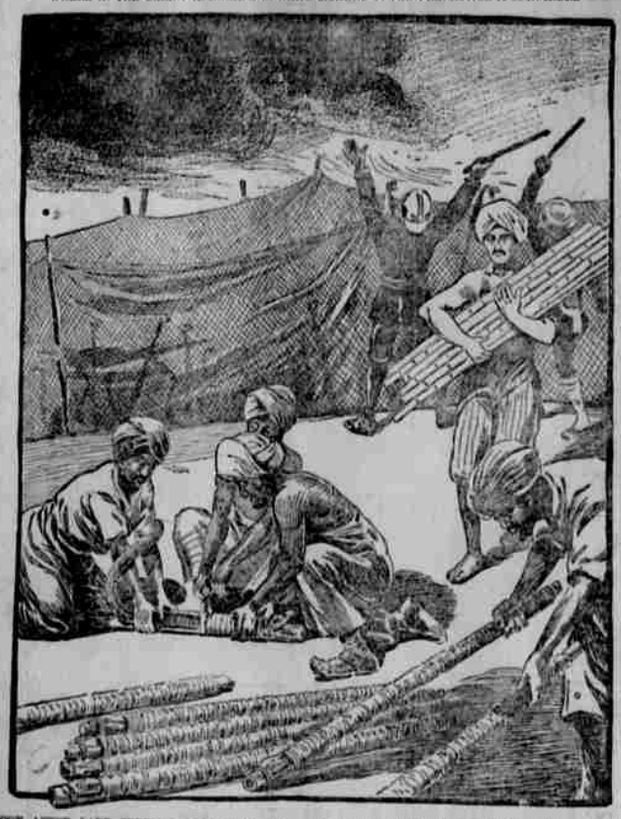
THE SNAKE CHARMERS OF INDIA AT WORK PERFORMING SOME OF THE WONDERFUL TRICKS WHICH HAVE MADE THEM FAMOUS THE WORLD OVER AS MARVELOUS FAKIRS AND UNEQUALED CHARMERS. NOWHERE IN THE ORIENT IS SNAKE CHARMING CARRIED TO THE PERFECTION IT IS IN INDIA.



SOON AFTER LADY CURZON'S ARRIVAL IN INDIA THE SNAKE CHARMERS OF THAT COUNTRY GAVE A GRAND FESTIVAL IN HER HONOR. ALTHOUGH HER LADYSHIP IS NOT FOND OF SNAKES, SHE DROVE TO THE GROUNDS AND GAVE THEM THE PLEASURE OF SEEING HER FOR A FEW MOMENTS.

FACE TO FACE WITH A SPRING SNAKE.

Study the Ways of the Indian Snake Charmers and Learn How to Treat a Reptile.

This is the season of year when snakes come out of their holes. They have been hibernating during the winter, and now the warm sunshine brings them out to sun upon the rocks. A snake, more than any other animal, is the terror of man, and if all the plagues and pests of the earth were collected their combined horrors would probably be vanish, to the majority of people, less than that of the single animal, the snake. That is why St. Patrick is so venerated by the Irish.

THE STROKE OF A VERY FAST SWIMMER.

because he banished snakes from the Emerald Isle.

All sorts of ways of treating snakes have been studied. The youngest boy is taught how to catch a snake just back of the head and pull the tail. The tiniest little girl who plays in the wood is instructed in the art of dropping a stone upon the head of a angry snake.

But in India, where snakes abound, they have a simpler way of dealing with them. A mongoose which does not necessarily kill the snake, but which renders him harmless and you can escape. The snake charmers of India are the most wonderful race of men known, for they are a race of themselves. Their tricks descend from generation to generation, and are taught to father to son, as soon as the son shows that he is active and clever enough to be trusted with them.

When Lady Curzon went to India one of the first entertainments given in her honor was by the snake charmers, who invited her to witness their wonderful performances. Her Ladyship came to the festival, but remained only long enough to show by her presence that she was grateful to them.

SNAKE TRICKS.

The secret of the snake tricks have been stolen again and again, but those who have tried to ferret them out have remained as mystified as ever. The action has been adopted as the scene of the spell which the snake charmer casts over the animal, but hypnotism

A CLEVER SUB-SURFACE TRICK.

exclusively upon the snakes which he carries with him. He will accept all that are brought to him and will treat them precisely as among they were his own trained snakes. When a stranger takes another poisonous snake is placed before him he begins by swinging a bright piece of cloth in the air round and round in front of the snake's eyes.

The serpent, which has crawled out of the covered basket, raises with its head lifted, and looks straight into the face of the performer. You shudder, for you are afraid with a feeling of terrible fear lest he may be bitten. But he does not hesitate.

CHARMING THE SNAKE.

Bowed and round the swings the cloth, until the snake's head begins to sway. Soon the snake is dancing its head and swinging in a circle, keeping exact time to the waving cloth. When the cloth is held down the animal is passive, and the charmer now takes it up as though it were a piece of rope.

Hindoo fakirs, or snake charmers, will take these serpents as fast as they are brought to them and will test them upon strips of bamboo, which are made of iron strips. They will test the snakes rightly and carefully and the serpents will be passive though the operation. One stately Indian holds a snake near the head, another standing the bamboo stick, while the third uses a blade.

Then the snakes are all laid down side by side, bound upon the sticks, and the performers gather round them and dance, waving their colored cloths and singing strange songs.

But the most remarkable feat is yet to come. Suddenly the performers will stand still and the music will become hushed and drowsy. The performers fall back and the great living sticks lie there alone. Soon you notice that they are restless, and the sticks begin to move. There is a sound as though dried were bearing and the great inlaid eyes grow red and green where before they

SHIPPING A BATTLE HORSE TO MANILA.

were bright black.

Suddenly there is a sharp report and a stick breaks. The serpent has wrenched himself loose from his bonds. The others follow in the same way, and in a minute all is a great writhing, writhing mass, filling the whole space at the performers with their struggling forms. The snakes bite and lash their tails and turn upon each other in frenzy. The spectators fall back and the air is filled with the cries of the people and the indescribable hissing of the serpents.

HOW TO SUBDUE HIM.

Now comes the art of the snake charmer. Quick as lightning, without a word, he and his brothers seize their colored rags again and begin dancing around the snakes and waving them in the air, the music now turns to a soft, wailing series of cords and the snakes begin to grow passive. They seem their knees and lie still as though fascinated by their entertainers. While they lie thus they are gathered by the charmers and placed in baskets, each basket covered with a lid. Then the performers gather up the snakes and walk away, disappointing in the crowd.

The Indian snakes will tell you to learn and understand that there is one very simple protection from all wild animals, including the snake, always at hand. But unfortunately it can be used only after nightfall. It is in the shape of the bull's-eye pattern which accompanies men upon all the outposts into uncivilized regions. Two bull's-eye lanterns held a few feet apart will frighten the most savage beast that ever walked the desert, and will be respected by bears, wolves and even panthers.

The snake, looking into these two great glaring eyes will turn away, for he is afraid with the others that he has met a foe worthy a better steel than his.

SWIMMING TRICKS IN SUMMER SURF.

Max Levi, the Water Athlete, Tells Our Men Readers How They Can Become the Idol of the Summer Bathing Girl.

There is no end of tricks a clever swimmer can do in water. Then there are sports and games played on rafts or water shoes, log rolling, high diving, water ballets, jous and hockey. The most popular sport at present, however, is shooting the "chutes," or water toboggan.

Here is the amateur's line to hockey on the water; a ball and hockey sticks are necessary, and have "heels" for the feet, which are kept on by straps, something like snowshoes.

Quadrangle is another water game. If the players due enter suits it adds to their picturesque appearance, tissue, say, of harlequin ball with red and white colors on their white shirts and red bands on their hats.

Water polo, or "ornamental swimming," are useful on two accounts, to amuse yourself or to amuse others.

Often friends come to spy a swimmer as spectators, and what is the consequence? After the bather has been swimming a while they are tired of it, and so wonder. They become restless and fidgety, and finally demanding, "When are you coming out?"

But if the swimmer understands a few tricks, it will amuse and interest his friends more than simple swimming ever could do. They also teach the bather nerve and nerve.

Of all the water figures the most laughable is that of "turning the spit." Here are the directions:

Lie on the water as if about to float, then, drawing the knees up to the side, place both hands behind the knees, back to back, and move them gently backward and forward, by degrees by pressing the knees. In not be frightened by the result; you will spin round like a top.

The nature of a spit is to turn one way and then another, and this is done by moving only one hand until fairly going round another way, and then both are used, as before.

Do not in this first let excitement run away with your judgment or you will get giddy, and sickness to the water is a serious matter. Learn to off directly the back stroke, swimming.

THE BOAT FIGURE.

The boat figure is a pretty one, as it is supposed to represent a boat supplied with an oars. The swimmer lies on his back as though about to float, then place the feet to form the prow of the boat, then, instead of raising the arms above the head, as in the back stroke, lay them upon them in exactly the opposite direction, that is, move them from the hips to a line with shoulders.

As the feet advance and, this figure preserves a straight line, and a clever girl could do this trick easily as well as one in which the bathing costume is changed into a boat.

The swimmer puts on, over her ordinary bathing dress, another one that is at least one size too large, which fastens it at the neck, standing on the diving platform, she must jump or dive to the bottom of the water, and hastily divesting herself of the second dress, swim to the top, carrying it in her hands. Does water, in preference to a shelter, should be chosen for this feat, which perhaps in reality it is not.

THE TASTE FOR HARDTACK, WHILE A CULTIVATED ONE, SOON GROWS UPON A PERSON, AND A MAN WHO HAS GOT TO BE LIKES IT IS NOT SATISFIED WITH BREAD AND CAKE. HE LONGS FOR THE DRY, BRITTLE CRACKER WHICH FED HIM THROUGH THE MONOTONOUS DAYS OF ARMY WORK.

INTERIOR OF ONE OF THE HARD-TACK FACTORIES WHERE THE CRACKERS ARE PREPARED FOR OUR SOLDIERS IN PORTO RICO AND MANILA.

ARMY BREAD AS A STEADY DIET.

"The eating of hardtack is an inalienable disease," said a man who had served in the war. The other evening I a reporter of this newspaper. "I got in three months at Santiago and lived on it, on account of the heat, and now I can not happy until I get it.

"The first time you taste hardtack you wonder why it was ever made, except to break the teeth of men. It is tasteless, dry, and dusty for your pains and leaves you hungry. But after you have eaten hardtack a week you change your opinion. You discover that it has a very nice flavor, that it is delicately crisp, and that it takes away the 'gone' feeling better than bread and butter.

"When you first begin to eat hardtack you take the feeling of fullness that comes from eating a coarse food. The stomach craves that sensation feeling to notify to good eaters. But after a while this passes away and you like your food.

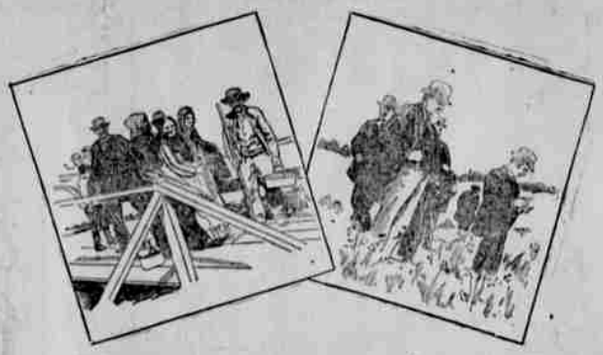
"The best hardtack is unsalted, or only a little, but you should not think that it is absolutely without salt it is bitter, but with a few grains added to every quart of flour it makes the hardtack it be comes very sweet. Engineers either salt it too little or too much. Sometimes they add a little sugar, which makes it taste better, as when it comes down to the matter of eating, it requires as good a chef to make hardtack as to make a strawberry shortcake.

"The United States tolled about baking the own hardtack factories, and we were wondering over the campaign the other day, if they had gone into it yet. Hardtack is a staple article of food when all the boys who fought together in the trenches get in the armory and swap jokes of bygone days in hardtack.

"They are shipping hardtack to Manila in great quantities. Our boys now have cast a gold medal of it. The Tagalos are so sweet, as they are soaked by the Filipinos, and their throats are so sick when it rains, that the soldiers can not receive crackers, and hardtack is a kind of starter.

"The hardtack factories pretend to keep the making of the war quietly a secret, but they say that, if the talk were told, hardtack would be all flour and water and a pinch of salt. The lightness comes from beating the flour and water until it is filled with bubbles of air. It is all passed now but once and slipped quickly into the oven, where it is baked a long time, until it is hard and crisp."

THE POTATO PATCH SCHEME ORIGINATED BY MR. PINGREE DURING HIS FIRST TERM AS MAYOR OF DETROIT CONTINUES TO THRIVE. THE POOR EARN A GOOD LIVING AT FARMING, AND THE CITY IS PAID FOR THE RENTAL OF OTHERWISE UNUSED LAND IN THE VACANT LOTS AND SUBURBS.



HE GOT WHAT HE WANTED

Fifty-seven years ago there worked on a stony farm "down in Maine" a sturdy-minded boy, who planned as he picked the stones and hoed the potatoes that he would be a rich man. He wanted to be great Orthon, and he filled pipes, as they were the nearest thing to anything in the cotton mills. Soon his father found that he could earn as much wages for the mills than he could raising stones, one of the duty that he was allowed to work steadily, and while he worked he made feather brooms.

Over in Haverhill, Mass., there was a big shoe factory, and the boy went one day to ask for a steady job, and he got it. His strong, steady hands and his steady mind did him a favorite with his employers, and the head of the firm used to say that he had one of the best men in the factory, who could always be depended upon to be at his post.

There were reasons of war in those days, and young Pingree thought, as he worked in the shoe factory, how grand it would be to carry a musket. So when the call came over Fort Sumter he found the old family gun and shouldered it for the Civil War.

He wanted to try everything, and fate seemed determined to gratify him. He was one of the bulls at Bull Run, and he managed to get into prison at Andersonville, and he managed also to escape. He was a lad who got what he wanted.

After it was all over in 1866 he went to Detroit and took up the shoe business in that thriving Western city. The West was growing rapidly at that time and there was a great chance to make a fortune. Young Pingree was a thrifty fellow, and he found returns much better in Detroit than they were in the East. He got his start in East Saginaw, and with that as a stepping stone he secured his fortune in the West. Pingree was one who got what he wanted, and so when in 1889 he wanted to get into politics, he turned his hand to getting the nomination for the mayoralty.

While he was Mayor of Detroit, his attention became attracted to the poor of the city. There were so many poor people in proportion to the amount of money which the city government could appropriate for their relief, that it worried him. He wanted something better, so he hit upon the now famous "potato patch" plan. He donated large unoccupied tracts of land in the suburbs to the poor, and by private subscription secured enough money to buy seeds and farming implements. Each poor family was given a tract of land and potatoes to plant. Farming tools were distributed and the people worked all day long during good time. Late night they were given a second meal of food for their day's labor.

It looked like a foolish plan, but when harvest came it was the blessed of all experiments. The potatoes were sold and with the proceeds the city government reimbursed itself for the land which it had rented, and there was a goodly sum above. The following year the city government reimbursed itself for the potatoes taken, and thousands came from all over the country to get work in the potato fields.

Four years ago the Salvation Army asked permission to cultivate the lots with their methods. The Mayor, who was always glad to relieve the poor without placed their fields to the order of Major Walker, of the Army, who got what he wanted and became Governor.

But he strove for one thing more for the poor. He wanted Greenwich farms, and after five years of hard pushing he succeeded in getting them. The city of Detroit offers other farms now to the poor man who is anxious to get a home off in the world.

One correspondent succeeded in catching Governor Pingree in a freshly growing potato patch the other day, surrounded by workers and backed by the Salvation Army. The Governor kindly consented to have his picture taken, and now you can see him just as he looks when he visits the potato fields.

DELICATE ORGANIZATIONS.

The wing of a bat is something more than a mere instrument of flight. It is an extremely delicate sense of touch. In fact, it may be said that the wing of a bat is more highly developed in the bat than in any other animal. Its natural habit renders this receptive faculty extremely valuable to the creature.

It must be remembered that the membrane which covers the wings extends from the head and is the best and most practically accomodated the body. The ears also are organs of touch. At the bases of the fine hairs that cover the membranes and the ears are sensitive nerve-fibers. A bat that has been blinded will fly about a room, passing blind and rubber between the threads that have been stretched across this way and that, without ever touching one of them. This somewhat cruel experiment has been made more than once.

AN AMERICAN HERO.

How He Shipped in the War in a Snug Little Ship Box Made for Him.

The way here does not always much about the great battlefield, with most sweet and pounding feet. Sometimes it comes in the middle of a dinner table or it falls him in time of peace, and it happens that the best fellows are the ones who are most modest.

That great American hero, the war horse, whose mortile infinite at sound of guns, whose fire, prance at the bugle, whose ears lie flat and distended against his head at sight of a cannon, often refuses to be shipped to the front for that reason many drivers to take his should have been invented.

There is no end exciting tricks you can lead a horse to water but you can not make him drink. Nor can you with the cunning you can lead him to the battlefield, but you can't make him go about. Tricks need to be used and ropes of cotton, leather around his neck and pulling his about.

When the horse found himself about ship he was often discovered to be lame by the operation. Many times he was was upset. Always his feet were tied was wrenched. The awful pain upon the muscles of his hind legs, as he lunged forward, only elaborated them, and at least a third of the four-footed warriors arrived at their destination disabled.

Nowadays, there is no such unwieldy barbaric method of transportation. The horse is taken aboard in one of the pens. The commissary sets in a stall and tackle. The large, flat, carriage-like ship is lowered under the horse. The boat is then fastened on both sides by a series of ropes that are hung from a movement above. At a signal the engine machinery is lifted and swung from the ground into the air, lifting the astonished horse with it. He struggles to free himself, but in vain. Before he knows it he is landed in the ship and is safely fastened in a very nice stall.

But there are objections to this. The lifting injures the warrior and many months pass ere he is aboard ship on account of his hind legs, as he lunged forward, only elaborated them, and at least a third of the four-footed warriors arrived at their destination disabled.

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But there are objections to this. The lifting injures the warrior and many months pass ere he is aboard ship on account of his hind legs. Especially is this the case in the journey from the Pacific coast to Manila. So, for the transportation of the fine equines that are to carry our soldiers to victory in the Philippines, there is a special bobbing box which carries them aboard without injury. The horses are first placed in the box, which is almost as large as a box stall, and the horse is inside the sides are closed up, leaving him in. The box comes to his shoulder and is very comfortable.

The box is then swung aboard and the warrior is either let out or it is placed in his stall, or if the journey is long and tough, he is left in where he is, and he lies there though he had the big, wide ship in which to roll around.

MR. PINGREE IN HIS POTATO PATCH WATCHING THE POTATO WORKERS AND LISTENING TO THE MUSIC OF THE SALVATION ARMY. FROM A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN BY OUR OWN SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.