The Lazy Azores



Where Oranges Are Sold for a Penny a Basket, and Each a Cup of Honey-Fruitful Islands Where Wages Are Low, But Where Living Is Cheaper Than in Any Other Quarter of the class Azoreans. But their wages are Globe.

26.—As the Madeiras are only three and they have no marketable value. days distance by steamer from San Miguel, we determined to take a look world; and unless the captain is amiss

HOW IT RAINS IN THE AZORES. with the hideous capete which the natives wear as universally as Englishmen their Mackintoshes. There is this bananas, red and yellow, figs, guavas, enormous advantage in the Azores— and other tropical varieties; straw-that it never drizzles. In five minutes the gutters may be roaring riv- size and flavor; but the pears, peaches, ers and every roof-spout a miniature apples and plums do not compare with Niagara, but in five minutes after the ours. shower is over the porous earth has absorbed every trace of wet, and the hot sun completely dried the trees and grass, leaving them greener, if possible, than before. Naturally, the surrounding ocean renders the atmosphere very moist, and as at our Atlantic resorts, rangements whatever for fires. these culinary purposes; and that none are needed, the robustness of the peo-ple amply attest. Flowers of all kinds bloom the winter through, and as greenest. Fresh fruits and vegetables come to your table at their January; and as for oranges-the golden apples from the garden of Hesper-ides couldn't hold a candle to them.

ORANGES, ORANGES, EVERY-WHERE.
Ripe oranges are gathered as early as October, but the first fruits are rather sour eating, and the harvest is not at its best before Christmas. Then the whole landscape seems golden, and there is such an overwhelming supply of them all winter long that you see, hear, smell and taste of little but laranjas-the Portuguese word for or-The markets are crowded with them, and every shop, big or little, has one in its doorway, among other symbols of trade-for lettered "signs" are not used in the Azores. In all the city streets and country ing great baskets of fruit upon their heads, and donkeys with bulging panniers in it, and a constant procession of ox-carts bringing oranges in boxes from the rural districts to the wharves and store houses, while the resonant cry of the Muezzen is nothing compared to the strident "Laranja! Laranja!" with which itinerant vendors make the welking ring in every highway and byway. The words of a fellow traveler on this subject are so apropos that I want to quote them to you. "The ground is thickly strewn with orange peel, and the people be-gin to wear a joundiced look. The very air seems yellower than before. redolent of spicy odors. Little children revel in the abuncance; they play ball or pelt each other with them or roll them up and down the streets or in the gutters. The fruit becomes the staple article of diet, especially among the common people, who now season with oranges their usual frugal meal of cornbread and fried fish. In the gardens everybody helps him-self indiscriminately. The trees are so extremely prolific that no one knows ith the crop. It can neither be sold nor given away, and annually thousands upon thousands of ushels rot on the grounds or are fed to the swine. Your acquaintances welcome you to their gardens with eager, ill-concealed delight. You are urged to eat all you want directly from the trees, and are also compelled to fill your pockets. Then, lest you are not fully supplied, a heaping basket is sent home to you by a servant. This plentitude is at first somewhat wildering-accustomed as we have been at home to pay five cents for Here we purchase from the dealers from 10 to 50 for a single cent-fresh and julcy, each one like a cup of liquid honey. I have ofa cup of liquid honey. ten been to the market and filled my hands and pockets with the choicest fruit culled from a two-bushel basket, and then gone away with a debilita-

On all the islands orange gardens Miguel, we determined to take a 100k monopolize a large portion of the available land. The Saracens, who world; and unless the captain is amiss once swarmed over this country, in his reckoning, we shall arrive at brought their favorite fruit with them, and every seed they dropped seems to have taken root and flourished. The On finds it hard indeed to tear him-groves are all surrounded by walls of lava rock, from 15 to 20 feet high, to peaceful beauty and infinite quiet, the protect the trees from occasional gales, with broken glass thickly set in the balmy air of perpetuate summer and mortar on top to discourage thieves the simple, kindly people, exercise from climbing over. There is a heavy such a lethean charm upon him that iron-bound door in the wall, with a such a lethean charm upon him that the longer he remains the more re-"lucky horseshoe" to warn away the gretful will be his adieux. Perhaps I witches and dupples. The trees are have wearied my readers by writing planted separately in rows, and are so much about these islands; and yet times by grafting, or by seed. Those the half has not be told. Since a wo-raised from layers bear in three years commonly propagated by layers, some man's postscript is said to contain the "meat" of her missive, I may be parfoned for adding a few last words, chard is not procured under ten years. after the last reef-biggirt Acor hast Seedings require the longest time of faded from view. The archipelago is all, but are the most prolific and are no longer the remote, out-of-the-way said to be less subject to the destroy-place we used to consider it, having been brought next door to everywhere, the best fruit—thin-skinned and seedalmost, by frequent and easy communiless. Many of the trees are of great ication. Besides the whalers and age, yet produce an annual crop aver-trading vessels from all parts, that aging 30,000 oranges. Some of them since time out of mind have made the even bear a second crop, called ridolislands the center of interest, a line ha fruit, so that the fortunate Azorof passenger-carrying packets from eans have oranges all the year round. Boston and two steamship lines from The orange quintas are busy places New York ply between at regular in-tervals. Fortnightly steamers also make the passage between the islands make the passage between the islands and Lisbon in four days, and thence to the ports of Southern Europe, It is only seven days from San Miguel where men put them into boxes and Liverpool, and many vessels make bevies of children are kept busy from two to a dozen every week smoothing out the corn husks for during the fruit season, which contin- wrappers, rolling each orange and ties from November till May. The old-time idea that the Azores must be an lindesirable winter residence, because a box, but those for England are heapthey are in about the same latitude ed with two or three hundred more, is Philadelphia, is also done away to save duty. Then the boxes go to with. The truth is that while there the carpenters, who nail on the tops, s seldom a day from one year's end they are ready for shipment. The to another which one may not spend bulk of the orange crop is sent to Engbleasantly out of doors. January is land, where "St. Michael oranges," as The balmiest month of the twelve. The average temperature throughout the year is 60 degrees, with an extreme tany other part of the world. The difference between winter and summer average annual exportation to Eng-of only 11 degrees—less than that of any other known locality—except Mabox. Some 300 sailing vessels and 40 HOW IT RAINS IN THE AZORES. steamers are now annually employed as transports for orange cargoes. especially during the winter time one can truthfully say with Shakespeare's fool, "The rain it raineth every day," but the same may be said of England, The United States market has never been supplied to any extent with Azorshowers is the rapidity with which cano ranges. It takes a sailing vessel they gather, expend their force and too long on a winter voyage to land seldom give any warn- them in good condition; but now that ing of approach, but are quite as likely steamships make the journey they to fail from a clear sky as a cloudy one; hence it behooveth the tourist to go always armed with an umbrella, or

I have never found a place worth living in where the cost of living is so slight as in the Azores. Large and handsome houses, fully furnished, a little way out of Ponta Delgada and Horta, with extensive fruit and flower dampness is healthful rather than injurious. The houses have a saluens attached, can be rented from \$100 to \$200 a year. Servants' wages average from \$2 to \$3 a month, including the food they like host are a saluens attached, can be rented from \$100 to \$200 a year. Servants' wages average from \$2 to \$3 a month, including the food they like host are also as a saluens attached, can be rented from \$100 to \$200 a year. try and eggs will sell for about half as much as with us, vegetables for almost nothing, and the fish market is a never-ending astonishment to foreigners for variety, cheapness and excellent then rain falls oftenest, vegetation is quality. An American naval officer who resides at St. Michaels with his familv. says that they kept house in fine style last winter at a cost of less than \$2 a day. They rented a large house, elegantly furnished, on an estate which includes an orange garden, and kept three servants. But nobody should go to the Azores without bringing an in come with him, though a very small one will yield rich returns in health and pleasure. Salaried employments are very few and wages pitifully small. Even the Governor-General gets only \$1,000 a year. Thirty dollars a month is considered a princely salary, and

school teachers of the highest grade

receive \$120 per annum FAYAL LACE. The Azoreans, especially the women, excel in everything that calsl for digital dexterity. They do the finest hair work, crocheting and embroidering, make feather flowers and knit open work stockings of exquisite texture and finish. The men carve delicate designs from the white pith of the fig tree ships, houses, crucifixes, birds, bouquets-that rival the finest wax work. and are adepts at weaving baskets of niers to the most fanciful article for the parlor table. Faval lace has long been famous in Europe, and is becoming known in the United States. It is made from the fiber of the aloe, or 'century" plant, which grows as abundantly in the Azores as in Portugal. The fibers when first drawn from the long leaves are about the size of No. 40 spool cotton, but are split (by hand) much finer, and the workers submit them to the several processes, including that of polishing with ivory tools. which gives the thread a sparkling brilliancy. The best fiber is brought over in a crude state from the interior of Spain and Portugal. That produced on the coasts of these countries is vellow, and on the island the fiber is almost black. The latter are used for coarse work only, because they cannot be split, the center being white. They make very handsome shawls, however, and the trimming for hats and dresses, especially when embroidered with straw. Fans, card cases, toilette baskets, mats, cushions and a thousand similar articles are also made of the black and yellow threads. The fine white lace, with its rich gloss, is indescribably delicate and beautiful, and has received first-clas medals at sev-eral world's exhibitions. Many competent judges declared it to be equal to finest point lace. In former years the little that was manufactured was sold in Paris at extravagant prices. Now that the business of exportation work goes to the United States. So

amount of time and precious eyesight consumed in its making. An elegant shawl brings perhaps \$6; vells, collars, jabots, etc., from 25 cents to \$1 50 each.

Nearly all the lacemakers live in the little village of Praia, about five miles from Horta. Though belonging to the peasantry, they seem superior to their associates in intelligence, and most of them can read and write—a very high degree of education among the lowpitifully small, six cents a day being the average, and the most skilled and industrious seldom make more than 10 On Shipboard, nearing Funchal, Dec. falls no one ever things of eating them needles, with heads made of lupine seeds, are held with points toward the worker, and then the fingers fly so rapidly that unpracticed eyes may try in vain to trace their movements.

There is a school in Praia where the art is taught, together with the rudiments of education, by two elderly sisters. A good many young girls at-tend it, and a few grown women, besides a number of children, almost bables—for it is said to take a life-time to become experts at lacemaking; so the younger one begins the better. Well, we have put off saying goodby as long as possible, but everything must come to its finis sometime. The sun long since went to bed in the west-ern ocean; sea and sky have changed their rosy tints for nun-like gray, and near-by sails that an hour ago were almost crimson, are now silhouetted in black upon a mirror of unburnished steel.

The day is done, and so is our visit

to the Azores. We will bid you good morning in Madeira. FANNIE B. WARD.

Missing Links__

Gossip From Every Land Summarized for Busy Readers.

tains his greatest weight; a woman at

PHOTOGRAPHS have been taken of

the sea fully 500 feet below the sur-THE book of Job, written about 1520 B. C., describes very accurately several processes of smelting metals.

EVERY evening as the sun goes down two leaves of the common clover fold together, face to face, while the

third closes over them. AN ice marriage took place recently in Holland. The couple were married on the frozen Zuyder Zee, the ceremony being followed by a dance on

THE height of the monument, Fish street hill. London, is 202 feet from the pavement, being 30 feet higher than that of Antonius at Rome, and is considered the finest, as well as the high-

AN English lad was recently savagely attacked near Newbury by a Norwegian bird, known as the blackthroated duci, which measured over a yard and a half across the wings. A man rushed to the boy's assistance, and killed the bird which is supposed to have been blown inland during the

RAMKRISKNA' GOPAL BHAND-HARKAR, Sanscrit professor at Poona, has been elected foreign correspondent of the Academie des Inscriptions, being the first native of India to receive the distinction. The other new correspondents are Kirchoff, the classical scholar of Berlin, and Benndorf of Vienna, the archaeologist.

NEW PLACE, Shakespeare's last home at Stratford-on-Avon, is being improved by the removal of the shrub-

THE Californian Indian's bow is made from the white or sap-wood of the cedar, the outside of the tree being also the outer side of the bow. The stick is scraped and polished with the sharp pieces of obsidian, roasted in ashes and then bent into shape. Their arrows are made of button willow twigs of the buckeye and canes.

SO SENSITIVE is the Duke of Marlborough to the stories that Blenheim in Chinatown than in other parts of was restored with Mrs. Hammersley's money, that he has had family accounts investigated and published by has shrunk to 15,000. The last China chartered public accountant, who steam proceeds of the sales of the Sunderland library and the Blenheim pic-Chinatown in six months will not have 10,000 inhabitants.

IN the West Indies, where hurricanes are frequent and destructive, they generally originate in the tropical regions near the inner boundary of the trade whose place is supplied by a rush of wind from the surrounding regions, set into gyration by the rotation of the

THE strength of the spirit of independence that has been roused among the Cubans is shown by the fact that the ranks of the insurgents. In Collazo's force in a recent encounter with Gen. Molina there were 38 dressed as men, armed with machetes and revolvers. Twelve others carried rifles and fought in the vanguard.

IN EMULATION of his nephew, the Kaiser, the Prince of Wales has written a cantata for soloists, chorus and orchestra, which will soon be perroyal family are about to begin a concert tour for charitable purposes, at which the Duke of York will play the piano and the Duchess the banjo. The authority for these statements is the

IN 1595, says an article in the National Review, Sir Walter Raleigh, the gallant English knight, entered Venezuela and explored the Orinoco to its sources in search of the fabled city of Manoa, "the walls whereof, of solid gold, were lapped by the waters of a vast inland sea." Raleigh did not find any territorial line in Venezuela. but the discovery of gold near the Orinoco shows that fables and romances of old had a real golden hue.

THERE semes to be little doubt that John B. Robinson, of South Africa, is the richest man in the world. His fortune is estimated at \$350,000,000. In 1878 Robinson was in debt. He had kept a grocery store in the Orange Free State, but he could not make both ends meet. He and his wife begged Here Robinson laid the foundation of

bition now is to be worth a billion. SOME anxiety is felt for the safety of Lord Rosebery's sprightly but aged mother, the venerable Duchess of Cleveland, who, in spite of her advanced years-she is the only surviving bridesmaid of Queen Victoriahas insisted on making a tour through much skill and patience does it need a levee en masse of the Mohammedan that few of the workers ever acquire population. The Holy Land, and esmarked proficiency, though instructed pecially Jerusalem, is therefore overting sense of meanness at receiving a and practiced in the art from child- run with an undisciplined, half-paid, out a penny in the world just escaparmed crowd of soldiers, all in a great ed being "rich beyond the dreams of tendered in payment. As for wind- credibly low prices, considering the state of religious excitement, and avarice."

AT the age of 40 a man usually at- | ready on the slightest provocation to give vent to their feelings by attack-

ng foreign as well as native Chris-

TWO REMARKABLE illuminated Hebrew manuscripts of the Bible, written in the ninth or tenth century. were shown by Dr. Gaster recently to the Society of Biblical Archaeology in London. They came from central Asia and are probably the oldest Hebrew texts of the Bible in existence The margins of the leaves are covered with rosettes in gold and other orna-ments, while the writing is surrounded by a border of five colored lines.

HUBERT HERKOMER has devised a new process of reproducing pictures "without the intervention of photography, or any preliminaries, such as biting, rocking, etc." He paints in monochrome on a copper plate as he would on a panel or canvas, covers his painting with fine bronze powder, mhich hardens the surface, and takes an electrotype from it. The results are said to be very good. Prints of his portrait of Dr. Jameson have been

FOR years a curious phenomenon has been witnessed on Lake Winnebago, in Wisconsin, where, as soon as the ice forms solidly, an immense crack opens almost exactly in the center of the lake, extending lengthwise from one end of the lake to the other. The crack is now three to six feet wide, and about thirty miles long. It is supposed to be caused by the expansion of the ice, and the pressure against each shore being equal, the upheaval and fissure appear in the

A STATEMENT by London Engineering conveys the information that a broken rail on the railway at tener its loud, wailing cry is heard. Hagan, in Germany, was found to be literally honey-combed by a thin, bery and buildings that marked the thread-like gray worm. Everything boundaries of the different holdings apparently has a destroying parasite. bought up by the trustees. Hereafter Iron was thought to be exempt from there will be an open sweep from the food-searchers. But the little worm nest and climb about like monkeys wall facing the old Falcon tavern to corrodes iron by emitting a powerful over the adjoining limbs and twigs, the opposite boundary wall. sacs or glands on its head. A bottle than birds. After hatching the modithis liquid in the hands of a bank robber might perform the work of dynamite.

THE decay of "Chinatown" is one of the most remarkable features of San Francisco life. Five years ago Chinatown had 25,000 inhabitants and trade was lively, and many of the large merchants were doing an ex-tensive business. Rents were higher the city. Now rents have fallen more than one-half in this quarter, real estate is unsaleable and the population steamer carried 700 Chinamen back to their homes, the greater part of whom will not return. At the present rate,

ROBERT BURNS, fourth, the great grandson of the poet, died recently at Blachal, near Edinburgh, and by his death, which happened exactly one winds, and are caused by the vertical hundred years after the decease of ascent of a column of rarifled air, the Ayrshire bard, the direct male line of Burns has come to an end The deceased was born in 1844. His father was a scholomaster, from whom he received a good education, but, weing of a roving disposition, lobert Burns the fourth enlisted before he was out of his teens in the Scots Fusilier Guards. After serving as a soldier for seven years, he engaged in women fight side by side with men in various employments, and was for some time a railway employe, and fin-

ally a gardener.

THE ruse which a Marion, Ind., girl adopted for securing a husband is perfectly legitimate this year. Maggie Spencer worked in a fruit jar factory, and one day she placed a note in a jar which she was packing, asking the man who found it to write her. The jar fell into the hands of J. E. Bingham, of Celina, O., an old man of 86, who not only has a good deal of money, but was looking for a matri monial alliance. He wrote the girl. who told him to go to Marion, where the marriage would take place. old man made what might have been a fatal mistake, for he went to Muncie insead of Marion and stood in front of the postoffice for a day, looking for his bride. Then a policeman to whom he told his story, put him on the right track, and he lost no time in getting into Marion, where he found the girl and was married to her. Now the couple are on their wedding trip in the south, and Maggie expects never to work any more.

IT IS a curious commentary upon the instability of human affairs that kitten at play, and the seeker is surthe former owner of the entire city of Johannesbug now lies a confirmed invalid in the workhouse infirmary of the quaint old market town of Guildford, in Surrey. The old man seems to have had a most remarkable career. He was in the service of the East India Company, fought in the Crimea, was seriously wounded at Sebastopol, and afterward passed through the Inhis enormous fortune by picking up a dian mutiny. He then went to South rough diamond worth \$1,200. His am-Zulus and the Boers before the Trans- them and mew, popping back again as vaal was made over to them. He bought for £350, his accumulated savings, over 15,000 acres of land near the source of the Limpopo, where he made up his mind to ultimately settle, but war broke out, he took up arms against the Boers, and formed one of the party who held Pretoria against has grown to considerable proportions the Holy Land, which is now in an them. In 1880, when the republic was several hundred women are engaged in exceedingly disturbed condition, the declared, he refused service under the manufacture, and the best of their Druses having risen, to which action President Kruger, and the consequence the Sultan has responded by orderisg was that his land, upon a portion of which the Transvaal city of Johannes- tractive than the exhibition of so-burg now stands, was forfeited. Thus called educated fleas," says Happy the old man who now lies dying with-

Animal Curiosities.

STORIES **ABOUT**

Ants on Horseback. A Wonderful Four Legged Bird. A Faithful Sheep Dog. Cats Who Play "I Spy." Tricks Performed by "Educated" Fleas

A Mount Vernon, O., dispatch says: The story of the New York goat that has lived and raised a flourishing family in Harlem on a diet of tin cans, clothes lines, bill posters, hoopskirts, and similar delicacies, is completely overshadowed by the record of an intelligent member of the goat family here. This animal is the property of Larry Dermody, a railroad worker, and is known popularly as Billy.

Several years ago, owing to a disease he had contracted about the jaws, it was deemed advisable to clip Billy's whiskers, and he was taken to a barber shop for the purpose. The process proved a success and the operation was repeated several times with good results. But when the whiskers grew again the facial troubles returned to Billy, and the shaving was again re-

Fnially the goat came to like the treatment, and no trouble was experienced in getting him to undergo it One day Mr. Dermody caught the animal and examined him, preparatory to taking him up street for his regu-lar shave. He was very much astonished to see that his lower chin was shaved smoothly and cleanly. When he walked into his barber shop that evening he learned that the goat had appeared and had his whiskers re-moved. The barbers thought nothing of the occurrence, but supposed that Larry had accompanied the goat up street and stopped in a neighboring store to await the goat's return.

Ever since that time the goat appears of his own accord at intervals of several weeks. The time between visits always depends upon the soreness developed by the growth of his whiskers.

A WONDERFUL BIRD.

Nothing in the realm of natural history in late years excels in interest the announcement of the discovery in British Guiana of a bird with four legs, says the Popular Science News. The crested hoatzin, opisthocomus cristatus, the only survivor of a race of birds, several of which are known as fossils, inhabits the most secluded parts of the forests of South America, and it is probable that it is owing to its retiring habits that it has outlived its congeners, as well as to the fact that, feeding as it does upon wild arum leaves, its flesh acquires so offensive a smell and flavor as to have gained it the name of stink bird and to render it entirely unfit for food It is a large bird, almost as large as a peacock, in fact, but is very seldom seen. Of-The chief peculiarity of the hoatzin consists in the fact that when it is

hatched it has four well-developed

legs, the front pair being of a reptilian character. The young birds leave the fication of the fore limbs begins, the claws of the digits falling off, the whole of the clawlike hand becoming flattened, change into wings. After this modification has taken place feathers begin to grow, and in a short time not a vestige remains of its original character. As Prof. F. A. Lucas, in an admirable monograph on "Spurs and Claws," in a bulletin of the Smithsonian Institute, says: "The adult birds not only have no claws upon their wings, but their thumbs, even, are so poorly developed that one would hardly suspect that in the nestlings we have the nearest approach to a quadruped found among existing Mr. J. J. Quelch, who studied them in British Guiana, tells us that soon after the hatching the well-de-veloped claws on the pollax and index are constantly in use for hooking and holding on to surrounding objects. The nestlings when quite small, are frequently found far away from any nest, climbing by the help of their clawed wings after the parent birds during feeding time. One curious feature noticed with a nestling which had been upset in the river was its power of rapid swimming and diving when pursued. As soon as the hand was placed on it, it dived rapidly in the dark water, in which it was impossible to see it, and arose at a distance more than a yard away. Owing to this power the little creature managed to evade all efforts to secure it, taking refuge eventually under the bushy growth, when it was impossible to pursue it. The prolonged immersion which a nestling will undergo, instinctively and voluntarily, or which an adult bird will endure in an attempt to drown it seems quite remarkable.

CATS PLAY "I SPY."

A pastime in which all the cats de light is hide and seek behind the pillows of a bed or sofa. In the drawingroom there are some old-fashioned divans against the walls with several cushions set upright, which have been the playground of generations of pets: the mothers begin by playing with their kittens, the kittens keep it up together, and teach it to younger sets. The point of the game is which shall the other first, and surprise by a cuff on the nose, which stands for "I spy." When two play it is simor four one always remains outside the cushions to seek, and by degrees the little pink-nosed, white between the cushions with the inimitable and provocative expressions of a prised by a tap. If she be on the alert the hider sometimes vanishes, and sometimes they try which can get within the other's guard, and give the first whack.

M'liss was particularly fond of hide and seek, and established a mode of playing it with us while we were at dinner; she would hide on the window sill behind the long winter curtains, which are dropped in the evening, and would peep out at one side or between we called. "I see you;" she never tired of this slipping unseen from to window to vary the surprise until we had more than enough of it.— Temple Bar.

"EDUCATED" FLEAS. "There is no one of the side-shows and minor features of museums and fairs which seem on its face more attractive than the exhibition of so-Thought, Boston. "There is something in the idea of educating any of the lower animals that appeals to us all, and the lower the animal the more later in that year,

HERE'S A GOAT THAT SHAVES. I there is in it of interest to the people. The suggestion, even, that it is possible to get insects to perform tricks which seem as if the result of intelligence, excites at once sympathies of spectators, and the educated flea ca together companies who are delighted with the apparent results, although really ignorant of the causes or of the fact that each trick means the death of that particular flea. If one will reflect but a moment, the absurdity of edu-cating so ephemeral an animal as the flea becomes apparent. After a couple of weeks as a legless little worm, the young flea spins for itself a cocoon, which is its habitation for a couple of weeks longer, when it awakes in its familiar form for a brief existence of a few weeks at the most. To instil into so short-lived a creature anything like an appreciation of the tricks that he is to perform is out of the question, and the results which are attained are by a purely mechanical and cruel process. The work which the fleas expected to perform is something in which its instincts to escape becomes of service; it is 'harnessed' to a litthe wagon or shoots off a miniature cannon or does some other simple thing requiring only a feeble pull in a straight line. The 'harness' is a sharp pointed wire, which is stuck into the body of the unfortunate insect, and in its struggles to escape the poor flea performs its trick, and the amused spectators are not aware of the cruelty to which it is subjected. If passengers in the shape of other fleas are desired to make the wagon trick more remarkable, or a coachman or a footman. they may be readily had by impaling others of the insects under properly placed wires, resulting, of course, in torture and death of them as well. Our local societies have put a stop to these exhibitions in this State, and very properly so, for the very meanest of created things is entitled to a life free from unnecessary torment."

A FAITHFUL HERDER.

A dog in New Mexico, returning one evening with his sheep to the fold, discovered that his master was still in his shanty and kept very quiet. The next evening it was the same. But after penning up the sheep the dog smelled about the door, scratched, barked, and even howled, as he was getting very hungry. But his master did not move. The dog, true to his appointed duty, went out with his sheep on the third day, but that night, when he drove the flock into their pen, the last one to attempt to get in became the victim of the dog's appetite. This method of providing for his own wants became a part of the dog's faithful duty. Every evening the last sheep to enter the fold was seized by him and served for supper and breakfast and dinner the following day. The ranch to which the dog belonged was in a solitary part of the territory, and out of the track of

travel or visitation. From two years from the time of the master's death, as ascertained by data left by the latter, the faithful dog tended the flock committed to his charge, and had fresh mutton for his supper every night. The flock was not decimated by this steady drain upon its resources. On the contrary, it increased in numbers, and when, at the end of two years from the death of the proprietor, the ranch was visited and the remains of the owner were found, the dog was still at his post of duty. jealously guarding his flock and driving them to the best pastures every day and to the fold at night, before which he slept to keep the wild sheep-eaters of the plains at a civil distance.

ANTS ON "HORSEBACK."

It has long been known that several species of ants maintain and feed another sort of insects for the sake of the wax which they exude, and which the ants use as food. These ants are said, therefore, to keep cows. But it has only lately been discovered that there are ante which ride on the backs of others, and are thus the cavaliers of the insect world.

long ago a French explorer. M. Charles Meissen, in traveling through Siam, observed a species of small gray ants which were new him. These ants were much engaged in traveling, they lived in damp places, and went in troops. To his surprise, he noticed among them from time to time an occasional ant which was much larger than the others, and moved at a much swifter rate; and each of these larger ants, M. Meist 1 saw, always carried one of the gray ants on its back. This discovery led him to watch

their movements closely. He soon saw that while the main body of gray ants was always on foot, they were accompanied by at least of their own sont mounted on one of these targer ants. He mounted and detached himself now and again from the line, rode rapidly to the head, came swiftly back to the rear, and seemed to be the commander of the expedi-

The explorer was satisfied, from his observation, that this species of ant employs a larger ant—posibly a drone of the same species, though he had no means of proving this—as we employ horses to ride upon; though scarcely more than one ant in each colony seems to be provided with a mount. It is known that some ants maintain others in their service as servants or slaves. Certain warrior ants of South America confine their own physical efforts to raiding and plundering, while all the ordinary offices of life are little gray ants of Siam appear to be a more industrious race, though they a "man on horseback" among them.

ATTAINED WISDOM.

"Have you noticed," said a man to Dumas, "that it is impossible an imbecile acknowledge that he is an idiot?"

"Of course." replied Dumas: moment he admitted he was an idiot he would no longer be one."

A GENERAL simultaneous census of the world for the year 1900 is asked for by the International Statistical Institute. It can be taken if slight modifications in the time of their regular censuses are made by the chie countries of the world. Portugal, Denmark, the United States, Germany Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Hungary and Sweden will regularly take the censuses on different days of the year 1900, Holland on the last day of 1899, Norway on the first day of 1901, and Great Britain, France and Italy,