

STORIES  
POETRY

## The Inglenook

SKETCHES  
TRAVEL

## A TRUE ANIMAL STORY.

It all happened on board the Braunfels, the floating menagerie that lately brought a load of new animals for the New York Zoo.

On her decks, with canvas stretched overhead as awnings, five tigers, eight leopards, two tapirs, weighing a ton each, twenty-four cages packed with chattering monkeys, twelve boxes of snakes, some of the reptiles as thick as a man's arm and thicker, and twelve water buffaloes sunned themselves as the great ship ploughed through the tropical Indian Ocean, Arabian and Red Seas and the Suez Canal.

It was the jungles of wildest Africa transferred to the deck of a vessel, and fortunate indeed would have been the boy who could have seen the glare of big agate eyes, the hissing of the enormous snakes and the comical antics of the simians. Most of the animals, especially the man-eating specimens, were confined in strong wooden boxes, from which a paw, armed with sharp claws, would be thrust at intervals to catch one of the brown-skinned sailors who manned the ship.

One day in the Indian Ocean two boxes, containing a tiger and a leopard, were carelessly placed on the deck too close, and a furious fight was the result. The tiger ripped open the leopard's right foreleg to the bone, and the leg became so swollen that the trainer told the captain and the chief officer that the leopard would certainly die of blood poisoning unless he was given immediate and heroic surgical treatment. As a leopard is worth about \$1,000 to a zoological garden, it will be seen that his death would have been no small matter.

But the chief officer is a brave man, and he promptly said that he would doctor the injured beast. Then the question arose how the thing should be done, and the ship's crew was searched for men brave enough to hold the leopard's head and four legs, as any boy will readily understand that one blow from a leopard's paw would terribly injure, if it did not kill outright, the strongest and bravest man.

This is how the leopard's leg was treated and the beautifully spotted animal saved from an untimely death: A rope was wound about the beast's neck. A brown-skinned sailor, known as a Lascar, was given an end of the rope. The trainer seized the uninjured foreleg, just as the doctor grabbed the other forepaw, and the captain and the engineer gripped the two hindlegs. Then the doctor said, "Now, men, if he attempts to bite anybody, pull the rope tight until it strangles him into submission, and as you value your lives, don't get rattled, and, above all things, don't let go his leg. It means death for some of us, if not all of us, if you do. Are you ready?"

Then this brave German officer, soaking a sponge with the powerful and cleansing acid, applied it to the leopard's torn leg. In a twinkling the jungle beast was writhing with pain and made furious efforts to rend the men, but each heeded the warning given him and maintained their holds until the chief officer had thoroughly washed the torn member. Then the leg was soothed with ointments and a linen bandage applied, just as the surgeons do in a hospital.

Now as boys and girls have read in books, animals are capable of showing gratitude for kindness done to them. The leopard knew that Officer Schmeit had been kind to him, for after the ointment and the bandage had been applied

he licked the hand of the officer and in other ways showed how thankful he was. Well, the leopard is as good as well now.

Not all the animals which were put aboard the ship at Calcutta lived to reach this port. The two tapirs, which were worth at least \$1,000 each, died.

Both were buried at sea. One was taken sick and died shortly after the Braunfels sailed from Calcutta. A few days later the second tapir thrust its head through the bars of its cage, and the rolling of the ship choked the big and clumsy animal.

A great boa-constrictor, a snake that can swallow a rabbit at one gulp, and can squeeze the life out of a man, tiger, lion or deer, also died on the way over. Another constrictor arrived in fine shape, but hungry, having eaten the last live rabbit on shipboard off the banks of Newfoundland.

Speaking of snakes, boys and girls, the ship brought over a lot of cobras. A cobra is a short, thick snake, with a flat head, and is of an indigo blue color. The bite of the cobra is very deadly. If a cobra should bite you, it is certain that you would die in about fifteen minutes.

There are a lot of this kind of snakes in India, as you will know when you are told that about 100,000 persons are killed every year by its bite.

None of the buffaloes were on the ship when she reached this port. They were brought over as food for the tigers and leopards.

It is sad to relate that several hundred song birds died on the voyage.

When the ship was sailing in the Indian Ocean and the Arabian and Red Seas the birds, most of them of a variety known as the Indian thrush, sang all through the day. There were nightingales, too, and every boy and girl knows how sweetly a nightingale can sing. An Indian thrush can sing more sweetly than a canary, so never a crew heard so many of such sweet bird music.

Port Said is at the Red Sea end of the Suez Canal. It is noted among other things for its extremes of temperature. When the winds blow from the hot sands of Africa, the decks of ships blister the feet. At other times, when the wind sweeps over the snow-covered plains from the north, heavy clothing must be worn.

It happened that a cold wind struck the Braunfels at Port Said.

In the morning not a song-bird greeted the rising sun. Little throats which had throbbled during the long trip through tropical seas were stilled. Not a solitary note was heard.

Captain Wehman, it is said, almost cried when two Lascar sailors informed him that the birds were dead. He would not believe it until he saw the birds.

## SUMMER RAIN.

Today it seemed the summer rain  
Was comforting the world's old pain;  
So soft it fell between the trees,  
So gently did it cease.

It touched the dusty way with green.  
It cheered me who had lonely been;  
So fair the world, I could noa be  
Uncomforted of thee.

—Christian Gauss, in the July Scribner.

Each of us has the power of making  
happier, sunnier, the little spot wherein  
our life is spent.—Archbishop of Canterbury.

## A NEW LOOK AT BEAVERTON.

The attractions of Beaverton as an excursion point and picnicking ground are known to but a few Toronto people. The beach there shelves for one thousand feet or more to a depth of not more than four feet, and is an ideally safe place for children to play and bathe. The near-by islands are delightful spots for a picnic tea, and in the town itself is one of the first Presbyterian churches ever built in Canada. The beaver dams, from which the town is named, still exist, and trees of the virgin forest remain uncut on the highways. From Toronto, over the Canadian Northern Railway, the distance is but 64 miles, a delightful railway ride through a country that has not before been traversed by rail.

The Canadian Northern Ontario Railway runs direct to the Muskoka Lakes and Parry Sound, bringing Lake Joseph resorts and North Georgian Bay many hours nearer Toronto than they ever were before.

A book about this line of the Canadian Northern System, called "The Lake Shore Line of the Muskokas" tells something about the Lake Region to the North of us, and may be had at the ticket office, corner King and Toronto streets, Toronto. If you want to know about Quebec and Nova Scotia summering places, write to the Information Bureau, Canadian Northern Railway System, Toronto, and ask for "An Introduction to the Best Country in Six Provinces," and "The Ocean Shore of Nova Scotia."

## STRENGTH OF BIRDS.

Birds can eat and digest from ten to thirty times as much food in proportion to their size as men can. If a man could eat as much in proportion to his size as a sparrow is able to consume, he would need a whole sheep for dinner, a couple of dozen of chickens for breakfast, and six turkeys for his evening meal. A tree sparrow has been known to eat 700 grass seeds in a day. Relative to the bird's size, these seeds were as big as an ordinary lunch basket would be to a full-grown man.

A bird's strength is equally amazing. A white-tailed eagle, weighing twelve pounds, with a wing spread of six feet, has been known to pounce upon a pig weighing forty-two pounds, raise it to a height of one hundred feet, and fly off with it. The bird has covered a distance of half a mile before the pig's owner succeeded in shooting the thief.

Birds can and do work far harder than human beings. A pair of house martins, when nesting, feed their young ones each twenty seconds—that is, each bird, male and female, makes ninety journeys two-and-a-half in an hour, or about 1000 a day. It must be remembered that on each journey the bird has the added work of catching the worm.

Even so tiny a bird as the wren has been counted to make 130 trips to and from its nest within 420 minutes; and the prey carried home consisted of larger, heavier, and harder to find insects than were caught by the sparrows. Among them were twenty good sized caterpillars, ten grasshoppers, seven spiders, eleven worms, and more than one fat ghryalis. —Young People's Weekly.

Everybody in England gives on an average of \$2.76 away in charity yearly.