

SOMEWHAT STRANGE.

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

Queer Facts and Thrilling Adventures Which Show that Truth is Stranger than Fiction.

A BIG wolf which has terrorized the people of the Bumpas Cave region, in North Carolina, for the last two or three years, recently entered the cabin of a mountaineer named Brown during the temporary absence of the housewife, and, seizing the only occupant, an infant six months old, by the clothing in the region of the chest, lifted it from the rude cradle and bore it away into the mountains. When the mother returned to the house and missed the baby she rushed to the door in time to see the wolf and its precious burden disappear into the neighboring woods. The distracted woman began to scream. This brought the husband, who was chopping wood not far away, to the scene in a high state of excitement. The story from the lips of the hysterical mother almost drove the brave fellow daft, but he seized his axe, called his dog, and started in hot pursuit. There was about two inches of snow on the ground, and it providentially enabled the desperate father of the kidnapped infant to strike the trail of the wolf immediately after leaving his door-yard. Once upon the track of the beast he rushed to the mountains with a speed born of distraction. About two miles from his cabin the tracks of the wolf led the pursuer under a long shelf of rock, protruding from the side of a mountain. There was no snow here and the father lost the trail, but he now urged his dog, which up to this time he had compelled to remain with him. The dog took the lead and the man followed, fully expecting to find the entrance to the wolf's den, from which he could hardly hope to get the baby alive. But his fears were groundless; he soon came upon his faithful dog wagging his tail and looking down at a little white bundle at his feet. It was the baby, sound asleep and almost frozen, apparently unharmed otherwise. Brown took off his coat, and, wrapping the infant snugly in it, started homeward. He soon met his wife and two or three of the neighbors to whom she had given the alarm. It was a most remarkable rescue. The mountaineers say that it was only a freak of the "mad" wolf, but the little one no doubt owes its life to a drenching of petroleum given it for some cutaneous affection by its mother just before it was carried away. The odor of the oil was too much for his wolfship. He probably sniffed about the child after laying it down under the rocks and preparing to make a meal, and then left in disgust.

A SINGULAR illustration of the degree of credulity that is so characteristic of the Mohammedans has been bought to the notice of the London correspondent of the Manchester Guardian. A native of Afghanistan, son of a noble, being reduced to penury, prayed to the prophet to relieve his distress. His prayer, he says, was answered by Mohammed appearing to him in the moon and pointing out a spot, close to where the devotee was praying, where wealth could be obtained. The Afghan proceeded to the place and found a curious-looking stone, which he picked up with full faith that he had a treasure to dispose of. London was, in his opinion, the city where he could best effect a sale, and to this city he has journeyed, undergoing many hardships, and working his passage from Bombay as a ship's steward. A few days since he presented himself at the British Museum with his treasure, which, alas! on close examination by the experts, turns out to be only a worthless piece of quartz pebble. Whether this poor fellow was convinced of the truth or not my informant was not able to say, but there is no doubt that he is in destitute circumstances. He is an excellent linguist, speaking no fewer than seven languages.

A REMARKABLE case of precocity and unnatural development in a child is reported near Warren, Tenn. Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Brandon are the parents of a four-year-old boy, who, of course, has never attended school and the parents have never attempted to impart the knowledge of learning to the youngster. One day recently the mother was reading aloud from the family Bible while the child was busy playing about the room. Suddenly the child exclaimed: "Oh, mamma, I can read like you." The mother paid no attention, but the child continued talking, repeating the assertion several times. Finally, to please the young one, the mother took him in her lap and opened the book before him. Without the least hesitation, and to the utter surprise and amazement of the parents, the child began to read, and read passage after passage without difficulty, pronouncing the most difficult of biblical names with apparent ease. Up to that time the child was not considered a very bright youngster and had not stopped his baby talk. The amazed parents did not know what to make of the suddenly developed talent and called in a physician, who was as much puzzled as they.

"Editors are sometimes wonderful in their genius," said Professor C. L. Milliken, of Chicago. "Of course the case of 'Blind Tom,' the remarkable musical prodigy, is well-known, but the person of whom I was thinking never became so famous, although well-known in the region about where he lived, in Eastern Ohio. When I was a boy I lived in Harrison County, Ohio, and in an adjoining county, Tuscarawas. I think, there was an idiot boy about twelve years old. He could neither read nor write and was incapable of learning, but could instinctively give the true answer to any problem involving figures only. He could not penetrate the mysteries of algebra, geometry or calculus, but no combination of figures could confuse him. He had no rules and could not explain his methods, but his answers were given at once, and always correctly. He was exhibited throughout that section of the country, and I remember that the theory advanced by physicians was that every other faculty of his brain had been ab-

sorbed by this one and his mind was really a great mathematical machine."

A MOST remarkable case of somnambulism is reported from Missouri City. H. C. Calvert is a farmer of that vicinity. He and other members of his family were aroused the other night at 12 o'clock by a crashing noise. An inspection of the room showed that a window pane was broken out. It was also found that his 11-year-old son was missing. The boy had retired to his bed-room as usual. Mr. Calvert found tracks in the snow under the window. He felt sure that they were those of his son, but the little fellow's clothes were in the room. The farmer followed the footprints across a field. A quarter of a mile away he met the boy starting back to the house and nearly frozen. He said that he had dreamed that eight Indians appeared before him and said they were going to kill him. He dashed away from them over rocks and ice, and they closely pursued him. Finally he awoke and found himself out in the field. He could not remember anything about jumping through the window, and only bore a few scratches from coming in contact with the glass.

THERE is on the lands of F. N. Sword, of Chandler, Va., a seedling apple tree, whose circumference, five feet from the ground, is about six and one-third feet, whose height is about thirty-seven feet and whose branches begin seven and one-half feet from the ground and form a very compact top forty-two feet wide. In 1883 the estimated crop borne by this tree was over forty bushels. The apples begin ripening and falling off in August and so continue until time to gather winter apples, when there is yet on the tree a good crop of winter apples, which keep well; indeed, they keep a good while after being frozen. They are medium sized yellow apples of good flavor and free from rot. The tree begins to bloom early and continues to bloom late, so that young apples and bloom are seen at the same time; indeed, some bloom is found on the tree in August, 1893. The idea of a summer, autumn, and winter apple orchard all in one tree is certainly novel.

ON the banks of the Castleman River, in Pennsylvania, is a sight which is well worth going to see. A short distance from the river, at the foot of the mountain, six poplars are growing, the place inclosed being in the shape of a coffin. For about six feet from the ground the six trees have a common trunk, or rather root, so that it seems as if the six trees in the inclosed space had all united solidly, and had grown out of the ground, carrying the earth above them up to the height named. Climbing on top of this common trunk, it is found that these poplars must have been planted around a child's grave. The inclosed space is about four feet long and the green grass is growing in the earth there. On one end is a gravestone with an inscription on it, which, however, is worn by time. It is unknown by whom the grave was made.

THE advance of surgery can furnish few more singular illustrations than is supplied by an operation in one of the London hospitals whereby the breast of a blackbird was fastened to a woman's face as a substitute for her nose, which had been so damaged that it had to be removed. The woman, who had been a housemaid in a hotel, had been struck in the face by a descending lift, which caused the injury that led to the operation. The operation has proved perfectly successful, with every appearance of the woman being provided with a useful nasal appendage, though how it will perform its functions when the cure is complete remains to be seen.

FARIBAULT, MINN., has a freak of nature in the shape of a young giant. A young couple living in North Faribault, named Shook, have a child nine months old that tips the scale at nearly eighty pounds and is over three feet in height. The child has always been healthy and is well developed. His head is well shaped and of fair size, but his limbs and body are exceedingly large for a child of his age. He is handsome, and his features are clear cut and regular. He has six developed toes on each of his feet. Mr. and Mrs. Shook are of medium size.

AUGUST BOEMER and John Pfaff got into a dispute at Columbus, Ohio, the other day as to which had the biggest mouth. They made a bet about it, and Boemer managed to crowd a big orange into his mouth, while Pfaff forced a billiard ball into his. Boemer managed to get his orange out again, but the billiard ball was not yielding, and declined to be removed. Pfaff was nearly choked to death, when a physician managed to extract the ivory sphere from his mouth, but he had to cut it larger to do it.

HORSES have often been insured and so, too, have prize cattle and dogs, but the boxing kangaroo at the Westminster Aquarium, in London, is probably the first of its kind in whose name a policy has been taken out. While the directors of that institution offered no objection to the payment of the premium for the kangaroo, they absolutely declined, as a superfluous expense, to defray the cost of insurance upon the lives of the divers who constitute some of the side features of the show.

A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD boy fell from the seventh story of the Railroad building, Denver, Col., a few weeks ago. He struck on a number of telegraph wires, bounded into the air, and finally landed on the back of a horse. The animal was killed by the shock, but the boy was only stunned, and soon recovered consciousness. In three minutes he was receiving congratulations on his luck.

THE Emperor of Austria has gone through the annual performance of washing the feet of twelve old men. The observance is a religious one connected with Maundy-Thursday. Water was poured from a golden ewer upon the feet and then His Majesty dried them with a towel. He grimed over the unpleasant work.

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD son of A. M. Lassiter, who is well known in Gunn County, N. C., has the word "Ameri-

ca" plainly visible in each eye, near the pupil. This is his birthmark. Jesse Spright, a prominent citizen of Green county, says that he has seen and carefully examined the phenomenon.

A FORTY-FOOT SHARK.

Believed to Be the Largest Specimen Ever Captured.

A monster basking shark, probably the largest ever captured on this coast, was caught recently near Monterey, Cal., and towed ashore. S. M. Duarte, a fisherman, had set his nets for small fish the night before, and accompanied by his partner set out this morning to take in the catch. Upon their arrival they were somewhat startled and vexed to find that their nets had disappeared from view. Rowing around for a while they at last discovered fragments of the nets, and when they found some of the floats they proceeded to investigate.

Slowly they hauled in the lines to which the floats were fastened, and after tugging away for a while up came a long dark object in a tangle of netting. It was the carcass of a basking shark that came to view. There lay the big fish with the waves rippling against its dumb sides for a length of forty feet. Then the fishermen began the tedious task of recovering the remains of the nets in which the fish had entangled itself. With much difficulty they accomplished this. A rope was passed through the large fins and the fishermen towed their prize to the Monterey wharf. They made the trip of half a mile in just three hours and thirty-five minutes.

It will be remembered that a basking shark was caught between Santa Cruz and Monterey some months ago, and it is generally thought that this is its mate. This supposition is believed, as these fish go in pairs. For several years the British Museum has offered a reward of \$1,000 for the skin of a basking shark, as there is no perfect specimen of this fish in existence in the world, unless it is the one which Stanford University bought some months ago, but whether the curing of that specimen was a success is not known. The species is not rare, but they are seldom caught. Old fishermen state that this fish is the most harmless of any fish in existence of its size, and on account of its lazy, sluggish habits it has received the name of "basking shark." The fishermen also say that the shark is seen to lie for hours in one place basking in the sun and that it will not disappear at the approach of boats, but that it is a dangerous undertaking to attempt a capture of the fish with harpoons, as, unlike the whale, the basking shark does not rise to the surface for air after "sounding," but makes desperate resistance underneath the surface of the water, tugging away at the line that is fastened to the harpoon and endangering the lives of the men in the boats.

The size of the fish cannot yet be determined, as it is still in the water. The length of the one bought by Stanford University was twenty-six feet and it weighed in the neighborhood of 50,000 pounds, but this monster is estimated to weigh about 75,000 pounds and is in the neighborhood of forty feet in length.—[San Francisco Examiner.]

MOVED IN THE ICE AGE.

Huge Bowlders Carried All the Way From Canada to Kentucky.

Professor A. R. Wallace states in the Fortnightly Review that an immense area of the Northeastern States, extending South to New York and then westward in an irregular line to Cincinnati and St. Louis is almost wholly covered with a deposit of drift material, in which rocks of various sizes are imbedded, while other rocks, often of enormous size, lie upon the surface. These blocks have been carefully studied by the American geologists, and they present us with some very interesting facts. Not only are the distances from which they have been transported very great, but in very many cases they are found at greater elevation than the place from which they must have come. Professor G. F. Wright found an enormous accumulation of bowlders on a sandstone plateau in Monroe County, Pennsylvania. Many of these bowlders were granite, and must have come either from the Adirondack Mountains, 200 miles north, or from the Canadian Highlands, still further away. This accumulation of bowlders was seventy or eighty feet high, and it extended many miles, descending into a deep valley, 1,000 feet below the plateau in a nearly continuous line, forming part of the southern margin of the great American ice sheet.

On the Kentucky hills, about twelve miles south of Cincinnati, conglomerate bowlders containing pebbles of red jasper can be traced to a limited outcrop of the same rock in Canada to the north of Lake Huron, more than six hundred miles distant, and similar bowlders have been found at intervals over the whole intervening country. In both these cases the blocks must have passed over intervening valleys and hills, the latter as high or nearly as high as the source whence the rocks were derived. Even more remarkable are numerous bowlders of Helldenberg limestone on the summit of the Blue Ridge in Pennsylvania, which must have been brought from ledges at least five hundred feet lower than the places upon which they now lie. The Blue Ridge itself shows remarkable signs of glacial abrasion in a well-defined shoulder marking the southern limit of the ice (as indicated also by heaps of drift and erratic), so that Mr. Wright concludes that several hundred feet of the ridge have been worn away by the ice. The crowning example of boulder transportation is, however, afforded by the blocks of light gray gneiss discovered by Professor Hitchcock on the summit of Mount Washington, over 6,000 feet above sea level, and identified with Bethlehem gneiss, whose nearest crop is in Jefferson, several miles to the northwest, and 18,000 or 4,000 feet lower than Mount Washington.

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lacks in reasonableness that it is not surprising to see it take an odd and grotesque expression, as it frequently does. Here in the second picture is an example which shows plainly how desperate is the search for novelty. The dress is of a dark, dark brown cloth and the spiral trimming black fur. The deep basque is in full pleats and the bodice is lined with a surah puffing.

Now that so many fancy waists are required, it is as well to learn a few tricks of transformation. Be wise and have two or three waists made quite plain, about hips, throat, and shoulders. Let the sleeves be of gigot pattern, full at the top and close below the elbow. Employ only one material in the construction of these waists, then consider them as foundations merely, and plan a lot of accessories to use at your pleasure with the foundation waists, and you will drive your neighbor friends mad with the idea that you have several dozen fancy bodices. You will have a foundation waist of black, one of white, one of your pet color, and possibly one of flowered silk. A finish for the black will be thus arranged: arm straps of ribbon velvet to set over the shoulders are connected by a piece of velvet to cross the chest and one to cross the shoulder at the back. To the lower fullness of the front bodice can very fall a piece of black net that shall at the corners reach the waist line and slope to the waist line in front. Applique on the lower edge of the net a finish of cream guipure, and spray applique guipure flowers, circles or crescents all over it. Patterns cut out of cheap lace applique with excellent effect. To the shoulder straps fasten squares of net embellished in the same way and edged on three sides with the

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