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Liquor and Tobacco Habits

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ENTERTAINING MISCELLANY

VARIOUS SUBJECTS CLEVERLY TREATED

The sperm whale can remain below the surface for about 20 minutes at a time. Then it comes to the surface and breathes 50 or 60 times, taking about ten minutes to do so.

Wages are low in France and living expenses high. Common laborers receive from 40 to 50 cents a day, and dressmakers and milliners 40 cents. High-grade mechanics get from \$1 to \$1.20 a day.

Contrary to the general belief, the Sahara is not a barren and worthless waste. Some time ago there were 9,000,000 sheep in the Algerian Sahara alone, besides 2,000,000 goats and 260,000 camels. On the oases there are 1,500,000 date palms.

The manufacture of tobacco in this country is largely for domestic use. There was produced in the United States in 1905, \$198,186,372 worth of cigars, of which only \$59,653 were exported. About an eighth of the cigarettes produced are shipped out of the country.

According to the rate of growth, the average time taken for each finger-nail to grow its full length is about four and a half months, and at this rate a man 70 years old would have renewed his nails 186 times. Taking the length of each nail as half an inch, he would have grown 7 feet 9 inches of nail on each finger, and on all his fingers and thumbs an aggregate length of 77½ feet.

Sicily boasts the largest tree in the world. It is known as "The Chestnut Tree of a Hundred Horses," and is situated at the foot of Mt. Etna. It has five enormous branches, each as large as an ordinary tree, issuing from a trunk which is 212 feet in circumference. A large hollow in the trunk is capacious enough to contain a flock of sheep. Its name originated in the story that Queen Joan of Aragon with her nobility and their retinues once took refuge from a violent storm under its spreading branches.

The United States Weather Bureau says an average of 800 people are killed by lightning in the United States each year. This is about one person in each 10,000 of population. The region of greatest danger from lightning strokes does not coincide with the zone of greatest thunderstorm frequency, but

includes a lesser or greater part of many States east of the Mississippi River, where there are five deaths to each 10,000 square miles. Three to five deaths in 10,000 is the rule in the zone, including St. Louis, Chicago, Memphis, St. Paul, Des Moines, Atlanta and Norfolk.

England has surrendered 524 square miles of her territory to the waves within the last thousand years. More recently the advance of the waters has been much more rapid, averaging for the last 40 years 1,523 acres a year. The ravages of the sea in 1903 were almost unprecedented. Many historical towns, such as Ravensburgh, where Henry IV. landed in 1339, have been submerged. Off the Yorkshire coast there are 12 submerged towns and villages. Between Flamborough Head and Killysea an area equal to that of London has been devoured since the Roman invasion.

Great Britain's growing dependence upon foreign nations for food is strikingly illustrated by the statistics issued by the Board of Agriculture. Twenty years ago the foreign food bill for a year reached a total approximately of \$500,000,000. In 1906 it amounted to \$1,000,000,000, an increase greater than is accountable by the growth of population. Detailed tables compared the imports of food per head in 1886 and 1906. The most notable is wheat, the figures for which stand at 146 pounds and 239 pounds, respectively. Butter and its substitutes stand at 7½ and 13½ pounds, respectively, and, above all, meat at 20½ and 47½ pounds.

Mars possesses about one-half the earth's diameter and one-seventh its volume. It is some 140,000,000 miles from the sun and consequently at a mean distance of nearly 50,000,000 miles from us. It receives less than one-half the sunlight and heat the square foot that we do; has an atmosphere less dense than ours, and possesses water and ice. The planet exhibits two ice caps at its poles and orange and greenish tints between these poles. Those peculiar lines of markings—the "canals"—concerning which there has arisen much discussion, form a sort of faint, inexplicable network over the surface of ruddy Mars.

Nearly all children are subject to worms, and many are born with them. Spare them suffering by using Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator, the best remedy of the kind that can be had.

THE CRANBERRY CHASE MYSTERY.

Continued from Page 24, November number.

according to Mrs. Waters, really believed him guilty. But the handkerchief which had been produced so dramatically in the Police Court Wilcox had picked up in his meadow. Thurgood was in the habit of crossing the meadow as a near cut to one of his poaching grounds, mooring the boat under some willows which overhung the river at this spot. There were a few spots of blood on the handkerchief, which Thurgood accounted to me for by explaining that he had torn his hand a few days before in getting through the bramble hedge, and had wound the handkerchief round it. He didn't miss it till he was unmooring the boat. Wilcox had threatened Thurgood for trespass, and, having found the handkerchief, was watching for him when he passed in his boat.

"The murder of Robins, however, might never have come out but for the nervousness of Mrs. Waters. When she found that I was making inquiries, her conscience woke up, and she communicated her fears to Wilcox.

"Inquiries meant Robins. And forthwith she invented the typewritten letter. Thurgood might or might not be guilty. Mrs. Waters saw what she thought an excellent chance to account for the disappearance of Robins—and took it.

"Yes, you may reckon there was a sensation in Northwood when the couple were arrested. But the murder at the Chase remained as great a puzzle as ever, till about a fortnight before the Assizes, and then an arrest I made in London cleared

it up quickly. A letter discovered on the prisoner threatened to put him away for 'that job down in Staffordshire.'

"The writer was a woman. She was found. And then it turned out that she had been in service at Cranberry Chase up to a few months before the tragedy, when Mrs. Harding had discharged her. It was from her the man had heard of the silver, and learned the ways of the house.

"This is the tale he told me: 'I was still in the neighborhood, and, finding Thurgood was the man the cops had fixed on for the job, it 'curred to me that if I could do a plant it might keep 'em barking up the wrong tree long enough for the real scent to cool off 'fore they discovered their mistake. So I went to the alehouse, and contrived to smuggle the silver spoon and the memorandum book into the drawer of the kitchen press. There were a dozen men drinking in the place at the time, which made it all the more easy,' he explained. 'I whacked my beer down on top o' the press, leaned my back agin the drawer, faced the room, and in five minutes got me op'toonity.'

"I didn't mean to put it on to him,' he said, 's'elp me, I didn't! If course, I was thinkin' fust o' meself, I don't deny. But I reckoned as he cud prove a halibi, and so 'ud git off.'

"Well," said Inspector Ford, as he bit a fresh cigar, "of course, after that Thurgood didn't have long to wait for his liberty, nor I for my step. I was acting-inspector before Christmas."