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ARTIFICIAL GOLD.

Discovery of an English Genius Who is Making it Pay.

A savant has been discovered who has succeeded in producing by the most simple means the results so eagerly sought for by the toilers in science ever since the days of King Solomon, who is thought by adepts to have been himself one of the most expert. This wondrous adept, who sees nothing extraordinary in the wonderful work he has accomplished, is a man 70 years of age, doomed to solitude and poverty, as all such great men are, cynically remarks a London correspondent in the Pall Mall Gazette.

He lives in a quaintly furnished room in the quarter perdu beyond Grenelle, and the interviewer was astounded at the extraordinary proofs of the man's genius as he unfolded one by one the specimens of the progress and gradual perfection of the work to which he had devoted the better part of his long life, with no more satisfactory result than the miserable dwelling in which he was barely sheltered from the elements—a wretched garret, through the roof of which the rain was at the very moment of the interview filtering in streams upon the floor. The adept displayed before the visitor several specimens of gold in its various stages. A lump of gold, for instance, taken from a mine in Mexico, and by its side another piece, produced by the mixture of different metals, according to proportion, and not to be distinguished from the original substance as taken from the mine.

Even with the magnifying glass no difference could be detected. His explanation of the method by which he had arrived at the fabrication of the metal was clear and simple. He had always been impressed with the idea that gold was created by the combination of other metals, and that it was simply the highest perfection of breeding, upon the same principle that is visible in the gradual development of objects belonging to the animal and vegetable kingdoms. The determination to ascertain the fact upon the very spot of its production induced him to start forth, amid unheard of hardships and opposition, to begin his work in Mexico, just five-and-forty years ago.

"The identity of the two specimens now before you," said the adept, "is absolutely undeniable; they are the same in every respect. I defy the minutest examination of the most skeptical among the savants; the color, the weight, the proportions of the component elements are identical. And yet here I have been waiting a whole lifetime for some one to bring me help and encouragement to multiply my experiments, in order to convince the world that the precious metal to which mankind has ever attached such undue value is of itself valueless. The mockery and laughter with which I was greeted on my return to Europe nearly half a century ago filled me with despair, and I gave up at once all the hope which had sustained me through the long years of hardship and privation I had endured—the hope of enriching my country by means of my discovery, and rendering it independent whether of war or famine or commerce, or, indeed, of any calamity but death."

"And how have you lived all these years?" inquired the interviewer, shivering as he gazed at the comfortless aspect of the place in which this imaginative benefactor of the human race was lodged. And then the adept was fain to confess that while his moral was sustained by the dream of the future wealth of the world, in which he could not hope to share, his physique was dependent on his labors as a cheap photographer, at which profession he earns just enough to keep the few sparks of life still remaining in his poor, worn-out body from being extinguished altogether.

BIRD-SLAUGHTER.

It is Carried On in Florida in a Wanton and Cruel Way.

The rush of tourists to Florida increases every winter, and so much shooting every man nearly takes his gun is rapidly diminishing the game all through the country.

The time was, and only a few years ago, when every bay and lagoon was teeming with birds, but when the fashion demanded that every woman's bonnet should be decorated with some kind of a bird or its feathers, men were sent to Florida to procure them, and one expedition returned, it is said, with 100,000 bird-skins, shot during the winter. Such destruction is now felt, and although the authorities have now prohibited the slaughter, it is like locking the stable after the horse is stolen.

On the Apalachicola river wild turkeys and ducks are shot wantonly from the decks of the steamboats, and alligators all along the banks come in for a fusillade from the rifles of the passengers. On my recent trip on this river I saw numbers of turkeys shot as they were running along the banks, that were of course wasted, as the boat could not stop to pick them up; and every flock of ducks that rose was fired into, killing or maiming more or less of them. Not only on the ground of wanton cruelty should the owners of these boats prohibit the use of fire-arms, but it is a great annoyance to many passengers to have

rifles and shotguns banging away around them, to say nothing of the danger to life from the careless use of guns by mere boys, as some of them were. It is a theme the Forest and Stream might properly bring to the notice of the proper authorities (the owners of the steamers) in the cause, and enter a protest against such wanton destruction of such rare game as the turkey, as well as every other bird coming in for slaughter, as is now the case on the river boats on the Southern rivers.—Forest and Stream.

WATERING A HORSE.

He Can Live a Long Time Without Food but Must Have Drink.

A horse can live twenty-five days without solid food, merely drinking water, seventeen days without either eating or drinking and only five days when eating solid food without drinking. An idea prevails among horsemen that a horse should never be watered oftener than three times a day or in twenty-four hours. This is not only a mistaken idea but a brutal practice. A horse's stomach is extremely sensitive and will suffer under the least interference, causing a feverish condition.

Feeding a horse principally on grain and driving it for hours without water is like giving a man salt mackerel for dinner and not allowing him to drink until supper time—very unsatisfactory for the man.

If you know anything about the care of horses and have any sympathy for them water them as often as they want to drink—once an hour, if possible. By doing this you will not only be merciful to your animals but you will be a benefactor to yourself, as they will do more work; they will be healthier; they will look better and will be less liable to coughs and colds and will live longer.

A horse is a great deal like a man. Let him get overworked, overstarved or abused, and particularly for the want of sufficient drink in warm weather, and the consequences will always be injurious. Sensible hostlers in large cities are awakening to the advantage of frequent watering. Street-car horses are watered every hour, and sometimes oftener, while they are at work. It is plenty of water that supplies evaporation or perspiration and keeps down the temperature.

Twenty years ago a person having a fever of any kind of pneumonia was allowed but little water to drink, and then it had to be tepid. To-day practitioners prescribe all the iced water the patient can possibly drink, and in addition cold bandages are applied to reduce and control the temperature of the blood. What is applicable to man will never hurt a horse. Use common sense and human feeling.

Don't think it is a horse and capable of enduring any and all things. A driver who sits in his wagon and lashes his worn-out, half-couried, half-fed and half-watered team should never complain of any abuse he may receive from his master or employer, for he is lower in character, harder in sympathy and less noble than the brutes he is driving, and deserves, in the name of all that is human, the same punishment as a criminal.

GIRAFFES BECOMING EXTINCT.

Nearly All the South African Antelopes Also Becoming Rare.

An article by Mr. Bryden says that the days of the giraffe are numbered. A few years ago a herd of seventy or eighty of them was often met in various parts of Africa. Mr. Bryden says that nineteen giraffes are now a large herd. They have been hunted so mercilessly, both by natives and foreign sportsmen, that they are rapidly becoming extinct.

The intelligent African King Khama has, however, taken the giraffe under his protection and hopes to save it from extermination. He has forbidden the hunting of the giraffe in his large domain, and in this way he hopes they will multiply in his country. It is an interesting fact that Russia has preserved the European bison from extinction by setting apart a forest of Lithuania for them and permitting no one to molest them.

Recent explorers in southwest Africa say that the fauna has changed greatly during the last forty years. Dr. Henry Slichter, in a paper he read before the British association a few weeks ago, says that antelopes, lions, buffaloes, rhinoceri, giraffes and other large animals were met with in abundance when the country was first explored are no longer to be found in any part of the southwest, Africa on account of their ceaseless slaughter by European hunters, as well as by the natives since the latter have possessed breech-loading guns. The most important among these animals, the elephant, has wholly disappeared from this part of Africa, except in the neighborhood of Lake Ngami.

Anderson, one of the early explorers of this region, said that 1,200 pounds of ivory could be bought at Lake Ngami for a musket. According to Livingstone, in three years not less than nine hundred elephants were killed near the little Zonga river alone. How much their number has diminished is shown by the very small ivory export from Walish bay, which amounts to about fifteen hundred pounds per annum, while in 1871 it was as high as 37,000 pounds. The

Remember that

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various kinds of animals would doubtless increase again if some protective measures were taken in their behalf, but there are not many Khamas among the important men of Africa who have sufficient foresight to endeavor in the interests of their own people to prevent the extermination of these valuable animals.

Caught a Fly.

Of the father of the present king of Bavaria it is related that one day, when two of his cabinet ministers called upon him with the draft of a new law for which they required his approval and signature, they found him seated in his arm-chair, with an open book on his knees. After reading the statute to his majesty the ministers stood for a long time silently waiting for an answer. At length, when their patience was nearly exhausted, the king suddenly closed his book with a bang, and exclaimed, with a look of unutterable triumph: "I have got him! I have got him!" He had caught and crushed a fly.—Argonaut.

DARK DAYS.

Numerous Times in the World's History When the Sun Was Darkened.

The earliest mention of the phenomena referred to in the headline of this "note" appears to be that which occurred in the year 44, B. C., about the time of the death of Julius Caesar, where we read in Plutarch and Dio Cassius that the sun was paler than usual for a whole year. The great darkness which lasted two whole days all over Europe appears to have preceded the great earthquake of Alcomedia, which occurred August 22, A. D. 353. Two years later in all the eastern provinces of the Roman empire there was a "dark day," which was so dark as to make stars visible at noonday. From further descriptions one might consider this the result of a total eclipse, but astronomers say that neither the eclipse of March 4, 360, nor that of August 28, of the same year, was visible in the countries mentioned. During Alric's siege of Rome, 409 and 410, A. D., there were several days "as dark as the nights which preceded and followed them." In 536, 567 and 626 we find mention of long periods of diminished sunlight. According to Schnurrer, "the sun darkened in an alarming manner on August 19, 753, without there being the least possibility of an eclipse being the cause." The Portuguese historians record several months of diminished sunlight in the year 934, say the St. Louis Republic, which terminated by an apparent opening in the sky "from which loud sounds issued, the noise sounding not unlike two giants quarrelling." In 1091, on September 29 (not 21, as given in some translations of Humboldt's "Cosmos"), the sun turned suddenly black and remained so for three hours. For days after the blackness had disappeared the sun gave out a peculiar greenish light, which occasioned great alarm. Schnurrer next mentions a dark day in June, 1191, but astronomers attribute it to the total eclipse which was visible in the greater part of Europe in June 21 of the year mentioned. Several dark days are recorded as having occurred in February, 1196, the darkest being the 4th, 5th and 12th. On the 5th a bright star was seen shining "only a foot and a half from the blackened remains of the sun."

"On the last day of February, 1206," says Cortova, a Spanish writer, "the sun appeared to suddenly go out, causing a darkness all over the country for about six hours." The superstitious writers of the time attributed the great darkness of 1241 to God's displeasure over the results of the battle of Leignitz, the sun being so obscured as to make it necessary to keep lamps burning until after the ninth hour. Prof. Schiaparelli, who has been years collecting data concerning that uncanny event, is now inclined to refer the cause to the total eclipse of October 6, 1241. Kepler tells us his authority being Gemma, that there was a sun-darkening in 1547 which lasted for three days, April 22—25, which finally ended by the sun "appearing to be suffused with blood to that degree that stars were visible at noonday." America has experienced several dark days during her short historical life, the most memorable being that of May 19, 1780, when the darkness was so great that all the people of New England, with the exception of a sturdy few, were terrified almost to the verge of distraction.