

CATS AS NIGHT WATCHMEN.

Some and Tabbies Thus Employed by the Principal Governments of the World.

The principal governments of the world acknowledge the business ability of cats by placing under their surveillance the unused mail sacks and grain bags belonging to the different departments.

The maintenance of an army of cats who catch the rats that gnaw the sacks that hold the material that the governments prize, is duly recognized by the United States post office, the imperial printing office of France, the government office in England and the municipality of Vienna.

Many large establishments, like the Midland Railway company, of England, dockyards, shipping and storing houses and public offices employ cats for similar service.

As a matter of fact, he generally lurches in the Western Union building with such men as the Goulds, Gen. Eckart and other officials of the Gould interests.

MODERN MILITARY SURGERY. Some Experiences of the South African War—There Were Few Amputations.

The war in South Africa has furnished a vast amount of interesting surgical experience, showing the effect of modern arms of precision and of antiseptic methods in the hospitals.

Very peculiar prices were paid for ordinary cats 1,000 years ago, as shown in Berwick's "Quadrupeds."

Subsequent Reflection. The man who had gained a world-wide celebrity by refraining from swearing when the engine of his wagon gave way and allowed a load of apples to roll to the bottom of a steep hill was talking about it a few years afterward.

Crab Shell as a Thermometer. A curious barometer is said to be used by the remnants of the Araucarian race which inhabits the southernmost province of Chili.

Should He Put Out. He said there was a fire raging in his breast.

Belie—How dangerous? "Dangerous?" "Yes; he wears a celluloid shirt coat."—Philadelphia Record.

PERSONAL AND IMPERSONAL.

Senator Hanna's secretary says that since 1896 500 children have been named after the senator.

Prof. Dewar, of Cambridge, the newly elected president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, especially distinguished himself by the discovery of a process for the liquefaction of hydrogen.

A monument has been erected in Titusville, Pa., to Col. E. L. Drake, who put down the first petroleum well. Its cost is estimated at \$60,000, but its modest donor is not known.

The hamlet of Dercock, in County Antrim, Ireland, is visited by thousands of Americans in the season, for it was thence the McKinleys came.

Contrary to a popular belief created by long years of newspaper misrepresentation, Russell Sage is not only quite particular about what he eats, but is a valiant trencherman and a good authority on matters of the cuisine.

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TREATMENT OF SPRAIN.

How Simple Cases May Be Successfully Handled by the Home Physician.

An injury resulting from any violent wrenching or twisting of a joint without a fracture of bone is termed a sprain.

The term covers a very great variety of injuries, as well as very various degrees of injury, of a joint. Thus the ligaments, which stretch from one bone to another, holding them together and binding them in place, may be merely stretched or actually torn.

Immediate attention is an imperative necessity in sprains, since in no injury do swelling and pain more promptly supervene.

Nothing meets the emergency better than hot water—as hot as can be borne—and this, fortunately, is usually quickly at hand, even in the most primitive camp.

Other remedies are also valuable, if the physician has them at hand; but all are used with the same end in view, of relaxing muscular tension, combating the swelling and relieving pain.

TOLD BY THE OLD CIRCUS MAN How the Great Giant of the Show Used to Play His Big Accordion.

"These summer nights when I hear somebody playing the accordion, it always makes me think," said the old circus man, relates the New York Sun, "of the great giant and his accordion."

"Of course we had to have an instrument made for him, to get one of suitable size. The giant enjoyed playing it immensely; but fortunately for other people he played it mostly away from cities, and in the winter, when windows were closed, he did give 'em an accordion solo occasionally in the show, as a feature; but he did so many other things that the accordion was heard, even there, only incidentally and occasionally. It was when we were settled down in winter quarters, where the giant could suit himself in all his fancies, that he used to play the accordion most."

"Then nights, when he felt in the mood, he'd get out the great wind-box and play. It was about as big as a good-sized packing trunk, the body of it was, or maybe a little bit bigger than that, and of course it opened out considerable wider than that, in the playing."

"The giant would sit down before the fire-place in his room, which was a room, you remember perhaps, my telling you, that was carried up clear through two stories; he'd sit down in front of the fire-place and throw one leg over the other, and rest one end of that accordion on his knee, and lean back in his chair and play, keeping it up sometimes by the hour together; pulling the old accordion apart, wide open, and then pushing it in together again, just the same as every accordion player does, first sounding notes and grand chords and that sort of thing, and now and then dropping into a tune."

"And say, let me tell you; he wasn't a bad player, either, after all. When he used to play 'Nellie Gray' and things like that, he almost used to weep himself, and I'm blessed if the rest of us didn't think it was pretty good, too. And out there in the country, and in winter with the windows shut, it never disturbed anybody."

"I've often wondered since? I ever became of that big accordion? I suppose people would think it was a curiosity now."

FUSSY GRAMMARIANS.

Find Fault with Those Who Use the Common Phrase, "May the Best Man Win."

A fussy person up in Albany solemnly accuses 1,777 newspapers in this country of having been guilty, once or repeatedly, of using a superlative adjective in a comparison between two subjects—to wit, the Columbia and the Shamrock.

Once a pretty good man wrote a pretty good piece beginning: "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union—" do such and such things.

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POINTS ABOUT PUMPKIN PIE.

A Good Old-Fashioned Pastry That Should Be Made Night to Be Enjoyed.

Ichabod Crane is not alone in his fondness for the "most luxurious of pies." But, as times and cooks improve, a pumpkin pie with the real old-fashioned, crisp crust and rich flavor is not often in evidence, says Sarah P. E. Hawthorne, in Portland Transcript.

One woman says, "cut your pumpkin in cubes and put in a saucepan with a cupful of nice molasses; place on the back of the range and let it cook until soft, but add no water, and it will be of the right color and richness when done. Sift and add two eggs for each pie, ginger, salt and nutmeg to taste, milk and sugar until the mixture is sweet enough and thick enough for filling. Bake the crust first and then fill and bake again."

Men always love pumpkin pies. Some of our minor poets have sung its praises, and I do not know but some of our great ones, but the writers have always been men.

There are pies which seem to have caught the gold of the sun in which the gourds ripened, the spicy odor of the harvest field in autumn, and the creamy richness of the prize Jersey's milk; and alas! there are also pies, poor, watery, tasteless, stringy; only fit for the dogs, and hardly acceptable to them.

Now if you have more pumpkins than you can use, can them for spring. They will not can them for spring.

It was at Compiegne, where the czar is being entertained, that the king of Rome, the Eaglet, granted the first petition that was presented to him.

The King's Consent. It was at Compiegne, where the czar is being entertained, that the king of Rome, the Eaglet, granted the first petition that was presented to him.

India Relish. Two quarts of chopped green tomatoes; two quarts of chopped ripe cucumbers; a scant cup of salt; let stand 24 hours and drain in coarse, thin muslin. Put two quarts of good vinegar on to boil; add a level tablespoonful of pepper, 1/2 of mustard, one level tablespoonful allspice, 1/4 of cloves and 1/2 of cinnamon; when vinegar is boiling put in the tomatoes and cucumbers, four chopped white onions and four green peppers chopped fine. Let boil for 20 minutes.—Washington Star.

Little Willie—Paw, where is th' Isthmus of Panama? Father—Th' Isthmus of Panama? Willie, do you mean to tell me that you've been studying grammar two years and don't know where the Isthmus of Panama is? If you ain't able to conjugate the Isthmus of Panama for me by to-morrow night I'll make you go to bed at six o'clock.—Ohio State Journal.

A LITTLE NONSENSE.

"I tell you," said Kwater, "there's nothing like adversity to bring a man out." "At the elbows, yes," replied Slanick.—Philadelphia Press.

Whenever you hear a girl refer to a man as an idiot it's dollars to doughnuts that she is in love with him and he is in love with some other girl.—Chicago Daily News.

Old Lady (to district visitor)—"It's my 'ead that's been troublin' me so, miss, but the doctor he says: 'You take these 'ere pills and you'll soon shake it off.'"—Punch.

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Some parts of Peru—for example, in the province of Jaiza—hens' eggs are circulated as small coins, 48 or 50 being counted for a dollar. In the market places and in the shops the Indians make most of their purchases with this brittle sort of money. One will give two or three eggs for brandy, another for indigo, and a third for cigars. These eggs are packed in boxes by the shopkeepers and sent to Lima. From Jaiza alone several thousand loads of eggs are annually forwarded to the capital.—N. Y. Sun.

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