THE SOUTHERN CROSS.

A Wonderful Constellation of Stars Visible Only South of the Line of the Equator.

A halo of romance, says Miss Mary Proctor, in St. Nicholas, has woven itself about the stars of the southern crossone of the most picturesque objects in the southern skies. At one time these stars formed part of the constellation named the "Centaur," which was once included under that called "Argo," the Great Ship; but towards the end of the eighteenth century the southern cross became a constellation on its own account. Nevertheless, its resemblance to a cross must have been observed long before this time, since an Arabian globe has been found on which an outline of a cross is marked about this group of

The longer bar of the cross points nearly to the southern pole, the situation of which in the heavens is not marked by any brilliant star, but which is about 41% cross lengths from the foot of the cross. For this reason Alpha and Gammaare sometimes called the "pointers." In fact, the southern cross may be looked upon as the hour hand of a great clock, which goes round once in 24 hours, moving in the same direction as the hands of a clock, unlike our great bear or dipper in the northern heavens, which appears to go round the northern pole in a direction contrary to the hands of a clock. This is because the observer's face, when looking at the northern pole, is turned in a direction con-

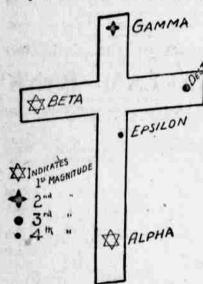


DIAGRAM OF SOUTHERN CROSS.

trary to the face of an observer in the southern hemisphere toward the south-

Near the southern cross is an almost vacant patch of sky, which is named the "conl-sack" by early navigators. In the coal-sack only one very small star can be seen with the unaided eye, but the telescope reveals many stars in that seemingly deserted region, proving that the striking blackness is due simply to the effect of contrast with the brilliant ground surrounding it on all sides. On the northern edge of the coalsack is a star of ruddy hue, known as tappa, but too small to be seen with the unaided eye. Even a small telescope fails to make one realize the splendor of this star; but when Sir John Herschel | cat used his paws, of course, but was turned his 20-foot reflector in its direction, he was surprised to find Kappa the center of a cluster of over 100 stars of all the colors of the rainbow, contrasting wonderfully with one another. He compared it to a superb piece of fancy jewelry, while Flammarion describes it as "a casket of glittering gems."

WISDOM OF ANIMALS.

Insects as Well as Mammals Seem to Do Some Quick Thinking When in Trouble.

A naturalist found black ants were devouring the skins of some bird specimens on a table, so he made tar circles on four pieces of paper and put one under each leg of the table. Ants will not cross tar. Pretty soon he found the ants busily at work again, and, looking at the tar circles, found each one was bridged by bits of sand which the clever ants had brought in from the street.

On one occasion, owing to excessive heat, one of the combs of a bee hive became detached, and was in great dahger of falling. The bees at once set to work and erected a shoring pillar between the endangered comb and the one next to it. The pillar braced the comb and kept it from falling. Then they rebuilt the wax cells, fastening the comb to the wall, and afterward removed the pillar.

A Capuchin monkey was given some walnuts, which he tried to crack with his teeth, but found he was not strong enough. He then seized a stone which was near by, held the nuts on the ground with one hand and used his stone hammer with the other, with excellent results. Other monkeys have been seen to utilize nutpicks.

How a Chinaman Prays.

The Chinese are not addicted to the use of machinery, but they know something about labor-saving devices. A man who got so well acquainted with a laundryman that he dropped into his place to chat, one day noticed a queer little pad of rice paper over his bunk. Each sheet was inscribed with numerous hieroglyphics, and the Celestial was asked what it meant. He replied that it was a prayer book, and went on to explain that he tore off a leaf every night before going to bed, so as to expose a fresh application for the ensuing day. Seeing that the American was shocked. the Chinaman assured-him that the prayers were first-class in every particular, and much better than he could compose himself. He added that these queer prayer books came from Peking. and the Chinese government allows none other than this brand to be is-

They Gild Their Lips. Fashionable Japanese young lacies, when they desire to look attractive, gild

FRIENDLY SQUIRRELS.

Enter a House, Play Around and Answer to Their Respective Names When Called.

What can be done in the way of taming squirrels has been well illustrated a good many times in this city and nowhere better than at the house and grounds of the Misses Clary, on Ingraham avenue and Union street, says the Springfield Republican.

The family began to feed and pet the squirrels about four years ago and have got them so that they are very tame. They feed them every day, and the squirrels appear as regularly as boarders. They run all over, and when let in through the house play like kittens about the lawn, turning somersaults and performing their graceful capers. The family have become very much attached to kittens about the lawn, turning somersaults so mischievdus that they got out of patience with the little animals. If not let into the house when they expect they have sometimes gnawed the window sashes and have gnawed the waterspouts. The greater part of this, however, has been done by some red squirrels, which are less tractable than the grays. They are inteMigent little beasts. The family have named some of them and the little things know their names and will come when called.

To drive them away when bent on mischief once some one threw a bowlful of water on one of them, and the little thing darted off with a reproachful look on his face to haunt one for days. To keep them from gnawing it has sometimes been found necessary to daub the window sashes with a mustard preparation, the taste of which they do not like.

The family have been wondering why these squirrels have diminished in size since they began to feed them. The old ones seem to be driven away by the young ones, so that there is a constant succession of different squirrels, and those now there are not so big and do not have as good fur as those that were first on the ground. The family have wondered if constant feeding on nuts has anything to do with it. They have | pect. always given them such nuts as filberts and pecans, and have generally cracked the nuts for them, although the squirrels will crack them themselves. But they have got so used to nuts with a comparatively noft shell that they will not crack an ordinary bickory nut, but carry it off and hide it. Such nuts were found hidden in the foe of a boot belonging to a member of the family behind a pillow on the lounge.

DIVIDED HIS DINNER.

Cut Shares Bis Daintles with the Master, Who Had Often Done the Same for Him.

An English magazine tells this story which may be familiar to some of our

A gentleman says: "I once had a cat ho always sat up to with me and had a plate in front of him on which I placed the cat's dinner. The



DIVIDING HIS DINNER.

When he had finished what was at first put before him, I sometimes gave him part of mine.

"One day he was not to be found anywhere when the dinner beil rang, and we began without him.

"Just as the plates were put around for the pudding puss came running upstairs and sprang into his chair with two mice in his mouth. Before he could be stopped he dropped a mouse on to his plate and then one on to mine. He divided his dinner with me as I had often divided mine with him."

What a Bee Will Carry.

A small boy is doing very well indeed if he can lift and carry 100 pounds or a little less than his weight. And he would have to drop it pretty quick, too. But listen to what a bee will do. Not long ago some scientists caught a number of bees just as they returned to their hive laden with honey, and, after inclosing them in a little box, carefully weighed them. When the bees had unloaded they were again caught, placed in the same box and weighed a second time. The experiment showed that when laden the bees weighed three times as much as when empty. It was, therefore concluded that a bee can carry twice its own weight of honeyand fly for a long distance with it, too.

Sharks' Eggs Are Black. A shark's egg is one of the oddestlooking things imaginable. It is unprovided with a shell, but the contents are protected by a thick, leathery covering, almost as elastic as india rubber. The average size is two inches by two and three-quarter inches, and the color is almost pure black.

As a Day of Rest.

Each day of the week has served as a day of rest somewhere-Sunday among Christians, Monday with the Greeks, Tuesday with the Persians, Wednesday with the Assyrians, Thursday with the Egyptians, Friday with the Turks, and Saturday with the Hebrews.

GIANTS AT CAMBRIA

Survival of a Peculiar Custom Which Has Obtained in Flanders for Hundreds of Years.

Eacn year in the middle of August the parish feasts at Cambria, in France, are concluded with the march of the giants. The cortege was particularly fine this year, the Gayant family of Doual and Reuse of Dunkirk having responded to the invitation of the Cambrians.

The v: Fous programmes published at Cambria have taken care to recall to mind the origin of the institution of the popular giants of Flanders. It was Charles V., said some of these, who endowed the subjects of the north with



PROCESSION OF THE GIANTS.

this divertisement, to the end that he might engage and amuse these people of restless spirit. Others affirm that city, and of whom the remembrance is perpetuated under this symbolical as-

However that may be, for the most part the towns of Flanders, Belgium, have their giant. For instance, there is Grandfather Giant at Malines, Druon Antignon at Anvers, who came to take part in the fetes of Van Dyck; Hercules at Louvaine, Ommegan at Brussels, Lideric and Phinart at Lille, Goliath at Ath, Longeman at Hasselt, The Dragon at Mons, and, finally, Gayant and Reuse at Dunkirk. Each one has a local history. The date of birth of others is unknown and uncertain. They are due probably to the desire each village had and most eccentric display, in the words of the learned M. Theophile Denis, to amuse big children with playthings.

The willow mannikin, which represents Gayant of Douai, was constructed | aid of the illustrations. in the year 1530, to figure in a religious very particular and behaved very nicely. Jacquot, Filian and Binbin. Gayant is feet; two pieces 2 Inches by 6 inches by

A WEATHER PROPHET.

to Rain and Always Makes for Shelter.

seen, the denizens of a tortoise farm on the African coast may sometimes be seen heading for the nearest overhangseen heading for the nearest overhangis some on hand. The labor would ocjorgan, plano and unical instrument catalogue. A during the day, and as a rule it comes and-Home. down in torrents. The sign never fails. This pre-sensation, or whatever you may call it, which exists in many birds and beasts may be explained partly from the increasing weight of the atmosphere when rain is forming, partly by habits of living and partly from the need of moisture which is shared by

If we want to find a country where nature has turned things topsy-turvythat is, according to our notion - we must go to Australia. Many things are reversed in that country. It is summer there while it is winter in America. Trees shed their bark instead of their leaves; fruit has the stone or kernel outside; swans are black; there is a species of fly that kills and eats the spider, and a fish, called the climbing perch, that walks deliberately out of the water, and, with the aid of its fine, climbs the adjacent trees after the insects that infest them.

Pretty Rattle for Dolly.

Crack an English walnut in halves, and put in either a bell or one or two small pebbles, paste the two shells tomatch (from which the sulphur has been broken off) and glue it in. When this is dry gild the rattle. It may then in various ways, and makes quite an attractive little rattle.

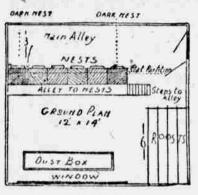
Paris' Ten Thousand Beggare. Paris contains 10,000 individuals who live by begging.

CHEAP POULTRY HOUSE.

It Is Not Paintial by Any Means, But Plenty Good Enough for Ordinary Purposes.

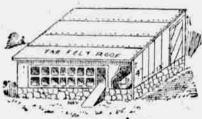
with the main alley running the whole length of the connected buildings and ism, and against the single gold stand in front of the different sections, about 25 hens to be kept in each.

It is intended to be built of rough hemiock, the price of which is based guments,



· INSIDE VIEW.

at ten dollars per 1,000 feet, although I have bought at six dollars, but it is my tal? "Yes, that is just what I said, It's purpose not to underestimate. I have just finished a similar poultry house of mill slabs doubled, with a space between, which was packed with straw and battened with slabs. The ground space was filled up with loose stone thrown in until on a level with the bottom of the sills, and then dirt was spread over the stone and tamped down hard. This filling is cheap, and and the the giants arose spontaneously out of stone allows the moisture to go through the soul of the people. They are the and the dirt floor is always dry. Howheroic warriors who have saved the ever, if a board floor is wanted, add 165

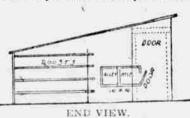


GENERAL VIEW.

(Dimensions Marked in Feet. One Corner Showing (A) Roost and (B) Box to Catch Droppings.)

feet of matched hemlock flooring at \$15 per 1,000 feet. For a partition, in place of netting I used straight poles from the forest, for cheapness. I had the to make the most droll, most amusing sash, and battened my roof with slabs, but still was very careful to make it warm, and it cost me only about four dollars. I performed the work myself, which any handy man can do with the

Below is an itemized list of lumber very often since that time, and it is be- sixty feet of ten-foot inch boards for lieved that there exists little of the siding (must not be cut to waste); 231 original carcass. His wife dates only feet of 14-foot inch boards for roof and



14 feet, and two pleces 2 inches by 6 The Tortoise Knows When It Is Going | inches by 12 feet for sills; eight pieces 2 inches by four inches by 14 feet for plates and cross beams; four pieces 1 inch by 6 inches by 12 feet for The tortoise is not an animal one windoweasing; two squares of felt roofwould naturally fix upon as likely to be ling at \$1.50 per square, including nails afraid of rain, but it is singularly so. for same; one roil building paper 500 Twenty-four hours or more before rain square feet, 60 cents; netting 6x16 feet, falls the Gallapagos tortoise makes for | 70 cents; 10 pounds nails, 30 cents; two some convenient shelter. On a bright, pairs strap hinges, 30 cents; four clear morning, when not a cloud is to be half sash, \$2.50. Total cost of lumber seen heading for the nearest overhang- is some on hand. The labor would ocing rocks. When that happens the pro- cupy a carpenter with one man to help prietor knows that rain will come down about two days .- G. R. France, in Farm

MILK FOR POULTRY.

At One Cent a Gallon It Is the Cheapest Food That the Farmer Can Secure.

Milk is an excellent poultry food, fed in any way. It is the cheapest animal food that you can buy if you can get it for one cent a gallon, says Farm Poultry. Recent experiments have proved it to be one of the best hotweather animal foods for chicks or laying fowls. It is, however, considered necessary to supply some additional meat food to get the best results in eggs. The milk could be fed daily and the meat twice a week, and good results follow. Beef plucks are an exceptionally good and cheap meat food. They are much cheaper than bone. We should feed milk and beef pluck, and would consider that we were getting our animal food very cheap.

You can feed the plucks to best advantage by varying the manner of preand having first taken out the kernel paring. Probably they will be best when cooked. The best way to prepare plucks to have them keep sweet will gether again. Lay it to dry for a quar- be to run them through a meat cutter ter of an hour. When dry it wal be or sausage machine and then boil the found that there is a small opening minced mest. Skim off all the fat and near one end. In this opening insert a strain the soup after cooking meat thoroughly. Use the liquor for mixing mash. The cooked meat, after being well drained, should be well dried in a be tied around the doll's neck with rib- moderate oven. If properly prepared bon, or it may be fastened to a necklace it will keep some time. It should be of beads. This may be improved upon kept in a cool, dry place and out of the way of insects. We would not prepare a very large quantity, as it is liable to "heat." We have had no trouble keeping meat so prepared for a month, even in hot weather. It must be thoroughly dried or it will spoil.

An Old Time Pop.

Editor Independent: Enclosed find \$4 o pay my subscription from September 15, 1897, to as far shead as the \$1 will pay. I want to thank you for past favors and to say that I like the stand you have taken. I am a reformer from way back. I am 52 years old, and my votes have been for Horace Greeley, Peter Cooper, J. B. Weaver, Ben. Butler, A. J. Streeter, J. B. Weaver again, and Birly Bryan. Now, I want to vote for Bryan in 1900; but I want his running ma'e to he a pop and it that is done I believe we can elect him. I think the national committeemen cah get together and This building, designed for about 25 make the necessary arrangements and bens, could also be built in duplicate consolidate all the reform forces against McKinleyism, imperialism and militar ard isms. Give it to 'em in the neck and do me a favor. I am a common farmer but not afraid of the gold standard ar-Truly, J. C. CHAMBERS. Holbrook, Neb.

> Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup will prove a quick and sure cure for croup. Mothers, when your children are attacked with that dreadful disease, you can depend on this marvelous remedy. It never fails to cure at once. Price 25c.

What Did He Mean

Editor Independent: One day while going north on the Missouri Pacific, some traveling men were talking about the financial bill that the republicans were going to bring before this congress and try to get through. One man made this remark: "The brainey men of today get a great income out of no capital: why a great income out of no capital: why cannot we get the same?" "What." said one. 'a great income without capibeen done for a great many years under republican administrations and is done today." Mr. Editor, what does he mean? As I am an old sub-criber, p ea-eanswer in your next valuable paper and oblige AN OLD SUBSCRIBER.

He meant that they stole it. Perhaps under the forms of law, but nevertheless it is jest simple plain stealing when one gets to the bottom of it.

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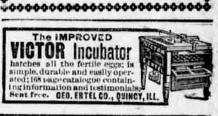
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