

DEATH OF THE BIRDS.

The Fearful Effect of the February Cold Snap in the South.

The readers of "Our Boys and Girls" have been told of the great damage done to the orange-groves and the fig trees of the south by the cold "snap" of last February, but there is another loss that we who live there have suffered, about which very little has been said. The severe weather not only killed our trees but the thousands of bright-plumed birds that have heretofore enlivened our forests and groves with their beautiful coats and their sweet songs.

The bluebird, that harbinger of the early spring, did not give us his merry greeting this year. His bright blue jacket and brown-red breast were missed by everybody. Seven little blue forms, dried and decayed, were found in one old post on our place, where the poor creatures had fled in vain for shelter.

The blue jay still struts about with his usual dignity, but only here and there, showing that his tribe has suffered fearful losses. The peculiarly sad note of the turtle-dove this year seems to mourn for the death of all her family.

The effects upon the several tribes of the oriole seem to be the most curious. They evidently look upon man as the worker of all the evil they have suffered. Formerly it was an easy matter to find their swinging nests near to almost any country house, and they appeared not to be afraid of men. Now they have hidden their nests far out in the forests and they are shy even of the breeze as it rocks the cradle of their young. Even the few humming birds that are left will not come to suck the pot plant as was once their daily habit.

The woodpecker, though only a summer visitor, is spending his vacation at other resorts this season. His lazy call and his constant drumming upon some dead tree, so common in summer before, are conspicuously absent this year. But the fell destroyer was no respecter of persons or rank; the royal family succumbed as well as the peasantry. The mocking-bird, the queen of the bird race by virtue of her genius and inheritance, is almost destroyed, except along the Mexican Gulf. A hundred miles back it is hard to find one.

The gum-tree and its berries, which have been held as her home and her feeding ground as far back as bird history runs, is now the feeding ground of her commonest subjects, the sap-sucker and the yellow-hammer. I have heard but two singers this year within a scope where in former years I have heard 200.

In losing a crop of oranges, figs and vegetables, we lose dollars and a few luxuries whose place may be supplied by the other sweets. The trees will grow again after a few years, but it will be many years before our groves and forests are full of birds again.

G. W. H.

BREAKING A MIRROR.

Its Significance to the Girl with a Superstitious Turn.

"There!" said the girl who was getting ready to go out. I've broken my hand mirror! What does that mean?" "Seven years of sorrow," said her friend; "it also betokens that you will quarrel with your dearest friend."

"Charlie? That would be too dreadful!" "Charlie? I thought you always counted me your dearest friend! So you have let the cat out of the bag. That pudding-headed Charlie Strong! Before I'd—"

"You needn't say anything more, Sue Garland. I hate you! And as for Charlie, you know you would have given your eyes to have caught him!"

"Pooh! I refused him half a dozen times before he ever looked at you. I wish you good afternoon and a better temper, my dear," and the friend slammed the door behind her.

There were several other girls left, and they one and all began to console with the girl who had broken her hand mirror. But she was inconsolable.

"You see how it has acted already, and if there are to be seven years of it, I shall just die, I know I shall! There, I've quarreled with Sue, the dearest girl in the world, and that's only the beginning!"

"Let me see where it's broken," said one of her chums as she picked up the cause of the trouble.

"There's a fracture right through the length of the glass, but I don't know how it came there. I didn't drop it or strike it against anything. Seven years? Ain't it just awful!"

"Seven grandmothers!" exclaimed the other girl; "that isn't a fracture; it's nothing but a streak of moist air. Look. I can wipe it off with my handkerchief!"

"So it is. Oh, you dear thing, run right after Sue and bring her back. Tell her the glass wasn't broken, and we haven't quarreled after all! And the seven years are up already, and oh, ain't I just thankful!"

How He Judged Character.

"So you want a situation?" said the business man.

"Yes, sir," replied the applicant.

"Hum—do you ever go fishing?"

"Occasionally."

"When were you fishing last?"

"Day before yesterday."

"Catch anything?"

"Not a thing."

"You can come to work next Monday if you like. If you keep on telling the truth like that you may be a partner in the firm one of these days."

Her Natural Inference.

Young Wife—I want to buy a cheap cap for my husband.

Hatter—What size does he wear?

Young Wife—I declare I forgot to find out! I know the size of his collar he wears though. It's fifteen. He'd want about size eighteen or twenty for a cap, wouldn't he?

THE NEW DAILY SCHEME.

The friends at Omaha are trying to raise sufficient capital to start an American daily. They already have a fair start, but desire the assistance of friends everywhere in the United States. Can you take one or more shares, on account of true Americanism? This is their plan:

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Increase the capital stock of the American Publishing Co. to \$150,000. Divide into 10,000 shares of \$15 each. Begin business when \$100,000 has been subscribed. Each stockholder must be a subscriber.

Subscription price of the paper, first year, will be \$10; \$8 the second, and whatever the directors decide thereafter.

The management of the company will be placed in the hands of a board of directors, who will be elected from among the stockholders by a majority of the stock represented at the regular annual meeting.

The indebtedness will not be over 40 per cent. of the capital stock at any time.

If you want to help establish a DAILY AMERICAN, fill out and return to this office the following blank, keeping this statement as our part of the contract:

On demand, after \$100,000 of the capital stock of the AMERICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY has been subscribed, I agree to pay to the AMERICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY, or order, the sum of _____ Dollars, being the purchase price of _____ Shares of the capital stock of the AMERICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY, of _____ of Omaha, Neb. Dated at (town) _____ this _____ day of _____, 1895. [Signed]

Also, please fill out the following blank for our information, as we do not want to have a Romanist associated with us in business:

I hereby state that I am not the agent of a Roman Catholic or of any person who sympathizes with the fight being made by the pope and the hierarchy against the free institutions of this country. I further state and agree that I will accept the face value of _____ stock in the AMERICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY at any time it may become apparent that I am working against the principles now advocated by the AMERICAN PUBLISHING COMPANY. Further, I agree not to _____ (State) _____ this _____ day of _____, 1895. Dated at (town) _____ this _____ day of _____, 1895. [Signed]

The following numbers of shares have

Table listing shares of Omaha, Neb. (1,170 shares), Chicago, Ill. (500 shares), Brownville, Neb. (11 shares), Waver, Neb. (7 shares), Boone, Ia. (45 shares), Minneapolis, Minn. (2 shares), Florence, Neb. (1 share), Kansas City, Mo. (1 share), Laramie, Wyo. (1 share), Marion, Ohio (1 share), Des Moines, Ia. (1 share).

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