

Covered Boss's Eye With an Old Hat.

NATIVE CIRCUMVENTS MAN WHO
LEFT GLASS OPTIC TO WATCH
HIM.

East African superstition and its results are amusingly illustrated in an incident related by the German consul, Dr. E. Nigmann, in his memoirs of the days when he was in charge of colonial administration in that part of the world.

One of his most reliable aides, he says, was a native lieutenant-colonel who had lost an eye during one of the local expeditions, and wore a glass eye in its place. This officer was assigned to superintend the erection of a post office in a rural district. The inhabitants had long been delinquent in tax payment, and consequently each adult was required to meet his obligations by putting in a week's labor on the new government building.

One day while the native laborers were industrially at work under his vigilant watch, the lieutenant-colonel was temporarily called away. On leaving the building, he took out the glass eye and placed it on one of the walls and announced to the workers: "Look here, my men. I must go now, but I am leaving my eye to take tab on you and to see that you keep working while I am away." It was with considerable self-satisfaction that he returned to find his gang hard at work.

Next day the lieutenant-colonel had another summons to leave his post. Again he left the glass eye in charge. On his return, he noticed from afar that building operations were at a standstill and all of his dusky help were peacefully. Upon looking for the "foreman" eye, he found it carefully covered with an old hat.

Mary Pickford as "Little Lord Fauntleroy" at the Majestic. One show only, commencing at 8 o'clock.—dec26,11

Characteristics of Beavers.

Although sometimes found in pairs, beavers are essentially gregarious animals, and, like many inoffensive creatures of that habit, they have a danger signal understood by all the members of the colony and a peculiar odour for keeping them in touch with each other, writes R. I. Brock, F.R.S., in Conquest.

A suddenly startled beaver promptly dives; and, as it goes under, it sends the water a resounding splash with its tail, which warns other beavers within earshot that danger is afoot. Down they all go into the depths, leaving no sign of their presence apart from the ripples on the surface of the lake or stream. The fear which keeps the community together comes from an oily fluid discharged from a couple of large glands beneath the root of the tail. This substance, known to the Greeks as "castoreum," was at one time in demand as a perfume for man's delight and as a panacea for his ailments.

In this day hunters use it for bait, knowing that a beaver will fearlessly enter any trap that smells of it.

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When Steel Gets Tired.

MYSTERY OF METAL'S PECULIAR DEFECTS.

Although the steel and iron industry is one of the greatest in the world, and offers such rewards that some of the cleverest chemists and other scientists study nothing else, there are lots of apparently simple puzzles about it that no one has been able to solve yet.

The man who discovers the right answer to one or more of them may make \$1,000,000 out of it.

Everyone who handles steel knows that it gets "tired" at times. After a piece of steel has been subjected to a severe strain for a certain period

it may suddenly show a decided weakness. Then experts say that it is tired; and so it is, for it is allowed to rest a while it regains its old strength.

Recently it has been found that a steel beam can be made stronger by increasing the load on it gradually—in other words, by exercising it just as a man exercises his muscles when he wishes to make them stronger.

Very often, new steel will not pass tests that it should pass, but after a few weeks it is found that it has grown better, and passes the tests beautifully.

Then, again, steel that was perfect when it was tested often gets "sick." It racks or becomes brittle, although other steel made at the same time in the same way remains perfectly sound.

No man knows to-day why these things happen, but lots of people are trying to find out.

Curious Growth.

Experiments conducted under the auspices of experts from the department of agriculture seem to prove that the flowering and fruiting of plants depend not upon temperature alone but also upon the length of the day. By artificially lengthening or shortening its day, a grower may, it is said, "deceive a plant into thinking" it is spring or autumn, and it will bear its flowers, fruit and seed accordingly, no matter what the time of the year. Thus, if violet plants are covered with lightproof boxes in the summer during the extra hours of daylight, they will, it is contended, bloom again just as the short days of spring found them doing. The new theory is expected to have important results in floriculture and crop yield.—Washington Star.

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Oath of the Athenian Youth.

"We will never bring disgrace to this our city, by any act of dishonesty or cowardice, nor ever desert our suffering comrades in the ranks. We will fight for the ideals and sacred things of the city, both alone and with many; we will reverse and obey the city's laws, and do our best to incite a like respect and reverence in those above us who are prone to annul or set them at naught; we will strive unceasingly to quicken the public's sense of civic duty. Thus in all these ways we will transmit this city not only not less, but great, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."

Mince Pies Prohibited.

The mince pie has had many enemies. The Puritans would have none of it, and even in the eighteenth century it was a forbidden delicacy to a large number of clergymen. During the Commonwealth the holding of Christmas festivals was forbidden. In 1844 Parliament passed an Act ordering all citizens to observe Christmas Day as a solemn fast, to be spent in silent atonement for previous festivities that had passed in riotous living and merry-making. This order remained in force for twelve years! The authorities in several towns tried to reduce Christmas Day to the brief of other days. In Canterbury, by order of the mayor, it was proclaimed that "Christmas Day and all other superstitious festivals should be put down." People who attended service in the cathedral were mobbed. The inhabitants formed themselves into two parties, and feeling in the matter frequently resulted in the exchange of blows. In 1862 it was proclaimed that "no observation shall be had of the five and twentieth day of December, commonly called Christmas Day, nor any solemnity used or exercised in churches." This order was enforced by soldiers. Ovens and larders were searched, and where reasonable dainties or decorations were found they were carried off and destroyed. A changed attitude towards the Puritan hatred of Christmas came with the restoration of King Charles.

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Smallest Watch in The World.

What is claimed to be the smallest watch in the world that strikes the hours has just been completed by a Swiss firm, the platinum case of which measures only half an inch in diameter.

Much smaller non-striking watches are, however, in existence. One made by a Geneva watchmaker, measures only one-sixteenth of an inch across the dial. It forms the top of a gold penholder, and though so tiny, keeps excellent time.

A midge watch, intended to be worn as a shirt stud, was made in 1890 by a Newcastle watchmaker. A few years back it was on exhibition there, and was still going as well as ever. The dial is only three-sixteenths—or less than a quarter—of an inch in diameter.

Another tiny timepiece was recently shown in a London jeweller's shop which had for its back a three-penny or, say a five cent piece. It contained 120 different parts, and weighed under six penny-weights.

Amongst the private collection of jewellery belonging to King George, and preserved, together with other royal heirlooms, at Windsor Castle, is a Lilliputian watch which was presented to his ancestor, George III., by Mr. Arnold, a celebrated watchmaker of those days.

It is set in a finger ring, and the dial measures 19/32nds of an inch in diameter. What renders this particular midge watch unique of its kind however, is the fact that its cylinder is fashioned from an Oriental ruby, the diameter being the 54th part of an inch, its length the 47th, and its weight the 20th part of a grain.

Long Lived Cakes Flavorful, Rich.

DARK FRUIT CAKE.

This is guaranteed to keep for several weeks (longer of course if brandy is used.) Mix two cups of pastry flour and one-quarter of a teaspoonful of salt, one teaspoonful of baking soda, one teaspoonful ground cinnamon, half a teaspoonful allspice, one-quarter of a teaspoonful of cloves, one cupful of washed currants, one cupful of seeded raisins, half a cupful of shredded citron and a quarter of a cupful of minced candied orange peel. Cream half a cupful of oleo with two-thirds of a cupful of brown sugar and add three beaten eggs, half a cupful of milk, and beat well. Oil two pans thoroughly and line with paper, pour in the mixture and steam for an hour. Then set in a slow oven for an extra hour. Do not cut for at least two weeks.

ENGLISH FRUIT CAKE.

Cream one pound of butter with one pound of light brown sugar and add the yolks of nine eggs beaten until lemon colored and a quarter of a teaspoonful of salt. Mix together one pound sifted flour, two teaspoonfuls each of mace, and cinnamon, one teaspoonful of soda, two pounds of chopped seeded raisins, three pounds of currants, half a pound each of chopped citron and minced candied lemon peel, half a cupful of sliced candied cherries and a half pound of blanched, sliced almonds. Combine the mixtures adding the stiffly whipped egg whites and two tablespoonfuls of milk. Bake for four hours in a very slow oven, lining the pan with oiled paper.

French Dr. Jekyll And Mr. Hyde Looms.

The trial of a gang of 14 bandits who are accused of a long series of crimes, including two brutal murders, will begin at the Seine Assizes. According to the prosecution, all these men were members of a criminal band, so carefully organized that for years they had kept free from all suspicion while carrying out coups which brought them fortunes. The alleged leader of the gang, Rene Jean, who is little more than 30 years of age, is said to have led a Jekyll and Hyde existence, for he was known in the district where the abattoirs are situated as a thrifty and prosperous butcher, with a reputation for straightforwardness and honesty. His own confession since his arrest revealed the darker but more lucrative side of his life, and it is this which will be investigated by the Assize court.

HERE'S TO HIM!

In October last year Mme. Deserre, cashier for a meat trader in the Paris meat market, was found murdered and robbed of 72,000 francs. Soon afterwards Rene Jean was arrested, greatly to the astonishment of all who knew him, for he was generally held as a man of unblemished character. It appeared as though he would have to be released for lack of evidence, when he gave himself away by sending a letter in which he invited another man to commit perjury on his behalf.

Here's to the man whose hand is firm when he clasps your hand. Life a grip of steel. That makes you feel. You're not in the world alone.

Here's to the man whose laugh puts the sombre clouds to rout. The man who's fair. And kind and square. To the one that's down and out.

"A good worker, but talks too much." When the father signed the report and sent it back, the card bore in addition to his signature: "You should hear his mother."

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