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KABINDA COURTSHIP.

Strange Marital Customs of a Little African Colony on the Congo.

With the Kabinda the bride and groom immediately after marriage are locked in a hut which must never have been occupied before, and are there kept close prisoners for three months, except that at every midnight the old men of the town take the groom and the old women the bride and escort them to the "fetich man," to whom they appeal for children. During this time, however, they are well supplied with both food and drink. At the end of the three months a great feast is held, when the prisoners are released and the hut where they had been confined is burned, and thus their honeymoon is brought to an end.

The ceremony of marriage among these people is conducted by the different tribes in a manner that is common to them all.

When a native wants a wife, if there is none in his own town to suit him, he sends to some neighboring chief asking if there is a girl in his town of the age desired. If the answer is in the affirmative, he then presents his case to the old men of his town, and after a "palaver," or talk, at which there is the drinking of much rum, they agree that he may bring home as a wife a woman from another town.

After securing this permission he, with presents in his hands for the propitiation of the spirit powers, visits the head "fetich man," and, after listening to his many prayers, receives a charm. He is then ready to seek his bride.

In the meantime the women of his town—maids, wives and widows—having been advised of his intention and being incensed by this slighting them in selecting a stranger, are prepared, as they are allowed by their laws to do, to prevent his leaving until their charms have been admitted and their indignation allayed by many presents. The custom, despite every precaution of the man, often ends in disputes which are settled only by an appeal to the "fetich man" and "sussiwood."

However, having overcome the difficulties of his departure, he arrives at and is received in his prospective bride's town by the old men of the place and by them conducted to the "palaver house," where there is more talk and more rum. The presents he has brought having been found acceptable, he is then allowed to know the parents of the girl he is seeking, and from them learns the sum in beads, rum, cloth, etc., he has to pay before he can secure her. This usually represents in value about ten dollars. This matter having been satisfactorily settled, he returns to his town and forwards the goods as agreed upon. At the setting of the sun on the day appointed for the closing of the contract the bride, naked except for being painted with different colored chalks, accompanied by her parents and friends, arrives at the home of the groom. There they are received with much rejoicing, gun-firing, drum-beating, dancing and feasting. This is continued until both man and woman are exhausted by their orgies, when they are bundled into the hut to remain for the customary time.—Cor. N. Y. Herald.

WHALE-MEAT AS DIET.

A Pleasant Picture for Epicures in All Parts of the World.

Talk of butchers' shops. A whale is a whole meat market in itself. It is a floating Smithfield, a marine edition of Copenhagen fields, an entire Billingsgate. Nobody need never starve when whales are in season. A few of them would provision a city for a long siege. Fortunately, as the world grows older, it learns to judge more fairly of neglected kinds of provisions. It is a pity that the true value of whale flesh has not been discovered long ago. How many poor families might have been amply fed if only "whale extract" had come into fashion years back. Courmands should also show their gratitude for the gift of a fresh flavor. It must be admitted, with regret, but without hesitation, that the list of ordinary articles of food is very limited, and that beef and mutton are apt to become monotonous, and even varied with fish and poultry, and all the eatable fruits of the earth as well. The edibility of the whale is, therefore, an exciting discovery.

The only drawback to the pleasant picture which arises when the mind contemplates 50,000 people dining off one animal is contained in the thought that whales, when they are proved to be valuable for dietetic purposes, will be hunted until they become scarce and perhaps extinct. To guard against this danger we have no doubt that whale breeding would come into fashion. People who found other forms of food culture unremunerative might remove to countries where the climate allowed whales to live in comfort and establish whale farms at the mouths of tidal waters. There is, in fact, no end to the opening for enterprise and ingenuity which are available, owing to this remarkable addition to the domestic larder.—Medical Classics.

—Electricity cut up some queer capers with a tree down in New Orleans. A guy cable was attached to the tree from an electric light. In some unaccountable way the cable became crossed with a live wire, and on wet days electricity run down the former. Several times it set the tree afire and eventually started a blaze which destroyed that part of the tree above the wire. The trunk was examined and its heart was found to have been entirely eaten out by the electricity, leaving a mere shell.

CAPTAIN BOYCOTT.

The Man Who Immortalized His Name in a Very Peculiar Way.

Though men far more deserving of the world's remembrance have been as utterly forgotten as if they never existed, Captain Boycott will be remembered, in name at least, long after his bones have turned to dust. According to his years he should still be in the prime of life, but for a decade the Captain has not lain upon a bed of roses, and he has aged prematurely, his hair and beard—the latter long and luxuriant—being almost snow white.

Though, in a measure, driven from Ireland on account of his opinion that eviction was the most business-like if not the only course to pursue toward a tenant who was behindhand with his rent, but refused to surrender his lease until he was paid for all the improvements he had made. Captain Boycott has not changed his views on the land question any more than he has lost his love for the old sod. He still persists considering himself an Irishman and the right sort of an Irishman, and though there are, doubtless, a number of persons in the Old Dart who would consider it a privilege to put a bullet in his most vulnerable spot, he pays an annual visit to Ireland and for the rest of the year looks forward to his next visit to the land of his birth.

Captain Boycott is now living in as quiet a spot as can be found in England. He is the agent of Sir Hugh Adair, and has his headquarters in the sleepy village of Flixton, in the heart of Suffolk, miles away from a railway station or a post-office or a telegraph office. To the villagers he is known as "the Captain." He does not believe that the Irish troubles are a bit nearer solution than when he left Ireland. The Irish tenement farmer has difficulties, he admits, but it is because, in his opinion, the farmer attempts impossibilities. The farmer tries to eke out an existence on a piece of land which in point of area alone is incapable of giving him support. Why does he do this? The world is wide enough. Why not move on? If he works hard one year and fails to make ends meet there is not much chance that the next year will bring him better luck. The English farmer is every bit as badly situated as the Irish farmer, but he uses different tactics.

So Captain Boycott expressed himself a few days ago. He said, too, that he considered bad in principle the notion of accommodating tenants according to the success or failure of their crops. To be entirely fair the proposal should at any rate be reciprocal, and to that the tenants he knew would object. To be successful the farmer, Irish or English, must rely upon his own resources. He had the option of leaving his farm, and landlords had no keen relish for unsuccessful holdings. The idea that every tenant should be his own landlord was absurd. The Land League tried it. The league purchased an estate near Tuam, cut it into squares, and invited the tillers of the soil to come down from the mountains and become ideal landlords. But the tenants who were already on the lands wouldn't have the "poor devils," and they were obliged to return to their mountain homes. The proprietorships would be too extensive to be beneficial to the soil.

The Captain does not believe in home rule. Ireland is an integral portion of the British Empire and should remain so. Such an institution as a home-rule parliament would be no more influenced in its labors by the actual laboring classes than is the House of Commons. The Irish people wanted education before home rule. If the latter were to be provided those who had the power should make certain that the "so-called misgoverned, down-trodden" people were going to share in it. At present it would not be so.

Balfour's policy, in Captain Boycott's opinion, was certainly a bold and thorough one. While a law remains let it be carried out unstintingly. But imprisonment of Irish members of Parliament was only making martyrs of them, and in putting them in jail Balfour was only, in a sense, beating his own back. Yet Captain Boycott could not see how Balfour could do otherwise.

For John Dillon Captain Boycott expressed great respect. Dillon he considers sincere. For the "moonlighter" Captain Boycott expressed a hearty contempt and destestation. The Irish people could, and one day would, he thought, extinguish the "brute."

In writing to a friend recently the originator of the persuasive term boycott said: "I go for my annual holiday to dear old Ireland; it is my one treat of the year."—N. Y. Times.

Editor Clugston's Revenge.

"Mr. Clugston," said the foreman of the Doodleville Yelper office, "the Pinhook Jigger says you didn't have money enough to pay the express on your paper last week and had to shin around among the merchants for a loan of forty cents before you could get it out of the express office and go to press."

Mr. Clugston, the editor and proprietor of the Yelper, calmly sat down and wrote the following withering article:

doc reeves, the half-baked imbecile—doc reeves, the thundering gourdhead—doc reeves, the pusillanimous donkey that afflicts the good people of Pinhook with a miserable apology of a thumb paper he calls the Jigger, says—but who the Sam Hill cares what doc reeves says!

"There," says Editor Clugston, as he leaned back in his chair, exhausted, "that'll finish the blamed cuss."—Chicago Tribune.

—"Russia is a sort of semi-barbarous land, but blinders are never put on horses there."

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