

BILL NYE IN NASSAU.

HE EATS GREEN COCOANUTS AND PLAYS WITH THE NASSAU DOG.

Some Striking Characteristics of This Animal, Who Dwells in Close Proximity to the Nassau Hog—The Natives Shown Up in Their True Light.

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As these lines are being penned the good ship Cienfuegos is going to pieces on the rocks, and the mullet, the angel fish, the yellow tailed snapper, the cowfish, the spikefish, the jewfish, the shark, the smelt, the mackerel, the skate, the flounder and the eel are sailing up and down the gilded saloon and criticising the architecture of the ship.

A colored islander dived for our mail and rescued it, one bag at a time. For this he received \$100, or about \$5 per bag. One hundred dollars on Harbor island will maintain him in affluence for 100 years.

There is no cow on Harbor island, and goat's milk has to suffice. We were taken by the rescuing schooner Good



GREEN COCOANUTS.

Will to Dunmore town, a little hamlet on Harbor island, and were met by all the inhabitants, who asked me to lecture.

As we approached the island we could see the tall cocoanut trees waving in the soft February breeze, a temperature like June at the north. Mr. Jacques got a piazza full of cocoanuts when we landed, and all for 25 cents. We had a big native cut the ends off these green nuts, and we drank the juice. There is as much difference between a cocoanut just off the tree and one that has been plucked several months as there is between the new laid country egg and the dramatic or stage egg.

I do not like the grocery store cocoanut nor the desiccated truck which is sometimes sprinkled over a frosted cake, but a juicy green nut just off the tree is soothing and refreshing to the weary stomach of one who has been wrecked.

All night the soft wind sighed among the tall palms and rustled the long leaves of the banana, while ever and anon one could hear the gentle bleat of the kid.

We were scattered about among the cottages of Dunmore, and I slept with Mr. Coffin of Boston. We were both grateful to find ourselves alive, even though the people where we stopped took our bedding and put it on the other folks in the still watches of the night.

Those who were captives in crossing the reef were fitted out as well as possible with dry clothing and gladly took what came along. A prominent Philadelphian appeared in a sponge fisher's overalls, and a New York lady cheerfully rolled up the bottoms of a pair of flannel trousers and paced the deck with a glad smile.

The officers said we were the best behaved party they ever saw at a wreck. This is a high compliment considering that we had never attended anything of the kind before.

The disaster occurred on Monday morning at 4:30, and at sundown we were all landed on Harbor island. On Tuesday morning we went aboard the schooner and started for Nassau, 52 miles distant, but the wind died down by 10 o'clock, and we were becalmed. I told Captain Sweeting repeatedly to luff, but he seemed to think he knew his own business better than I did, and so persistently refused to luff.

However, the Santiago, bound for New York, and a sister ship of the Cienfuegos, hove in sight just off the wreck and took us in tow, so that before sunset on Tuesday the Hog island light, off Nassau, could be seen, and the white breakers shooting up 30 or 40 feet into the air, with a background of palms and the white walls of the fort.

The people of Nassau are divided into two classes—viz, those who do absolutely nothing and those who solicit pence.

Living in Nassau does not cost anything to speak of unless you stop at the Royal Victoria hotel, and even there you may live well at \$2.50 to \$4 per day, including "sour sop." Sour sop is a cool beverage made from the juice of the sour sop and flavored with absinthe.

The colored brother here is a shade more worthless than anywhere else on earth. He is also impudent and mean. The police are black, and Dr. Parkhurst is needed every hour. The uniform of the police is rather picturesque—made of dark blue, trimmed with red, and surmounted by a scarlet turban the shape

of a jelly roll. Two of our party lost their overcoats, and several valises disappeared. Those who hustled for their property personally recovered it, but those who relied on the police did not.

Nassau now has a cable line via Jupiter, so that one is not wholly out of the world while here. The local office is under the management of Mr. Burns, an accommodating gentleman of the Caucasian race.

This is a great sponge depot, and those who do not sponge a living on land do it at sea. The sponges are not so good as those which come from the Mediterranean sea, but do very well, especially in pugilistic circles, where they are found to be very suitable for throwing up at the close of the fight.

The Nassau dog is worthy of a fast decaying community. He may be ever so proud and ambitious when he arrives here, but he soon gets up later and later in the morning, begins to postpone till tomorrow that which should be done today, does those things which he ought not to have done and leaves undone those things which he ought to have done, and there is absolutely no health in him.

He has a corrugated back and a concave stomach. He has insomnia and fleas when no man pursueth.

He makes a good watchdog in some cases. He will watch your dinner till you get out of sight and then eat it himself.

Nassau was once the home of enterprising pirates. They are not so enterprising now. Years ago they gave one a chance for his life. Now "Chuck me a penny, boss!" is the general cry.

The climate here is very fine, but you must beware of it if you ever hope to grow up and be a good man. It is seductive to the last degree and robs one of his ambition as the poppy of the orient, blunting the senses and stealing over the better impulses for progress like a ruinous drug. You say on your arrival, "I will go at once and get my luggage from the wharf." If by evening it has not come, you ask at the office and let it go at that. By and by you say, "Well, I'm going home in a couple of weeks, and I'll let it remain there at the dock, so that it will be handy."

The Nassau hog is a trifle more meager than that of Florida. You can read long primer type through a Florida hog, but here you may read nonpareil through this one. In fact, I think that he rather magnifies the letters a trifle. Some use the Nassau hog in cases of weak vision.

We have just visited the phosphorescent lake. It was a very dark night, and every ripple sent forth a brilliant blue flame. Our boat disturbed thousands of fish, each one leaving a track like a rocket as he got away from our boat. I carried a cane and stirred up a phosphorescent display that would enable one to read the Nassau Guardian through in three minutes. I think that this lake is the most remarkable thing about Nassau.

We had a swimmer—a native accompanying the boat—and the whole body was outlined in fire. I never saw anything like it in my life. Stirred by a wild burst of generosity, I opened my heart and gave her a large English copper as we bade her goodby.

This is no joke. She was a cute little darky girl who swam like a porpoise and cut up in the water like everything. I asked her what she would take to come to America and act in my household as French maid. She said that she did not care to go to America, where people did nothing but follow industrial pursuits.

The colored people of Nassau are divided into (1) males, who do nothing, and (2) females, who see that future generations shall grow up to take the business off their hands.

With them indolence is an inheritance and industry a nightmare. Tomorrow is their day for doing everything, and the tomorrow they refer to has never yet been foaled.

The thermometer yesterday was down to 54, which is the coldest for 30 years, and some of the colored people had to put on an extra potato sack to keep warm. None of them wears shoes, with rare exceptions, and I saw a middle aged person selling tomatoes one day who wore nothing but a wooden leg and a look of chastened melancholy. A shark had met him nine years ago in the harbor while on his way to lunch—the shark, I mean—and had participated about \$8 worth, considering the darky to be worth \$75.

This is true. Also some other things which I have said in this letter. Next week I will show up the joys of a winter in the Bahamas.

Bill Nye

Less. Mrs. Slowit—I don't see how you can afford to feel sorry for Mrs. Bragg. Her husband may be disreputable, but your own is no better.

Mrs. Quickwit—True. But Mr. Quickwit is smaller than Mr. Bragg, so you see I haven't so much to complain of.—Philadelphia Record.

Not the Kind. "Any parlor matches, lady?" he asked as he offered a bundle of his wares. "Not yet," answered the mother of four daughters, "but we hope to make some before spring," and she closed the door on the astonished match vender.—Detroit Free Press.

STATE NEWS.

Collector Rogers is back from Washington, and our exchanges agree in saying that he will make no change in officers, except where the good of the service demands it.

The Medical Society of North Carolina convened at Greensboro May 15th, and was called to order by President Tucker at 9:30 a. m. The attendance was large and much interest manifested.

Rev. Jas. A. Weston, of Hickory, accepts a call to take charge of the Episcopal church of St. Savior, in this city. Rev. G. N. Gilreath, deacon in charge of that church, has a call elsewhere.—Raleigh Observer.

A decision in the case of Meroney vs. Building and Loan Association has gone adversely to the company, holding that the contracts of Building and Loan Association are a violation of our usury laws, so says the Raleigh News and Observer.

The news comes from New York that a number of banks in Georgia, the Carolinas and Tennessee have secured loans from that point at an average 4 per cent. to mature in October, with the understanding that renewals will be granted.

The Southern Railway passenger depot at Charlotte was burned between 1 and 2 o'clock Friday morning. The fire broke out in the garret and its origin is a mystery. The records in the various offices were saved. The loss is about \$32,000, well covered by insurance.

When our representatives in the Legislature returned from Raleigh, it was generally understood that the law incorporating colleges only forbid the sale of liquors within one mile of them, but the codified acts of the last Legislature show that the jurisdiction of the law is two miles instead of one.

At the recent term of the Asheville Federal Court Ray, town marshal of Burnsville, Yancey county, being convicted and sentenced to a brief imprisonment and fined \$100 with costs, drew his pistol and struck for freedom, but the deputy marshals seized him and, after a brief struggle, placed the outlaw behind the bars. Ray has been given twelve months in jail, and when he comes forth to freedom again, he will doubtless be a wiser and better man.

"Are you a Methodist preacher?" "No." "A Baptist?" "No; I am a Reformed minister." "Oh, I see you are one of the Sam Jones kind." And the stranger passed on.

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It is a common trick of unfair debaters to seek to injure antagonists in public esteem by labeling them with epithets that provoke hatred or contempt. To sneer at a thoughtful man who is in the habit of looking before he leaps as "a mossa-back" or "a Bourbon," is an easy, and often an effective dealing with him before the multitude. But it is also a flat violation of the spirit of Christian ethics. A real debate is a matter of arguments, and not of epithets. It should be conducted with perfect courtesy; and with the sincere desire to get at the truth. To carry it forward on any lower level is to forget some of the plainest requirements of the gospel.—Nashville Advocate.

DAVID'S STRATEGY.

He Would Have Been a Good Modern General.

A very interesting study on King David as a General was held before the French Academic Inscriptions of Belles Letters by the explorer and archaeologist, M. Dieulafoy, says the Chicago Record. In reviewing the tactics employed by David in his warfare against the Philistines the learned scholar accords him the highest praise. He calls David not only the greatest strategist among the Israelites, who successfully kept the enemies of the kingdom at bay, but he considers that David invented and employed tactics against the Philistines which have been imitated by modern warriors with marked success. M. Dieulafoy has discovered the scene of King David's operations in the valley of the Rephaim, when, by his rapid movements, as described in the Bible, he completely upset all the calculations of the Philistines and not only gained the victory over them for that day, but compelled them to accept very hard terms of peace.

He brought forward his flank, then made a very rapid change of front, and so entirely shut in the left side of the Philistine ranks that they fell an easy prey to his men. These, says M. Dieulafoy, were precisely the same movements as were used in the year 1714 by Frederick II. at Mollwitz and again in 1757 at Rosbach, and they were again employed with signal success against the Austrians at Austerlitz. David must have possessed great skill in the training of troops to have brought them to the required stage of obedience and promptitude of action. It is not to be wondered at, in the light of these extraordinary gifts, that he succeeded in his campaigns and in establishing the kingdom of Israel firmly in the midst of its enemies. In examining the district M. Dieulafoy has come to the conclusion that David used every natural advantage which the country afforded and lost no point which could have proved of help to him in his position. His communication was of the deepest interest to the members of the Academie, who were made thoroughly acquainted with the topography of the valley by maps and drawings which the explorer laid before them.

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The fleeting Last Night. What started out as an easy going meeting last night was converted into a spirited debate. Mr. Boggs, of Memphis, who is travelling through the South in the interest of the Memphis convention, addressed the Chamber of Commerce in a pleasant and interesting speech in which he undertook to answer "Coin." His remarks were conservative and were markedly free from the invective that too often finds its way in the discussion of heated questions on finance, and was well received, even by those who differed with him widely.

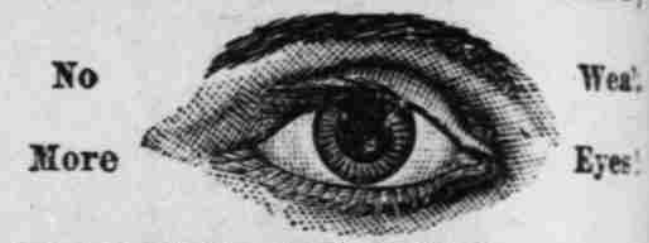
Upon the proposition to send delegates to Memphis there was wide difference of opinion, and believing that the Chamber of Commerce ought not to take a position on the pending financial question, the chamber adjourned, and a mass meeting was held. After much discussion the motion to send two sets of delegates to both the Memphis conventions to represent the views of both sides was defeated. Unless further action is taken, which is not probable, Raleigh will not be represented in either of the conventions.—Raleigh News and Observer, 15th.

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A large church had been completed. The audience had assembled to admire it. Each told the part he had performed in building it. One had given a \$1,000, and another \$2,000, and another \$500. Near by stood a man poorly dressed; he said nothing. Presently some one said to him: "Well, my good man, what did you do toward the church?" "I made and carried the mortar," was the reply. Oh, how many of God's children are occupying humble places in building the temple of the Lord. Their praises are not sung; their names are not mentioned. They are mortar-makers. But their work is important. The Lord will not overlook them—men may, but God never. Some day he will say, "Come up higher." Those that have been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things.

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