damage or loss. In the cases of some personal offence they usually resort to "the birch porridge" as they call the whipping with rods. The verdicts of the village courts are explicitly obeyed, for the villagers have the power not only to exclude obnoxious members from the village, but even to send them to Siberia for life.

Among the mountain tribes of Caucasus, if a murderer does not pay the blood fine he is sure to pay with his life, for the relatives of the victim deem it their sacred duty to take a bloody revenge. If he undertakes to pay the fine the murderer takes the best horse he can purchase and loads it with such goods as costly arms, clothes, and money. Then placing a rope on his own neck he leads the horse to the family of his victim. If the mother or wife of the dead man takes off the rope from the neck of the murderer he is safe. Having surrendered the horse, money and other presents, he returns home. If however, nobody takes the rope from his neck, that means that he is under the penalty of death, unless he can appease the wrath of the family by costlier presents.

In Turkestan, according to the Kirghize notions of justice, a murderer may expiate his crime by paying a blood fine, which consists of a number of camels, horses, sheep, and goats. In some cases, however the family of the victim refuse to accept any presents, and then a judicial duel is arranged. The murderer armed to the teeth, appears on his best horse. Two or three male relatives of the victim also armed and on horseback, meet their foe. Then begins a wild and awful scene. The murderer tries to escape, or at least to meet his foes separately in combat. If the murderer remains alive until sunset he is safe, but that rarely happens, and sometimes one of the avengers loses his life too.

Some of the Mohammedans living in Russia, in case of murder, resort to what they call God's judgment. The nearest and strongest of the relatives of the victim, with dagger in hand meets the mur-

derer. If he kills his man, the avenger exclaims, "Now my soul shall have peace," and there the matter ends. If, however, the murderer proves the best man, he is to meet still another avenger. The Czar reigns, but does not rule all of his subjects.

## INTERESTING ITEMS.

The Rev. Phillips Brooks rejoices in the fact that he has never required the professional services of a lawyer or doctor.

A clerk in a pawnbroker's office in Boston was fined \$10 and costs a few days ago for selling rifles to two boys who had fallen victims to cheap literature, and wanted to go West and shoot Indians.

President Arthur, according to the London Truth, is going to Europe early in July for several months. He intends to stay some weeks in England before proceeding to the Continent for a tour.

The latest discovery about Daniel Webster is that he never used a profane word. His greatness was what his contemporaries admired, but a Boston scoffer opines that his goodness is what the next generation will be asked to reverence him for.

The professional sword swallower does not pursue his business, as is supposed, with impunity. A sword swallower lately died of hemorrhage in an English hospital, and the medical opinion seems to be that all these men trifle with and shorten their lives.

In Maricopa county, Arizona, there is considerable barbed fence, and the vast flocks of wild ducks which frequent the valley often fly low and, striking the barbed fences, become impaled thereon. It is said that tons of ducks are gathered daily by boys from the fences and sent to market.

Walt Whitman, who will be 66 years old in May, is in his usual physical condition. A friend says that, notwithstanding his paralysis, poverty, the embezzlement of book agents, the incredible slanders and misconstructions that have followed him through life, and the "quite complete failure of his book from a worldly and financial point of view," his equanimity and good spirits remain unimpaired, and he is to day, amid bodily helplessness and a most meagre income, more vigorous and radiant than ever.

A dozen East African tribes between the North end of Lake Nyassa and the Indian Ocean have been reduced to a deplorable state by famine. Their crops, which are their main dependence, were almost a total failure last year. Many have died, and many others, tempted by the grain the coast Arabs took among them, have sold themselves into slavery for a few days' provisions. Many of the Zulus in South Africa also are starving on account of the failure of the crop of mealies, and a Zulu famine fund has been opened in London.

The royal seraglio of Persia contains no Europeans or male persons over the age of 11. Each royal favorite has her separate pavilion and her staff of servants, her equipages, her jewels, and her revenue. The principal favorite generally has some high-sounding title conferred upon her, such as "The Delight of the State." The ladies are never seen abroad unveiled, save one or two of the handsomer or more flighty of their number, who sometimes, when driving in their glass coaches, purposely give a rather liberal display of florid charms to passers-by in carriages or on horseback. It is quite certain that no man save the King enters the royal harem, or, having done so, leaves it alive.

A distillery has lately been put in operation in Charleston, S. C., for manufacturing oil from pine wood. The material is subjected to intense heat in sealed retorts, and one cord of it is said to yield fifteen gallons of turpentine, eighty gallons of pine-wood oil, fifty bushels of charcoal, 150 gallons of wood vinegar, and a quantity of inflammable gas and vegetable asphaltum. The oil alone is worth about twenty-five cents a gallon, and is used by painters and shipbuilders. Apart from its commercial value, the process is interesting as showing how modern chemistry is able to supplant those old destructive chemical processes by which a single article was produced from a given material and all the rest wasted or ruined.

## HINTS ON HORSE-SHOEING.

For horses that do slow work a light shoe will generally prevent knee, ankle, and skin cutting.

For a long strider shoe the hind feet with small calkins. For a short strider they are not required.

Some horses will not go well with toe-weight shoes, requiring the weight to be distributed more equally.

Ankle cutting behind is usually caused by the foot not being level and straight, and from leg weariness.

If ankle cutting is done with the quarter or heel, shoe with a three-quarter shoe. Either for front or hind feet.

When quarter cracks occur on one side use a three-quarter shoe adapted for strong frog pressure. If cracks appear on both sides use a bar-shoe.

For the hind feet, if ankle cutting is done with the toe, have the calkin made lengthwise at the inside heel and one at the inside curve at the toe.

When elbow hitting is done with the heel of the foot, have the shoe short and well concaved on the ground surface. Most horses hit with the toe.

Corns should be pared out well, the heel lowered and sprung, and the toe shortened. Have the shoe removed every two weeks, or less if necessary.

Narrow-webbed shoes are the best, as they allow the sole to scale off according to its growth. However, shoes should vary according to the necessities of the case.