

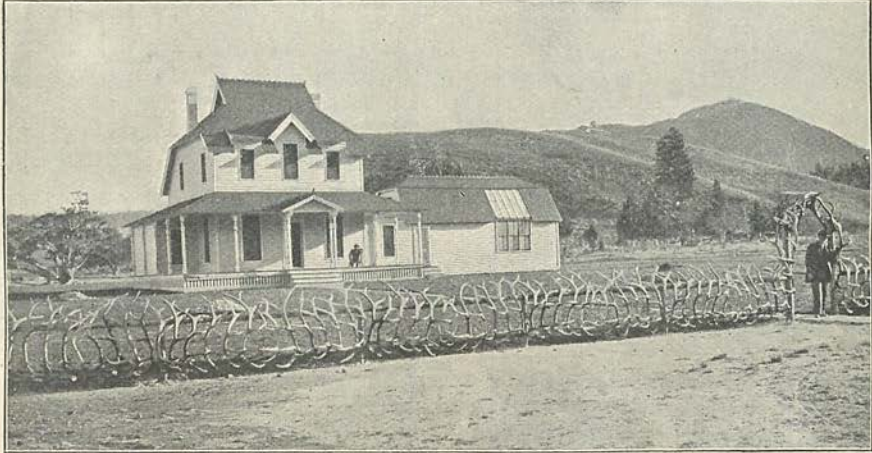
## Curious Fences.

BY THOMAS E. CURTIS.



HE Yellowstone National Park contains many remarkable curiosities, but none more remarkable than the elk-horn fence that surrounds the house and studio of Mr. F. Jay Haynes, the well-known Yellowstone photographer.

an ancient Hawaiian temple. Temples are things that people usually wish to go to, and not be kept away from; but here is one that might certainly be relied on to frighten off all except the stoutest-hearted. Surrounded by lugubrious wooden images of diabolic visage, carved in crudest form and



From a Photo. by]

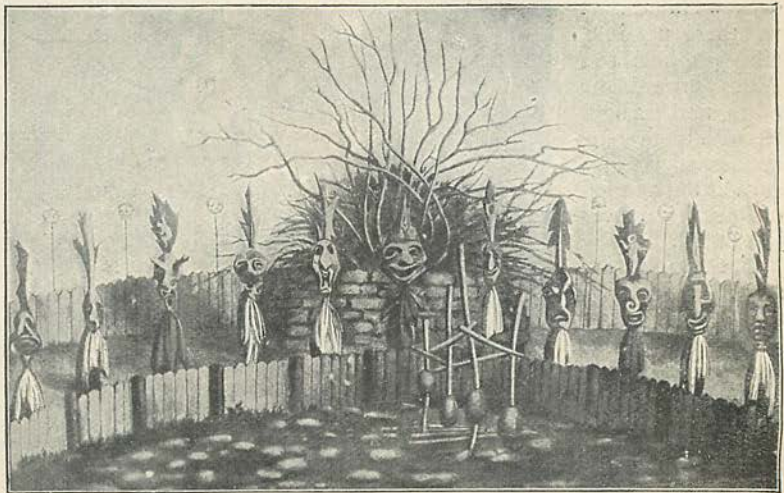
ELK-HORN FENCE IN THE YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK. [F. Jay Haynes, St. Paul, Minn.

At first sight our illustration might seem repellent, and suggest a wholesale slaughter of elk simply in order to make a fence. But this is not the case. The horns were merely gathered in the park and arranged in this effective manner. It is extremely beautiful, but it has caused Mr. Haynes no little anxiety. Everybody thinks that he is naturally in the elk-horn business, whereas he was permitted only to gather the horns to make the fence, and is not allowed to ship out a single horn. Mr. Haynes has had hundreds of letters offering to buy, but has had to give a uniform refusal. Therefore, those who read this article, and wish to have elk-horn fences of their own, will know where not to go to buy.

Another curious fence is shown here. It incloses

ornamented with head-dresses in huge and dreadful variety, the temple stood for centuries not far from Honolulu, and served as a place of pilgrimage for the barbarous tribes of that far-off land. As we shall see later, there are things just as gruesome and interesting still in existence.

It will have been noticed that the fence in the background of our second illustration is



From a].....FENCE AROUND A TEMPLE IN ANCIENT HAWAII

[Photograph.





From a]

FENCE ORNAMENTED WITH SKULLS BY THE AINOS, IN NORTHERN JAPAN.

[Photograph.

ornamented with human skulls. Skulls of men or lower animals are, in fact, no unusual material for fences. The illustration above shows a fence of human skulls in Yezo, made by the Ainos, or hairy people of Northern Japan. The middle part of this fence is decorated by skulls of dogs. It is an interesting ethnologic fact that the Malay tribes are represented in the Japanese people, and that Japanese history contains reference to an invasion, in early times, by "black savages," who may have been the natives of Papua or New Guinea. It was these, possibly, who pushed the Ainos toward the north, and perhaps left with them some barbarous customs, such as the method of building fences just noted.

But skulls are not pleasant things to dwell upon, so let us turn to the cactus fence for a moment. In nearly all tropical and semi-tropical countries the cactus is prolific, and our

illustration showing a natural cactus fence alongside a road in Nyassaland could be duplicated from many parts of the world. In Mexico hedges are made of the organ cactus, and some fences may be seen 10ft. and 15ft. high. In many parts of Africa, houses and forts are surrounded by walls of thick matting, made of the reedy and osiery vegetation. And in Vermont there are, on many farms, fences made of roots.

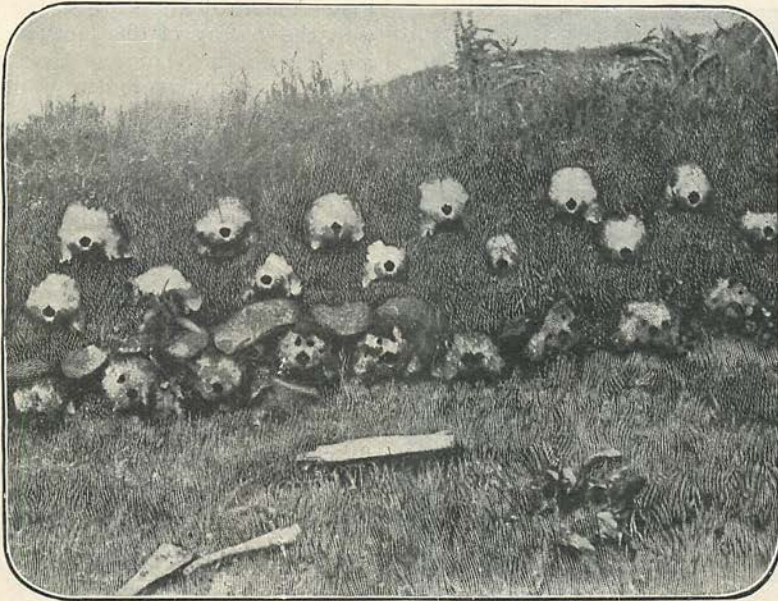


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CACTUS FENCE IN NYASSALAND.

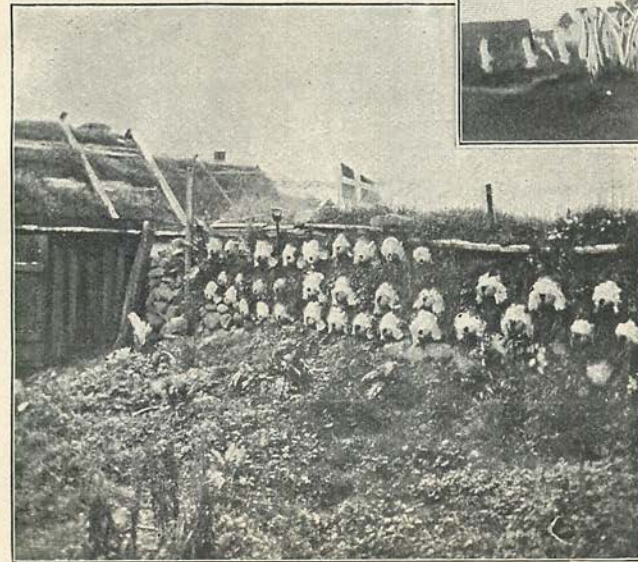
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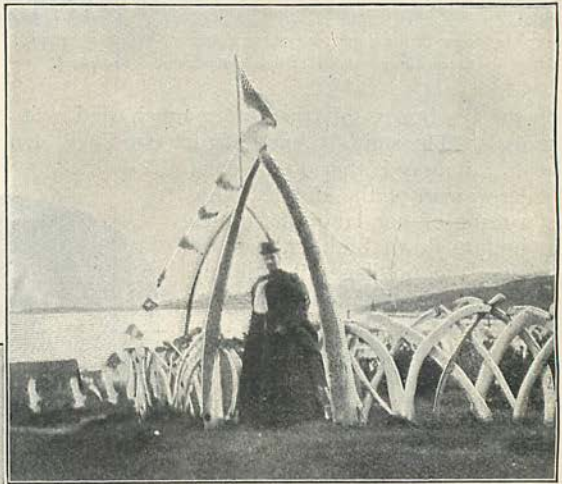
WALL OF WHALES' SKULLS IN THE FAROE ISLANDS.  
From a Photograph.

Now for a second or two back to the skulls again. There is really nothing horrible about the fences shown on this page, for they are made of the skulls and bones of whales in the Faroe Islands. As everyone knows, whales in this region are almost as common as nuts in Brazil, and as nothing of commercial importance can be done with the skulls of the leviathans conquered



WALL MADE OF SKULLS OF BOTTLE-NOSED WHALES IN THE FAROE ISLANDS.  
From a Photo. by Mr. Charles G. Tosswill, Harrow-on-the-Hill.

by these hardy Northerners, it is but natural that the waste product of the whale trade should be turned to some account. Consequently we find that the inhabitants use these skulls in the formation of walls, much as an ordinary farmer uses the rocks and stones that lie about his fields to separate his property from his neighbour's. We give two photographs of such



FENCE OF WHALES' BONES IN THE SKAARO ISLAND.  
From a [Photograph.]

walls. The first of these is made of skulls of the Grindeval whale, the second shows skulls of bottle-nosed whales. This latter wall is at Klatsvig, and is about 30yds. in length. Mr. Charles G. Tosswill, of Garlands, Harrow-on-the-Hill, took the photograph during a trip in the Faroes last year.

As a further illustration of the use to which the whales are put in the North, we reproduce above a photograph of a very curious fence and archway made





AN AVENUE IN NARA, JAPAN, INCLOSED BY STONE LANTERNS.  
From a copyright Stereo Photo. by Underwood & Underwood.

of the jawbones of these very-much-trying animals. The stalwart female figure standing in the archway is that of the chief boiler-woman of the district, who, as a result of her laborious duties in boiling down blubber, has, we believe, the privilege of utilizing parts of the skeletons for herself. This she does in the very curious way shown in our illustration.

We now pass from the Skaaro back to Japan, and in Nara and Nikko we run across two fences or walls that may rightly be considered unique, each in itself. The first of these, in Nara, is a long and beautiful avenue leading to a temple, inclosed by hundreds of carefully wrought and curiously ornamented stone lanterns extending as far as the eye can reach. Each bears on its top a small square compartment with latticed windows, in order that the light may shine through, and when the avenue is illuminated the scene is one of brilliancy. The labour undergone in the construction of

these lantern borders is in line with the history of the Japanese race as workmen of remarkable industry and patient endeavour in small details.

The second wall, to be seen in Nikko, has been called "The Region of Countless Images," and well deserves the imaginative name. As we look along this wall, extending far away into the distance, our thoughts are turned upon the immutability of time and its ravages. Resting in patience in this lonely region, the stone figures, with their clear-cut and almost life-like features, have tried for centuries to resist and outlive the spirit of decay, but the moss and the rain, the wind and storm, have encroached upon and battered them. What lessons a man could learn standing before these silent figures as the man in our illustration is standing! Shakespeare has spoken of

far-off Japan we find a sermon in a lonely fence of sculptured rocks.



WALL IN NIKKO, JAPAN, MADE OF COUNTLESS STONE IMAGES.  
From a copyright Stereo Photo. by Underwood & Underwood.