

34th. Left Boston in company with Pres. Young and several of the Twelve, and arrived in Nauvoo Aug. 6th. Having been gone sixty days and traveled 6000 miles.

I brought \$1300 home for Joseph, which I gave to Emma.

The Miracles of Kings in Old Times.

In his History of England, Mr. Macaulay gives a rapid sketch of an ancient and royal practice now long abrogated. The ceremony of touching people afflicted with scrofula had come down almost from the darkest of the dark ages to the time of Newton and Locke. The Stuarts frequently dispensed the healing influences in the Banqueting house. The days on which this miracle was to be wrought were fixed at sittings of the privy-council, and were solemnly notified by the clergy in all the parish churches of the realm. When the appointed time came, several divines in full canonicals stood around the canopy of state. The surgeon of the royal household introduced the sick. A passage from the sixteenth chapter of the Gospel of St. Mark was read.—When the words, 'They shall lay their hands on the sick, and they shall recover,' had been pronounced, there was a pause, and one of the sick was brought up to the king. His majesty stroked the ulcers and swellings, and hung around the patient's neck a white ribbon, to which was fastened a gold coin. The other sufferers were then led up in succession; and, as each was touched, the chaplain repeated the incantation—'They shall lay their hands on the sick, and they shall recover.' Then came the epistle, prayers, antiphones, and a benediction. The service may still be found in the prayer-books of the reign of Anne. Indeed, it was not till some time after the accession of George I., that the University of Oxford ceased to reprint the Office of Healing, together with the Liturgy. Theologians of eminent learning, ability and virtue, gave the sanction of their authority to this mummery; and, what is stranger still, medical men of high note believed, or affected to believe, in the balsamic virtues of the royal hand. We must suppose that every surgeon who attended Charles II was a man of high repute for skill; and more than one of the surgeons who attended Charles II has left us a solemn profession of faith in the king's miraculous power. One of them is not ashamed to tell us, that the gift was communicated by the unction administered at the coronation; that the cures were so numerous, and sometimes so rapid, that they could not be attributed to any natural cause; that the failures were to be ascribed to want of faith on the part of the patients; that Charles once handled a scrofulous Quaker, and made him a healthy man and a sound churchman in a moment; that, if those who had been healed lost or sold the piece of gold which had been hung round their necks, the ulcers broke forth again, and could be removed only by a second touch and a second talisman. We cannot wonder that, when men of science gravely repeated such nonsense, the vulgar should believe it. Still less can we wonder that wretches tortured by a disease over which natural remedies had no power, should eagerly drink in tales of preternatural cures; for nothing is so credulous as misery. The crowds which repaired to the palace on the days of healing were immense.—Charles II, in the course of his reign, touched near 100,000 persons. The number seems to have increased or diminished as the king's popularity rose or fell. During that Tory reaction which followed the dissolution of the Oxford parliament, the press to get near him was terrific. In 1682 he performed the rite 8,500 times. In 1684, the throng was such that six or seven of the sick were trampled to death. James, in one of his progresses, touched 800 persons in the choir of the cathedral of Chester. The expense of the ceremony was little less than \$50,000 a year, and would have been much greater but for the vigilance of the royal surgeons, whose business it was to examine the applicants, and to distinguish those who came for the cure from those who came for the gold.

William had too much sense to be duped, and too much honesty to bear a part in what he knew to be an imposture.

'It is a silly superstition,' he exclaimed, when he heard that, at the close of Lent, his palace was besieged by a crowd of the sick. 'Give the poor creatures some money, and send them away.' On one single occasion he was importuned into laying his hand on a patient. 'God give you better health,' he said, 'and more sense.' The parents of scrofulous children cried out against his cruelty; bigots lifted up their hands and eyes in horror at his impiety; Jacobites sarcastically praised him for not presuming to arrogate to himself a power which belonged only to legitimate sovereigns; and even some Whigs thought that he acted unwisely in treating with such marked contempt a superstition which had a strong hold on the vulgar mind; but William was not to be moved, and was, accordingly, set down by many High Churchmen, as either an infidel or a puritan.

THE DORMANT STATE OF ANIMALS.—We are all accustomed to see a large part of creation, during summer, in great activity, and in winter returning to an apparently inanimate state: we mean the plants; but this phenomenon is not common in the case of animals. There is, however, a small number of animals, which besides the daily rest that they have in common with most other animals, remain, during some months in the year, in an apparently lifeless state; at least in utter inactivity.

Except the hedgehog and the bat, all the mammalia subject to this dormant state, belong to the class of digitated animals. They are found not only in cold climates, but in very warm ones; for instance, the jerboa in Arabia, and the taurick in Madagascar.

The period of long sleep generally begins when the food of the animal becomes scarce, and inactivity spreads over the vegetable kingdom. Instinct, at this time, impels the animals to seek a safe place for their period of rest. The bat hides itself in dark caves, or in walls of decayed buildings. The hedgehog envelopes himself in leaves, and generally conceals himself in fern-brakes. Hamsters and marmots bury themselves in the ground; and the jumping mouse of Canada and the United States encloses itself in a ball of clay. At the same time, these singular animals roll themselves together in such a way that the extremities are protected against cold, and the abdominal intestines, and even the windpipe, are compressed, so that the circulation of the blood is checked.

Many of them, especially the gnawers, as the hamster and Norway rat, collect, previously to their period of sleep, considerable stores of food, on which they probably live until sleep overpowers them. In this period we observe in the animals, first, a decrease of the animal heat, which, in the case of some, is diminished twenty degrees, with others forty to fifty degrees Fahrenheit; yet it is always higher than the temperature of the atmosphere in the winter months.

If these animals are waked during the winter they soon recover their natural warmth, and this artificial waking does not injure them.

Secondly, animals in a dormant state breathe much slower and more interruptedly than at other times. Some will remain even a quarter of an hour without any respiration; and animals in this state seldom breathe more than once in a minute. Hence they corrupt the surrounding air much less than if the respiration was free. Of course, the heart moves proportionally slow.—With the hamster, it only beats fifteen times a minute, whilst in a working state, it beats 115 times a minute.

The irritability of the animals is very low; and hamsters in this state have been dissected, which only now and then gasped for air, or, at least, opened the mouth; and on which sulphuric acid, put on their intestines, had little or no effect. Marmots can be awakened only by powerful electric shocks.

The digestion is also diminished; the stomach and intestines are usually empty; and, even if the animals are awakened, they do not manifest symptoms of appetite, except in heated rooms.

The causes of the dormant state of animals have generally been sought in a peculiar construction of the organs. It is true, that the veins in such animals are usually much wider and larger than in others; hence the arteries can exert comparatively little activity. The immediate cause, however, producing this torpidity, is mostly, if not entirely, the cold. The animals of this species fall into this sleep in the middle of summer, if they are exposed to a cold temperature; on the other hand, they remain awake during the winter, if they are brought, towards autumn, into a warm room. Yet they fall asleep if the heating of the room is discontinued for some time.

In the case of some of them, confined air produces the sleep; thus a hamster may be made to sleep very easily if it is put into a vessel which is buried deep under ground.

Among the birds, some of the swallows are subject to a similar step. The swift (*hirundo apus*) is not only found in the crevices of walls, but also in morasses, in a dormant state during winter; and many have concluded from this that all swallows pass the winter in this state, which is incorrect, as they are known to be birds of passage. Most probably those swallows which have been found in a dormant state, were prevented from emigrating by accident, and became torpid in their retreat, through cold. In a similar way young cuckoos have been found torpid in the water, though this state is by no means natural to them.

With frogs and other amphibious reptiles, the dormant state is very common. As soon as the temperature of the atmosphere sinks under fifty degrees Fahrenheit, the number of pulsations of the heart is diminished from thirty to twelve in a minute. If, in this state, food is put into the stomach by force, it remains undigested for a long time.

Frogs, serpents and lizards kept in artificial cold, may remain for years in this state: hence they have been sometimes found enclosed in stones, in which they have been, perhaps, for centuries. The other lower animals, as snails, insects, &c., are also subject to a similar torpidity.

A state of partial torpor takes place in the case of the common bear and the raccoon. The bear begins to be drowsy in November, when he is particularly fat, and retires into his den, which he has lined with moss and where he but rarely awakes in winter. When he does awake, he is accustomed to lick his paws, which are without hair, and full of small glands; hence the belief that he draws his nourishment only from them. The badger also sleeps the greater part of the winter.—[Ex.]

THE OYSTER BEDS AND OYSTER BUSINESS OF VIRGINIA.—Tide water Virginia contains in its bays, rivers and creeks not less than 2,000 square miles or 1,280,000 acres of oyster beds. Allowing one tenth of a bushel to every square yard, we have upon the *jus publicum* of our State 619,520,000 bushels of oysters.

Those who are ignorant of the subject have no conception of the trade in the bivalves—the extensive fleet of vessels and army of persons engaged in their taking, transporting, &c. Not less than 100,000 tons of shipping are annually employed in the trade, and at the lowest estimate twenty millions of bushels are taken every year from the rocks and beds, eighteen millions of which are carried outside the boundaries of our State.

It is known that 275 vessels, varying in capacity from 400 to 4,000 bushels and employing 725 men, are employed in the oyster trade of Baltimore. In Fairhaven 80 vessels, varying in capacity from 2,000 to 7,000 bushels, were owned in

1856, which were exclusively employed in this trade, beside a large number which were chartered by its inhabitants during the busy season. It is estimated that nearly 100 vessels in this trade are now owned at that port. The very large number of vessels owned in Boston, New York and Philadelphia, for this trade, are not known. Six years ago a captain informs us that he knew of 60 in New York city. Boston is known to have at least 40 vessels. Providence, New London, Bridgeport and New Bedford each own ten sail at least of large vessels, and other smaller places, on Long Island and elsewhere, own many others.—We may assert, without fear of contradiction, that 100,000 tons of shipping are now employed in the oyster trade.

It is exceedingly difficult to get at the quantity of oysters taken to the different ports from Virginia; but from numberless inquiries in every direction, we are justified in affirming (and we speak within bounds) that 4,000,000 bushels are carried annually from our State to Fairhaven; 4,000,000 to New York city and vicinity; 2,000,000 to Boston; 2,000,000 to Philadelphia; 2,000,000 (not including those from the Maryland beds) to Baltimore; 3,000,000 to Providence, Bridgeport, New London, New Bedford and elsewhere, and 1,000,000 to the South, making a grand aggregate of 18,000,000.—[Norfolk Argus.]

THE NAMES OF ANIMALS.—In the American Association for the advancement of Science, recently, at Albany, Dr. Weinland read an interesting paper on 'the names of Animals with reference to Ethnology.' Many names of the North American animals are taken from European animals—thus buffalo, grouse, robin, lizard, chamois. Nations have only new names for their native animals. Thus, lion in all modern languages, is leo—hardly changed. The camel and the tiger derive their names from their native countries, other nations adopting these names with slight modifications. The elephant is so called in all countries. The ass got his name from the old Hebrews. The hare and the deer, which occur both in Europe and Asia, and have two names, one native in each country—the former lepus and the latter cervus. Nations try to reduce all foreign animals to the names of their own, by adding a descriptive designation, as Guinea-pig, camel-leopard, river-horse, &c. The Anglo-Saxons who lived on the sea, had names for all sea animals, but the Germans of the interior called them all by some land name, with the addition of 'sea' thus—sea-horse, sea-mew, sea-dog, sea-lion, sea-tiger, sea-mosque, sea-devil.

Almost all animals were originally named from their qualities. The name of the ass comes from a root, meaning 'walk slowly'; the serpent, to 'glide quickly'; the rabbit to burrow in the ground. Prof. Haldeman said reindeer meant 'running animal,' fox is from the Greek phoxos 'sharp,' serpent from the Latin serpo, 'to creep,' and tiger from the Persian, 'an arrow.' Indian tribes call a lion by a name meaning 'having a long tail,' a horse by a name meaning 'like a deer,' a mole, 'having his right hand on the left shoulder,' a squirrel by a name meaning 'he can stick fast in a tree.' The Indians have also a name for a horse meaning 'having only one toe.' Apropos of names, it was remarked that the potato is called in German the 'ground-pear.'

VIEWS FROM A BALLOON.—The chief peculiarities of the views from a balloon, at a considerable elevation, were: the altitude of the horizon, which remained practically on a level with the eye at an elevation of two miles, causing the earth to appear concave instead of convex, and to recede during the rapid ascent, whilst the horizon and the balloon seem to be stationary; the definite outlines and pure coloring of objects directly beneath, although reduced to microscopic proportions, occasioned by the absence of refraction and dispersion of the colored rays when passing through media of different densities, which, at an angle, produce aerial perspective; the rich combination of the rays bursting through clouds, and having the sun's disc for their focus, contrasted with shadows on the earth, which radiate from a vanishing point on the horizon; the narrow shadow of clouds and eminences, such as Harrow and Richmond, being projected several miles, as seen in lunar mountains; the magnificent Alpine scenery of the upper surfaces of clouds, still illuminated, at high altitudes, by the cold silvery ray, contrasted with the rich hues of clouds at lower levels, and the darkness of the earth after sunset. At higher altitudes than could be attained, and above the level of perpetual congelation, were the beautiful cirrus clouds, composed of snow crystals in every form and rich development of the original hexagon, affording the materials of a new era in architecture, and designs from Nature's hand for a crystal palace. In acoustics several interesting phenomena were noticed. The sound of London rolled westward as far as its smoke, but was lost above the clouds, where the most intense silence prevailed, as also near the surface of the earth, showing that sound ascends.

FEMALE EXTRAVAGANCE.—We think that we do not 'stretch the truth,' in saying that the dress of women costs two dollars now, where it did one, ten years ago. It is now silk everywhere, or an expensive fabric of wool; and cotton is universally at a discount. The shop-girl stands in silk behind the counter; and as the shop-girl wears the dress that the fashionable woman did ten years ago, the latter is obliged to adopt a fabric of a more costly character; so that, where the dollar silk was once good enough, the heavy three dollar moire antique will alone suffice. Ten to twenty dollars is now paid for a hat, where five and ten dollars were once considered extravagant. It is thus in every department of the female dress.

Five hundred dollars saved from an annual expenditure of two thousand dollars, is a snug little sum to lay up every year; and there are few families expending this sum who would not be just as well off—nay, better off—with the re-

duction. We would by no means exempt men from the charge of extravagance; but we do not think their expenses have been increased in the degree of those of their wives and daughters.—It is hard denying women anything; but if they are true women, they will ask nothing unreasonable.—[Springfield Republican.]

SEARCH FOR HAPPINESS.—A wealthy epicure applied to an Arabian doctor for a prescription that would restore his body to health, and give happiness to his mind. The physician advised him to exchange shirts with a man who was perfectly contented with his lot. Whereupon the patient set out on a journey in pursuit of such a person. After many months spent without accomplishing his object, he was told of a certain cobbler of whom every one had spoken as a model of contentment and happiness. Pursuing the direction given, the traveler was at length rewarded with the sight of the cobbler enjoying a comfortable nap on a board. Without ceremony he was aroused from his slumbers; and the important interrogatory, whether he was contented with his lot, was answered in the affirmative. 'Then,' said the seeker after happiness, 'I have one small boon to ask at your hands. It is that you exchange shirts with me, that by this means I may also become contented and happy.' 'Most gladly would I accede to thy request,' replied the cobbler, 'but—' 'Nay, refuse me not,' interrupted the man of wealth; 'any sum that thou mayest name shall be thine.' 'I seek not thy wealth,' said the cobbler, 'but—but—' 'But what?' 'The—' the truth is—I have no shirt.

'Don't you think we have got the dearest minister in the world?' said Lauriana, as she was spending an afternoon at Mrs. Partington's.

Mrs. Partington's mind sallied back majestically in review of many ministers who had officiated in the Old North before she replied:

'This is the dearest one by a heap of money, dear; and if ministers are to be considered good according to their market value, he is the best.'

'Don't you like his preaching?' said the young lady, Mrs. Partington's visitor, cutting the drift of the old lady's remark like a snow plow; 'I think that he's divine. He's so flowery, and his descriptions so graphic that while listening we can almost hear the sound of water and see the growing herbage.' She was very enthusiastic, and the subject called out all her eloquence.

'Yes, he's very fluid,' replied the dame, 'I know—very watery—and I've noticed the herbage also, but I don't think he comes quite up to some of our old pastures in point of real strength. Why, Dr. Verbal used to preach a sermon three hours long, and then give us a lecture in the evening, which was well giving us our money's worth.'

HOW TO TREAT ENEMIES.—Have you enemies? Go straight on and mind them not. If they block up your path, walk around them, and do your duty regardless of spite. A man who has no enemies is seldom good for anything—he is made of that kind of material which is so easily worked that it resists nothing, while every one who thinks for himself, and speaks what he thinks, is always sure to have enemies. They are as necessary to him as fresh air; they keep him alive, active. A celebrated character, who was surrounded by enemies, used to remark: 'They are sparks which, if you do not blow, will go out of themselves.' Let this be your feeling, while endeavoring to live down the scandal of those who are bitter against you. If you stop to dispute with them, you do but as they desire, and open the way for more abuse. Let them talk—there will be a reaction if you perform your duty; and hundreds who were once alienated from you will flock to you and acknowledge their error.

AN ALABAMA CONSTABLE AFTER ET AL.—An Alabama correspondent of the Mobile Advertiser, justly proud of the good things of his native State, writes to that paper as follows:

A certain fat constable in the county of C—w, State of Alabama, once received a writ from a Justice of the Peace, known as Josh M—c. The case was R— vs. D— et al. The good constable, who was more famed for his honesty than literary attainments, was sorely puzzled at et al. So, after keeping the writ for a week, he entered the Justice's office with much anxiety depicted on his countenance, and saluted Squire Josh with this exclamation:

'Josh, who's the et al? I've been looking for him all over the country for a week, and I can't find him. I don't believe there's any such man in C—w.'

The fogs of England have been at all times the complaints of foreigners. Gondomar, the Spanish Ambassador, when some one who was going to Spain, waited on him to know if he had any commands, replied—'Only my compliments to the sun, whom I have not seen since I came to England.' Caraccioli, the Neapolitan minister here, a man of a good deal of conversation and wit, used to say, 'that the only ripe fruit he had seen in England were roasted apples,' and in a vivacious conversation with King George II, he took the liberty of preferring the moon of Naples to the sun of England.

'What are you doing there, Jane?' 'Why, pa, I'm going to dye my child's pinafore red.'

'But what are you going to dye it with?'

'Beer, pa.'

'Beer! who on earth told you that beer would dye red?'

'Why, ma said yesterday that it was beer that made your nose so red, and I thought that—'

'Eh!—ah!—well!—Humph!—Here, Susan, take this child to bed!'

'Why are the ladies of the present day like the lilies of the Scriptures?'

Because they toil not neither do they spin; yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of them.