OUTWITTING THE SMUGGLERS.

How Uncle Sam's Customs Officers Capture Concealed Cigars.

"The ways of smugglers are peculiar, but the ways of custom house men are more than one to them," remarked the purser of a Havana line steamship.

"You know," he added reflectively, "a man who visits the West Indies and supercargoes a fine cigar seldom comes back to this country without making an attempt to do some quiet smuggling. Of course the contraband articles are cigars. It may not be because he is mean, but the duty is stiff, and I can easily imagine with what pleasure a box of cigars can be passed around among a few friends with the recommendation, 'Boys, Uncle Sam never received any duty on them, and I can vouch for them.' I have been there myself.

"The shrewd deputy of Uncle Sam understands all this, and in addition, the chances are he appreciates a good cigar as much as we do. Of course he makes a thorough search for dutiable goods on the arrival of all our ships, but there are, he thinks, many little ways by which he can be avoided, and travelers are not long in finding them out.

"This does not worry our friend, the customs man, for his arrangements, although most simple, do not fall far short of perfection. He knows of the whereabouts of every large lot of cigars which leave Havana, and when we arrive here he, in all probability, a complete list of the number we have on board and the name of their owners.

"You don't believe it. Well, nevertheless it is a fact. When smuggling was more of a business some years ago than it is now, a clever customs man devulged a scheme by which the quantity of cigars smuggled in this port was reduced to a minimum.

"An agent of the department was placed at Havana. He straightway made friends with the cigar dealers and manufacturers. This cost money, but the game was worth the candle. Whenever cigars were sold to an American or an Englishman, in nine cases out of ten the dealer delivered them, and politely insisted on doing so.

"At the request of the buyer they would invariably be sent on board his steamship or to the hotel at which he was boarding. In this way the buyer's name and address were ascertained.

"The crafty Custom Sam would then make a memorandum of this information, follow left-handed and send it to Uncle Sam's agent. Once in his possession, that man kept well posted in regard to the buyer's movements, and on the day he sailed for New York the smuggler's name, description and the number of cigars which he had were cabled to the authorities here.

"No fear of detection bothered the would-be smuggler, and on arrival he would give the customs man the coldest kind of a bluff until a few facts and figures were presented to him.

"Do they give up the cigars? Oh, yes, but with naughty bad grace, and if all the customs men could be paralyzed for the wishing, I assure you Uncle Sam would not have an alabaster man in the business. It is hard luck to have some other man make the weed which your money has paid for, but it happens more often than you imagine. The goods are always confiscated, and the amateur smuggler's luck in getting out of a bad hole, for smuggling is an offense not to be trifled with.

"Oh, yes, there are dozens of ways by which cigars could be smuggled in this port without detection, but the practice could not be carried on long, so the business has not grown. Sorry I can give you some inside information, but it would be bad policy."

Then the smart looking purser reflectively pulled a cigar which had never paid duty.—New York Sun.

Chemistry on the Farm.

Many farmers laugh at the notion of applying the principles of chemistry on the farm, calling such an application of science "fooling" and humbug. Yet farmers are their sons grow up and drift away because, having been educated in the public schools, the spirit of a scientific and progressive age has possessed them, and they seek the where-with-all upon an old fashioned farm scope for the education which they have already gained and for the wider education which they crave.

Now there is no field which offers more ample scope for an educated and scientific mind than a good farm. The old-fashioned farmer says, "What do I want to know about chemistry? It's enough if I manure the ground and plant my seed; nature will take care of the rest."

But the application of manure is "chemistry," and if the farmer or his boy understands the groundwork of that science he knows what kind of manure is good for a certain field and what kind is good for another field, and his knowledge may make for him or save for him many dollars in a single year.

A knowledge of chemistry will enable him to save the valuable properties of his manures for the soil, instead of letting precisely those properties to evaporate and waste, as they are in the case of most natural manures as now treated on the farms of this country.

But the most important function of science on the farm, after all, at the present time, is not the immediate material advantage which it may bring to the farmer, but the means which it will supply of interesting the young, of engaging their active and eager intelligence, and keeping them from places where they will be very much worse off.—Youth's Companion.

The Original Brown Ostriches.

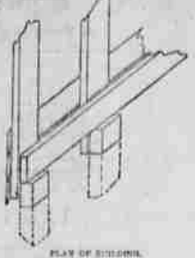
The longevity of the ostrich is a quality that commends it to capitalists. Arthur Douglass, a poor sheep farmer near Oudtshoorn, Cape Town, South Africa, was the pioneer ostrich farmer. He started in 1865 with eleven wild bird chicks and finding that they could be raised in captivity, he started to supply the market with domestic feathers. He has raised and sold thousands of birds and stocked many of the surrounding ranches, has exported thousands of dollars' worth of feathers, and still has the eleven original wild birds breeding and yielding good marketable feathers.—Interview in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

If meat is properly treated in the oven there is very little difference in its flavor and the flavor of meat roasted before the fire in the old way. But it is allowed to cook slowly in a half heated oven and thereby allowed to dry out less its juices, it represents one of the worst features of bad cooking.

A HOMEMADE BUILDING.

A Helpful Plan Which Commends Itself to Cheap and Serviceable.

Although authors frame building laws long been accepted as absolutely strong and durable, the farmer has rarely acted on the suggestions their construction offers for building with his own hands small sheds, etc., quickly and at slight cost. A very little ingenuity addition to a lay boy just before laying is desired, but



PLAN OF BUILDING.

deferred because the only carpenter in the place is not at liberty. An excuse for animals would often be built if the owner could do it without expense for extra help. But just how to go to work to the question. The thought of getting out a frame to a beginner is most sure carpenters.

Now the plan of building which commends itself to the engraving requires no framing. With which posts by feet long, and in the woods and hewed on one side of the upper 19 inches, and 3-inch plank, the other can erect a shed, house or extension as quickly and substantially as any carpenter with the old method frame or modern mission one. The posts must be set 4 feet apart and 2 feet in the earth. If the site chosen is not well drained, the holes should be dug below frost level and filled to within two feet of the surface with rock or bottles on which to stand the posts. The uprights for all sides (for maximum power of weight are required) are spiked to the flatted outer sides of these above pieces set in the earth. Inside of the uprights, resting on the heads of the posts, another plank is spiked, both down and to the standards. The joists and plates are also spiked inside the uprights in the same manner as the sill pieces.

Covered with novelty siding, such a building is as neat and well based as can any desire. If vertical siding is to be used, the uprights are dressed upon the posts, where they are held in place by spikes, and the sill pieces get on outside. The joists and plates, in this case, have to be placed outside the uprights, for, with the sill pieces, they receive the vertical siding. If flooring is used, it may be laid on timbers placed on the top of the joists and sills will connect favorably with that of any West of the Missouri River.

Keep the Head Clean.

Keeping the head perfectly clean is a great aid to health. A distinguished physician, who has spent much of his time at quarantine, said that a person whose head was thoroughly washed every day rarely ever took contagious disease, but when the hair was allowed to become dirty and matted it was hardly possible to escape infection.

Many persons find speedy relief for nervous headache by washing the head thoroughly in warm soda water. We have known cases almost wholly cured in ten minutes by this simple remedy.

A frozen limb is the greatest relief in case of "pins and all," the cold numbness entirely leaving the eye after one thorough washing of the hair. The head should be thoroughly dried after each and made of air should be avoided for a little while.—Salem Gazette.

The Name Jane.

Jane, as name in the royal families of Europe, has always been a name of ill omen.

Lady Jane Gray was beheaded for treason; Jane Seymour was one of the victims of King Hal; Jane Beaufort, wife of James I of Scotland, was savagely murdered; Jeanne de Valois, wife of Louis XII, was repudiated for her ways of personal beauty; Jeanne d'Albret, mother of Henry IV, was poisoned by Catherine de Medici; Jane of Castile lost her reason through the neglect of her husband, Philip the Handsome, archduke of Austria; Jane I of Naples caused her husband to be murdered and married his assassin, and Jane II of Naples was one of the most wanton of women.—Notes and Queries.

"August Flower"

Mrs. Sarah M. Black of Seneca, Mo., during the past two years has been affected with Neuralgia of the Head, Stomach and Womb, and writes: "My food did not seem to strengthen me at all and my appetite was very variable. My face was yellow, my head dull, and I had such pains in my left side. In the morning when I got up I would have a flow of mucus in the mouth, and a bad, bitter taste. Sometimes my breath became short, and I had such queer, tumbling, palpitating sensations around the heart. I ached all over, from the shoulder blades, in the left side, and down the back of my limbs. It seemed to be worse in the wet, cold weather of Winter and Spring; and whenever the spells came on, my feet and hands would turn cold, and I could get no sleep at all. I tried everywhere, and got no relief before using August Flower. Then the change came. It has done me a wonderful deal of good during the time I have taken it and is working a complete cure."

G. G. GREEN, Sole Man'f'r, Woodbury, N.J.

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