

A DEEP SEA GLUTTON.

This Marine Wizard Can Swallow a Fish Twice Its Own Size.

That one animal can devour another twice its own size at a single swallow is a statement that may seem as incredible as any fish story ever invented. "Nevertheless it is true of certain fishes," writes Dr. Sanderson Christison. "So far as known such fishes are inhabitants of the deep seas, where utter darkness perpetually prevails, with an unvarying temperature almost as cold as ice and a pressure ranging, according to depth, from a quarter to three or four tons upon every square inch of their body surface. The deep sea is commonly regarded as commencing where the rays of sunlight cease to penetrate, which is estimated to be less than 1,200 feet below the surface, and may extend to twenty times that distance or even much more, down to the bottom of the ocean. Fishes have been dredged from below 12,000 feet.

"A deep sea fish, the *Chiasmodon niger*, six and five-eighths of an inch long, has been found to have swallowed another fish ten and a half inches long. The stomach of the devourer is stretched as this as gold beater's skin. It has sharp, hooked teeth, which cross each other from opposite sides of the mouth and usually point backward. According to Gunther, the fish after having seized its victim with its capacious and very movable jaws partly presses it down as a snake would do and partly draws itself over it. The prey is received into an esophagus and stomach the membranes of which are as extensible as an india rubber pouch. The stomach when empty is contracted and folded up and projects but little below the abdomen.

"When a deep sea fish is brought to the surface, bow gradually and carefully so, its bones are often like so much touchwood and its muscles like rotten pulp, while its eyes are burst from their sockets and its viscera are often blown out of the body cavity by the expansion of the air bladder. It frequently happens that deep sea fishes are found floating helplessly on the surface of the ocean with large prey in their stomachs. Their appearance under these circumstances is accounted for by the efforts of their struggling victims to escape from their jaws, causing them to ascend beyond the horizontal zone which they usually inhabit.

"Deep sea fishes are commonly black or dark brown. But, although it is claimed that light is essential to the formation of colors, some deep sea fishes are scarlet in parts or uniform red or rosy. Others are silvery white, while, according to Alcock, the neocopeins is 'one dazzling sheen of purple and silver and burnished gold, amid which is a sparkling constellation of luminous organs.'

When the Gods Love.

There are two standards of measurement of human life—the one by years, the other by achievement. Measured by years, Sidney Lanier's life of less than two score was a broken column; measured by achievement, his life is not yet ended—he is immortal. Robert Burns died at thirty-seven, Byron at thirty-six, Poe at forty, Raphael at thirty-six, Lanier at thirty-nine. It is whom the gods love die young. And yet who shall say that the Scottish plow boy, or the author of "Child Harold," or he who sang of the "Raven," or the painter of the "Transfiguration," or the composer of "Centennial Cantata," do not, one and all, still speak to us in voices whose echoes will command enraptured listeners away down the centuries?—Lippincott's.

Inmate Perverse.

The neighbors were discussing the peculiarities of an eccentric old resident. "I do think," remarked Mr. Higgins, "that old Mr. Tigrum is the contrastiest man on the face of the earth."

"What's he doing now?" asked Mrs. Jiggins.

"Doing? You remember he used to say that when he had accumulated \$50,000 he was going to quit saving money—the old skinflint!—and settle down to the enjoyment of it?"

"Yes."

"Well, he's actually done it!"

"Glass and sunlight."

Common clear glass left exposed in certain desert regions of the earth soon changes greatly in appearance and acquires color, sometimes rose purple and sometimes amethyst. This change has been attributed by some observers to alkaline soils, but others maintain that such changes occur where there is no alkali and that it must be due to the great activity of the actinic rays of the sun where the atmosphere is very clear.

On the State Side.

An old woman who persisted in bowing during church service whenever the name of Satan was mentioned was reprimanded by the minister for so becoming a habit. The reproof had, however, no effect, and the minister asked her finally in exasperation why she thought it necessary to bow.

"Well," she replied, "it costs nothing, and you never know what will happen."

Regarding It.

Jenkins—Mr. Golding of your city is quite wealthy, I'm told. Did he make all his money himself? Miss Backbay (of Boston)—Oh, no! Most of it was a—limbacy from his father.—Exchange.

In a Glass House.

Tom—Didn't Grace's father call you down for staying so late? Dick—No; he didn't find it out till I was leaving. He was just coming in as I was going out.

In the spider's web it is the glutinous threads that catch the victims.

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PITH AND POINT.

Few things are as good as they look. A little girl likes to take care of a baby, but it's different with a boy.

People complain a good deal. Still, they have a good deal to complain about.

Don't be too sure of yourself. The other fellow may only appear to be fooled.

How often you hear the expression, "He thinks no one has any rights but himself."

If a boy is healthy, two minutes after he has reached home from school he is eating something.

Some day the time comes to every man when the most he can do for those around him is to be patient.

There are two kinds of luck—good luck for which you must work and bad luck which appears unannounced.

The question of rent keeps many a man on the move.

Some false teeth look so natural that they ought to ache.

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RUSSIAN NIHILISTS.

The Tragedy From Which the Party and Its Creed Sprang.

Who was the first nihilist? How and where did nihilism first start? These questions are answered in the following narrative:

Exactly forty-three years ago, when Muraviev, the lieutenant of the present czar's father, was carrying out his cruel and barbaric crusade against the peasants, a young student of that country attending the University of Dorpat returned home one day with half a dozen companions, whom he promised to entertain in his father's house. They entered, and a ghastly spectacle met their view. The whole mother and sister of the young Pole had been brutally treated by Muraviev's cowardly soldiers, drunk with vodka.

The students, who were Russians, stood dumb with horror, while the bereaved boy sat down by a little table. His head rested on his left hand while his right arm hung limply by his side. His companions expected a wild outburst of rage against themselves and their country, but the boy did not speak. He just sat there, pale and deathlike, while tears poured from his glassy eyes.

One of his friends went over to him and, touching him on the shoulder, said:

"Stanislav! Stanislav! Come to yourself again, and we will avenge this wrong!"

But the boy did not answer. In a few minutes the tears ceased to flow, the eyes turned upward, there was a heavy sigh, and Stanislav fell dead from his chair.

The terrible shock had killed him. Kneeling round the body of their dead companion, the Russian students bound themselves by a solemn oath to work out the ruin of the tyranny which had thus disgraced their fatherland.

They secretly met afterward, and their creed was thought out and settled. It was the result of careful thought and was not wildly absurd or hysterical. It was as follows: "Liberty in religious belief, freedom of the press and the representative system and the redistribution of property." To secure these things they determined to resort to any measures—even assassination. And that has been the creed of the nihilists ever since.

The people who have a chance are the people who make a chance for themselves.—Sarah Grand.

Playwriting, if hardly a means of livelihood, is an exceedingly agreeable speculation.—Anthony Hope.

A true patriot does not hate the foreigner; he looks forward to closer intercourse and a complete fraternization.—Augustine Birrell.

Things that are worth doing are the flowers in the garden of God, and, like the flowers, they sometimes grow in unexpected places.—Sidney Allnutt.

Woman is throwing off her useless femininity and beating even her brothers in brusqueness, indifference and the art of being "casual."—Miss Ella Hepworth Dixon.

Monte Carlo is like the Serpent of Old Nile—beloved even though feared and most alluring if most deadly; ageless, arresting, retaining always that which she has won.—Lady Helen Forbes.

People Who Make Wills.

An English lawyer says: "The moment a man has £20 clear to leave he will begin spending money on testamentary disposition. I have even known a small farmer whose savings, after the realization of his property and the payment of his just debts, could not have exceeded a £10 note to spend £3 or £4 a year over a course of thirty years in having fresh will drawn up. As a matter of fact, when he died at last a will was in force identical the same as the first one I had drawn up for him thirty years before. If he had saved the money he spent with me and had put it out at compound interest he would have had a very snug sum—well on toward four figures—to add to his estate."

"Dog Trot" a Misnomer.

"Dogs have a variety of gaits," said the boss of the kennels; "therefore I can't understand why it is that people who describe a certain style of locomotion always call it a dog trot. Judging by the universality of that expression, a body would think that a dog never moved any other way than on a trot. But he does. All the gaits belonging to other four footed animals are also his. He runs, he lope, he even racks and paces, so when a person in a hurry falls into a peculiar kind of canter there would be just as much sense in speaking of his gait as a dog run or a dog gallop once in awhile as always to call it a dog trot."

Men and Truth.

Archbishop Whately of Dublin once asked a young man how it happened that truth, although always sedulously sought after, is so rarely found. When the youth demurred giving his answer, Whately said: "I'll tell you why it is because men always prefer getting truth on their side to being on the side of truth."

A Wonderful Actor.

Winks—Talk about stage realism! You should see Strident in "Love and Woe." "Jinks—He can't hold a candle to my friend Mouthier. Why, sir, he played the heavy villain in "Woman's Wrongs" so realistically that his wife sued for a separation the next week.

The Reason.

"My mamma's got whiter teeth than your mamma," said Alito.

"She'd oughter have. She changes 'em oftener," retorted Maudio.

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PREPARING RAW OPIUM.

How the Drug Is Taken From the Poppy and Made into Balls.

The preparation of "raw" opium in north India is carried out as follows: In February, as a rule, the juice is gathered, the poppy plant being then in full flower and of a height of three or four feet, each stem having from two to five capsules of the size of a duck's egg. Before the capsules are pierced the fallen petals of the flowers are carefully gathered and sorted according to condition in three grades and then are heated over a slow fire and formed into thin cakes, to be used for the covering of the drug when collected. The piercing of the pods requires great skill, and upon it largely depends the yield. The opium farmer and his assistants each carry a small lance-like tool, which has three or four short, sharp prongs, and with this a half dozen perpendicular cuts are made in each capsule or seed pod of the poppy. The juice begins to flow at once, but quickly coagulates. The day after the thickened juice is carefully gathered, being scraped off with a small iron trowel, and the mass thus gathered is put into an earthen vessel and kept carefully stirred for a month

or more, great care being taken to have it well aired, but not exposed to the sun. The material is now examined by expert testers, who determine its grade or quality, and then the whole is put into a large box, where it is worked very much in the same fashion as baker's dough to give it the required consistency. The opium is now made into balls for export; the natives wade about in the large vats containing the paste-like drug and hand it out to hundreds of ballmakers sitting around the room. Every man has a spherical brass cup lined with the poppy flower petals before him. Into this is pressed the regulation quantity of opium. From this brass cup, when properly pressed, the opium ball is transferred to another man, who gives it a coating of clay. This gives the drug, when ready for shipment, the appearance of a fair sized cannon ball. When well prepared in this manner, opium will keep its properties for fifteen years or more. Before it can be used the opium balls have to be broken up and

to stamp out an evil it is sometimes necessary to be well healed.

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