The Red Cloud Chief.

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GUATEMALAN BIRDS.

Parrots the Perfection of Whose Education Is Marvelous.

A Polly That Repeats the Lord's Prayer with Considerable Piety and One Which Imitates a Bad Boy—The Iuetzal and Sopilote.

A letter from Quezaltenango, Guatemala, to the New York *Times* says: A small inhabitant of Central America not heretofore mentioned by me, but very deserving of it, is the "loro," or parrot. One sees many that are will taught in the United States, but I doubt if there are birds in any part of the world which have attained such perfection of education as those here. I heard one sing an "Ave Maria" from beginning to end without missing a word or note or uttering a false one. Another, belonging to a priest, could repeat the Lord's prayer, and should one not understand sufficient Spanish to know he would yet be instantly aware that the bird was praying, so perfect were his tones, imitating the low, solemn voice of his master. There are, of course, the great majority which wish to know every moment if there is "no bread for Polly," and those which use strong and emphatic language. Some persons teach their birds to repeat certain answers to certain questions, and in this way save themselves much annoyance. In Central American towns, the houses are built on a hollow-square plan, having an interior "patio," or court. The heavy double door leading in is usually open. Hay, wood and carbon or charcoal are sold from door to door by Indians carrying their loads on their backs. Whatever may be for sale is yelled at the door in very much the same voice that venders of oranges, strawberries and brooms used to call out in the streets of New York, but in this country the yelling is continued until an answer is obtained; and when a house is well supplied it is rather trying to patience and and latent temper to have "carbon!" thundered out in your yard every five minutes. So they put the parrot in a green tree, where it is difficult to see him, and he answers "No," and in a voice so human that not five "carbonniers" in a hundred can discover the deceit. All this is very agreeable should you not wish to buy any thing, but should you wish to buy something the parrot answers "No," just the same, and probably adds on a curse, which explains a common sight—that of a hatless, coatless man rushing out of his house into the street to call back an Indian who has just been dismissed by the parrot.

While staying in a hotel in Quezaltenango my room was next to that of a German family who had a splendidly-educated parrot and a little boy named Herbert. The parrot was as much a member of the family as any of the others, and, being constantly with them, he became very wise. Herbert was very often scolded and punished by his mother—oftener, I believe, than the little fellow deserved; and these punishments and Herbert's sobbing and crying made a decided impression on the bird. The little boy's father was often away, and I soon noticed that he turned to the parrot for companionship, as there were no little children for playmates. When the family left their rooms Polly was always locked up, and during these absences he would practice his repertoire, now singing some song, now swearing at some imaginary person. Then, in imitation of the mother and in her harsh, stern voice, he would cry out: "Herbert! Herbert! what do you mean by that! You bad boy," and after making a sound in imitation of a slap, he would cry and sob precisely like the child. Though I knew that the family owned this bird, yet he often deceived me and excited what at the time was unnecessary sympathy for Herbert.

A beautiful bird, and one now fast becoming extinct, is the "quetzal," the National bird of Gautemala; and with such reverence is he regarded that his engraving occupies the center of the postage stamps of the country. The body of the bird is about the size of that of a good-sized California quail; his general color is a beautiful emerald green, with a crimson and a yellow luster running through it; the small feathers of the head stand straight up, and his four or five tail feathers, which grow to the length of two feet, are rich green and red. His home is in the tallest mountains; he pines away and dies after a month of captivity, and even the Indians, who know his habits, are unable to keep him alive when away from his native haunts. It is said that his food is the plantain; but confined as a pet he does not relish it, prepared in most tempting ways. They say he dies should one of his tail feathers be broken. How true this may be I do not know, but it seems to have some foundation considering the great care he takes of them. His nest is built in cylindrical shape, with a hole at each end, and much resembles a lady's muff. He enters at one end and rests with his long feathers hanging out; in leaving his nest he never backs out—that would ruffle and break his feathers—and the Indians, knowing this, always approach his head and easily capture him. After death the crimson and yellow luster in a great degree disappears, and this being the life of his green color, the stuffed specimen is never so handsome as the live bird.

The scavenger of the country is the sopilote, or large black buzzard. Every house has two or three of these birds continually watching for kitchen waste and other refuse of the house, and though they are assisted somewhat by many strange dogs the people are much indebted to them. Sanitary precautions are disregarded, and these birds have constituted themselves into a street-cleaning department, removing all the filth and carrion which would otherwise rot and fester in the hot sun to breed disease. Swarms of them hover on the outskirts of the towns to prey upon dead mules, horses and other animals. A mule's bones will be picked clean in two days, but before the meal commences he may have a haut gout, for though the buzzard be a gourmand he is nevertheless a gourmet.

Land Division in China.

Land in China is divided into more holdings than any other land in the world. It takes but a very small piece of land to support a Chinese family. The Chinese are the closest and most thorough cultivators in the world. Field hands in China are paid $13 per annum. The food is cooked by the employer. With his food he is furnished straw, shoes and free shaving—the last a matter which a Chinaman never neglects for any great length of time where it is possible to secure the luxury. It costs about $4 a year to clothe a Chinaman. Much of the land in China is divided up into gardens of areas as small as one-sixth of an acre.

Astonishing Courage.

It is somewhat remarkable that even the most delicate girl is not afraid of taking cold; at least [illegible]

VENOMOUS SERPENTS.

An Expert's Account of the Reptiles of the United States.

In this country there are four different species of rattlesnake, the ground, or black rattlesnake, the Florida species, the mountain serpent and that of the Staked Plains, says Stephen J. Wilcox in the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch*. The rattlesnake found east of the Mississippi and the wooded district just west of that river, is essentially the same as the Florida species, although sometimes classed as a separate variety. Of all those the Staked Plains rattlesnake is the largest, most active and most dangerous. Six feet is not an unusual length, while seven-foot snakes have on several occasions been killed. These serpents measure sometimes ten inches round the body, and recoveries from their venom are very rare. The Florida rattlesnake comes next in size, while the short, stumpy ground snake, scarcely ever more than three feet long, is the least venomous.

But three other venomous serpents are found in this country, the copperhead, the moccasin, land and water, and a small and very rare snake found in Arizona, which is considered the most deadly of all. This snake lies in the dust, and strikes like a flash of lightning at any thing that approaches. A peculiar fact about this snake is that it is nearly completely blind, and has the keenest hearing of any snake known. These reptiles are very rare, and but half a dozen specimens are found in any of our museums.

Among the articulates some of the spiders, nearly all of the scorpions, and a few species of centipedes are poisonous, but the virulence of their venom has been immensely exaggerated, and has become a superstition. The tarantula is regarded by many as more venomous than the rattlesnake, but in all my investigations I never discovered more than two instances where men have been bitten by these great spiders, and in neither case were the consequences serious. The sting of a scorpion is not much worse than that of a wasp, and an active bedbug is more dangerous than a centipede at least than any found north of the Mexican line.

The effect of a snake's poison is entirely exerted on the corpuscles of the blood. I have experimented on various animals, and have found that the result of venom is to cause a disintegration of the corpuscles, reducing the blood to a thick, homogeneous mass. Hogs are regarded as impervious to venom, but this is by no means the case. Hogs certainly kill and eat rattlesnakes, but if these reptiles once drive their fangs deep enough to reach the blood, a pig will die as soon as any other animal. The secret of their immunity lies in the fact that they advance upon the snake with their fat cheeks presented. The snake drives its fangs into the mass of fat presented, the blood is not reached and the hog strips the snake through its teeth before it can strike another blow. But when the hog is thin the fat can not serve as a shield and death ensues. Whether or not an animal recovers from a snake bite depends largely upon its strength, as in a short time the blood will resume its corpuscular condition, and no danger ensues. It is simply as a stimulant that whisky has been found effective, as it in no way directly counteracts the effect of the poison.

MARKING MERCHANDISE.

A Convenient Table for Merchants in All Lines of Business.

Many goods bought and sold by retail merchants are billed and vended by the dozen, says the *Industrial World*, and it often happens that in marking them the merchant is sometimes a little puzzled as to the percentage the selling price bears to the wholesale figures. After adding freight and cartage proceed by the following method. To make a profit or 20 per cent., divide the cost per dozen by ten. This is done by removing the decimal point one place to the left. To illustrate: If Ames' scoops cost $17.50 per dozen, delivered at store, remove the decimal point one place to the left, which will make $1.75 each, and what they should be sold for to gain 20 per cent. on the cost. The 20 per cent. is taken as a basis for the following reasons: We can determine it instantly, by simply removing the decimal point without changing or adding a figure. Therefore to mark an article at any per cent. profit we may use the following as a general rule: First find 20 per cent. profit as above, then as 20 per cent. profit is 120 per cent. of the cost and profit, add or subtract from this amount the fractional part that the required per cent. added to 100 is more or less than 120. The majority of merchants, in making their goods, generally take a per cent., that is, an aliquot part of 100, as 20, 25, 33⅓, 50 and so on. The obvious reason for this is, because it is much easier to add such per cent. to the cost, and a merchant could mark a dozen shovels, forks and hay knives at 50 per cent. profit in the time it would take him to calculate and mark one at 35 per cent. The following will be found very convenient for merchants in marking all articles bought by the dozen:

To make 20 per cent. remove decimal point one place to left.

To make 80 per cent. remove decimal point one place to left, and add ⅕ itself.

To make 60 per cent. remove decimal point one place to left, and add ⅓ itself.

To make 50 per cent. remove decimal point one place to left, and add ¼ itself.

To make 44 per cent. remove decimal point one place to left, and add 1-5 itself.

To make 40 per cent. remove decimal point one place to left, and add 1-6 itself.

To make 37 per cent. remove decimal point one place to left, and add 1-7 itself.

To make 35 per cent. remove decimal point one place to left, and add ⅛ itself.

To make 33⅓ per cent. remove decimal point one place to left and add 1-9 itself.

To make 32 per cent. remove decimal point one place to left, and add 1-10 itself.

To make 30 per cent. remove decimal point one place to left, and add 1-12 itself.

To make 28 per cent. remove decimal point one place to left, and add 1-15 itself.

To make 26 per cent. remove decimal point one place to left, and add 1-20 itself.

To make 25 per cent. remove decimal point one place to left, and add 1-24 itself.

To make 12½ per cent. remove decimal point one place to left, and subtract 1-16 itself.

To make 16⅔ per cent. remove decimal point one place to left, and subtract 1-36 itself.

To make 18¾ per cent. remove decimal point one place to left, and subtract 1-96 itself.

For instance, a dozen hay knives cost $15, and 32 per cent. is to be added—then removing one point to left $1.50, and add 1-10—15—$1.65, the marking price.

A Profitable Investment.

It isn't always that a woman can afford to forego the quality of distinction in dress. They are telling of a man who died lately and left as a widow a young woman who had formerly been his cook. She was a good-looking and intelligent girl, it is said, but he paid no attention to her so long as he saw her only in kitchen attire. But she saved up two or three months' wages, invested the money in the handsome and becoming costume of a lady, carefully arrayed herself in it for an ostensible trip to the city, and then managed to show herself in that improved guise to her employer. She was no longer a mere servant in calico. She was transferred into a fine, handsome lady. They were married within a month, and now she is [illegible]

NEW YORK LETTER.

Amateur Photography a Growing Craze—All Classes of Society Taken Up with It—Contrast of Old and New Methods.

[Special Correspondence.]

AMATEUR photography is one of society's crazes this season, and these bright spring days have brought out the cameras in full force in the parks and and on the avenues. I am sorry to see it so fashionable, for it is a charming pastime, and fashionable crazes are always short-lived.

It was only a few years ago that a photographer taking a view on the street attracted almost as much attention as a dog-fight. There were a few wealthy young men or eccentric old ones who practiced photography for fun, but the outfit was cumbersome and expensive. The operator had to carry his dark room around with him in order to prepare his plates, and they were very slow in action when they were prepared. The nitrate of silver stained the hands and ruined the clothes of the operator, and he carried around with him an all-pervading and unconquerable smell of collodion and other odorous chemicals. I knew an old gentleman who owned a photographer's cart and who used to drive around the country taking views for his own amusement, but as he refused to practice his art for money he was looked upon with distrust by the country people, who thought that, as he made nothing out of his photography, it was only a cloak for some deep-laid scheme of villainy.

But with the invention of dry plates all this was changed. A man can carry his whole outfit in an ordinary hand satchel, take a dozen or fifty views on the wing and

JAY GOULD AT THE CAMERA.

leave them for weeks or months before he develops them. The process is clean and simple, and the outfits come at prices which put them within the reach of the smallest purse. Ladies have "gone in for" photography, and, being more careful, more patient, and, having a quicker perception of the artistic, they frequently produce better results than men. By actual count, out of thirty-seven amateur photographers I saw the last fine day I was in Central Park sixteen were young women. Business men, too, have yielded to the seductions of the art, and no less a personage in the financial world than Jay Gould is an expert with the camera. I am told that Grandpa Gould has a series of portraits of Baby Gould, which he took himself, and which he values more highly than any railroad he owns. Arnold, of the great dry-goods concern of Arnold & Constable, is another enthusiastic amateur, and was one of the first to use the dry-plate process. Henry E. Pierrepont, of Brooklyn, is another who has been earnest and successful in the work. But it is impossible to mention names of amateur photographers. There is hardly a family in the upper part of New York in which there is not some member who dabbles in the art.

The improvements in the matter of the rapidity of the plates have also done much to popularize amateur photography. When I first went into it, about ten years ago, a plate had to be exposed about a minute, and one never realizes how much moving a horse or a dog will do in a minute until they have the animal in front of an uncapped lens of a camera. I have among my negatives a beautiful picture of a horse with four ears and two tails, an animal that would make my fortune in a museum could I get the original as he looked in the photograph. With the present rapid plates, which require an exposure of only a fraction of a second, these difficulties are avoided. They have made the various styles of so-called "detective cameras" possible, and matters have come to such a pass that one is never certain that he is not having his picture taken unawares. The most innocent hand sachel may conceal a camera, and the inventors have even gone so far as to contrive a machine, about the size of a soup-plate, which goes under the vest and the lens comes out as a button. It is an ingenious affair and takes four pictures, about two inches in diameter on a circular plate. The string which releases the shutter to make the exposure goes down into the trousers pocket, so the operator can loaf along carelessly with his hands in his pockets, sight his victim, pull the string, and the deed is done.

An Expensive Luxury.

Royalty is an expensive luxury, as the following annuities paid by the British people for its support will show: The Queen receives $1,925,000; Prince of Wales, $200,000; Princess of Wales, $50,000; Crown Prince of Prussia, $40,000; Duke of Edinburg, $125,000; Princess Christian, $30,000; Princess Louise, $30,000; Duke of Connaught, $125,000; Princess Beatrice, $30,000; Duke of Cambridge (the Queen's cousin), $60,000; Duchess of Teck (the Queen's cousin), $25,000; Duchess of Albany, $30,000; Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz (the Queen's cousin), $15,000—total, $2,715,000 per annum.

SOME STRANGE BELIEFS.

Venerable and Extraordinary Superstitions About Teeth.

The back tooth of a horse, found by chance, will, say the Irish, keep you supplied with money.

If you wish to avoid the toothache, say the sons of Erin, never shave on Sunday.

Teeth have often been worn as amulets. Sharks' teeth serve this purpose in Samoa.

It was formerly thought that a wolf's tooth, worn in a bag about the neck, would chase fear away from the possessor.

In Nova Scotia, and in some parts of the United States, children are told that the new tooth will be a gold one if the tongue is kept out of the old cavity.

If a child teeth early, it is thought, in England, to predict more children. "Soon teeth, soon toes," is the adage both in that country and in Sweden.

An old work, published in 1633, tells us that to lose a tooth or an eye is also to lose some friend or kinsman, or is, at least, attended by some ill-luck.

If a tooth comes first in the upper jaw it is, people used to say, an omen of early death, as the child can not survive so potent a disaster.

In Sussex, England, a necklace of beads, made from peony root, was placed on the child's neck to assist the operation of teething, and one of amber beads was also thought powerful.

It was said that first teeth must not be thrown away when they fall out, for if any animal got such a trophy, the next tooth would be like that of the animal finding the old one.

A splinter of wood from a gibbet was thought efficacious in the north of England, while in Devonshire it was thought best to bite a tooth from a skull in a grave-yard and carry it in the pocket as a charm to cure toothache.

One of the Irishman's recipes for toothache bids you to go to a grave, kneel upon it, say three paters and three aves for the soul of the dead, then chew a handful of grass taken from the grave, spitting it out.

There was a tradition that from the time Chosroes, the Persian, carried off a piece of the true cross from Constantinople the number of teeth in the mouths of men were reduced from thirty-two to twenty-three.

"With an iron nail raise and cut the gum about the tooth until it bleed, and that some of the blood spill upon the nail. Then drive it into a wooden beam up to the head. After this is done you never shall have the toothache in all your life."

A work published in 1365 prescribes the following remedy for an aching tooth: The patient was to inhale the smoke from a vessel in which dried herbs were mixed with live coals. He must then breathe over a cup holding water mixed with wax and serum, when it was said that a worm, the cause of the trouble, would appear in the cup.

FOUND IN A CLEFT.

A Steed and His Rider Who Had Been Hidden There for Years.

Henry Martin, who resides up in the direction of Antelope Basin, W. T., recently came across a ghastly relic of early days which might well form the foundation for a tale of frontier life.

He was out prospecting in a wild and broken part of the country, where in the midst of an elevated plateau it is not uncommon to suddenly find oneself on the brink of a crevasse or cleft in the rock, a plunge down which would inevitably prove fatal, says the Laramie *Boomerange*. It was in examining one of these strange openings, formed during some tremendous convulsion of the earth ages ago, that Mr. Martin saw pinned between the adamantine walls far below him the whitened bones of a man and horse. He made a circuitous journey around the hill which brought him to where it was posssible to enter the narrow gorge and by difficult climbing over ragged bowlders to reach the skeletons. He cautiously picked his way through for a distance of several hundred feet, and at length reached the object which had excited his curiosity. There was no doubt from the position of the annimal and his rider that they had plunged headlong to their death either while being pursued or in some mad ride which did not leave time to check themselves on the brink of the yawning chasm.

The man must have been fully six feet in height, and between fifty and sixty years of age, the latter supposition being established by the fact that he had during life lost some of his teeth and the bone had grown over the cavities afterward.

The skull showed a rather intelligent forehead, the cheek-bones were prominent and the general shape of the head indicated that the bones were those of a Mexican. This theory was confirmed by the further discovery of a rich Mexican sombrero, with heavy gold trimmings, all in a good state of preservation.

The skeleton was found in a perpendicular position, the head downward and tightly pinned between the two walls of rock. The rider had fallen from his steed and the bones of the latter were similarly suspended, but twenty feet further up.

In a little basin at the foot of the gorge was discovered a copper plate about six inches square, and, strangest of all, a plug of tobacco of apparently ancient manufacture, but seemingly as perfect as when the dead man had put it in his pocket to solace him in his lonely ride across the hills.

THE QUININE FIEND.

How a Great Many New York Belles Are Undermining Their Health.

A tall, fine-looking woman, dressed in the latest fashion, entered an up-town drug store last evening and approaching the counter leaned wearily against it, says the New York *Telegram*. The clerk, who was waiting on another customer, reached to a shelf and taking down a little box shook three pills into a bit of paper. He passed them to the fashionable lady and gave her a glass of mineral water. After putting the pills in her mouth the lady drank the water, and with a sigh of relief hurried from the shop. Not a word passed between either customer or clerk, and no money was paid for the pills.

"Well, that beats me," exclaimed a visitor.

"It is rather singular," said the clerk, smiling, "but such things happen here every day. That customer is well known in the social world. She has got the quinine habit, which will kill her in the end. There is too much of this quinine business going on, but we have to keep up with the times. That lady exhausted herself in social and charitable visits, and then began to take a five-grain pill of quinine to brace up on. She did it by the advice of a friend. From five grains every evening she advanced to fifteen, and soon she will want twenty.

"She likes to feel cheerful and look well when she goes out with her husband, and having become a slave of quinine she takes it as a stimulant. But her husband is ignorant of the habit. She pays us $1.50 a week and we keep the pills here for her. There are many ladies in Ward McAllister's exclusive 400 who are slowly dying of the habit. It is far worse than drinking alcoholic liquors, and we frequently advise our quinine patients to brace up on whisky or