

## SUBJECT FOR A MISSIONARY.

LITTLE FOR THE NEW YORK CLIPPER, BY COCKY.

He was an old "jour" compositor, who had old cases in almost every city from Boston to San Francisco, and from Montreal to Galveston. He compelled him to grace his nose with a pair of steel-framed spectacles, which, it was said to be seen, were also aged, and added to his sedate appearance. Silvery threads had become numerous visible among the raven locks that once adorned his well-shaped head, and a stubby growth of pepper-and-salt-hued beard served to make his angular cheeks look slightly broader. His clothes, once black, had faded to a shade that plainly indicated their disreputable condition. Altogether, he was a typical specimen of the Bohemian type. He had been working in an Ohio town for about a month, and hadn't taken a drink for a week, when upon a recent Sunday evening a fellow-traveler surprised him by an invitation to attend church. He looked strange and mystified, and, after staring blankly at his friend, and, as though just awakening from a Rip-Van-Winkler, deliberately said:—

"Jim, I'll go. Haven't been inside of a church for over thirty years, and don't know but kind of an entertainment they'll give; but I'll chance it."

And they went. As he timidly entered the auditorium of one of the finest churches, a step or two behind his companion, he seemed bewildered, looked right and left almost at a single glance, and seemed to wish he was out of the place. At that moment a courteous usher stepped up and offered to show them a seat. He fingered his stubby beard nervously, and remarked:—

"Don't give us a reserved seat, please, 'cause I'm not accustomed to it; I would prefer the gallery, if you please." But, glancing up and seeing no gallery there, he continued:—"Never mind, don't trouble yourself; I'll just sit right down here in the pit."

And with his amused though slightly disturbed companion, he wilted strangely into the first vacant pew he observed, and sat quietly picking his teeth with the pin he used for a tooth-pick, until the organ sounded the prelude and the choir arose. While they sang the voluntary he maintained a critical posture and listened with a strange feeling. As they resumed their seats he turned to his friend and whispered:—

"That's a good orchestra, but the music is too solemn for comedy, and too tame for tragedy. What line of business do they do, anyhow? Got a programme about you?"

Then his friend pinched his leg and whispered back:—

"Dry up, can't you? You're not in a theatre."

But that only added to his confusion; he couldn't comprehend the situation. It was a genuine novelty to him; he didn't know the ropes, and was bound to go it blind. He didn't understand the parson as he announced a hymn; but, noticing the congregation reaching for books in the racks in front of them, and seeing his friend do the same, he softly remarked:—

"Say, Jim, old boy, share up and declare a dividend on that libretto. I came here to accommodate you, and I want to understand what is going on."

He evidently expected to hear the "stage party" go off into immediate operative hysterics, and when, instead, the whole audience joined in unadorned song, he looked astonished beyond degree, and seemed to imagine some one was receiving a grand, complimentary benefit. He finally thought he would take a hand himself, and tried to sing; but it was a sad failure—an absolute break-down, from the facts, first, that he hadn't tried to sing for twenty years; and, second, that he had never heard the tune.

It was the sermon that astonished him most completely, though; it made him nervous—he twisted about right and left, looked backward towards the door, and longed to be down in the print-shop with the boys tumbling a "jeph," but he dared not stir; finally, he turned to him as he relied to the monotony, and gave vent to his opinion:—

"If I'd known this was to have been one of these monologue businesses, I'd stayed away. I'm a victim of misplaced confidence; Dr. Landis can give this fellow lessons all his life. Wish I had a Clipper to read. He's an amateur. Wake me up, Jim, when they ring the drop-curtain."

He sank back in the cushions, and thought of days in years long past when he made his first tramp as a "joar print," and soon sank away to oblivious happiness until the choir aroused him. As the congregation was slowly filing out he said:—

"Jim, I thought you had a better opinion of my appreciation than that."

SHOOTING A TIGER FROM A RAILROAD ENGINE.

bullet; he was hoisted on board, and when skinning him, it was, strange instance of retributive justice, found that his stomach contained undigested buttons and cloth, which clearly identified him as the destroyer of the stoker on the previous day.

Whether it was a case of *an revient toujours a ses premiers amours*, and that the tiger was tracing up the removed body by scent, and thought another slice of that, or another railroad man would be beneficial to him, or whether it was purely fortuitous that he should choose that walk that morning can, of course, but be guessed at, but the coincidence—which was told me by the chief engineer of that part of the line, on the occasion of our passing the scene of the occurrence very shortly after it happened, attracted considerable attention, and for which I will vouch.—Unique.

## RATTLESNAKES.

THE TERRIBLE ADVENTURE OF A SCHOOL GIRL IN THE MOUNTAINS.

A young lady in Reading, Penn., has received the following letter from her friend who is at boarding school, giving a thrilling account of her adventure with a huge rattlesnake.

"DEAR MAGGIE—Three weeks ago yesterday afternoon two young ladies besides myself, who had gone out in a walking party with one of the teachers at the school in this place, strolled off from the rest of the party, and, losing our way, were unable for some time to tell where we were, as the woods and underwoods were so thick that the further we penetrated into it the more difficult our passage became. We wandered to and fro for a long time until almost overcome with fatigue, when we sat down on a huge boulder to recover our lost strength. Looking at our watches we found that we had been on the mountain nearly six hours, and felt hungry, distressed and tired. It was about five o'clock in the afternoon, and twilight was fast approaching. 'Oh, for something to eat,' my companion said, 'and then we would struggle on and try to find the school again.' She appeared to be the picture of despair. We were sitting some feet above the ground alongside of a huge oak tree, and presently I felt something moving on my neck. I placed my hand to my neck to remove it, when horrible to relate, I grasped something round and soft, which hissed like an adder. I tried to pull it from my neck, but it wriggled and squirmed, and my companion, seeing the monster on my body, shrieked and screamed and almost fainted. Just at that moment the head made a dart at my breast, with mouth wide open and tongue elongated, and hissing a death-like and horrible sound. My left hand was about six inches from its head, and, in order to prevent being bitten, I grasped it right behind the eyes with my right hand. Holding it in this way for several seconds, my companion shrieked to me to throw the snake from me. I tried to do so, but was powerless, being, as it seemed to me, transfixed or charmed to the spot by the horrid eyes of the monster. I tried to talk, but my jaws would not open, and my tongue appeared stiff. I felt the cold sweat trickling down my back, and large drops of perspiration stood on my forehead. My face was as white as the driven snow, and I could neither move nor talk, but seemed to be as stiff as a post. It makes me shudder, as I write, to think of the stare of the reptile. Annie, my companion, seeing my dangerous situation, screamed for help. She seemed to have been bereft of reason, for instead of coming to my assistance she started to run away. Trying to turn my head to see whether she had gone, the eyes of the snake were also directed in the direction in which Annie was shrieking. From that moment the snake's spell on me was broken, and with all my might I hurled it from me. No sooner had the snake landed on the ground than I ran with the fleetness of the deer, fearing that it would overtake me. Judge of my feelings when, almost out of breath and ready to shrink down to the earth from sheer exhaustion, I turned around and found a snake with three others several paces from me, in hot pursuit. I remembered that snakes were afraid of anything red. Fortunately having on a red skirt, I immediately exposed it to the reptiles' view, and they at once stopped the pursuit. I advanced toward them, shaking my red skirt, and they retreated. I gathered up stones and threw at them, and killed the largest one, and the others escaped through the rocks. Just at this moment, a deputation from the school who had been in search of us came up. The large snake that had coiled itself around my neck was found by the escort, and it measures nine feet and four inches.

## SIGNS AND OMENS.

That "luck" has been considered a potent element in horse matters, has some forcible and interesting illustrations in the annals of the turf. When Wild Dayrell was foaled, his future trainer, Luckaby, who was stead groom for Mr.

## HOW TO WIN HIM.

"Eliza," said a fond mother to her offspring recently, as that offspring was about going forth in tow of a young man who worships the very sidewalk she walks upon. "Eliza, go to the bread-box and eat a good big crust of bread before you go out." "Why, ma'am," replied the blushing girl, "I don't feel the least bit hungry. We've only just had tea." "I know it, but you will be hungry before you get back, and when Adolphus takes you into a restaurant you'll eat ice cream and sponge cake, and ham sandwiches, and oysters enough to scare him out of a year's growth. You silly girls don't think of this, but we experienced women do. I was once young and giddy myself, and but for sixty-five cents worth of maracas—a cake for which I have ever since entertained the most profound contempt—your paw would have been a Congressman, with an an aquiline nose and Hyperion's curls. Beware how you sit down on the budding flame of Cupid. Of course, Adolphus will spend the money you save him on billiards and things, but that makes no difference. When he asks you to go in and have some oysters, even if you are hungry, don't. Say you do not approve of girls wasting the money of their future husbands on trifles, when it might be applied to furnishing a house. Point out that for the cost of an oyster stew you might purchase a couple of towels, now that towelling is so cheap; and that a Saddle Root roast is the equivalent of a silver fork—plated, of course, but not easily distinguished from solid silver—or a glass sugar-bowl. This always takes the young men; it sets them to thinking of housekeeping and matrimony; it makes them believe that you are the incarnation of economy, and would make an excellent wife; and so they often say things which give you a hold over them, or are effective before a jury." Eliza treasured up these sagacious counsels of the authoress of her being, and acted upon them with such earnestness and affect that when she came home she was an engaged woman.

## HUNTING THE FOX.

Sport in the British hunting-field has been running high this month. A fortnight ago the Empress of Austria was very early at the meet at Harrington, and a move was made before too many were on the ground. They found a good fox in Loatland-wood, where half the field was left, and ran him away by Deoborough, and then turned over the brook for Botwell-wood. A good many forded the brook, and fell into it. Mrs. Corbett, another lady, and Major Orrell all got into a hole, and then the rest made for the bridge, in reaching which Mrs. Oliver fell on the road insensible, so a chair was procured to take her to Colonel Arthur, who was out in his brougham. On reaching him they found he was already full, having taken in Count Clam Gallas, who also had a bad fall, causing concussion of the brain, besides a fractured jaw; and a little further on Captain Reynolds was down, and also much hurt. Another carriage was procured to take Mrs. Oliver home, and the Count was conveyed to Cottesbrooke in a brougham. On the same day Lord Suffolk had a nasty accident while out with the Duke of Beaufort. He was struck by a projecting branch of a tree and knocked from his horse, his head being badly bruised. Colonel Kingscote, M.P., also met with a bad accident while out with the hounds. The Colonel's horse fell upon him, causing serious injuries to his back, and a slight concussion of the spinal cord. On the same day, with the same hounds, there were two other serious accidents. From this graphic account, which is condensed from an English sporting paper, it is quite clear that the fox is having more fun than the distinguished company behind him.

## THE BUCKARO.

In the Southwest there are many characters of most peculiar individuality, who are found only on the frontier. There is the Ranchero or Rauche Herdsman, the "Greaser" mule skinner of Mexican teaster, the "Freighter" or American ox driver, the "Blander" or stock-marker, the "Prospector" or prospector miner, the post scout, the buffalo hunter, the squaw man and the "nobby" buckaro. Each has pride of calling, and wonderful boasts of their abilities are made, and marvelous stories of their successes are told in the light of the evening fire of the camp, rancho, barrack or hacienda. The buckaro is usually a Mexican or Texan. The Mexican dress is an embroidered and spangled velvet jacket, open at the throat, corduroy or velvet breeches, heavy Taux leggings ornamented with beads, coiled tightly around the legs, and tied below the knees; a wide red sash is knotted on the left side, and supports a light bowie-knife or dirk. His lasso encircles his waist when not in use, or hung on the saddle, and a large

## THE INDIAN BULLBOAT.

One of the most curious contrivances for crossing and descending the West river is the bullboat. It has been in use many years among the different bands of Sioux, Comanche and Arickaree (Red Indians). The hide of a bull elk is used as a covering for each boat, and it thus derives its name. The bullboat may be made any size, though it is usually constructed to accommodate from two to four persons. The frame is simply a large circular willow crate, with the raw elk hide stretched over it, fur side inward. Although the boat is usually about two feet deep and six feet wide, its burden is very great. Many of our Western hunters use bullboats, and I have found them very convenient for descending long rivers. A boat of the above dimensions will comfortably accommodate two hunters and their trappings. The boat is most in use on the upper Missouri River. The occupants paddle from opposite sides to prevent the boat from turning, thus driving it steadily ahead. When a boat is heavily laden, one Indian swims behind, answering the purpose of rudder, and at the same time assisting in propelling the boat. The lazy bucks float for miles down river, in their boats when hunting, fighting, or trading, and their squaws pack the boats on their backs up the long, fatiguing trails on the river banks. Parties of a dozen or more are often seen packing boats, and to reach a destination it often takes several days travel.

## IRON BITS.

Let one one who has care of a horse these cold frosty mornings deliberately grasp in his hand a piece of iron; indeed, let him touch it to the tip of his tongue, and then let him thrust the bit into the mouth of his horse, if he has the heart to do it. The horse is an animal of nervous organization. His mouth is formed of delicate glands and tissues. The temperature of the blood is the same as in the human being, and, as in man, the mouth is the warmest part of the body. Imagine, we repeat, the irritation that would be caused this man, and consider, if hot to the same degree, the suffering to the animal; and it is not a momentary pain. Food is eaten with difficulty, and the irritation repeated day after day causes loss of appetite and loss of strength. Many a horse has become worthless from no other cause than this. Before India-rubber bits were to be had, I used a bit covered with leather, and on no account would have dispensed with it in freezing weather.—Boston Herald.

## A TROUT'S GYMNASTICS.

The Boston Post says: "In the aquarium in the window of the Bromfield House, on Bromfield street, is a large brook trout weighing nearly three pounds, that cuts curious capers and gives gymnastic exhibitions of the most remarkable character. A few days ago a small rattan stick was let lying across the top of the aquarium, four or five inches from the water, and the trout was seen to jump and catch the rattan in his mouth, hold on for some moments, then with a swing and a splash return to the water again. Since then he has repeated the caper frequently, and seems to enjoy the breath of air as he swings back and forth, suspended by holding on the rattan with his teeth. Stories have been told by fishermen that trout catch at twigs or hanging streams and swing themselves out of the water, but Mr. Messenger, who has fished and raised trout for many years says this is the first trout he has ever seen indulge in such unfishlike gymnastics."

## A MAN WITH THIRTY CHILDREN.

The Strohl family, of this county, is probably the largest family in the United States. The head of the house is Nicholas Strohl, a Pennsylvania German, now 76 years old. By three wives he had thirty children, twenty-seven of whom are living. His first wife presented him with eight, his second with eleven and his third with eleven. The youngest child is now 8 years old, and was born when its father was 78 years old. Of the twenty-seven children nineteen are married, and there families average about eight children. Mr. Joel Strohl, one of the well-known farmers in the lower end, and child of his father's first wife, has seventeen children, and

## BILLIARDS IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES.

Referring to the billiard table as a means of healthful exercise, especially for scholars and other persons of sedentary habits, a physician attached to a private academy in one of the Western States, writes: "I carefully observed for several months the powerfully strengthening effects of this peculiar exercise, and was much surprised to note the benefits to those possessing weak and defective structures. No marvel, however, have been the results, in many cases where disease had become almost chronic, that I could scarcely comprehend such wonderful results in so short a time. This exercise, so efficacious in driving disease from the human system, has been thoroughly tested and has proven a permanent success, and has the effect of materially assisting the pupils, the work of cultivating the mind being greatly aided by the healthful operations of the functions of the body."

Without exercise, the plan has a inactivity of body, and activity of the mind; under this system it is equal activity of both, & the healthful influence of one, induced by judicious muscular exercise, operating to assist the other.

The motions gone through in the pastime reach every part of the body and operate upon every portion of the system. They completely dispel languor and inactivity from the frame. The tension of the muscles is tested, and the blood flowing singularly in remote and undisturbed portions, is urged and quickened in its circulation by the relaxing and contracting muscles. The brain, stimulated into new activity by the lively, bounding current within, and unharmed by disordered functions of the physical life, comprehends and absorbs with swiftness whatever is presented to its spiritual appetite. Such have been the effects of billiard exercise, and I hope soon to see this become general in use, as it makes the youth feel that he is growing up into a new life, strength and activity."

It may be stated, in this connection, that there are upwards of a dozen educational institutions and several reformatories throughout the country, where the billiard table is looked upon as an indispensable adjunct. Several of these institutions have two tables, and one in this State has three.

## THIRTY QUAILS IN THIRTY DAYS.

Mr. Edward Crang, of Clinton, Ill., who attempted to eat thirty quails in thirty consecutive days, has performed the wonderful gastronomic feat successfully, he having eaten his thirtieth bird on the 26th ult. at 1 p.m. This experiment has been a severe trial on Mr. Crang, and told on him quite distinctly. When he commenced this trial he weighed 175 pounds, he now weighs but 167; by these figures it will be seen that he has lost eight pounds. He did not experience any difficulty until he had eaten his fourteenth bird, which seemed to worry him considerably, and came very near causing him to give up the match, but by perseverance and the assistance of an indomitable will he managed to pass this critical point (with him), and had no further trouble whatever during the balance of the contest, but he admits that had he not assumed nature from that time on, by taking something to promote digestion, that he would have failed. Mr. Crang claims that no man can perform this feat without suffering immediately thereafter unless he takes something to promote digestion, or assist the bowels in performing their duty. But Mr. Crang was not restricted from assuming nature with every available means that he saw fit to take advantage of, he being only required to eat the bird and digest it. Mr. Crang has changed his views very materially with reference to eating quails, he being under the impression before commencing that it was an easy task to perform, and would be a novel sport and good eating combined. He now thinks that it is more like labour than pleasure, and as far as the good eating is concerned, a variety is preferable.

## SCUTELLARIA AS A CURE FOR HYDROPHOBIA.

The New York Sun last week makes mention of the possible advantage of using scutellaria in cases where persons have been bitten by mad dogs. The authority of Mr. Crooks is cited, whose sister was bitten by a mad dog, and who was run to have suffered no moon-out new after having strong doses of skunk-apple given to her. Of course there is no reason why scutellaria should not be tried, though we do not think it would be of any practical use. Scutellaria has long been known, and was used twenty-five years ago as a supposed cure for hydrophobia. The action of this plant is prophylactic, and is exerted as a nerve, beyond this, as for hydrophobia given to employment, we believe is useless.