

TRICKY ELEPHANTS.

The Cunning They Displayed in Procuring a Stolen Meal.

Singular as it may seem, elephants which have associated with men enter into the notion that, under special circumstances, they are not responsible if they utilize another to commit an illegal act.

A man in Bangkok bought three young elephants to send to England. They were tame and playful, but cunning.

The elephant would make a cat's paw of the boy's hand to take up a handful of paddy.

Should the boy, however, put it back in the bag his arm would again be seized by the trunk, and his hand would be again inserted into the paddy bag.

The boy, anxious to be released, would usually drop the paddy into the trunk, and the elephant would blow the rice into his mouth.

GAMBLER IN SECRET.

The Romance of Mark Lemon's Most Successful Drama.

There is a singular story connected with the play "Hearts Are Trumps," which Mark Lemon, the famous Punch editor, wrote many years ago.

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The tale haunted Mark, says Thorneby in "The Spies of Life." He imagined a daughter waiting at home night after night for the gambler's father, ignorant of his secret vice until the day of ruin revealed the cause of all those mysterious absences.

On the first night it was produced, glancing into the pit, he saw seated among the audience the very man whose career had suggested the plot.

A Contrast in Monarchs.

Emperor Napoleon has often been seen detaching his own cross of the Legion of Honor to place it himself on the breast of a hero.

"I should think so, but you will not get it."

Napoleon would have embraced the sergeant. Louis XIV turned his back on him.

An Eccentric Vicar.

One wonders what London thought of Robert Stephen Hawker, the vicar of Morwenston, when he visited London for the second time in his life in 1864.

Lord Exmouth, bubbling with laughter, said, "I am not surprised the waiter should say there was no clergyman dirty from choice."

Dyaks Fond of Monkey Meat.

The Dyaks of southwestern Borneo hunt nearly all the game in the vicinity of their settlements with spears except in the case of the orang outang, which is hunted with guns.

Not Acquainted.

"Are you at all familiar with Plato?" asked Mrs. Oldcastle.

"No; that's one thing Josiah always blames me for. He says I never make good friends with anybody."

Welcome.

"I s'pose I look like a tramp, Catharine Ann, but I'm your cousin, Cy Barker, back from the Klondike with \$20,000 in gold. Gee, don't smother me!"—Chicago Tribune.

Too Much.

In persuasive tones the good looking woman who had secured an interview with the taxicab manager tried to convince him that the company owed her \$2.02.

"Something broke," she said, "and I was held up for forty-five minutes while the driver tinkered with the machine."

Her manner was so impressive that the manager was on the point of writing out a check for the money demanded, but before doing so he remarked:

"Oh," said she, "he didn't. It isn't overcharging I am complaining about. He made me late for a bargain sale that closed at 11 o'clock, and when I finally got there I had to pay \$4 for a blouse that had sold up to 11 o'clock for \$1.98. It is the difference I am fighting for."

Then the manager closed his check book.—New York Times.

Salt Means Much to Health.

"If the human race should be deprived of salt, even for a period of a few months," said a physician, "we would not only lose a natural healthful incentive for our food, but disease, with all its attendant miseries, would spread with such relentless speed as to defy the efforts of the most skillful doctors of the land."

French Burial Customs.

The ancient custom of depositing valuables in tombs still prevails in France—but it is not only jewels and the like that are buried with the dead.

A Scene Not on the Bill.

An amusing incident in the Royal Opera House at Warsaw, Russian Poland, is described by the Paris Temps.

Insects in Flight.

Motion pictures of insects in flight prove that the movement of the wings of all insects presents the same general character.

Conscientious.

Wearily Walker—No, ma'am. I ain't dirty from choice. I'm bound by honor."

Fact and Fiction.

"I suppose your wandering boy will come home and pay the mortgage of the farm as they do in Christmas stories."

Explained.

"Helgho," sighed Mrs. Stoutly. "You used to sit once upon a time with your arm around my waist, John, but you never do it any more."

Restful.

Laura—Alice Flitter is such a restful friend. Charles—Restful? She talks all the time. Laura—That's it. I never have to think about what to say when I'm with her.

Happiness.

Happiness rarely is absent. It is that we know not of its presence. The greatest felicity awaits us nothing if we know not that we are happy.

Move On.

Do not gaze backward nor pause to contemplate anxiously what is in front, but move. If you are faithful, God will carry you through.—Frothingham.

It is difficult to persuade mankind that the love of virtue is the love of themselves.—Cicero.

A JAPANESE LEGEND.

It Tells a Pretty Story of the Origin of the Chrysanthemum.

The Japanese have an interesting legend in connection with the origin of the chrysanthemum.

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At length she picked a Persian carnation, and, with the aid of a gold pin taken from her hair, she separated each one of the petals of the flower so as to increase the number of folioles and of the number of years accorded by the god to her fiancé.

Then the manager closed his check book.—New York Times.

CRY OF THE GIRAFFE.

It is a Peculiar Sound Something Like a Sheep's Bleat.

Those who read the accounts of the giraffe in the textbooks and the descriptions given by travelers may have noticed that no mention is made of its voice.

Nor so far as the records go has it ever been heard in captivity.

Blaney Festival, the naturalist in question, spent the day in concealment upon a waterhole where the wild animals came to drink.

The strange sea spider.

One of the strangest creatures of the sea is a certain species of sea spider named Nymphon gracile.

Lost and Found.

"Almost too strange to be true," said a woman who had lost and found again a piece of jewelry a few days ago.

People Who Do Not Whistle.

Arabia must be a heaven for those whose lives are made a burden to them by the whistler.

Feminine Financier.

Mrs. Kidder—"Charles, can't you give me another check? I see you have a whole book full of Mr. Kidder."

Inconsistent.

"Oh, George!" exclaimed the young wife. "It was nearly midnight before you got home last night."

More Than a Match For Him.

Tom—Somebody ought to warn Mrs. Prettiface that that fellow Smirks, who's paying attention to her, is a miserable flirt.

Luxury and Labor.

Alexander the Great, reflecting on his friends degenerating into sloth and luxury, told them that it was a most slavish thing to luxuriate and a most royal thing to labor.—Barrow.

The Golf Ball's Story.

Evolution has played a great part in the history of the golf ball.

The first balls mentioned in the chronicles of the game were made from leather and feathers.

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Down the Scale.

A Knoxville bride is very much in love with her husband and very willing to admit it.

BATTLE OF THE KEGS.

A Bloodless Naval Conflict of the Revolutionary War.

All wars have their humors and jokes, and the Revolutionary war was no exception.

The incident furnished much amusement to the patriots and was cleverly verified by Francis Hopkinson.

The Boy.

A writer in the Biblical World, speaking of "The Minister and the Boy," says: "To behold in the boy a rough summary of the past and to be able to capitalize for good the successive instincts as they emerge is to accomplish a fine piece of missionary work without leaving home."

Apple or Onion?

No one would for a moment imagine any one mistaking an onion for an apple. But don't be too sure.

Hereditry.

"Father!" "Well, son, what is it now?" "I want to ask you an important question."

Strongly Recommended.

Lady (engaging a page boy)—Well, how soon can you come? Page (replying)—At once, mum.

Her Secrets.

"Never tell a secret, dear. It would be a great breach of confidence."

He Had a Little Work.

Book Agent—Sir, I have a little work—Farmer Tasty—Ye have, hey? Well, ye'd better go right home an' dc it.—Fack.

It is easy to poke another man's fire.

It is easy to poke another man's fire.—Danah.

HARNESSING A SHARK.

Cruel Revenge That Has the Sanction of Immemorial Custom.

The shark's jaws are pried open to the fullest extent. A stout eight foot spar of tough timber, 4 by 4 inches in cross measurement, is fixed transversely far back in the angle of the jaw, the ends projecting on either side.

The clamp of the cruel jaws drives the two inch long teeth deep into the tough spar. The tight line holds it in place, and, struggle as he may, the shark fails to move the spar an inch from its position.

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Might Have Changed History.

Here is the story of an averted tragedy which, if it had not been averted, might have changed the whole course of modern history in Europe.

The place was the little village of Pirardorf, about thirty miles from Vienna.

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Standing upon carpet has a tendency to muffle the voice, since a layer of inelastic and nonconducting material is then interposed between the seat of voice production and the floor.

Singing on Carpet.

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Waked Up John.

"John," said Mrs. Dorkins, "stop reading your paper just a moment."

Nest of a Turtle.

The manner in which a turtle constructs her nest is both interesting and suggestive.

Children and Books.

Dr. Johnson held views far in advance of his age on the subject of children's books.

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