

WHAT STRANGE

EVENTS AND INCIDENTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

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A BLACK snake, five feet long, approached the child of H. H. Saylor as it lay asleep near the doorstep at Schwenkaville, Penn. A little dog was with the child and it saw the crawling monster when within three feet of the tiny sleeper. Without any ado the dog sprang at the reptile, and then began an uneven fight. The snake was far too big and powerful to be overcome by so small an antagonist, but the dog fought savagely. When the deadly black folds of the serpent began to coil about the dog it yelped loudly. The child was awakened and its screaming brought Mr. Saylor to the scene. He speedily killed the snake and rescued the faithful little beast, which had probably saved his child's life.

A GERMAN pathological journal records a recent experiment of Drs. Sawtschenko and Sobolotny which seems to border on the heroic. They vaccinated themselves with a preparation made from cultures of the cholera bacillus, and afterward swallowed virulent cholera germs with entire impunity. Then, with serum from their own blood, they inoculated guinea pigs, and found that those animals could thus be protected against cholera. Usually it is the guinea pig who has first to face the chances of life or death in experiments of that kind, but in this case the doctors were so sure they were right that they shouldered the risk themselves.

CAPTAIN V. A. RANKIN, weighing almost 300 pounds, and living at Crown City, Ohio, claims he is the champion eater of the United States. He disposes of three square meals during the day and wakes up every night at 10 o'clock and morning at 2 o'clock and eats a big meal his wife prepares for him before retiring. He frequently demolishes two fried chickens, six fried eggs, a loaf of bread, six ounces of butter and four cups of coffee for breakfast. Mr. Rankin is wealthy, but he says his money doesn't agitate his mind as often as his appetite.

MISS ADDIE TUCKER, the young and beautiful daughter of prominent people living at Niobrara, Neb., a few days ago eloped and married a deformed Sioux Indian known as John Suman. The parents of the girl are heart-broken over the affair. The Indian is blind in one eye and has other deformities and is very unattractive.

WIND has been so strong in Kansas this year that a Goodland boy has had great fun rigging a sail to his diminutive express wagon and coasting along the boulevard. Tacking has been the only feature of navigation that troubled him.

S. D. MITCHELL, of Green Lake, Mich., has in his possession the petrified remains of a duck recently dug up at Marquette. He says the bones and feathers are in their usual state, and only the flesh is petrified.

PORTER, Wis., is boasting of a meteor that fell in that vicinity a few nights ago. It was a "compact metallic mass, of very dark color, and weighed fifty-two pounds."

AN OLD TOWNSHIP.

Some Facts in the History of an Ancient Dutch Settlement.

The Kings county villages were among the first to be settled in America, and foremost among these was Flatbush. It was at the time that Louis XIV. reigned in France that some settlers came from the Netherlands, in well-built ships, and settled that portion of the country.

Still standing on Flatbush avenue, corner of Avenue A, is the Bergen homestead, probably the oldest building to-day in the section. Here General Washington and some of his officers stopped for several days, and according to village tradition Gen. Howe made his headquarters under the same roof. He is said to have occupied the front room on the north side. On the windows great large wooden shutters, with heavy iron fastenings, were hung.

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Melrose Hall, which has witnessed much of tragedy and romance, antedates by several years the American Revolution. It is believed to have been built about the year 1749 by an Englishman named Lane. It was once in the possession of Col. William Axtell, a descendant of Daniel Axtell, a colonel in Cromwell's army, who was beheaded by order of Charles II. after having been refused by Parliament the benefits of the act of "general pardons and obligations." William Axtell was a member of the King's council, a Loyalist and a Tory. At Melrose Hall the Tory element met frequently. Many secret conclaves were held and schemes concocted to thwart the designs of the "rebels." The house abounds in secret rooms and passage-ways. There were said to be dark vaults beneath the kitchen, where British prisoners were confined, and over the ball-room a secret chamber, where a beautiful young girl was starved to death. This building stands in Melrose Park, some distance back from Flatbush avenue, at the end of a long drive, lined on either side with huge and stately pines, probably more than a hundred years old.

Erasmus Hall Academy is another of the ancient buildings still to be seen. It was founded in 1786 by Rev. Dr. John H. Livingston and Senator John Vanderbilt. The name Erasmus was chosen in honor of Desiderius Erasmus, a distinguished patron of literature in Holland in the sixteenth century.

In 1698 there were more slaves in Midwout than in any other place in Kings county. The late Rev. Robert G. Strong found, by careful research, that the first deed of land was dated June 6, 1686, in the extreme southern portion of the town. It was conveyed by the Indians claiming it to Andries Huden and Walphert Gerriten, and was known as the "Little Flats." This land was partly in Amersfoort, now Flatlands. The earliest deed for land lying entirely in Midwood or Flatbush was to Jacobus Van Corlaer about the same time. The first school was in 1759. Dr. Strong found that Adrian Hegeman was schoolmaster. In August, 1776, the village presented a terrible picture of devastation and suffering. The houses of Lefferts Lefferts, Jeremiah Vanderbilt and Ever Hegeman were in flames. This added to the horrors war had brought on the place. Bones of many killed in battle were found on the road, showing some had never been buried. Lawless adventurers made life miserable for the honest yeomen. Fever broke out and grass grew in the streets. Horses were stolen from their plows and cattle slaughtered and driven away. Business was at an end, houses were fired and looted and residents suffered for actual necessities of life.

The old homestead of the Lefferts family, on Flatbush avenue, near Lincoln road, is now 182 years old, having been built in 1762. It was fired by British troops during the battle of Long Island, partly destroyed and rebuilt. There is still in the possession of the family a deed bearing date of 1661, and having the signature of Gov. Stuyvesant. This house is filled with ancient relics of the early part of the eighteenth century. Garrett Stryker, who is a lineal descendant of the early settlers, has a Dutch Bible published at Dordrecht, in Holland, 288 years ago.

On Flatbush avenue the Vanderbilt homestead has stood for more than one hundred and fifty years. The great sloping roof comes to within about eight feet of the ground.

Church lane, one of Flatbush avenue, and in the rear of the Dutch Reformed Church. Many quaint epitaphs are on the tombstones. Graves were so disturbed that in 1796 a night watch was established by an act of the Legislature and a guard-house was built on the north side. Here and in other burial places immense structures which took about ten or twelve men to lift, were placed over newly-made graves. Ministers and members of the church who died between 1701 and 1794 were buried under the edifices.

ASIDE from the fact that the cheap baking powders contain alum, which causes indigestion and other serious ailments, their use is extravagant. It takes three pounds of the best of them to go as far as one pound of the Royal Baking Powder, because they are deficient in leavening gas. There is both health and economy in the use of the Royal Baking Powder. ROYAL BAKING POWDER CO., 106 WALL ST., NEW-YORK.

Coffee as an Aid to Digestion. Some recent experiments in Germany, says the Montreal Herald, confirm the opinion of physicians that the coffee which is an aid to digestion must be an infusion, and not boiled. For this particular reason the after-dinner coffee should always be an infusion. The caffeine of coffee, however, which is the element most stimulating to travelers, is said to be best drawn out by keeping the coffee at the boiling point for a few minutes. It is a prolonged boiling both of tea and of coffee that extracts the poisonous tannin. To avoid this, it is better that two pots of tea or coffee be made for breakfast or any other meal for which the members of the family have different hours. Both are so easily made, and add so much to the pleasure of a meal, that a good housekeeper should feel unwilling to give any one a cup of either that has been made for any length of time.

Whence It Comes. All the asphalt that is laid upon the streets of Philadelphia comes from the island of Trinidad, of whose remarkable lake Queen Victoria is so lucky as to be the sole owner, but this monopoly is likely to be soon broken. A whole mountain of asphalt has been discovered near Mazzarelli, a Spanish seaport, and a cargo of it is now on its way here in a British tramp steamship, to be followed by other cargoes if the new asphalt shall be found successful. Astonishing stories are told of the cheapness of the Mazzarelli material, but its adaptability to the sudden changes of the American climate remains to be seen.—[Philadelphia Record.] Among flowers chrysanthemums live the longest after being cut. Portugal has 2,800,000 people in her colonies.

BEECHAM'S PILLS (Vegetable) What They Are For. Biliousness, indigestion, sallow skin, dyspepsia, bad taste in the mouth, pimples, sick headache, foul breath, torpid liver, bilious headache, loss of appetite, depression of spirits. when these conditions are caused by constipation; and constipation is the most frequent cause of all of them. One of the most important things for everybody to learn is that constipation causes more than half the sickness in the world; and it can all be prevented. Go by the book. Write to B. F. Allen Company, 365 Canal street, New York, for the little book on CONSTIPATION (its causes consequences and correction); sent free. If you are not within reach of a druggist, the pills will be sent by mail, 25 cents.

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