



THE U.S.S. CO'S S.S. "ROKOKINO."  
Disabled, with a broken shaft, and found drifting off Tiritiri light on Saturday last.



MAJOR GENERAL J. D. P. FRENCH.  
Who commanded at the Battle of Elands Laage.



MAJOR GENERAL SIR H. E. COLVILLE.  
Commanding the Guards in South Africa.



MAJOR GENERAL HILDYARD.  
In charge of the Column despatched to the Relief of Ladysmith.



THE UNITED STATES CRUISER "CHARLESTON."  
Recently wrecked at the Philippine Islands.

## DOGS AND LANGUAGE.

The extent to which dogs understand human speech has long been a question among men of science. It is quite common to hear the remark that such and such a dog "understands everything that is said," but no scientific student of animal intelligence, it is safe to say, ever believed such an assertion. Nevertheless, individual observers of high credibility have made statements which, if they are to be accepted, show remarkable powers of comprehension on the part of animals.

Professor Owen was walking on the coast of Cornwall with a friend who had a dog named Lion. The dog's master picked up a piece of seaweed covered with minute animals, and Professor Owen remarked:

"If this small piece contains so many treasures, how rich must the whole plant be! How I should like to have one!"

Lion instantly leaped into the water, and returned with a plant of the seaweed, which he laid at Professor Owen's feet. Though this story is told by a man of science, one is inclined to suppose that it was the sight of the first weed in the professor's hands, rather than the spoken wish, which prompted the dog's expedition into the water.

Sir Walter Scott tells an amusing story of his bull terrier, Camp by name. Camp once bit a baker, for which offence Sir Walter whipped him severely, telling him at the same time of the wickedness of the act. After that, to the last moment of his life, any allusion to the baker would cause the dog to retire to the darkest corner of the room with an appearance of the greatest distress.

But if Sir Walter said, "The baker has been paid," or, "After all, the baker was not hurt," the dog came forward, capered and barked rejoicingly. If, however, it was said that the baker died, or was very ill, Camp sneaked away with every sign of sorrow.

It is highly probable that this intelligent animal was rather guided by his master's tone than by his words, and that the doleful allusions to the baker caused him apprehension of another whipping rather than real sympathy for the man's hurt.

There is a recorded and credible case of a shepherd who, to prove the intelligence of his dog, which was lying by the fire, said, in the midst of a long sentence about something else, and without a change of tone, "I think the cow is in the potatoes." Immediately the dog, which appeared to be asleep, jumped up, leaped through the window, and clambered to the turf roof of the house, from which he could survey the potato field.

Not seeing the cow, he returned and lay down by the fire. The same remark was repeated, and the dog went again to the roof. The third time, however, he went up to his master, wagging his tail, and with a look on his face as if he understood the joke. The company laughed; whereupon the dog, as if offended, returned to his corner and refused to be disturbed again.

A St. Bernard named Leo was once lying on a rug, apparently asleep, when a visitor was in the room. The visitor complimented the appearance of the dog, when his mistress said, "Oh, yes, Leo is a good dog." The dog thumped the floor with his tail, and half opened his eyes. The mistress went on, "Leo takes very good care of the children." The dog thumped the floor violently and looked up lovingly at his mistress.

"But," she said, "Leo isn't always good; he has his faults." The tail stopped thumping, and the dog looked askance at his mistress. "He will track in mud on the floor, and sometimes I have to punish him for it."

Thereupon, the dog rose, with his tail dropped very low, and slunk out of the room. All these remarks had very plainly been within range of his comprehension.

## OBITUARY

On the 11th inst., at Cabbage Bay, Coromandel, Mr Henry Nairn, of Pourerere, Hawke's Bay, passed away. He was the youngest son of the late Mr John Nairn, and settled in Hawke's Bay in 1859, when he joined his brothers in the Pourerere property, which was then a large estate consisting of about 60,000 acres. Some years ago he left Hawke's Bay for the Auckland province, where he remained until his death. He suffered from deafness, and owing to this infirmity was little known outside his own home, though he was liked and respected by all who knew him.

### W. H. BLACKLOCK.

The funeral of the late Mr W. H. Blacklock, General Manager of the Union Steam Shipping Company in Tasmania, took place in Wellington on Friday afternoon, the body of the deceased gentleman having arrived from Hobart in the Monowai in the morning. The interment took place in the Sidney Street Cemetery, the Rev. J. Paterson conducting the funeral service. The large attendance at the funeral testified to the great popularity and respect in which the deceased was held in Wellington, among those present being a large number of the officials and working men in the service of the Union Company, including the local manager, Mr W. A. Kennedy, and Captain Strang, the Assistant Marine Superintendent, and other prominent officials. Mr Blacklock had, for many years prior to his decease, been a popular member of the Middlesex Cricket Club, and a large number of the members of the Club were among the funeral cortege. Messrs J. and A. Blacklock, brothers of the deceased, with Messrs F. W. Flanagan, T. Dickson, and W. Johnston, officiated as chief mourners. Many beautiful wreaths and floral tributes covered the coffin, conspicuous among them being those sent by the staffs of the Melbourne, Sydney, Hobart, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin, and Strahan staffs of the Union Company, the Wardens of the Strahan Marine Board, and the officers and crews of the Union Company's vessels.

During the afternoon the flags on the shipping and above the shipping offices were flown at half-mast high as a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased, whose early death has caused widespread sorrow and sympathy with his relatives in all parts of the colony.

### A SOFT ANSWER, ETC.

"Why did you place such a tough fowl before me?" asked the indignant lady patron of the waiter in a downtown restaurant. "Age before beauty, always, you know, madam," was the gallant reply. And then, woman-like, she smiled and paid her bill without a murmur.

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FLEAS,  
MOTHS,  
BEETLES,  
MOSQUITOES.

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