

SOCIAL LIONS.

A Bit of History Showing How the Term Came Into Use.

When you refer to a popular man in society as a "social lion" did you know that you are drawing on a bit of very remote history for the expression? The lion is anything but a social beast, and the figurative use of his name to designate a popular person came down to us in a most curious and roundabout way.

When Henry III came to the throne of England, in 1216, there was a curious dispute as to the significance of the figures entering into the armorial bearings of Great Britain. There were three animals, "passant gardant," and they were spoken of as leopards. As a matter of fact, they were supposed to be lions. It was argued that there had been three leopards in the Tower of London in the reign of William the Conqueror and that these had given the motif for the emblem. Or it might have been that the Norman oppressor kept three leopards as a concession to the Saxons he had subjugated.

Whatever the facts may be, Henry was satisfied that the conventionalized animals on seals, banners and coins were really lions, and in order to impress the fact he had three live and unmistakable "monarchs of the desert" brought to London and placed in the Tower. It at once became the fashion to visit the lions. When guests from out of the city were being entertained the great treat was that of a visit to the "lions of the Tower." After the sight had become commonplace and the meaning of the animals had been lost to sight the phrase remained. The "lion" was a statesman, actor or some other celebrity who held popular favor.

FOOLS THE COWS.

Dead Nettle is Harmless, but Makes Itself Look Dangerous.

In this case the joke's on the cow. She's fooled into the belief that this little, harmless plant will bite her. The plant helps with the joke by masquerading as a dangerous weed, with real teeth, whereas it wouldn't hurt a flea. This plant is the dead nettle.

One of its cousins, the stinging nettle, covers itself with sharp, poisonous hairs. The cow has learned to avoid the weed. So the dead nettle makes up to look like its cousin, and the cow leaves it alone.

The dead nettle grows in waste places all over eastern United States. It isn't as useful as its near relative in the East Indies and in China, called ramie. This relative also is harmless and plays similar jokes on Chinese cows and other grazing animals.

But ramie furnishes a vegetable fiber which is stronger than hemp, as fine and shiny as silk. It is used in making cordage and nets, and paper made from it is used for banknotes.

So when the ramie imitates the stinging nettle it is protecting itself from grazing animals so it may grow into money.

Weighing the Mayor.

A mayor, particularly an English mayor, is traditionally a man of weight and substance, but there is only one municipality that insists that his honor get on the public scales and prove it. Of the thousands of quaint and curious customs still surviving in England this is perhaps one of the most odd. The mayor of High Wycombe has to be weighed on Nov. 9 of each year, inauguration day, and this custom has been observed for about six centuries. The mayor elect walks at the head of a procession consisting of the councilors, the beadle and the mace bearer. He is clad in cocked hat, silk stockings, blue coat and knee breeches. Upon reaching the town hall the mayor is placed upon the scales by the head constable, and a record of his avoirdupois is solemnly made in a book kept for this purpose.

A Snoring Child.

Snoring is a symptom that should not be neglected in children. It shows that there is some obstruction to the free passage of air from the nose to the throat. The tonsils may be enlarged and so partially close the passage at its lower opening. There may be a polypus or some small tumor in the nasal passage itself or catarrh of the throat or nose or both. A physician should be consulted.

Velocity of the Earth.

The velocity of the earth on its own axis exceeds, it is estimated, 1,000 miles an hour. The velocity of the earth around the sun is calculated to be 66,000 miles an hour, and the velocity of the moon is calculated to be 2,273 miles an hour.

Squelching the Grouch.

"Samanthy, why don't you stop Mary Anne from giggling?"
"Oh, let her giggle while she can. She'll marry some day if she lives, and, heaven knows, she'll quit the habit mighty quick!"

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Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

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LITTLE, BLACK AND UGLY.

And Very Touchy, Too, is the Devil's Coach Horse Beetle.

My, how very touchy he is! Point your finger at him and see how he turns up his tail and opens his jaws, just as if he were a lion instead of a tiny beetle. He thinks he is going to frighten us away. But we won't hurt him, anyway, because he is a very valuable sort of beetle—a tiny garbage man. He's called the devil's coach horse beetle.

He's long, black and ugly. He spends his time hiding under stones or crawling about in gardens. Like a majority of beetles, he's one of nature's scavengers.

Have you ever thought what a dirty old world this would be if it were not for the animals and birds and insects that go around cleaning up? Certain birds and animals devour the bodies of other animals, but they leave it to the beetles to clean up the crumbs.

So he's busy all day devouring the little particles that the big eyes of the buzzard cannot see. He's always celebrating clean up week. So don't blame him if he turns up the end of his tail and looks at you threateningly when you disturb him. He's too busy to play.

MYSTERIES IN HOLES.

What Becomes of the Earth Rodents Dig From Their Dens?

I have found two weasels' dens on the margin of a muck swamp in the woods that presented the same insoluble problem as the chipmunk's hole—what has become of the bushel or more of earth that must have been brought to the surface? Both the weasel and the chipmunk have several galleries and one or more large chambers or dining halls, and how each manages to hide or obliterate all the loose soil that must have been removed is a question which has long puzzled me.

If we had an American Fabre or a man who would give himself up to the study of the life histories of our rodents, with the same patience and enthusiasm that the wonderful Frenchman has shown concerning the life histories of the insects he would doubtless soon solve the mystery.

I used to think that the chipmunk carried away the soil in his cheek pockets, and I have so declared in one of my books, but I am now very certain that he does not—only his food stores are thus carried.—John Burroughs

Birds and Glass.

It has been frequently noticed that no wild bird can understand the properties of glass, and great numbers, ranging in size from a pheasant to a titmouse, are killed by flying against the windows of country houses.

If a room possesses a large mirror reflecting the view seen through an open window birds are particularly liable to be deceived, and especially if frightened, into thinking that they can fly through it.

Sparrow hawks will sometimes chase their intended victims into strange places. Some years ago a member of this species pursued a small bird through the open window of a railway carriage in motion. In its blind determination to secure the panting fugitive it entangled its claws in the meshes of the track and was ignominiously slain by an astonished passenger with an umbrella.

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ROLL OF HONOR

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27TH REGT.—1ST BATTALION
Thos. L Swift, reported missing since June 15th, Rich. H Stapleford, Bury C Binks, L Gunn Newell, killed in action, Arthur Owens, F C N Newell, T Ward, Sid Welsh, Alf Woodward, killed in action, M Cunningham, M Blondel, W Blunt, R W Bailey, A L Johnston, R A Johnston, G Mathews, C Manning, W G Nichol, F Phelps, H F Small, E W Smith, C Toop, C Ward, J Ward, killed in action, F Wakelin, D C M, killed in action, T Wakelin, wounded—missing, H Whitsitt, B Hardy.

PRINCESS PATRICIA'S, C.L.I.
Gerald H Brown.

18TH BATTALION
C W Barnes, Geo. Ferris, Edmund Watson, G Shanks, C Jamieson, J Burns, F Burns, C Blunt, Wm. Auttonson, S P Shanks.

2ND DIVISIONAL CAVALRY
Lorne Lucas, Frank Yerks, Chas. Potter, Rus. G Clark.

33RD BATTALION
Percy Mitchell, Lloyd Howden Geo. Fountain, Gordon H Patterson, died in Victoria Hospital, London.

34TH BATTALION
E C Crohn, S Newell, Stanley Rogers, Macklin Hagle, Henry

Holmes, Wm. Manning, Leonard Lees.

70TH BATTALION
Ernest Lawrence, — Emmerson, C H Loveday, A Banks, S R Wholton, Thos. Meyers, Jos M Wardman, Vern Brown, Sid Brown, Alf. Bullough.

71ST BATTALION
R H Trenouth.

28TH BATTALION
Thomas Lamb.
MOUNTED RIFLES
Fred A Taylor.
29TH BATTERY
Wm. Mitchell, John Howard.
ANTI-AIRCRAFT
Gunner Woolvet.
PIONEERS
Wm. McNally, W F Goodman.
ENGINEERS
J. Tomlin
ARMY MEDICAL CORPS
T A Brandon, M. D., Capt. W J McKenzie, M.D., Norman McKenzie

135TH BATTALION
N. McLachlan.
3RD RESERVE BATTERY, C.F.A
Alfred Levi

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