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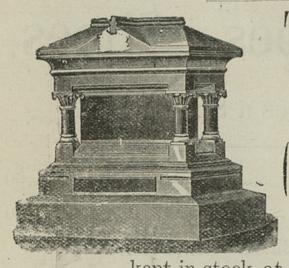
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SAVAGES AND BRUTES.

Odd Attitude of the Primitive Man Toward All Animals.

For the primitive savage animals are mysterious, problematic beings, possessed of a wide knowledge of the things of nature. They know much more than they are ready to tell us. In some way or another by the aid of senses much more refined than ours and by telling to each other all that they notice in their rambles and flights they know everything for miles around. And if a man has been "just" toward them they will warn him of a coming danger, as they warn each other, but they will take no heed of him if he has not been straightforward in his actions. Snakes and birds (the owl is a leader of the snakes), mammals and insects, lizards and fishes—all understand each other and continually communicate their observations to one another.

Inside this vast brotherhood there are, of course, the still closer brotherhoods of beings "of one blood." The monkeys, the bears, the wolves, the elephants and the rhinoceroses, most ruminants, the hares and most of the rodents, the crocodiles, and so on, perfectly know their own kin, and they will not tolerate any one of their relatives to be slaughtered by man without taking in one way or another honest revenge. This conception must have had an extremely remote origin.

Even now when a savage is hunting he is bound to respect certain rules of propriety toward the animals, and he must perform certain expiatory ceremonies after his hunt. Most of these ceremonies are rigorously enacted even nowadays in the savage clans, especially as regards those species considered the allies of man.

It is well known that two men belonging to two different clans or tribes can become brothers by mixing the blood of the two obtained from small incisions made for that purpose, but it was also quite habitual for man to enter into brotherhood with some animal. The tales continually mention it. An animal asks a hunter to spare it, and if the hunter accedes to the demand the two become brothers. And then the monkey, the bear, the doe, the bird, the crocodile or the bee—any one of the sociable animals—will take all possible care of the man brother in the critical circumstances of his life, sending his or her animal brothers of different tribes to warn him or help him out of a difficulty. And if the warning comes too late or is misunderstood and he loses his life they all will try to bring him back to life, and if they fail they will take due revenge, just as if the man had been one of their own kin.

When I journeyed in Siberia I was often struck, without understanding it, with the care which my Tungus or Mongol would take not to uselessly kill any animal. The fact is that every life is respected by a savage, or, rather, it was before he came in contact with Europeans. If he kills an animal, it is for food or for clothing, but he does not destroy life, as the whites do, for the mere excitement of the slaughter.

True, the red Indians have done that with the buffaloes, but it was only after they had been for a long time in contact with the whites and had got from them the rifle and the quick firing revolver. Of course there are rascals among the animals—the hyena, for instance, or the shrewmouse or the man eating tiger, but these do not count; they are outlaws. As to the great animal world as a whole, savage children are taught to respect it and see in it an extension of their own kin.—Prince Kropotkin in Nineteenth Century.

Clay Pipes In Graves.

A very curious old custom is associated with interments in the cemetery of Labruck, Connemara, Ireland. A box of pipes—short clays—is brought with the coffin, and a pipe with tobacco is served out to each mourner. The pipes are smoked in silence after the earth has been filled in and a mound of stones raised above the grass, the ashes are solemnly knocked out on the top and the pipes broken or left behind. The origin of this custom is unknown, but it is thought to be emblematic of "ashes to ashes, dust to dust." Empty black bottles are also to be found scattered about the site.

Bronchitis.

For bronchitis cut up two or three large raw onions, mince them very fine, place in muslin and lay this cold onion poultice on the chest and throat. Cover with a folded towel and bandage tightly. This reads very simply, but it is only an easy way of applying a thoroughly scientific remedy, for the active agent in the onion is a volatile oil which has a powerful effect on the bronchial tubes, the nerve centers and the skin.

Pa Helped.

"Remember, my boy," said Uncle James as he gave Bobby a coin, "that if you take care of the cents the dollars will take care of themselves."

Bobby looked a little dubious. "I do take care of the cents," he replied, "but as soon as they get to be dollars pa takes care of 'em."

A Suggestion.

The Shell Game Man—Why not try the game? It's simply giving away money. The Stranger—But why not give away the money without going through what seems to be a needless formality?—New York Press.

Waiting For the Evidence.

"You say your late uncle was an eccentric old fellow. Do you think he was insane?"

"I don't know. The will hasn't been read yet."—Cleveland Leader.

The greatest reformer of all is honest toil. Satan hates honorable industry.—Burlington Hawkeye.

A TACTLESS NURSE.

The Creepy Manner In Which She "Entertained" a Patient.

Nurses are, as a class, a most excellent body of young women, but, as in the case of doctors, one occasionally comes across specimens who are so deficient in tact and sympathy with the sick as to be positively, though unintentionally, brutal. That seems to be the fate of the writer of the following letter:

"Late one night, when I was in considerable pain and unable to sleep, my nurse, in order to provide cheerful diversion, proposed to show me a few of her photographs. So a candle was brought to the bedside and the pictures were held before my eyes as I lay on my back. Producing the first with much gusto, the nurse explained that it was a very pretty picture. It was. It showed 'our mortuary chapel,' and the nurse pointed out the coffins and a row of shrouds hanging up in the corner, explaining that 'we keep all sizes in stock.' The next picture was 'our operating theater,' with the nurse and the doctor 'just ready to begin,' and my tormentor was specially proud of it because the nurse depicted was herself. When she pointed out, however, that galoches were worn by the butcher and his assistant, I endeavored to pass on as quickly as possible to the next picture. It was not long, however, before we came to the portrait of 'Mary, our hospital skeleton.' Nurse explained that Mary was 'cloaked,' but at lectures a string could be pulled and the cloak fell off. In point of fact, the photographer had caught it at the moment of falling, and the figure and features of Mary remained indelibly printed on my memory. I do not say anything against Mary as a skeleton, but she was hardly an apparition to bring comfort or sleep to a poor fevered wretch whose life was hanging in the balance. Yet that nurse held the highest possible credentials in every department of her calling."—London Truth.

ODD SHOE FACTS.

Greek shoes were peculiar in reaching to the middle of the legs.

The present fashion of shoes was introduced into England in 1633.

In the ninth and tenth centuries the greatest princes of Europe wore wooden shoes.

Shoes among the Jews were made of leather, linen, rush or wood; soldiers' shoes were sometimes made of brass or iron.

In the reign of Richard II. shoes were of such absurd length as to require to be supported by being tied to the knees with chains, sometimes of gold or silver.

In the reign of William Rufus of England in the eleventh century a great "dude," Robert the Horned, used shoes with sharp points stuffed with tow and twisted like rams' horns.

The Romans made use of two kinds of shoes—the solea, or scandal, which covered the sole of the foot and was worn at home, and the calceus, which covered the whole foot and was worn abroad.

Victory and After.

Many a man in a moment of fine enthusiasm applauds Patrick Henry's "Give me liberty or give me death." It is a proper sentiment to entertain, but not easy to live up to.

Most of us feel more like the Pennsylvania Dutchman who told his wife to write an appropriate inscription on his knapsack, which she was packing on the eve of his departure to join Washington's army in the Revolution. The enthusiastic woman, dreaming of her hero coming home a general, at least, wrote in good, round letters, "Victory or Death."

In a few moments her husband caught sight of it.

"No goot! No goot!" he exclaimed in great excitement. "Take dat off quick! Put on goot vords, 'Wictory, oder come back again.'"—Youth's Companion.

Overdid It.

Mrs. Passay—Mary, wasn't that gentleman asking for me? The New Maid—No, mum. He described the lady he wanted to see as bein' about forty, an' I told him it couldn't be you. Mrs. Passay—Quite right, my dear. And you shall have an extra afternoon off tomorrow. The New Maid—Yes, mum—thankee, mum. Yes, mum; I told him it couldn't be you, for you was about fifty. Mrs. Passay—And while you're taking your afternoon off you'd better hunt a new place!—Cleveland Leader.

Her Clever Scheme.

Fanny—Why in the world do you send away for so many catalogues and then never buy anything? Suzette—To keep the postman coming here. I don't want those women across the street to know that Jack and I don't correspond any more.—Detroit Free Press.

Too Polite.

Mrs. Jaspar—I shall never send for Dr. Veriswell when I am ill. Mrs. Jumpuppe—Why not? Mrs. Jaspar—Because he is so excessively polite that if he found me at death's door he would hasten to open it for me.

A One Night Stand.

Bosh—Is Blank on the stage? Josh—No. Bosh—Why, yes he is! He told me that he made his first appearance two years ago. Josh—Umhuh! He made his last appearance on the same night.—Detroit Free Press.

Efficient Support.

Tess—I hear Miss Strongmind has asked you to be her bridesmaid. Is that so? Jess—No, indeed. She has asked me to be her "best woman."—Philadelphia Press.

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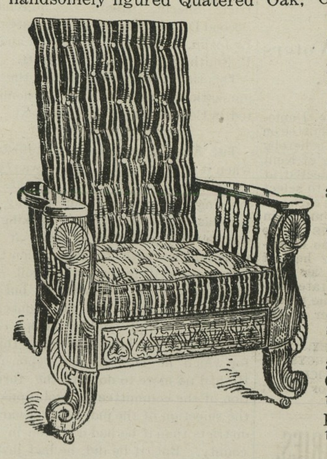
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