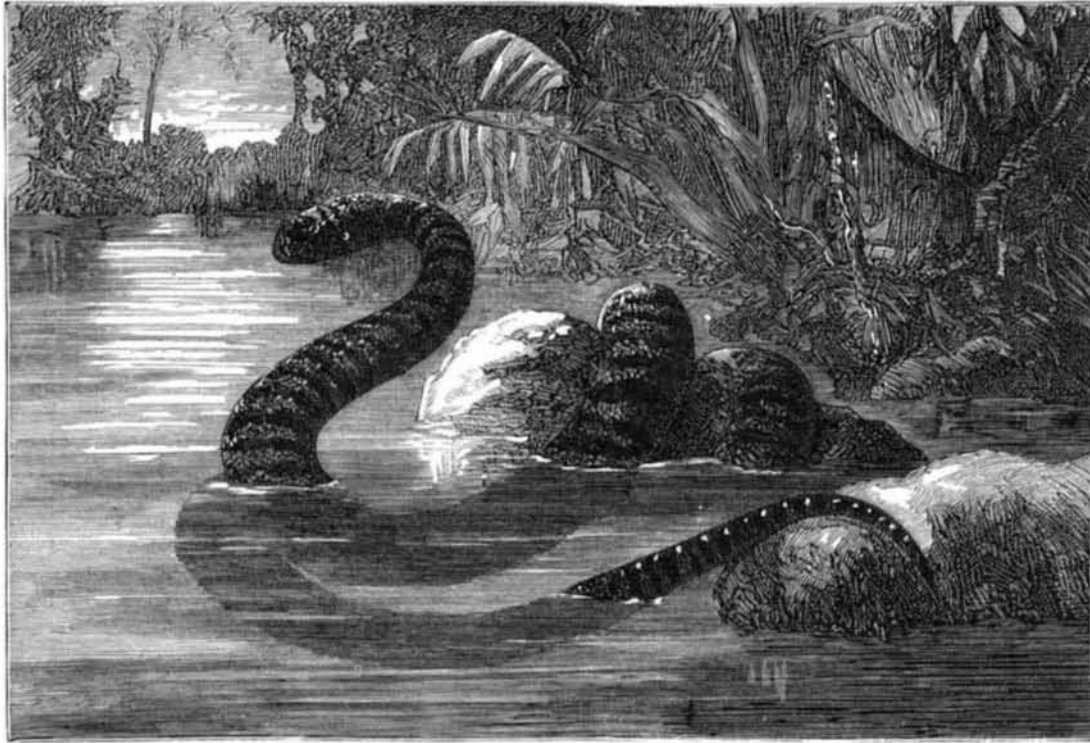


**THE BANDED CHERSYDRUS.**

The achrocorde or banded chersydrus is a curious aquatic serpent found in the bottoms of marine creeks and mouths of rivers on the borders of the sea, in the vicinity of Malacca, the bay of Manilla, Coromandel, Java, Sumatra, New Guinea, and generally along the coast of southern Asia. The fishermen frequently catch them on their lines, not willingly, as the fangs of the reptile are provided with a deadly poison. It is distinguished from other serpents by being almost entirely free of scales. The body is covered with grain-like particles inserted in the thin and wrinkled skin. Those on the back project slightly in the center, and those on the stomach are pointed. The median line is marked out by two or three ranges of scales placed at angles. The nostrils can be closed with a membranous fold. The tail is flat and compressed, resembling an oar blade. The body is generally banded with black and white oval rings, the tail is spotted with white, and the small head is brownish. Some specimens have yellow or brown bands. They are classed by some among the sea serpents, and by other among boas.



**THE BANDED CHERSYDRUS.**

**Preservation of the Dead.**

The corpse of the great Italian republican, Mazzini, was petrified by the method invented by Señor Gorini, of Lodi. Recent travelers say that it proves entirely successful, the features of the eminent agitator presenting no visible alteration, and the expression well preserved, as he reposes in his tomb, which is open to the inspection of visitors. Señor Gorini has not revealed the secret of his method, but has taken measures to give it to the public at his death.

**STORKS EATING YOUNG RABBITS.**

Our engraving represents a hungry stork making his breakfast off of an unfortunate young rabbit. It is not often that the bird captures such large prey, but probably, while searching the thick grass with its bill partly open, as is its curious habit, it encountered the rabbit and pounced upon without stopping to consider the difference between young rabbits and field mice. The latter, together with snakes, toads, frogs, and large insects, constitute the stork's ordinary food. The unhappy victim is not gorged instantly, but is carried off to the margin of some pond where its captor shakes it and beats it with its bill until it is reduced to a proper condition for easy swallowing. Then the meal is dispatched in a gulp or two, and the bird, which possesses an enormous appetite, resumes its hunting. The stork's favorite food is eels, which it captures with great dexterity. No spear in common use for taking that fish can more effectually secure it between its barbs than can the stork's mandibles. A small eel, despite its lightning movements, has no chance of escaping when once aroused from its lurking place by a stork.



**STORKS EATING YOUNG RABBITS.**

In Europe the stork attaches itself to man and his habitations, building huge nests on tops of houses, and tamely walking round the streets. It especially parades about fish markets, where it finds no lack of subsistence in the offal.

EDUCATION, as defined by Aristotle, means an agency for the implanting of sound and virtuous habits. Nothing else would satisfy him for a moment.

**Testing Lubricating Oils for Acids.**

That a small quantity of fatty acid in oil renders it unfit for lubricating purposes is too well known to need repeating, but how to ascertain its presence before irreparable injury has been done is a more difficult problem. Dr. Wiederhold proposes the following simple method of testing for acids, namely, its action upon sub-oxide of copper, or red

oxide. If the red oxide is not at hand, the copper scale or ash of the coppersmith may be employed, as it contains this sub-oxide. Either of these substances is placed in a white glass vessel, and covered with the oil to be treated. If the latter contains a trace of acid, or any resinous acid from rosin oil, with which it may have been adulterated, the oil soon turns green, and that too nearest the copper scales. A gentle heat hastens the reaction, which, in the cold, requires from 15 to 30 minutes. The test is extremely delicate, and cannot result in any doubt or error to those who use it for the first time. The author states that it is superior in accuracy, reliability, and simplicity, to any method previously known, so that an oil which is not turned green by the copper scale can unhesitatingly be pronounced absolutely free from acid. If there be but little acid present the green color

is fainter, by more acid, intenser, and if rosin has been added it is bluish. The chemical reaction is this: The free vegetable and fatty acids separated the sub-oxide into oxide and metallic copper; the former then combines with the acids to form greenish blue salts, that dissolve more or less in the oil and impart their color to it. The oxide of copper does not answer as well as the sub-oxide.

BRASS castings shrink  $\frac{1}{8}$ th inch to the foot, in cooling.

**Peace and Prosperity in Holland.**

The Department of State has received a report on the social and political condition of the Dutch from the Minister of the United States to the Hague. As an illustration of the carefulness and steadiness of the Dutch, the Minister says that there has not been a bank failure in Holland during the last forty years, and that the paper money of the banks during that time has been equal to gold. In regard to fire insurance companies, there is no such thing as a failure on record, and, while the rate of insurance does not average more than half of one per cent, the companies are in the most flourishing condition, realizing twelve to sixteen per cent per annum. First class railroad travel is only one cent per mile, and yet the roads pay good dividends. Pilfering officials are scarcely ever heard of, and when they shock the nation by turning up, they are severely punished and forever disgraced. No free passes are granted, and managers and directors have no power to pass anybody over the roads free. All must pay the public rates. Dishonesty of any kind, or failure in business, means public dishonor, and utterly bars the dishonest from any future public consideration. Four millions of people live within an area of 20,000 square miles, a fact unprecedented in any other country; and all appear to be happy, prosperous, and contented. The secret of this prosperity lies in the fact that all live within their income, and that industry and honesty are principles so firmly established that their violation is looked upon as an outrage on the national characteristics.

**Cape of Good Hope International Exhibition.**

It has been officially announced from the Cape that a second International Exhibition is to be opened in Cape Town in April, 1878. It appears that the success of the first exhibition was sufficient to cause a demand for a repetition on a larger scale, especially as regards machinery, implements, and other matters employed in agriculture. This subject was, therefore, laid before the Assembly, a committee was appointed to examine the petition and statements presented, and in reporting thereon it recommended the Government to subscribe a sum not exceeding a thousand pounds, in aid of the coming exhibition: "It being of opinion that the enterprise and energy which has accomplished so much for the colony should be encouraged and assisted," ending with the recommendation above quoted as "in return for the advantages already derived."

During the last few years there has been a marked increase in the commerce of the Cape, for it appears that the imports of the colony increased in value from less than two millions sterling in 1866, and little more than two and a half millions in 1871, to £5,731,319 in 1875, while the exports had grown in the same time from two and a half to nearly four and a quarter millions; and as there are no manufactures of any importance carried on in the colony, the exports consisting of raw material, horses, cattle, and sheep, copper, ore, tallow and skins, and from Natal, sugar, arrowroot, pineapples, indigo, coffee, etc., there seems no probability of this rapid growth of the trade with our South African colonies being arrested.

The figures referring to reports given above do not include diamonds, which are principally sent in letters or parcels, and of which there are no custom house returns; the