

PERFORMS POETIC WONDER.

Harvard Law School Man Translates Homer's "Iliad" into English Hexameter.

A Harvard law school man, Albert J. Louney, of Bloomington, Ill., has completed a task long ago pronounced impossible by Pope, Bryant and Longfellow—the translation of Homer's "Iliad" from Greek into English hexameter.

Men have essayed this task for ages and failed. Pope and Bryant, whose translations of the original are found in almost every home, gave it up as hopeless, and Longfellow, after weeks of labor, found his great genius unequal to the tremendous undertaking.

The difficulty that Louney found was the marked difference in the number of particles in the English and in the Greek. The meter also presented a hard problem. He followed the original Greek line for line—almost word for word—and in preserving the relativity of the context he emphasized both the meaning and the beauty of the original.

After the translation of the first book Louney had little trouble in working out the succeeding three. The fourth book has just been completed, and 20 are yet to come. Louney graduated from Harvard in 1897 and is now in the law school.

HAD CHANCE TO BECOME KING.

How Andrew Carnegie Might Have Succeeded to the Title of King of Aracaunia.

Andrew Carnegie once passed up the chance of becoming Andrew I., king of Aracaunia. Achilles L. of the kingdom died recently in Paris.

Several years ago Achilles figured out that Andrew Carnegie, being rich, might purchase his kingdom. He sent his prime minister, Count de Belligarde, to Pittsburg to lay the sale before the steel king. The latter took the subject under advisement and Count de Belligarde spent six weeks going over the plans with Mr. Carnegie. The kingship had no allurements for the Pittsburger, but he was told that the land abounded in iron ores. He figured out the value of the kingdom on the basis of cost of shipments of this ore to Pittsburg blast furnaces. He finally gave up the proposition.

The story was told by an Austrian lieutenant of engineers who had been employed by Achilles as mapmaker. The stipulation was that the Austrian was to get up the brightest colored map imaginable of Aracaunia to please him majesty. He was to receive 50 cents per color.

INVENTED COMPLEX CLOCK.

Lucius Robbins, a Boston Inventor, Spends His Life in Completing a Wonderful Machine.

Lucius L. Robbins is dead at his home in Chelsea, Mass., aged 71. He gained prominence through his construction and invention of what is said to be the greatest clock ever made in this country. On this clock a dial indicates the month, the week, and the day of the year, and the age of the moon. There are two circles that show the longest and shortest days. Representations of the rising of the sun and moon are shown, a cuckoo sings every hour, Father Time strikes the hours, and the four stages of manhood are shown. A sentinel constantly patrols. The rise and fall of the tide in Boston harbor are shown. The parable of the ten virgins is represented every quarter hour. The time of the morning and evening is indicated, and there is a perpetual calendar.

Every 15 minutes a company of infantry marches, while a music box plays a lively air. The revolutions of the earth, sun, moon, and other planets are shown. For ten years Mr. Robbins used every penny of his savings on this clock.

THE NEW LONDON CLUB.

Organization of Anglo-American Millionaires to Prove an Expensive Affair.

A most engrossing subject in clubland continues to be the new club founded by Anglo-American millionaires in London. As already announced, it will be called the Columbia, and it is further said it will be the most elaborate, the most extensive and the most expensive club in Europe. The entrance fee, which is to be 50 guineas (\$325), with an annual subscription of 15 guineas (\$75), is much higher than any sums ever exacted in any London club.

Negotiations are in progress for the purchase of the building in Dover street and Piccadilly. The syndicate offers to pay \$250,000 for the property, and it is expected the purchase will be completed in a few days.

Rents Camp in Adirondacks.

It was reported in real estate circles that President Roosevelt has rented the H. McK. Twombly camp at Paul Smith's in the Adirondacks, and will spend a great deal of time this summer at that resort. Mr. Twombly's camp is far more elaborate than the name implies, being one of the best-equipped summer resorts in the Adirondacks. It was rented last year by Mr. Rogers for \$10,000, and previous to that was occupied by Mr. Twombly. Paul Smith's is on upper St. Regis lake, and is one of the most beautiful places in the Adirondacks.

Woes of a Fiddler.

After the Brooklyn women got through hugging and kissing Fiddler Knutlik he was so limp that he couldn't walk alone, says the Chicago Record-Herald. It is beginning to look as if the poor boy may in future be able to fiddle only under police protection.

WOMEN OF AMERICA.

High Tribute Paid Them by Prof. Wehrle, an Eminent German.

He Likens Them to Fairies and Thinks That Their Ease and Grace is Due to the Climate—Their Social Position Superior.

Prof. Wehrle, an eminent German teacher of aesthetics at Berlin, pays this striking tribute to the American woman:

"Her social position has not yet been attained by her sisters in any other country. In matters pertaining to housekeeping she may be behind the German frau, but on all other points there is no comparison.

"The American climate is one of the chief causes of her preeminence, creating a type quite distinct from the somewhat squat type prevalent in Europe. Her graceful lightness, an ease of bearing entirely her own, her quick, mercurial movements, her fascinating, beautiful head, her tender roundness of limbs, are seen only in America.

"These are the women that resemble one's conception of what fairies, sylphs, nymphs and angels ought to be. Beauties such as Rubens painted are seldom met with among the Americans of the Anglo-Saxon race, but beings such as Raphael painted are frequently seen in the streets of every large city.

"The American women are exceptionally energetic and decided. Their characters have every good quality which goes to make a perfect woman. Free from timidity and from excessive modesty, their practical ability enables them to face every difficult situation in which they find themselves."

JAPAN WANTS TO BE FRIENDLY

Count Matsukata, Just Arrived in America, Says We Need the Good Will of His Country.

Count Matsukata, ex-premier of Japan and at present senior member of the advisory board to the emperor, has arrived in this country with his distinguished Japanese party. The party is on an eight-months' trip around the world to study economic conditions. In speaking of the relations between America and Japan, Count Matsukata said:

"The Japanese fully realize that it is to their best interests to foster the amicable relations existing with the United States. This will not be a hard task, for the United States has immense interests in the far east, not only in Japan, but in regions where the friendship of Japan will be of great value.

"The increase in trade between the two countries has been remarkable. The prospects are that the trade will continue to grow very fast. Naturally, I hope that these relations will be marked by reciprocity."

From Seattle, Wash., the party will go to St. Paul, thence to Chicago, and from Chicago to Niagara falls. The next stopping place will be New York. From New York the party will go to Boston and then to England.

BETTING ENGLAND'S CURSE.

Some Practical Means Being Sought Whereby the Evil Practice Can Be Stopped.

The house of lords' inquiry into the betting evil among the wage-earning classes has ended. Witnesses of all ranks in life were unanimous in testifying to the terrible magnitude and blighting influence of this curse. But no practical scheme to check it has been evolved.

Labor Leader Robert Knight gave impressive evidence, declaring that the effect of betting on the character is such that he would neither employ nor trust anyone addicted to the habit; that not five per cent. of the betting workmen ever saw a horse race, while the betting among youths has become a species of insanity. Women also bet, but not in England to the same extent as in France.

Suppressing of betting intelligence in the newspapers, making betting a criminal offense, with severe penalties, and licensing betting men are among the remedial suggestions, but there is no hope that either or all would eradicate the evil.

GRAVE OF PILGRIM FOUND.

Last Resting Place of One of the Passengers of Mayflower Has Been Discovered.

In the next number of the official magazine of the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants the secretary of the society will announce the discovery of a gravestone of a passenger in the Mayflower. It is the only Mayflower gravestone known to be in existence, and it is in the old Charter street cemetery at Salem.

Prior to this discovery it had been supposed that all tombstones marking the resting place of pilgrims had crumbled into dust. Tradition and presumption have located the graves of Mayflower passengers in several places in New England, but in most cases, if not all, proof has been wanting.

American Fair in London.

The American exhibition in Crystal Palace, London, in May is said to be assured of success already. An agent of the London and American society now in New York reports that exhibits have been secured from the best manufacturers in America. F. C. Vanduzer, the honorary secretary of the American society, says: "We expect 100,000 American visitors in London this summer, and we have a display at the palace that they will see with pride. The time has been short, but the exhibition is well organized and will be interesting and attractive."

GIFT BY MRS. M'KINLEY.

Knits a Pair of Slippers for a New Jersey Woman in Token of Appreciation.

Mrs. William McKinley, widow of the late president, has just sent a pair of blue wool slippers, knitted by her own hands, to Mrs. George W. Gittens, of No. 695 East Twenty-second street, Paterson, N. J. Gittens was at one time an insole maker for shoes and slippers. He made them of the softest lambs' wool and achieved a reputation which spread all over the country. When McKinley ran for governor of Ohio and he was a great deal on his feet Mrs. McKinley made a pair of slippers for him and got the soles from Gittens. Since then she has continued to knit the uppers of slippers as a recreation, and it is said that Mrs. McKinley has two bureau drawers filled with knitted uppers. When Gittens went out of business Mrs. McKinley sent a special request that he continue to make the soles for her, and he did so.

Recently Mrs. Jennie T. Hobart, widow of the late vice president, was on a visit to Mrs. McKinley, and the latter inquired whether Gittens was married. Mrs. Hobart did not know, but when she returned home she inquired, with the result that the present to Mrs. Gittens arrived, with a note as follows:

"Mrs. McKinley appreciates very much the slipper soles and hopes that Mrs. Gittens will like the slippers she has made for her."

TO ADJUST TIME DISCREPANCY

Greenwich and Paris Observatories Are Arranging to Harmonize Differences.

There seems a probability that France and Britain will soon be in perfect harmony, at least as far as longitude and time are concerned. Arrangements have just been completed at the Greenwich and Paris observatories for the final and complete adjustment of the discrepancy which at present exists.

This difference is very slight, amounting to only sixteen one-hundredths of a second of time, but the calculations that will be begun soon are expected to occupy about a year. Special buildings have been erected at Greenwich for the accommodation of the large staff of mathematicians and astronomers who will take part in the work.

The agreement of the Greenwich calculators with those of other countries is an absolute necessity for the determination of boundary lines. There is just a possibility that the correction that is to be made will cause misunderstandings between countries extremely jealous of their frontier lines.

FIND BORAX IN SAUSAGE.

Germans Shows to Be Making an Inconsistent War on American Meats.

The department of agriculture of Berlin has gathered through the German consuls and special agents samples of a variety of European meat products. From analyses it has been learned that these meats show a general use of borax, and that some sausages contain borax in large quantities.

A correspondent of the Frankfurter Zeitung affirms that chemicals are much more largely used in the preservation of meats in Germany than in the United States, because the system of cold storage used in the latter country is little in vogue here.

Simplexism, an illustrated journal noted for the brutality of its cartoons, and which has often been confiscated by the police because of its irreverence toward high personages, appeared recently with a drawing representing Miss Alice Roosevelt at sea in an open boat, an immense fat hog in one end of the boat and Miss Roosevelt standing in the other holding a pig wrapped in the stars and stripes. The drawing is inscribed: "We Received Your Prince, You Must Admit Our Hogs."

GREAT AUK'S WING-BONE.

Remarkable Discovery Made by Dr. Oliver P. Hay, of American Museum of Natural History.

Dr. Oliver P. Hay, assistant curator in the department of vertebrate paleontology of the American Museum of Natural History, at New York city, has made a remarkable discovery, which will cause a stir among ornithologists. Among a number of bones and shells sent to him recently for examination by State Geologist Blatchley, of Indiana, Prof. Hay found the humerus, the upper bone of a great auk's wing, the bird having been extinct since 1844. The remarkable feature of the discovery is that the bone was dug from a mound at Armond, on the southern coast of Florida. Hitherto the northern coast of Massachusetts was supposed to have been the most southerly point ever reached by the bird.

An Evidence of Poor Judgment. The emperor of Austria has recently been bestowing high praise upon American artists represented at the international fine arts exhibition at Vienna, and we suppose, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, it is because he was particularly generous in complimenting the work of some Chicago painters that the New York critics say he is not a good judge of pictures.

The Unlucky Number.

A gentleman named Nelson is in jail at St. Joseph, Mo., because he is alleged to be the possessor of 13 wives. He should have stopped at 12, says the Chicago Inter Ocean. Thirteen has always been an unlucky number.

BABY'S RED CLOAK.

Engineer on Fast Freight Mistakes It for a Danger Signal.

Stops His Train and Then Finds a Little Two-Year Old Tot on the Tracks—Overjoyed Mother Forgets to Thank the Engineer.

Engineer David Whittell was bringing Burlington train No. 186, Conductor Everett Dyer, from Lyons to Denver, Col. It was a heavy freight, carrying stone and coal. At a rapid pace the engineer was guiding it to Lafayette. The grade permits of high speed, and No. 186 was making time, flashing past mine buildings and a few houses scattered on the outskirts of the town.

Rounding a curve, W. J. Fickler, who was acting as brakeman and was riding in the cab, grabbed Whittell's arm. From the cab window Fickler had seen a red flag, the signal of danger, waving down the track. The distance was probably 800 feet. The engineer with all haste applied the air and reversed the lever. The heavy train responded with a jar and a rumble, and, sliding with ever decreasing speed, came to a stop within 20 feet of a little child, a girl of about two years, wearing a red cloak with a lace collar.

The child was standing between the rails as if rooted there, looking at the locomotive with the liveliest curiosity. It was the color of the cloak—a mere speck of red in the converging lines of steel—that had saved her from death under the wheels. As the train was slowing up, Whittell gave the whistle leeway, and with hoarse screams and the bell he tried to frighten the child into a realization of her danger. There was a horrible fear in the hearts of both men that the train would not stop in time.

The whistle attracted the attention of the inmates of a miner's home near the track. A woman ran swiftly to the track, seized the child in the red cloak, kissed it as she hugged it to her breast, and burst into weeping as she carried her lustily crying burden down the slight embankment. She forgot to thank the train crew, but that didn't matter. They were used to stopping at danger signals.

NO BOOM IN SNUFF TRADE.

London Dealers Deary Increased Demand and Insist That Habit is Gradually Dying Out.

Stories have been in circulation recently in regard to the new vogue of snuff taking in England. The habit is supposed to be becoming most prevalent in aristocratic quarters in the West end, London, and is even ascribed to the most august personages, but there is little real foundation for these stories.

The London snuff dealers do not report any noticeable increase or new sales. The manager of the largest snuff factory in London says:

"The trade has been a decreasing one for many years. There is a tendency recently in an upward direction, but I am afraid that snuff taking is a dying habit. I attribute the decline to the advent of the white handkerchief. In the days of the yellow and red bandannas the snuff did not show, but nowadays it is mostly old men who use snuff frequently."

"I hear from dealers who do not want more supplies as their old men customers have died. Otherwise the people who work in places where they cannot smoke often carry snuff, such as compositors, and also in many factories."

"Outside of the snuff takers indicated above, snuff is often seen in England in clubs and saloon bars. What slight increase has been noticed in carrying of snuff boxes has been attributed to the influenza epidemic, snuff being recommended to effect the same purpose for which it retains its place in saloons, and often on the dining table of the old-fashioned public banquets—namely, to clear the head."

TROOPING OF THE COLORS.

Brilliant Function Will Mark the Beginning of Coronation Festivities.

King Edward's birthday is in November, a period of the year very unsuitable for such a brilliant military function as the trooping of colors, and the announcement that the day is to be officially celebrated this year on May 30 gives much satisfaction. The celebration will mark the beginning of the coronation festivities, as many royal and other distinguished personages from abroad will, it is expected, have arrived by the end of May in readiness for the great ceremonies of June 26 and 27. Ministerial banquets in honor of the sovereign's birthday this year will be on a much grander scale than hitherto, and the town houses of the several members of the government are likely to be scenes of much gaiety on the night of May 30.

New Cure for Fat Women.

The latest London novelty is the "somersault cure" for fat women. A West end surgeon's house has been fitted up as a luxurious gymnasium, where aristocratic patients turn somersaults on Swedish principles, in the hope of reducing their obesity. "The cure" is said to be most efficacious.

Lawyers Didn't Get It All.

The courts of California have in a measure liberated the Fair millions, says the Chicago Inter Ocean, and all the heirs and claimants will now have an opportunity to put them into general circulation.

Library of Women's Books.

A library of 18,000 volumes, all written by women, was left by Mme. Kalsavow, who died recently in St. Petersburg.

SUCCESS IN BEGGING.

Street Mendicants Who Sometimes Take in as High as Fifty Dollars in One Day.

"It requires something more than nerve to be a successful beggar," said the old crippled man, states the New Orleans Times-Democrat. "The asking for alms is the least part of the profession. People think because we ask every passerby for something that we expect each to contribute. This is the reverse of the story. We know pretty well as soon as a man or a woman heaves in sight whether we can look for a lift or not. We study humanity. We get so we can tell from the face what the inclination of the person is. As not every cynic looks sour, so every beneficent person does not wear his or her heart on his sleeve. In fact, we get more from the sour-looking people than from those who are gay. Those who are gay are usually broke, and if they are not they are too busy figuring on having a good time with their money to help a beggar out."

"Business men are generally easy marks, because they would rather give up than be detained with the harrowing details of how the arm or leg or eye was lost in a terrible wreck. Grab one when he is in a hurry, and he will part with a coin nine times out of ten rather than miss the engagement, even if it be a lunch appointment. Children, copy tary to general belief, are poor givers. In the first place, their nickels are few and far between as a rule, and in the next place they are usually in a rush to get to the nearest candy store and spend it. Women, too, pass us by. Whether they expect the men to do all the giving, or whether they dread contact with suffering, I know not, but I do know that few women contribute."

"But by far the bulk of the money which is given to beggars comes from the middle classes, and this, perhaps, is due to their knowledge of and acquaintance with suffering themselves. Most of them have had more of the ups and downs than come to the very rich, and they have a fellow feeling for us. They are the ones who stop and listen to the story we have fixed up. We reach them at once, and very rarely fail to land them."

"By the way, if the man is a good artist at his story and knows the game, begging is not such an unprofitable business after all. As a means of earning a living it beats several of the trades all hollow. The proceeds do not seem large to the casual observer, but when you figure up at the end of a day a beggar who cannot average from \$7 to \$10 a day is not a good hand at the business. I have made as much as \$20 a day for months at a time. My family lived well, and I managed to do so at the same time. During gala days and carnival times we sometimes clean up as much as \$50 a day. It has run higher than that. The big crowds now in the city have helped things considerably. All of the visitors have money, they have come here to spend it, and if it does not go one way it will another, and so they turn it loose without a struggle. A man cannot be proud and be a beggar, but he can sometimes afford to put his pride in his pocket for awhile if he is making money. When he has the money he will find that his pride is all right."

AMERICANS GET PEDIGREES.

Damage Suit in London Brings Out the Fact That Wealth Does Much.

The anxiety of some wealthy Americans to trace their pedigrees back to "our old nobility" was amusingly illustrated in a case before Mr. Justice Lawrence, says the London Mail.

Aloysius Joseph Gordon Kane, a retired lieutenant colonel in the American army, sued the London General Omnibus company for damages for a broken arm due to the alleged negligence of the company's servants while he was boarding an omnibus.

The plaintiff's counsel stated that his client devoted himself to genealogical inquiries for wealthy Americans who desired to connect their families with noble houses in England. His average earnings were £600 a year.

Cross-examined, the plaintiff said that when the accident occurred he was engaged upon three pedigree cases. He had been on one of them for 22 years, one for nine years, and one for four years.

His Lordship—Your clients don't seem to be in a hurry.

The Plaintiff—They are rich people—millionaires.

His Lordship—If you have luck, they may last another 22 years.

Mr. McCall (for the defense)—Are you paid by results?

His Lordship—I suppose if anybody was to be descended from John of Gaunt, and you cannot hang him on to John of Gaunt, you get nothing?

The plaintiff replied that he was paid for the work he did.

Ultimately the jury found for the plaintiff, with £140 damages.

FOODS AND FLAVORS.

The Influence of What is Consumed by Animals on the Taste of Their Flesh.

Many of the readers of Forest and Stream are old enough to recall the heated arguments which appeared in the sportsman's literature years ago, between those persons who declared that the canvasback in his excellence was found nowhere except in Chesapeake bay, and their opponents who said that canvasbacks were found all over the country and were equally good everywhere. The first party based their contention on the premise that the wild celery was found only in the Chesapeake bay, and declared that except when fattened on a diet of wild celery the canvasback was no better than a coot. Of course, states the paper mentioned, we know to-day that both these parties were wrong and both were right, and the quarrel between them has long been one of those dead issues which has been laid away with a thousand others, to sleep the sleep that knows no waking. It has always been known that the food on which an animal subsists has a great deal to do with the flavor of its flesh. If the coot and the old squaw are poor eating, it is because they subsist almost altogether on a diet of clams and other shell fish. The grain-fed whistler is as good to eat as his fish-fed brother of the seacoast is worthless.

But while there are a great many familiar facts bearing on this subject which are known to every one, there are also some others that are unknown, and that are curious and interesting.

Nothing is more common to country dwellers than to find in the early spring the milk of the cows tainted with garlic. The wild leek, being one of the first green things to appear in the spring, is greedily devoured by the cows newly turned out to pasture, passes from the food into the circulation, and so taints the milk. No doubt if a cow yielding this milk were to be butchered and her flesh cooked, it would be found both to taste and smell of garlic.

It may not be so generally known that in early spring the wild sheep of the Rocky mountains, like domestic cattle, nibble with relish the new springing wild onions, and if killed at this season the flesh tastes strongly of the plant. Who knows whether the flesh of the deer and elk may not be similarly affected by this or some other plant. Happily, not many of these animals are killed in the spring.

The Indians of portions of California declare that in early spring the quail eat the leaves of the wild onion, and that their flesh becomes worthless for food at this season because of the strong odor of onions which pervades it.

It is a well-known fact that the flesh of the spruce grouse and of Franklin's grouse in the winter season, when the ground is snow covered and their food is largely the buds and leaves of spruce and pine, acquires a strongly resinous taste which is at first unpleasant, though one readily becomes used to it. More familiar still is the fact that the ruffed grouse which has fed on the buds and leaves of the laurel often acquires a strongly bitter taste. On the other hand, it may well be that in this last case the taste of the flesh may come merely from absorption by the muscles of the flavor of the stomach contents of birds that have hung long without dressing.

Old trappers know very well that the flesh of the beaver has a strong taste of willow and cottonwood bark, and no one who has ever eaten much beaver could be in doubt as to the food that he was masticating, even though his eyes were blindfolded a hundred times.

To come back to more familiar and homely examples, it has often happened that the eggs of hens in Florida were pervaded by a strangely bitter taste which the owners of the fowls were quite unable to account for, and it has taken a long investigation to learn that this taste came from the fact that the hens were eating orange seeds. When they were prevented from consuming this food, the taste of the eggs became normal.

In bygone years—and very likely to the present day—near some of the salmon rivers of the northwest coast, hens' eggs during a part of the salmon run were uneatable, for the reason that the chickens fed so freely on dead salmon thrown out of the streams that eggs and flesh alike became tainted. It is also a notorious fact that on portions of the coast and on certain streams in the northwest hogs cannot be killed during the salmon run because their flesh is too fishy to be eaten. The flesh of bears at certain points on the same coast is reported to be so fishy at the close of the salmon run that even the natives will not eat it. On the other hand, years ago there used to be special brands of hams sold in Cincinnati which purported to be of rare excellence because the hogs from which they were taken had fed on chestnuts or other mast.

All of which shows that the illness from which the king of the Cannibal islands suffered after partaking of an old sailor, whose diet for many years had consisted of tobacco, salt horse and rum, may not have been due entirely to his majesty's imagination.

Her Excuse.

"Aunt Mary—What! You don't mean to tell me that you actually proposed to Tom?"

"Mabel—Certainly, aunty. If I did wrong you are to blame for it."

"I fail to see why."

"You taught me the golden rule."—Chicago Daily News.