A MOQUI SNAKE DANCE.

INDIANS DANCING WITH RATTLERS IN THEIR MOUTHS.

A Terrible Spectacle That White Men Are Rarely Allowed to Witness—Dogs Which Excite the Members of the Hopi Nation to a State of Frenzy.

The snake dances of the Moqui Indians have been frequently written about, but usually passages on hearsay evidence. It is seldom that any white man is allowed to be present at these ceremonies. A scout attached to the force at Fort Wingate, N. M., however, was so fortunate as to be in one of the Indian villages, and to witness the preliminary dance. What he saw is described in the letter sent from the fort:

The participants were composed of two hundred men, thirty-six of whom danced with the snakes, and a similar number who formed a circle of singing men. These latter were the first to come upon the scene, and were dressed in striped cotton shirts, white breeches, sashes, mitlets and beautifully tanned yellow fawskins hanging down behind the body. They bore small rattles in one hand, while in the other was held a stick, to which was fastened a wing of a turkey feather. This stick, they claim, sort a the necessary protection of one's life and keeps the snake's venomy and know that none of his progeny will be injured or carried to remote lands.

Those men made four or five circuits of the small plaza and then took up a position to the west side of it. In the center of the plaza was a cottonwood stick. After they had arranged themselves properly, in a state of extraordinary excitation, the snake men came marching in to band across the mesa with a single stride.

These dancing men, like their predecessors, made four circuits around a large rock which stands in the center of the plaza. They then faced the circuits and a song was gone through with. After this ceremony the snake men were divided into groups of three, and one from each three went into the cottonwood stick and extracted a snake from one of the logs, and after putting it into his mouth and firmly fixing it there with his teeth, he strutted on his round.

A REPEATED SCENE.

His companion, with his arm around his neck, kept the tail of the snake in position with his left hand, while with his right, in which he carried a stick with two long feathers attached, he kept the serpent from becoming entangled in the hair of the dancer. The snake, after being carried around the circle, was taken from the mouth, when the next member of the group gathered it up and carried it for the rest of the dance.

At times the serpents would try to coils their snaps and would make a dash for liberty. Then the crowds which surrounded the dancers, and the spectators would scatter in all directions until the snakes were recaptured by the dancers and carried back into the circle and more securely held.

The visits to the dead were continued until at least 150 snakes had been brought from the inclosure, and all appeared to be in excellent condition, judging from the manner in which they were wished capture after they had been dropped from the mouth. Two or three instances were noticed of large bull snakes being held by the neck and twisting their bodies around the legs of the dancers. In one instance the snake had an entwined himself around the performer that he was unable to move for fear of falling. This performance caused a great outburst of laughter, but it looked anything but funny to the dancer.

Those who danced with the snakes not unfrequently had three or four in the mouth at the same time, which, of all the performances, was the most terrifying. To see these naked human beings going around with the face completely hidden behind a mask of twisting and writhing snakes was enough to make the strongest hearted man shudder with disgust, yet the other members of the tribe greeted these manifestations with applause.

A CROWD CROWED IN HALVES.

The applause of the spectators urged the dancers to greater feats, and as the dance proceeded the performance became most horrible to behold. Some of the dancers would take three large rattlers in the mouth at the same time, and as they slowly strung around the circle would stop on the living snakes until, in some instances, the serpents would fall to the ground completely blinded in two. One dancer, who appeared to be a leader, at one time had six serpents in his mouth, and the swinging coils of the reptiles made a grotesque appearance of his head as he whirled around the outer edge of the circle.

This ceremony lasted two hours, and when the dance was over the participants were thoroughly exhausted. While during the dance they had been apparently in the ecstatic condition, the reaction was terrible, and while there was no permanent injury to the dancers, it took several days for them to recuperate. This time was spent in sleeping and drinking a weak sort of broth made from the dead snakes which had perished in the ceremony. During this dance there is a peculiar tinge of the body and eyes which would indicate that the performers had been medicated and prepared for the ordeal through which they were about to pass.

It was supposed by some that the extract on the snakes had been produced by the extraction of their fangs, but to show that such was not the case a dog was brought into the circle and was bitten by a snake. In a very short time the unfortunate animal was dead from the effects of the bite.—San Francisco Chronicle.

The Market Bull.

Do Dunks—Why is it that the stock market is so decidedly dull?

Jo Cinks—Up—I believe most of the bank officials, city treasurers and municipal clerks who have been speculating in stocks are locked up.—New York Weekly.

There are, strange to say, aristocracies of money among barbarous tribes of men, and one finds them powder-crusted boards of blankets, copper, beads and shell than the most pure proud millionaire in the world.

Professor Long, of Chicago, is authority for the statement that if to 50 million parts of water there is one part of arsenic the water is dangerous.

NOT MOURNING FOR THE BUFFALO.

A Retired Army Officer Who Sees No Reason for Lamenting Him.

The disappearance of the buffalo has been the fruitful occasion of much unreasonable sentiment. Men who never saw a buffalo except in a menagerie are especially given to lamentation. An eastern paper recently gave up a column or more to one of the mourners who answered with such satisfaction because of the disappearance of large game from the face of the earth. The sad fate of the hippopotamus, the rhinoceros and other social quadrupeds often bemoaned, but the American bison remains by far the largest amount of cheap sympathy. Those who enjoyed the personal acquaintance of great numbers of buffalo are not numbered among the sulkiers.

A retired army officer, who in his day saw much service on what was called "the plains," said the other day: "I am tolerably familiar with the buffalo and feel justified in saying that one might with equal reason lament the disappearance of the hobnail car. When I first struck the plains those animals bounded and abounded in countless numbers. I remember that once when smoking down the Republican valley for miles we passed a herd of the everlasting bovines moving up the same valley.

"They traveled about three miles an hour and we about four, and yet, though going in opposite directions, we were over six hours in passing the herd, which almost filled the valley. Any man who feels that he is a born mathematician can figure out how long that herd was. Compute it for yourself. The herd averaged, I would think, about 300 yards in width. Quite a large aggregation of tough beef, wasn't it?

"Hunting the buffalo was never sport; a pleiotoman never did it except for food and hides. Occasionally some English tourist or oil magnet would come out and round Niobrara would come out west around with a complete arsenal of rifles and shotguns of the most cumbersome make and elaborate finish. He would proceed to butcher a few aged bulls, have the hides carefully dressed and, I presume, exhibit them with appropriate lines emulating pores in the halls of his ancestors.

"I think that with the exception of a few sentimentalists and romantics, few use any reason to regret that the buffalo no longer cumbers the earth. He required about three times the acreage an American steer does for subsistence, his meat was tough and flavorless, his robe not half so good as a Minnesota blanket and five times as heavy, and his hide more valuable with a settled country. No, we might as rightly lament the loss of the trees that once stood where now are fields of corn and wheat. The buffalo served his purpose, fulfilled his destiny, and has simply, like other things of the earth, passed away in the Lord's good time."—Kansas City Times.

Where the Fossil Bear the Clock Tick.

Dorthea Lee Blue aged little German girl from Gotham court who had never before seen the grass and the trees, Bertha has a pet and is that aged, sturdy body of hers. "I never saw a child like her," said the good woman of the farm where the child had staid. And it is very likely such children are not common.

"Was it very strange in the country?" I asked her.

"I could hear the clock tick all the time," answered the child.

Go down to Gotham court and you will understand that. All day there is the long rumble of the city's streets. Sometimes the sound is loud and comes sharply on the nerves; sometimes it is heavy and dull, or passed through with the cries of men and of little children. Can you think what it would be to live where you could never be sure that you heard the sound of your footsteps, and to come to feel it as the strangest of surprises that you could "hear the clock tick all the time?"—Harper's Bazar.

The First Friction Matches.

The first really practicable friction matches were made by an English apothecary named Walker in 1827. He coated splints of cardboard with sulphur and tipped them with a mixture of sulphide of antimony, chlorate of potash and glue. Each box, holding eighty-four matches and costing 50 cents, contained also a folded piece of glass paper, which was to be pressed together while the match was drawn through it.

Three years later another ingenious person named Jones, in London, introduced the idea of making a small roll of paper, soaked with chlorate of potash and sugar at one end, with a thin glass globule filled with strong sulphuric acid attached at the same point. When the sulphuric acid was liberated by pinching the globule it acted upon the chlorate of potash and fired so as to produce fire.—Woodstock Star.

Why Ice Floats.

Did you ever wonder why it is that ice, being formed of congealed water, floats? And why, as ours will know, it begins to form at the bottom before it does on the surface? Scientists explain these strange phenomena by supposing, by Infinite Intelligence, that water just about to freeze, and therefore flakes in it. This is one reason why the formation of ice usually begins at the surface.

Another is a peculiar law of expansion. The general law is that cold reduces expansion, this law holds good with water only to a certain point. When water has cooled down to within 7.4 degs. of freezing it ceases to contract as before with increase of cold and begins to expand till it freezes.

This expansion causes the colder portions of the water to rise to the surface. The formation of "ground ice" or "anchor ice," as it is sometimes called, is the only exception to the rule given above.—St. Louis Republic.

Jones (musically)—Have you ever seen the Catacombs in Sepulchre?

Oldboy (slightly dazed)—I will "on all the year round, sir. They do just as easy in August as in September.—Pittsburg Bulletin.

New York Ways.

"I notice a great difference in dress and customs in New York from what we have out our way," said an Indiana man at the Hoffman. "Now, there are three red shoes. If a man appeared on the streets of my town with red shoes, a flannel shirt and a sash he would be mobbed. And yet there who wear them here look cute and fresh and comfortable. I never saw a sash or red shoes in my town. The first thing I noticed at the table here was a man taking a lump of sugar between his fingers. I thought he was very impolite at first, but I soon saw that nobody save sugar tongs are used.

"Then there's that individual butter knife everywhere. We're congenital the custom of cutting with a knife and everybody dipping into the same dish with it, but we think one butter knife is good enough. And yet it seems like a very sensible thing to me. I wish I shouldn't have to spread the rest of his food on his bread along with his butter, when you come to think of it. I notice some of these people don't spread at all, but break their bread with their fingers into pieces. I don't think we will ever get up to the time that a man must go out behind the barn to pick his teeth. That's playing it a little too fine."—New York Herald.

The Dope Notion.

An ingenious stop motion for carding engines is a recent invention. The shaft of the upper calender roller is in this arrangement prolonged beyond its bearing for a short distance, and a worm affixed to the end and gearing into a worm wheel mounted on a stud attached to a bracket on the frame, the wheel also having affixed to its face a pin which engages with a lever, the latter in turn acting upon one end of another lever. The other end of this last named lever is bent in such a manner as to project under a ratchet pivoted to one side of the doffer lever, the latter being supported in working position by the ratchet.

When the sliver is passing through the calender rolls at the proper thickness, the worm on the upper calender shaft is held out of contact with the worm wheel. On the other hand, when it becomes too thin or is entirely absent, the worm falls into gear and revolves the worm wheel, thus moving the lever about their centers, releasing the catch attached to the doffer lever and stopping the engine.—New York Telegram.

Potatoes and the Potato.

It is since Queen Elizabeth's time, only four and a half centuries ago, that tobacco, sugar and potatoes have been used, Sir Walter Raleigh being instrumental in establishing the use of all three in England.

The circumnavigator, Francis Drake, brought the tobacco from the Indies to Europe, but the Spaniards had brought it with the tomato from the Andes some time before, and it was established there and in Italy, where they called it tartufoli, long before Sir Walter Raleigh shipped his cargo in 1586, from Virginia to England. At meeting in Hamburg, it has been cultivated in England since 1584, in Saxony since 1728, and since 1729 in Prussia.—New York Evening Sun.

A Curiosity of Longevity.

A man who saw George Washington when he was a boy has died at the age of 106. The remarkable longevity which going upon the Father of their Country seems to have induced in the youth of his generation is worthy of the investigation of science. If the mere sight of a great man produces such vivifying effect upon the human system, arrangements might be made, at special excursion rates, by which the general public might be enabled to visit the others of the Washingtons at the same time—lest we discover them.—Baltimore American.

Relics of the El Fated Jeannette.

More remarkable than the drift of the Jeannette itself is the fact that a number of objects belonging to her or her crew were found one on the new Julianshaab, on the southwest coast of Greenland, just three years after she had sunk (June 16, 1881). Among these objects the following may be mentioned here: A list of provisions with the signature of De Long, the leader of the Jeannette expedition, written in his own handwriting; a written list of the boats of the Jeannette; a pair of trousers made of oiled linen, marked "Louis Noros," which is the name of one of the men saved from the Jeannette and still living.

When it was first generally known that these objects had been found, some people in America were rather skeptical, and it was even pretended in American papers that the whole story was a lie. But how could it be so? What could the poor Natives of Greenland know about the Jeannette and her fate? The above mentioned facts speak for themselves, and need no further testimony.

These objects must have been left on the floe either near the place where the Jeannette sank or somewhere on the coast of the new Siberian Islands. From this region the floe must have been floated by ocean currents to the southwest coast of Greenland, where it was found.—Dr. Fridtjof Nansen in Forum.

Rapidly Traveling Torpedoes.

The torpedoes now being made at the Austrian port of Fiume run below water at a rate of thirty-five miles an hour and carry a charge of 240 pounds of gun cotton, the explosion of which is so remarkable that probably no ship could endure it. What is more, the rotation of steel rings which has been successful Siberia is keeping at a distance all smaller torpedoes yields, it is asserted, at once to the weight and impact of the large Whitehead implacement.—New York Telegram.

It will cost $6,000,000 to blast the rocks out of the so called "iron gates" of the Danube river. The Austrian government is levying tolls on passing vessels to pay for the cost of the work.

MRS. GRAHAM'S

Cucumber and Elder Flower Cream

Is not a cosmetic in the common sense in which that word is generally used, but a most delicate, beautifying, healing, soothing and refreshing cream, which will not only greatly improve the complexion, but will, if used according to directions, remove all roughness, redness, sallowness, tan, freckles, pimples, blackheads, chapped skin, and all blemishes and imperfections from the effects of sun and wind and prevent wrinkles and premature old age. Unobtrusive, will never cause even the one in a thousand to ask you what you have used, and yet every acquaintance will notice the improvement in your complexion. Ladies who have used it for years will use no other. Gentlemen who use it find it a most delightful shaving cream, and it is the best thing in the world for chapped hands, chilblains, etc. Ladies who have used other creams without satisfaction will be astonished at the results from the use of this cream