R. K. THOMAS

Monday and Tuesday, MAY 26 & 27.

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Goldsmith & Co.

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JOHN H. WHITE, - Manager.

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Saturday, - May 24, 1890.

A Natural Iron-Clad.

We had proceeded perhaps quarter of a mile without incident, when, on entering a little oasis of grass among the sand hillocks, Hans stopped short, thinking he heard a slight noise near at hand. When it was repeated an instant later, he stepped softly toward the spot from which it seemed to come, and saw a dark object, about as large as a woodchuck and almost as flat as its own shadow, shuffling from one tuft of grass to another, stopping but a moment to sniff about the roots of each and then trotting away to the next.

Handing me I had done the previous night, he leveled his gun and pulled the trigger just as the animal emerged from the shadow into the full light of the moon, flashing forward through the smoke to pick up the game he was amazed to see the animal scrabbling away unhurt, as fast as its stout legs would carry it. He gave chase at once and soon overtook it, but it dodged suddenly and made off in another direction, while he ran some distance past. Recovering himself, he dashed after it again and bringing his foot down fairly on its back succeeded only in upsetting himself without stopping the armadillo.

Again and again he overtook and stooped to grasp it, but each time got only a handful of sand and grass. He was rapidly losing wind, while game still seemed perfectly fresh, and in all probability we should have lost our game after all, but as Miguel at this juncture brought his club down on the animal's head, apparently killing it outright. It was only stunned, however, and by slipping the loop of a lasso into the ground and so far secure unable to slip Miguel's knife. But eventually a vital spot was found, and as soon as it was dead we began to examine it curiously. In taking the tail, it was not far from two feet in length, and weighed perhaps seven or eight pounds.

It was little wonder that Hans' shot had so stiffened, for the bullet itself was covered completely with a coat of mail formed of cross rows or bands of thick, bony plates, so hard and rigid that after these came out of her they would have formed off a rifle-ball. The scales of Hans' skin between the bands were almost hidden by the overlapping of the plates, and were thinly sprinkled with coarse hair. This was more abundant on the belly and legs. The teeth, which grew only on the sides of the jaws, were of small size, but the feet were armed with large claws. Those on the fore feet were especially long and strong. Altogether it was rather a repulsive-looking beast, and it was hard to credit the assertions of Miguel and the doctor that the flesh resembled in the flavor that of young suckling pig, and was even more delicious.

This species, the hairy armadillo of the pampas, has no power to roll itself up in a ball which many of its relatives possess, but if attacked often overpowers its enemies by flattening itself close against the ground and feigning death. During hot weather it seldom ventures abroad by day, but searches at night for its food of roots and insects. In winter, however, or in dull dark weather, it sometimes roams about by day, taking refuge, in case of necessity, in any burrow at hand, or, if surprised where the soil is moderately soft, it can burrow aught of sight and out of danger in a few seconds. —*Walter B. Barrows, in St. Nicholas.*

An Intelligent Dog.

It is generally believed that lower animals, though endowed with instinct, are destitute of mind, and of course, not possessed with the power of reason. There is a dog at High Bridge, Ky., that seems to possess intellect, and certainly exercises a faculty that produces a result similar to that which emanates from a mind of sound judgment. His owner, Mr. Alexander Curd, knows by his many tricks as "Zouave." He is blind, and Bildad, the faithful animal, leads his master wherever he goes.

A short time since Mr. Curd and Bildad together crossed over into Mercer, deliberately walking upon the great high bridge about 1,200 feet long and 285 feet high. This trusty canine seldom leaves his dependent master, and when he does readily returns when he hears the beating of the cane on the floor or some other hard substance. The blind man has a way of communicating to the dog that is wonderful, and in some instances incredible. He tells the dog where he wishes to go, and, strange as it may seem, the dog invariably leads him to that place.—*Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.*

Seems to Be a Calf in Name Only.

New Jersey has the honor, if such it be, of contributing the latest addition to the long list of animated freaks. It is a calf, born on William Lippencott's farm at Trenton Falls. Its head, shoulders and front feet are like those of an ordinary calf, while the remainder of its body and its hind legs are hairless. Instead of hoofs on the hind feet there are two prongs or toes, each about four inches long, and these end with sharp pointed claws. Its tail is covered with long hair, and is spread out like an open fan at the end.—*Ex.*

The Story of a New York House.

There is in New York, upon one of the most fashionable thoroughfares, a most magnificent house—yes, it is a veritable palace—which can never be looked at by the sentimental woman without a tear coming to her eye, because of the story attached to it.

It was designed and built by one of the richest men in New York—the head of an old Dutch family—for the woman he loved. Throughout the whole house, which might quite have been called "The House Beautiful," were the colors, furnishings, ornaments and dainty fancies that were the young bride's taste. The ball-room, to which she expected to add so many merry measures was walled and ceiled in many colored marbles; but the lover himself, directed the building of the porte cochere under which her carriage was to roll, so that, stepping out, she would not be touched by a drop of rain or a flake of snow. Everything was ready; the horses were pawing in the stable waiting for the day in which they would carry their new mistress out; the coachman and the footmen had their livery, while rooms at hand to wear on the wedding-day; the house was full of fragrance, for beautiful flowers were massed to please the coming mistress, and everything seemed to be in harmony with all this thoughtful, loving care; for the sun shone bright, and it was somebody's wedding day. Very but it wasn't an earthly wedding, for when which quick footsteps our mother went to wake the expectant bride, she found her dead. The last kiss she had given had been to her lover the night before. The last kiss he ever gave any human being he gave to her as she rested in her coffin. But he lives on in the beautiful house and does, with his great fortune, a deal of good, all in the name of the woman he loved. The shutters are never opened in that wonderful house, the carriage has never been used, no feet have entered in the hall except but it and the solitary man are there the evidences of the fact that a love can so completely fill the heart that all life is nothing without it.—*Ladies' Home Journal.*

Expense of the Vatican.

The vatican government costs a good deal of money to keep up. The papal budget for 1890 arranges for an expenditure of 7,193,000 francs for the year, which is 338,000 less than the expenditure of 1889. The leading items are 1,925,000 francs for salaries of the cardinals over against 2,000,000 in 1889; the different executive departments cost 1,000,000 francs, and here a saving of fully 40 per cent is made; the pensions for the papal army have been reduced from 180,000 to 150,000 francs; the support for the newly churches and priests has been increased from 320,000 to 500,000 francs; alms to poor churches and priests in Rome, Italy, and foreign countries make a total of 400,000 francs, a little more than it was a year ago; the papal nuncios demand 780,000 francs; the diplomatic corps 300,000; the maintenance of the papal palace also costs 300,000 francs. The pope has refused his stables to twelve horses, four of which he reserves for his personal use.—*Ex.*

Egyptian Book of the Dead.

The Egyptian "Book of the Dead" or funeral ritual contains, probably, the oldest existing record of the faith of man in the immortality of the soul. Its chapters are found inscribed on mummy cases, or written on rolls of papyrus within them. It is supposed the "Book of the Dead" antedated with the Egyptians between 2500 and 3000 years before Christ. A mummy case from the great pyramid inscribed 1700 years before the time of Jesus has the following beautiful inspiration: "O God, the protector of him who cries to thee, be to thine; let him have no harm; let him be as one of thy flying servants. Thou art he, he is thou. Make it well for him in the land of spirits."—*St. Louis Republic.*

Military Training of Dogs.

The French have found a new use for their dogs. They are being trained to act as sentinels. Two soldiers lead a dog to a place a mile from the starting point. Then one of the men turns back, and the canine is taught to track him. In scouting they are also expected to prove useful, for they search the fields and thickets indistinguishably—soldiers in foreign uniforms being hidden as decoys during the lesson—and on finding an enemy at once run to their keepers, showing every sign of agitation. When the dogs are on drill they are objects of wonder and interest to all the ragged curs of the neighborhood. —*Ex.*

Frankly Put.

The guests, but possibly not the best, at a dinner given recently were greatly amused by the innocent mistake of the little daughter of one of the company. When 4-year-old Rosalie, having tried her knife and fork on the roast beef, passed her plate to her father, he received it in discreet silence; but the lord, Rosalie's uncle, said quizzically: "Why, Rosalie! haven't you big enough to cut your meat?"

"Yes, sir," she replied, putting into form the thought which her grown up fellow diners were too polite to utter, "I am big enough at home, but this meat is so tough I can't cut it."—*Youths' Companion.*

A Change in Floral Fashion.

Old fashioned flowers are coming into favor again with the residents of the big cities. Orchids and rare roses now have rivals in the daisy, "bachelors' buttons," "hen and chickens," the columbine, larkspur and hollyhock. It seems quite appropriate for society leaders to welcome back the flowers of their childhood and give them the place they so well deserve.

To Preserve Textile Fabrics.

A Belgian chemist has discovered a means for rendering fabrics, no matter how delicate in texture or color, proof against the ravages of decay. The wonderful state of preservation which the head bands of the Egyptian mummies exhibit is due to their having been impregnated with a kind of resin. This led the inventor to make certain experiments with the substance extracted from birch bark, to which the peculiar aroma of Russian leather is due, and he found out that the green tar which was left over after the oil used in tanning had been extracted from the white bark of the birch tree yields neither acid nor alkaloid, and that in solution with alcohol it forms a liquid of remarkable fluidity with the power of resisting, when once dried, even the action of alcohol itself. This substance will, it is said, unite with the most delicate and brilliant colors, and render them imperishable.—*Ex.*

Come to Life.

Recently a man by the name of Frita Jabusch walked into the house of his relatives after an absence of thirty years. He had long been mourned as dead. In 1862 Jabusch enlisted in the army and went to the front. His relatives heard from him regularly until the summer of 1863, when his letters ceased after a battle in which his regiment had been engaged. His parents supposed him dead. He now states that he was left for dead on the battle field, was found by rebel troops, placed in a hospital, and when he recovered was imprisoned at Libby prison. Here he remained over a year until exchanged, and he found himself on the Atlantic coast without money and hundreds of miles from home. He shipped on board a merchantman for the East Indies as common seaman, and has followed the sea ever since. He acquired a competence, and concluded to settle down in his old home.—*Ex.*

Red in Military Uniforms.

European military writers are advocating the abolition of red colors in uniforms. The infantry of the British army wear red jackets, which make them a good mark for a rifleman and help to reveal their movements at night. Marshal MacMahon is in favor of retaining the red trousers of the French soldiers. He says that the fuse about them is altogether too great, because future fighting must be at long range, and red is a color which is lost sight of at a comparatively short distance. —*Ex.*

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