

PRIMITIVE DEVICES.

PECULIARITIES OF ANCIENT MACHINERY.

The Water Hoists of Madagascar and the Ganges—The Dutch Inclined Plane and the German Flying Wheel—The First Hydraulic Lift.

Used in Hauling and Lifting.

I became acquainted with a man, says a writer in the *Globe-Democrat*, who told me that he was commissioned by a large manufacturer to hunt out various primitive forms of the application of power. It became

find it decidedly primitive and irksome.

The Chinese of the last century used an odd device to haul up their wine. It was a rope running around a shaft, which, in turn, connected with a great wheel, upon which was a device something like the escapement of a modern watch. By working a lever up and down the ratchets

the warm, scent-laden air, floating in spirals, with outspread wings, until, as if spent, he sank gently back into the tree and down through the branches, while his song rose into an ecstasy of ardor and passion.

His voice rang like a clarinet in rich, full tones and his execution covered the widest possible compass; the theme followed the theme, a torrent of music, a swelling tide of harmony, in which scarcely any two bars were alike.

I stayed until midnight listening to him; he was singing when I went to sleep; he was still singing when I woke up two hours later; he sang through the livelong night.

OLD-FASHIONED RELATIVES.

A Little and Aged Man Inquires if "Willie" Can Be Seen.

Relatives of the old-fashioned sort are sad disturbers of the dignity of the rising generation, especially when they trot out pet names in public, as all fond parents of the old-fashioned sort invariably insist on doing. It's a difficult thing for a parent to realize, anyway, that his child has grown up.

There is a young man in a position of great trust in one of the largest mercantile establishments of this town. He came from the country originally, but would rather have that forgotten. Yesterday a little old man entered the counting-room. He was done up in about five lengths of red-and-yellow scarf, and gave other evidences of halting from the latitude of Johnson's Creek or Findley's Lake.

To the everlasting honor of women, it is said that out of all homicides men commit at least 95 per cent. of them and women not over 5 or 6 per cent., and of those the vast majority are by lewd and abandoned women. And of the men it is found, naturally enough, that nearly one-half of them are bachelors.

Men are never too old to murder. The average age is found to be about 35 years, except among the Chinese, where the average is higher. Twenty per cent. are under 35 and a few are over the Scriptural three score and ten. The average age of women is over 32, and that of the negroes is about 30.

The figures also dispel the popular delusion that idleness is crime's great workshop, as over three-fourths of all persons charged with homicide were employed at the time of the crime. Nor does liquor play the all-important part usually attributed to it. Less than one-fifth of all the homicides are found to be inveterate drinkers, while fully as large a number are found to be total abstainers. Over 90 per cent. have been found to be in good physical health, and very few have shown any striking marks of physical atavism or degeneration.

Not Blown Off by the Wind.

About a year ago the telegraphic dispatches contained an account of a wind storm in Missouri, which not only blew down houses and fences and caused great loss of life, but actually stripped the feathers from a rooster. The correspondent stated that not even the pinefeathers were left, and his description of how the cock next morning strutted forth, flapped his naked wings and crowed with a somewhat-disfigured-but-still-in-the-ring style caused considerable merriment. It was reasoned that a wind of such force would have blown the fowl to Jericho, and the writer was set down as a Munchausen. Scientific research, however, sustains the story, but ascribes the rooster's condition to another cause. A writer in *Der Stein der Weisen* says: "Among the most astonishing effects of whirlwinds must be reckoned the well-supported facts that, on their cessation, birds exposed to them have been found stripped of their feathers, and people with every shred of clothing torn from them. These effects cannot possibly be ascribed to the wind. The force necessary would have sufficed to transport the objects away bodily. Numerous similar occurrences were observed in France in the tornadoes which prevailed there three years ago, and these were gradually brought under investigation. Over the whole region affected trees were found bent in a manner which could not possibly have resulted from the wind. These were, first, oaks split down the center for a length of twenty to twenty-five feet; second, poplars and beeches for a length of six to twelve feet were shivered into sticks of uniform thickness (for example, a beech tree sixteen inches in diameter was split into more than 500 sticks, a centimeter thick, two centimeters broad and three and a half centimeters long); third, firs and other resinous trees had their stems cut clean through, leaving almost even surfaces. These phenomena and others of kindred nature can be ascribed only to electricity.

Mocking-Bird Music.

Mr. Theodore Roosevelt expresses the opinion that the musical reputation of the mocking-bird suffers greatly from its habit of mimicry. On ordinary occasions, and especially in the daytime, it plays the harlequin, but at night during the love season it has "a song, or rather songs, which are not only purely original, but also more beautiful than any other bird music whatsoever." Once, near Nashville, he heard a mocking-bird sing in a way that he can never forget. He thus describes his experience:

The moon was full. My host kindly assigned me a room with the windows of which opened on a great magnolia tree, where, I was told, a mocking-bird sang every night, and all night long. I went to my room about ten o'clock. The moonlight was shining through the open window, and the mocking-bird was already in the magnolia. The great elm was bathed in a flood of silver; I could see each twig, and mark every action of the singer, who was pouring out such a rapture of ringing melody as I have never listened to before or since.

Sometimes he would perch motionless for many minutes, his body quivering and thrilling with the outpour of music. Then he would drop softly from twig to twig until the lowest limb was reached, when he would rise, fluttering and leaping through the branches, his song never ceasing for an instant, until he reached the summit of the tree and launched into

Webster Was Lazy.

As a boy, Daniel Webster was not over fond of labor. On one occasion his father returned from a short journey and found certain work undone. Summoning the boy, he asked, "Harkly, 'Ezekiel, what have you been doing?" "Nothing, sir," was the reluctant reply. "Well, Daniel, what have you been doing?" "Helping 'Zeke, sir," was the prompt and cheerful answer, and the father's anger was lost in mirth. On another occasion Daniel was put to mowing, but complained that his scythe "was not hung right." "All right," said his father, "hang it to suit yourself." Thereupon Daniel hung the scythe upon a tree, remarking: "There, that is hung to suit me." And he mowed no more that day.

When an editor attempts to "feel the pulse of the people" he is liable to neglect his own circulation.—Glen Falls Republican

STRANGE, said the actor, "that the ties should seem fewer as I get nearer home!"—Plain Dealer.

Travelers on the Ganges often tell of the strange way in which the natives hoist buckets of water by means of a series of cranes. The method calls for a number of changes from one crane to another, but the labor being shared by half a dozen people, is not so tiresome to the individual as in the case of the wheel. Still, American engineers would doubtless

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