

## TIPPING NUISANCE ABROAD

Suggestions to Those Who Would End It Here.

### AN ANNOYING CUSTOM

Fees in Europe No longer Voluntary, but Compulsory—Extortion by Servants to Eke out Their Insufficient Wages—Attention Goes to Highest Bidder.

A favorite assertion of those who benefit in one way or another from the tipping nuisance is that "if tips were only regulated by custom here as they are abroad" everything would be lovely. Yet it is the testimony of travellers that tipping is even more of a nuisance abroad than here, says the New York Times.

The regulations of tips means practically that giving is no longer voluntary, but compulsory. One must constantly fee the attendants to secure even ordinary attention. In their efforts to extort gratuities from travellers European servants even go so far as to mark baggage as a signal for other attendants to neglect and inconvenience the tourist who will not pay. Here are some of the experiences of an American who has travelled much:

"While traveling in Russia I purchased a first class sleeper ticket, which of course entitled me to bed clothing, but before I could secure it I was informed by the porter that his wages were very small and he would expect extra payment from me. He even named the amount, and I paid it because there was no other way out of it.

"What would the American traveler think if he met with such treatment on a Pullman car? Yet it is not at all impossible for things to come to such a pass in this country. As it is now, a quarter tip to a porter, or even one of half a dollar, does not signify that he will carry your bag, out for you when you reach your destination, because there may be some one else on the car who will hand him a dollar.

"His attention goes to the highest bidder. That is all there is to it. We have already passed the point where we may expect equal treatment in a matter which is plainly a public utility.

"While stopping in the best hotel in St. Petersburg, where the heating arrangement consisted of individual stoves in the rooms, I soon found that I need expect no fire to be built in the morning unless I regularly produced some silver for the porter. I was paying a very high rate for accommodation, but it was absolutely necessary to pay each of the attendants or get practically no service at all.

"On the same floor with me there was a gentleman from New York who had come to Russia to negotiate a big loan of some kind for an American banking house. He had a good many callers and received quite a number of telegrams. Not knowing that it was necessary to pay for each small service he received, there was soon no response to his bell.

"Then he was told that if he wanted his telegrams to reach him promptly he had better remember that working people in Russia were very poor and usually large families to provide for. The hint was so broad that it was really in the nature of a command, and he obeyed it.

"While there are undoubtedly few managers of American hotels who would countenance such a high handed proceeding as this, it is nevertheless true that we are drifting in that direction. Any one who lives in our big hotels for any length of time without tipping the servants will certainly find himself more or less neglected.

"When you take a compartment on a train in India the attendant merely writes your name on a card hanging by the door. Until I learned to get there first and take no chances by leaving my place, I have had more than one late comer bribe the conductor to substitute his card for mine.

"Once, when I was sick in Hong-kong, China, a number of chair-bearers were employed to carry me to a steamer waiting in the harbor. Just as the start was about to be made a heavy shower came up.

"The coolies had been engaged to carry me at their own price, but knowing my condition and my anxiety to reach the steamer they took advantage of the situation to extort more money from me. They planked me down in the rain and began to barter with the porter from the hotel who had hired them.

"As the whistle of the steamer blew the last call in the harbor below I was regaled with the liveliest kind of fist fight over the question of the violated contract.

"It is a pity to think that the capable, self-respecting, prosperous American who works for his living in one form or another may eventually fall to such a plane, but there can be no doubt that those of our workers who consent to take chance tips for their pay instead of a regular salary will ultimately lose in both compensation and self-respect. In the long run neither the people who give tips nor those who receive them benefit by the practice, because employers step in and reduce the pay of their employees, thus making themselves the actual beneficiaries of the public's generosity."

## GREATEST OF HOTEL TOWNS

Tens of Thousands of New Yorkers Give Up Home Life.

A recent edition of the Social Register contains a list of 9,000 families living in hotels in New York city. This, of course, does not include all the offices of this great old town who have given up home life of the kind their parents knew.

An expert who has studied the hotel business of two hemispheres says that New York cares for three times as many persons in hotels as does London, six times as many as does Paris, and ten times as many as does any other city that can be named.

There are 136 large first class hotels in Manhattan alone, more than 300 including the smaller ones, and at the rate of construction at present, the calculation has been made that within twenty years there will be on Manhattan Island alone 386 hotels of 400 rooms each or of greater size.

With a floating population each day ranging from 75,000 to 185,000 for the various seasons of the year, there is little wonder, says Success, that New York has become the city of the earth most conspicuous for its hotels.

It is said that at one of the well known Fifth avenue hostilities at least \$10,000 daily must be received before there is a cent of profit. At least four of the fashionable hotels are said to have wines in their cellars to the value of \$1,500,000. The annual bill for cut flowers used by these places runs from \$30,000 to \$60,000.

One house says that its yearly budget bill is \$57,000, more than the salary of the President of the United States. As this is not one of the largest hotels there may be better bills in town that are bigger even than the salary of an insurance president.

### Saluting a Cat.

In Poona, at the government house, for more than a quarter of a century, every cat which passed out of the front door at dark was saluted by the sentry, who presented arms to the terrified pussy. It seems that in 1833 Sir Robert Grant, Governor of Bombay, died in the government house, Poona, and on the evening of the day of his death a cat was seen to leave the house by the front door, and to walk up and down a particular path precisely as the late Governor had been used to do after sunset. A Hindu sentry observed and reported this to the sepoy of his faith, and they laid the matter before a priest, who explained to them the mystery of the dogma of the transmigration of souls. "In this cat," he said, "was reincarnated the soul of the deceased Governor Grant, and it should, therefore, be treated with the military honors due to his excellency."

As, however, the original sentry could not identify the particular cat he had seen on the evening of the day of Sir Robert's death, it was decided that every cat which passed out of the main entrance after dark should be saluted as the avatar of his excellency. Thus for over a quarter of a century every cat that passed out after sunset had military honors paid to it, not only by Hindoo sentries, but—such is the infection of the superstition—by Mohammedans, native Christians and even Hebrew soldiers.

### We Eat Too Much.

Medical science declares that practically seven-eighths of our ills are due to overeating. Colds in the head are often due to eating too much, says the Philadelphia Inquirer.

It may be claimed that our own well-spread boards are meagre compared to those of our ancestors. Probably, but our ancestors were hardy and able to throw off the effects of a hearty meal. We do not take into consideration the great difference between their life and ours. As it is, we eat altogether too much food for our health and comfort, and the fashionable remedy for most ailments is semi-starvation for a period of varying length.

The great Edison says that he has not only become convinced that mortals sleep too much, but that they eat many times more than they should. He is proving his beliefs by personal experiments, and says that his power to work and endure fatigue has increased to an amazing degree.

### What a Dream Told.

It was a habit of the Rev. James Spurgeon, grandfather of the great preacher of that name, to pray each evening under a certain oak tree in a secluded wood in Honeywood Park. One night he dreamed, the story goes, that Satan appeared and threatened to tear him to pieces if he followed his accustomed route to the tree. There was another path by which he might go in safety. Remembering his dream Spurgeon felt sorely tempted the next night to take the route in which Satan was not. But this would be to capitulate. Trembling in every limb he made his way by the path in which the danger lay. He reached his goal in safety and in prayer and song returned thanks for delivery from peril. When his prayer had ended he rose to return. In his path lay a piece of solid gold "as large as a curtain ring."

All inquiry failing to discover an owner he retained it, and when he married had his wife's wedding ring made from his curious find.

## HAUNTS OF OUR REPTILES

Many Varieties Found in This Country.

### ALL NOT DANGEROUS

The Diamond-Back Rattler in Point of Venomousness is Second to None of the Poisonous Snakes of the World—Habit of the Deadly Water Moccasin.

Quite a number of varieties of sea turtles are to be found in American waters. They incline to the warmer latitudes but are sometimes driven as far north as Connecticut and Massachusetts. The cold readily benumbs them, and the severe hurricanes of the autumn and early winter often cast them upon the beaches along our northern Atlantic coasts. Of our sea turtles the best known and most highly prized is the green turtle. Individual specimens of which sometimes attain a weight of 500 pounds.

Next comes the snapping turtle. This is a fresh water turtle. Its members are brawny fighters. They are possessed of jaw of great power. They live on fish and water-fowl. One of the snapping turtle's chief peculiarities is that it can feed only under water. Unless its head is completely submerged it seems unable to swallow.

Another distinguished member of the turtle family is the diamond-backed terrapin, whose home is in the salt marshes of the Atlantic Coast and the Gulf of Mexico. It cannot live in water that is entirely fresh, although it is found sometimes in the brackish tides.

The upper-shell of the diamond-backed terrapin is grayish or olive in color, and it reaches a maximum length of about ten inches. Diamond-backed terrapin are growing scarcer every year.

The alligator alone among reptiles has the habit of bellowing. The noise it makes resembles somewhat the plaintive moaning of a cow when milking time draws near. The sound will carry for a mile or more.

The crocodile is a much more vicious animal than the alligator, and more agile. It was not known that it was indigenous to North America until 1875, when a pair of crocodiles were discovered in Biscayne Bay, in Florida. Except in Florida, the species does not exist north of Mexico.

There are more different varieties of lizards in North America than any other reptile. The only poisonous lizard found in the United States is the Gila monster. It takes its name from the Gila River, in the vicinity of which it abounds.

The Gila monster total length is usually nineteen inches. Its body is streaked, in a sort of marble fashion, with black and some pale color, usually salmon pink or light yellow. It has heavy jaws and long fangs, and where once it imbeds its teeth in a foe, it has the tenacious grip of a bulldog.

The two most deadly classes of snakes are the elapine and viperine families. To the elapine family, but few of whose branches are to be found in this country, belong the dreaded hooded cobra, the Australian tiger snake, and the death adder. The viperine family comprises among its offspring the copperhead, the moccasin, the fer-de-lance and the rattlesnake.

The American elapine serpents are the coral snakes. In their anatomy they show their kinship to the cobras, but they belong to a degenerate offshoot of the elapine lineage. The North American coral snakes are to be found from North Carolina to Southern Mexico. Around their bodies they have broad rings of red and black and narrower rings of yellow. Their heads from their slender shape, look harmless, but the sub-family to which the coral snakes belong is one of the deadliest of the serpent tribes. They can move with a rapidity that is lightning like. The fangs are small, but after the coral snakes have succeeded in affixing them in the flesh of their prey they bite and bite again, until their fangs have made a number of incisions.

Of the viperine family the most common in America are the water moccasin or "cotton mouth" snake, the highland moccasin or copperhead snake, and the rattlesnake.

The moccasin is an extremely venomous reptile. The water moccasin is met with in the Atlantic Coast region as far north as North Carolina. In a wild state these water moccasins are inclined to be pugnacious, but after a few months in captivity they become docile and lazy. They derive their nickname of "cotton mouth" from the habit they have of opening their jaws wide when startled, and showing their mouths' white interior. It is impossible, as popularly asserted, to tell the age of a rattlesnake by the number of its rattles. A rattlesnake does not acquire a new ring in its rattle every year, and after a rattle attains a length of ten or eleven rings any subsequent additional segments soon break off.—New York Sun.

### Oysters in Sponges.

Live sponges furnish homes for oysters, mussels, crabs and other small animals, which often live in the sponges their entire lifetime. Sometimes the creatures grow too large to get out, remaining until they die.

## INDIAN LAWS AND CUSTOMS

Compulsory Educational System Among Choctaws and Chickasaws.

The Choctaws and Chickasaws belong to the same family of Indians and their governments in a large measure are run jointly, although they have separate legislatures, or councils, and separate chiefs. Every member of the Choctaw tribe, man, woman and child, is worth in his own right in the neighborhood of \$15,000. This doesn't consist of property given to him, writes a Washington correspondent of the Kansas City Journal, it is property for which he has just as valid a title as that held by any white man in his farm. It came to him by descent.

The only poor people in these two nations are the white men. There are no Indian almshouses. Of course the Indians take good care of their sick and afflicted, but they do not have to provide a poor farm to keep indigent Indians. Their only charges, aside from the afflicted, who pay their way, are the indigent whites. The Indians are very kind to them, they give them employment or look after them if they are unable to work and are in want.

It was the pride of those two tribes that they didn't have a member of school age unable to read and write and figure. They would pick out twenty-four of their brightest young men and women each year and send them to Eastern universities. After finishing their education these young men and women would go back to their tribes and help uplift the rest. Their entire expenses while in the big colleges of the East were borne by the tribal governments.

These two nations also had a compulsory school law that has no equal. Every able-bodied child over six years of age had to go to school. There was no way to evade the law. If a parent needed the child to help with the work the nation hired a poor white man to do the work so that the child could stay in school and would pay him out of the tribal treasury. No State in the Union ever developed its compulsory school laws to that high state of perfection, nor has one ever sent its sons and daughters off to college at public expense.

The Chickasaws and Choctaws used to own slaves. They were Southern Indians. Indians and for many generations lived in the slave belt. But they were among the first to free their slaves, and after doing that they did something that no white slave owner ever dreamed of doing. To each slave and his wife and child these Indians gave forty acres of land and then put them on their feet so that they could sustain themselves. These freedmen still own their land, and many of them have been able to accumulate enough to educate their children in some of the leading negro colleges of the country.

The Chickasaws and Choctaws, while they accord their freedmen most generous treatment, never mingle with them in a social way. They draw the color line as rigidly as do the Southern whites. Walk into a courtroom and you will see the Indians occupying seats on one side, of the aisle and the negroes on the other. The Indians have very rigid laws against intermarrying with negroes. It is absolutely prohibited under a severe penalty of one hundred and fifty lashes on the back. That number of lashes is almost equivalent to the death penalty.

When it comes to politics the Indians are apt. The campaigns are always hot and furious. There is more excitement among them over the election of a chief than there is among the white people over the election of a President of the United States. That is saying considerable when it is taken into consideration that ordinarily the Indian doesn't enthuse very easily. When Chief Johnson of the Chickasaws was a candidate for re-election his telephone bill alone amounted to nearly \$1,000. On the last day of the campaign rival Indians cut the wires leading to the chief's house, and he had to hire couriers to carry instructions on election day.

The Indians are great on telephones. The territory is a regular network of long distance wires. Most of the Chickasaws and Choctaws have phone services right in their houses, although they may be twenty miles from a town. Chief Johnson himself lives more than ten miles from Pishomingo, the capital of the Chickasaw nation, yet he keeps in constant touch with tribal matters by using his phone. His home is built on the cottage style and would do credit to any of the big cities of the East. It is surrounded by big native forest trees and the yard is a regular flower garden. While Chief Johnson's surroundings at home are above the average of the Chickasaws, yet as a rule they are all well housed and well fed.

"A Sociologist" writes in the Chicago Tribune: "I once lived in good health for several weeks on an expenditure of three cents a day." The gentleman neglected, however, to state who paid his board bill.

George B. Shaw declares that he is a vegetarian because he does not wish to eat his fellow creatures. It is satisfaction enough for him when he skins them in his criticisms.

It is heard that a young man has made a million by converting cottonseed oil, but nothing is said of the thousands who have collectively lost more on the other side of the game.

## THE SLAUGHTER OF BIRDS

Their Feathers Cost Forty Five Dollars An Ounce.

### CANNOT BE IMITATED

White Algeas in Their Country Are Now Protected and Hunted for Their Feathers. The Hunt for the White Algeas in the Southern States.

Six times a year a sale of plumage birds is held in London. Look down the long tables over which stand the commodities in color and the quality of feathers. There are gorgeous tall feathers from Australian live birds, and humming birds from Venezuela, thick set, like wings from up the Nile, parrots and lambeaus from the Amazon, with macaws and pheasants from India. They are purple, yellow, and green, and from North Africa, white, swallows, long-necked, toment, toment, toment, too, and more and more, with crested orange and scarlet cock of the rock. Lastly, there are the glorious bird of paradise from New Guinea, with sweeping plumes of silk and gold, and every variety of silver and heron.

Scarcely the world has been spoiled of its feathered beauty for women's hats. And each bird differs in beauty from the other, as one differs from another in the glory of its plumage.

Item, \$100 of an egret, the milliner's pride, you read in the catalogue. India, China, Japan, Australia, Africa and both Americas, all have been diligently hunted for it. It is fine and preposterous, slimy and delicate as a woman's hair. Each beautiful bird yields but one feather of an ounce of egret, and 350,000 birds were sacrificed for the Paris market alone last season.

The much sought after egret feathers of the lower heron, which cannot be imitated artificially, are much more plentiful. A few women's hats are made of them, but the egret feathers are not so much sought after. A few women's hats are made of them, but the egret feathers are not so much sought after. A few women's hats are made of them, but the egret feathers are not so much sought after.

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