WAKEMAN'S WANDERINGS

BRITISH POACHERS AND THEIR INGENIOUS WILES.

The Artifice and Audacity of British Game Marauders—Their Character, Methods and Wonderful Illustrated—Interesting Personal Experiences.

(Copyright, 1891, by Edgar L. Wakeman.)

CASTLEA, England, June 8.—My first introduction to a British poacher was in the ancient city of Galway on a summer's evening. I was strolling out of Kile Mullagan's quaint little inn before supper, and after a few inquiries as the way among the fishermen of Claddagh and already for a small out Quaintness way. As I was crossing Queen's bridge my attention was attracted by hundreds upon hundreds of salmon in the shallow waters of the Corrib river. They lay, lazily lounged in groups of twenty and more, in little pools of the greatest depth, their noses pointing up stream, but on the slowly apparently as motionless as the rocky bed of the river beneath them. It was early for Galway, save at the Claddagh side, as the village old town is hardly astir before 4 o'clock. I had not been there with every square minute when a man in rubber, high boots, jockey cap and vest, and bearing a huge stick in his hand, approached the bridge on the city side. He gave me a sharp look of scrutiny, touched his hat quite politely and walked sturdily away. He was one of the royal fishery board water bailiffs, and was in quest of salmon poachers.

He was hardly out of sight before a barefoot man followed upon the bridge. He in turn was accosted by a man in rubber. A moment later the man's arm and along the water high alone coping of the bridge. Then there was a gentle splash in the water below. The man now leaned over the coping the quest of his well. Directly I saw his arm jerked back, as if by a sudden pull, and the bridge shivered over coping. Then he seized in sport very great strength, while there was some little commotion in the stream beneath. When near the end of the bridge he turned, put his arms down upon the coping in an attitude of contemplation, and waited thus for a few minutes. Finally he passed off the bridge and said turned toward the bay. Without seeming to watch him, I saw one him propeller near an old falling mill several rods below.

With him there was now a young head-ed lad, who was hastily unrolling the bottoms of his trousers with one hand, while carrying his jacket in a singularly heavy and clumsy way with the other. The barefooted man had within three minutes' time captured two large salmon with a murderous "drop hook" armed with six hooks, and the lad with the poacher's jacket, who had rejoined him, was waiting beneath the bridge end to care for fish. Within a few minutes more the two salmon were dressed and in the "herring skiffs" of the fishermen, being hawked about the city, and the Catch poacher had secured eight shillings for his dull morning's work.

My own experience was while a guest during a pheasant shoot on the estate of a young nobleman in one of the English midland counties. Some time during the day's murderous onslaught upon the birds I had lost a dinkumtive, but to me valuable notebook. It so worried me that I arose the next morning, dressed and stole down into and out of the castle yard through the huge open gate facing the side next the deer park, before a soul was astir about the entire place. I felt sure of my ability to discover the locality of the previous day's footing by following to the right the direction we had taken. Reaching the exact point at low open copse where the pheasants had been driven by the "beating" of the attendants, a number of whom, acted for their wonderful, and who were posted at the near village, had been pressed into service. The wall surrounding the demesne was of rough stone and rubble, mended at the top, its crest being rendered seemingly impossible by numerous pieces of broken glass imbedded in the mortar. It was barely daylight, and a little before my ordinary objects still more indistinct. I therefore simply followed the wall closely, now and then touching it with a stout walking stick I had taken with me from my chamber, but oftener touching it gently at intervals with my hand.

I was just long in passing the line of beaters formed and reaching the open field where I felt sure the previous day's slaughter of pheasants had occurred, and just as my hand left the wall, following my impulse of a search over the shooting ground, my fingers came in contact with the bushy hair of a man's head. I am not exactly an athlete, but that hair and the man under it came up alongside of that pheasant nearly as nearly my own height, as the Germans say, "ein ungeheuer," and I instantly saw a big, red headed, a fine specimen of the English peasant. The fact made the more interesting as I recognized in the persons round one of the "beaters" seen the morning before during the previous day's sport. He was a young, dirty, chunky fellow of twenty or thereabouts, and he knew how to beg as well as poach.

It occurred to me I could utilize this particular "misplaced matter" both on the lines of acquiring information and in the recovery of my notebook. A great respect had so sooner been agreed upon than two of the poacher's companions, agreeable to his signal, appeared. One was a woman of about forty years of age, and the other was a lad of perhaps fifteen years. The latter at once produced what I had made my quest for, and got a half crown for his trouble. Then in a few minutes' more explanation I secured a good idea of what had been going on in that quarter during the night.

All these had been employed by the gamekeepers the previous day as "beaters" and "footpers," the latter to watch for the falling birds and carry them back to the lodge. A large number were then secured away in secure covers for the following night's work. The poachers will know that after the evening's tips, beer, pipes and beautiful shows in the servants' hall and harness room, every gamekeeper would sleep soundly that night as one another in the place. They were therefore sent the dinner hall and at work long before midnight. Their outfit was simple and inexpensive. A strong rope about twelve feet long with triple noose in the middle, which well tested for securing a fastening in the jugged wall coping, and another at each end, answering for a ladder. A hand cart, the wheels wrapped with straw and rags to prevent noise and insure the trail, with a fourth men beside it to a sentinel, who brought along for carrying away the plunder.

The three who entered the grounds had long, lithe poles, each a "bull-vaper" lantern, and between them siphons or some such stuff and machine for making smudges. They spent every inch of ground "beaten" the day before, and also that the smoke and fright had taken up the rocks or coops into detached flies of pheasants and that these would retreat as high as possible among the branches of lawn and fir. The fog, too, was in their favor. All night long they had methodically hunted out certain trees, discovered the pheasants within them, coupled them into half in-sensibility and deliberately knocked them from their perches, depositing them the moment they fell by cracking their beauty thumbs in the heads of the befuddled birds. The work of gathering from which had been seized from the "beat" the previous day was left until the break of day, and was just about completed as I had come upon the scene. Frames were over the well from the scrolling out to the few minutes of my investigation. The poacher, the lad, and the little old man followed.

As the party fellow I had caught followed them, and he was still astride the wall, where he had pounced the glass away and dashed a crossing of hard clay, I asked him how many that had probably taken. "Six down to Galway town," was the answer and honesty whispered rejoiner, "Takes three to slip outs forty twice" Then pulling his footback and winking wisely he disappeared. The second rope did gently after him, and I heard the only sound of the cross wrought wheels grow faintest, and finally silent, as I sat out as my return to the castle the way I came.

Two people in America, or for that matter here, have an adequate idea of the immensness were carefully expended in the preservation and taking of game in Ireland, Ireland and Scotland, for a better pheasants I had seen in years the figures for Scotland alone. Hunting and fishing with attendant expenses, annually and British sportsmen in Scotland £30,000, and Where about the most habit comes quantity to for the three kingdoms? Here, Gun, is at once found the real origin of poachers and poaching. Every Briton is a born sportsman, and from with every square rod of ground under foot sees "shooting," and every footfall of shot, of lark, thrush, wren, duck or hunter under bane to some beast as a "sitting," before him. Game is by the serious game laws in the world from any one whatever of the rod and gun, save the lord of the land illegally.

Low as is the status of the professional poacher, it must not be supposed that he is a prohibited outlaw. British newspapers always assume him from his humorous side. His vocation is unquestionably among villages and countryside folk, and there are some so absolutely as to give him a kind of a "good" character. I personally know of many instances where peasant gentlemen have shown gamekeepers. Other gamekeepers often seek their friendship rather than their enmity, and have big savings to the lower limit. And there are well a thousand cases where school himself has helped out with them for hours in stealing and sold them for beer. In the vicinity of Fort William, Scotland, One is wound Macrae, and the other, a weathered Irish peasant, is known great the region of Loch Eil as "Donny Mac Rae." Macrae is a gamekeeper.

In the Lord Abingon, of Derbyshire House, obtained an inventor against him. He immediately secured his counsel for £5, a gain only of the payment of two days' shooting in Lord Abington's preserves, since which time his operations have not been interfered with. He greatest rose numerous, but, as I understand, might "avenge" by scores of the pride of the river Lochy, thousands of grilse or young salmon, and some one trout always being secured. Lord Abington's preserves are in the region of the sportsmen of Loch Eil as "Donny Mac Rae." Macrae's name is synonymous.

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Poaching is carried on among the vast deer forests and in streams and pools "sweeping" by net in a most lawless and defiant manner. It is simply impossible to provide sufficient gamekeepers and gillies to protect the forests from the hordes of poachers "stalkers," and the poachers of fish are so thoroughly organized, and in sudden conflicts with water bailiffs handle the latter so roughly, that the bailiffs usually seek seclusion rather than the marauders.

Genuine cunning, patience, with marvelous nerve and woodcraft, are therefore more often found in those poachers who hang about the outskirts of well stocked "shooting" and preserves, with an open row hawks or more bannards for points of ever description which have marked value. Pleasant and genuine poaching being the most profitable and delightful, aside from the slight risks described above, the ingenious device is resorted to of fitting a gaper cock with artificial spurs, and stealthily creeping along alongside the pheasant covert. The pugnacious pheasant cocks instantly respond to the gaper cock's crowing challenge, and often three or four score of pheasants are shot in a night.

Again is the highway near where pheasants are bred they may often be seen scratching and calling in the dust of the road. The poacher therefore himself will over kerseyfoots which short lengths have been inserted. These are greatly devoured, and the birds, when found to death in the hedges, are quickly and quietly dispatched. Game are taken by being shot from behind stone walls, an entire brood often being picked off at a time. If the poacher keeps himself out of sight with the hair covers are on the more hillsides, in the "runs" around them, and between the "stacks" among the rocks and just below daybreak, by silk dragnets with shod bottoms, on moors which are systematically beaten, an entire covey often being bagged at one cast.

Yet the most delectable of all British poachers is that whomsoever that who once has gone twenty to eighty miles, from some moorland forest or pocket, a tiny "all shooting." He will see that it has a moorland stream, and patches of wood, heather, and that it abounds in game. This is all that is required to compose a favorite resort for more game. It will also furnish a few hours and perhaps some dark game sometimes in sackes. To this spot, every other every or more birds will come for heather and water. They come in well defined flights, and eights in the very same place every morning. The poacher simply notes all these flights, corners, "signs" of flight and alighting grounds, and sets his fixets before day. They are heavy nets, fly straight and swift, and on striking the net become hopelessly entangled or drop stunned into the bag beneath. A poacher setting a "billion shooting" at dusk, will take other, without disclosing a gun, take more game than can be shown as bagged at the lodge, and a shooting gamesters on the lawn and lost conducted game preserves of Britain.

EDGAR L. WAKEMAN.

The nearest that an English paper dares to come toward criticising the gambling hell to the British throne is contained in the following words from the London Times. "We almost wish the Prince of Wales had signed an agreement that he would never touch a card again." Suppose we had been shown that the nest of President Harrison had actually carried with him a gambling outfit and used it, too, on his travels and visits, what a storm it would have raised. America would not have been large enough to hold that president's gen. and the president himself would have had to resign on account of the scandal. Yet the whole English press is so restrained by what is called loyalty that it does not dare speak out in plain words about the baccarat scandal. Next time a British Sonnet Oak England is so free as America resented him of the Gordon-Cumming lawsuit.

A PORTABLE SAWING MACHINE.

A Handmade Affair Illustrated and Described.

The homemade sawing machine shown in the accompanying illustration was originally described in Farm and Fireside, and provides an excellent portable sawing machine.

Four posts, 4 inches square by 5 feet long, are braced together by four boards as shown, to one of the posts is fastened a piece of 2x4, 6 feet long, to which the

PORTABLE SAWING MACHINE.

saw is hung. A lever is attached by one end to this upright piece, the lever having a block near one end. To help hold the wood against the pin, which is seen projecting from the board which is fastened across the top of the frame. The saw or frame should be strongly made, and may have runners like a sled so it may be more easily moved. The saw is a common crosscut saw with one less teeth set off, and fastened as shown in the cut.

Celery Culture.

Celery in most sections is a second crop after early peas, beets, onions, cabbage, etc. Under the new system of level culture the seeds sown in the open ground some time in April, and as the seeds are small and the growth of the young plants slow the seed bed should be rich, mellow and well prepared. For a family garden it will be better to buy the few plants required than to raise them. This can now be done in almost any section. Transplanting generally begins in July and extends into August, according to localities and the stalkiness or lateness of the crop desired. For field culture the plants are set six inches apart, in rows from four to five feet apart, according as the variety may be large or dwarf. A small portion of the tops is placed upright off before setting. The cultivation consists in keeping down the weeds and banking up the plants as they increase in height.

For a family garden the plants may be set in beds and that has been highly manured, in rows four feet apart and from four to five inches apart in the rows. The first growth will be slow, but as the cool season approaches and the rows develop the plants will grow rapidly and the earth should be drawn up to them and banked around them from time to time until when taken out on account of cold weather only a portion of the top will be visible. The half dwarf varieties are the ones advised for a garden. Successful growers attribute their success to keeping the edible portion of the plants cool and dry, with the roots in moist sand or soil and in a growing rather than a drying up condition.—New York World.

Points in Corn Culture.

We find the following in a bulletin from the South Dakota station: Thorough preparation of the soil before planting and early cultivation before and immediately after the corn is up are the correct and most economic methods of clearing the field of weeds. Frequent shallow cultivation throughout the first half of the season gives the most favorable conditions for full growth and maturity, and fosters the moisture in the soil for the use of the plant. The varieties of corn that have proved best in the station tests are as follows: Flint—Landreth's Extra Early, King Philip, Early Canada, Yellow Dent, Nose, Clubrick, Blue Blade, Self Husking, Pride of Dakota, Bonfield, Longfield's, Hughes's, Gold Coin, Davis' White and Dakota King. All the above varieties planted at different intervals in May, have matured with us by the 15th day of September.

Quack Grass and Canada Thistle.

These persistent perennials, quack grass and Canada thistle, can usually, on land not too rocky or not set with trees, be got rid of in a single season, says American Cultivator. Continual plowing, so that no green thing appears above the surface, makes an end of them, and all the more quickly if the soil be rich and the growth vigorous. To partly kill a patch of either quack or thistle cannot be such advantage, for whenever the ground is cultivated again they soon become worse than ever. Many a farmer thinks he has entirely cleared his land of these pests, only to find after a year or two that his work has all to be done over again.

A Good Cheese Catch.

Hoard's Dairyman tells of a method employed by a Wisconsin farmer on very sandy land during several years of drouth and whereby he has never failed of a good catch of cheese. He first soaks his seed for two days, then takes it to the barn floor, and for every bushel of seed he mixes with it a bushel of land plaster by shoveling the two together until each seed is coated with a shell of plaster. The plaster seems to retain the moisture in the seed until it gets a firm rooting, and his marked success gives evidence of merit in the plan.

An Aid to the Compostor.

An infusion of mandrake or Seneca root fresh imparts the application and clean the land of earthlock odor. The rule for making infusion is ten times as much boiling water as of the herb poured on the latter in a tight closed pot, let two or three minutes, then allowed to stand where it will keep hot for two hours. Four to eight tablespoonfuls is a dose, which may be taken three or six times a day.

White willow is an old remedy in fevers, long used in Europe and still largely prescribed by the leaders or doctors of India and Afghanistan. The juice of the fresh willow leaves largely diluted is preferred to quinine for intermittent fevers, as it has less irritating effect. The sap of the willow gathered by slitting the bark down the tree is in fever is an old remedy and good to cure volcanos of ever and glow chest.

When molasses is used in cooking it is a great improvement to boil and calm it before using. The raw, rather unpleasant taste of the poor qualities of molasses is much improved by this process.

MRS. ANNETTE E. BURT, the popular novelist, has been the mother of fifteen children. It is only of late years that she has discovered her ability to write stories.

WORLD'S FAIR DAIRY.

Suggestions by Chairman Chesnutt of the Dairy Committee.

If 10,000 square feet could be obtained the space might be divided up into tables, one to be reserved for the working of dairy proper, while the other space might be used for exhibiting dairy machinery in motion, grouped and operated in such a manner as to show complete four or five modern creameries and cheese factories.

The cream gathering system, the milk gathering method, would be most completely shown under some plan of this kind. All the products made should be sold to the consumers or to the city produce men, outside the exposition.

The necessity of eating cheese within the exposition would render it desirable to confine operations to the manufacture to a few hundred pounds of milk daily, as in a curing room any large quantity of cheese would occupy much valuable space. Cheese so made should be passed on by a board of experts and be branded by a score or other mark indicating its market relations. All the factories should be operated on a time table, and be under the superintendence of the dairy authority of the commission.

The building would require to be so arranged as to be so adapt of operating it successfully on a single farm, dairy of twenty cows, a separator factory, a cream gathering factory and a cheese factory, having the different lines associated in harmony, and with all approved labor saving appliances. The all milk should be elevated to a point high enough to admit of delivery by gravitation all the way down till the delivery of the buttermilk and whey. The products and the offsmilk should be delivered by gravitation, as in a manufacturing chemist's laboratory, or as is done in case of brewers and distillers. The building should be completely piped for water, steam and drainage according to the most approved methods.

The working hours for machinery should not be less nor more than eight hours, nor should it be operated after sunset. Open the machinery shops every lectures should be given by men qualified to teach. To secure a competent board of trustees I would invite each state to co-operate and contribute speakers. In connection with the dairy department a laboratory should be provided, and a small machine shop, where a few simple tools might be kept for repairing machines and for alterations in piping and shafting when necessary.

Provision to seat from 200 to 300 persons should be made, in order to a smaller charge of twenty-five cents, for which a coupon should be given, admitting the holder to an all day seat. This plan would provide for the learners who desire to improve their knowledge of the art.

A Gentleman in His Own.

When I see a man go among his cows and they every one edge away from him, I know there is "music" in his shoes at milking time. But when I see a man going through his herd in the pasture and he has to walk around his cows in order to tender pieces of bread, I know that peace and quietness reign when the cows come home. And, after all, the Jersey cow is peculiarly sensitive to ill treatment, more so than a cow of any other breed. I believe, and Jerseymen, as a rule, treat their cows pretty well, it is odious that you see a wild Jersey cow. And the Jersey bulls wouldn't have the reputation they bear if they were handled as gently as the cows are, but it is a dangerous business petting a bull unless he is safely confined.

What a difference a change of milkers makes! Every alternate Sunday my regular milker is away and another man does the milking, one who used to be the regular milker, for the change causes the loss of one pound of milk per day at most semi-weekly churning.—A. L. Crosby.

A Great Cud Consumer.

The Jersey cow, Paula Stokes Pogis, is a bonny lass, but ponderously slow pace and two stomachs to fill every day. Her average weight of milk during the test was about 30½ pounds a day. Her feed during the time consisted each day of eighteen pounds corn silage, two feeds of cut clover hay and twenty-five pounds of grain divided as follows: One part corn meal, one part fine feed, one part pea meal, one part ground oats, one part oil meal and two parts wheat bran. She had besides also one feed of roots a day. The cow then fitted and turned back to her the transition quantity of feed weighed only 150 pounds.

Notes.

Running a creamery and stock raising go well together.

The Holstein cow Lady of Lyons, owned by the Shoemaker, C. W. Hoy, of Ohio, gave 187 pounds of milk in the three days. This was the prize record at the Ohio state fair. Lady was fed on oats, corn meal, bran and oil meal, besides a little green feed and soil.

A common scrub cow on ordinary feed should bring in not less than 150 pounds of butter a year and a fine calf. The cow that will not do at least that much is not worth keeping.

Pennsylvania dairymen are calling for the enforcement of the oleomargarine laws.

E. Bolles says that one of the surest signs of a good dairy cow is the natural shedding of the hair early in the season.

The largest cheese ever made in the United States weighed 3,222 pounds, and was manufactured in the state of New York in 1865. It was 16 feet 9 inches in circumference and 3 feet 3 inches in height.

Blessings Upon the Marines state.

Dorothy Madden has been studying the ways of mankind, motives and methods, and informs the girls that "to be in the Navy might as well accept the situation and no longer darken war against the naval fleet. She is a sound thinking which necessitates a go-to-sea-by-proxy. She always knows just what to try and just what to do, is never on the qui vive for a proposal, supplies her own little amusements and her brother friends as well, and does it at her husband's expense, which is certainly for the husband an altogether jolly arrangement. Dorothy girls, on the tipsy of opportunity for a five dollar bunch of roses and a box herbed thrown in, are quite enough to make off soon the most sentimental mortals.

"The modern maiden wants too much. The married belle asks for nothing than her married knight knew his delightful society. Wise maiden, then, that the bachelor of today has his own particular therefore respecting life, regardless of the blind behaviors of the whole Helen of mankind.

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