

A LOITERING LIZARD.

He is Now Securely Locked Up in a Quaker City Home.

The clerk of a Philadelphia hotel recently rescued from the spiteful attacks of two sparrows a beautiful specimen of horned lizard that is believed to have been carried in the wind's vortex from far distant. The little reptile was discovered when the wind was highest, just before a heavy rain.

It was seeking escape from the tormenting birds which hindered its progress until almost run over by a car. It looked so desperate with its horny scales that great care was exercised in effecting the capture. It now sports a cigar-box home and a bed of water cress.

The creature in appearance is broad and squat. Its back is covered with thorny armor and a halo of horns encircles its head, which it carries elevated, as if listening. It is of the agamidæ family, known to natural science with an alphabet exhausting name in Latin, but commonly called a horned toad, frog or lizard, really belonging to the latter class.

Strangest of all is where the reptile could have come from. The cloud theory is urged because its kind is unknown in those parts, it being a native of the stony and sandy districts of Mexico, Texas, Oregon and California. The wind was blowing a gale just before it was seen, and was sufficient in velocity to have carried a creature of its size a great distance. Its ultimate destination will probably be the Academy of Natural Sciences.

How Aigrettes Are Obtained.

A little pamphlet just issued by the Society for the Protection of Birds in England, it appears that the white aigrettes, so much worn on bonnets and hats and as ornaments for the hair, are obtained from the egret or the heron. The bird is found in warm climates and are smaller and more graceful in line than the English heron. The feathers of this bird are white, very delicate and spirally curled toward the point. The plumage of the egret is so snowy white that different species of the bird have been given scientific names of Alba, immaculata and candidissima. The special plumes so much in demand for millinery grows only in the breeding season. The hunters find the best and easiest time to shoot the bird and secure these feathers to be with the young egrets are fully fledged, but not able to fly. It has been computed that for every bird of the rare species that is captured, ten have been sacrificed, counting the young that die of starvation, the wounded that fly away to drop down into the reeds and bushes to die, and those that are too much mutilated to be used in decoration.

Wearing on the Man.

The man of the house took to the sofa in the sitting room with a newspaper directly after breakfast, while his wife went on with the house cleaning. She was dismantling the front room, and while he perused the sporting column she carried past him, in turn, seven chairs, three tables, a desk, four footstools, all of the pictures, a piano stool, a bookcase, and the rest of the furniture. Then she lugged in a pair of steps and a big pail of water, and began to clean. "Maria, do you want my assistance?" said the man just then, rising and folding his newspaper. "Not just yet, dear," said Maria. "Well then, I think I'll leave you," said he, and he started for the office. On the way down he told three men that if there was anything that wore him to the skin and bone it was that confounded house cleaning. Said he: "We are in the midst of it now, and I tell you I'm about used up."

Canine Sleep-Walker.

Colonel Munnerlyn's dog Hugh is somewhat of a somnambulist. Several mornings ago he was taking a nap on the upstairs front porch of the Arlington Hotel, Atlanta, when he fell to dreaming. He jumped hurriedly up and sprang for the baluster. As he reached the top he discovered that he was not on the ground floor, and made desperate efforts to regain his balance, but it was too late. In his great effort to stick to the baluster he turned completely over and came down with a thud. He arose carefully, looked all around with a deeply insured expression, and finding no one was laughing at his misfortune, walked thoughtfully away. He fell about twenty feet.

The Knights of the Nippers.

The housebreaker of the future will require an outfit resembling the acrobatic apparatus of a traveling circus. A complete assortment of the anti-burglar contrivances patented in the course of the last twenty years would fill a fair sized museum, and the French patents alone comprise arrangements which, if properly adjusted, make it impossible for a would-be robber to enter a house without awakening its tenants from any ordinary slumber, or rather any slumber but that of death, to judge from the sensitive construction and the startling noisiness of the alarm apparatus.

Landseer's Famous Dog.

Mrs. Ritchie, the English writer, says that in her young days she used to go to Sir Edwin Landseer's beautiful villa in St. John's Wood, and she tells the following story about one of his dogs he was in the habit of taking out at the end of his work. The dog used to wait patiently all day long while Sir Edwin was painting, but he used to come and lie down at his feet and look up in his face toward 5 o'clock, and on one occasion, finding his hints disregarded, trotted into the hall and came back with the painter's hat, which he laid on the floor before him.

A Chicago man recently saved his life by carrying a roll of one hundred dollar bills inside his vest when a bullet came that way. Yet there are people who neglect so simple a precaution

LIVING IN HOUSE BOATS.

The Semi-Aquatic Inhabitants of a Tennessee City.

A Memphis writer introduces to the public, a strange population who are counted as residents of that city, although most of them were born on the Mississippi or one of the streams emptying into it, and have never lived on dry land. These people occupy a floating settlement of house boats. The boats are sometimes named, and many of them are neatly painted and show signs of comfortable furnishings judging from lace curtains at the windows and pictures to be seen hanging on the walls of the interior.

The colony is made of representatives from twenty-old states drained by the Mississippi and its tributaries. Moored side by side 150 boats were counted by the writer, who learned that some of the families began their navigation of the river as far north as Montana. It is not a fixed population, for, although most of the boats have been anchored at Memphis a long time, the absence of one of the families is noted now and then, and the inquirer is told that the head of the house has changed his habitat to New Orleans or some other river city.

The house-boat owner, of course pays no rent. To escape it he took to the water. His food consists chiefly of fish, at catching which he is an adept. He knows better than anybody else where to find the cat, the buffalo, the perch, and innumerable other fish. Driftwood serves him for fuel, and clothes, tobacco, spirits, and a few necessities are secured by an occasional day's labor as a longshoreman, roustabout or farm hand.

POMPEIIAN CANNED FRUIT.

Americans Found an Industrial Hint in the Buried City.

Do you know that we are indebted to the old Pompeians, who lived in the first century of the Christian era, for our knowledge of how to can fruit? Perhaps not, but it is a fact nevertheless.

Years ago, when excavations were first being made on the site of the old lava-covered city, a party from America found a jar of figs; not only one, but several. Upon opening one of them, the contents were found to be as fresh and perfect as when first put into the jar nineteen centuries before!

Investigations instituted on the spot proved that the fruit had been put into the jars in a highly heated state and that an aperture for the escape of steam had been left in the lid, which, when it had served its purpose, was sealed over with wax. Yankee ingenuity caught the idea at once, and the next year canning factories were erected all over the United States.

AN ANIMAL FLOWER.

The Strange Plant Found in St. Lucia Caverns.

The inhabitants of St. Lucia have lately discovered a most wonderful plant. It grows in a cavern in an immense basin of brackish water that has overflowed from the sea. The bottom of the basin is covered with pebbles and each pebble with from one to five of these plants, which, for want of a better name, are termed "animal flowers."

These curious creatures, which are in all shades of colors, remind one of a beautiful flower-bed. To the sight they are perfect flowers, but on the approach of a hand or a stick they retire out of sight. Close examination shows that the middle of the flower-like disc is provided with four filaments which move around the "petals" with a brisk, spongy motion. Each of these filaments is provided with pinchers for seizing insects and marine insects. Whenever the pincher moves the filaments make a "catch," the petals immediately close and there is no escape for whatever has been so unfortunate as to fall into the voracious creature's maw.

FOOD AND THE BODY.

The Influence of Diet on the Mind and Characteristics.

That veteran vegetarian, Prof. Alcott, of the school of Concord philosophers, used to say that if a man eats pork he becomes pigged. This assertion of the old philosopher has been much disputed and ridiculed, but now "The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table" comes forward in his recent book, "Over the Teacups," reasserting the same dietic philosophy in the following paragraph: "Most assuredly I believe that body and mind are much influenced by the kind of food habitually depended upon. I am persuaded that a too exclusive porcine diet gives a bristly character to the beard and hair, which is borrowed from the animal whose tissues these still-bearded compatriots of ours have too largely assimilated. I can never stray among the village people of our windy capes without now and then coming upon a human being who looks as if he had been split, salted and dried, like the salt fish which has built up his arid organism. If the body is modified by the food which nourishes it, the mind and character very certainly will be modified by it also. We know enough of their close connection with each other to be sure of that, without any statistical observations to prove it."

Making Money.

The investment of \$30,000,000 made by the British government in the Suez canal shares will in a year or two, according to Mr. Goshen, be worth \$35,000,000, which proves to have been an excellent stroke of business as well as diplomacy.

There are three places known where green snow is found. One of these places is near Mount Hecla, Iceland, another fourteen miles east of the mouth of the Obi, and the third near Quito, South America.

TO AGENTS.

Homeseekers' excursions, 1892, on August 30 and September 17th, a rate of one lowest first class fair will be made from eastern points to points on our line for two homeseekers' excursions. These tickets will be sold at all the principal railway points as far east as Buffalo and Pittsburg. Tickets will be good within twenty days from the date of sale and stop overs will be allowed after passing the Missouri river. It is expected that there will be quite a large immigration of intending settlers to Nebraska, northwestern Kansas and eastern Colorado, during this summer and fall. This immigration can be very largely increased by judicious advertising and work by the various communities tributary to our line. It is therefore suggested that sections proposing to prepare such advertising matter for distribution in the east in regard to the inducements they have to offer the farmer, the business man and investor, should begin to get their advertising in shape at as an early a date as possible. In case their plans contemplate sending a good advertising man to distribute their matter and attend to their advertising generally, this department may be able to give valuable pointers as to the best method of doing the work.

I think it is desirable that editors of the papers along our line should begin agitating the matter in order that the people may be prompted to do more or less individual work with their friends in the east in the way of sending by mail such matter as the different counties or districts may prepare in pamphlet form or in the shape of extra editions of their home newspapers giving full information as to the resources and advantages, and directing attention to the very low rates that will be made to enable them to come and see for themselves that the representations are not really up to the reality.

The company has recently issued a pamphlet in regard to the agricultural resources of Nebraska, which will be furnished free to those who may desire to mail it to their friends in the east. This pamphlet treats of Nebraska, northwestern Kansas and eastern Colorado. I wish you would present this matter to editors at your place and also to other parties who may be interested in settling up vacant farm lands of this state. J. FRANCIS, G. P. and T. A., Omaha, Nebraska.

WHILE the state central committee was in executive session in the parlors of the Capital hotel Monday evening 200 or more representative republicans and members of the republican press from every part of the state, drawn to the city solely by an earnest and unselfish interest in the welfare of their party, thronged the corridor of the second floor. Never in the history of the republican party has there gathered a more intelligent and loyal set of men than in attendance upon that meeting of the committee. Yet National Committeeman Rosewater, in his attack upon the state ticket, calls them "ghost dancers," "the ruffianly crowd," "mob," and "Major's disorderly friends." There were a good many long memories present, as time will reveal.—Journal.

As nearly as can be learned, Prof. Andrews grows in popular favor the more he is known and heard by the people. They say he is both able and honest and will do them good as a congressman. They like his logical reasoning, his sterling integrity, his manly habits and his scholarship.—Hastings Tribune.

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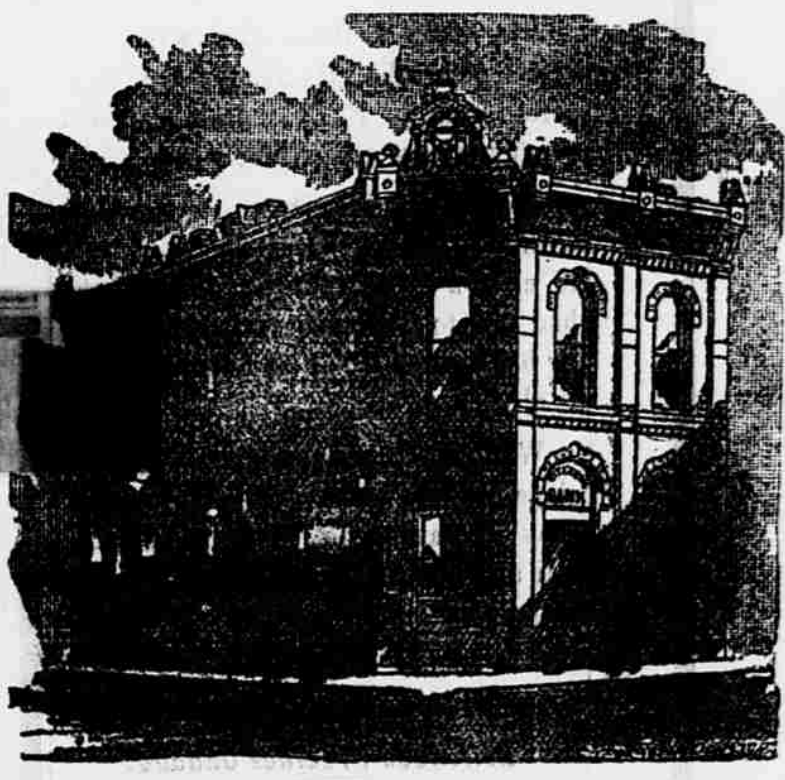
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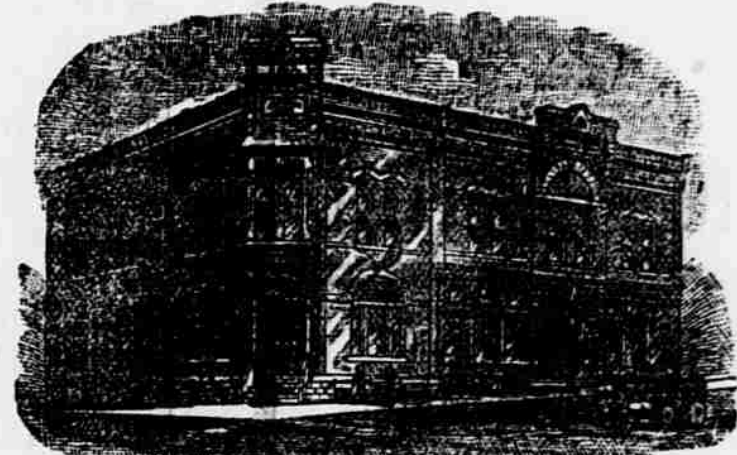
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