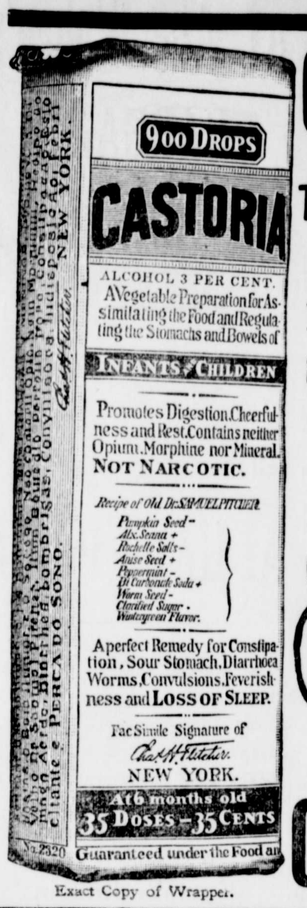


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A LESSON IN GERMAN.

Follow It Closely and You Will See How Really Simple It Is.

Among the Hottentots (Hottentoten in German) the kangaroos (Beutelratte) are found in great numbers. Many of them wander over the country free and unmolested; others, less fortunate, are taken by hunters and put into cages (Kotter) provided with covers (Lattengitter) to keep out the rain. These cages are called in German Lattengitterwetterkotter, and the kangaroo after his imprisonment takes the name of Lattengitterwetterkotterbeutelratte. One day an assassin (Attentater) was arrested who had killed a Hottentot woman. Hottentotmutter, the mother of two stupid and stuttering children in Straettertrottel. This woman in the German language is entitled Hottentotenstraettertrottelmutter, and her assassin takes the name Hottentotenstraettermuttertaeter. The murderer was confined in a kangaroo's cage — Beutelrattenlattengitterwetterkotter—when a few days later he escaped, but fortunately he was recaptured by a Hottentot, who presented himself at the mayor's office with beaming face.

"I have captured the Attentaeter," said he.

"Which one?" replied the mayor. "We have several."

"The Attentaeterlattengitterwetterkotterbeutelratte."

"Which Attentaeter are you talking about?'

"About the Hottentotenstraettertrottelmutterattentaeter."

"Then why don't you say at once the Hottentotenstrattelmutteratt e n t a e r l a t t e n g i t t e r w e t t e r k o t t e r b e u t e l r a t t e?"

The Hottentot fled in dismay.

THE AWKWARD "MRS."

Single as Well as Married Women Once Carried This Title.

A curiously awkward word, if it be a word, is "Mrs." It is not spelled as it is pronounced—no one but a Welshman or a Pole would be equal to pronouncing it as it is spelled—and its pronunciation is a clumsy contraction of the good old English designation "mistress."

In the days of old, when leisure had not become, as it is now, almost a forgotten luxury and people were less anxious to clip their speech, the full pronunciation was often used, and "mistress" was not altogether elbowed out of existence by the vulgar "missis."

But nowadays "mistress" has dropped out, and consequently the contracted pronunciation of "Mrs." has prevailed and holds the field.

Another point worth noting in the history of the designation is that about 150 years ago and earlier "Mrs." was applied quite impartially to unmarried as well as married ladies. Even children were sometimes styled "Mrs."

The burial of an infant daughter of John Milton, who died at the age of five months, is recorded in the parish register of St. Margaret, Westminster, and her name is entered as "Mrs. Katherine Milton," followed by a small "c," to indicate that a child is meant. But this may be regarded as an exceptional use of the title.—St. James' Gazette.

A Sabbatarian Dog.

"Tip was an Irish setter—his name was really Tipperary and Tip for short," said a New York clubman. "He knew when it was Sunday, and he kept the day. He was the only Sabbatarian dog I ever knew. He used to sleep on a rug in my room. I had to keep early hours in those days, and every morning at 7 o'clock Tip would put his cold nose against my face and remind me that it was time to go to work. Then while I was dressing he would go to the village postoffice and bring home the mail. On Sunday morning he never stirred off his rug until I was good and ready to get up, which was usually quite late, and nothing could induce him to go to the postoffice on that day. And the best part of the story is it is absolutely true."—New York Tribune.

No Plot.

The actor, rounded up in Russia with a bunch of others, retained his composure while his companions in misfortune were giving way to despair.

"I can prove my innocence of complicity in any conspiracy to the complete satisfaction of the authorities," he said.

"How can you do that?" one of his companions asked. "You will always be suspected of being c cted with a plot."

He smiled confidently.

"Not when I tell them that for years I have been playing in musical comedies."—Baltimore American.

Golfing Sarcasm.

"Caddy, how many strokes is that for this hole?" asked the golfer with the plaid cap.

"I can't say, sir."

"Can't say?"

"No, sir; I can only count up to twelve, sir."—Pick-Me-Up.

Self Reliance.

It is easy in this world to live after the world's opinion. It is easy in solitude to live after our own, but the great man is he who in the midst of the crowds keeps with perfect sweetness the independence of solitude.—Emerson.

Ready For Business.

A tragedian playing Richard III. in a small town was waited on after the show by an honest farmer, who said that "if the gen'l'm who wanted a horse was still of the same mind he would like to do business with him."

No better masters than poverty and want.—Dutch Proverb.



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ARTILLERY CURIOSITIES.

Old Time Cannon That Were Made of Leather, Wood and Rock.

Among the curiosities of artillery odd inventions have a great place. Cannon have been made of the most unlikely materials. Leather was used as early as Henry VIII.'s day at the siege of Boulogne. The very articles were stored in the tower once, and Evelyn saw them there, inscribed "Non Marti opus est cui non deficit Mercurius." Are they still lying in some corner of a forgotten lumber room? The Scotch employed leather guns in 1640 to batter Lord Conway's fortifications at Newbourne, and they did the work well. Describing the feverish alarm in Paris in 1792, Carlyle says: "One citizen has wrought out the scheme of a wooden cannon, which France shall exclusively profit by in the first instance. It is to be made of staves by the coopers, of almost boundless caliber, but uncertain as to strength."

Two small pieces brought to France by the Siamese ambassadors as presents from their king to Louis XIV. were the only artillery procurable for the atack on the Bastille—of eccentric model no doubt, adorned with dragons and golden inscriptions, but efficient workmanship. We read of gold cannon in India. There were two so described at Baroda in Burton's time, "to which regular adoration was offered." In fact, the tubes were of steel, but the massive gold casing cost £20,000.

For the defense of Malta in the old days the knights "invented a kind of ordnance of their own, unknown to all the world beside," says Brydone, an eyewitness. They followed out the natural rock here and there in such fashion that the cavity was like a mortar, put a barrel of gunpowder into the hole, plugged it with a wooden disk exactly fitting and heaped miscellaneous projectiles thereupon. About fifty of these singular cannon defended creeks and landing places. Some of them were six feet in diameter and threw 10,000 pounds weight of iron or stone into the air. Doubtless if all went well they would do tremendous execution upon an enemy trying to disembark.

But there are eccentricities still more curious on record. In a tomb on the island of Chinal, near Usumacinta, Mexico, was found a cannon four feet eleven inches long of terra cotta, with terra cotta bullets. It is suggested that when Cortes retired after his great flight at Ceutla, Tabasco, the natives copied the Spanish guns in clay, hoping to produce the same results.—London Standard.

LIKE THE INFERNO.

Graphic Description of a Climb Over a Volcanic Island.

A climb over a volcanic island in Bering sea is thus described in Outing Magazine by Robert Dunn:

"Cliff sank away into chaos. Upright fans of tuffa, crevices like salt crusted wounds, chasms with leprous edges—breathed all like mad. Less steam, but more crinkly and venomous gases. Parched white and red and ocher in their depths, they seemed almost to whistle—yet they did not whistle—a furtive, ambient, high pressure 'Zjsssho-ooo!' Was it sound? Then I would pause and catch only the horrid, overburdened silence.

"The 'thing' seemed more friendly. The sulphur no longer choked. You could have passed a burning bunch of miners' matches under my nose and I would have gulped the fumes like fresh air. But the invisible venom still belched out everywhere, secret and furtive; now from jaws and gashes four feet and more across, no longer red yellow, but with fangs crusted white or brilliant green and bristling with rapier-like stalagmites. Heat tremors pulsed, as the whole were a vast roof too close under the eye of the sun. And below on the blasted acre under the beak the panting steam flashed out the supreme desolation—crumbling, clinkery and overparched; trailed away its smear of the dull rainbow hues of sulphur from grotesque mosaics. It was a pudding of slag fresh from that great furnace of the unknown fusing point, and how alien to the cold waves and winds of the subarctic!"

We are accustomed to see men deride what they do not understand and snarl at the good and beautiful because it lies beyond their sympathy.—Goethe.

SHEPHERD CARVERS.

The Lonely Sheep Tenders of the California Sierras.

There are few lonelier lives in the world than those lived by shepherds in the high meadows of the California Sierras. All alone they follow their sheep, seeing no one for many months of the year but the sheep, their dogs and perhaps an occasional—a very occasional—traveler. Probably this solitude dries up the springs of speech, for they are said to be very silent when they do encounter any one.

One of these strange men is a Basque from the Pyrenees. A lean, dark visaged, ragged fellow, he is now and then overtaken by some wanderer in the mountains. Along the trail before him his sheep feed. His mongrel collie hangs at his heels. He may raise his stick in mute salutation; he may slouch by without a sign. Yet this uncouth being has one talent—he can carve. His amusement is carving quaint sheep buckles out of bone. Every herd has its bellwether, about whose neck hangs a bell. The bell depends from a leather collar, and it is the buckles of these collars that this old Basque shepherd and some of these other Sierra shepherds make in the course of their lonely days. Sometimes a buckle represents a summer's work, for some of them are very elaborate. Some are in the semblance of saints or angels, some have the monograms of the sheep owners or of the shepherds in curious designs. All are patiently cut, bit by bit, with the pocketknife of the shepherd.—Exchange.

A GRATEFUL GUEST.

The Reward She Bestowed Upon Those Who Entertained Her.

"Human nature is a queer thing," said the philosopher.

"Not long ago some friends of mine got badly down on their luck. Times were so hard for them that they scarcely knew which way to turn for the necessities of life.

"At that most inopportune time they received word from a woman friend of theirs that she was coming to visit them for a few days. They were dismayed, but by the exercise of great ingenuity and by depriving themselves to almost the vanishing point they managed to entertain her and really to set before her most excellent meals.

"After she left their affairs continued to grow even worse, if possible, and while they kept up a brave front I was near enough to them so I couldn't help knowing all about it, though they were not aware that I saw the situation.

"I thought it was time some of their friends came to the rescue if a suitable way could be devised, so I wrote the woman who had been their guest—being slightly acquainted with her myself—told her I would head the procession, would like her aid and would be glad of any suggestions she could make as to a practical plan for helping our old friends without hurting their proper pride.

"Her reply gave me something to think about for many a day. She said she didn't care to help them, as they already lived too well and set too expensive a table; that when she had visited them they had a great deal more to eat than was necessary and that they must be very extravagant people; that it was undoubtedly their own fault they were in such trouble and that it would probably teach them to be more economical in future!"—New York Press.

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