THE HERALD.

Prowess of the Bald Eagle.

Most of our recent authors have treated the bald eagle as a sluggish, fish-eating bird, whose entire stock of surplus energy is devoted to robbing a more industrious and less powerful neighbor. That it has not entirely lost its old-time daring, so graphically described by Audubon, the following account will show. I am indebted for my facts to Nathan Cobb, one of the oldest and most reliable of the professional duck-shooters at Cobb's Island, Va. The species is a permanent resident in the neighborhood of the island, though it is not often seen during the summer months. A few, however, are said to breed upon the opposite mainland.

In the winter the eagles are much more numerous than at any other time of the year; and my informant has, on several occasions, seen as many as eight at once. At this season, the neighboring bays and creeks swarm with wild fowl, and upon these the eagles principally live. He has never known them to capture fish of any kind, although they not unfrequently rob the fish-hawk. Geese and brant form their favorite food, and the address displayed in their capture is very remarkable. The poor victim has apparently not the slightest chance for escape. The eagle's flight, ordinarily slow and somewhat heavy, becomes, in the excitement of the pursuit, exceedingly swift and graceful; and the fugitive is quickly overtaken. When close upon its quarry, the eagle suddenly sweeps beneath it, and, turning back downward, thrusts its powerful talons up into its breast. A brant or duck is carried off bodily to the nearest marsh or sand-bar, but a Canada goose is too heavy to be thus easily disposed of. The two great birds fall together to the water beneath, where the eagle literally tows his prize along the surface until the shore is reached. In this way, one has been known to drag a large goose for nearly half a mile.

A single bird is usually seized at the first attempt, but Mr. Cobb has seen an eagle repeatedly miss his aim when in the midst of a large flock. The very abundance of opportunities seem to bewilder him, and he thrusts wildly and harmlessly in all directions; but, after the crowding masses have become scattered by his onslaught, a separate individual is selected, and quickly overtaken and killed.

Although the larger and heavier water-fowl are more likely to be attacked, the royal bird seems to find little difficulty in overhauling the swiftest flying ducks. The latter, however, often escape by diving, although in shallow water this resource sometimes proves of no avail, as the eagle follows their course, and seizes them as they rise near the surface. Under favorable conditions, even grebes are sometimes captured.

In winter shooting the sportsman loses many a wounded goose or brant by the eagles. They seem fully aware of the advantages to be gained by maintaining a close espionage upon the gunner's movements, and a bird that falls at any considerable distance from the stand is often seized and borne away before it can be recovered. Universally hated as he is by all the gunners of this island, the eagle is not unfrequently killed by them in the following curious manner. The "stools," or decoys, which are relied upon to dupe the wary water-fowl, sometimes deceive even the keen-eyed bird of prey; and, in his eagerness to secure one of the unsuspecting flock, he swoops upon a wooden victim, and is riddled by a fatal discharge from the circle of seaweed where the sportsman lies concealed. On several occasions, when the marauder's approach did not happen to be observed, Mr. Cobb has had a decoy lifted from the water and carried off several yards before the eagle discovered his mistake.—*William Brewster in Bulletin Nuttal Club.*

The Unnatural Hen—A Carving Story.

It is not alone the fact that the amateur carver misses the joints and tries to cut through the largest bones, that fills him with regret and his lap full of sage and onions. It is the horrible thought that the entire company is looking at him. No matter how the perspiration may trickle down between his shoulder blades, or how the hot flashes may chase the chills up and down his spinal column, or how much his eyes may be dimmed by unshed tears, the rest of the company never allows its interest to flag a moment. We remember one time we were called to assume the management of a free-for-all carving tournament at the home of a dove-eyed dumpling, whose kind regard we desired to catch on to as far as possible. How clearly come back to us now the smiling faces of the guests, the rippling laugh, the bald-headed joke, the thanksgiving conundrum, and all as merry as a marriage bell. We call to mind the girlish laughter of that one whose very existence, as she sat on our left that day, seemed cemented and glued to our own. As we sharpened the glittering blade on the ringing steel, we felt buoyant and proud—proud to think how we would slice the white, calm bosom of that deceased hen; proud to think how, in our mind, we had laid out the different pregnable points about that old cackler, and in the anticipation of applause glad and free, when we had accomplished the warfare and victory and stuffing had perched upon our banner. We softly jabbed the shimmering fork a-straddle of the breastbone, tore off a few goose pimples from under the wings of the late lamented, gouged out a few shattered fragments from the neck, and tried to cut a sirloin steak off the back. An oppressive gloom seemed to pervade the air. The old hen didn't have her joints where we had them laid out in our mind. She was deformed. She seemed to be a freak of nature. It rattled us and unnerved us. We gouged wildly at the remains, squirting the gravy right and left, and filling the air with fragments of bread-crumbs and sage. By some kind of omission or miscalculation, we made a wild stab at the back of the late lamented hen, and with a frenzy born of repeated defeats and depressing failures, the knife struck the platter with a loud crash, and ceasing not in its untamed fury, glanced aside, and in an instant buried itself with a sickening thud in the corset of the hired girl. With difficulty we drew out the glittering blade, now ensanguined with the gore of a fellow-creature, wiped it on the table-cloth, and fled out into the cold, unsympathetic world, out into the crash and confusion of struggling humanity, to battle on through life under an assumed name. That is why we tremble and turn pale when our past life is inquired into by biographers. That is why a baked fowl makes us quail.—*Bill Nye.*

"What a fine protuberant forehead your baby has, Mrs. Jones. Did he get it from his father?" "No," replied Mrs. Jones, "he got it from a fall down stairs."

An old gentleman, finding a couple of his nieces fencing with broomsticks, said: "Come, come, my dears, that kind of accomplishment will not aid you in getting husbands." "I know it, uncle," responded one of the girls, as she gave a lunge, "but it will help to keep our husbands in order when we get 'em."

In the upper part of Sonoma county, California, near the coast, may be seen an actual road-bed in the tree tops.—Between the Clipper Mills and Stuart's Point, where the road crosses a deep ravine, the trees are sawed off on a level and the timber and ties laid on the stumps. In the center of the ravine mentioned, two huge redwood trees, standing side by side, form a substantial support, and they are cut off seventy-five feet above the ground.

One more story about Dean Stanley. "No one feels up to his work," he said one day. "I have always thought that a Dean should have three qualifications, none of which I possess. First, I think a Dean should know something about music; I am absolutely ignorant of the subject. Secondly, I think a Dean should know something about architecture; I know nothing about it. Thirdly, I think a Dean should know something about the management of business; I am always thankful when our audit is over and we have not come to some grievous mishap."

Ben Wood some years ago won, it is said, $125,000 at a single sitting at faro. He borrowed $2,500 from Judge McCann to begin on, and he went away with every pocket stuffed with checks and bills. The cigar seller in the gambling rooms says that Wood that night smoked $70 worth of cigars. He took cigars costing $1 each, and lighting one end, began, in his nervous way, to eat the other, and in about two minutes he would take a fresh one.

Colonel Dan Murphy, of Halleck station, Elko county, came to California in 1844, and may be said to have made the country pay him well for his time. He is now probably the largest private land owner on this continent. He has 4,000,000 acres of land in one body in Mexico, 60,000 in Nevada, and 28,000 in California. His Mexican grant he bought four years ago for $200,000, or 5 cents an acre. It is sixty miles long and covers a beautiful country of hill and valley, pine timber, and meadow land. It comes within twelve miles of the city of Durango, which is to be a station on the Mexican Central. Mr. Murphy raises wheat on his California land, and cattle on that in Nevada. He got 55,000 sacks last year, and ships 6,000 head of cattle a year right along.

Instruction in eating watermelon is given by the Baltimore *American*, which should be good authority, as it is published in the melon region. The hotel plan of cutting a watermelon like a tulip, and putting a lump of ice in it, is condemned, because ice should never touch the pulp; but a burial of the uncut melon in ice for two days is wise. Then cut lengthwise, and eat between meals. "People deal unjustly with this fruit sometimes, by eating a hearty dinner first, and then topping off with a melon; and then if a moral earthquake sets up in the interior, they charge it to the melon. The watermelon was intended as an episode—an interlude—a romance without words—a nocturne in green and red—not to be mingled with bacon and greens. Its indulgence leaves a certain epigastral expansion, but this is painless and evanescent. The remedy is to loosen the waistband, and—take another slice."

The islands in the group in the St. Lawrence, known as the "Thousand Islands," have increased enormously in value. Islands which eight years ago were purchased for $40 and $50 are today worth from $10,000 to $100,000.—Hart's Island, upon which Moore wrote a poem, was sold for $40, and to-day its estimated value is $25,000. Manhattan Island, upon which Seth Green resided for several years, was bought for $50. It was sold by him to Judge Spencer and Mr. Hasbrook, of New York city, and is now valued at $10,000. The four islands occupied by the sons and relict of Asa L. Packer were bought for $50, and to-day they are valued at $100,000, although it is not probable that they could be bought for any reasonable price. These estimates include, of course, the improvements made upon the islands, but this manifold increase of valuation has been reached by the outlay of comparatively a few thousand dollars.

The Physic of Our Grandfathers.

W. A. Perkins, druggist of this city, has a curious old book, published in London in 1657. It is entitled, "The Expert Doctor's Dispensatory; or, The Whole Art of Physick Restored to Practice," with the following sub-title: "The Apothecaries Shop and Chyrurgions Closet Opened, wherein all safe and honest practices are maintained and dangerous mistakes discovered; and what out of subtilty to their own profits they have endeavored to reserve themselves, now at last impartially divulged and made common. Together with a strict survey of the Dispensatories of the most renowned Colleges of the World, which being corrected, are here epitomised and drawn into an easier and useful method for practice."

Following are some few of the more agreeable among the many agreeable remedies with which our forefathers were dosed: "The fat of a cat, a plaster of mashed frogs, brain of a hare roasted, fat of serpents; the fat of men, foxes, vipers, and dogs; oil of vipers; grease of a mummy; ashes of a man's skull, ashes of glass, of earth-worms, of an asses' liver, hedge-hog, scorpions, blood, cheese mites, wood lice, beetles, warts off a horse's hoof, pike jaws, crawfish, the stoppings of a snail's shell in Winter, crab's eyes, king-fishers, stones from an ox gall; blood of a goat in wine; turtle-dove roasted, with its belly filled with cinnamon; man's skull powdered and stewed in the milk of a sow;" spider's web, "especially if it be such as is full of the fine flower of mills or bake-houses;" clots of blood "dryed;" haire of horses and men burnt; burnt sponge; soot scraped from the mouth of an oven or off a brasse pot; oyle of frogs. The "oyle" of frogs is recommended to those who are troubled with sleeplessness. It is said to operate "by sending mild vapors up to the head, to temper the hot, dry and sharp fumes that are in the brain." We all know (who have ever handled frogs) that they are cool to the touch.

For taking away scars are recommended "fats an marrowes of men, asses, harts and the fat of the fish Thymallus."

For wounds "crawfish, mummy and crabs's eyes" are recommended; also, "earth-worms and hare's hair burned."

"Extractors" for "drawing out splinters and other things fastened in wounds," we are told there is nothing like "land snailes beaten with their shels, the head of a lizard powdered, or a fox tongue prepared as its lungs are moystened with red wine." Loadstone "draws forth iron and amber draws straws."

"For a 'moderate' emetic "the shavings of one's own nails drank in wine" are recommended.

Many things heartily recommended for various diseases are unmentionable to ears polite.—*Virginia (Nev.) Enterprise.*

WAIFS.

Louisiana has a school population of 290,036. Of this number 139,657 are colored.

Mrs. Curi, of Bourbon county, Kentucky, has a clothes line that has been in use for over seventy odd years.

A Pottsville (Pa.) dentist in forty minutes chloroformed three women and pulled seventy teeth from their jaws.

Gough's Embarrassment.

The only instance of embarrassment I could not overcome, says Mr. Gough, occurred many years ago. It was my own fault, and proved a sharp lesson to me. I was engaged to address a large number of children in the afternoon, the meeting to be held in the lawn back of the Baptist church in Providence, R. I. In the forenoon a friend met me, and said:

"I have some first-rate cigars; will you take a few?"

"No, I thank you."

"Do take half-a-dozen."

"I have nowhere to put them."

"You can put half-a-dozen in your cap."

I wore a cap in those days, and I put the cigars into it, and at the appointed time I went to the meeting. I ascended the platform and faced an audience of more than two thousand children. As it was out of doors, I kept my cap on, for fear of taking cold, and I forgot all about the cigars.

Toward the close of my speech I became very much in earnest, and after warning the boys against bad company, bad habits, and the saloons, I said:

"Now, boys, let us give three rousing cheers for temperance and cold water. Now, then, three cheers. Hurrah!"

And taking off my cap, I waved it most vigorously, when away went the cigars right into the midst of the audience. The remaining cheers were very faint, and were nearly drowned in the laughter of the crowd. I was mortified and ashamed, and should have been relieved could I have sunk through the platform out of sight. My feelings were still more aggravated by a boy coming up the steps of the platform with one of those dreadful cigars, saying:

"Here's one of your cigars, Mr. Gough."

Though I never afterwards put cigars in my hat or cap when going to a meeting, I am ashamed to say it was sometime after before I gave up cigars altogether.

Cheap Railroad Rates in Europe.

It is a rather significant circumstance that the influence which is being exercised by the American waterways upon railway tariffs and traffic in the United States is likely to be paralleled by the effects of a similar competition on the European continent. The advance of the charges for through traffic from the eastern to the western parts of Europe over the German lines which followed the adoption of Prince Bismarck's protectionist policy has considerably stimulated traffic upon the Elbe. It was not long ago announced that a new company had been formed under Austrian auspices for navigating the Elbe and the North Sea with a line of steamers, and this company may be expected to commence operations at no distant date. Meanwhile, the traffic by this route has already expanded considerably, and has been encouraged by special arrangements between the vessels on the river and the Austro-Hungarian lines concerned. Latterly important quantities of corn and flour for Great Britain have been sent by way of the Elbe, and the increasing tendency of traffic between Austro-Hungary and Great Britain to take this route is reviving the competition of Hamburg and Fiume. Cheap rates by the line to Gustavsburg on the Rhine again are attracting traffic also to that river. Finally, as we have already indicated, Fiume and Trieste are making great competitive efforts to secure business with the north of France and Great Britain by the sea route from the Adriatic. The effort of the German Government to encourage the home and foreign trade in German productions by removing the facilities previously allowed to the transit trade has, therefore, only had the effect of calling into existence formidable rivalry to the railways, and, while damaging the German transit trade, has failed to secure any advantages for German home productions. These facts may be regarded as additional symptoms that the question of waterways versus railways is coming more and more to the front.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

Lake Tahoe.

The Tahoe *Tattler* says that there are a great many erroneous ideas extant relative to this lake, and announces that it will make it a special part of its business to correct them and gives the real facts concerning it regarding climatology, geology, boating, etc. It is situated 6,220 feet above the sea, is 22 miles long from north to south and 12½ miles wide, the general contour being a parallelogram. The greatest measured depth that we have good authority for is 1,506 feet. The temperature never goes below 39 degrees Fahrenheit and in summer never above 60, unless it be near the shore in some sheltered cove or where a stream of sun-warmed water runs into it. At a depth of 500 feet the temperature never changes, being 39½ degrees. This fact accounts for another—that of drowned persons never rising—the water being so cold that no gases are generated, hence the body in time simply goes to pieces from the action of the water. It is as buoyant as any other pure water at the same altitude, there being no appreciable difference in the readings of the hydrometer, hence the statement that wood does not float for any time, persons can not swim and the like are fallacies. The air being very light at this elevation above the level of the sea, exercise of any kind, either on land or water, can not be so long continued as in lower and heavier atmospheres.

A Haytien Princess.

The face of the Princess Soulouque was a dead jet black, but the features were softly molded, and with a line set of laughing teeth, made her appearance prepossessing. She wore a jaunty white turban hat, with an immense cardinal red feather floating away behind like a ship's pennon. Her riding dress was of sky blue, very long, and trailing in the dust. Around her waist was a broad gold sash, and in her bosom she wore a sapphire brooch almost as large as a saucer. She was mounted on a Venezuelan horse about sixteen hands high, which was made a present to her father by the president of Venezuela. The horse was as remarkable as the woman on his back. He was a clear cream color all over the body, with long, snow-white mane and tail, and most admirable shape. The lady's riding-whip had a gold handle studded with precious stones, and the bridle-chain was of solid silver. She wore yellow leather gloves, with gauntlets extended as far as the elbow. Her voice had a tendency to falsetto, and its tones were peculiarly entertaining to hear. The princess, but no longer a princess by the laws of the land, was educated in Europe, and speaks our language.—*Boston Traveller.*

Force of Imagination.

"You know," said Rice, "how the negro likes 'possum. Two darkies were riding from the field after a hard day's plowing. They began to talk about the good things to eat. 'Ta-k-e a good f-a-h-t possum—pahble him—put him in ole fashion Dutch oving—roas' him brow,' the other darkey's eyes rolling and mouth watering as the description went on, 'sarve him up wid c-o-o-n graby—"Shut yo' mout, yo' niggah! I'll fall right off'n dis hoss."'"

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West Virginia, Aug. 28, 1879.—I received your medicine and I believe it has cured me, for which I am very thankful. Please send by express, enclosed $5. Please send by express the following named drugs: [illegible]
Missouri, June 26.—Please forward me another box of the Pastilles. The patient on whom I have used most of one box, in addition to a single box, is now recovering, and I think another will set him all right.
From a Druggist.
Maryland, Sept. 2, '79.—Last January we took a box of your Remedy for one of our customers, and it has made a perfect cure of him. We have another customer now suffering in the same way, and wish one No. 3 box.
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