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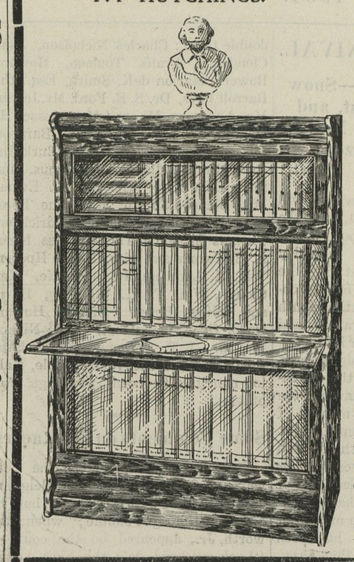
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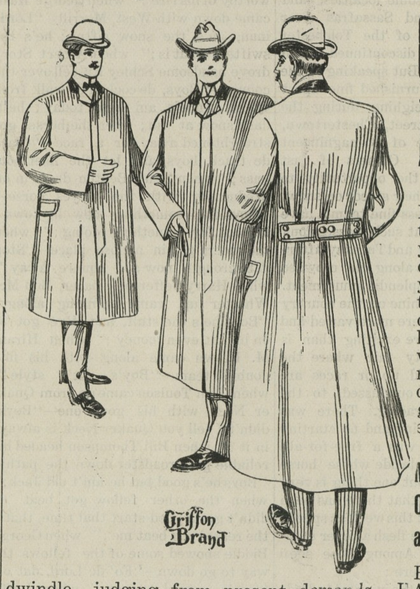
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TAMING A TIGER.

The Way a Showman Got Friendly With a Fierce Beast.

A zoologist thus describes how an attendant brought about friendly relations with a fierce tiger:

"There was a showman I used to know named Melchior. He once bought a magnificent Bengal tiger, which he got at a low price because it had already killed two men.

"At first Melchior would put his foot or his hand into his cage, but from the way the tiger would leap at him he knew that to put himself entirely in its power would be suicide. Nothing he could do would establish a friendly relationship between himself and the tiger.

"Some originality was needed, and Melchior showed it by taking some old clothes, stuffing them with rags and throwing them into the cage. The tiger in a jiffy tore the old clothes to pieces, thinking that the figure was a human being.

"Next day and the next day and the next Melchior continued to throw in to the tiger stuffed figures, and the tiger continued to destroy them. But as time passed the animal ceased to put heart into its work and in the end it gave up altogether these attacks on the scarecrows. It would just play with them or else not notice them at all.

"Now was Melchior's time. He opened the cage door one morning, walked in boldly and slapped the tiger familiarly on the back. It gave him a friendly look and purred. It took him for another manikin not worth bothering about. It lived seven years with Melchior and became as gentle as a kitten."

WORSHIPERS OF BAAL.

Queer Ways of an Extraordinary Sect In Turkey.

The Yezidees, the Baal worshipers or devil worshipers of Turkey, are an extraordinary people, and, although forced by the laws of conscription to serve in the Ottoman army, the seizure of one or more of their young men by a Turkish recruiting party is such a distressing spectacle that once witnessed it can never be forgotten.

Wails and yells of despair are raised. Men, women and girls kiss the recruit's eyes, cheeks, mouth and hands. Throwing themselves on the ground, they even embrace his legs and feet.

The conscript appears quite dazed with sorrow. He folds in his arms and caresses over and over again his weeping kindred, whom he will never see again. He kisses the walls and the hearth of the cabin in which he was born, but which he is about to quit forever, and wets them with his tears, but when, accompanied by his Turkish captors, he leaves the village the lamentations of the villagers cease.

Then, and as though nothing had happened, the latter go about their ordinary occupations. Never again is the conscript's name mentioned, and on joining his regiment the young Yezidee becomes a Mussulman. His kindred, believing him accursed, affect to forget him, and were he to approach the village from which he has been forcibly dragged away every Yezidee, even his dearest friends, his father, mother, brothers, sisters and sweetheart, would drive him from their presence with curses and pelt him with stones.

Gooseberries and a Cat.

Not long ago, says Collier's Weekly, officials of the department of agriculture were much amused by a letter sent the department by an occasional correspondent in Virginia.

Among other things the writer hastened to advise the secretary of the department to this effect:

My wife had a Tame cat that dyd. Being a Torture shell and a Grate faverit, we had the same berred in the Gardin, and for the enrichment of the soil I had the Carkis deposited under the roots of a Gooseberry Bush. (The Frute being up to then of the smooth variety.) But the next Seson's Frute, after the Cat was berred, the Gooseberrys was all Hairy—and more Remarkable, the Cataplers of the Same Bush was All of said Hairy description.

The Government's Music.

A certain congressman who takes an interest in musical matters presented a bill advocating a larger appropriation for the care of the music in the Congressional library. He spoke briefly on the subject, and after the session a fellow congressman approached him confidentially.

"I say," he said in a low voice, "I like that bill of yours. But, tell me, what sort of music does the government have over there in the library? Is it a band or just a hand organ?"—Harper's Weekly.

Her Hand.

"Sir," began the timid youth as he entered the office, "I am in search—er—that is, I came to seek your daughter's hand"—

"Well, it isn't anywhere in this vicinity," interrupted the stern parent. "She's probably using it as a piano thumper about this time of day."

Boston Wires Resent It.

Angry Patron—Hello, central! What did you cut me off for? Boston Telephone Girl—Because you used a plural noun as the subject of a singular verb. You are not allowed to do that on this line, sir.—Chicago Tribune.

Tired.

"Your account has been standing a long time, Mr. Dukey."

"Then give it a seat, my dear Shears."

"Very glad to, sir. Shall we make it a receipt?"

Men and Clocks.

She—A clock is different from a man. He—In what respect? She—When it strikes it keeps on working.

MAHOGANY WOOD.

The Way It Came to Be Used In the Making of Furniture.

Chippendale owes his reputation to the fact that he published a book of designs with over 200 copperplate engravings, so that today any one who wishes may get them and reproduce them exactly or with such changes and improvements as suit his fancy. That they are capable of improvement Chippendale himself was the first to declare. Chippendale was one of the first makers of mahogany furniture. Before his time this precious wood was valued only for the medicinal qualities it was supposed to possess.

The idea of making furniture of mahogany wood appears to have been the result of chance. A certain physician in London had a great many mahogany planks, and, wanting a candle box, he sent for a cabinetmaker and instructed him to use the mahogany for the required article of furniture. The man objected that the wood was too hard for his tools, and the doctor told him to get harder tools. The man did so, and when the doctor saw the box he was amazed at its beauty. Patients and friends talked about it, and at last the Duchess of Buckingham came to see it. She was enraptured and persuaded the doctor to give her wood for a similar box. As a result mahogany got to be the fashion.

HORSEPOWER.

The Unit as It Was Originated and Defined by Watt.

When steam engines were employed to drive mills, pumps and other machinery which had been previously driven by horses, it was natural to attempt to express the work done by them in terms of the working power of the horse.

James Watt was the first to define the unit of horsepower, which by experiment he found to be 33,000 foot pounds a minute. In other words, a one horsepower engine would raise 33,000 pounds one foot every minute, and so on proportionally to the number of "horsepowers" indicated by the engine.

He arrived at this conclusion by observing the work done by heavy dray horses in breweries working eight hours daily and found that a horse going at the rate of two miles and a half an hour could raise a weight of 150 pounds by a rope led over a pulley, which is equal to 33,000 pounds raised one foot in one minute.

Watt, for the credit of his engines, selected horses of more than average power.

THE ELDER TREE.

In Days Long Gone by It Was Held In Disrepute.

In olden days to be crowned with elder was a disgrace. In an old play we read, "Laurel for a garland and elder for disgrace." This may have been due to the story which Shakespeare has noticed that Judas hanged himself upon an elder tree:

Well follow'd; Judas was hanged on an elder.—"Love's Labour's Lost."

This legend was generally accepted. Ben Jonson in "Every Man Out of His Humour" has, "He shall be your Judas, and you shall be his elder tree to hang on," and Nixon in his "Strange Footsteps," "Our gardens will prosper the better when they have in them not one of those elders whereupon so many covetous Judases hang themselves."

Shakespeare also makes it an emblem of grief:

Grow patience
And let the stinking elder, grief, untwine
His perishing root with the increasing vine.—"Cymbeline."

—London Telegraph.

Miseries of the Red Sea.

In the waters of the Red sea the cessation of the engines on a steamer for an hour means extreme physical suffering for passengers. For a day it would involve absolute torture. The wind which prevails every day is a hot, asphyxiating blast, and its continuous directions are from north and south toward the center. As a result every passing vessel is subjected to two days of almost intolerable heat, followed by two days of comparative comfort, but instances have been known of crowded liners being compelled when traveling with the wind to turn round and steam back for an hour or so in order to give the passengers even a brief respite from the sufferings induced by the dull, dead, unbearable atmosphere. —London Tit-Bits.

Defiance.

A little boy in Deering, Me., was brought before his father recently and accused of killing a chicken. "Who told you about it?" asked the boy. "The hen did," said the father. Nothing more was said that day, but the next morning the hen was found dead, and the boy, being accused of killing it, admitted it, saying in defense, "Yes, I did kill the hen, and I'll kill every hen that tells on me."

Justified.

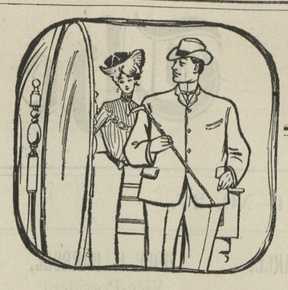
City Editor—Why do you say he ran into the police station "puffing and blowing?" "Puffing" and "blowing" are synonymous. Reporter—Not at all. There's a vast difference—for instance, between puffing a man up and blowing him up.—Philadelphia Ledger.

His Matches.

"You told me this horse had won half a dozen matches against some of the best horses in the country. He can't trot a mile in six minutes to save him."

"It was in plowing matches that he took the prizes, sir."

A look of intelligence in a man is what regularity of features is in women; it is a style of beauty to which the most vain may aspire.—La Bruyere.



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