

### FIRST OF THE SWIFTS.

The Refrigerator Car the invention of a Cape Cod Yankee.

Gustavus Franklin Swift, was a Cape Cod Yankee who bought a steamer now and then and peddled the meat from the bank of a certain coast which has since become famous.

He moved to Albany and went deeper into meats, discarding one after another partners who had not the foresight and daring which he possessed. He located in Chicago at the beginning of those days of great possibilities in bringing into touch the new West and the older East.

It was he who invented the first refrigerator car. This was a one-revolutionary act which put his sons and a few other sons in very fair control of the meat of America.

### The Way of the Lion.

The Masai, who still spear many lions, and in the old days killed many more than they do now, told me positively that when their warriors were charged by a lion they always stood stock still. To move meant death, to stand quite immovable meant that, before closing, the lion, if unwounded, would stand, too. Then came the spearman's one chance. The stories you hear of lions charging when unwounded, and from a distance, are generally like the same sort of story told about rhinos or elephants—Rev. Dr. W. S. Rainsford in World's Work.

### A Miniature Watch.

A wealthy resident of Moscow owns the smallest watch in the world, which once belonged to the last Empress of Brazil. It was made in Geneva by the famous watchmaker, W. Gogelin, and cost over 5,000 guineas. It has a diameter of one-fifth part of an inch, and is set in an artistically worked finger ring which is studded with diamonds. If the watch is taken out of its ring, case it can be set in the mouth of a cigarette holder. Gogelin is said to have worked three years on it and permanently weakened his eyesight in the task. Tit-Bits.

### The Land of the Poisoned Dart.

The Rev. W. S. Rainsford, D. D., presents a vivid picture of the wild customs among the tribes of the East African hinterland, in Harper's Weekly. Many of these are wholly unchristianized and they live in a state of chronic warfare among certain peoples a warrior who has committed homicide must cleanse himself by killing three women of another tribe, until which feat has been accomplished he is debarred from partaking of the rites of his tribe.

### Popular Science.

The "fixed" stars are changing their positions at an appreciable rate, according to astronomers, who say that even the most familiar constellations have changed their forms since the time of the ancients who named them.

The touch of the right hand is generally more sensitive than the left.

A peculiar poison, the use of which is attributable to English grapes, kills domestic animals, but does not render their flesh unsafe to eat.

### Author in Italy.

Maud Howard Elliott, author of "Run and Shadow in Spain," and daughter of Julia Ward Howe, is spending the winter in Rome and has been made a member of the American relief committee for the help of earthquake sufferers in Italy. She will write about it later. Her husband, a member of the same committee, has taken some very fine photographs of the scenes of the earthquake.

### Sea Increased Armaments.

Augustine Birrell, chief secretary for Ireland, is quoted from Bristol, England, as expressing the belief that President Taft in his inaugural address, pronounced the doom of the hope for the disarmament of nations. There is a universal feeling abroad in which the United States now joins, Mr. Birrell said, for increased armaments.

### At the Court of Madrid.

Miss Marjorie Ide will have charge of her father's house, now that he has been appointed minister at Madrid. She will not be accorded the honors of a minister's wife, but she will have a very dignified position at the head of her father's house. She was also in the Philippines with her father, as was her sister who became Mrs. Bourke Cockran soon after.

### The Proper Question.

The man with the glassy eyes and preternaturally solemn demeanor put down a sovereign at the booking office at Charing Cross, and demanded "a ticket." "What station?" snapped the booking clerk. The would-be traveller steeled himself. "What stations have you?" he asked with quiet dignity.—London Globe.

### For the Spelling Bee.

"I prophesy an agreeable ecstasy in perceiving the unparalleled embarrassment of a harassed position while gauging the symmetry of a potato peeled by a sibyl."

Dictate this sentence and find how many of your friends will be able to spell it aright!—Gentlewoman.

### Girls of Other Days.

When mother felt morbid and downcast and punk, away to the garret she'd steal, and snuggle down close by an old leather trunk and read a few yards of "Lucille."—Pittsburg Post.

### Shut Up!

A pretty woman can find friends with her eyes shut, and hold them by keeping her mouth shut.—Galveston News.

## INDIAN MOTHER'S SACRIFICE

Cut Flesh from Her Body for Bait in Order to Feed Her Starving Children.

Port Arthur, Ont.—William McKirdy, who has returned from an exploring expedition in the wilds of the Hudson Bay region, confirms a thrilling story of an Indian woman's devotion to her children, which filtered down from the northland a few days ago.

The woman and her children were starving, having eaten their last scrap of food several days before the mother determined upon her almost unparalleled sacrifice. The snares remained empty and all the traps set for wild game were unprung. Not a living creature could be seen, although the woman, spurred by the cries of her children for food, hunted until her strength was spent.

In this pitiable emergency, and made desperate by the sufferings of her little brood, she seized a knife and cut strips of flesh from her body which she used to bait hooks to lure fish from their haunts in a nearby lake. In this manner she managed to sustain the lives of her family until help arrived and the famished babes were fed.

## HAL, A MULE, KILLS HIMSELF.

Plato Case of Suicide, Say Police and Stable Watchman.

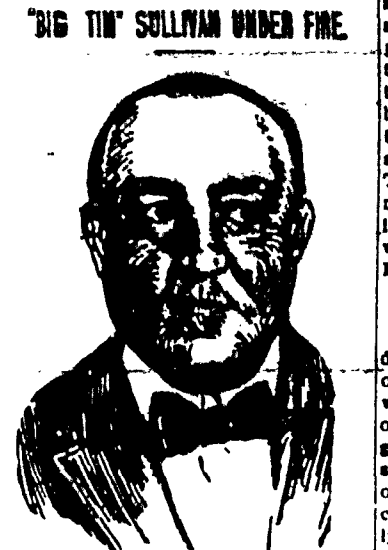
New York City.—Hal, a mule, killed himself by jumping from a window of the stable at No. 245 West Nineteenth street into the basement of the tenement house at No. 333 West Twentieth street. His neck was broken. The police say he committed suicide on account of grief for a team mate.

Mrs. Kate Hyland, who owns the stable, also was the owner of Hal. The mule was used for trucking purposes, and until six months ago was hitched alongside Daisy. After Daisy died, Hal never went to sleep, according to James Wilson, the night watchman, who says the mule moaned continually, night after night. Wilson went out to get breakfast. Hardly had he left the stable than Hal started to kick at a brick partition, and finally he made a space large enough to get his body through. Then he went to a large window at the rear of the stable, and jumped. The distance was only ten feet, but he died almost instantly.

"It was suicide pure and simple," the lieutenant at the desk of the police station said.

## "BIG TIM" SULLIVAN UNDER FIRE.

He has sailed for a long vacation in Europe without replying to the charges in McClure's magazine that he is the leader of a band of crooks and criminals who control New York City's affairs.



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## MULE WITH REPUTATION.

Has Killed One Man, and Even Tried for Birds in Trees.

Owensville, Ind.—To the great relief of the drivers of a big lumber firm here, a mule known as Maude, an inveterate kicker, has been placed on the idle list until she can either be sold or given to any person who will take her as a gift. Maude firmly established her reputation as a kicker about a year ago at Evansville when she kicked James Stinns, killing him instantly. Clarence Witherow, of this city, received a broken arm when he got too close to Maude's heels.

John Wiseman was the next victim. He tried to get on the gentle side of Maude and received a broken rib.

Maude has been known to kick at birds singing in the trees, and her disposition to kick without due notice has placed her on the retired list. Every mule works in this neighborhood but Maude.

Lady Anglesy's Emeralds. Lady Anglesy is one of the fortunate possessors of valuable emeralds, owning tiara, necklace, bracelets, and earrings of the lovely green gems. And they become their owner's beauty to perfection, for Lady Anglesy is extremely fair, with red-gold hair and blue eyes.

A Map 1,500 Years Old. A map of Jerusalem in Mosaic has been found in Palestine and is said to be over 1,500 years old.

Country Life. Margaret, who lives in the city, went to the country to visit some cousins. At breakfast the first morning, to show her cousins that she was familiar with country life, carelessly remarked, "Ah, I see you keep a bee."

Keeping the Hands Soft. One way to keep the hands soft and clear is to let mother do the work.

## ONE IN TWENTY A PAUPER.

Old Age Pension Law Tells Appalling Story of British Poverty.

London.—The first three weeks of the Old Age Pension law, which became operative on January 1, developed the appalling fact that one person in every twenty in England and Wales is a pauper. In London the ratio is one in fourteen, and the figures gathered tell such a story of national poverty that the Government is believed to be in danger. The Liberals are fast becoming unpopular for their forcing of the act upon the country, as it is already manifest the pensions will greatly increase the tax rate.

More than 500,000 persons have been found eligible for old-age pensions, and it is expected this total within the next few months will reach 600,000. Figures compiled within the last few weeks and given to the public to-day give a population to England and Wales of 34,245,680. The number of paupers is 1,709,436, while 3,209,436 receive Government aid, either as paupers or old-age pensioners. While one person in twenty is listed as a pauper, with paupers and old-age pensioners combined, the figures stand at one to sixteen. One person in fourteen in London is a pauper exclusive of the pensioners.

The Old Age Pension law has many restrictions, so that it does not reveal the full extent of the national misery. A full pension of \$1.20 goes only to those over 70 years of age, and who have never accepted charity and who never have been in prison. There are about a dozen minor disabilities, yet despite all restrictions 500,000 persons are registered for full or partial pensions.

The Socialists are making capital out of the condition, and the Laborites also are turning it to their political advantage. Many newspapers also are using the situation, as an argument in favor of a high protective tariff. The old-age pensions have become the ruling problem of politics, and the Conservatives are confident the revelations of the last few weeks will lead to their early return to power.

## "JUST A LOT OF WATER."

Boy Would Not Advise Taking Trouble to See Niagara.

You think that perhaps so, much talking about Niagara has kind of dulled the edge of your appreciation of it. I don't believe it. The first man that saw it probably said: "What's to hinder?" and didn't stare at it very long. Nothing to eat there, and it looked spooky, and anyhow standing where it was so damp would probably give him rheumatism. It tells in the guide-book how a man in the early days went to see the place, but it was a very cold night, and the tavern was comfortable, so he sent a boy to see if it was worth while. The boy came back and said it wasn't much; just a lot of water falling, and it was colder than all get-out, and he wouldn't advise it.—Eugene Wood, in McClure's Magazine.

## Cruel Woman!

The tramp narrated to fellow wanderer the story of an intensely tragic occurrence. "Yes," he said, "there was a beautiful lawn in front of the house, nicely kept, and it looked a real good chance for getting a bit of honest sympathy. So I walks in, gets down on me 'ands and knees, and starts chewin' the grass. Out comes a kindly-looking lady as I ever seed, and wanted to know wot I was doin'. Told her I 'adn't 'ad grub fer weeks, and was obliged to eat grass. She looked very sympathetically at me, and then said: 'My pore man. Come around behind the house. The grass is longer there!'"

## An Impossible Combination.

They were talking of the strange sights to be seen in a great city, and one man paid his tribute to New York. "I don't believe one of you could think of any combination of circumstances that hasn't at some time occurred on the streets there," he said. "I reckon I know of one that's never occurred there," said Hiram Fowle. "What's that?" asked the other, curiously. "I guess," said Hiram, slowly, "that you've never seen, nor ever will see, a brass band going in one direction and the heft of the folks going the other."

## The Mind's Power.

"Zola," said a psychologist, "once wrote in a lady's album that his favorite amusement was writing and his favorite wish a sudden death. Zola died suddenly. "And it is a strange thing," said the psychologist, "that those who prefer a sudden death usually have their preference gratified. It is one of those things which go to show the mind's mysterious power. Who knows but it is this very desire for death, quick, painless, undreaded, which actually causes that happy kind of death? The mind, you know, has a power that we have only just begun to understand."

## A 300 Pound Sunfish.

San Francisco, Cal.—Fishermen in the employ of the Western Fish Company made a remarkable catch fifteen miles outside the Heads. While fishing from the Farragut they felt a hard tug on one of the lines and a few minutes later hauled on deck a giant sunfish.

The fish weighed 300 pounds and measured five feet in length. As might be expected, he put up a hard fight. Sunfish are rarely captured off the coast, as they are natives of Japan. The big fish attracted a world of attention along the waterfront, where a crowd of on-lookers gathered.

## MONEY IN CUTTING OFF HEADS.

Bloody Gulotine Job Has Paid the Diablers Richly.

Anatole Diebler, the executioner, or "Monteur de Paris," of French romance, has expressed himself strongly in favor of capital punishment—not on account of the sums received from the Government for his work—he is rich in the sea of the former executioners, who died a few years ago, and whose father was in the same business before him, the bloody job being handed down in the Diebler family from generation to generation.

He has owned two guillotines, both built in the year of 1871, one of the previous machines being burned by the Communists. Each of these guillotines cost \$400. The knife, which weighs about fifteen pounds, is worth \$10. The total weight when it falls with its cast-iron back is ninety pounds, and it drops from a height of eight and a half feet. Anatole seemingly looks upon the business as a mere "surgical operation." He has, however, a deep sense of his usefulness to society.

Out of the hundred and twelve criminals whom Anatole Diebler has executed only one had reached his fortieth year. All the others were from eighteen to twenty-six years of age. And he asks: "How many more crimes would they have committed had I not put them out of the world?" Diebler is a mild little man, with light blue eyes. He has been in the execution business for more than twenty years, having acted as an assistant to his father. His salary is \$1,200 per annum, plus \$1,600 for expenses.

## Calling the Deaf.

"To wake a deaf person who wishes to be called at a certain time in the morning is about the hardest proposition a hotel clerk runs up against," said a member of that fraternity. "To ring the telephone is useless, because the man can't hear. Knocking, for the same reason, is futile. Now and then a guest who has lost his hearing suggests that he leave his door open so we can walk right in and shake him, but even if he does appear to be dead game there are so many chances of somebody less guileless than ourselves walking in ahead of us that we can't consent to that simple expedient.

"It seems to me the man who can patent a device for waking the deaf is sure of fame and fortune, not to mention the gratitude of the brotherhood of hotel clerks."

## Needs of the Golden Eagle.

Every pair of eagles whose habits I have had an opportunity of watching give a period of a few years would seem to have invariably at least two alternative sites for their nests. Some have three, and I know of one with four sites. In fact, I only know of one pair out of many which habitually resort to but one place and only one. The reason for this, however, is apparent, for owing to its situation it has never been disturbed. The nest is in a small cavern on the face of an absolute wall of limestone rock some 800 feet high, at about 400 feet from the summit. Above the entrance is a window of loose stone at an angle of forty five degrees or so, above which are other precipices. To reach the nearest point above this nest would be a long day's work.—London Saturday Review.

## The Date of Christ's Birth.

It is known that the Christian era, based on the birth of the Saviour, is older by several years than the time assigned in the calendar; but the precise year in which Christ was born has never been finally determined. Lieut.-Col. G. Mackinlay has recently investigated the question anew, and has stated his conclusions in a book for which Sir W. M. Ramsay has written a preface. The date on which he fixes for the Nativity is 8 B. C., according to our present chronology. It bases his reasoning on the assumed association of John the Baptist with the planet Venus, the suggestion being that these special apparitions of Venus are the groundwork of the story of the "Star of Bethlehem."

## Ball-Bearing Motors.

British engineers anticipate that one of the most interesting features in the manufacture of electrical machinery during the present year will be a great increase in the use of ball bearings. Several types of motor have already been placed on the market which have ball bearings. Among the advantages of such bearings is their relatively small amount of lubrication required for motors fitted with them. It is considered also that such motors should furnish a better output than those having ordinary bearings. Experiments have been made in Europe on the application of ball bearings to traction motors, but in this case conditions are not so favorable as is that of motors for use in factories.

## Not Afraid of a Ghost.

In a village in England, a month or so ago, a man came running into a inn at nine o'clock at night and cried out that there was a ghost in his barnyard. There were 14 men in the inn and not one of them dared to go home with the man and investigate. There was a person who dared, however, and that was the landlord's daughter, a girl of 14. Some of the men followed her at a distance, as she went into the yard and up to the ghost flapping its arms about, and discovered—what? That it was no more than a man's white shirt flapping on the clothes line in a strong breeze. That's about the way.

A Soda Cracker is Known by the Company it Keeps

It is the most natural thing in the world for exposed crackers to partake of the flavor of goods ranged alongside. In other words, a soda cracker is known by the company it has kept. On the other hand

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