

AN EIDER DUCK FARM

GATHER ALONG ISLAND'S ROCKY COAST.

Nesting Grounds of the Birds—How the Eggs Are Protected by the Fluffy Feathers That Are So Prized in Every Country.

(Special Letter.)

I was near Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland, that I first made the acquaintance of eider ducks, says Elizabeth Taylor.

In front of the turf-roofed little buildings, on the stony ground, a quantity of down was drying—fluffy masses of brownish-gray, looking as if the first puff of wind would blow them out to sea.



GATHERING DOWN.

harmonized with the gray rocks and dead grasses around me that I could hardly distinguish the ducks at a distance of a few paces.

"Why is it, Gudrun," I asked, "that the ducks are so afraid of me?"

Gudrun smiled shyly, and replied, "I think, Froken, that they do not like your hat!"

That was the trouble! Accustomed as they were to the simple kerchief, or the small black "hufa" worn by Icelandic women, with its heavy silk tassels hanging down on one side, they had taken umbrage at my straw traveling hat with its "perky" ribbon bows.

All the accounts I have read about eider ducks say that nests are robbed of their down twice, the duck supplying it each time from her own body.

the third time the drake gives his white down, and this is allowed to remain. But I was told by farmers in Iceland that now they never take the down until the little ones are hatched.

It has been found that the birds thrive better and increase faster when they are allowed to live as nature meant them to do.

So now the poor moorers are no longer obliged to strip themselves of all their down to furnish their despoiled nests. Eider ducks are found along the seacoast of Arctic America and Siberia, Greenland, Norway, Sweden, Lapland, Iceland, the Faroe Islands, Spitzbergen and Nova Zembla.

They live in a wild state in every part of Iceland where they can find suitable breeding places. Often a prosperous "varpet," as the nesting grounds are called, can be formed by the farmer whose land possesses the proper attractions.

WINTER CYCLE COSTUMES.

How Parisiennes Are Bligged for Cold Weather Spins.

Since bicycling has become so popular in Paris modistes and man milliners are devoting much attention to the matter of correct costume for fair riders. A correspondent says on this subject: "The new winter suits are very handsome, being of rich cloth or velvet, trimmed with bands of fur.

EXPERTS AT BILLIARDS.

How Two English Girls Are Gaining Renown in London.

Billiard playing is becoming popular among the fair sex in England. Two English girls recently appeared in London as professional billiard players. Their names are Miss Grace Fairweather and Miss Ella Collins.

HANDY WITH AX AND HATCHET

Some three-quarters of a mile from Berryville, Clark county, Va., there stands a little log cabin which was



WASHINGTON'S HOME FOR FOUR YEARS.

built and occupied by George Washington between the years of 1748 and 1752, when he made his first step into public life and served as a young surveyor under Lord Fairfax.

For four years of his life Washington made his home in this hut, with no white face near. No relic could speak more eloquently of Washington's perseverance than this cabin, built literally by his own hands.

Closing the Season.

"At any rate, my wheel is of the latest pattern." "I have noticed that it usually gets in last."—Indianapolis Journal.

THEATRICAL TOPICS.

CURRENT NEWS AND GOSSIP OF THE STAGE.

Nat Goodwin's Raid on the Classics Will Not End with Shylock—Melbourne MacDowell in the Character of Clichet—Katherine Grey.



NAT GOODWIN doesn't propose to stop at Shylock in his raid on the classic English drama. For instance he has an "I" on Richard the Third, as you may gather from this report of a recent deliverance by him: "I want to play the Richard III that I believe in."

Katherine Grey was born and educated in San Francisco, Cal., but began her stage career under the management of Augustin Daly, with whose company she remained one season.



KATHERINE GREY.

ance of James A. Herne, who subsequently procured her for his New York production of "Shore Acres." The following season she joined A. M. Palmer's company, presenting "New Blood," after which she played in repertory with Richard Mansfield, creating leading roles in "Napoleon" and "The King of Peru," and appearing in "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde," "A Parisian Romance," and as the Bulgarian servant girl in "Arms and the Man," this being her favorite role.

The character of Clichet, as played by Melbourne MacDowell, in Fanny Davenport's new piece, is declared to be one of the most effective he has ever attempted. In it Mr. MacDowell sacrifices his personal appearance to the part, assuming not only the hump of a cripple, but the attire of a court jester.

takes his own life, knowing he can no longer serve her.

It is reported that Paul Potter has written for Beerbohm Tree a play on a "semi-romantic modern English subject," entitled "The Man Who Was."

D'Aubigny believes that the future of grand opera rests largely upon the talents of Americans. "There are many young Americans studying music in Paris today whose voices are remarkable," he said, speaking of the progress of Americans in Europe.

Lewis Morrison produced "Frederic the Great" last week. The scenes are laid in Potsdam, and 1732 is the period. The story deals largely with the trials of a young soldier, who is desperately in love with the king's ward, with whom he became acquainted quite by chance.

Scribe had a way of making every single thing said or done on the stage impinge upon the development of the plot. He was a terrible stickler in this matter. One day he said to a young beginner who had come to him for advice: "My dear young friend, your hero leans a gun up in the corner of the room in the first scene; and that

gun does not go off once in the whole play. What do you want me to say of a piece in which there is such a tremendous flaw in dramatic construction?"

Maud Hoffman was born in California, and after studying for the stage determined in 1890 to make her debut selecting for that purpose Shakespeare's charming heroine, Juliet, in which she accordingly appeared at the Grand Opera House, Boston, Mass. She found, however, that her ambitious efforts proved a failure, and decided that her place was not yet at the top of the ladder.



MAUD HOFFMAN.

young actress made rapid advances, playing Berenis in "The Sign of the Cross," with Wilson Barrett, in England, and afterwards becoming a member of Augustin Daly's company. Last season she rejoined Mr. Willard in leading parts, and is again engaged as his leading lady this season.

FARMS AND FACTORIES

BOTH INTERESTED IN HAWAIIAN ANNEXATION.

Expansion of Pacific Ocean Interests—Russia's Rapid Industrial Progress—Facts About the Farms—Siberian Railroad.



St. Louis by Hon. Lorrin A. Thurston, ex-minister from Hawaii, in the following forcible language:

"I submit to you that no one in this country has a more direct interest in annexation than the manufacturers. Up to five years ago the United States developed and progressed while paying very little attention to its foreign relations and its foreign commerce."

The cards will be distributed among the friends of those employed in the office. The regular annual harvest of victims of this kind of fraud is just being gathered. Today Chief Peters received word that yesterday a man bought \$4 worth of tickets to a ball from two men, who said they were selling tickets for a benefit affair.

Africa a Bone of Contention. From the Lynchburg Advance: It has been predicted that Africa would be the theater of the great struggle between European powers in the next century, as America was in the last two centuries.

Horse Found Its Way Home. Sir W. R. Hamilton kept a headstrong horse, to which he had given the name of Comet, and used to gallop it in circles or perhaps in ellipses round the lawn.

Currents in the Atlantic. Experiments have been going on for the past two years for the purpose of trying to learn something of the characteristics of the Atlantic ocean as a great moving body of water.

Irreverent. "Where are the great men of whom the stage used to boast?" asked the tragedian. "Doing the continuous show on the other shore, most likely," answered the comedian, irreverently.—Philadelphia North American.

Martial Viands. "Pumpkin pie is said to be very soothing in its effects." "That's not so; when I eat good pumpkin pie I always feel as if I wanted to fight." "Fight?" "Yes, for another piece."—Detroit Free Press.

It is completed, thereby opening up the countries of the Pacific to the trade of the Mississippi Valley and the Gulf States, all of that vast and growing tide of commerce will flow past Hawaii. Can the United States afford to take any chances as to any other country obtaining control of Hawaii. The strategic key of the Pacific, the commercial "crossroads" of the Pacific, can now be had for the taking. Is it worth having? None of us expect to die tomorrow, or that our houses will burn next week; and yet, we insure ourselves and our houses. No one expects war between the United States and any Pacific power, but it is not the part of wisdom and statesmanship to forestall the future as well as to take account of the immediate present, and by now securing the control of Hawaii, to thereby expand the shipping, the farming, the commerce and the manufactures of the United States, in and upon the Pacific, and also to insure it from the possibility of hostile attack?"

THINK SHERIFF A "POO-BAH."

Strange Requests Made of This Officer—Cards of Warning.

Sheriff Pease is asked to perform all sorts of duties for persons who live from 1,000 to 3,000 miles away from Chicago in backwoods districts. Today he received a letter from J. B. Westfall of Angleton, Brazoria county, Texas, asking him if he knew of some one who wanted to buy a bear.

"Take warning—Beware of people who would sell you tickets to balls, parties or entertainments alleging them to be for the benefit of the employees of the sheriff's office. This office has had no party, picnic or benefit entertainment for seven years, and does not at this time intend having one."

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Africa a Bone of Contention. From the Lynchburg Advance: It has been predicted that Africa would be the theater of the great struggle between European powers in the next century, as America was in the last two centuries. Bishop Hartell of the Methodist Episcopal Church, after a close observation of the situation, indorses the opinion. There are already signs of the coming trouble. Germany is watching British progress in Africa with a jealous eye and only wants a pretext to interfere in order to stop that progress.

Horse Found Its Way Home. Sir W. R. Hamilton kept a headstrong horse, to which he had given the name of Comet, and used to gallop it in circles or perhaps in ellipses round the lawn. On one occasion he mounted him in Dublin just after a curious mathematical problem had suggested itself to him.

Currents in the Atlantic. Experiments have been going on for the past two years for the purpose of trying to learn something of the characteristics of the Atlantic ocean as a great moving body of water. As a result the whole Atlantic is shown to be slowly circulating round and round, like an enormous pool.

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