

A. Feathered Criminal.

I am quite frequently asked by persons having an ambition to become taxidermists what bird they shall take for their first subject, my reply to this question is "let taxidermy alone, do not destroy the birds; but if you will mount birds begin with the Blue Jay." This handsome dashing fellow is one of the few birds we have who does almost as much harm as he does good. He will eat almost any bird, not hesitating even to destroy young birds and feed on them, and he has a fondness for eggs that is insatiable, many a pretty nest has been destroyed by him. Like most bullies the jays are cowards when alone, but let a band of these audacious mischief loving fellows get together on a foraging expedition and there is no limit to their courage. I have seen them attack the swift winged hawk—merely for the sport of it, worrying the poor bird till he was glad to get out of their reach. Their especial delight, however, is to catch some little owl asleep and pounce down, striking at him viciously. The little fellow thus rudely awakened has a hard time of it making a brave defence, his little head moving as if on a pivot in his efforts to ward off the quick cruel blows of his tormentors, as they strike at him first on this side then on that, finally compelling the little fellow to fly for refuge to some hole in a tree. A few days ago I found two of these heartless rascals in an elm having a lively quarrel with each other, they had evidently been up to some mischief which I decided to investigate by throwing a stone up into the tree, when they became frightened and dropped their spoil, which proved to be a young sparrow they had stolen from a nest near by. The jays are easily tamed when caught young and readily learn many interesting tricks. Even talented Miss Polly with all her many accomplishments responds no more readily to education. I once found a nest containing four young birds which I took home and put in a cage, I had but little trouble in rearing them feeding them with worms, grasshoppers berries and occasionally bread and milk. They grew rapidly and in the course of six weeks were large enough to hop about and fly up on my shoulder where they would chirp and scold or make love to me as the humor suited them. One night three of these fellows got out of the cage and were carried off by the rate, so I had but one little chap left. I named him Jack, he soon learned to come when called. Jack became very much attached to me and afforded me much amusement and pleasure, he loved to crack parlor matches on his perch and would take them out of my hand one at a time carefully, hold them with one foot and with a quick stroke of his strong bill would make it pop and blaze up as these matches do, this pleased him immensely. Jack soon developed remarkable thieving propensities carrying off and usually hiding any thing he could find, he was particularly fond of bright things, nails, coins, trinkets, and trinkets of all kinds, and if caught with any thing he could swallow he would apparently swallow it. But when I had turned away and taken a few steps, if he thought I was not watching him, up it would come, then he would begin hammering away at it as if he had no other business but to find out what the thing was made of. He became so tame that I let him fly about the grounds and often he would go a block away but he would always return.

The nest of the Blue Jay is usually built in the crotch of an elm, maple or box elder, fifteen or twenty feet above the ground where it is well hidden by the dense foliage. It is made of small twigs and sticks, lined with fine roots and sometimes with feathers and small



**Sulpho-Saline Sanitarium, Cor. 14th and M.**

All Kinds of Baths—Scientific Masseurs. A Deep Sea Pool, 50x142 feet.  
Shaving—Hairdressing. DRs. EVERETT, Managing Physicians.

looking little home for so pretty a bird. The four or five eggs are of a dull olive color spotted with brown. The color of the plumage of these birds is so well known I will not describe it. Both sexes are marked alike and Mrs. Jay dresses her young in the same pretty blue and white gowns.

AUG. EICHE.

"I can easier tell twenty what were good to be done than be one of the twenty to follow my own advice," says Shakespeare. And he knew a thing or two about advertising. See how he keeps himself before the public.

The really great advertisers are wonderfully tolerant of criticism from any point of compass. They recognize that, in spite of its strange paradoxes, advertising is based on fixed principles.

Like every other art its laws are learned only by practice; but no matter who discovers them or who expounds them, they are just as sure and unchangeable as gravitation. That is a law that a monkey can demonstrate with a coconut as completely as Sir Isaac Newton in all his glory.

Don't sit on the critic. Disprove his criticism if you can, but be impersonal about it. Discuss his principles or theories upon their merits or demerits, independent of the man who advances them. A wise man can learn from fools; a fool can't learn from anybody.

**CHEAP RATES TO TENNESSEE CENTENNIAL AND EXPOSITION**

At Nashville, Tenn., May 1st to October 30. Beginning May 4 and on each subsequent Tuesday the Missouri Pacific will sell tickets from Lincoln to Nashville and return at \$35.15 good 20 days from date of sale.

The Kansas and Nebraska limited leaving Lincoln at 2:30 p. m. makes better time by from two to five hours each way than any other line.

Maps, time tables and further information at city ticket office 1201 O street.  
F. D. CORNELL,  
C. P. & T. A.

**A European Tour.**

Costs no more than one taken in this country—everything being taken into consideration. Thousands of Americans are finding this out every year by actual experience. Before arranging for your summer trip call at B. & M. city office, corner O and Tenth streets, where steamship berths, tickets and full information will be furnished.  
GEORGE W. BONNELL,  
C. P. & T. A.

**BURLINGTON ROUTE PLAYING CARDS.**

Those elegant cards of the very best quality only 15c per deck. For sale at B. & M. Depot or city ticket office, corner Tenth and O streets.

**BRUSH, COLORADO.**

This bit of information is printed for convenience about answering the numerous inquiries now coming in concerning Brush, Colorado, and surrounding country.

- 1—BRUSH has about two hundred inhabitants.
- 2—A splendid, commodious school building, with all "high school" facilities.
- 3—Located in the Platte and Beaver valley, eighty miles east of Denver, in the midst of a large area of fine, arable land, covered by irrigation ditches, and only waiting judicious farming to develop wealth.
- 4—The climate is adapted to all sorts of crops grown in the North Temperate zone.
- 5—Excellent water can be had at depth varying from 30 to 60 feet, the lower strata furnishing the purest mountain water at a'nable.
- 6—Fine building stone adjacent to the town, can be had at from \$3.75 to \$4.00 per cord, thus making it cheaper to build of stone than lumber.
- 7—Three crops of alfalfa are grown in the season, yielding as a rule six tons per acre as the product, while wild hay on the higher land grows well and always brings a big price. The rich yield of hay makes it pre-eminently a country in which to raise cattle and hogs to the feeding stage when it is easy to drive them to the cheap corn of Nebraska.
- 8—Small fruits and vegetables of all kinds can be developed to any extent almost—the real conditions when told seem almost fabulous.
- 9—Steam threshers in work of 1896 show average of wheat in this vicinity to be forty bushels per acre, oats fifty bushels.
- 10—Entire absence of contagious diseases of both man and beast; the atmosphere is a regular daily life giver.
- 11—The county of Morgan, in which Brush is located, is free of debt and taxes low.

There is now excellent opening for a first class grist mill, one hundred barrel capacity, one good hardware store, one good drug store.

**Get on the Burlington Cars** and look the situation over.

**Flour at \$1.**

Lots of people think a dollar is enough to pay for a sack of good flour.

We sell a Minnesota patent flour at this price—try a sack; if it is not as good as guaranteed we will return your money.

**The Farmers Grocery Co.**

226-234 no. Tenth street.

**T. J Thorpe & Co.,**

**GENERAL BICYCLE REPAIRERS**

**In a branches.**

Repairing done as Neat and Complete as from the Factories at hard time prices

**All kinds of Bicycle Sundries. 320 S. 11TH ST. Machinist and General Repair Work. LINCOLN.**