

**MEN WHO LIVE ON STILTS.**

**Turpentine Gatherers and Sheep Herders of Parts of France.**  
The people live on sixteen foot stilts in the remarkable turpentine country of France. They wear these stilts after breakfast. They do not remove them again till it is time for bed.

There are two reasons for the wearing of stilts in the turpentine country. One is the turpentine gathering. The other is the herding of great flocks.

The turpentine comes from the maritime pine. The tree is tapped, a spigot is inserted, and from the spigot is hung a tiny bucket, into which the turpentine drips. The tapping process is like that used on the American sugar maple.

Young pine trees are tapped low, but with each year's passage the incision is made higher up, so that it is not long before most of the trees are tapped twenty or thirty feet from the ground.

Hence the huge stilts of the workmen. On these stilts they traverse the flat country, covering five or six yards with each stride, and quickly and easily collect the turpentine that overflows the little buckets hanging high up in the trees.

It is for herding also that the stilts are useful. The country is very flat, and the herdman, unless he continually climbed a tree, would be unable to keep all the members of his huge flock in sight. But, striding about on his stilts, he commands a wide prospect, he is always, as it were, upon a hill.

The stilt wearers carry a fifteen foot staff with a round, flat top like a dinner plate. When it is lunch time or when they are tired they plant upright under them the staff and sit down on its round, flat top. Then in comfort seated so dizzily high, they eat and rest and chatter—a strange sight to behold.

**171,000 Shocks.**

It has been very generally believed that earthquakes and volcanoes are in some way connected in their origin. And it is undoubtedly a fact that earthquakes usually precede or accompany volcanic eruptions. All the great regions of volcanic activity, again, are also centers of seismic disturbances. At the same time, there are great areas subject to earthquake shocks, as in India and many parts of Central Asia, which are far removed from volcanic centers. Those who argue for the interdependence of the two phenomena may, however, maintain that the forces which produce the earthquakes would, if more powerful, or if the earth's crust were thinner, result in active volcanoes. Comte F. de Montessus de Ballois maintains that earthquakes and volcanoes are independent of each other. This conclusion is the result of the comparison of a large number of records of earthquakes, the above work containing references to 171,424 distinct shocks. This is probably the largest number which has ever been collected on this subject.—London Globe.

**A Forest of Giants.**

It is almost impossible for one who has seen only the Eastern or Rocky Mountain forests to imagine the woods of the Pacific coast. Pictures of the big trees are as common as postage stamps, but the most wonderful thing about the big trees is that they are scarcely bigger than the rest of the forest.

The Pacific coast bears only a tenth of our woodland, but nearly half of our timber. An average acre in the Rocky Mountain forest yields one to two thousand board feet of timber, in the Southern forest three to four thousand, in the Northern forest four to six thousand.

An average acre on the Pacific coast yields fifteen to twenty thousand. Telescope the Southern and Rocky Mountain forests, toss the Northern on top of them, and stuff the central into the chinks, and, acre for acre, the Pacific forest will outweigh them all.—American Magazine.

**Remarkable Printing Press.**

The University Press at Oxford is the most remarkable printing establishment in the world, as well as the one of the oldest. It is what you might call self-contained, and if anything else pertaining to printing were blotted off the face of the earth to-morrow the University Press would go right ahead as if nothing had happened. It makes its own type and its own ink; burns its own charcoal for making the ink, makes its own paper, and so on. The workmen in the Press are as interesting as the establishment itself. In many instances one has succeeded father down the centuries in its employ, as naturally as if the son were his lordship and the father an earl, and the position an entailed estate.—London Tit-Bits.

**Training French Soldiers.**

French officials are considering a scheme for providing a standing army of long-service men, one feature of which is to be the compulsory enlistment of all French schoolboys in national rifle corps, so that from their earliest years they may be accustomed to habits of discipline and drill.

**Female Bodyguard to a King.**

The King of Siam has a bodyguard composed of 400 female warriors. At the age of thirteen they enter the royal service and remain in it until they are twenty-five, then marry the royal guards. Their wages are said to be \$10 a month.

**SHOW INDIANS PREPARE MEAT.**

**Reduced to a Powder One Pound of Which Equals Five of Solids.**

Most tribes of plains Indians dry their meat by cutting it into thin flakes and spreading it on racks and poles in the sun. Pemican is manufactured in the following manner.

The choicest cuts of meat are selected and cut into flakes and dried. Then all the marrow is collected and the best of the tallow, and both tallow and marrow are dissolved together over a slow fire. Many tribes use berries in their pemican. Mountaineers always do unless they have sugar.

The meat is now pulverized to the consistency of mince meat, the squaws generally doing this on a flat rock, using a pestle. A layer of meat is spread, about two inches thick, the squaws using a wooden dipper, a buffalo horn or a claw for this work. On this meat is spread a certain amount of the melted marrow and tallow, the proportion depending on the taste. This same process is repeated until the desired amount is secured. One pound of pemican is equal in nourishment to five pounds of fresh meat.

Another important article of food, the equal of which is not to be had except from the buffalo, is "depuyer," depouille. It is a fat substance that lies along the backbone next to the hide, running from the shoulder blade to the last rib, and about as thick as one's hand or finger. It will weigh from five to eleven pounds according to the size or condition of the animal. It will keep indefinitely, and is used as a substitute for bread, but is superior to any bread that was ever eaten.

When going on the warpath the Indians would take some dried meat and some "depuyer" to live on, and nothing else, not even if they were to be gone for months.

**Items of Interest.**

Two thousand uninhabited islands lie between Madagascar and the Indian coast.

In Japan fish have to be sold alive, and they are hawked through the streets in tanks.

Prince Louis Napoleon is a General in the Russian army. This is not a reminder of Moscow, 1812.

Lightning clouds are always near the ground. They are seldom at a greater height than 2,000 feet.

A gale blowing eighty miles an hour exerts a pressure of nearly thirty-two pounds to the square foot.

Admiral Winfield Scott Schley expects shortly to settle in Baltimore, and will make that city his permanent home.

February holds the record as the month in which most children are born; June as that in which there are fewest births.

The life of the horse is said to have been reduced by civilization. At the age of twenty-six the domestic animal is as old as if it had lived thirty years in a free state.

**Mixed Parisian Litigation.**

A necklace of Marie Antoinette is now the cause of litigation before the Paris courts in singular circumstances. In 1903 Don Jaime de Bourbon asked M. Froment-Maurice to find for him a buyer for a pearl necklace of great value which had belonged to Marie Antoinette, and as the agent intimated that time was necessary, the gems were placed with Mont-de-Piete for \$2,000.

Last year a person who had obtained knowledge of the transaction obtained release of the jewels by forging Don Jaime's name and repledged them with MM. Pollack and Rothschild, the bankers, for \$1,800. The forger got ten months imprisonment for his offense, and now the bankers are suing Don Jaime for their \$1,800, and Don Jaime is suing the bankers for all the expenses he has incurred in recovering the necklace.

**Russian Thrift.**

An amusing story is told by a young school teacher who became interested in a couple of bright Russian boys, who came to her school with the evidence of recent arrival thick upon them, and with the name of Murphy. She called at the home of the children, and learned from the father that his name was not Murphy, but that he had simply taken it. "I bought out the butcher's shop," he said, "and there was a sign over the door with the name Murphy on it. I take down the sign I have to put up another one and paint it. That costs money. So I leave it up and call my name Murphy, and I save money."

**Jumble of Tongues.**

There are towns in Hungary, and small towns too, where from seven to ten dialects are constantly being used. On the Gallician frontier there is a lovely valley the old town of Eperjes. The number of its inhabitants does not exceed 12,000. To this day the good people of Eperjes are in the habit of talking or being talked to in six different dialects. An ordinary household will include a Slovak man servant, a Hungarian coachman, a German cook and a Polish chambermaid. What is still more remarkable, each grade of society will tenaciously cling to its own language for centuries.

**Cabman's Superstitions.**

A cabman never likes to drive a red tie the first thing in the morning. It means he will have bad luck all day.

A white top hat brings luck; so does a man who hails a cab with his hand touching a lampost. An old gentleman with plaid trousers is as good as \$10 any day.

**50 YEARS OF FARM PROGRESS.**

**Miscellaneous Vegetables Unknown Half a Century Ago.**

The farm gardens, market gardens and truck gardens of to-day are the producers of a multitude of miscellaneous vegetables almost unknown fifty years ago, says Harper's Weekly. In the census of 1890 the large increase in garden products was recognized, and a systematic count of their bulk and value was made. It is possible, therefore, to make a ten-year comparison of the increase of such products, and this records the remarkable increase of from 190 per cent to 400 per cent. In the five several divisions of the country

Could our great-granddaddies, who thought tomatoes poisonous, and our great-grandmothers, who grew them as ornamental plants in window pots, under the attractive name of "love apples," come back and realize that over thirty million bushels of the pretty poisonous vegetables are eaten as a common and healthful food they would surely realize that time works wonderful changes. Another interesting statement is that the lettuce crop of the South has so increased that in the spring of this year North Carolina sent twenty carloads of that vegetable north in a single day.

Thirty-five years ago celery was a rarity, even on hotel tables, and was used by few families, even of wealth. To-day it is a common edible occupying thousands of acres in Michigan, Ohio and New York. One firm has celery farms in Michigan, Florida and California, and because of the variety of seasons it is engaged in shipping celery by the carload the whole year round.

**A Zakopane House.**

A Zakopane house is a very carefully finished wooden structure, built of light-fitting heavy logs of spruce, which become reddish brown with age, and are surrounded by a very steep, high shingle roof which gives a good protection against the heavy falls of snow and rain, and with its triangular gables of acute angles harmonizes well with the Tatra peaks and the tall spruce trees. The frame of the door is built of very heavy blocks of wood, surmounted by a semicircular arch, joined together by two anchor-shaped pieces, and held in place by rows of elaborately carved wooden pegs. The big rafters of the ceiling are embellished with carved ornaments of a very unique conception. The circular koloboyekie, the heart-shaped pazeznitas, and the svastika, with sharp points, are some of the main motives of this odd ornamentation with which the goorals in a very judicious way adorn their ash-wood furniture, wooden vessels, and instruments. It is wonderful how in the center of old Europe they have remained unaffected by the levelling force of modern civilization, and have developed a style absolutely unlike anything even the nearer parts of Poland or in neighboring Hungary. Century.

**The Mysteries of Sleep.**

It is related of a Chinese merchant who was convicted of wife murder and sentenced to die by being deprived of sleep, that he was placed in prison with guards changed hourly for the purpose of preventing him from sleeping. After the commencement of the eighth day his suffering was so intense that he implored the authorities to strangle, guillotine, burn him, drown him, garrote, shoot, quarter, blow up with gunpowder, or put him to death in any conceivable way.

Natural sleep has been defined as mental rest produced by an appetite resulting from fatigue. But the idea that mental rest means mental inaction is hardly tenable, inasmuch as it quite frequently happens that the solution of unsolved problems is the first thing to appear in the consciousness on awakening, and thus the mind must have been operative while asleep.—Harper's Weekly.

**Wit of King Edward's Family.**

Queen Maud has the reputation of being the wit of King Edward's family. On one occasion she was with her sisters at a public function and noticed a curious pressman gazing at their every movement. Accordingly, she wrote something on a piece of paper, and, making a pretence of handing it to one of her sisters, dropped it. The reporter, of course, in great glee picked it up, expecting to get a great scoop for his paper. Imagine his chagrin when he found written on it the commonplace remark: "My new boots pinch me horribly."

**Pig Leader in Serbia.**

In any Serbian village there is only one swineherd, and he leads all the pigs of the community. In the morning he goes through the streets blowing his horn, and the pigs come out of their own accord and fall in behind him and follow him to the pasture. At night he brings them home, and they disperse to their sties in the same orderly way as they pass the houses to which they belong. They require no attention and no singling out.—London Mail.

**Dangerous Feet.**

For a feat of dexterity and nerve it would be difficult to surpass that of the Bojesman of South Africa, who walks quietly up to a puff adder and deliberately sets his bare foot on its neck. In its struggles to escape and attempt to bite its assailant, the poison gland secretes a large amount of the venom. This is just what the Bojesman wants. Killing the snake, he eats the body and uses the poison for his arrows.—Exchange.

**Hypnotic Suggestion.**  
**By Troy Allison.**

There had been no such excitement in the village since the arrival of the new music teacher, Julie North. To believe that Dickie Armstrong could really hypnotize people seemed a large draft on one's credulity.

Dickie had lived in Wakely the 24 years of his existence, had gone through the grammar school, the most mischievous boy in it, had been off to college and come home to practice law, without any one suspecting he possessed mysterious powers.

Since the fact had become generally known, the postmaster referred to various letters and pamphlets that had been coming for the last three months, and gave it as his opinion that Dickie Armstrong had taken a course in hypnotism by mail.

In the meantime the four months in Wakely had been full of novel pleasure to Julie North. Coming from a busy northern city there was something fascinating in the lazy, happy lives of these southerners.

The music teacher in a small village attracting almost as much attention as the President in Washington she was invited to dinners, picnics and dances until she realized she was enjoying a belated life she had never before experienced.

Her landlady, one of the before-the-war aristocracy, treated her like a guest. The landlady's three bachelor brothers seemed to think their mission in life was to see that the new teacher should not have a chance to get lonely.

These four, following as near as possible the old-fashioned, luxurious style of the before-the-war planter, had rented their many inherited acres of cotton and rice lands and considered they had labored as much as was good for man when they made the rounds every fall to collect the rent.



The three brothers were known through the section as Mr. Jack, Mr. Courtney and Mr. Pat, and no one ever took the trouble to add their last name unless it were in conversation some one born outside the boundaries of South Carolina. Then the Darragh brothers were referred to by the same way one referred to the flora and fauna of the State—as facts generally known.

The usual crowd of young people had gathered at the Darragh place one night soon after the discovery of Dickie Armstrong's hypnotic powers.

Julie North looked her skepticism, but seconded the request. Dickie trumped up as many excuses as a pianist who has been invited to play.

"Really, I have never tried it on any one except the little negro boys I toiled into my office. I don't know, even whether it would take the same effect upon you palefaces," he begged as a reserve card.

"I have always heard that blondes made the best subjects," replied Julie. "I'm the only blonde in the room, and I offer myself a willing subject to the cause of science."

Dickie started the performance with a quaking heart. The blonde hair seemed to cling to his fingers carefully when he pressed them on her temples according to the rules and regulations prescribed by mail, and he found it harder to concentrate his thoughts than when he had tried the subjects at his office.

Susie Manning giggled, and Dickie gave her a reproachful glance.

"The charm positively refuses to work when there is any giggling going on," he growled.

Mr. Pat leaned forward and offered her a caramel from the box on the table.

"That will keep you occupied until the seance is over," he whispered. Dickie grew red with mortification when he had tried all the prescribed rules in vain.

Mr. Jack and Mr. Courtney were chuckling a good-natured badger, and Mr. Pat was unable to feed Susie Manning caramels fast enough to check her giggles.

Suddenly Dickie stood erect and beaming.

"Hus—sh! Be quiet! She's all

right now," he whispered, and they saw Julie's eyes were fixed and vacant.

She responded readily when he suggested she should sing a song. She went through the whole course of Examples for Suggestions that lingered in Dickie's memory.

The docility of his subject fired him with a desire to try new and original fields.

"Are you engaged to be married?" he demanded, fixing a stern eye upon her.

"No," came the prompt answer. "I, there any man you really care for," he continued, never taking his eyes from hers.

"Yes," she answered hesitatingly.

"What's his name?" demanded the merciless Dickie.

Eusie Manning cried out in protest.

"O, Dickie, don't—ah, don't! That's not playing fair, Dickie; that's not honorable. She would be so mortified if she knew," and the black eyes filled with sudden sympathetic tears.

But the harm was done. Before Dickie could repeat or recall the suggestion the answer came with startling distinctness, "Pat Darragh," she said distinctly.

When they looked around they found Mr. Pat had slipped from the room.

After the crowd had left Mr. Pat tapped softly on the shuttered door that opened from Julie's room to the veranda.

"Please come out a few minutes," he begged. "It's not late, and the moon is absolutely great."

She came out smiling the while.

He led the way to a rustic seat near by.

"I have been much worried lately, Miss Julie," the Southern manner of address sounded like a caress in his Southern voice. "For the first time in my life I've made a real and complete fool of myself about a woman. It hits hard when a man is so."

"I realize so fully that I am not in it when compared with the young set, but I couldn't help loving you. I don't see how any one could," he added in self-justification.

"Some few have been able to resist," she was heaping the white sand in piles with the toe of her slipper.

"He leaned forward, his elbows on his knees and his hand supporting a melancholy face. "I know I'm too old to attract a girl of 20 like Dickie Armstrong would, for instance."

"Susie Manning could probably give you some information as to Mr. Armstrong's powers of attraction," she rounded the heap of sand with the air of an experienced mound builder. "She told me to-night that she had just promised to marry him."

"I thought it was you." His tone showed relief that Dickie could be labeled "harmless," and surprise that an intelligent human being could be aware of the existence of the moon when the sun was in plain view.

"I didn't intend to tell you—I thought it would simply worry you to know that I had made a fool of myself, but I have changed my mind. I am going to Charleston for a few months and the neighbors might be able to get a great deal of amusement out of the fact that I left home because you refused to marry me."

The building of sand was destroyed by one quick stroke of her high-heeled slipper.

"It is absolutely necessary—that I refuse," she leaned forward and looked straight into his eyes.

"Why—Julie!" he said, and the lawn suddenly seemed a veritable garden of Eden.

Later, when she told him good-night, she turned suddenly and came back to him.

"Pat, I must tell you something." "You had always seemed so humble. I couldn't make you understand. So the hypnotism seemed a fine chance. I—I wasn't hypnotized to-night—I was shamming."

"You darling!" he exclaimed, seeing her in his arms.

**Tobacco as Disinfectant.**

The Lancet has been making some experiments to test the truth of the popular belief that tobacco smoke is a disinfectant. These experiments, says our contemporary, "seem to confirm the observation that one of the principal constituents accounting for the germicidal properties of tobacco smoke is the powerful antiseptic formaldehyde. The amount present is more than just appreciable, for if water through which a few puffs of tobacco smoke have been passed is tested for formaldehyde the result is strikingly positive. The quantity of formaldehyde in tobacco smoke would appear to depend on the quality and kind of tobacco smoked. Thus the cigar appears to yield more formaldehyde than the pipe, and the pipe more than the cigarette. It has more than once been stated that tobacco smokers enjoy an immunity from certain diseases, and the frequent presence of a powerful antiseptic in the mouth, nasal passages, and sometimes the lungs (as in the case of those who foolishly inhale tobacco smoke), would to some extent justify the statement. Formaldehyde is one of the most powerful disinfectants we possess, 1 part in 10,000 parts of water serving to destroy all microbes, while such a dilute solution has practically no poisonous action on the human organism. All the same, it is most undesirable that this fact should stimulate the practice of smoking tobacco to absurd excess, for tobacco poisoning is a greater reality than many persons think.—London Telegraph.

**NEW ISTHMIAN ROUTE.**

**Tehuantepec Railroad Makes a Difference of 1,200 Miles to Trade.**

Mexico is about to take a 1,200 mile kink out of the line of international commerce which has been using the Panama route, says the World's Work. By the end of the year the new railroad across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec is to be opened to interoceanic traffic on a large scale.

The railroad has been completed for some time and is in operation for local traffic. It is only awaiting the completion of its terminal ports to begin handling ocean freight. These ports, though they will not be fully completed in less than two or three years, will soon be sufficiently advanced to be used by vessels of any size.

The railroad, being 600 miles north of the Panama Railroad, is that distance nearer the natural line of the world's east and west commerce. It will bring New York and north Atlantic ports 1,200 miles, and New Orleans and Gulf ports 1,400 miles nearer to San Francisco, Japan and China.

The sailing time from New York to Coatzacoalcas, the Atlantic terminal port, will be six or seven days, two days less than to Colon, the Atlantic port of the Panama Railroad. Cargo from a vessel landing at Coatzacoalcas say of 10,000 tons, can be aboard another vessel in the harbor of Salina Cruz in four or five days.

In an emergency the transshipment could be accomplished in thirty-six hours. The same freight could not be transferred across the Isthmus of Panama in less than three weeks, possibly longer. At Salina Cruz, the Pacific port, the vessel is two days nearer San Francisco than it would be at Panama. This serves to illustrate what the new route means in saving time.

**A British Army Sanson.**

I am sometimes asked to sympathize with a soldier who has been subjected to a compulsory process of hair-cutting on principles indistinguishable from those followed in H. M. prisons, says London Truth. My sympathies are always aroused by these sad tales, and I wonder that commanding officers, or any one else in authority, should desire their soldiers to look as if they had just come out of jail. In the last complaint to hand the man relates that the day after he had his hair cut in the town the sergeant major objected to the artist's handiwork, and had poor Tommy marched to the regimental barber, who operated so zealous that the victim was an object of opprobrious remarks for many days subsequently, and was ashamed to take off his hat in public. It may possibly be desirable that some limitation should be placed on a soldier's taste and fancy in wearing his hair, but there can be no good reason why discipline should be carried to these lengths.

**Prosecuted For Sneezing.**

Great public interest is being manifested in the case of a man who has been prosecuted for sneezing in a public street. The hero of the incident is one Johann Furtmann, a resident of Muhlhausen, a small town in Prussian Saxony. Furtmann, who is highly respected by his fellow-citizens, sneezed somewhat loudly in the main street at Muhlhausen. A policeman arrested him on a charge of creating a disturbance. The local police authorities prosecuted Furtmann on a charge of gross misdemeanor and rendered himself a public nuisance. After a lengthy trial Furtmann was acquitted. The police authorities appealed against the decision, and a new trial is necessary. Furtmann announces that he will call medical evidence to prove that a polypus in his nose prevented him sneezing less loudly than was the case when the arrest occurred.

**Appendicitis as a Cause.**

Dr. Doyen gives his testimony as to the extent to which wrong diagnosis leads to useless operations for appendicitis. In his own experience operations of the kind have been carried out on patients in the early stages of typhoid fever. One child was brought to him for operation, on the faith of a family doctor's diagnosis, and he satisfied himself by examination that the symptoms pointed to nothing worse than worms. So infatuated were the parents, however, that they removed the child and had the operation performed elsewhere.

**Deadly Banana Bug.**

A banana bug of the kind which sometimes poisons banana eaters with a venom more deadly than that of the rattlesnake was found in a bunch of bananas in a South Water Street commission house the other day. The bug is about 2 1/2 inches long, with a pair of stiff, overlapping wings, each about an inch wide. When it clings to an overripe banana one cannot tell where the banana skin ends and the bug back begins, on account of the mottled brown color of these veins. Thrown on his back, the bug reveals three pairs of legs and one pair of long feelers.—Chicago Record.

**Where the Saddle Came From.**

The early Greeks and Romans rode horses bareback. They regarded it as unmanly to ride in a saddle. In fact, the modern saddle with pommel, crupper, and stirrups was unknown to the ancients. Nero gave out fancy coverings to his cavalry, and the bareback riders of the German forests used to laugh at them. Saddles with trees came into use in the fourth century; stirrups three centuries later.