LIVES IN SOD HOUSE

Man of Royal Lineage Thus Resides in Kansas.

E. D. Smith, Whose Ancestors Came From England With the Pilgrim Fathers, Is Descended From King Charles I.

Meade, Kan.—A man with royal blood in his veins lives in a sod house on a Kansas prairie and has lived there for twenty-seven years.

E. D. Smith, whose farm is three miles southwest of this place, is descended from a niece of King Charles I. of England, who was beheaded in 1649 by the British house of commons.

Smith's great-grandmother was a niece of Andrew Jackson, president of the United States, and he is directly descended from John Quincy Adams, another president. His grandfather's brother was Capt. Jedediah Strong Smith, the original pathfinder of the American plains and mountains, the first white man who saw Salt Lake, Utah, the first white man who crossed the mountains and deserts to Los Angeles and the first man who brought gold from California to "the states."

Smith comes of a family of pioneers. His ancestors, Jedediah and Ira Smith, came from England with the Pilgrim Fathers and landed in Plymouth in 1620.

When Charles III. was king of England Earl Simonds of the Isle of Man was an officer of the king's household and he fell in love with the king's niece and asked King Charles for her hand in marriage. The king was the legal guardian of his niece and he refused to permit the wedding. Thereupon the niece eloped with Earl Simonds, who carried her to his vessel and set sail for America. One of the king's warships went in pursuit and overtook the eloping couple, but the earl fired a cannon shot which carried away the foremast of the king's ship and thereafter the earl and his bride had clear sailing. They landed in the Carolinas and from there went to Canada.

Twin boys were born of the marriage and the mother, niece of the king, died at their birth. After the

death of his wife Earl Simonds went from Canada to New York state and in the War of the Revolution one of his twin sons was a Tory and fought with the English. He was drowned in Lake Champlain while escaping with other British soldiers after the Battle of Bennington. The other son, Gordon Titus Vespasian Simonds, fought with the Revolutionary army. After the war he married Miss Jackson, a cousin of President Andrew Jackson. Their daughter married Ralph Smith, grandson of Ira Smith, who had come to Plymouth Colony with the Pilgrim Fathers Ralph Smith had two sons, Ira and Jedediah Strong Smith. Ira was the father of E. D. Smith, the Kansas pioneer who lives in a sod house. E D. Smith came to Meade, Kan., twenty-seven years ago. The doctors said he was dying with consumption. For a year he had been living on whisky and eggs. Meade is nearly 3,000 feet above the sea, its air is pure and bracing. It healed Smith's lungs and he took a land claim here, built a sod house and sent for his wife, and their three children were born in the sod house. Mr. Smith is prosperous, he owns nearly a section of land, has a herd of milch cows and an irrigated garden and orchard. He and his family love the old sod house and have no wish to leave it. It is large, roomy and comfortable, cool in summer and warm in winter.

Finds $100 Pearl in Tooth.

Thomaston, Conn.—Ruska Antilles, an Italian laborer employed at Wigwam reservoir here, is $100 richer as a result of a visit to a local dentist. The dentist's examination of a tooth which had been troubling Antilles, showed that a good sized pearl had lodged in a cavity in the side of the tooth. It was removed in good condition and appraised at $100. Antilles remembered getting something in the cavity when eating oysters a few weeks ago at a shore resort.

Man Choked on Three Dimes.

St. Joseph, Mo.—Arrested on a charge of drunkenness, Pat Connors, laborer, swallowed three dollars in small change, and almost choked to death in his haste to get the last three dimes down. The police, not knowing what he had done, locked him in a cell, where the coughing became so violent that they called a physician. Before he arrived, however, Connors had coughed up the three dimes.

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NEW ENGLAND'S FISHWOMAN

Another Occupation Is Found to Have Been Invaded by the Gentler Sex.

Boston, Mass.—A Massachusetts fisherwoman who really fishes, who affects the salt water not for the purpose of wearing a natty blue sailor costume but to earn her daily bread with an oyster rake and a scollop dredge, is the feminine anomaly boasted by the city of New Bedford in the person of Miss Lizzie M. Almy, a resident of the Fairhaven section of the old whaling town.

To be the most picturesque figure in a town as picturesque as is New

Miss Lizzie M. Almy.

Bedford is no small distinction. Nevertheless, backing her against all the women doctors, women lawyers, business women of every kind, and even the occasional fair blacksmiths and farmers that crop up, New Bedford stands by its woman fisherman.

Like most persons, however, who suddenly take up a new occupation, Miss Almy's choice of the trade of fisherwoman was the result of necessity. Three years ago she found herself without means of support and with an aged mother on her hands. With only her own strength and grit to back her struggle for a living, she began to cast about for some means of getting a livelihood. And with characteristic determination she made up her mind to venture into a field hitherto monopolized by men. To this end she took what little money she had, fitted up a cottage on the shores of Pope's beach and bought a dory. Then she began to fish for oysters and scollops.

With all her strength of mind and body, however, she is not a suffragist and is not in sympathy with women who are.

OLD MUSKET IS HUMILIATED

Springfield Percussion Lock Rifles Converted Into Flintlocks by Speculators for African Trade.

Boston, Mass.—It is rare indeed that arms of real merit are converted from percussion to flintlocks; while everyone has seen scores of fine old flintlock weapons shorn of their beauty—and of their value—as antiques by conversion to the percussion system.

Here is a Springfield rifled musket, made in 1863—percussion lock, of course—which was used during the Civil war. After that honorable service it was stored for years and about 1875 it was bought by speculators, who took it, with thousands of its fellows—our government could not store them longer; and the fashions in firearms were changing rapidly—to Liege, Belgium, where the owners converted the whole consignment to flintlocks. This was done for the African trade; for, as is known to many, the tribesmen prefer the ancient flint

A Converted Musket.

and steel system—they like to see the sparks fly; and it is said, also, they like heavy charges and like to feel the "kick" when the piece is discharged, as they consider that an indication that their game will be killed.

Among the countless thousands of "pot-metal" guns, so-called that have been thrust into the Africans' hands by foreign greed, it is safe to say that no arm that ever "kicked" their savage shoulders was equal in goodness to our splendid "Springfields." This specimen was imported from Liege several years ago.

Rats Run Over Soldiers' Bunks.

Fort Leavenworth, Kan.—Plagued by hordes of rats that daily grow bolder, invading the very bunks of the soldiers, Fort Leavenworth, Kan., has reached its wits' end. All dogs and cats were driven from the reservation a year ago following what was called an outbreak of rabies, and since then the rat population has steadily increased.

Has Read Bible 260 Times.

Ithaca, N. Y.—Mrs. Sarah Harty of Ithaca, now 95 years old, has completed reading the Bible through for the two hundred and sixtieth time. Mrs. Harty is the sole survivor of a family of eight and has outlived her husband and two sons.

Mr. Henry James' Style.

That a James sentence is as long as another man's paragraph rouses a chastened mirth in a receiver for the London Globe—and he proceeds to burlesque thus the style of the author of "The Outcry": "If we, greatly and indeed almost, as one might say, presumptuously daring, were, as we in this paragraph attempt, and with the full consciousness of ultimate and, in fact, inevitable, not to say disgraceful failure, looming ahead on our mental horizon, to imitate the literary, perhaps the too literary, as one may describe it, without undue or, in a manner of speaking, journalistic extravagance, style of Mr. Henry James, we should indubitably come to grief. That author walks his pavement alone."

Critical Moment.

At the beginning of the Civil war men who knew little about military tactics were sometimes temporarily in command of small bodies of the troops which flocked into Washington, and it is said that Senator Henry Wilson of Massachusetts, afterward vice-president of the United States, was for a time assigned to the captaincy of a company of recruits from his native state. He assisted in drilling them to the best of his ability, but one afternoon, as he marched at their head up Pennsylvania avenue, he met his Waterloo. He had been getting along very well and was beginning to feel quite proud of the proficiency of his men, when he suddenly realized that the coping and fence extending south from the treasury building was right in his forward patch. He could not think of the order which would swing his command into Fifteenth street, and thereby avoid the obstacle. Nearer and nearer the company approached; the men were almost upon his heels, when in desperation he shouted: "Come round like a gate!" and the situation was saved.

Didn't Mean It.

Charles D. Hilles, secretary to the president, tells this on Gus J. Karger, the Washington newspaper man. Karger is a Hebrew, and a wit, so Hilles is safe in circulating this slander. It appears that when the presidential party visited the home town of Maj. Archie Butt, the president's aide, they attended church where Butt, as a youth, was a worshiper. The president and Karger sat in a pew near the front, and when the stirring hymn, "Onward Christian Soldiers!" was given out, the president, as usual, lifted up his voice in song. The boys looked at Karger, and to their astonishment noted that he was caroling away cheerfully alongside the president. "But I looked over," says Hilles, "and saw that Karger had his hands on the top of the pew in front of him, with his fingers crossed."

Garnets for Sandpaper.

Grandpa recollects when the garnet, a simple and lovely stone, was regarded as precious and worn generally in beautiful, old-fashioned jewelry. Grandma's attire was not complete without the big breastpin, ring or earrings which her daughters then were glad to borrow and finally to inherit. Now the garnet has become so common and non-precious there is none to do it honor, and it is ground into fine powder for the making of high-class sandpaper.

Realistic.

"You have too much rouge on, my dear, to enact properly a milkmaid."

"Have I, sir? But I thought a milkmaid should be rosy cheeked."

"On the contrary, a milkmaid is naturally a pail girl."

Aiming High.

"How came she to get such a sudden craze on to visit the beauty doctors?"

"She wants to look like her photograph."

Wholesale Burning of Books.

The French should win Edmund Cosse's commendation for the wholesale manner in which they have destroyed books. They have even gone to the extent of coining a special word, "bibliolytie," to denote "la destruction volontaire des livres." The greatest date in the annals of bibliolytie is 1790, when church property was confiscated by the revolutionary government. During that year, in Paris alone, 808,120 volumes taken from monasteries and convents were burned, and throughout the whole country the total destroyed is said to have amounted to 4,194,400.

Brawler Recruits.

The style in girl babies is changing in Boston. They are taller than they used to be and come into the world with more vitality. Nature has undoubtedly taken cognizance of the advent of militant suffragism and is equipping the little ones for the strife.

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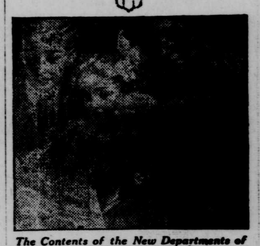

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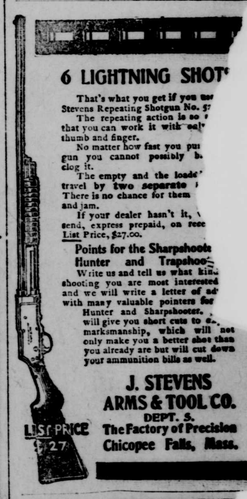

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