

SOME WAYS OF BRER FOX.

He is an Observant Creature, and His Way of Getting Over the Ground is Unique.

I was once half-jokingly assured by an old ox-hunter that the red fox never runs; that he was blown along by the wind, and just used his legs to guide himself with, and, after observing a good many foxes, I confess I know of no active verb which adequately describes their movements.

Our early education concerning this animal usually begins with some nursery rhyme, in which "Brer Fox" figures as a poultry thief.

And he and his wife ate the gray goose up. And the little ones picked the bones. In this, as in many other nursery rhymes, there is as much truth as nonsense.

But he is very cautious when out on an expedition of this or any other kind, and the man who invented the expression "as cunning as a fox," knew what he was talking about.

He is a keen observer, too, and very little goes on around him that he does not know something about.

While he shows great ingenuity in catching his prey, he shows still more in avoiding capture himself.

The American red fox does the same thing. Like his slightly smaller English cousin, he has wonderful endurance, and he, too, can give the hunters and hounds a long chase.

Miss Bensonhurst—Charlie Spooner can manage his automobile lovely with one hand!

PERSONAL AND LITERARY.

Kipling's "Absent-Minded Beggar" has realized in various ways the enormous total of \$465,000, all of which has been turned over to the families of soldiers fighting in South Africa.

Prof. George Adam Smith, of Glasgow, denies that the churches of that city are losing their grip on the workmen.

Sidney Cooper, R. A., the famous painter of cattle, was 77 this year and is hard at work on a picture for next year's academy.

Senor Correa, the Nicaraguan minister at Washington, is without doubt one of the busiest diplomats of the corps.

An old legal paper has been discovered in the prothonotary's office in Wilkesbarre, Pa.

Recently the governor general of Canada and Lady Minto were made the victims of an awkward mistake.

MOTORMAN HAS HIS WOES.

Getting a Clear Track in the Downtown District is One of Them.

"Get off that track, Simpkins, Jones & Co., shouted the motorman in charge of a Wentworth avenue car.

The lone passenger on the front platform, smoking his cigar and reading the signs on either side of the street, paid no attention to this shout.

"I have been on this run for several years," said the man in the bearskin coat, "and during that time I have been pestered by teamsters so persistently that I know every wagon and driver by sight.

Curio Hunters in Rural England. Nowadays there is scarcely a cottage too remote to be visited by the furniture collectors.

"Johnny," queried the teacher of the new pupil, "do you know your alphabet?"

A VALUABLE REPUTATION.

He Had Been Lying for Twenty Years and Had Made a Name for Himself.

"A business matter took me out west last fall," said the well-known attorney, who was in a reminiscent mood, relates the Detroit Free Press.

"You admit having shot at the deer?" said I, when the old man took the stand.

"No, sir!" he shouted. "I killed him, b'gee!"

"That took the wind out of my sails and I collapsed, the result being that the old man was fined \$25.

"See hyar," he answered, "I've bin lyin' for 20 years about never havin' missed a deer that I shot at, an' ye don't think that I would ruin my reputation fer \$25 do ye?"

MAINE'S CANNING INDUSTRY.

One Hundred and Seventy-Five Factories That Pay \$1,400,000 a Year in Wages.

According to the report of Hon. S. W. Mathews, state industrial and labor commissioner, the Pine Tree state is the champion sardine canning community of the country.

Over 11,000 acres were planted to sweet corn in 1899. The canning of clams, blueberries, apples, beans, squash, pumpkin and small fruits seems to be on the increase.

WILL LAST TWENTY YEARS.

Durability of a New Kind of Cloth to Be Manufactured by Mills in England.

If the plans of certain English capitalists do not miscarry it will be possible ere long for the economical parent to purchase a suit of clothes which may be passed along among his sons for the fifth of a century.

Oil from the Ocean. Eight million gallons of rock oil are pumped each year from under the bed of the Pacific ocean.

CAST-OFF RUBBER.

Buyers of the Material Now Pay Good Prices for Old Shoes, Hoses, Etc.

There is a good market for any old kind of rubber thing. Whether it is footwear, garden hose or car spring, it can be sold to junk dealers, no matter what its condition.

Chicago has a number of buyers of old rubber, and they gather in hundreds of tons every year. Their largest supply comes from the railroad companies, and it is no unusual thing for a railroad to sell two car loads of rubber in a lot.

Pure rubber should float on water and should stretch five times its natural length. Commercially pure manufactured rubber has five per cent. of sulphur in its composition.

LAST OF SEA ELEPHANTS.

Plentiful in California Fifty Years Ago, the Herds Are Now Extinct.

Fifty years ago the fine natural harbor on the southwest coast of the island of Santa Catalina gave shelter to what was perhaps one of the largest herds of the California sea elephant—*Macercherinus angus throstris*—then known, the largest of its tribe, many attaining a height of 22 feet.

FINDS BOOK OF MORMON.

Illinois Farmer Makes the Claim That He Dug Up the Original Manuscript.

Interest has been created at Carbonate, Ill., over a discovery made by Marshal Penrod, who lives on a farm near Dongola.

The government, recognizing the inevitable, sent an expedition to Lower California a few years ago and secured all the sea elephants they could find; and the oil hunters have since then completed the work, and it is believed that this fine animal is extinct.

In 1884 the crew of the sloop Liberty killed 98. These men had sentiment enough to leave a few females and young; but it was a mistake, as some weeks later another boatload of exterminators came along and slaughtered what was left of the herd.

Gold Production. Australia and California have each averaged a production of \$45,000,000 worth of gold a year.

FOUND IN AN OLD STUMP.

Original Manuscript of the Book of Mormon Is Discovered in Illinois.

Considerable excitement has been created recently in southern Illinois over a discovery made by Marshal Penrod, who lives on a farm close to the village of Dongola, in Union county.

The ravages of time had apparently made little headway on the stone, and upon close examination he found the stone was hollow.

At the bottom of the last page was found written in English: "The finder of this manuscript will deliver the same to the elders of the Mormon church."

ARRESTS AT PARIS FAIR.

Police Report Also Tells of Strange Articles Found in the Grounds of the Exposition.

The exposition police report, just out, shows a total of 13,977 arrests on the fair grounds.

Murder, 4; murderous assaults, 115; crimes against morals, 362; minor assaults, 1,192; defacing property, 401; theft, 4,603.

Strangers arrested were 1,189. Of these 44 were Americans, which was less than any other nation, except Denmark and Polynesia, which had one each.

This museum, with the exception of what may be claimed before May 1, will be sold at auction for the benefit of charity.

QUEER ACCIDENTS TO GUNS.

Mishaps on a British Battleship That Caused Fear Among the Crew.

While the British battleship Thunderer was off Milford Haven, Wales, not long ago a curious accident to one of her guns caused much alarm among her crew.

Such accidents are believed never previously to have occurred on board any ship. There was much alarm among those in the turret, as the bursting of the guns was for a time feared.

DISCOVER AN IMMENSE CAVE.

Arkansas Explorers Stumble Across a Great Subterranean Passage.

An immense cave, filled with stalactites and stalagmites, and containing a subterranean river, has just been discovered 20 miles southeast of Eureka Springs, Ark.

To Occupy Sherman's Residence. Representative J. C. Sibley, of Pennsylvania, has rented the house which was formerly the home of ex-Secretary Sherman.

More Than One Remained On. The Countess de Castellane knew she was marrying a lot of debts, but she did not expect, says the Chicago Record, to be obliged to live with them all her life.

Eighty Mules Eaten. During the siege of Peking the members of the diplomatic corps and the missionaries who were shut up in the British embassy ate 80 mules.

TO SHUT OUT OUR WHEAT.

Agrarian Party of Germany Pushing Effort to Increase Import Duties on All Grains.

The agrarian party in Germany, having successfully brought about a law at the last session of the reichstag prohibiting, in effect, the importation of American canned meats, is now using its powerful influence to increase heavily the import duties on all grains entering the empire.

At present, however, says the consul, there seems little doubt that the proposed law will be passed by the reichstag.

FASTER THAN COLUMBA.

Yacht Designed by Crowninshield Will Be Speedier Than the Last Successful Cup Defender.

There is more or less speculation among local yachtsmen on the probable speed of the big yacht that Crowninshield will design for a cup defender.

It is quite definitely learned that Capt. Watson has nothing to hinder his acceptance of an offer to sail the boat.

CUBA'S FUTURE.

Capitalist Returns from Island and Enthusiastically Declares He Will Be America's Rival.

Sir William Van Horne, who is at the head of the syndicate of capitalists engaged in building a system of railroads to develop the eastern half of Cuba, has returned to New York from a visit to that island.

"Each time I go to Cuba," said Sir William, "I am surprised at the improvement since American occupation. This was particularly true this time in Santiago and in Havana.

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L'ABEILLE DE LA NOUVELLE-ORLEANS

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