

ST. JOHN, N. B., SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1896.

CUNNING SMUGGLERS

INGENUOUS DEVICES FOR HIDDING UNCLE SAM.

Of All Smugglers John Chinaman is the Most Adept—His Ways are Very Dark—Opium is His Specialty—Smuggling is a Lively Occupation.

In all countries where customs duties are high the occupation of smuggling is a lively and dangerous one. Professional smugglers are generally men of a high order of intellect, and when engaged in stealing from the Government display a great deal of cunning, activity, refinement, and quick wit.

The customs inspectors, who have charge of the examination of baggage and the searching of vessels at the various docks, are nearly all of them experienced men and perfectly familiar with all the tricks to which smugglers resort. They know when to look for diamonds or other valuable articles; have an eye which carefully measures the capacity of trunks, so as to detect false bottoms; are sometimes somewhat affectionate in embracing passengers whose clothing seems too bulky; are careful students of human nature, and can discern in the appearance of satisfaction with which a passenger observes the examination whether anything has been omitted in the search.

Not infrequently diamonds are found concealed in false calves, in false shoe soles and heels, and in a thousand other places about the person, particularly in the hair of women, where, wrapped in tissue paper just the color of the hair, they are securely fastened with silk thread.

It used to be a common thing for smugglers to bring over diamonds in Edam cheese, silks, laces, and shawls packed in bales of hops. Iron tubing used to be a good way of hiding goods. Precious stones have been smuggled into the country in cakes of soap, in cavities of large corks used for perfume and toilet articles, and in hollow canes and umbrella sticks. One old-fashioned silver-mounted cane made twelve successful trips. The supposed unlucky thirteenth was started as a new number, one, with a new cane, which at last accounts was still on its travels.

Diamonds, etc., of value \$25 to \$50,000, have been carried in that old cane on each trip. It is now taping the pavements of Chicago as an ordinary walking stick. One of the most remarkable devices used by a smuggler to conceal contraband articles was a Bible hollowed out inside, so that a number of valuable watches or other precious articles could be concealed among the leaves. This was carried under the arm by a solemn-visaged and reverend-looking gentleman with white whiskers. He was noted among his fellow passengers on the steamer for the care and attachment he displayed toward the holy book. The man turned out to be a notorious smuggler, who, in a small way, had for years been defrauding the revenue by bringing in articles supposed to pay duty.

Several leaves of bread hollowed out inside so as to contain cigars have also lately been seized, and from the same gang of smugglers was taken a concertina filled with choice Havana cigars, upon which a high duty would have had to be paid if brought in in the ordinary way. Another ingenious device was a can made to tow overboard from the stern of a steamer. It was water tight, and contained a large quantity of cigars when captured. An oil can with a chamber to contain brandy was also taken from one of the engineers of an incoming steamer. Perhaps one of the boldest of these devices was a bogged log of wood, or rather a log which had been hollowed out, which was found kicking almost harmlessly on the deck of the steamer. It was closely packed with cigars. Another ingenious ruse was carried on for some years before it was discovered. Small-sized cedar logs were procured, which were sawed into boards, leaving an end of the log uncut, so that the thin planks would open like the leaves of a book. Parts of the interior of the planks were carefully removed, leaving a hollow space, which was filled with fine Havana cigars, packed in boxes, and the logs were then carefully tied together, giving them the appearance usual to cigar-box lumber stacked into planks. Imitation planks of coal have also been made for this purpose, and these, painted black, have been almost impossible of detection. It is a good joke on the smugglers, however, when one of these got lost in a load of coal and the fine cigars which it contained ultimately went up in smoke through the furnace of the steamer.

Not long ago a successful diamond smuggler who had grown gray in the service, and who was so smart that he never was caught, brought over from Europe diamonds valued at over \$100,000. He concealed them in the floor of his stateroom by artistically sawing out a piece of it and permitting them to remain there until the sailing of the steamer on her return trip. He landed from the steamer and when his wife went with him to his stateroom to bid

him good-bye on his return voyage he gave her the diamonds, and she not only got safely on shore with them, but disposed of them for their full value in a few days after Diamonds have also been smuggled in the hollow legs of dolls, and in toys of various descriptions. A gentleman's silver or gold pencil case may contain stones of value securely put away inside, and a knife handles have been known to contain them.

Opium smuggling is a great business on the Pacific coast, and, notwithstanding the fireless efforts of the Treasury Department officers, this business is still carried on to an extent that is astonishing. Opium is of two kinds, prepared and crude. The prepared can be used for nothing but smoking. On this there was a duty of \$12 a pound under the McKinley tariff, but it has been reduced to \$6 by the Wilson bill. The treasury officers admit that practically all the drug brought into the United States while the McKinley tariff was in force was smuggled. At present, with the duty at one-half of the McKinley tariff, smuggling still continues, as prepared opium can be purchased in Chinatown for a little more, than the cost price in Hong Kong or Victoria, B. C., where it is manufactured. Most of the opium smuggled into this country is manufactured at Victoria, and it naturally gets across the line by the nearest and most available routes.

Puget Sound, with its many harbors, inlets, and streams, affords landing places, for all kinds of smuggling vessels, and its numerous islands, with rocks and crags, and dense woods offer the smuggler safety from pursuit. Not only do these heavily timbered localities afford concealment to the smuggler himself, but they also enable him to safely store away his contraband goods when hotly pursued. One of the most common receptacles for getting opium across the line is the ordinary traveller's trunk which is checked as baggage and generally goes through unsearched. Satchels and small parcels of every description are also made use of by the smuggler, and in one instance an old piano was stripped of its inner parts and filled up with cans of opium valued at \$5,000. Even innocent-looking flower pots have been made to serve the smugglers.

To a man the Chinese crews on the steamers plying between San Francisco and Mexico, South America, and China, are smugglers. They hide their contraband goods in the oddest places imaginable, and get them ashore past the eyes of the Customs Officers in ways that almost baffle detection. They have brought opium skillfully stuffed in bananas still hanging to the stock and in oranges. A Chinese cook walked ashore with several loaves of bread filled with opium. Chinese have been detected with boxes of the drug deftly bound in their queues or tied under their arms. Every bit of baggage and every article they take ashore is a hiding place.

In one invoice of "chow" or chopped vegetables over \$40,000 worth of chopped opium was confiscated, and in one lot of "hardware samples" a seizure of the drug valued at \$7,000 was made. At that time Secretary of the treasury Folger was of the opinion that one ring of smugglers during its existence had cheated the government out of more than \$4,000,000. In one venture a syndicate with \$100,000 capital made \$800,000 in smuggling opium from Vancouver, and during the trial of a smuggling case in San Francisco, a United States Treasury officer testified that during the previous ten years over \$6,000,000 worth of opium had been smuggled into San Francisco.

The Chinese resort to all manner of devices down to false heels and soles to their shoes. Some time ago \$300 worth was seized in the "hump" of an alleged hump-back. A customs boat is nearly always stationed under the wharf during the stay of a China steamer, and from time to time the officers see planks, pieces of scantling, and tins with floats attached thrown overboard for some waiting boatman to pick up. When seized they nearly always prove devices for smuggling in the costly opium. The planks and scantling have long slender holes bored in them; these are filled with the drug and carefully plugged up. Innocent-looking boards are taken from a steamer and laid carefully to one side on the wharf. They are there long, for presently some watchful eye has discovered them and they are quickly "sneaked off." These are otherwise full of opium.

One of these dummy planks four inches thick by fourteen wide arranged to contain several hundred dollars' worth of the drug is preserved in the Surveyor's office at San Francisco.

Opium has been discovered in the hollow iron strings of steamers, in false bottoms to the chain lockers and the hollow of the iron masts. Opium has been covered with oilcloth and stowed away in the ship's bilge. It has been found in the tubes of the boilers, inside the vessel's skin, and it has been brought ashore in pockets on the person and in hats upon the head. It has been discovered, behind panels in the staterooms

in partitions, strung up in sausage skins, in table legs, in false bottoms in cuddy holes and pantry drawers, in coal bunkers and under engines and boilers, in the folds of extra sails, in the stateroom, in barrels of pickled salmon, in mats of rice, and in every nook and corner of the vessel.

Recently, when one of the large steamers was on the dock for repairs, numbers of mattresses were thrown on the wharf with the apparent intent of letting them air. They were discovered to be stuffed with some of the finest silks that had come into that port. The Government was defrauded out of more than \$250,000 by a firm who had been importing silks shipped as "crash towelling."

Smuggling is not confined to the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, but extends all along the Canadian border. The smuggling of clothing, silk, jewelry, whiskey, tobacco, butter, India goods, opium, etc., is conducted on a very extensive scale across the Canadian border from Maine to the State of Washington. Buffalo has become known as the head centre of a complete and profitable system of swindling. Where a dollar's worth of dutiable property is brought from Canada by rail, a thousand dollars' worth is shipped across Niagara River in skiffs between midnight and day-break. There are ratoon keepers in that city who buy in Canada every gallon of the spirituous liquor which they sell, and they always know just where to find parties to smuggle a cask or two across the river. It is only about a mile from shore to shore.

The smuggling at Detroit, which is the second best point along the border, is merely a bagatelle in comparison with Buffalo. During the winter, when the lake is frozen, teams are driven a distance of twelve miles upon the ice, and not one load in fifty is overhauled. Most of them contain smuggled goods. Suspension Bridge, Ogdensburg, Richford, and St. Albans, Vt., and El Paso, Tex., are also famous points for smuggling, especially for Chinese laborers.

Recently a car load of hay was sealed and passed across the border "in transit" to the United States. After arriving at one of the large towns on the border in the United States a hidden trap door was opened in the bottom of the car and twenty-three smuggled Chinese laborers slid out and departed for parts unknown.

Professional smugglers find their business so profitable at times that they devote their lives to the study of how they may defraud the revenue, and when it is considered that this class of persons are among the shrewdest of men and women it is something surprising that the revenue officers catch them at all. Frequently they are detected. In this case the articles seized are sent to the seizure room at the Barré Office and the facts are reported to the Collector for his action.

ARMIES OF BABOONS.

Evidence of Thorough Organization—Story of a Contest With Wild Dogs.

Evidence of the astonishing sagacity and military organizations of the Africans baboons increases with the recent exploration of their favorite haunts, due to the troubles in Central Africa and Abyssinia. The English, German and Italian travelers and emissaries, who have been employed in various missions on the fringes of the Abyssinian plateau, have corroborated many stories which have hitherto been suspected to be exaggerations of fact. It now appears that their methods and discipline are far in advance of any other vertebrate animals, and not inferior to those of some of the negro tribes themselves.

The conditions of the life of these monkeys in Africa are sufficiently curious without reference to their acquired habits, though these are undoubtedly due to the dangers to which the nature of the country in which they live exposes them. The different species of baboons, which are found commonly over the whole African continent, are all by nature dwellers in the open country. They find their food on the ground; and whether this be insects or vegetables, it is usually in places which afford little shelter or protection. Though strong and well armed with teeth, they are slow animals, with little of usual monkey agility when on the ground, and not particularly active even when climbing among the rocks. In the rocky 'kopjes' of the South, or the cliffs and river sides of Abyssinia and the Nile tributaries, they are safe enough. But they often abandon these entirely to evade the low country. During the Abyssian expedition conducted by Lord Napier of Magdala, they regularly camped near our cantonments on the coast and stole the grain on which the cavalry horses and transport animals were fed. When on expeditions of this kind they often leave their stronghold for days together, and the means of joint defence from enemies in the open country are then carefully organized. Their natural enemies when thus exposed are the leopard, the lion, and in Southern Africa, the wild dogs. To the attack of the leopard they oppose numbers and discipline.

No encounter between the baboons and the wild dogs has been witnessed and described, but their defensive operations against domesticated dogs were seen and recorded by the German naturalist Brehm. The following account appears in the translation of his travels by Mrs. Thompson, just published: "The baboons were on flat ground, crossing a valley, when the traveller's dogs, Amb grey-hounds, accus-

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tomed to fight successfully with hyenas and other beasts of prey, rushed towards the baboons. Only the female took flight; the males, on the contrary, turned to face the dogs, growled, beat the ground with their hands, opened their mouths wide and showed their glittering teeth, and looked at their adversaries so furiously and maliciously that the hounds, usually bold and battle-hardened, shrank back. By the time the dogs were encouraged to renew their attack the whole herd had made their way, covered by the rear guard, to the rocks, except a six-month-old monkey, which was left behind. The little monkey sat on a rock, surrounded by the dogs, but was rescued by an old baboon, which stepped down from the cliff near, advanced towards the dogs, kept them in check by gestures and menacing sounds, picked up the baby monkey and carried it to the cliff, where the dense crowd of monkeys, shouting their battle-cry, were watching his heroism. The march of the baboons is not a mere expedition of predatory members of the community. The whole nation "trell" together, and make war on the cultivated grounds in common. Their communities are numerous enough to produce in miniature the movements of troops. The tribe often numbers from 250 to 300 individuals. Of these the females and young are placed in the center when on the march, while the old males march in front and also close the rear. Other males scout upon the flanks. It has been noticed that these remain on guard and do not feed during the whole time that the rest are gathering provender.

It disturbed by men the old males form a rear guard and retire without any haste, allowing the females and young to go on a head carrying the plunder. Their retreat is, as a rule, deliberate and orderly, the baboons being quite ready to do battle with any animal except man on the plains, and instantly becoming the assailant of man himself if they get the advantage of position. Brehm was stoned out of a pass in a very few minutes by the dog-faced baboons. "These self-reliant animals," he writes, "are a match even for man. While the screaming females, with young ones, fled with all haste over the crest of the rock beyond the range of our guns, the adult males, casting furious glances, beat upon stones and ledges, looked down on the valley for a few moments, continually growling, snarling and screaming, and then began to roll down stones on us with so much vigor and adroitness that we immediately saw that our lives were in danger and took to flight. The clever animals not only conducted their defence on a definite plan, but they acted in co-operation, striving for a common end, and exerting all their united strength to obtain it. One of our number saw one monkey drag his stone up a tree that he might hurl it down with more effect; I myself saw two combining to set a heavy stone rolling."

The wars of the Constantinople street dogs are eminently satisfactory from the point of view of the inquirer into animal politics. Theoretically they are complete examples of what the rational warfare of the animals ought to be, but usually it is not. It has for object either defence or conquest of territory, not the mere plundering instinct, or that primitive desire for making a meat dinner off an enemy which occasionally suggests an attack on weaker neighbors to the cannibals of the Congo. This civilized and rational warfare of the Constantinople dogs is due to their territorial instinct. Certain streets and quarters belong to particular dog communities, which again subdivide their territory among individuals. In some streets each heap of refuse on to which the common rubbish of a group of houses is thrown belongs to one dog, who lies on it, brings up his puppies on it, and on it has his home. "There were these sycot families in one street," according to the account of a lady who recently visited Constantinople and thought its dogs the most interesting native inhabitants.

If food becomes scarce in the next dog "parish" an invasion is planned into a richer neighborhood, where the rubbish heaps—the Turkish equivalent for dust bins—of a wealthy class of inhabitants promise

to yield better results. All the dogs of the invaded territory at once muster for resistance, and the fight, which is not organized, but of the rough and tumble order, goes on until victory declares itself for one side or the other, or until the inhabitants step out and stone the packs till they separate. Not infrequently a street or two are annexed by the invaders; more often the defence is successful. This is always conducted by a levy en masse, even the puppies joining in the fray. It is observed that it is only serious invasion that causes the dogs to fight. A single dog may pass through a strange quarter, provided he gives himself no airs, but lies down on his back and sticks up his feet with proper deference and humility whenever the owners of the street come up to expel him. According to Turkish traditions, these street dogs were once most successful in warfare, for their ancestors fought and beat the devil. Their story is that when man first appeared on earth, the Satan drew near to kill him, the dogs attacked and drove away the arch-enemy and preserved the first man. Hence, when a Turk has broken some minor ordinance of the Koran, he often buys a few loaves of bread, and, stepping out into the road, throws them in a dignified manner—not as an Englishman would throw them—to the dogs of the street.

No vertebrate animals show the same organization for wars of plunder and defence as the baboons, or the territorial instinct of the street dogs; but there are several species which exhibit these instincts in a minor degree, and in some cases act under the order of officers. The troops of wild horses of America are led by the master stallion; when attacked by plumes, or expecting to be "stampeded" by another troop, they are said to form a ring, with the mares and foals inside.

The pack of "red dogs" in the Indian hills follow the lead of the hounds, probably because their skill in scenting is more accurate. The Indian wolves have been observed to divide forces, part keeping the dog in check, while the others attack the sheep. Bison, when chased, leaves the largest bulls as a rear guard, but this may be due to their greater weight and inferior speed. Indian wild boars often defend the sugar cane quarters against the natives who desire to cut them, retreating into the last patch and rushing out if the men come near. In this case it is the males who do the fighting, and there is no combination to protect the territory which they desire to hold. But no wild animals have developed their powers of combined attack and defence in so creditable a manner as the baboons. Their motives—"defence, not defence"—are irreproachable, and their method deliberate, courageous and self-reliant and effective. The advantage of size and sex carry corresponding duties; and Brehm justly remarks that there is probably no other male animal which runs into danger voluntarily to rescue a young one of its own species.

YSAÏE AT HOME.

The Violinist's Home in Brussels, His Orchestra and His Appetite.

YsaÏe, the violinist, who enjoyed a year ago such unusual success in this country, has built in Brussels a fine house, which probably represents the substantial results of his American concert season. He will not return to the United States for a year or two. He has given evidence lately of his devotion to the musical interests of his own country by the organization of an orchestra, composed mostly of young men not identified with the older musical associations of Brussels. This orchestra, he has declared, will be devoted in the main to the interpretation of modern music, particularly to the work of the newer French and Belgian composers. When YsaÏe was in New York he told a Sun reporter that he had failed entirely to understand the domination of German ideas in music which prevailed in this city and throughout the country. "Wherever I went," he said, "there were conservatories and colleges of music, from New York to San Francisco, and always the name of the director was German. I have any criticism to make of musical taste in this country, and particularly in New York, it is that the German influence is incomprehensibly strong."

Whatever the value of this opinion may be, YsaÏe evidently adheres to it still, for he lately told an interviewer: "For originality and individuality I think we must turn to the rising school in France. I see but little in Germany or Russia." YsaÏe's orchestra, which had none of the

support secured by guarantees of subscriptions, was received with so much cordiality by the people of Brussels that its first season of concerts paid its way. The violinist's success as a conductor was great, and, in view of his temperamental and personality, this is not hard to understand. YsaÏe has taken to the bicycle, and his friends here wonder whether or not it has increased his appetite. When he came first to New York he stopped first at a hotel where the cooking was German, and his managers were particular to explain that this house was selected because Wien awaki, the violinist, had lodged there when he was in the United States. But this association was not strong enough to keep YsaÏe in a hotel which did not supply food that suited his taste. After a day or two he made a break for a French hotel down town, and the chef still rolls his eyes in wonder when YsaÏe's name is mentioned. Such quantities of food had never been served in the history of the establishment, to any man, nor had any other made such strenuous demands on the bar. YsaÏe learned to like American drinks while he was here, and combined with the thirst he had acquired in his own land, this new knowledge produced a dreadful result. YsaÏe had a room on the first floor of this hotel, and the patrons in the cafe could hear him practicing every day. The music was delightful, but frequently interrupted by imperative ringing of the violinist's bell or his sudden appearance in the cafe, as he demanded from the entire staff of waiters some immediate relief from his thirst which apparently was hard to quench. But his appetite was nearly as invincible, and the sessions he passed in the dining room of the hotel were prolonged and active. Some of his acquaintances here are wondering if the bicycle has been found the only relief from a career of so much eating and drinking. But in appearance while he was here too natural to be the result of any new climate.

The Weight Man of Madrid.

Jose Coll of Madrid, who is called the weight man, can at a moment's notice tell the exact weight of whatever object is handed him simply by lifting it in his hand. For instance, a walking stick is given him. He lifts it, and after a few seconds can tell its exact weight, which is verified by a weighing machine in his exhibition hall. There is no fraud possible, for any spectator is at liberty to present anything to Coll. From his childhood he began to practice his art, if art it is, by first ascertaining the exact weight of copper coins, until finally he reached his present marvellous power of guessing.

Boundless Earth.

The waters deluge man with rain, oppress him with hail and storm him with inundations; the air rushes in drows, prepares the tempest and lights up the volcano, but the earth, gentle and indulgent, ever subservient to the wants of man, spreads his walk with flowers and his table with plenty; returns with interest, every good committed to her care, and although she produces the poison she still supplies the antidote; though constantly teased more to furnish the luxuries of man than his necessities, yet, even to the last, she contemplates her kind indulgence, and when life is over he piously covers his remains in her bosom.—Finy.

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