

SOCIETY OF BEGGARS

Thoroughly Organized Band of Mendicants Discovered in Paris.

Arrest of the Chief Leads to Curious Revelations—All Details Planned and Business Conducted Like Any Other.

Claude Berthet, aged 63, a veteran criminal, who has more than a score of convictions to his name, has been arrested again by the Paris police on a charge of begging and obtaining money by false pretenses.

This arrest has led to some curious revelations. Berthet, it appears, was the chief of a large band of professional mendicants, whose headquarters were in the vicinity of the Sorbonne. In the morning the members of the gang used to meet to receive their orders for the day. One would take the Champs Elysees quarter, another would work the Parc Monceau, and others would go in various directions all over the city. At night they would meet again in a bar in the Rue St. Jacques, and the day's takings would be pooled and divided among them.

On good days each beggar would take \$5, and sometimes more. A list of persons charitably disposed, with the amount usually given, was kept by the secretary of the corporation, and the best educated members of the band were allotted the task of writing letters of a pathetic and appealing nature, describing in touching terms the misery and suffering of those who presented them. One letter, for instance, received by a baroness living in the Boulevard Malesherbes is worded as follows:

"Mme. la Baronne et Beneficteur of the Poor: Permet moi to approach you once more at a time when the snow is falling and when a life of wandering in the streets is made so pitiable. You have already helped me several times, and in fact saved my life, for which I thank you on my bended knees. I am afraid I am abusing your liberality by applying to you again, but if you know how I am suffering and how unhappy I am you would feel sorry for me."

This was signed as coming from a widow named Gare, but was really written by the hardened old vagabond, Claude Berthet.

The band included both men and women, and where the male mendicants were unsuccessful the women would try their fortune later.

END OF LIFE OF PRIVATION.

Man Claiming Leadership of Christian Israelites Meets Death by a Fall in English Village.

Daniel Milton, a former New England shipwright, who claimed a divine commission as spiritual adviser of the Christian Israelites, founded by Joanna Southcote, died recently in the village of Wrenthorpe, England. Milton, after being made a judge by the Christian Israelites of New York, announced himself as the long-expected "Shiloh," a word used by Jacob on his deathbed and interpreted variously as "the Messiah," as the "City Shiloh," or as "Reet."

He arrived penniless in 1860 at the door of Israel's temple, otherwise Melbourne house, Wrenthorpe, informing Mr. Wren, the head of the church, that he had come to assume his inheritance. He was repulsed and returned to America.

TO INVESTIGATE CURES.

Pope Anxious That Miracles at Famous Sanctuary of Lourdes Be Authenticated Beyond Doubt.

A congress of French doctors has been summoned to meet in Rome next April in order to discuss the numerous miracles alleged to be performed at the famous sanctuary of Lourdes, in the south of France, where thousands of pilgrims from all parts of the world gather every year, and from whence wonderful stories are heard nearly every week of miraculous cures performed through the intercession of the Virgin and the use of the water from the spring under the grotto.

Pope X is greatly interested in the coming congress, for he wishes to dispose of the denials of skeptics who sneer at any report of a cure from the famous sanctuary.

The Bee in Harness.

The French army has discovered that bees can be used as messengers in time of war. One has flown four miles in 30 minutes with a message. When liberated they will return to their hives, just as a carrier pigeon will return to its loft.

SMELT FISHING IN MAINE.

Forty or Fifty Pounds in a Tide Not Regarded as an Uncommon Catch for the Fishermen.

The smelt fishermen are on the ice at Surry and, although the season has just begun, 300 to 400 bushels are being taken and shipped to Ellsworth each day by stage and to the west.

The outlook for the smelting business this year is greater than ever before and there will be two tents this season to every one last year. Not only men and boys, but some women and girls are also going into business, and Ellsworth even will send a small delegation to participate in the smelt fishing. With the fishing season there is a demand for boxes for shipping the fish, and while the custom has been to contract with some manufacturer in another city to furnish the entire lot, it appears this year that home manufacturers will try to make them. The smelting has also created a demand for small sheet iron stoves, to be used in the tents for heating purposes, and Ellsworth dealers are having them sent over by the load.

While on the ice, when the tides are not favorable to fishing, men are busy making more tents, not being satisfied with one. When fishing is good, and tides are running favorably, it is a common thing for the fishermen who best understand handling the lines to take 40 or 50 pounds of fish in a tide. Later in the season, when the men are all on the ice, the stage won't be able to bring one-half of the fish to Ellsworth that is to go by express, and extra teams are sent over, besides the many sent from Surry.

BIG FOOTBALL CROWDS.

Estimated That 250,000 Persons Witnessed Games in the East During Past Season.

Football is a great medium for keeping money in circulation. Good prices are realized for seats and a good deal of the money taken in by the colleges is expended in keeping up other branches of sport. There have been five games this season in the east alone, with a total attendance of 130,000. At the Harvard-Yale game the attendance was 40,000; at the Yale-Princeton game it was 28,000; at the Harvard-Pennsylvania game, 22,000; at the Yale-Columbia game, 18,000. This with the crowd that saw the army-navy game will make the 130,000.

The Pennsylvania-Cornell game drew well, as did the Dartmouth-Brown contest. Lehigh and Lafayette drew 10,000, Pennsylvania and Columbia drew 11,000 and Harvard and the Indians 17,000. Three games at West Point this fall drew about 12,000, bringing the total up to 180,000. Other games too numerous to mention, among them Princeton and Cornell and Harvard and Dartmouth, add materially to the total, which might reach 250,000, and in a comparatively small area of territory. There would have been many more at Cambridge and New Haven had there been room for them. Football does not wear as well as baseball, but outdraws it while it lasts.

REQUIRES SON TO QUIT OFFICE.

Rich British Merchant Leaves a Strange Will on His Demise.

Public attention is being drawn in Liverpool, England, to the singular and arbitrary provision contained in the will of the late David Jacobs, which disinherits his son, Julius Jacobs, a member of the Liverpool city council, if he seeks a seat in parliament or in the city council, or continues a member of the city council.

Mr. Jacobs has become one of the strongest members of the conservative party. A movement is on foot to test the validity of the clause, which is stated to be both capricious and detrimental to the public welfare.

The late David Jacobs was in the tailoring and clothing trade, and left property valued at \$65,000 gross. To his daughter he left an annuity, and, after making certain bequests, he leaves the rest of the property in trust for a period of 21 years to accumulate, after which it is to be divided between the two sons and daughter, conditionally. Julius Jacobs has tendered his resignation as a member of the city council.

LACK OF COMMA AFFECTS LAW.

Iowa's Governor Holds New Jersey Statute In Invalid Because of Poor Punctuation.

Gov. Cummins of Iowa has refused the application of New Jersey authorities for the extradition of Fred Shivers, charged at Columbia with wife desertion. The governor considers the New Jersey law invalid because of the omission of a comma and the insertion of a conjunction.

The New Jersey law on wife desertion provides for the punishment of men who "desert their wives and leave the state." Gov. Cummins points out that leaving the state must be part of the crime, therefore the crime could not be committed till the offender had left the state, and, having left the state before the crime was committed, he cannot be extradited and returned to the state.

On the Shelf. Since Speaker Cannon has been in charge of the house many polysyllabic words which used to be in daily use, says the Washington Times, have returned to a shelf and gathered dust.

Powdered Milk.

Milk is now reduced to a powder by a new Swedish invention. Five parts of skim milk yield one pound of powder.

SHOT A WHITE DEER.

Dire Misfortune Predicted for Wesley Jordan, Its Slayer.

Animals of This Color Have Been So Rare in the Adirondacks That They Have Been Regarded with Superstitious Awe.

Adirondack guides are predicting that dire misfortune will befall Wesley Jordan, of Saranac Lake, N. Y., because he shot a white deer, the second ever known to have been killed in the Adirondacks. A white deer is so rare a sight in the Adirondacks that when one does appear it is regarded with superstitious awe. Jordan has received letters from all parts of the country warning him to "prepare for trouble," but he takes no stock in the superstition and is having the deer mounted by a Saranac Lake taxidermist. The belief that the slayer of one of these animals would meet with some great misfortune has been so general, however, that from time immemorial such white deer as have been seen from year to year have fitted from thicket to thicket unmolested by the arrow of the Indian or the shot of the white man.

A few deer nearly white were killed in the Adirondacks years ago, but this is only the second, according to some of the oldest and best-known guides, that is a perfect albino.

Rodney West, the Essex county woodsman, says that if a complete albino deer is killed the rest of the deer usually leave that neighborhood, and that is why an Indian will not kill a white deer. "Six white deer," said West the other day, "and only one of them a buck, have been seen in America since 1897, and I have had at least one good chance to get \$1,000 by killing one, but I don't want money bad enough just yet to do that. Where a white deer chooses to haunt the others love to resort. I have seen this many times."

The only white deer known to have been killed in the Adirondacks appeared in Keene valley in the autumn of 1898 and became very tame. It was a beautiful creature, having a neck and tail of pure white, while the upper part of the body and back was nearly white. This deer had white eyes, though usually the eyes of the albino are pink.

The hunters decided not to molest this albino, and, when the heavy snow came, an attempt was made to capture it alive. The dogs got after it, however, and chased it until, exhausted, it passed near a traveler, who caught it and cut its throat. The man was not aware of the agreement among the hunters to preserve the doe, and he deeply regretted his act.

A white deer was seen four years ago near Cranberry Lake, St. Lawrence county. It was accompanied by a fawn of the usual color, but neither was molested by the woodmen. One winter several deer were seen near Indian river by Tippecanoe Knapp, a well-known guide. The leaders were a big white-buck and a white doe. A party of hunters attempted to capture the white deer alone, but the herd got away.

"KNOBS" PUZZLES DOCTORS.

Medical Fraternity of New York Baffled Over Protruberances on Aged Man.

A disease which has baffled the medical fraternity of Wayne county, N. Y., recently came to light in the case of Calvin Snyder of Clyde, who has been suffering from a peculiar malady for more than four years. Its character is most unique and physicians have been unable to diagnose it.

Mr. Snyder is 72 years old, and at the age of 68 bone-like protruberances appeared at various points on his body. Since that time the number of "knobs" has increased, to 50 and vary in size from a walnut to the circumference of two clinched fists. He experiences not the least pain.

At the last meeting of the Wayne County Medical association Mr. Snyder's case was discussed, but neither the cause or the result of the disease could be determined. An eminent specialist of the Buffalo Medical college was summoned into consultation, but could throw no light on the case.

SAYS THEY CAN NEVER TALK.

Surgeon Examines Half Human Monkey with View to Operations to Aid Articulation.

Consul, the half-human chimpanzee, had his throat examined at London recently, with the object of ascertaining whether an operation would enable the animal to articulate.

Dr. Blaker, who made the examination, is of opinion that Consul will never be able to speak properly. The flatness of the roof of the mouth prevents lingual sounds, and the protrusion of the lips is opposed to labial sounds. While Consul is perfectly able to give facial expression of pleasure, curiosity, desire and anger in the most pronounced form, it is impossible to make him speak.

Carrier Pigeon Census.

Owners of carrier pigeons and homing societies in France have been notified that the number of birds and other facts concerning them must be reported to the government before January 1, as such pigeons have been comprehended in the census law. Blanks to be filled out call for the name of the owners, residence and occupation, place where the pigeons are kept, number in each cotehouse and in what direction the birds are trained.

Could Sell His Hair.

A man in Breslau, Silesia, sold his mustache for \$25 and his wife interferred, claiming a half interest in the mustache. The Atlanta Journal remarks that he might sell his hair for \$12.50.

BIG PRICE FOR CANARIES.

King Edward's Hobby Starts a Boom in the Feathered Pets in Great Britain.

The recent sale in London of a pair of canaries for \$350 has directed public attention to the rage for these diminutive pets.

Since the king took up the hobby of canary breeding prices have been steadily rising and in many instances birds have changed hands for four times their weight in gold.

The most expensive variety are those with top-knots. Perfect-crested canaries are very difficult to breed, and are subject to blindness, the crest being cultivated to such an extent that it grows over the eyes and hides even the beak. Prices for good "crests" range from \$20 to \$300.

Norwich plainhead canaries are far more popular, but do not realize such high prices. At the Huddersfield show recently a young bird, in its first season, was sold by auction for \$75. Mackley, of Norwich, whose last consignment of canaries to New York numbered 5,000, have sold several plainheads at prices ranging from \$75 to \$125 each.

Plainhead Norwich birds are bred almost exclusively for color properties, the most highly colored specimens invariably heading the list. For the purpose of enhancing the natural color, large quantities of cayenne and other peppers are imported from Spain and given to the birds in a preparation of egg food.

For first-class Yorkshire canaries there is a strong demand, but prices are not so remarkable, the highest reported being \$100 for a sprightly young fellow exhibited at the recent Manchester show.

TRAVELS OF A HALF DOLLAR.

In the Course of Nineteen Years a Marked Coin Was Twice Heard From.

In August, 1885, George Sizer, of Harrodsburg, Ky., was run over by the chemical engine and received injuries that proved fatal. Ten years after his death a letter addressed to him was turned over to his mother, Mrs. Mary Sizer. It was written by a gentleman in New York who stated that he had come in possession of half a dollar with the name "George Sizer, Harrodsburg, Ky.," stamped on it, and if it was of any value to him to send 50 cents and he would return the coin with the name on it.

Mrs. Sizer was quite ill at the time and the letter was never answered. The coin is still in circulation, for a few days ago another letter came here addressed to George Sizer. It was dated Baltimore, Md., November 27, 1892, and was written by Miss Irene York. She stated that her company was filling an engagement at a theater in that city and two nights before some admirers of her histrionic accomplishments had tossed several coins on the stage, and among them was a 50-cent piece with his (Sizer's) name on it; that if he desired she would send the coin.

This letter was also given to Mrs. Mark Sizer, and she has sent 50 cents to Miss York with a request that she send her the piece of money with her dead son's name on it. A singular thing in connection with Miss York's letter is that it is dated November 27, the nineteenth anniversary of Mr. Sizer's death.

DESCENDANT OF KING DAVID.

Demise of a Philadelphia Woman Who Traced Kinship to Jewish Family of Abarbanel.

A lineal descendant of King David died in Philadelphia recently. Mrs. Gustav Lipchewitz was her name. She lived with her husband and five children on Diamond street, but death came in St. Luke's hospital, where she had undergone an operation. She was 53 years of age.

Through the misty reaches of sacred history this woman could trace her kinship to the distinguished Jewish family Abarbanel, whose relationship to King David is undoubted and whose achievements throughout Europe are matters of history.

Mrs. Lipchewitz, whose maiden name was Bertha Neumann, sprang from that branch of the family of which Don Isaac Abarbanel, prime minister in Spain in 1492, was the head. During that time, when persecution against the Jews began as a result of the change in the religious views of Ferdinand and Isabella, Don Isaac was obliged to flee with his less favored brethren. The family scattered, settling in various parts of Europe. Don Isaac afterward became prime minister in Italy.

The grandfather of the dead woman was Rudolph Hirsch Abarbanel, one of the foremost rabbis of Germany in the last century. The city of Wetzlar, where he died, gave him a public funeral, and the government buildings were draped in mourning.

"Dead Man" Comes to Life. An old man named John Crake, who lived alone at Norwich, England, had been ill, and as his house was shut up, a neighbor entered and found him on the bedroom floor, apparently dead. She gave information to the police, and a constable came to the conclusion that Crake had expired, as he was cold and motionless. An undertaker was sent for, but on his arrival he was surprised to find Crake sitting up on the bed and uttering. He died a few hours later from apoplexy.

A Sure Preventive.

One of the medical journals says there is no reason why men should not live to be 150 years of age if they eat right, remarks the Chicago Record-Herald. Evidently the scientist has not taken the Chicago grade crossing and footpad into consideration.

A RADICAL CHANGE.

Famous Training Quarters for Athletes to Become a Convent.

"Billy" Muldoon, the Well-Known Former Wrestler, Presents His Estate for Educational and Charitable Purposes.

"Billy" Muldoon, the famous wrestler, has presented his extensive and beautiful estate, known as "Muldoon's Farm," previously used as a training school of his art, to St. Patrick's Roman Catholic church, of Belfast, New York, to be converted into a convent. The entire property has been given to Bishop Colton, of Buffalo, who was formerly pastor of St. Stephen's Roman Catholic church, in New York.

The "Muldoon Farm" is well known throughout the United States as the place where many famous athletes have been trained into condition for championship contests, and where, also, many prominent members of New York's "409" have studied physical culture. The only condition which the former owner has attached to the transfer of the buildings and grounds to Bishop Colton is that it should always remain the property of the church and that the mansion should be used exclusively as a convent, while the other buildings should be utilized for educational and charitable purposes. Bishop Colton will set about at once to convert the buildings into the uses for which they were given by the generous donor.

"I desired to give my property," said Muldoon, "to some church or organization where it could be converted into worthy, charitable purposes, and in looking over the field in New York, I have finally decided to present it as a free gift to the Roman Catholic church, which, I feel confident, will carry out my wishes and desires."

TIDE PERFORMS HUGE TASK.

Railroad Bridge at Newark, N. J., is Floated into Position by Raising Water.

Thousands of people of Newark, N. J., recently saw the tide harnessed and made to perform a big piece of work under the direction of the human hand.

The task successfully accomplished was the shifting of the draw of a railroad bridge over the Passaic river from one pier to another. The draw weighs 1,000 tons, is 224 feet long, and a double-decker, and it was moved 35 feet, and lowered 11 1/2 feet.

Two big scoops lashed together were used on either end of the draw. On each had been built a heavy box filled with fine sand. The boxes had been built to such a height that at low tide the scoops would just pass under the four girders of the draw.

The scoops were floated under the draw at low tide at four o'clock in the morning. At eight o'clock the tide had raised scoops and the draw till the latter was free of the pier. Eighteen minutes later the tide had borne its burden to the new home of the draw. The sand was let out of the boxes and the weight of the draw forced the scoops down into the water until the draw rested on the new foundations.

GERMANY BUYING STOCK.

Heavy Investments in American Railway Shares Being Made—French Purchase Bonds.

German buying of American railway shares has lately been on an exceptionally large scale. Not only have the shares of the good companies been bought outright, but there has likewise been very large purchasing of options, as an improvement in railroad stocks here early in the new year is looked for in Germany. French investors have not bought American shares. They never, indeed, do so. But they have bought American bonds very freely, not only here, but in London. There has been some buying likewise by Holland. But just now the financial condition of Holland is far from satisfactory, owing partly to the failure of the crops in the Dutch East Indies, partly to the very bad harvest at home, owing to the heavy and continuous rains, and partly to losses occasioned by previous unwise speculation in American securities. Consequently, Amsterdam has not been able to do very much just now in the buying line, whereas Germany has bought on a very large scale.

Loss Sentence for Theft of Stamp. Ellsworth P. DeFrance left Sioux Falls, (S. D.) penitentiary the other day a free man after having served a term of 18 years, less good time allowance, for the theft of a two-cent postage stamp. The case is one of the most remarkable in the history of western courts. DeFrance was convicted in the United States court for Nebraska of holding up a mail carrier. Although it was shown at his trial that he secured only a postage stamp, he was sentenced to imprisonment in the Sioux Falls penitentiary for life. President McKinley commuted this to 15 years.

KISSED AS A LOST BROTHER.

Divinity Student Has Novel Experience in Hotel Dining-Room in Chicago.

Edward O. Lansing, of Lockport, N. Y., who is a divinity student at the McCormick Theological seminary, says Chicago women have a way of accounting strange men that is "amazing." To prove the statement he tells the story of a case of mistaken identity, which took place in the Stratford hotel the other evening.

Lansing was seated in the dining-room when a woman rushed up to him, threw her arms around his neck and kissed him twice.

"Oh, I was sure that you would be here!" she exclaimed as she released him from the embrace.

"Did you? That is quite surprising when I consider that I did not even know that I was coming myself until a few minutes ago," replied Lansing.

"I think that this is a pretty cool reception," said the woman.

"I'd like to know what you would call a warm reception if this is a cool one," replied Lansing.

"I am serious. Is that what I am to expect from you after all my trouble in finding you?" asked the woman.

"I didn't think that you had much trouble finding me. You seemed to kiss the first man you saw," said Lansing.

"Didn't you intend to meet me here as you agreed?" once more queried the woman.

"Most certainly not," replied Lansing, but he added, as he thought of his reception: "I am not sorry that I met you."

"Why did you wear the violets if you didn't intend to meet me?" she asked.

Lansing looked down to the lapel of his coat and then understood the mistake. The woman said her name was Dorothy Simpson and that she was to meet at the hotel a brother whom she had not seen for ten years. He was to wear a bouquet of violets.

George Simpson, the missing brother, did not appear on the scene, and Miss Simpson left the hotel.

DOGS FIRED AS TORPEDOES.

Novel Experiment Made on Submerged Holland Boat Disproves Old Naval Theory.

An important test was made with one of the submarine torpedo boats a few days ago, which served to set at rest that it would be impossible for the crew of the submarine to escape if anything were to happen to the boat while submerged.

It was suggested that the men could escape through the torpedo tube at the bow of the boat, but many naval officers thought that this could not be accomplished without injury.

It was finally decided to have a test in the sink, and two large dogs were secured as subjects of the test.

The Holland boat Shark, attached to the torpedo station, was selected for the test, and, under the command of Lieut. C. T. Nelson, went out in the bay. After being submerged one of the dogs was placed in the torpedo tube and a wooden board placed behind the animal and the whole expelled in the same manner as would be a torpedo. Many thought that the force of the explosion would cause the animal to be flung to the surface and swim around as if nothing had happened.

The other dog was then experimented on, and likewise came to the surface unharmed. Both animals were picked up and taken back to the station.

The result of the test shows that in case of trouble with the boats under water the crew could find an exit in this manner and that the danger of injury would be very small.

OVERDUE "FISH" STORIES.

Tales of a Sea Serpent, Monster Oyster, and a Man-Eating Lobster Arrive and Complete Cycle.

While returning to his home last the other day William Blackman saw a long, dark object being tossed by the restless waves beating on the beach at Ventnor, N. J. At last one big comber left it stranded high on the sands.

Blackman approached. Before him lay a sea serpent 18 feet long and with a head 12 inches from ear to ear. Its mouth was the same size. The next morning it could not be found.

About the same time Richard Burbage, of Pleasantville, went oyster hunting in Lake's bay. After a mighty struggle he landed a bivalve, he says, which measured two feet in length, 14 inches across the back, 12 inches in depth and the meat in it weighed 24 pounds. All Pleasantville can bear witness that no oyster ever caught was its equal.

Then John Winder proved the rule of three and made the cycle complete. Winder is mate of the yacht Pirburg, and he pulled a lobster up on a codfish line, while fishing 20 miles off shore. It weighed, Winder says, 45 pounds. "It was either a man-eater or the original lobster," says Winder.

A Remarkable Record.

A lady who had reached the age of 105 years without drinking whisky or chewing tobacco, and who had given away a fortune, died at Worcester, Mass., a few days ago. There, remarks the Chicago Record-Herald, was a record to be proud of.

In the Same Class.

New York is reported to have been stunned by "Parsifal." This, remarks the Chicago Record-Herald, puts "Parsifal" in the same class with New York's tunnel explosions.