

Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress" has lately been translated into the Chinese dialect of Amoy, which is said to be the eighty-third language or distinctive dialect in which this work has appeared.

Having purchased most of our breweries, the flush English capitalists are now buying up water works over here. Their thirst appears to be something unquenchable, says the Boston Herald.

The deep-sea researches made by the United States Fish Commission with a view to discovering the temperature of the fishing grounds and thus learn the causes that lead to the fish migrations are attracting great interest, not only among scientific men but among those interested practically in trade.

Nova Scotia is remarkable for the number of its old people. It has a larger number of centenarians than any other country, there being one to every 13,000 inhabitants. They are chiefly of the farming class, in comfortable circumstances, accustomed to exercise in the open air, plain food and plenty of it, with good inherited constitutions.

It was a peculiarly pathetic coincidence, says the New York Tribune, that Congressman Cox's death occurred at the very hour at which he had made arrangements to lecture on "Wonderland," meaning the new West, which he recently visited. It is another Wonderland with which he has made acquaintance, and his eyes behold things that shall never, never be to mortal hearers told.

The Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, which the Reverend Madison C. Peters left to come to New York, will try thirty clergymen and then take a vote to see which one of the thirty shall be called. This, says the New York Tribune, looks like a simple way to get a satisfactory pastor, but it may not be, after all. No one man of the thirty may please a majority of the voting members, while, on the other hand, the man best suited for the place may refuse to enter the handicap.

Women who make their complexions clearer by the use of arsenic, should study medicine if they wish to keep themselves from the danger of being poisoned by the drug. A Miss Chauncy, a noted beauty of Columbus, Ohio, whose fine complexion came from taking a mixture of arsenic and nitrate of silver turned herself almost black by going to the sulphur springs and taking baths. The sulphur decomposed the silver salts in her skin and now she has retired for a year to recover her lost looks.

The London docks, the scene of the recent strike, are one of the greatest systems of docking to be seen in the world. Upward of \$100,000,000 have been expended in their construction, and hundreds of acres are covered by them. They are built of stone and concrete, and are as substantial as such work can be made. Many of them date back to the beginning of the century. The amount of traffic upon them is enormous. It is estimated that in the warehouses of a single dock company there is at all times at least \$25,000,000 worth of goods.

India has of late years been regarded as our most powerful competitor in the European wheat market. Advices from the East this year, the New York Commercial Advertiser considers, indicate that we have little to fear from India's competition, the official estimate being that this season's output will be three-quarters of a million tons short of last year's. As showing that no large marketable stock can be on hand, the official figures of India's wheat export for the second quarter of this year are of interest. It appears from this statement that India sent out in the three months 3,646,590 hundred-weights of wheat, a decrease of 3,139,046 hundred-weights from the same quarter in 1888, and 4,890,752 hundred-weights less than in 1887.

In the opinion of the New York Observer "it will not need many more cases like that of the Cronin murder case to convince the public that there must be some radical changes made in our jury system. The time has come when it ought to be impossible to challenge the right of any intelligent man to sit upon the jury. An honest and intelligent man could hear evidence and decide justly, in spite of any possible prejudice that he may have conceived in reading newspaper reports of the crime. As conducted at present, there is no greater farce than many of our jury trials. They certainly favor the criminals and not the cause of justice."

**DANGEROUS EELS.**

**A CURIOUS FISH ABLE TO DELIVER ELECTRIC SHOCKS.**

**The Methods Used in Capturing Them—Their Disagreeable Appearance—How They Produce the Shock.**

Some years ago, at Panama, says Wilf. P. Pond in *Youth's Companion*, I made the acquaintance of a trader, and accepted an offer to accompany him to British Guiana, journeying as far as the delta of the Orinoco. This river annually rises to a height of fifty feet, and covers a tract of country half as large as the State of New York. When the water subsides it leaves large, stagnant pools along the edge of the savannas that lie beyond the limit of the inundation, and these pools are literally alive with fish, the most common variety being the electric eel.

The natives are very fond of these fish, but having a great horror of the severe shock they are able to communicate at will, employ a peculiar method in the capture which they call "intoxicating by means of horses."

During our stay in the village a number of the natives were employed in catching them, and I found the method highly interesting. On visiting one of the pools not yet disturbed, I saw some of the fish at rest. The pool was about half an acre in extent, the surface being partly covered with aquatic growth, and floating around on the top of the water, or near the surface, were large, yellow, almost livid eels, that resembled rather water-snakes than eels. Instead of the back being straight as in the ordinary eel, they appeared to "hump" themselves, that is to say, they drew the stomach in, making a slight arch of the back.

Lazily swimming along, they would suddenly straighten themselves out with a jerk, and then curve the back again. This I learned was the action of producing the shock, also that its habit is the reverse of that of the cat family, for it straightens itself when annoyed, and betokens pleasure by keeping its body arched. All around the pool were marvelous growths of rushes, and the great Ita palms, which gives the natives food, house, clothing, drink and furniture.

The hunt, or capture of the eels, began in the early morning, soon after daybreak, so as to avoid the heat of the noonday. About fifty men started out on horseback, and surrounding a number of wild horses drove them to a pool. The animals plunged in and commenced swimming across.

The eels, driven from the bottom to the surface by the splashing of the horses, endeavored to defend their territory against the intruders, with the strange means which nature has given them. Rising to the surface they rushed at their foes, not to bite them, but to defend themselves by the discharge of their batteries. In and out among the horses they swam, curving and uncurving themselves rapidly.

The horses, crazy with the excitement and the noise of the men, and the pains from the electric discharges from the eels, with straining, terror-stricken eyes and bristling manes sought to escape from the storm that had surprised them. Swimming to the nearest edge they tried to land, but were driven back by shouting natives who viciously struck them over the head and face, while the great eels, pursuing them to the edge, were speared by the harpoons, and thrown from the points far up on the dry soil, where other natives killed them.

The livid color of the eels was greatly intensified, and they were disagreeable-looking objects as they writhed and curled in the water, while their eyes, unduly prominent when at rest, receded far into the head so as to become almost invisible in their rage at being disturbed.

Once or twice a native stumbled in his excitement over some obstacle, and fell so that some portion of his naked flesh touched a squirming eel, and then a yell was heard that left no doubt that it was caused by acute pain.

At first, comparatively few were thrown ashore, but in a short time several of the horses, victims to the power of the shocks, were drowned, and gradually the eels became exhausted and seemed to be, as the natives said, "intoxicated." They swam aimlessly around, and were slowly driven down to a narrow part of the pool, where they were secured, as they lay half torpid in the shallows, by means of small harpoons and rude fibre nets. Those taken in the nets were transported to small holes dug in the soil, and filled with fresh water, from which they could be easily taken as occasion required, while those speared were intended to be used as immediate food.

Such, however, as the terror inspired by these fish, that the natives are very reluctant to take them from the harpoons, or otherwise touch them until life has been for some time extinct.

The electric apparatus of these fish consists of a series of honeycombed-look-

ing cells, filled with a thickish, gelatinous fluid, abundantly supplied with nerves, and situated between the head and the gills. The electrical organs are two in number, and the number of cells varies according to the size of the fish. In one fish each organ contained four hundred and seventy, and in another, larger fish, one thousand one hundred and eighty-two. Doctor Walsh, of the English Royal Society of London, demonstrated the passage of the electric current from one of these fish through eight persons, administering a perceptible shock to each.

As soon as the eels were dead and harmless, they are conveyed to the village where one of the intermittent festivals which appear to come round about every ten days was inaugurated. The women were busy all day making cassava, which is a starch obtained from a plant-root belonging to the Euphorbiaceae, by a rather complicated process. From this cakes are made, and baked upon round pieces of iron, similar to ear griddle-cakes.

A canoe full of piwarri—a drink made of cassava and water fermented—was prepared, and the fish, cleaned and rolled in sections of palm leaves, were baked and served up to the multitude, who beat drums, danced, drank, and yelled until dawn next morning, when the usual occupations of the tribe were resumed.

**The Demand for Shetland Ponies.**

A great deal of interest has recently been taken in the large shipments from this city of Shetland ponies to Vermont for general breeding purposes. There is probably no one more competent to talk about these interesting little bits of horse-flesh than George W. Elgin, a collector and breeder in Scotland, who arrived from the other side last week to investigate the cause of the demand that has sprung up for his pet stock. Referring to the methods of raising Shetland ponies, he said:

"The race, so far as pure strains of blood are concerned, is almost extinct. A wrong impression prevails that these ponies are bred in the Shetland Isles, whereas there are fewer there now than probably in any other quarter of the globe. There was a time when some rich families in that group of islands, with recollections of feudal times, used to take great pride in sending ponies to the lords and fine gentlemen of the Southern boroughs. Now the average Shetlander is so poor that the breeding of Shetland ponies has given way to the smoked fish industry. It is often said regarding the poverty of the inhabitants that a calf can only be permitted to live forty-eight hours, and after being served with a pail of water, is slaughtered for immediate use.

"The ambition of the Shetlander seems to have died out with the departure a few years ago of a favorite sheriff of the islands, who is now Governor of the Island of Mauritius. He was accustomed to encourage the industries of Mainland, the island of which Lerwick, the principal shipping port, is the capital. His wife used to drive a four-hand basket phaeton, drawn by four snuggly specimens of the genuine Shetland pony. With the sheriff's resignation the Shetlanders resumed their listless apathy, and there is no such a thing as the weekly steamer plying to Lerwick bringing a single consignment. Even the old family of Bruce sold all its belongings this summer, and now dealers have got to depend upon what can be obtained from the farms in Aberdeenshire.

"The diminutive little horses are shipped by steamer to Leith and thence to Glasgow. It is from the latter city that the American market is supplied. All the characteristics of the Shetland pony have been lost and the familiar shaggy hair has been supplanted by the sleek coat of brown or smoky gray. The finest pair of ponies in the United States, named "Dot" and "Pet," were raised by the Duke of Buccleuch and are owned, I believe, by a young lady of twelve summers, who lives in the neighborhood of White Plains."—*New York Star*.

**Mr. Gladstone's Simple Life.**

Mr. Gladstone's habits of life are very simple, although busy. He rises about 6:30 o'clock, breakfasts on bacon and eggs or a little fish and tea, and then goes to his library to skim over the newspapers. From 9 to 1 o'clock he receives visitors. A light lunch follows, and then he drives directly to Parliament. He usually dines quietly at home at 7:30 in the evening, the food being simple and the wines light, and then he returns to the House. Unless there is to be an important division, he is at home and in bed by 11 o'clock. Mr. Gladstone has a fondness for his old clothes, and when new ones are bought for him, his wife has to resort to diplomacy to make him wear them. When he speaks in the House he loosens his collar, turns up his wristbands and unbuttons his waistcoat, his gestures becoming exceedingly vigorous as he warms up.—*New York Graphic*.

**"Salted" Silver Mines.**

Ex-Congressman J. A. Hubbell, of Michigan, a millionaire mine owner, has a keen perception of the humorous. Recently a *Mail and Express* reporter had a conversation with him at the Fifth Avenue Hotel about salt and the attempt to form a salt trust not long ago.

"I have never dabbled in a salt mine, but I have in a mine salted," he said, with rather strong vehemence.

"Do you mean to say that the old trick was played on you?"

"Yes, I do. It was a silver mine. The specimens were the finest I ever saw. I became interested, and went to work with an expert to examine the mine. We found rich specimens, and it appeared to be the beginning of another Comstock lode. I was satisfied, and never once suspected that a trick was being played. A number of us bought the shrewd proprietor out, each of us giving him \$600. I induced James G. Blaine to put in \$800 on the strength of my report. Very soon after work began we discovered that the mine had been salted most skillfully. I went to Mr. Blaine and told him the mine had been salted and that our money was lost. He took it very philosophically."

"Have you been taken in since?"

"No; that experience taught me a lesson. I found out that salting mines and preparing specimens is a fine art. Why, these scoundrels that manipulate salted mines can put fine quartz specimens in so cleverly that it looks like the work of nature. To make upon a solid rock of gold or silver surface they shoot the metal from a pistol. I never go into any mining venture unless I do some careful investigation beforehand."

"Is there as much mine salting now as in times past?"

"No, and not so much made in mines as formerly. Men who buy mines now are conservative and do not go in with their eyes shut. Naturally so many have been tricked with salted mines that it is difficult to repeat it over and over again. Instead of doing the salting trick the wild-cat speculators have new methods and form large companies that deceive the unwary. It is getting more and more difficult to swindle even by the wild-cat method because the newspapers have so thoroughly exposed it. In fact, mining is beginning to assume a normal, business-like character and the avenues for unco miners are growing rapidly less."

**Sea-Weed of the Gulf Stream.**

The sea-weed in the gulf stream is filled with life of all kinds. Crabs and shrimps seek refuge in it, and feed upon minute life also there for safety. The goose barnacle is found here in great numbers, attached to every floating object. This is the animal which is such an enemy to shipmasters sailing from tropical ports. Although the vessel's bottom is scraped just before leaving port, young goose barnacles attach themselves in such numbers that, owing to their rapid growth, they seriously retard the ship's progress. There is no remedy but to sail on, letting them grow as fast as they will, and removing them when port is reached. Norwegian sailors believe that the barnacle goose hatches out of the goose barnacle, and many have asserted that they have seen the young just on the point of flying out. This belief probably arises from the peculiar scooping motion of the fringed feet of the barnacle while it is obtaining food. Even then a good imagination needs some stretching to be able to see a resemblance to a young bird. When a barnacle is young it is free-swimming, and resembles a shrimp, but as it grows older it attaches itself to some object by a sort of cement and becomes so changed that, unless its anatomy is carefully studied, no affinities to a shrimp would be imagined. Indeed, early naturalists considered it to be a shell-fish or mollusk. Odd as it may seem, many kinds of animals, at first possessed of free motion, voluntarily attach themselves to some object, and are from that moment imprisoned, having no power of moving from place to place.—*Popular Science Monthly*.

**The Republic of Hayti.**

Hayti has an area of about 28,000 square miles, and a population of about 800,000, nine-tenths of whom are pure negro, and the remaining tenth chiefly mulattoes. The language in use is French, and the State religion Roman Catholic. The legislative power is in the assembly, and the President is chosen for four years. The trouble between the United States and Hayti originated thus: First, Hayti had a revolution; then Legitime, temporarily on top, declared a blockade of the Haytian ports. Then the Haytian Republic, having on board arms and munitions of war, tried to run the blockade and was captured. A prize court decided that the capture was proper, but the United States refused to accept the decision, claiming that the court was improperly constituted, and the blockade announced. As Legitime refused to give the vessel up, we went down and got her. There was no trouble, however.—*New York Dispatch*.

**The Nautilus and Argonauta.**

Referring to the nautilus and argonauta, a writer in *Popular Science Monthly* says: Each has a row of arms, with suckers around the mouth, and they move in the same manner as cuttlefishes do—by ejecting a quantity of water through a tube with such force as to drive the animal backward. The nautilus, as it grows, builds the shell larger to accommodate the growing body, building on the edge and continuing the spiral, and at the same time forming a partition across the rear. If a nautilus shell is cut longitudinally it will be found to be made up of a large anterior chamber, which the animal occupied just before it died, and behind a large number of chambers separated from each by transverse partitions, and connected together only by a small circular hole that exists in each partition. When the nautilus is alive a fleshy tube runs through all these chambers, passing through the holes, and forms the only connection between the animal and the rear chambers once inhabited by it. It is thought that by means of this tube the rear compartments can be filled with water or emptied at the animal's will, thus allowing it either to rise to the surface or to sink to any required depth. Argonauta is a pure white, ridged shell, thin and delicate, the animal being very much like the nautilus, but in this case the female has the covering, while the male is entirely without the shell.

**The Jelly Fish.**

The jelly fish is found in the Gulf Stream in great abundance of forms. The mouth of most jelly fish is beneath, and is surrounded by tentacles which procure food. These are also furnished with stinging cells by which the food is killed. Their modes of reproduction are curious. In some a portion of the body grows out, and, after a certain time, drops off, becoming a jelly fish in itself. In others the parent body actually splits in two, each part becoming a perfect fish.

So great is the transparency of most jelly fishes that they are scarcely visible; but at night, what a change! When a school is passed, the water becomes suddenly transformed to a mass of liquid fire, composed of individual balls that together, on account of their great number, appear as one vast sheet of light. When they are disturbed their brilliancy is increased. Far different from the jelly fish in structure, but resembling it in its phosphorescence, is pyrosoma, a colony of animals often found in those warm waters, which together form a fleshy mass, possessing no remarkable points by day, but at night becoming most brilliantly phosphorescent. In the mass, six inches in length, there are hundreds of separate animals, each like the others, all massed together in a common colony. They are very curious, for, while most of the young remain to help build the mother colony, some entirely separate, and, after swimming about for a while, begin a new cluster that soon takes the form of the parent group. Each group has a regular shape just like the original one.—*Popular Science Monthly*.

**Flies as Carriers of Contagion.**

Since the recognition that in many diseases the infective principle is particulate, the possible means of conveyance of the virus from one to another individual have widened. Attention has lately been recalled to the part which may conceivably be played in this direction by the agency of the house-fly. Our contemporary, the *Liverpool Mercury*, reminds us that the granular ophthalmia of the shores of the Nile—a true plague of Egypt—has been shown to be propagated through this medium; and has further alluded to the discovery by Dr. Alessi that the bacillus tuberculosis may exist in the intestines of flies which have been feeding on phthisical sputa. Indeed, it would appear that there is hardly any direction, either in our mode of living, eating or environment, whereby we can avert the possibility of the transference to ourselves of this ubiquitous bacillus, and life would become intolerable were it not for the well-grounded belief that phthisis is not dependent for its development upon this microbe solely, but upon the concurrence of many conditions of almost, if not quite, as much importance as its implantation in the body. Apropos of flies, however, it has been stated that the lamented Father Damien attributed his leprosy to inoculation, through their agency, of an abrasion in the scalp.—*London Lancet*.

It has been estimated that the capitalization of the various corporations and concerns in this country dependent upon electricity for their business, from the Western Union Telegraph Company down to the humblest maker of electrical appliances, is not less than \$600,000,000. This means that the people now pay an annual tax of between thirty-five and forty millions for a convenience which forty years ago had scarcely begun to attract attention as something more than a scientific toy.

**FUN.**

The greatest of all poetry is a girl's love letter.

A woman can keep a secret, but doesn't like to.—*Somerville Journal*.  
In a driving storm no one is capable of holding the reins.—*Man*.

A man lost \$2,000,000 in less than a minute the other day. Cause, heart case.—*Binghamton Republican*.

A writer says that whipping a boy makes him stupid. It may be, but more likely to make him smart.

"James, you have been fighting, can't you tell by the look in your eye?"  
"But mother, you should see the look in the other boy's eye."—*Life*.

Jones has been commanded by his wife to send a telegram to her dearest friend, Clerk—"The message costs twenty cents, sir, but the postscript costs \$2.50."

"Is there anything a man cannot ask an exchange? We have never found a man who could send the children with his mouth full of pins."—*Amos*.

Young Man—"I have come to see your advertisement for a 'young man plenty of push.' What is the position that is open?"  
Blossom (pushing a carriage)—"My wife refuses to do it. I don't have time; so I shall have to substitute."—*Laurence American*.

Ada—"So you have been to your husband's folks, have you? Lulu? And how did you like your mother? Lulu—"Oh! ever so much." Ada; she made me feel so much at home. Why, in less than twenty-four hours I arrived there she had me in the kitchen washing dishes."

**Peanuts as Medicine.**

The taste for the toothsome peanut, a healthy one, and the nut is coming favor on account of its virtues, aside from its edible qualities. Of late years it has been boldly claimed for the peanut that it has rare curative powers in certain diseases now becoming frequent, especially among brain-workers and high-living people, insomnia with the first-class and dyspepsia with the others.

A correspondent of a Boston newspaper writes for the fact that he has a very bad case of dyspepsia, accompanied by insomnia—that he had gone several times to the hospital, was physically wrecked, and weight was lost, and, after a short course of treatment came out of it a healthy, hearty man, able to sleep under any and all circumstances.

In view of the revival of the peanut, its merits it should no longer be regarded as an article useful only as an amuse-ment at a dull circus. The peanut, goober, or ground-nut as it is variously called, is taking a place in the dispensary. The day may not be far distant when a physician will prescribe a pint of peanut and an hour's practice on chewing gum.—*New York World*.

**Key to Penmanship.**

Handwriting has its characteristics, and is a study in itself to those who wish to become familiar with its peculiarities, says the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*. It can very easily be told whether a person whose writing you want to identify is a man or a woman, a minor or adult, and is very seldom a handwriting assumed permanently before the writer is ten or fifteen years old. The age of the writer can approximately be determined by various methods. "If it has a Spencerian appearance you may know it is written after 1882, as at that date the Spencer system was introduced. If it is the aniline ink that is generally used of late years now, you may know it was written after 1873. The older ink is black or some diluted dyestuff for a base, and preceded the aniline. An analysis of the writing will most generally determine the date of the writing."

**Value of a Life.**

Before our Civil War the value of a man was placed upon the working force of a young negro field hand, was \$100, and upward, and upon a skilled mechanic \$3000. Dr. Farr and Edwin Chadwick, both eminent sanitarians, practically confirm these estimates. Dr. Farr says in England an agricultural laborer, at the age of twenty-five years, is worth \$1191, and above that it costs to maintain every man, woman and child in the world. Edwin Chadwick says that each individual of the English working classes worth \$890, and at forty years of age is worth \$1780. Our values in this country are much greater. Take the probability of our length of life from the tables, and put our labor on the market for that term of years, and you will find that we are worth to the community.

*Medical Classics*.  
In consequence of the success of smokeless powder, the Italian Government has suspended the manufacture of all other kinds of gunpowder.