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GULLS IN CLOUDS.

Millions of Them on the South Atlantic and Pacific Coasts.

The gulls constitute the feathered ornaments of our harbors and shores, their singularly graceful flight, long, slender wings and striking contrasts in black and white rendering them peculiarly attractive. On the various portions of the Atlantic and Pacific coasts their breeding places are found, but it is in the south in isolated regions that they are seen to the best advantage and in greatest numbers. Those who are familiar with an occasional white winged form floating over the waters of the harbor or lay can form but little conception of the appearance of those birds en masse in the haunts of their choice. On the southern borders of the United States there are several localities famous as bird collecting places, but none more interesting than Bird key in the Gulf of Mexico.

My first visit to the key was made while examining the wreck of a large ship that had grounded in years before and was a conspicuous object about two miles from the key. From the old wreck I noticed a singular dark cloud hanging low over the island, as though some mysterious smoke had risen from an invisible source and now floated over the spot. Pulling the boat over the reef in that direction I soon solved the mystery. The cloud was alive, a mass of active fuss and feathers; birds, birds by the million, as it seemed. One or two guns out to shoot us, and now a distinct mingling sound was heard, growing louder and louder as we approached, until soon the roar was deafening.

The trees now left the island by scores and hundreds, flying about the boat with wild cries, darting down with menacing gesture. Myriads that had been upon the ground rose, and what had been an indefinite object became an almost solid mass of birds, creating a noise like thunder, so that as our boat crunched on the sandy beach, our voices were lost, and we could only hear each other by screaming. This had a singular effect, as on the second every individual caused its clatter, almost produced sound to reign, and the birds dived or swooped down as if in fear, to rise again and continue the aerial upreat.

The sight was a most remarkable one. The birds were of two kinds—the black headed tern and the sooty—the former beautiful creatures, with dark heads and bright, intelligent eyes, veritable spirits of the air and gale as they flitted about, while the noddies, which were sparsely represented, were dark, with a pale, light patch upon the head. The gulls laid their eggs upon the ground, the noddies in rude nests upon the trees.

The island or key occupied several acres, perhaps twenty, and was covered with a low scrub of bay cedar nowhere more than ten feet in height, with here and there a patch of cactus or prickly pear. The birds had preempted every foot of the ground, so that it was difficult to step or move in the lock without treading upon the attractive speckled eggs.

The domestic arrangements was simple enough, as the eggs were hatched by the sun and not until that period had little during the night from the baking it received during the day. The only enemies the birds had were the hermit crabs, that constitute the permanent settlers of the island.—San Francisco Chronicle.

Name of Two Delaware Streets.

The name "Murderkill," applied to an important stream in Delaware, is explained in popular tradition by a serious story that is told of early settlers in another part of the country. According to the legend, the stream took its name from the fact that an early European explorer, having landed on the bank of the creek, persuaded a dozen natives to drag his cannon by a rope tied about the muzzle and touched off the gun with murderous results when his dupes had got in line. The name, of course, is merely a corruption of the Dutch Motherkill, meaning another stream, because it is a large creek with many tributaries. There is elsewhere in Delaware a Broadkill, which has come to be spelled with a final "n," apparently because the English settlers took the last syllable to be the same with the last syllable of Rinkhin.—Chicago Herald.

When Spurgeon Took Nothing but Milk.

One day, while dining at the house of a friend, the Rev. C. H. Spurgeon was heard to say that he had lived for three months on nothing but milk. This gave rise among the company to several questions as to what prevented him from eating solid food, from what complaint he was suffering, how his strength was maintained, what sort of milk was it, and in what quantity did he take it. After every one's curiosity was fully aroused, Mr. Spurgeon, with a twinkle of fun in his dark eyes, said: "Ask my mother," which reply was followed by roars of laughter, every one feeling they had been taken in, the time being the first three months of his life.—London Tit-Bits.

Don's yet the national guard under control of the war department, says Captain G. S. Wilson, of the Twelfth United States infantry. The better class of young men would not then belong to it. The result would be to recruit loafers, and the end would be a bad militia. That would be as bad as a standing army out and sick.

THE HEET OF BATHING.

Its Beneficial and Injurious Effects Considered by Medical Authority.

No practice, however long established, has ever been allowed a permanent right to respect. Sooner or later its turn will come to be weighed in the critic's balance and its quality will have to be proved. Let us quote, as an illustration, the habit of daily bathing, the utility of which has of late, though not for the first time, been seriously questioned.

The reasonableness of doubt in such a matter and under ordinary circumstances, does not, we confess, commend itself to our judgment. Whether the opponents of ablution fear the shock of cold immersion, or whether they dread the cleansing stimulation that applied to the covering skin surface, their objection must appear to most persons possessed of ordinary health and vigor to threaten impair ment of both by fostering uncleanliness. If, on the other hand, it is the too free application of heat by Turkish and other warm baths which appear objectionable, we will not deny that there is here a possible ground for complaint.

Let it not be supposed that we ignore the curative influence or the cleansing property of this method when used with judgment. It is true, however, that experience has often proved the wonderfulness effect of its misuse—in cases, for example, of sudden weakness or general exhaustion. Cold bathing, in like manner, is not without its occasional risks. It is not suitable for persons subsisted from any organic cause, though mere nervous languor is often treated and benefited by it. It has its proper place among the habits of those who are subject to chronic visceral congestions.

As regards one advantage derived from bathing—i. e., its cleansing property—there is no reasonable ground for difference of opinion. Less practised by one people than another though it may be, there still is only ordinarily acceptable a constant habit of ablution, and this in itself serves at least an almost universal belief in the necessity of washing. Nor can we find reason to doubt the general soundness of this belief.

In bathing temperature is, of course, a chief consideration. For the robust, cold immersion followed by rapid friction is a valuable tonic of nerve, skin and heart function. For less vigorous constitutions—those, for example, which have been tired by disease and those of young children—the addition of heat up to the temperate point is only judicious. With some persons a warm bath is a daily luxury. Notwithstanding its efficacy as a means of cleanliness, however, this custom ought to be discredited by its inevitable action as a nervous depressant, which places it in an unfavorable position compared with the more bracing position of cold affusion.

The benefit derived from bathing, therefore, is likely to assert itself in spite of all adverse criticism, and its mismanagement, which is only too common, should not be ascribed to condemn it in the eyes of any judicious and cleanly person.—London Lancet.

How a "Sandwich Man" Lived.

As a touching instance of the sufferings of the poor, and the small sum on which life can be supported when the wages admit of nothing more luxurious, I make no apology for giving the diet sheet of a "sandwich man." It was published in the record of the London City mission. He only earned seven shillings a week, and, acting on Mr. Mumsby's excellent advice and keeping well within his income, spent £s 1d. His week's food cost 2s 1 1-2d; six days' lodging, 2s; soap, 1 1-2d; washing, 4d; medicine, 2d; shaving, 1d, and a pair of boots or some other article of clothing, 2s. His daily food allowance of 4 1-4d was thus distributed: Dinner, 1d; supper and breakfast, bread, 1 1-4d; butter, 1d; tea and sugar, 1d. Soon after the production of this curious balance sheet he died in Guy's hospital. He once earned ten pounds a week.—National Review.

Keep a Cat.

The best way of ridding a house of rats is to fill all the holes that can be found with pounded glass and seal them with plaster of paris and tin if you wish. Then thoroughly clean the premises and see that there are no garbage pails left about to attract rats, and secure the services of a good cat. Treat her kindly, confine her as much as possible to the basement of the house, so she will keep those intruders away, and there need be no trouble. In a large hotel or boarding house the amount of refuse food about draws rats, but there is no excuse for their presence in a small house if there is a good cat around.—New York Tribune.

A Familiar Quotation.

The line "Though lost to sight to memory dear" has never been placed, in spite of the most persistent research. It was no doubt the title of a ballad or a pleasing line in it, but the name of the author remains unknown. It has been stated that it was found engraved upon a brooch fashioned in the Seventeenth century.—Philadelphia Ledger.

The postmaster general says that 7,300,000,000 pieces of mail matter are distributed by the postal cars every year. Over 6,000,000 pieces of mail are deposited every minute of the year in the letter boxes and postoffices of the land.

The Mind Like Electricity.

In electricity we have an all pervading force of which we are ordinarily unconscious, silent and startling as are its occasional efforts. So in the region of mind we may have effects run and strange as are the time moving fire ball, or the lightning flash from an unclouded sky. Under peculiar and rarely occurring conditions, as yet but imperfectly known, certain mental influences predominate, and mind perceptibly acts on mind.—Blackwood's Magazine.

Bichloride of Gold for Alcoholism.

"Drunkenness is curable," declares John F. Mines (Felix Oldboy), in The North American Review. It is curable by the much talked of bichloride of gold treatment of Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, of Dwight, Ills. It is certainly not safe to say that a drunkard has permanently reformed till after he is dead, but so far as man can judge in an inebriate's lifetime, Mr. Mines asserts emphatically that the bichloride of gold has repeatedly wrought the miracle of freeing drunkards from the craving for alcohol.

A man is certainly thoroughly discredited in his faith and in his desire to benefit other men when he comes out publicly and confesses himself to be a reformed drunkard when there is no money to be made for him in it by betaking on temperance. Such a confession Dr. Mines makes in The North American. He drank for years, he says, drank incessantly he could not help it. The fever raged on him, and nothing but drink, strong, terrible alcohol, would still that fever craving.

He went to Dwight and remained six weeks under Dr. Keeley's treatment and came away, as he devoutly believes, cured forever of the fearful appetite. Dr. Keeley claims to cure 95 per cent. of all who apply to him. When the craving for alcohol comes on he lets the patient have all the whisky he desires, meanwhile continuing the bichloride of gold treatment. But the time comes presently when the patient returns the bottle of whisky untasted. He loathes the sight of it. The drunkard is redeemed, something to Mr. Mines. But certainly after he makes his own fortune out of this boon to humanity, Dr. Keeley ought to give the secret of the treatment to mankind. Mr. Mines writes:

The patient has not been in and to the office of Dr. Keeley, where his case is noted and where he receives a hypodermic injection in the upper left arm, and then is given when a bottle of the bichloride of gold mixture, a dose of which is to be taken every two hours while awake. The hypodermic, called in freight the "shot," is the supporting medicine, which enables the frame while treatment. Its properties are not known, but it is a tonic, a stimulant, and the force to which the bichloride of gold is made up for its special purpose, are Dr. Keeley's secret, and it is doubtful about his name not to the secret be entrusted to criminals.

The treatment is administered four times a day, at 8 a. m., 12 m., 4 p. m. and 10 p. m., and for three or four weeks, though sometimes a week or two longer, according to the personal diagnosis made by his doctor from day to day. If a new arrival needs water, he is given it in his a bottle, and he can have water when he pleases, but he is not allowed the accepted bottle to the dormitory. Sometimes the strength is affected, but only for a few days in some cases the memory is temporarily weakened, in every case he becomes conscious of a horror of alcohol and indifference to the outside world, as the gold neutralizes the craving gets of his frame and pickles and bottle them up for future strength. So it is said.

The treatment at Dwight imparts such physical life as is exercised directly by drink. Dr. Keeley's prophecies promised this, but I had certainly been skeptical of it. As a matter of fact, I found myself relieved of twenty pounds of unnecessary fat, and on the better for it. Another patient, a relative of America's greatest prize writer and bearing his name, came to Dwight on crutches which I was there, suffering from partial paralysis caused by drink. In ten days the crutches were abandoned, and for weeks he was over over of of trains and with new life in his body and fresh hope in his heart.

Women and Mice.

"I wish somebody would find some thing to take the place of the exceedingly stale and silly 'women and mice' paragraph which has been going the rounds of the papers, with divers and sundry variations, ever since I first can remember, and godless knows how much longer," said a charming little woman as she opened the mousetrap and let two or three of its occupants out into the yard to a number of hungry kittens. "I wonder who started it anyway? Of course there are women who are afraid of mice, no doubt, but I never saw a woman make herself more ridiculous over a mouse than a certain man did when one of these harmless little creatures scooted up the leg of his trousers.

"I don't imagine any one would feel especially comfortable with any such foreign element considering around one's premises, but why 'women and mice' in particular, is what I don't understand. I think there are very few homeseekers but what have frequent occasion to come in contact with rats as well as mice, and, as far as I can see, they seem to survive—at all events, I never heard of anybody dying from fear of them. I suppose that the mouse paragraph sent to some mice in lieu of the mother-in-law. Be that as it may, both are as threadbare and faded and frayed out and bleached with time and hard service, that it would be a work of mercy for some enterprising and intelligent paragrapher to get up a new supply of amusement."—New York Ledger.

An Army of "Over" Employees.

To look after the city's standing army of dependents and delinquents requires a big official force. There are three commissioners with $5,000 a year each, a secretary who gets $3,500 and a staff of eleven at the central office, besides the superintendent of the outdoor poor and six assistants.

There are 45 employees at the Tombs, including 4 physicians and 4 matrons. There are 81 employees in the district prisons (Jefferson Market, Essex Market, Yorkville and Harlem), 79 employees at the Bellevue hospital, besides 54 trained female nurses, a chemist and 2 assistants, and 66 male nurses and employees.

There is a staff of 18 at the Gouverneur hospital, of 10 at the Harlem hospital, of 130 at the Charity hospital on Blackwell's island, of 83 at the penitentiary, of 19 at the workhouse, of 15 in the workhouse, of 250 in the city insane asylum, of 10 in the Ward's island hospital, of 30 on Randall's and Ward's islands, of 22 at the Hart's island workhouse, of 134 at the Hart's island asylum, of 75 at the lying asylum and of 12 in the stable house department on Blackwell's island.—New York Sun.

Beninger died several years ago, and only took advantage of the death of Mme. de Bussemain as an excuse to get his corpse out of sight. All the excuses he ever had to used to the information of rich and silly women. Looking at his portrait the disinterested outsider can only wonder what there was in him to make women go down before him as they did. There is indeed an accounting for tastes.

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A Warning

To Horse-Owners.

The Putnam Nail in this place seriously injured the horse from which it was removed by taken to Worcester, Mass. One point of the nail came out in the proper place for clinching, and so deceived the blacksmith who shod the horse. The other point went in the direction shown in the illustration, piercing the tender part of the foot called the "quick," from which the horse was made lame for one nearly two weeks.

This is not an unusual case. The same thing is happening every day with other nails in the market. Many there are started and finish like the Putnam, but there are others which are DANGEROUS. The Putnam Nail is the safest nail made, because it is the only one that can be driven in the manner shown in the illustration, piercing the tender part of the foot called the "quick," from which the horse was made lame for one nearly two weeks.

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