

BARELY SAVED FROM SHARKS

Remarkably Narrow Escape of Expert Swimmer—Chased by Two Monsters.

John T. Clark, a well known swimmer, in 1882 had a very narrow escape from serving as a meal for two hungry sharks while giving an exhibition at Pensacola, Fla.

At the appointed time a flatboat took him out some distance from shore and after being tied up in the sack he was thrown overboard.

On reaching the surface he was greeted with cheers, but noted with dismay that there were no boats near.

As the first shark turned over on this side in order to bite, Clark dived below the surface, then up under the shark and drove the knife time after time into its vitals.

PIGEONS FIGURE IN HISTORY

Down Through All the Ages They Have Been Made the Servants of Men.

Doubtless you admire the pretty, graceful creatures that perch upon the eaves of your house, or daintily trip across your yard.

Pigeons, as commonplace as they appear, are characters of antiquity, the Household says. We hear of them when the waters of the deluge covered the face of the earth.

During the fifth Egyptian dynasty, 3,000 years before Christ, it was the fashion to domesticate pigeons, and to train them as carriers and messengers.

The price of a handsome pair of pigeons in ancient Rome was not a trifle, for Arius, a Roman knight, once sold a pair of pigeons for 40 denarii—about 213 in English money.

Among the many pathetic incidents connected with the imprisonment of Mary Queen of Scots, she begs earnestly for a pigeon, and writes in a letter: "I beg you to procure for me some pigeons. I wish to rear them in cages; it will be such a pastime for a prisoner."

Women's Looks in Business.

An attractive, slender figure, a bright, healthy appearance, an alert bearing and graceful ease of movement—these are beauties and personal advantages which women in business do well to cultivate and preserve.

Wise Man's Bad Break.

According to the Vineland Vine, Bill Staccallor says:

"The wisest man I ever knew knew nothing. He had a wise look, and the only sense he had was the sense of keeping his mouth shut. His wise look increased with age, and he came to be an oracle without having oracled anything."

TRUE MEANING OF "MORTIFY"

Would Seem That Users of the Word Have Little Conception of Its Real Significance.

The strange acquired meanings of many words were being discussed the other night, when one of the group said: "I wonder how 'mortify' has come to mean something similar to humiliate."

The interest generated by the remark caused the word to be looked up in the dictionary and it was found originally to have been used in relation to "making dead" the carnal affections and bodily appetites or worldly desires.

Harte writes: "With fasting mortified, worn out with tears." Prior furnishes this: "Mortify thy learned lust," and Addison writes: "How often is the ambitious man mortified with the very prizes he receives!"

The writers of these sentences would have found it hard to understand the present-day conversationalist who speaks of having been "mortified by the remark some one made."

USE DEW AS DRINKING WATER

Method of Collecting for Use of Soldiers of British Garrison at Gibraltar.

Hitherto dew has been used as a beverage only in poetry, by the sun, flowers, and butterflies. It has recently been robbed of all its poetic character by being used for the refreshment of English soldiers.

The English administration at Gibraltar, where water is very scarce, now collects dew by the following very simple method: A large pit is dug in the earth and covered with dry wood or straw.

The straw or wood serves as a heat insulator and effectually prevents the conduction of heat from the ground to the layer of earth or the sheet iron above.

Hence dew is formed upon the iron or the layer of earth in very large quantities. The water thus obtained is drained off into reservoirs and after clarification is used for drinking.

Treatment of Burns.

Small burns are too lightly regarded. Though seemingly slight, they are not properly treated, or if the blood is in bad condition they may fairly mar one's beauty.

Science Not Sentiment.

Vegetarians are sentimentalists, but sentiment and science are far apart as poles. Science is not even logic, because science is facts, and facts and bullets prove themselves and are their own logic.

The Turban.

The turban, the new headpiece the women are wearing, is like charity; it covers up everything. A woman can do her own hair in a little wad as small and tight as a doorknob.

An Eye for Business.

White—Why are you so anxious to lend that friend a dollar whenever he asks it? He only spends the money in drinks and cigars.

MASON AND DIXON'S LINE

Geographical Division That Has Figured Prominently in the History of the Country.

The historic Mason and Dixon's Line is a name that was given to the southern boundary of Pennsylvania about 150 years ago.

Except for a distance of 22 miles the line was marked out by Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon, English engineers. They surveyed it for a distance of 258 miles west from the Delaware river.

During the progress of the violent debate in congress in 1820, which resulted in the historic measure known as the Missouri Compromise, on the question of excluding slavery from Missouri, John Randolph made use of the phrase "Mason and Dixon's Line" as the dividing line between slave and free states.

The application as made by Randolph drew attention to Mason and Dixon's Line all over the country as indicative of a bar to freedom.

ELECTRICITY IN BIBLE TIMES

Speculations Which Explain Miracles by Supposing Its Use to Have Been Known.

An electrical engineer of Munich named Stadenmann makes an ingenious argument to prove that the Jews in the time of Moses had an advanced knowledge of electricity.

His theory of the famed serpent of bronze is that it was a lightning conductor and he also says that the temple at Jerusalem was protected by metal points connected with the ground.

The most ingenious speculation is in regard to the ark of the covenant, which was made of walls of wood covered on both sides with metal.

Mr. Stadenmann presumes that Moses gained his knowledge of electricity from the Egyptians. This ancient race certainly had a knowledge of many branches of science that it took the rest of the world thousands of years to learn.

The Teachings of Nature.

But, some one asks, how can you ever expect a boy to graduate from college or university if his education does not begin until he is ten years of age?

First I answer that the curse of modern child life in America is over-education. For the first ten years of this, the most sensitive and delicate, the most pliable life in the world, I would prepare it.

Infantile Diplomacy.

"Gran'ma!" "What is it, pet?" "You're purty old, ain't you?" "Yes, dear, grand'ma is very old."

Says the Optimist to the Pessimist.

"Life," said the pessimist, "is a dreadful bore. I don't know what happiness is."

To Save a Wreck.

"I rented one of these bungalows, but they had to put the new paper on over the old."

USEFUL MAN IN COMMUNITY

Records Show Pioneer Might Reasonably Claim to Be Jack of All Trades.

It is necessary that the pioneer be a man of infinite resource, who can do for himself or his neighbors every necessary task.

Col. Sloper, among other things, kept something of a stable, and pastured horses and stock. For the munificent reward of three shillings, the old veteran, in 1788, moved the family of David Knox, by means of "Team and Boy."

The number of things which this veteran and "dabster" did make an astonishing list. He was surgeon-in-ordinary to the parish of Blandford, and this long before he had accumulated an army experience.

CHEAP THIEVERY IN STAMPS

By Means of Want Advertisements—Postal Authorities Are Unable to Prevent It.

There is one fraud upon the public that we would like to root out," said a postoffice inspector, "but it is almost impossible to reach the culprits and to make out cases against them."

NOT WHAT TOMMY DESIRED

Incident That Caused Youngster to Have Grave Doubts of the Efficacy of Prayer.

The Sunday school lesson had been on the efficacy of prayer, and the teacher had done her best to instill into the youthful mind the belief that our prayers are answered.

"I know they ain't," persisted Tommy, doggedly. "What makes you think so?" asked the teacher.

"I don't think it; I know it," replied Tommy. "You know the angels brought a new baby to our house last week."

"Yes, I heard about that," said the teacher. "Now, surely, that was an answer to prayer, wasn't it?"

Her Overdraft.

A prominent Philadelphia banker was talking the other day of the follies of some of his feminine depositors.

"Women are queer creatures when it comes to business," he said. "For one thing, no woman can understand why we won't send her unlimited amounts of money if she asks for it over the telephone."

"But the funniest incident I've known happened the other day. We sent word to one of our woman depositors that her account was overdrawn. We expected her to be angry. They usually are. But she wasn't."

"I am so glad to oblige you by remedying the defect at once," she wrote. "And she enclosed a check for \$750 drawn on our own bank."

Somewhat Ambiguous.

A pupil in one of the grades at Brownell school startled his teacher the other morning by inquiring: "What is a feebly?"

"Right here in this book," replied the pupil. "It tells here about a guy that had one of 'em growin' on his chin." He pointed to a passage describing the appearance of a young man in the story.

Politeness and Servility.

No one can deny that there is vast room for improvement in American politeness, especially in the north. But politeness and servility are far apart. It does not take long to tell whether a man is fawning upon you or merely using ordinary civility.

A Disraeli Story.

There is a good story of Disraeli in his Aylesbury days. He was speaking from the balcony of the George hotel to a great crowd in the market square, when a cattle dealer shouted: "Speak up, Diszy!"

EVIL OF SWEATSHOP SYSTEM

Wretchedly Paid Workers Pay Toll to Vanity of Dwellers in the Great Cities.

Appeal to heart and conscience alike must have been powerfully made to the many women and fewer men who were beguiled by social curiosity or led by philanthropic interest to examine the collection of garments and of photographs made by the Consumers' league and exhibited at the Normal college in New York.

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LEFT BABY WITH THE SAINT

Woman Chooses Unique Method of Getting Rid of Offspring Apparently Undesired.

A respectable woman, with an infant in her arms, entered the cathedral at Antwerp one morning when the priest was alone.

Her child, she said, was suffering from some mortal malady; the skill of the physician had been all in vain, and she was at last convinced that nothing could save her beautiful babe from the jaws of death.

"The saint was stuck up in a niche of the wall with a neat balcony before him, in the form of a goodly marble statue."

"The priest was at last moved by her entreaties; he procured a ladder, ascended to the sacred niche, entered the balcony, and, placing the babe in the arms of the statue, asked the grateful mother if she was satisfied."

"Perfectly so," said that lady; and carefully removing the ladder she walked coolly out of the church, leaving her rosy infant, the astonished priest, and the unconscious saint all equally elevated, there to remain till the next brother of the community should arrive.

Art of Getting Votes.

A contemporary is devoting space to "Advice to Canvassers." But canvassers—much more than poets—are born. And born opportunists. A hint, however, it is the homely canvasser that gets his candidate home.

"Yes, I was agin you at first," said the voter to his visitor, "that day ye called and stood by the pig sty and talked for half an hour ye did not budge me an inch. But after you were gone, sur, I got to thinking how ye reached yer hand over the rail and scratched the pig's back till he lay down for pleasure."

Brave Rescue of Dog.

For risking his life to save a dog, Piermaster Bennett of Rhyll, Wales, has just been presented with a diploma from the P. C. A. society. A collie dog got into the water at the head of Rhyll pier, and all attempts to induce it to land were futile.

The Boy Critic.

Richard Croker, at an open-air luncheon at Palm Beach, told a George Washington story. "A teacher," he began, "was conducting a lesson in history."

One Instance.

Father—You never heard of a man getting into trouble by following a good example.