



DEVOTED TO TEMPERANCE, SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND AGRICULTURE.

VOLUME XIV., No. 14.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, JULY 15, 1879.

SEMI-MONTHLY, 30 CTS. per An., Post-Paid.

NOTICE.

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SHIPPING HORSES.

The engraving on this page describes, better than could be done by the pen, the method often used of embarking and disembarking horses. A wide band is placed underneath the horse, and one end of a chain which revolves round an elevated pulley is attached to the four points of this band, and the other end to a windlass, and the poor animal is bodily lifted off his feet and placed wherever needed. He cannot kick if he wanted too; but is generally too frightened to do anything but wonder at his strange position. In the picture given the horses are being elevated from scows to the dock to be used in the war against the Zulus.

In Montreal horses and cattle are similarly treated with the exception that the cattle are frequently hoisted into the ships by the horns.

In deep mines horses, mules or donkeys are often used to draw the coal or other materials mined, from the miners at the ends of the galleries to the foot of the shaft, from there to be hoisted to the pit's mouth. When lowered for this purpose a similar contrivance to the one depicted is used. In one instance the writer saw a beautiful pony hoisted up twelve hundred feet, from the midnight darkness of the lowest gallery to the glorious light of the summer's noonday sun. The change was so great and so sudden that the poor animal fell senseless at the pit's mouth; but soon recovering, pranced about with the greatest joy. Two or three days after, however, he was again lowered to his old abode.

ANIMAL FRIENDSHIPS.

Many equine celebrities have delighted in feline companions, following in this the example of their notable ancestor, the Godolphin Arab, between whom and a black cat an intimate friendship existed, for years, a friendship that came to a touching end; for when that famous steed died, his old companion would not leave the body, and when it had seen it put under ground, crawled slowly away to a hay-loft, and, refusing to be comforted, pined away and died.

Mr Huntington, of East Bloomfield, America, owns a thoroughbred horse named Narragansett, and a white cat. The latter was wont to pay a daily visit to Narragansett's stall, to hunt up the mice, and then enjoy a quiet nap. Mr. Huntington removed to Rochester with his family, leaving the cat behind; but she complained so loudly and so unceasingly that she was sent on to the new abode. Her first object was now to get somebody to interpret her desires. At last her master divined them and started off with her to the barn. As soon as they were inside, the cat went to the horse's stall, made herself a bed near his head, and

curled herself up contentedly. When Mr. Huntington visited the pair next morning, there was puss, close to Narragansett's feet, with a family of five beside her. The horse evidently knew all about it, and that it behooved him to take heed how he used his feet. Puss afterwards would go out, leaving her little ones to the care of her friend, who would every now and then look, to see how they were getting on. When these inspections took place in the mother's presence, she was not at all uneasy, although she showed the greatest fear

Lemmerly shut up a cat and several mice together in a cage. The mice in time got to be very friendly, and plucked and nibbled at their feline friend. When any of them grew troublesome she would gently box their ears. A German magazine tells of a M. Hecart who placed a tame sparrow under the protection of a wild-cat. Another cat attacked the sparrow, which was at the most critical moment rescued by its protector. During the sparrows subsequent illness its natural foe watched over it with the greatest tenderness. The same au-

thority gives an instance of a cat trained like a watch-dog to keep guard over a yard containing a hare and some sparrows, blackbirds and partridges.

That a horse should be hail-fellow with a hen appears too absurd to be true; yet we have Gilbert White's word for it that a horse, lacking more suitable companions, struck up a great friendship with a hen, and displayed immense gratification when she rubbed against his legs and clucked a greeting, whilst he moved about with the greatest caution lest he might trample on his "little, little friend."

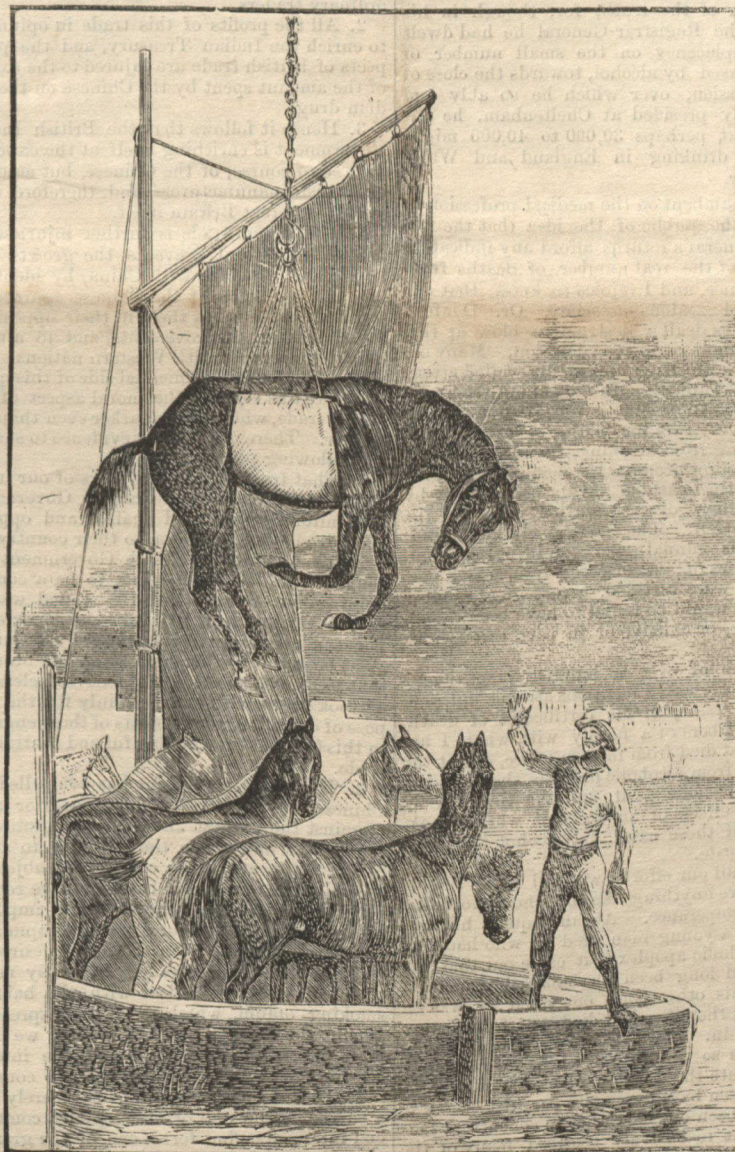
BOYS CARRYING PISTOLS.

A pistol is a very peculiar firearm; it is made for a very peculiar purpose. It is quite natural for some boys to want rifles or shot-guns, with which they may kill game; but a pistol is intended to kill human beings, and this is about all it is good for. There are very few boys in this country who could shoot a bird or a rabbit with a pistol, and any one who should go out hunting with a pistol would be laughed at. This being the case, why should a boy want a pistol? What human beings would he like to kill?

It is useless to say that he may need his pistol for purposes of defence. Not one boy in a thousand is ever placed, in such a position that he may need defend himself with a pistol. But it often has happened that boys who carried loaded pistols thought that it would be a manly thing, under certain circumstances, to use them, and yet, when the time came and they killed somebody, they only brought down misery upon themselves and their families. And this, too, in many a case where, if no one present had had a pistol, the affair would have passed off harmlessly and been soon forgotten.

But the way in which boys generally take human life with pistols is some accidental way. They do not kill highwaymen and robbers, but they kill their schoolmates, or their brothers, or sisters, or, in many cases, themselves. There is no school where boys are taught to properly handle and carry loaded pistols, so they usually have to learn these things by long practice. And while they are learning, it is very likely that some one will be shot. I saw in a newspaper, not long ago, accounts of three fatal accidents, all of which happened on the same day, from careless use of fire arms. And one of these dreadful misadventures was occasioned by a lad who carried a loaded pistol in his overcoat pocket, and who carelessly threw down the coat.

And then, again, a boy ought to be ashamed to carry a pistol, especially a loaded one. The possession of such a thing is a proof that he expects to go among vicious people. If he goes into good society, and has honest manly fellows for his companions, he will not need a pistol. A loaded pistol in a boy's pocket is not only useless and dangerous, but also it almost stamps him as a bad boy, or one who wishes to associate with bad boys and vicious men.—*St. Nicholas.*



LAZY!

It cannot be possible that that big, burly, yawning boy on the back bench is yawning because he is lazy! What a shame it is! His slate is on the floor, and his book on the bench beside him, but they do him no good, because he is too lazy to use them. Strange, is it not, that nobody can gain knowledge in any other way than by learning each one for himself. The king cannot buy it, although he may purchase the companionship of those who are learned. But the boy in the picture is not one of that kind, and he never will be one unless he picks up his books and goes bravely to work. Laziness never made anybody prosper, but it has ruined millions. Are any readers of the MESSENGER lazy? We hope not, and if they are let them turn over a new leaf and try to do better.

THE STORY OF HEROD THE GREAT.

You would like to know something about Herod, you say, who was king when Jesus was born?

He was called Herod the Great, but why I cannot tell you, for, unlike our Saxon king Alfred, or Cyrus, the founder of the Persian Empire, who both bore the surname, he did not excel in one really great quality, or one noble virtue.

When quite young his father made him governor of Galilee, which was then infested with robbers. These Herod soon put down, capturing their leader, Hezekiah, and bringing him to justice, which gained him the friendship of the governor of Syria, and the name of being courageous. But he was lacking in true courage, for however praiseworthy this action might be, he would have been a far braver and nobler man if he had fought half as well the daily and hourly battles of life, conquering his own bad temper and other evils, that stand out like great blots on his character. He was extremely selfish, very ambitious, and so passionate that, in moments of frenzy, he committed acts of cruelty and injustice which caused him to be disliked by the Jews, and which make us think of him with something like a shudder.

Herod was not himself a Jew, though he professed the Jewish faith, married Jewish women, and tried to gain the favor of the Jews. His father, Antipater, was an Idumean, or Edomite, and had been made governor of Judea by Julius Cæsar. Previous to Herod's time, the Jews, under the Maccabees, had subdued their old enemies the Edomites, and compelled them to be governed by Jewish prefects, to obey Jewish laws, and observe Jewish rites. And as the Edomites had settled in the south of Palestine, they almost formed a part of the Jewish nation.

So Herod was well acquainted with the customs of the Jews; and to please his subjects, he professed great zeal for the Law of Moses. But they soon found that he was not sincere, and never fully trusted him. On the death of his father, Herod was made governor of Judea, under the Romans, and soon honored with the title of king.

To please the Jews he offered to re-build, in a most splendid manner, the Temple at Jerusalem, some parts of which were falling into decay. For nine years he had 18,000 workmen constantly employed; and he spared no expense to make the Temple one of the most costly edifices that could possibly be.

The Jews were glad to have

which the Jews did not like to see. For they could not forget how great and glorious a nation they had once been; and to be constantly reminded of their deep fall grieved and vexed them, and alienated them from the king who could so humble them before their enemies. Herod built a temple, and dedicated it to Augustus, too, which the Jews regarded as idolatry. So it was no wonder that the Jews neither liked nor trusted him; and his treatment of his Jewish wives still further widened the breach.

The story of Mariamne, the most beautiful of his ten wives, is a very sad one. She belonged to the Asmonean line, or family of the Maccabees, whose princes for a hundred and twenty-six

The jealous mother and sister of Herod tried in every way to make the king angry with her, and they did not hesitate to bring false charges against her, and to bribe false witnesses. And Herod, instead of finding out whether their accusations were true, flew into a rage, and ordered her execution.

Then, all too late, the rash and unjust king came to himself, and so bitterly mourned his loss that he could not attend to state affairs. Into so deep a melancholy did he sink, that he often called for Mariamne, or gave orders for her to be brought to him; but she had gone "where the wicked cease from troubling," and so was spared further trouble and sorrow.

Though, to atone for his rashness, and to conciliate the Jews, Herod built a tower in Jerusalem called Mariamne, in honor of his wife, he became still more cruel and tyrannical to the surviving members of her family. Not long afterwards he ordered her mother Alexandria to be put to death. And when her two sons, Aristobulus and Alexander, grew up, and were married, and had little ones needing a father's care, Herod, as rashly and unjustly as in the case of Mariamne their mother, had them put in prison and strangled, though their greatest fault was that they were beloved by the Jews.

This caused the Jews to dislike him more than ever, and he became very melancholy again, especially as he had a most tedious and serious illness, and he suspected his subjects of wishing he might die.

They naturally did wish for his death; and one day a company of young men, hearing that Herod was dead, beat down the golden eagle over the Temple gate. But they soon discovered their mistake, for Herod had upwards of forty of them burned alive.

It was during this last illness that tidings were brought to Herod of the visit of the wise men to Jerusalem, and their strange question as to Him who was born King of the Jews, whose star they had seen in the East. And Herod, who had lost all control over his jealous temper, fearing that the Jews would make the newly-born child their king, ordered the slaughter of all the baby-boys in and around Bethlehem, thinking that Jesus would be killed with the rest.

After this Herod's sickness became more trying, and he bore it so impatiently that no one cared to go near him. And now he began to reap more fully the fruits of his evil passions. There was no gentle Mariamne to minister to his wants, no loving voice soothed his ruffled spirit, no fond children flocked around him to comfort him, and no bright promise rose like a star of hope to cheer his future path. All was darkness.



LAZY!

the Temple, of which they were most proud, made great and glorious, and no doubt they would have been very grateful to Herod, if he had only acted consistently afterwards. But when, over the chief entrance to the Temple, he set up a golden eagle, which was the Roman ensign, and therefore an abomination to the Jews, their anger was roused, and they lost all confidence in him.

He should have been more considerate about the feeling of his subjects; but his ambition made him wish to please the Romans no less than the Jews. Not far from the Temple he built an amphitheatre, where he had games celebrated in honor of the Roman emperor, and he placed about it trophies of Roman victories,

years had governed the Jews. She was as virtuous as she was beautiful; and, after a selfish fashion of his own, Herod loved her. But he was cruel to her nearest and dearest relations. Poor Aristobulus, her noble and generous brother, was drowned by order of Herod, when only eighteen years of age, because as high priest, he had gained the affections of the Jews. And the aged Hyrcanus, Mariamne's grandfather, was executed on unfounded charges, though he once saved the life of Herod, when in his youthful days it was threatened by the Sanhedrin.

But I wish I could tell you that his rash cruelty ended even here. The virtuous and lovely queen was herself brought to the block.

How could it be otherwise, after such a life?

Becoming more and more miserable, one day when his pain was severe, and he was in a condition too dreadful to describe, he asked for a knife to pare an apple, and with it attempted his own life. But his nephew Ahiah rushed forward, and prevented his intention.

Antipater—his eldest son, who was then in prison, closely confined by Herod's orders—hearing a shout, and thinking his father was dead, was overjoyed, and tried to escape, and Herod ordered his son to be executed. That was only five days before his own decease; but the approach of death, instead of leading him to repentance, only hardened him.

Thinking to compel the Jews to mourn when he was gone, he commanded the most respected of their elders to be brought to Jericho, where he then was; and, confining them all in the circus, gave orders that the moment he ceased to breathe his soldiers should rush in and slay them.

This last wicked order—which happily was not executed—only increased the joy of the Jews when at last the cruel king expired.

Though this is so sad a story, it is not unprofitable, since it teaches us that the cruel and unjust cannot expect to come to a merciful end. It points out, too, the evil of giving way to bad tempers, and of letting a selfish ambition, and not the desire to do good, be the rule of life.

Herod was buried with great pomp and splendor. His body was laid on a golden bier, adorned with precious stones. He was clothed in purple robes, and a sceptre was placed in his hands. On his head was a crown of gold, and he was followed by a great train, including all the army, and five hundred servants carrying spices. But he might well have envied the beggar Lazarus, who was "carried by angels into Abraham's bosom," or the holy Stephen, who fell peacefully asleep amid a shower of stones.

—*Little Folks.*

ROBBING THE EAGLE'S NEST.

The Tyrolese are a hardy and adventurous class of people, such as are to be found in all rugged and mountainous countries. In their hunts after the chamois and other wild animals they are compelled to jump from precipice to precipice, and only the sure-eyed, the sure-footed, and bold need ever begin a chase which requires all these qualities. But this is not their most difficult task. Suspended by a rope over the brow of the rock, the hardy mountaineer robs the eagle's nest of whatever it may contain that he wants. Perhaps it is the eggs, the eagles or the prey which it has conveyed to its almost inaccessible home. An interesting story is told of a

man who was in a position something like the young man in the picture, when he was attacked by an eagle and, to save himself, slashed at it with his knife. But instead of wounding the eagle he cut a strand of the rope which held him. It began to untwist, and as it untwisted began to part thread by thread until he saw nothing before him but destruction. Hope had not fled, however, and just as the last threads were about parting he sprang upwards, caught the rope above the cut portion, and soon was safe on the rock to which he was attached. There is a lesson in this incident for very many of the MESSENGER readers. Often they have felt themselves slipping away from Christ. One after another the threads which once united them closely are parted, and beneath



ROBBING THE EAGLE'S NEST.

and beside them they see nothing but destruction. But all hope is not lost. Christ who died for the worst of sinners does not desire his destruction; and if the one hanging over the black yawning gulf into which every moment threatens to precipitate him, resolves, he may catch hold of his Saviour and be yet saved.

ABOUT INSECTS.

Insects show the most wondrous delicacy of organization combined with stupendous power and activity. Their intelligence is no less surprising, and their powers are in some cases so highly developed as almost to supply an additional sense, or the means of making up what we should deem a lacking one. Ants talk to each other by touch. When two meet they touch each other with their antennæ and appear to

gather decision from the contact. Huber threw a colony of ants into a darkened room, and noticed that they at first ran about in bewildered disorder. After a time, if one ant found the opening he would return and touch several with the antennæ; and after this communication had been carried on for some time the whole number formed themselves in regular files and marched out in perfect order.

The exquisite development of smell in insects enables them to detect the faintest odor at great distances. By this an insect finds the plant most suitable for its food or for depositing its eggs, and to settle upon it amid a thousand others. Insects that feed on flesh detect the odor of a piece of meat even when covered by a bell-glass. This exquisitely fine sense of smell is believed to lie in the

The rapidity of their movements is also almost incredible. Herschel calculates that some insects vibrate their wings several hundred times in a second, which is about as many hundred times as we could raise and depress our arms. A few minutes of such exertion would be enough to tire us completely, whereas the gnat whirls about during the long summer evening without any appearance of fatigue.

The strength of insects is equally marvellous. A man of ordinary strength can with difficulty raise a weight equal to that of his own body, or jump to the height of his own stature, whereas a mole-cricket can easily lift a weight about three hundred times that of its body, and the common flea can jump to a height equal to two hundred times its stature.

The circulating system of an insect is wonderfully complex and extensive. The heart of man has two large openings, each of which is furnished with valves to prevent the reflux of the blood; whereas the circulating apparatus of an insect occupies the greater portion of the back of the animal, and is provided with valves to prevent the blood flowing backwards.

The aerial mouths or breathing orifices of the insects are in many cases lined with a sieve-like membrane, which only permits the purest fluid to pass, and arrests the smallest particle of dust or impurity. Some insects have a hair-like protection to their respiratory orifices which acts in the same manner. Water is prevented from forcing its way into the air-passages of aquatic insects by a compound kind of valve which the animal opens or shuts at will. Respiration is with us confined to one region of the body, but in insects the air is inhaled and exhaled over nearly every part of the body.

The metamorphoses of insects have been justly regarded as the most marvellous phenomena in physiology. Changes the most complete and astonishing take place in body, function, organs, and mode of life. The grovelling and gluttonous caterpillar becomes the bright and aerial butterfly, which sips delicately the nectar of flowers. At first a wingless worm or larva which does nothing but eat, the insect having attained its full growth becomes motionless, casts off its skin, and takes the transition or nymph form. In this the caterpillar is lost and the new and perfect insect developed. At the proper time the swaddling case—sometimes of modest brown, sometimes of golden hue, and hence it has received the name of chrysalis—is burst open, and the butterfly emerges from its prison, radiant and bright, without a particle of its gem-like scales being injured, or a hair of its velvet wings being ruffled.—*Selected.*

antennæ, which, like the nostrils of larger animals, receive the first pair of nerves which issue from the brain. Some insects when deprived of their antennæ could no longer seek their food. In insects the olfactory organs may be counted by thousands, instead of being limited to two openings as in man.

Nor is the power of sight in insects less remarkable. Man and the larger animals have two eyes, whereas the ant has fifty, the common fly eight thousand, and some butterflies more than twenty thousand! Some aquatic insects have eyes with which they can see above and below them, so that when swimming they can escape by diving from the bird which threatens to pounce upon them from above, while they can fly away from the fish that threatens to attack them from below.

