

# STRANGE AND CURIOUS THINGS THAT ARE ENCOUNTERED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF WORLD

## ROMANCE OF A HEART SHAPED PURSE.

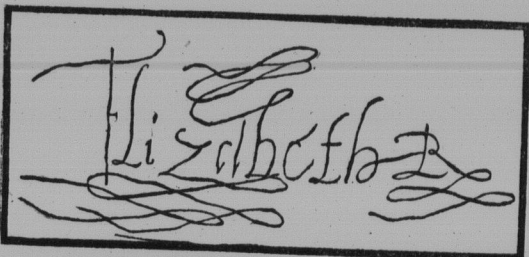


A relic of more than ordinary interest is in the possession of Mr. Samuel S. Hedley, who lives near Bardonia, Ky. It is a pocketbook of unique design and pretty workmanship, and has a notable history. It was once the property of a young British soldier who was killed in the battle of New Orleans.

Mr. Hedley's father, Samuel Hedley, a native of Hagerstown, Md., settled in Bardonia at the beginning of the last century. At the outbreak of the war with England in 1812 he entered the American service and made a good soldier to the end of the hostilities. At the battle of New Orleans a young British officer, Lovel Marsh, of the Royal Fusiliers, was found in the American lines mortally wounded. Mr. Hedley cared for him, and just before his death he gave the former his pocketbook.

When peace was declared Mr. Hedley re-

## BESS'S SIGNATURE.



styles of handwriting vary as widely in different centuries as the styles of dress or architecture. The penmanship of a few centuries ago appears as quaint as that of a medieval suit of armor. The signature reproduced herewith, is a fair sample of the handwriting of her period.

Unless one had been told that this remarkable line of hieroglyphics was intended for a signature it would be difficult to guess its import. Even with this clue there is likely to be considerable difference of opinion as to the spelling.

## HOW A RAT STOLE BULBS.

M. de Perille, a well-known French naturalist, tells a remarkable story about a rat in the Journal des Debats. A gardener planted one afternoon two hundred and fifty tulip bulbs on a terrace, and next morning he noticed that the ground had been disturbed and that they had all been taken away. He was confident that rats had done the work, and, taking a spade, he began to dig. In the hope of discovering their nest, soon he unearthed a large female rat, which he killed, and after digging a few more minutes he discovered an underground chamber, lined with hay and leaves and connected by a corridor with two holes, which were evidently used as storehouses, for in them he found the two hundred and fifty tulip bulbs. This was remarkable, but more remarkable was the fact that they were neatly ranged in two rows and that not one of them had been gnawed or otherwise injured.

## BEAUTIFUL TOMB IN INDO-CHINA.

Many wondrous sights there are in Indo-China, and among them is the beautiful building which is shown in the accompanying picture. A Laotian pagoda it is, and it is situated not far from Hue, the capital of Annam.

The interior is shown in the picture, and the statues therein are those of deceased chiefs and kings. Long before the dawn of modern civilization the people of Indo-China had learned to reverence their ancestors and notable men, and of such reverence this Laotian pagoda is a striking proof. M. Jean



## "BETSY PLYMOUTH," THE FOUR FOOTED HEN.

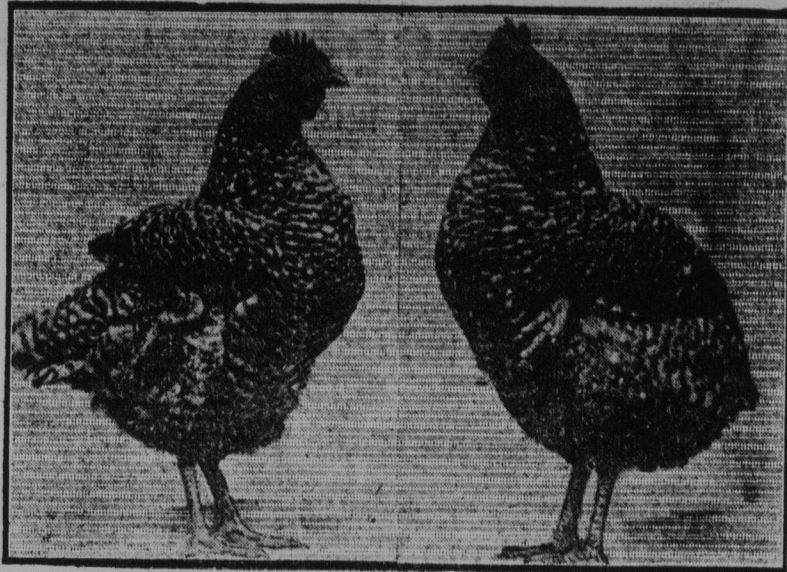
A three-legged chicken with four feet is the latest freak of nature in the realm of the barnyard. Contradictory as the statement may appear, it is nevertheless true, as a glance at the accompanying illustrations will assist in showing.

The subject gave the photographer no little trouble in securing negatives, as she seems to care, or know, little about artistic poses; but he finally succeeded, after many futile attempts, in "snapping" her idly to his liking.

The face or front view of the chicken will

convince the reader that she is an unusually fine specimen of a year-old Plymouth, while the two side views show the extra leg and the two extra feet which have enabled her to queen it over her feathered sisters in the farmyard near Scranton, Pa., where she first saw the light and puzzled her anxious mother by her surplus equipment. The leg on the left side, which shows beneath the wing, is almost full length, and the foot has three well-formed spurs; but on the right side the leg is so short it may be correctly said that there is only a foot. The latter is

formed by two spurs only, with just the vestige of another where the stump connects with the bony frame of the back. Betsy, as the chicken has been named, has no desire to pose as a freak, for, like an ordinary good chicken, she lays a fresh egg every day, and at the present writing seems very anxious to hatch a brood of her own. The advent of Betsy's chicks will be awaited with considerable interest, as certain of her admirers have predicted that some one or raise the limit to four legs and five feet.



## Odd African Mask.

From time immemorial masks have been worn in Africa, and not such masks as are familiar to those who live in civilized countries, but most extraordinary and grotesque masks, all of which, meaningless and ugly though they seem to Americans, have a deep significance for those who wear them.

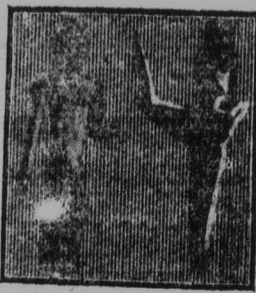
In Africa there is a widespread belief that masks, if properly fashioned, possess the power of repelling evil spirits, and, as many demons are supposed to shun certain ani-

## Curious Plague Dress.

Apocryphal of the rumors of plague extant in South America, here is a curious "plague costume" worn by the medical men of Venice during the frequent visitations of plague to that city in the olden times. The hat, mantle, breeches, gaiters and boots were made from morocco leather. The most extraordinary part of the costume, however, is the beak built into the mantle, which closely resembles that of a bird. This was filled with aromatic drugs, ever which air

## "Angels"

Here are some "winged angels" from the Nicobar Islands, in the Bay of Bengal. They are carved from wood, are from three to six feet in height and are certainly unique. These examples are elaborately painted and are not, as they might seem at a casual glance, mere dolls. They are vying offerings made by the Nicobar savages to ward off disease, and ill luck. For this purpose they are kept in the houses of the natives, and it is not uncommon to see three or four such images suspended from the ceiling of



mals, no masks are more popular than those which resemble the countenance of such animals. Other masks are worn at religious dances and other religious ceremonies, and there are few among them which have not been handed down from father to son for several generations. Being fashioned of wood, as a rule, they last for a long time, and even when they begin to wear out they can easily be renovated, since in every village there are artisans who are skilled in this kind of work.

The mask shown in the illustration is worn only at religious dances, and is supposed to be a perfect safeguard against evil spirits.

passed during respiration, and this was supposed to protect the wearer from infection when visiting his patients.

In 1905 Hungary's forests returned little more than a million florins a year. Today, owing to careful administration, the yield is more than 3,000,000 florins yearly.

In the electrical furnaces now in use quartz is volatilized at relatively low temperature, and lime and magnesia become vapors before the highest temperature possible is reached.

a hut. If a gentleman of Nicobar is seriously ill, the most important measure he adopts, with a view to speedy recovery, is to make an effigy of some sort.

The Grand Trunk Road, in India, is the longest macadamized road in the world. It begins at Lahore and is eighteen hundred miles in length.

Among civilized nations four per cent. of the men and one per cent. of the women are color blind. The Chinese are the only people free from color blindness.

## WEST AFRICAN PRIEST AND HIS DEVIL GODS.

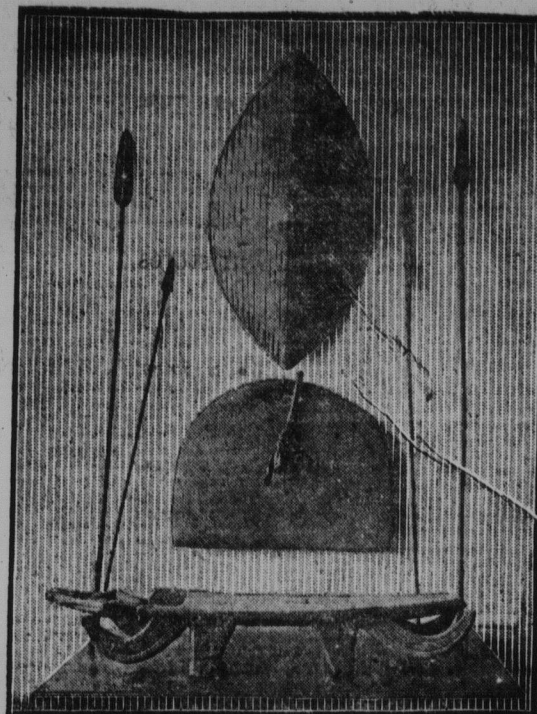


There has been much improvement brought about by mission societies and others in the condition of the natives back of Lagos, West Africa, but they are still very unenlightened and are the cruelest of idolaters. They worship the devil to keep him from harming them, and their other idols to keep them from doing harm to them, and to gain good from them.

They are kept in constant fear by their idol priests. One of their gods is a man dressed up in a fantastic dress which covers all his body, so that no part can be seen. He is sacred from the touch of any one, sacrifices of food and money must be made to him, and he may lash

his worshippers as he pleases without fear. He is called egungun, and is said to be one returned from the dead. Any one who can afford the dress may come out as this god. Worship is by prostration, offering of food and money, and sometimes by gestures to the god.

## AFRICAN WAR GIFTS OF "CHINESE" GORDON.



This shield was presented to General Chas. Stone, U. S. A., by General Gordon, in Egypt, when General Stone was second in command to General Gordon in the Egyptian campaign. Underneath the shield is an African drum and below it is a sacred dish, upon which is placed food for the gods used in their religious worship. This dish is held so sacred by the

negroes that they will not part with it unless forced to give it up. The spears and bow are also used by them. The tribe is the Miam Miam and its members are cannibals. General Stone spent the last days of his life in Fushing, L. I., and when he died this valuable collection was bought by J. B. Boardman, of that place.

## Briquettes For Fuel.

The recent coal strike has hurried America into following the example of continental Europe in the manufacture and sale of briquettes as a substitute for coal. In the older countries these little bricks are made of coal dust, lignite or peat, mixed with a cohesive substance, such as pitch, which is combustible; the American product is made from culm, the fine coal which surrounds every breaker in mountainous hoops. This culm has been considered valueless because it packs too tightly to be used as fuel—it will not burn. But it has been rendered combustible by being combined with a liquid substance made by a secret process and called "biolite."

These culm briquettes are said to be smokeless, burning with very little waste and possessing greater heat power than the best anthracite. Besides, a still greater consideration is that of this culm's cheapness. It can be manufactured for a dollar a ton and sold cheaper than any coal. It also is a new use of waste material.

The albatross varies from 12 to 25 pounds in weight. The largest ever shot was 17½ feet between the tips of its outstretched wings.

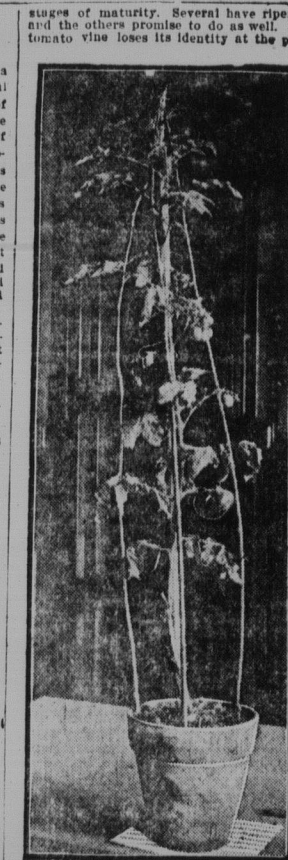
## Pota-Tomato Plant.

The accompanying photograph furnishes an example in grafting, being a plant which is growing first class potatoes at the roots and bearing fully developed tomatoes at the top. It was brought about by Professor Green, of the Minnesota State School of Agriculture, when he cut off the young shoots of a potato vine, making a Y-shaped slit in the top, into which he inserted a freshly clipped young tomato plant, bound the joint with straw and supported it by long rods. Nature did the rest.

The tomato drew sustenance from the roots through the roots of the potato, and in the way of the action of light and air upon its leaves to its adopted roots.

The plant was presented by Professor Green to Attorney General W. B. Douglas, who has turned it over to Miss Minnie Helwig, stenographer to Governor S. R. Van Sant. It is now making good progress in the Governor's reception room.

The plant is now three months old. On pushing aside the earth several fairly developed potatoes are shown, each a trifle larger than a large hen's egg. From the vines a half dozen tomatoes are hanging, in different



where the graft was made. There are no leaves at all suggestive of the potato. The vine is fully three feet high.

## A BABY CONDOR.

This is only a little bird, but that is because it is young, being only recently hatched at the Zoo in Washington. It is a baby condor, and its parents came from the Andes, in South America. As most people know, the condor, which is a species of vulture, is the largest bird that flies and has the greatest wing spread.

The Indians of Ecuador catch it by driving an old and worthless mule to a great height in the mountains, shooting it and digging a hole for the concealment of the hunter close by. By and by comes a condor, and when the bird has gorged itself helplessly it is easily seized.

