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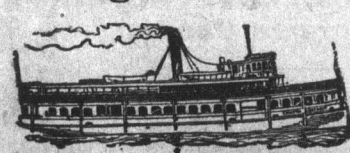
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AUSTRALIAN LEGEND

HOW THE BOOMERANG TOOK THE PLACE OF BOW AND ARROW.

Boomerangs Not the Peculiar Property of the Australian Black Fellows—Trace of Poetry in the Bude Tale Which Gives the White Man the Knowledge of the Aboriginal—The Story.

The origin of most primitive tools or weapons is not, as a rule, difficult to trace, for the service they render is so direct and the need for their existence is so manifest, even to men of to-day, that their evolution is a simple matter of observation and brief mental calculation. The hammer, the awl, the axe, and the saw were potentially invented when first a prehistoric man cracked a nut with a stone, bored a shell with a broken bone, chipped a log with a sharp hatch, or cut a groove in a spear haft with a serrated flake of slate. As with the tools, so also with the weapons. A pointed stick proved its utility the first time it was hurled at an object, and so led the human mind to recognize the value of the spear and the arrow; the hammer, which cracked a nut, naturally suggested the club where-with heads could be treated in a similar way, while the desire for shelter from attack would, in due course, lead to the invention of the shield, and the sword would grow out of the crude armory immediately men came to hand-to-hand conflicts.

But what was the origin of the boomerang?

From the fact that it was found in the hands of the Australian aboriginal, when first the white man landed on the shores of the great southern continent, there has grown a belief that it is purely and particularly a weapon of the black fellow; and that it had its origin with him, an origin so much obscured by the mists of an unrecorded past as his own, for whence the black fellow came is a conundrum which none dare to answer. But boomerangs are not the peculiar property of the Australian aboriginal, as they were known to and used by the Egyptians in days before the pyramids were built, and are still to be found among some of the isolated aboriginal tribes of India. The peculiar property of the Australian black fellow, curiously enough, is not a possession, but the absence of a possession. It is not that he possesses the boomerang, but that he does not possess the bow and arrow. In this he is alone of all races and tribes of men upon the face of the earth, not even excluding those of the lowest human types, and in spite of the fact that the inhabitants of islands within a comparatively speaking short distance of his coast line are among the finest and most powerful archers humanity has ever produced. Throughout the Pacific islands the bow and arrow is everywhere to be found; in New Guinea it is the staple weapon, and at the Prince of Wales Islands, just off the northern coast of Australia, the natives shoot a six-foot arrow with ease from a bow that a muscular white man can barely draw to his elbow. But on the mainland of the continent bows and arrows are unknown, while the warriors wield the boomerang as it was wielded by the men who lived on the Nile centuries before Thebes or Memphis were built. Wherefore is it difficult to trace the origin of this curiosity, difficult, that is, for a white man. The black fellow knows whence it came and treasures the knowledge in a legend which is not altogether without trace of poetry, whatever may be its character as to veracity.

"Plenty long ago," was the beginning of the story as the writer heard it. "Plenty long ago" the moon was a beautiful young girl (or girl) and the sun a fierce, restless warrior of another tribe. The warrior, desiring the orthodox aboriginal method of courtship and sought to pounce upon her unawares with the kindly intention of knocking her on the head and carrying her off to his ginyah (of hut). But the young girl was opposed to his attentions, and in order to protect herself she wrapped herself in a rug of black possum skins and only peeped round the end of it a little at a time lest her admirer should see her and carry her off. Sometimes he did see her, and pounced upon her, but ever was she able to dodge behind the shelter of the black possum skin rug and so elude him, for when she vanished behind the rug he was confounded and could only wander about wondering how she escaped. At last the constant disappointment made him grow angry and sulky; yet when next he had a glimpse of her face peering round the shelter he sprang forward. As was usual, the face vanished; but he, being sulky, swore he would try for her no more, and lay down to sleep then and there.

The young girl, crouching under the cover of her rug, listened for his raging footsteps, but passed on. For a long time she listened, but heard nothing, and then, being like all girls, more curious than crafty, she must needs peep round the end of the rug again to see what the silence meant. The warrior, lying still, saw the gleam of the face, and gathered himself, silently, for a spring. With her curiosity unsatisfied the girl peeped further, and the warrior, impatient in his anger, leaped at her. His hands caught the edge of her face with a mighty grip, but she terrified at the sight of him, flung herself back with so much vigour that the fragment of her face broke off in the warrior's hands. Then did his rage burst all bounds, and with a yell he flung the thing he held down upon the earth. There, later, men found it. Idly they picked it up, and, marveling at what it could be, threw it from them. At once it whirled through the air up toward the clouds, traveling round and round as the black cockatoos fly before the start on a long journey, but going further and faster than even anything thrown by man went before, until suddenly it plunged down-

THE TRYING TIME

In a young girl's life is reached when Nature leads her uncertain steps across the line which divides girlhood from womanhood. Ignorance and neglect at this critical period are largely responsible for much of the after misery of womanhood. Not only does Nature often need help in the regular establishment of the womanly function, but there is almost always need of some tonic, to strengthen the system, to overcome the languor, nervousness and weakness, commonly experienced at this time.



Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription establishes regularity. It is a strengthening tonic, soothing the nerves, encouraging the appetite and inducing restful sleep. It contains no alcohol, neither opium, cocaine or other narcotic.

"I wish to tell you the benefit we have received from using your remedies," writes Mrs. Dan Hall, of Broadhead, Green Co., Wis. "Two years ago my daughter's health began to fail. Everything that could be thought of was done to help her but it was of no use. When she began to complain she was quite stout; weighed 170 lbs. the picture of good health. But in six months she was so run down her weight was but 120. She kept falling and gave up, thinking there was no use, she must die. Friends all said, 'You will lose your daughter.' I said 'I fear I shall.' Prescriptions 'my daughter would have been in her grave to-day. When she had taken one-half bottle the natural function was established and we bought another one, making only two bottles in all, and she completely recovered. Since then she is as well as can be."

Dr. Pierce's Common Sense Medical Adviser, in paper covers, is sent free on receipt of 31 one-cent stamps to pay expense of customs and mailing only. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

ward and stuck in the earth at the foot of the black fellow who had thrown it. Again he picked it up and again he threw it, and then his comrades tried it, always with the same result, and at last the men, fearing "plenty debbil debbil" was in it, called a great gathering of the tribes to discuss it. To solve the problem each man who attended the corroboree set to work to fashion out an imitation of the strangely whirling thing, and when they had all succeeded they laughed at the fears of the discoverers. They did not know that what they had found was a part of the moon's face, and that its long flights were the result of its efforts to get back to its proper place; nor did they know that the warrior, in revenge on the beautiful young girl, made all the imitations travel the same way, so that when the moon looked down and saw them all whirling round and round in the air she would not know which was the missing part of her face, and which was not, and so would be forever disgraced. In punishment for ever disfiguring the love of her great admirer, and in proof of the truth of his tale the black fellow would point to the moon—when not at the full—and ask how else had it lost a part. On nights when the moon was full the black fellow was silent.—London Globe.

Most Annoying.
Tess—Yes, my engagement ring is lovely, but the jeweler's name isn't on the box it came in.
Jess—That doesn't signify that it isn't a genuine diamond or—
Tess—Of course not. But if I don't know the jeweler's name how am I to find out how much George paid for it?—Philadelphia Press.

Certainly Not!
Laura—I was telling Miss Newrich about those pretty, cheap washable suits and advising her to get one, but she got angry.
Flora—Why?
"Well, I said they were such pretty 'tub suits,' and she informed me that she wasn't a washerwoman!"—Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

A woman arrayed in a new gown feels she is deserving of particular attention.

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KING AS AN ORATOR.

Gladstone and Phelps Rank Him High Upon Roll of Fame.

"There are few speakers," said the late Mr. Gladstone, "whom I listen to with more pleasure than the Prince of Wales. His speeches are invariably, marvels of conciseness, graceful expression and clear elocution," and Mr. Phelps, the late American ambassador, himself "a man of silver tongue," declared, says a writer in Tit-Bits, that there was probably only one better after-dinner speaker in England, if indeed Lord Rosebery was the Prince's superior.

King Edward VII. has been endowed with that prime requisite of a public speaker, a clear and beautiful voice, which can make itself heard without apparent effort in the largest hall. "This voice is largely natural, as anyone who can recall his oratorical efforts of forty years or so ago will admit; but it is also partly the result of a long training in elocution by one of its best masters.

In the early years of manhood the King hated no part of his public duties so much as the necessity of making speeches, but he early determined that "as he had to speak he would, at any rate, make sure of being heard," and under the guidance of his father—himself a trained and effective speaker—and under an elocution master, he rapidly acquired that clearness of enunciation which makes his speeches so pleasant to listen to. In those days he used to practice so assiduously that if ever he could not be found it was always concluded by his brothers and sisters that "Bertie was somewhere learning to spout," and stories are told of how he would try his 'prentice oratory on his young brothers, placing them at different angles and distances and practicing until each one heard every word.

In these early days the Prince was obviously and painfully nervous; and even to-day, although long familiarity has moderated his tremors and he has better learned the art of concealing his sensations, he has confessed: "I always have a bad quarter of an hour before I make a speech in public, and there are times when I would give much to slip quietly away."

And yet to all appearance the King, as he chats genially with us and another or listens with a smile to an address, is the most self-possessed man present; but a close observer will detect certain nervous movements—the furtive stroking of his moustache, the toying with his watch chain, hat or stick—which prove that after all the King is human and has nerves.

In his infancy his speeches were carefully prepared, copied out and committed to memory. On one memorable occasion the Prince had forgotten to take his manuscript, and although he rarely referred to the copy of a speech, the knowledge that in this case it was not available for emergency so unnerved him that his memory completely failed him and he had for once to trust to his own impromptu efforts.

Fortunately he succeeded so well that he was encouraged to trust less in future to memory and more to inspiration, with the happiest results. Now his speeches are only typed in outline.

"Bertie," he considers, "is the soul of oratory," as of wit; and he not only makes short speeches himself, but expects them of others. He studiously avoids quotation, especially of poetry, and never tries to be funny, although he succeeds in being both bright and unconventional, his left hand resting on the table or on his hip and the right hand left free for the very limited gestures with which he emphasizes the points of his speech.

AUSTRALIA'S MILITIA POLICY.

General Hutton's Scheme Adopted by the Commonwealth.

The Federal Executive Council has adopted the army organization scheme prepared by Major-General Hutton, commanding the Australia Commonwealth troops. The scheme proposes to raise a mobile field force well equipped and capable of undertaking military operations at the shortest notice wherever the Commonwealth desires, and a garrison force not necessarily mobile for the protection of pre-determined strategic points and places of commercial importance to the Commonwealth. General Hutton, in his scheme, explains that the field force will comprise eighteen regiments of light horse organized in six brigades, twelve regiments of infantry organized in brigades and complete artillery departments. This force will consist entirely of militia. The troops will number 13,911 men, with sixty guns, but may be increased in time of war to 27,758 men, with eighty-four guns. The garrison force, which will include the small local reserve, will consist largely of volunteers, and will number 11,988 men and twenty-six guns. Thus under the new scheme there will be available 25,907 men and eighty-six guns, which number could in time of war be increased to 39,649 men and 110 guns. The garrison force does not include the rifle clubs.

Facts About London.

In London a child is born every three minutes and a death is registered every five minutes. Daily a million persons travel on the underground railways, 7,000 hansoms, 14,000 cabs and 7,000 tram cars. Four thousand postmen deliver 10,000,000 letters weekly, walking a distance equal to twice the circumference of the globe. Sixty thousand letters are written a day, consuming thirty gallons of ink. Ten thousand miles of overhead telegraph wires almost shut out the smoky canopy, which spreads above the same London streets, and the number of telegraph messages received in London last year was over 6,000,000. Ninety million gallons of water are consumed daily.

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