

THE VAIN JACKDAW.



Find a Peacock.

A Jackdaw, having dressed himself in feathers which had fallen from some Peacocks, strutted about in the company of these birds, and tried to pass himself off as one of them. They soon found him out, and pulled their feathers from him so roughly, and in other ways so battered him, that, when he would have rejoined his fellows, they, in their turn, would have nothing to do with him, and drove him from their society.

Moral—We should live contentedly in our own condition, whatever it may be, without effecting to look bigger than we are by a false or borrowed life.

RADIUM AND VEGETATION.

Newly Discovered Metal Is a Source of Much Joy to Scientific Experimenters.

Rarely has the scientific world been so puzzled and tickled over any discovery as it has been by that of the rare metal, radium. It possesses three or four kinds of invisible radiation, one of which resembles that of an X-ray tube; emits a faint luminosity in the dark, excites the same in a limited number of minerals, and it remains at a slightly higher temperature than its surroundings—say two or three degrees Fahrenheit. Owing to the enormous cost of extracting it from the one variety of rock in which it is found, the price is too high to leave the article within the reach of the common people, and, to tell the truth, it is yet doubtful whether it can be put to any practical use. Perhaps it can be employed as a substitute for X-ray tubes, in the treatment of disease, but it is too soon to be sure about that. In the meantime all sorts of experiments are being tried with it.

A college professor in Dublin, Henry H. Dixon, who is connected with the botanical laboratory in the university there, describes in Nature one little venture in this direction, made by himself. He wanted to see whether radium could exert any perceptible influence upon vegetation. He planted 100 seeds of cress in a saucer containing sand, and suspended above the center of it (at a distance of four-tenths of an inch) a minute quantity of bromide of radium. All of the seeds, whether near or distant, germinated with equal facility. Subsequently it was noticed that the plants nearest the bromide grew less rapidly than those at the edge of the saucer, and developed fever and shorter root hairs. No other hurtful effects were perceived. The experiment was twice repeated, with substantially the same results.

Prof. Dixon also put some radium (or, rather, the bromide of radium) near a small vessel containing low forms of animal life, principally specimens of volvox globator. He was unable to detect any consequence whatever.

Social Duties of President's Wife.

That the position of president's wife is no sinecure, any one will be convinced after reading the clever article which Mrs. Abby G. Baker has contributed to Pearson's, detailing some of the cares and responsibilities which fall to her lot. She is hedged about with a wall of precedents as high as heaven, and bound by a social code whose ethics a hundred years of usage has made as immutable as the laws of the Medes and Persians. A tactless woman can do much to jeopardize her husband's interests in the white house, while a tactful wife may be of inestimable assistance. Mrs. Baker gives an interesting account of Mrs. Roosevelt's charming hospitality as mistress of the white house, and of the close cooperation between her and the ladies of the cabinet.

Logic.

Hobbs—What makes you such an optimist?
Dobbs—It is pleasanter to have people laugh with you than laugh at you.—Detroit Free Press.

First Photographs.

The first photographs were taken in England in 1802.

CATCHING THE OCTOPUS.

Acetylene Lamp Is Used with Great Success by Mediterranean Fishermen.

The octopus is such a peculiarly repulsive-looking creature that it would not seem calculated to appeal as an article of food even to a hungry man; but the Italians have no prejudice against the fish, and they eat it without question. In a consular report on the trade of southern Italy for 1902, an interesting account is given of the method of capturing the octopus in the Mediterranean. At the end of a long bamboo-pole is hung a line baited with a piece of red rag; and this, dangled in front of the rocky hiding-places of the octopus, is sufficient to tempt him from his lair. In his efforts to get near the bait the creature is enticed towards the boat, in which the fisherman awaits him, armed with a trident, and at the right moment the octopus is impaled on its spikes. By night a bright light is used to attract the prey, and this in past times would take the form of an iron cradle full of resinous pine, which was carried at the head of the boat. But science has stepped in, and the fishermen now employ an acetylene lamp, which seems to be as attractive to the octopus as a red rag. Unusually large catches have been made since this form of light was adopted; and, although its pioneers tried to keep it secret, they did not succeed in doing so, and now so many octopods are being caught that the consul general is of opinion that the coast will be overfished. That, however, is not likely to be the case for the octopus comes of a very prolific race.

"Aseptic Silence."

"Aseptic silence" is now being impressed upon surgeons when performing operations. In other words, a surgeon is urged to keep his mouth shut while operating lest bacilli should emerge with his speech. Certain surgeons, indeed, cover their mouths with some membrane or other which is designed effectually to protect the patient. Similarly it is being taught that every surgeon should be clean-shaven, as the hairs hide countless germs.

Uncle Reuben Says:

I reckon it's jest as we happen to feel. De day dat Reuben Scott traded mewis wid me, an' his critter died while I was leadin' it home, I dun sot down an' declared dat de world had got so wicked I didn't want to lib in it anoder day. De next week, arter I had traded a shotgun fur a watch wid de same man, and had got de big end of de bargain, I told de old woman dat de world was so good dat I wanted to lib fur 500 y'ars longer.—Detroit Free Press.

Southern Harbors.

A noticeable contribution to the present excellent economical situation in the south is to be seen in the improvement of terminal facilities, with a view to a large exportation of southern products from southern ports. Harbors are looked after, wharves are built, and railroad tracks are run out to deep water. Much of the grain trade has thus been attracted away from northern ports.

A Buddhist Custom.

A custom peculiar to Buddhists is that of wandering about the country with hammer and chisel and carving holy symbols upon rocks by the wayside.

EVERY WALK IN LIFE.

A. A. Boyce, a farmer, living three and a half miles from Trenton, Mo., says "A severe cold settled in my kidneys and developed so quickly that I was obliged to lay off work on account of the aching in my back and sides. For a time I was unable to walk at all, and every makeshift I tried and all the medicine I took had not the slightest effect. My back continued to grow weaker until I began taking Doan's Kidney Pills, and I must say I was more than surprised and gratified to notice the backache disappearing gradually until it finally stopped."

Doan's Kidney Pills sold by all dealers or by mail on receipt of price, 50 cents per box. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

Acceptable as a Juror.

A murder case was on trial, and the jury was being selected. Among the venire was a negro who had a passion for listening to socialistic speeches when not otherwise engaged, which was "generally always."

The attorney asked: "Do you believe in capital punishment?"

"Yes, suh, I does."

"Do you know what capital punishment is?"

"Course I does," the negro replied.

"Well, what do you understand capital punishment to be?"

"It means a-rulin' ober de pore. I ble'be hit's right, an' you can't make me ble'be nuthin' else."

"Accepted!" shouted the attorney.—Philadelphia Public Ledger.

Bright's Disease Cured.

Whitehall, Ill., Dec. 7.—A case has been recorded in this place recently, which upsets the theory of many physicians that Bright's Disease is incurable. It is the case of Mr. Lon Manley, whom the doctors told that he could never recover. Mr. Manley tells the story of his case and how he was cured in this way:

"I began using Dodd's Kidney Pills after the doctors had given me up. For four or five years I had Kidney, Stomach and Liver Troubles; I was a general wreck and at times I would get down with my back so bad that I could not turn myself in bed for three or four days at a time."

"I had several doctors and at last they told me I had Bright's Disease, and that I could never get well. I commenced to use Dodd's Kidney Pills and I am now able to do all my work and am all right. I most heartily recommend Dodd's Kidney Pills and am very thankful for the cure they worked in my case. They saved my life after the doctors had given me up."

Some chronic grumblers find fault with a photograph on the ground that it lacks originality.—Judge.

To Cure a Cold in One Day.

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund money if it fails to cure. 25c.

Charity and personal force are the only investments worth anything.—Walt Whitman.

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Self-indulgence is the secret of indigence.—Chicago Tribune.

Honor is too big a price to pay for any honor.—Chicago Tribune.

I am sure Piso's Cure for Consumption saved my life three years ago.—Mrs. Thos. Robbins, Norwich, N. Y., Feb. 17, 1900.

In bragging of the seed don't forget the soil.—Judge.

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Inconsistent.

"I'm so glad you chose the subject of 'Chinese Women,'" said Mrs. Flusly to Mrs. Gushly, who had just finished reading her paper. "The subject is so interesting, I never tire of hearing about the poor things."

"Mercy," thought the author of the paper. "I hope no one else stops to congratulate me before I get home. These new shoes pinch me so I can't stand it another minute!"—Detroit Free Press.

Do Not Delay, But Write To-Day.

In this issue of the paper the World's Greatest Jewelry Establishment, Mermod & Jaccard's (St. Louis), announce they will send free to our readers their magnificent Catalogue containing thousands of illustrations with prices of the most beautiful things in the world in Watches, Diamonds, Jewelry, Silverware, etc., etc. Their prices are the lowest in America for fine goods. If you are going to make any Xmas gifts you would do well to send for it once.

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In bragging of the seed don't forget the soil.—Judge.

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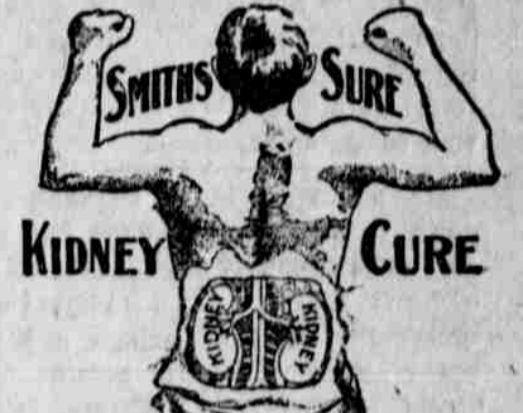
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