

Humorous Department.

Moving Time.—"Charles," said a sharpened voiced woman to her husband in the smoking compartment, "do you know that you and I once had a romance in a train?"

"Never heard of it," replied Charles in a subdued tone.

"I thought you hadn't but don't you remember it was a pair of slippers I presented to you the Christmas before we were married that led to our union?"

"You remember how nicely they fitted, don't you? Well Charles, one day when we were going to a picnic you had your feet upon a seat, and when you weren't looking I took your measure. But for that pair of slippers I don't believe we'd have ever married."

A young unmarried man sitting next by with a girl, immediately removed his feet from the seat.

His Good Point.—A very kind-hearted man could never be brought to say an unkind word about anybody. One day a friend expostulated with him.

"Look here," he said, "it's all very well being charitable and all that, but you can carry that sort of thing too far. Now, there's Blank. Can you honestly find a single good point about Blank?"

The kind-hearted man appeared to be non-plussed. For Blank was a very bad man, and it seemed impossible to find anything good to say about him.

"Well," he said at length, "you must admit he wears a fine fur-lined coat!"

Plug for Plug.—A country storekeeper was standing in front of his place one morning when a man came along leading a couple of old weary looking nags.

"Want a horse?"

"Guess not."

"I'll trade you one for goods," said the stranger. "I'll take it out in terrace, in fact."

"Might make a dicker along those lines," said the storekeeper, "provided he kin agree on a basis."

"What's your basis?"

"Well, I'll trade with you plug for plug."

Case of Life and Death.—A minister who guarded his morning study door very carefully told the new maid that in no circumstances were callers to be admitted—except, of course he added, "in a case of life and death."

Half an hour later the maid knocked at his door.

"A gentleman to see you, sir."

"Why, I thought I told you."

"Yes, I told him," she replied, "but she says it's a question of life and death."

So he went downstairs and found an insurance agent.

The Place Where.—Charged with calling a cheese, a man was brought before a magistrate. The principal witness, a truckman, told how he had seen the man snatch up the cheese and had run up and held him.

"Then you caught him in the nefarious act?" said the judge.

"The what, sir?" said the witness.

"You caught him in the nefarious act, I say," repeated the judge.

"Not me!" was the reply. "I caught him in the ally just beside the grocery store."

Intelligent Bird.—"You told me," complained the purchaser, "that parrot I bought was the most intelligent bird in your shop, while the fact is he hasn't talk at all."

"That's what I meant," replied the dealer, "when I spoke of his intelligence, madam."

BIG PANTHER HUNT

Mecklenburg County Officers Are After Strange Varmit.

THE ANIMAL IS STILL AT LARGE

Charlotte Policemen Have Joined in the Chase—Many Stories and Descriptions of Wild Beast.

Hunters are scouring every wooded section south and east of Myers Park Tuesday, in a search for the "Providence Panther," believed to have been the animal, at which Vance Fite shot three times near the Lawyers road early in the day, relates the Charlotte News. It was impossible early in the afternoon to estimate the number of sportsmen engaged in the round-up of the "varmint," which has been creating wide interest throughout the county for several weeks.

The bulk of the hunters were making a drive up Bear creek about noon, following in the direction the animal went after Mr. Fite shot at it. Many hunters gathered in Providence township early in the day in accordance with pre-arranged plans, but when it was learned that the animal had been seen on the Lawyers road, the drive was started north, with the intention of crossing McAlpine's creek and forming a conjunction with other hunters somewhere along Briar creek.

Reports early in the afternoon indicated that the animal had not been located. With a number of dogs on hand it was believed possible that the trail would be struck before night. In case a warm trail is hit, hunters were prepared to round up the animal.

Mr. Fite, who lives in the county, but who runs a store on East Seventh street in Charlotte, is the man who shot at the animal. Whether it was the same beast that has been reported in Providence township for some time, but was reported near Briar creek in Charlotte township the latter part of last week, is not known.

Mr. Fite had only a pistol in his pocket as he came to the city about 7 o'clock. As he crossed the bridge to ascend the elevation this side of the creek, he saw a strange animal coming down across the field from the direction of the residence of Dr. and Mrs. J. M. DeArman, who lives on the crest of the hill, north of the Lawyers road. The animal was going in long, graceful leaps over the field and not going at a canter, like a dog. Not knowing what it was Mr. Fite stopped and looked at it. When it got within close range, he pulled his pistol and fired three times. The animal veered a little at the sound of the pistol, but continued its long, graceful leaps and at that gait crossed over the Lawyers road in the thickets of Briar creek.

Mr. Fite telephoned the police department. The report that the animal had been seen on the Lawyers road spread about the city in short order and after an hour or two many people in automobiles were on their way to the place the creature had been reported. Mr. Fite said the animal looked to him like a wolf.

Half a dozen policemen, including Chief W. B. Orr, went out. Many hunters who had come to the city en route to make the start with the big crowd that had arranged to meet in Providence at 9 o'clock changed their plans and joined those going out the Lawyers road. They expected to go to Providence later, if no trace of the beast could be discovered at the Lawyers road site.

It was expected that because of the report of the animal being shot at not far from the city and the fact that there was a crowd supposed to be already assembled in Providence there would be several parties of hunters out in the county looking for the animal. There was some speculation as to whether there might be two panthers so many and authentic have been the reports during the last few days as to the strange animal.

In addition to the reports Saturday and Sunday of the animal's having been seen on Briar creek and having killed two shoats at the John M. Walker farm during the night of the snow last week, with the tracks of some strange beast seen in the snow there and elsewhere subsequent to the incident at the Walker farm, there was a panther scare at Matthews Saturday night.

At least five reputable citizens of Matthews, including two women of the town, report they heard cries like those that have been described as having been heard in other sections, and one man, Mr. Penninger, reported he saw the animal. He called several of his neighbors, and they looked for it, and only its tracks, however. It is said that, although the matter had not been widely reported, the tracks of some beast not yet identified, were seen on the Will McLeod place, near Matthews, a week ago.

Tending to verify other reports that the animal was in the vicinity of Briar creek last week and not far from the DeArman place on the Lawyers road, is the testimony of Banks McClintock of the Charlotte National bank, who lives near the intersection of the Plaza and Lawyers road at the edge of the city. He heard strange cries Sunday night near the house and couldn't attribute it to anything else than a baby crying. As the cries were continued for some time and seemed to be made by an infant apparently in acute pain, he went out to a negro cabin that stands in the edge of the wooded section near his residence to see if the cries came from a baby there. The sounds were not located, however, and neither he nor the others who heard them could identify them. Mr. McClintock does not pretend to say that the cries were those of a panther or of any other wild beast, but he admits that he does not know what they were.

Since Saturday many reports have come from country adjacent to Briar and McAlpine creeks, from the neighborhood of Matthews and other sections between here and Matthews, reporting the presence of some wild creature whose tracks and cries are not those of any identified animal.

CARES FOR AN OX

Gander Leads Blind Beast to Water and Wards Off Attacks.

A queer and interesting tale of the extraordinary friendship existing between a gander and a blind ox on the farm of Braxton Holcroft, in the southern end of the county, was brought to Greensboro, Ala., recently.

Each day, so the story goes, a stately gander, with its breast full of sympathy and his head full of responsibility, leads an ancient and totally blind ox to a nearby pond for water. The gander, walking just in front of the ox quacks now and then in order that he may be followed by the sightless animal, and when the pond is reached the gander stands guard while the protegee drinks his fill. Frequently other oxen try to attack the blind animal, when the gander flies at them, biting and flapping his wings till he puts them to rout. When the ox has finished drinking, the gander leads him back to the field.

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So often has this been the case in the past, that the quarrel between Lieutenant Farrell and Lieutenant Hinton, also their differences during the wearisome trip from Hudson Bay to Mattice with Lieutenant Kloor, the commander of the party, have plenty of precedents.

Stanley Had Quarrels.

Thus, Henry M. Stanley was so intent on monopolizing all the credit for his memorable expedition across Africa in order to rescue Emin Pasha from the derelicts of the Upper Nile, that he bound down all the members of his party by ironclad contracts before he started neither to publish any record of the enterprise or even to talk for publication until a considerable time had elapsed after their return to civilization.

The expedition was marred throughout by quarrels between him and various members of his band, and their very names have been forgotten save that of the ill-fated Major Edmund Bartlett, of the Scots guards, a gallant officer with a splendid record, who was killed in the wilds of the Dark Continent under circumstances that have remained shrouded in mystery to this day and whose memory was assailed by Stanley in his book, "Darkest Africa," in a particularly cruel fashion by insinuations and odious reticences rather than by frank and definite charges.

So great was the indignation excited in England over this treatment of Major Bartlett that the British government found it necessary to delay for almost the length of a decade the reward which had been promised in case of success to Stanley, namely the grand cross of the Order of the Bath.

Cash in Wilds.

Speke and Grant, who, ascending the Nile, discovered the great inland sea known as the Victoria Nyanza, quarreled so bitterly with each other, even before their return to civilization, as to which of the two was entitled to the larger share of credit, that the British government, unable on their arrival in England to determine the respective

merit of their charges against one another, preferred to refrain from any public acknowledgment of their remarkable services.

And the same thing occurred in connection with the discovery of that other huge sheet of water in the interior of Africa known as Lake Tanganyika, the credit of the finding and exploration of which belongs to Sir Richard Burton and Captain Speke, who, however developed such an intense animosity against one another after leaving the lake that they parted company in the wastes of the Dark Continent and each made his way back to the coast alone.

Dr. Thomas Scott Dedrick, who was surgeon in the Peary expedition of 1898 to 1902, abandoned it and took up his residence at Etah with the Eskimos on account of his inordinate jealousy of the commander and in exasperation at the thought that it was the latter who would reap all the glory of the venture if successful. Another member of Peary's party on that particular expedition became embittered and irritable against his chief, wandered away from the main body and was never seen again. He is supposed to have met with death by falling down a crevasse.

Of all the arctic expeditions, however, the ones most remarkable in connection with the bitterness developed among the explorers were those of De Long and Melville, in 1879, on board the Jeannette, and of General Greely, in 1882, on board the Proteus. To what extent the friction among the members of the Jeannette expedition contributed to its tragic ending will never be known in its entirety.

In the case of the Greely adventure discussions broke out among the party soon after its start, and the more critical the situation became the worse grew the bitterness of the quarrels, which culminated in the execution of one of the crew for insubordination and thefts of food, thus reducing still further the mere handful of the party rescued from Cape Sabine by Commander (afterward admiral) Schley, on board the Thetis.

The well known African explorer and actual president of the Geographical Society of France, the Marquis de Segonzac, spent many weary months under arrest before leaving the army on the charge of having killed his chief, Captain Quiquerez, while engaged on a very important mission of exploration in the interior of the Dark Continent. It was alleged that he had shot Quiquerez in order to receive the honors constituting the reward of the mission, and which would otherwise have gone to his superior officer. Although entirely cleared by two successive courts-martial, which found plenty of circumstantial evidence in favor of the assertion of De Segonzac that Quiquerez had blown his brains out in a fit of delirium tremens, yet it was many years before the marquis was able entirely to free himself from the imputation, which was always recalled whenever there was any mention of his name.

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