NO BIG ANIMALS.

WHAT VAST AREAS OF LAND IN TORRID COUNTRIES LACK.

Few Districts in Which There Are Be-wild Animals of Considerable Size. Islands of the West Indian Archipelago Called a "Harmless Country."

A Boston naturalist, Professor Morse, who passed several years in the island of Fujan, describes the highland district of the great island as a region so romantic for its scenery and productiveness as for its salubrious climate—a perpetual May in the narrow lands, with March and April pleasures here and there in the highest mountains. The area of the whole island exceeds that of Texas, but its population hardly aggregates a million, nine-tenths of the aborigines being lowland settlers, blanketers gorged with the yam roots and wild hog snaks of the coast plain. The uplands, too, abound with game and fish, and the only economic problem why the natives should limit their hunting grounds to the sweltering coast jungles is their preference for a climate that enables them to dispense with dry goods for year round.

Mile Torres range there are summits towering to the height of 11,000 feet, but to close proximity of the equator has caused the Highlands with a tropical vegetation. Snow is hardly ever seen, but the chilly nights of frost prevent the yam and taro, and the Hindu brought cast clothes round the mountains as the Indian Manoa of the Western Isles avoid the Norse fritz. Pigeons in a number of birds, but the kingdom of mammals is represented only by a few amenable ground kangaroos, two tapiroes and opossums, besides the wild hogs of the river jungles.

A much stronger country in regard to the absence of wild animals is found in the near neighborhood of our own continent. The West Indian archipelago, with its four magnificent islands and countless islets, has been justly termed the "paradise of insects," a region of more than a hundred thousand square miles, embedded amidst entirely by birds and insects (even reptiles being scarce), as if the antediluvian land had somehow overlooked on the list for days of creation, and left to be settled by such creatures as could reach its coasts swimming or flying. Turtles are found teeming with spontaneous fruit, but no monkeys, no wild hogs, no bears or raccoons. The larger carnivora are represented by a single species.

Nothing of the terrestrial kind lurks and feed on the coasts of the neighboring mainland, no panthers, lynx or wildcats. Foxes, wolves and jackals, too, are conspicuous by their absence. The island of the Innocent Sierra would seem to be absolutely secured from harmful wildcats, but they are tormented only by bats. On the five highland pastures there are no tigers, wolves, or antelopes, and, strange to say, not even rabbits. Sheep, goats, horses, donkeys, cows, hogs and even dogs were introduced after the Spanish conquest, and the only domestic animal kept by the natives at the time of discovery was a small kind of wolf (Indian wolf) imported from Mexico, and a few species of squirrels, which the Chinese followed for culinary purposes without knowing anything about a closer precedent—the glaring gas lantern of the ancient Romans, who preferred dormouse on toast to the last stylish pheasant pie.

Dogs and cats were unknown, and the lack of household pets seems to have driven the aborigines to strange expedients, for in "Oviedo's Voyages" there is an account of a free Dominican friar who had kept a tame manatee. Dogs were also kept as pets and was so well tamed that when called by its name, Manaete, it would come out of the water and go directly to its keeper's house, where, being fed, it remained in the yard, accompanied by men and boys, who seemed to derive the manatee by their singing, and it often carried two children at a time on its back. Being once, however, struck by a pike in the hands of a Spaniard it would never after come out of the water if a dolphin was were near.

Raccoons have become rather scarce on the coast of San Domingo, but are often seen near the Island of Pines, northwest of Cuba, where shoals of the sweet raccoons make their home sporting along the reef like the sea lions below the Cliff House. Of all aquatic mammals the manatee, however, can claim the championship in the art of dodging a serious attack; a leveled harpoon is sought to make a mere plaque, answer with a "no you don't" smile and then pop up again at unexpected times and places, waving their flippers in derision, and only to disappear for good at the first suspicious motion.

The lowery of the Dominican cacique was therefore not apt to be shared by many of his subjects. Puppies and kittens were never seen in their cabins, and the largest land animal of the island was an overgrown rat, known as the hutia, and measuring about eighteen inches without the tail. Its central appendage is average size between that of the tree rat and the California gopher, whom it resembles in its fondness for grain and in its burrowing habits, one burrowing often as many as four different holes, from to less occupied by subterranean friends.

With the exception of that shy rodent, Cuba, San Domingo, Jamaica and Cuba Rica have no land creatures deserving the name of a game animal, or even the omnivorous appetite of the Bayonne doubtless drove the lion at the coast Bernard much rule of the coast forests.—San Francisco Cornelia.

The Most Costly Book.

The most costly book in the world is declared to be a Hebrew Bible now in the Vatican. It is said that in 1312 Pope John XII refused to sell the Bible for its weight in gold, which would amount to $14,000. That is the greatest price ever offered for a book.—New York Sun.

One of the mysteries of humanity is the fondness with which a man buys a Waterbury chronometer for his wife and the fondness with which he sends it.

An experienced cook says: "Use a silver dime in your cooking vinegar. The silver will not be blackened if any injurious matter is present."

Seven soldiers of Revolutionary soldiers are on the rolls of the Knoxville (Ohio) Pension office.

A COMPACT HOUSE.

Two Thousand Dollars Will Build This Handsome Home of Nine Rooms.

[Inter-Ocean, 1892. © American Press Association.]

A great many people delay building because they do not know just how to draw through architectural and esthetic planning. Its is usual unsatisfied and mental clumsiness in the arrangement of floor plans. In the case of the plan which is here presented one can see how the house itself would be built for $2,000. But the house is not all that such a plan would accomplish for you. A fairtown, bathroom, spacious, airy Rooms and other details would add some $500 or $600 to the cost of the house. Now, gentlemen, this sum is very relatively small when considered with respect to the serious

FRONT ELEVATION.

resolution. One goes into the reception hall, finds a little separate vestibule in which to hang up coats and wraps, which adds to a place slightly removed from the hall itself. This enables it possible to use the room as something more than a passage. From this reception room one may go into the sitting room, up a short flight of stairs to a landing, and from there to the second floor. One can go to the second floor by means of the same landing by another flight of the main staircase. In this sense the staircase is a substitute. One goes from the sitting room to the landing, through the door and from there to the upper story landing and the second floor.

The kitchen is conveniently arranged—a pantry with cupboard under front sides and a passageway to the cellar back to it, a sink for the range, one drawer and a one side of the wall and a place for the range on the other. Then, connecting the kitchen and dining room is a little passage in which is found the kitchen chest. The passage is lighted by a window; the china chest has glass doors above and panel doors below. Back of the china chest and kitchen is a door, and these pantries and summer kitchens are frequently used as laundries. A better arrangement is to do the laundry work in the basement as a room that will be used, a sink which connects with an outside drain or sewer is

FIRST STORY.

which all the dirty work, also water and everything else connected with the house may find its way. The basement laundry is altogether easier, pleasanter and more sanitary than one in the kitchen on the first floor. It is a pleasure to go from the room to the summer or to do other work of a similar character. Such a laundry is arranged with a water boiler, for heating water, a sink, an ironing board, and the people for well or cistern water, or with city water connection. In many weather the clothes can be dried in the basement.

E. Fraser allowed a square to raise no bread for a period of ninety-six days. At the end of this time (Aug. 24) the boys were allowed to be provided with sufficient wall space for bedroom furniture. In each there is a closet, and an additional one is placed in the hall for bed linen. There is a staircase to the attic in which there is a large, open room, plastered, properly connected and ventilated; altogether a very pleasant place. Building a house in this way—four rooms on each of the two floors and one in the attic—makes an economical plan, economical in many ways. A compact, properly arranged house contributes to the enjoyment and satisfaction of all who live in it. With the added social and other duties which have come to American housekeepers certain compromises must be made. An economical plan may greatly lighten the burden. If an employ little help about the house the compact plan will reduce the strain on the energies of the housekeeper herself. It will make the difference between ordinary enjoyment in living and continual weariness and anxiety, as much in a compact house.

LOUISE H. GIBSON.

SECOND STORY.

DISEASE IN POULTRY.

A Successful Poultry Woman's Suggestions for Its Prevention.

Fanny Field, who has made a success of poultry, has also written a book on the subject, in which she says:

If your fowls are so "worldylike" that you must be always bewing them up with chicken powders, pastes, pills, elixirs and tonics of all sorts, better let them die or kill them at once and have done with it. Long experience in the care of poultry has convinced me that proper food, drink and care, together with strict attention to the sanitary condition of the house and surroundings, will almost if not quite banish disease from the poultry yard.

Here some of the preventive measures suggested. Guard against dampness. If the place selected for a poultry house is not well drained naturally, drain it by artificial methods and always place the coops for little chicks on the dried spot of ground at your command. Do all new poultry houses, and especially those that are built late in the fall, have a great deal of moisture which comes from the ground, and which, when the house is occupied, is kept in by cold weather, shows itself in frost or dampness on the ceiling and walls. Dry, ventilate this natural moisture out of the house before the fowls are put in.

See that your poultry houses and chicken coops are well ventilated without exposing the occupants to the danger of sleeping in drafts of air.

Keep the poultry house, the yards, the chicken coops and everything about them clean. Every morning sprinkle some slaked lime, dry earth, road dust or coal ashes over wood about your dropings under the roosts and as often as once a week remove the droppings from the house. Every spring and fall, and oftener if there is sickness or contagious diseases in your immediate neighborhood, whitewash the inside of the poultry house thoroughly. When contagious poultry disease is present among your flock or in the flocks of your neighbors, use some disinfectant daily about the houses, yards and all places much frequented by the fowls until all danger is past. One of the best disinfectants is prepared by adding two ounces of crude carbolic acid to a pint of water. Another good disinfectant is made by dissolving three pounds of copperas in five gallons of water, and the setting half a pint of crude carbolic acid. Sprinkle the disinfectant about the floors of a common watering pot with a fine nozzle.

When the fowls are confined to yards a portion of the yard should be spaded or plowed up every week during warm weather.

Dusting boxes should be cleaned and with sanded whenever a new family of chicks is moved in, and they must be moved and the dusting sanded every other enough to prevent foul odors. Always clean the drinking vessels daily with a hot soda or carbolated lime and then throw in a shovelful of sand, gravel, or dry earth before the coop is moved back.

Keep fowls and chicks free from lice. Avoid overfeeding. Feed only fresh wholesome food, and keep fowls where the fowls can keep it at all times. Keep a supply of gravel, charcoal and crushed oyster shells or lime in some shop where they can help themselves. Never feed from infectious fowls. Have a building or room apart from the general quarters where sick fowls can be confined and treated away from the rest of the flock. When strange fowls are brought upon the premises, or purchased, some from the pens or at "fowl breakers," keep them apart from the rest of the flock until you are sure they are free from disease.

Bee Hatchings.

Galvanized iron cupids and tin tacks in making vessels for storing honey. Wax makes the central estate bright to because it is gradually being eaten away. The ape eaten away eaten the honey. Of course in a large vessel the quantity that starts the honey is so small in proportion to the amount of honey that it is not perceptible. But it is appreciable only in a honeycomb grove, according to The Bee-keepers' Review, from which the following items are also gleaned.

Self-hiver placed in front of the old hive in such a manner that the returning bees pass through the hiver which on their way to and from the hive give up their load of bees to the hiver. The trouble with the old hive is the loss of the bees return to the old entrance.

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LOUISE H. GIBSON.

The Colors of Amber.

Amber has a wonderful variety of colors. Some of it is as clear as crystal, some as yellow as honey, some light blue and again a transparent green. Then it is found as white as snow, the color of cream, and often many of these tints are blended in one piece. There is a popular notion to the effect that amber has curative qualities for each ailment as cheap and rare there, and many thousand necklaces of it are sold annually for that purpose.

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