

**Humorous Department.**

**Keeping the Pace.**—Representative Charles B. Smith, of Buffalo, sprang a tale the other day that sounded new and went well. It seems that a young Irishman went out west and took up his residence in a tough little mining camp. He figured that the quickest way to get over being a tenderfoot was to mix around and be one of the crowd. So he sauntered into a saloon with the intention of making himself agreeable. Two formidable-looking persons, who carried with them a great deal of local color, were standing in front of the bar which consisted of a large plank stretched between two barrels on end. Each had two or three revolvers sticking out of him. As the Irishman entered he heard one of the men saying: "What did you shoot 'im for?" "Aw, I just didn't like 'im around. He annoyed me. So I shot him." "Won't you have a drink with me?" put in the newcomer. The other two turned and glared at him. "I don't care," consented one. "Al and I'll split a quart of Bourbon between us." "And won't you have something asked of the Irishman, turning to the bartender. "Well, I might take a tumbler of brandy," replied the bar clerk. "What are you going to have yourself?" "Oh," ordered the Irishman, trying to enter into the spirit of the thing, "just make mine a stein of gin."

**PATRIOTISM OF THE SOUTH**

(Continued from Page One.)

try found herself. Up to that time, the lines of allegiance between the north and the south were still visible. But when the president of the United States called for volunteers to make Spain lift the heel of oppression off the neck of Cuba, the young men of the south and the north were found marching shoulder to shoulder, and General Joe Wheeler, of Confederate fame, at the age of sixty-two, was found riding the head of a division of the United States army. Our country had found herself. Recently, when the flag of the Huerta regime in Mexico, our good, wise and patient President Wilson, called upon the soldiers and marines to protect the honor of our nation. Prompt was the response. One of the marines killed at Vera Cruz was George G. The other day a reporter interviewed a brother of the slain man with a view of getting a criticism of the war. The brother's reply was: "I believe President Wilson is right, and I favor his handling of the war. I am a brother and a father who is willing to make a similar sacrifice. If we could not be loyal to our country and our president, we would move out."

This expression of present day patriotism fell under the eye of President Wilson, and he moved him to write a formal note of appreciation and sympathy to the bereaved family. With a citizenship like that of the Georgia family and a president like Woodrow Wilson and under the guidance of God, America is safe.

God grant that we may come to a larger appreciation of all that these statues symbolize: faith in God, freedom for all mankind and enlightenment for the world.

"Thou, too, sail on, O ship of state; Sail on, O Union, strong and great; Fear not each sudden sound and shock, For we were never more united, O'er our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears, Our faith triumphant o'er our fears, Are all with thee—'ere all with thee."

**A MAN-EATING FISH**

Col. Roosevelt Describes the Piranha of South America.

In the May Scribner's Col. Theodore Roosevelt described the bloodthirsty piranha or man-eating fish of South America. He says: So numerous were they that the members of the party had to be exceedingly careful in dipping up water. Miller did not find that they were cannibals toward their own kind; they were "cannibals" only in the sense of eating the flesh of men. When dead, they were even when mortally injured, with the blood flowing, were thrown in among the ravenous living, they were un molested. Moreover, it was Miller's experience, the direct contrary of what we had been told that splashing and a commotion in the water attracted the piranha, whereas they rarely attacked anything that was motionless unless it was bloody. Dead birds and mammals, thrown whole and unskinned into the water were permitted to float unmolested, whereas the skinned carcass of a good-sized monkey was at once seized, pulled under the water, and devoured by the blood-crazed fish. A man who had dropped something of value waded in after it to above the knees, but went very slowly and gingerly, and even when mortally injured, he was not venturing to put his hands into the water. But nobody could bathe, and even the slightest disturbance in the water, such as that made by scrubbing the hands vigorously with soap, immediately attracted the attention of the savage little creatures, who swarmed to the place, evidently hoping to find some animal in difficulties. Once, while Miller and some Indians were attempting to launch a boat, and were making a great commotion in the water, a piranha attacked a naked Indian who belonged to the party and splashed him as he struggled and splashed, waist-deep in the stream. Men not making a splash and struggling are rarely attacked; but if one is attacked by any chance, the blood in the water maddens the piranha, and they assail the man with frightful ferocity.

Uncle Sam at Vera Cruz. Kitchener was praised for his work at Khartoum and throughout the Sudan when almost before the cannon cooled he had the younger generation learning to find and follow the road of learning. It was instead of the trail of Mad Mullahs and whirling dervishes. It is too bad that the object lesson of our occupation of Vera Cruz cannot reach Mexico at large—the millions of Sonora and Chiapas and the Pacific slope as well as the inhabitants of the Gulf water front.

Mexico's principal seaport captured to the deadly accuracy of the gunners of our ships and the valor of the leading parties. As soon as the "snipers" were driven from the roofs, the firing stopped, and our reconstructive work began. The wonderful, instant metamorphosis from the war-footing of that of peace is summed up in the single eloquent circumstance that as the Arkansas battalion paraded—after it had kept guard over the orphan asylum—a troop of the little children they had protected walked in front of them.

The candid freedom from double-dealing, the altruism, the higher purpose than that of loot and graft and unbridled license, are what a people "half-devil and half-child," find incredible in those who represent a civilized nation. We did not go to Mexico to kill the people and to seize their country. It is highly unfortunate that what Vera Cruz has learned about the ways of "the gringos" cannot be spread across the landscape from Nuevo Laredo to Yucatan. The peons on the rampage would then understand that when we withdrew we have not been defeated, and it is not cowardice but the sublimity of moral courage and unselfish renunciation.—Philadelphia Ledger.

She Had the Last Word.—A country doctor, locally noted for his brusqueness and irascibility, was driving along a narrow lane, when his passage was effectually barred by an old woman who was returning from the bog, leading an ass, whose panniers were filled with peat, says the Pittsburg Dispatch. The woman led the ass to the side of the lane as quickly as she could, but not quick enough to please the short-tempered doctor. "Laugh," he exclaimed, "women and asses are always in the way!" "I'm glad you have the manners to put yours last," said the woman calmly. The doctor drove on without further comment.

There's a Time Limit.—"While you were standing in the doorway telling the sweetest young thing good night did it ever dawn upon you?" "Oh, no! I never stayed that late."—Judge.

A Musical Guest.—"Come and dine with me tomorrow?" "Sorry, I'm fixed up. I'm going to see 'Farsfall'."

"That's all right; bring 'm along with you."—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

His Awakening.—"You used to say that you couldn't live without me." "Yes, my dear, but then I didn't realize what good shape I was in."—Detroit Free Press.

**Miscellaneous Reading.**

**NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S GRASS DIET**

Science Now Explains that Old King Made His Meals Off Alfalfa.

Students of the Bible have frequently been puzzled by the statement that Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, "did eat grass" as the men and lived in that manner for seven years.

Dr. J. B. S. King, of Chicago, author of the standard work, "The Chemistry of Food," has put forward the interesting suggestion that the reason why Nebuchadnezzar was able to live so long in this way was that he ate alfalfa, the wonderful food plant which has done so much for vast regions of the west. There is evidence to show that alfalfa grew in the vicinity of ancient Babylon, and that its raw leaves will feed men.

The story of Nebuchadnezzar is told in the Book of Daniel. The great king, at the height of his power, had a strange dream, and called upon Daniel to interpret it. The prophet said that the dream meant that: "Thy shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field; they shall make thee to eat grass like oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou knowest that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will.

"The same hour was the thing fulfilled upon Nebuchadnezzar; and he was driven from men, and did eat grass as the oxen, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven, till his hairs were grown like eagles' feathers, and his nails like birds' claws."

The "seven times" is understood to mean "seven years." The Bible narrative tells us that at the end of that period Nebuchadnezzar returned to his home strengthened in mind and body, free from arrogant and tyrannical tendencies and greatly improved in character.

How are we to explain this occurrence? We know that a man cannot live for seven years, or for many days, on what is ordinarily called grass. Evidently, however, that it was a divine miracle, but in this case it would be more reasonable to seek for a natural explanation. This would be provided if we find that alfalfa grew around Babylon.

The territory adjacent to the city of Babylon was a highly cultivated alluvial district irrigated by a splendid system of canals and laterals, mainly planned and constructed under the personal direction of King Nebuchadnezzar. The plain lying on the western bank of the Euphrates was commonly called "Edin," and is supposed by many to have been the "Eden" of Genesis. It was upon this fruitful plain that the Bedouin subjects of Nebuchadnezzar, captured in war, pastured the flocks and herds of their Babylonian masters.

Here was enacted the drama played by the insane king, one of the greatest and most impressive figures in ancient history. He had proved himself to be an exception to the rule that strong men in positions of power must be ruthless also. Invincible in war, undefeated throughout his forty-odd years as a ruler of a war-like nation, he was yet a peace-loving monarch who devoted to the work of beautifying his capital city, improving the agricultural resources of his country and fortifying both against invasion by neighboring rulers.

Twice he marched on and captured Jerusalem. The second time, 588 B. C., he sacked the city, tore down Solomon's temple and led the inhabitants away to the last Babylonian captivity. This act was inspired by knowledge of the fact that the Jews had betrayed him to the invading Egyptians, whom he overthrew.

But neither Nebuchadnezzar's greatness as a military genius nor his wisdom as a civil governor would have kept him alive during his period of insanity if he had not found food that would sustain life. The question naturally arises, therefore, could he have eaten grass like oxen and still live?

In the light of modern science the answer to this question is "Yes." Here is the explanation: In the year 490 B. C., less than 100 years after the Babylonian king is said to have lived and fed with the beasts in the field, the Arabs brought into Greece from Persia the seeds of a plant with which they long had been familiar—"alfalfa." At that time Babylonia had become a part of the Persian empire through conquest by Cyrus after the death of Nebuchadnezzar.

The Bedouins who fed the Babylonian flocks on the plain of Edin were nomadic, pastoral Arabs who had flocks and herds of their own; but a strain of hardiness that has been famous for three thousand years; roamed from place to place when they were not serving in enforced captivity; fought when they could find any one to fight with; practical predatory robbery and violence and stole everything they could get their hands on. Yet they honored with religious fidelity a code of ethics with respect to their pledged word that modern peoples might copy to their everlasting credit.

They were popularly supposed to be descendants of Ishmael, son of Hagar, and their proper home was in the northern part of the Arabian peninsula. Southern Arabs were an agricultural and commercial and industrial people, living in cities and villages. These so-called Bedouins had known and used alfalfa for centuries before they introduced it into Europe, and they had given to it the name it now bears in this country, the meaning of which is, literally, "the best fodder."

This fact being established, it is permitted to assume that alfalfa grew abundantly on the irrigated plains of Babylon, just as it now grows luxuriantly in the irrigated valleys of central California, in Texas and other western states.

As a matter of fact, it is not only reasonable to suppose such to be the case, but it would be unreasonable to doubt it. The Babylonians of Nebuchadnezzar's time had attained to a high state of civilization, and they were far ahead of all their neighbors in advanced agricultural methods. They had the best of everything to be found in western Asia. Is it reasonable to suppose they did not also have "the best fodder?"

If it be true that alfalfa grew on the plains of Babylon in the Sixth century before Christ, there is no element of improbability in the statement that Nebuchadnezzar ate alfalfa "like oxen," for alfalfa alone of all grasses is shown by chemical analysis to contain digestible nutrients in the proportions required to sustain human life. All other grasses contain so large a percentage of nondigestible fiber and other matter that the digestive organs of man cannot take from them and as-

**simulate a sufficient quantity of nourishment to feed the body.**

The analysis may be found in Bulletin No. 95, issued by the North Dakota agricultural college, an official publication. The analysis differs somewhat from that of other samples made at different times and places, and it is important to note that the protein in the North Dakota sample shows a lower percentage than other samples. An analysis of a sample of alfalfa hay grown in Wisconsin, for instance, shows 18.17 per cent of protein, and protein is the tissue-building food element. The North Dakota publication gives a comparison between alfalfa and wheat bran, the latter being commonly known to be capable of sustaining human life. Here is the table:

Digestible Nutrients in 100 lbs. Protein, Hydrates Ect.

Dry matter	Carbo-Ether		
Alfalfa . . . . . 91.6	10.4	39.6	1.2
Wheat bran . . . . . 88.1	12.2	39.2	2.7

Further proof of the food value of alfalfa is shown by the fact that alfalfa meal is now being manufactured in large quantities, not only as feed for poultry and domestic animals, but for human consumption as well.

At a banquet recently held in Chicago, participated in by former citizens of the state of Kansas, which, by the way, is the banner alfalfa state, the menu embraced coffee, tea, cake and croissants made Nebraska alfalfa. Bread biscuit, breakfast food, candy and sirup also are commercial products made from alfalfa, and alfalfa griddle cakes are said to be extremely palatable.

For the purpose of making alfalfa meal the plant is cut when it has attained a growth of from eight to twelve days while it is young and tender. The analysis from which the foregoing figures are taken was of a sample of alfalfa hay, cut when the plants had begun to blossom, probably after a growth of from 30 to 40 days. The percentage of digestible nutrients is much higher in the young plants than in those that reach their full growth.

Another significant fact is that fully 60 per cent of the protein is found in the leaves of the plant. The leaf of the young plant would therefore be much more nutritious than wheat bran and people have lived for considerable periods on the later.

Remembering these facts, it seems clear that Nebuchadnezzar, by selecting young plants and eating only the leaves, could have sustained life very easily.—New York American.

Marital Sacram.—"Do you know where I could get a good collection of fairy tales?" "Sure I do. Just apply to my husband."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

"Darling, why are you so sad?" "She (gulping down a sob)—"Oh, dearest, I was just thinking this will be our last evening together until tomorrow night."—Puck.



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