

A WOLF AMONG THE BIRDS



A wolf among the birds might be an appropriate name for the common yet strange creature I want to tell you about, says a writer for the Children's Column. Perhaps the word "tramp" would better express the idea than the word "foundling," for we pity foundlings, babies left by their cruel parents to the care of a friendly world, or orphans whom death has cast upon charity for protection. But we have no love, pity nor respect for the human tramp, and this feathered fellow of whom I am writing does not deserve many of these things either.

The cowbird, or cow blackbird, is a wanderer upon the face of the earth. He has no home—he never had a home—and his parents never claimed him or knew him, but left him to the tender mercies of other birds that brought him up because they could not help themselves. But I will tell you all about that later. Let us tell you all about



Cow Blackbirds, that later. Let us first get acquainted with this bird, and then we shall know him the next time we see him. The cowbird is a first cousin of the common blackbird that makes so much noise in our dooryards. For all his close kinship he has not inherited any of the common blackbird's better qualities. He has lost all the gloss of his plumage and now wears a coat as dusty and brown as any human wanderer you ever saw. He has lost the common blackbird's neighborly habits, and usually flocks "all by himself" out in the pastures. The only creatures that stir any interest in his being are cattle, and wherever you see a herd of those animals grazing over the pasture you are pretty likely to see a cowbird flying over their backs, dodging about their feet or even resting upon their backs. That is why he is called "cowbird," because cattle seem to be the only animals he cares anything about.

But I have not yet told you of the most unbirdlike trait of this relative of the blackbird, and I am sure you will say he does not deserve our respect when you hear all about him. His poor orphaned baby might call forth our pity if we were not positively certain that when it grows up it will do the same thing. The cowbird never builds a nest of its own, but the female lays her eggs in other birds' nests and leaves the other birds to care for her child. Worse than that, she selects some tiny little pair that build a dainty house, like the little yellow birds—and lays her egg in their nest—only one in a nest. You can imagine the dismay of the yellow birds when they come home to find a great egg of the cowbird there. They cannot roll the intruder out, the nest walls are too high, and they themselves are too small, so they lay their eggs and hatch them, together with the cowbird's egg. Then a sad thing happens, for the little cowbird is so much bigger and stronger



A TWO-STORIED NEST.

than the little yellow birds, and his appetite is so much more voracious that he gets all the food the parent birds bring and leaves the little yellow birds to die. A pretty state of affairs, I should say!

But I must tell you a good joke on the cowbird that this same yellow bird plays sometimes. Often when the yellow birds come home and find their new nest occupied with a cowbird's egg they go to work and build the walls a little higher and then lay a false bottom, as it were, over the intruder. Then they lay their own eggs up in the second story of their house and hatch them, too. But the cowbird's egg, getting no heat from their tiny bodies, does not hatch at all, and one cowbird more has failed to come forth to trouble these little feathered snarlers.

Food Value of Sugar.

A striking paper on the "Dietetic Value of Sugar" appears in last week's issue of the British Medical Journal, by Dr. Willoughby Gardner. Roughly speaking, the world's consumption of sugar in the last fifteen years has doubled, while in Great Britain it has trebled per head in forty years. Another interesting point is that the Eng-

lish and Americans stand easily at the head of the list as the sugar-eating nations. Dr. Willoughby Gardner establishes the fact that sugar is a potent creator of energy and maintainer of stamina. This, he contends, is not only proved by laboratory experiments, but by the case of the date-eating Arabs, the fine health of the sugar-cane-eating negroes, and the result obtained by Alpine climbers, Arctic explorers, athletes and German soldiers fed on a special diet. Dr. Willoughby Gardner's general conclusion is that the increased height and weight and the improved health of the English people in the last half century are largely due to the increased consumption of sugar.

Philadelphia's Charitable Funds.

Philadelphia has no less than thirty-seven different funds that have been left to it for various charitable purposes. The largest of these is the Girard estate, which passed on the death of Steven Girard in 1831. It now amounts to nearly \$16,000,000. The income from it last year was \$478,876, which was devoted to Girard College. The next largest fund is the Delaware-avenue fund, which consists of the principal of Girard's legacy of \$500,000 and an accumulated income of nearly half as much. Most of this income will be devoted to improving the river front. The other thirty-five trusts amount to \$1,301,666, the income from which last year was \$57,431. There are twelve fuel funds, from the income on which 1,944 tons of coal were distributed. Some soup trusts yield \$765.

King and Tinker.

A quaint story attaches to an old ale-house at Knifeld, which bears the remarkable sign of "King James and the Tinker." Hunting one day in the neighborhood, James I. got separated from his courtiers, and pulled up at this house, where he joined a tinker sitting in the porch. In the course of conversation the tinker said he would dearly love to see the king. "Mount behind me, then," said James, "and you shall have your wish," and the tinker taking him at his word, they rode away. "But how shall I know the king?" asked the tinker. "Oh, that is easy enough," said James, "for all the courtiers will be bareheaded." When they reached the party the man

of pots and pans looked round puzzled. Suddenly realizing that he and his companion were the only two people with their hats on, he slipped to the ground in consternation, and implored pardon for his great presumption. But the king, delighted with his joke, with royal recklessness, knighted him on the spot and gave him a pension of £500 a year.

Kindness Gives Satisfaction.

If we take a selfish view only of doing helpful things for others we find sufficient reason; for it is a fact that a kindly action, kindly received, leaves in its wake a feeling of satisfaction and content. It is true, unfortunately, that neighborly acts are not always received in quite the spirit in which they are offered, but you cannot afford to lose your pleasure in proffering such acts even if your neighbor does receive it rather stiffly. Perhaps you have waited a little too long. And it is not the gift itself more than the pleasure of being remembered—the kind thought that prompts the gift. So a call and chat with a sick neighbor, the loan of a paper or book or the new pattern, may all count as gifts, and they count up so fast, if we only watch out for opportunities that we are amazed that they have ever been neglected by us. An important question is "Who is thy neighbor?" Surely others besides your own intimate friends.

I hold him great who, for Love's sake,
Can give with generous, earnest will;
Yet he who takes for Love's sweet sake,
I think I hold more generous still.

Necessity for a General Standard.

In the creation of a bureau of standards this country has taken a forward step. Up to the present we have had to verify our instruments in Germany, but now that we have a bureau of our own, we will be able to rely on ourselves. What would still further help things would be the national adoption of a reasonable system of weights and measures, such as the metric system. Until that is done we shall have great difficulty and confusion in the standardization of measures. Take, for instance, the bushel measure that is used for wheat. It differs in various states between points twenty pounds apart. There is a variation in other measures and until one standard is arranged for we shall always have trouble.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Liability of Medical Institutions.

Is a charitable medical institution liable for the negligence of one of its surgeons in operating on a patient gratuitously? The Supreme court, Appellate division, of New York, in a recent decision in the case of Collins vs. New York Post-Graduate Medical school and hospital (69 N. Y. Supp. 1,060), holds that such an institution is not liable for damages where the surgeon is employed has been selected with proper care, and with no reason to believe him to be negligent or incompetent. When the institution has exercised due care in the selection of its surgeons and other employees the court holds that it has then fulfilled its duty, and is not responsible for their negligence.

Little Women of Mexico



In Mexico, as in many countries, the mothers of the working classes have very little time in which to care for and coddle their children. So the older sisters are always expected to play the part of "little mothers," and many of them take complete charge of the wee ones of the family. As the train passes every small village you will see these little girls with their charges, chattering and playing among themselves and watching expectantly for money. They are known as Centovita

Nenos—meaning that they are always willing to catch a penny thrown from the car window for them. They are usually dressed in some picturesque way, and most of the time their picturesque garments are very ragged and old. In spite of the burden of having to care for small brothers and sisters, and in spite of their tattered clothes, the little Centovita Nenos are happy as larks, contented with their lot, and ready for any sport or games that may come up.

NEW YORK'S WISE GULLS.

They Know Fish Day and the Steamer Sailing Days.

Every day is in a measure a fish day at Fulton market, but the seagulls know the chief fish day of the week, says the New York Sun. It is then that they feast to their hearts' content. Their coming and going has for years amused and interested the ferryboat passengers, and some of the latter have been observed to look up from their papers, glance out of the cabin windows, catch sight of the army of gulls and exclaim, "Bless me, there are the gulls. It is Friday again."

The long-winged travelers of the sea are always to be seen in the East river, opposite Fulton market in the day time, but they gather there in greater numbers on Friday because so much refuse is thrown away that day. They hover over the surface of the water by hundreds, taking from the water such food as is to their liking. They are the scavengers of the East River in this respect. The intelligence of the gulls is remarkable in one way. Besides knowing which is the big fish day on the East river, they know the chief sailing days on the North river. The America line usually dispatches a steamer for Southampton at 10 a. m. every Wednesday. Some minutes before the ship leaves the pier the circling of the gulls in midstream begins. The birds know from experience that before the ship leaves quantities of food are thrown from the ship's ports and they make a dash to recover it the moment the ship pulls out. It is amusing to watch one of the gulls trying to lift from the water a piece of food twice as heavy as itself. Sometimes these gulls will hover around the American Line pier until noon of Wednesday. At this hour the Red Star liner starts for Antwerp, leaving the water of the slip filled with discarded food. More frequently, however, the birds will hurry off to the White Star line piers directly after the American liner leaves her wharf. The White Star steamer sails each Wednesday at noon. On Saturdays and Thursdays the gulls go to Hoboken to get what the Hamburg-American liners leave behind. These are about the only lines that have a fixed hour for sailing and the gulls have become acquainted with the fact. The harbor gulls fare better than their kind far out at sea. The latter frequently have to follow a ship for days to supply the demands of their appetite.

A RAZOR-BACK'S SENSE.

One Case, at Least, in Which a Hog Was Not Stupid.

But while dogs have been celebrated for semi-human intelligence, and cattle have been known to evince some practical understanding, it was a surprise to discover something like intelligence in an animal whose stupidity had given occasion for a proverb. Not long ago one of the razor-back swine indigenous to the State made an essay on the fence of a place nearby. It had been the site of a sawmill, and the fence was built of waste boards remaining after the removal of the works. The boar commenced his attack at the end of the board part of the fence by swaying sidewise as far as possible without losing balance, and then hurling his bulk against the board as close as he could to the post. He had apparently decided that drawing out the nails would be the easier manner of entrance. The force of impact was really formidable, and the watchers of his movements were not a little fearful of his success. After several unsuccessful attempts, he desisted, but went grunting along the fence as if examining the quality of the lumber until a split plank was found. A sharp crack followed the throwing of himself against this. He returned to the charge again and again until the barrier was removed, when, with a satisfied grunt and a squeal of invitation to his numerous family, his long bristly snout appeared through the opening.—Our Animal Friends.

Cats to Eradicate Rabbits.

Australian papers state that the experiment of the West Australian government in turning domestic cats loose in the southeastern districts of the colony to check the invasion of rabbits from South Australia has been a pronounced success. The felines destroyed immense numbers of the nests, and in some cases almost cleared the squatters' runs of the rabbits. In anticipation of the demand which is expected for cats for this work breeding establishments are being started. It is believed, however, that it will be found much cheaper to import the animals.

Ejecting Passenger from Street Car.

A passenger on a street car who acts in such a manner as to justify the inference that he is intoxicated, and falls into a sleep from which the conductor falls to arouse him by shaking him, may be ejected, holds the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, in the case of Hudson vs. Lynn and B. R. R. (59 N. E. Rep. 647), but the court holds further that it is not due care to put him on a dark and stormy night, in an unlighted road some distance from buildings, though street cars are passing at the time and teams are likely to pass.

Gladstone's Daughter Accepts Position.

Miss Helen Gladstone, daughter of the late William E. Gladstone, has accepted the post of warden of the Women's University settlement, Southwark, London. Miss Gladstone will go into residence early in September.

Former Navigation of the Kaw.

Forty-four years ago the Kansas Kaw river was navigated from its mouth up as far as Lawrence. Now railroads do the business.

DYNAMITERS' WORK.

AKRON POLICE SEARCH FOR PERPETRATORS.

Officer's House Blown to Bits—Father, Mother, Son and Baby, Hurled Under the Debris, and Had a Marvelous Escape.

The entire police department at Akron, O., has been working diligently and investigating every club which may lead to the unearthing of the dastardly scheme to kill Policeman W. J. Bruner and his family of that place, whose home was blown to splinters a few days ago by dynamiters. Mr. Bruner, his wife, Elizabeth, his son George, nine years old, and Harold, a baby eighteen months old were in the house at the time. They were blown out of bed and buried under the debris, but none was seriously injured.

The house was a two-story frame structure, with a wing. Mr. Bruner, his wife and baby slept on the first floor of the wing. The other son occupied a room on the second floor. The wing of the house was reduced to kindling wood, and the occupants were dug out of a big pile of plaster and broken timber. No trace of the bed was found larger than a splinter. The baby was at first missing. The little cradle in which it slept was completely destroyed. A faint cry presently attracted Bruner's attention and the baby was found bruised under a mass of plaster and broken furniture, three feet deep. It was only slightly bruised. The force of the explosion damaged houses for a block around, and there was not a window left unbroken for more than 100 yards. The report could be heard two miles away. The police believe that the dynamiting was an attempt at revenge upon Mr. Bruner. South Akron has recently been infested by a gang of firebugs and Policeman Bruner has been very ambitious in his efforts to break up the gang.

Several residents of that portion of the city have fallen under suspicion, and they have been closely watched. Knowing this, it is believed they sought to get rid of the officer. Eight men are now under arrest on suspicion of having been connected with the work. The men under arrest are: Frank Klein, Ed Apletzel, Charles Hall, Clarke Boome, Lee Myers, Milton Breckenridge and Arthur Craig. Soon after the explosion the officers picked these men up at their homes.

All were in their houses and apparently unconcerned, although they lived in the neighborhood of the scene, while every one else for blocks around was out on the street and highly excited. It is believed that many pounds of the explosive were used, as the explosion was tremendous and an enormous hole was dug in the ground under the house. The heavy foundation timbers were reduced to toothpicks and hurled for blocks away. A few scratches total up the injuries sustained by the family, and their escape from being blown to atoms seems marvelous. Mr. Bruner has been a member of the Akron police department for more than fourteen years. His superior esteem him as a faithful officer and his record is without a flaw. He has been doing patrol duty on the east side for several months.

Destruction of Sea Birds at Gulf.

Professor Beyer, of the American Ornithological Association, who has been operating along the Gulf coast with the object of appointing bird wardens, reports that during his observations he found that the breeding places of nearly all the sea birds had been destroyed, both by killing the birds and taking their eggs. On Brush, Callow, Calumet and Castelle Islands, which were not long since the abodes of millions of sea fowl, he found no birds at all. On Timballer Island a few gulls and hens still remained, which was also the case on Lost Island. He appointed wardens wherever birds were found and succeeded in getting the fishermen to promise to aid the wardens in preventing the killing of birds during the breeding season and the stealing of eggs.—Philadelphia Times.

Similar to Roentgen Rays.

In 1895 a French chemist discovered rays emanating from the element uranium, which possessed properties similar to the Roentgen rays. Recent experiments by the Berlin High School of Technology proved that a new element is responsible for the Becquerel rays—and the interesting fact has been observed that these rays render almost every transparent substance luminous in the darkness. The rays make it possible to tell genuine diamonds from artificial ones in the dark.

Religious Teaching Not Required.

Although the Philippine commission enacted a provision last January making it lawful for the priest or minister of a church to teach religion in the public schools at stated times to pupils whose parents or guardians asked for such instruction, it is announced by the commission that thus far not one such request has been made. The American authorities are at a loss to understand this, especially in view of the fact that a large majority of the Filipinos are Catholics, and, therefore, presumably anxious to have religion taught in the public schools.

A Summer Hint.

By carefully turning on the whirligig on your garden hose in the center of the lawn on a hot day you can thoroughly remove every blade of grass, moles, warts and other blemishes in a very short space of time. When Mother Nature waters the grass she covers the face of the sun, but man knows better.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

STORY OF THE LUCKY STONE.

History of Granite Block Which Westminster Made Famous.

A good deal has been heard of the "Lia Fail," or stone of destiny, which is placed under the seat of the coronation chair in Westminster Abbey, but few people realize the extreme antiquity of this uninteresting looking, rough, gray block. It was brought to Ireland about 1200 B. C. by the Tuatha-de-Danaan, a mysterious eastern race which conquered Ireland at that period. No one is quite clear as to their identity, but many savants suppose them to have been Chaldeans, Persians or Phoenicians. Those races were certainly highly civilized, even so long ago as the date mentioned, says a writer in Modern Society. They attached the greatest possible value to the stone and used to crown all their monarchs on it.

Three of the Tuatha-de-Danaan queens regnant who sat upon the stone of destiny rejoiced in the curious names of Fodha, Bamba and Eire, the last a name that is creeping into use again of late after long eclipse. In the sixth century Fergus, king of Scots, an Irishman by descent, borrowed the stone for his coronation at Scone and "froze on to it" when he had it. It never went back to Ireland, and many historians date the commencement of the distressful country's woes from that loss. Edward I. of England carried off the stone from Scone and placed it in Westminster Abbey, where it still remains.—Chicago News.

TEMPLE OF SCIENCE.

Various Societies in New York Will Be Well Housed.

A temple of science, to cost \$500,000, is to be erected by the Scientific Alliance of New York to house the various societies composing the organization, and give them the facilities for the advancement of original research which they long have needed. The project is commended to the public over the signatures of a distinguished committee of co-operation, consisting of Andrew H. Green (chairman), Andrew Carnegie, Abram S. Hewitt, Samuel Sloan, William E. Dodge, Edward D. Adams, John S. Kennedy, Frederick W. Devoe, J. Hampden Robb, D. Willis James, and Colonel J. McCook. The Scientific Alliance is composed of the New York Academy of Sciences, the Torrey Botanical Club, the New York Microscopical Society, the Linnaean Society of New York, the New York section of the American Chemical Society and the New York Entomological Society.

The building is to be to them what Burlington house in London is to the Royal, the Geological, the Chemical, the Antiquarian, the Astronomical, and the Linnaean Societies, which make their homes therein, or what the Palais de l'Industrie in Paris is to the four academies of Belles-Lettres, Science, Beaux Arts, and Sciences Morales et Politiques.—Journal of Education.

Didn't Know His Mistake.

A citizen whose respectability is impressed upon his personnel is walking down Wisconsin street yesterday deeply immersed in thought, when a little lady with sunny smiles and a tailor made suit tapped him on the shoulder and immediately turned and entered a store. Another lady, equally as pretty who saw the little incident, met him face to face with sparkling eyes. Supposing the latter to have been the one from whom he received the delicate impact of a dainty hand upon his shoulder, and not presuming to deny an acquaintanceship which might possibly exist, the very respectable man doffed his hat and then turning about accompanied the stranger up the street, while the store windows in the neighborhood with the smiling faces of those who had seen the incident and had caught on.—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Distribution of the Scripture.

Heavier than the entire population of Liverpool are the 165,000,000 copies of the Scriptures distributed during the nineteenth century by the British and Foreign Bible Society. They weighed about 30,700 tons. To transport this mountain of Bibles a train sixteen miles long, drawn by 150 locomotives, would be necessary. The area of the printed pages would furnish standing room for twice as many persons as are now living throughout the world. If all these Bibles were made into a single volume the book would be 292 feet high (as high as the London Monument), 140 feet wide, and forty-one feet thick; each page would weigh sixty tons, and to turn one of them over would take the strength of 1,200 men or forty horses. Further, the Bibles would make 197½ columns as high as Mount Everest (29,000 feet).

Cardinal Vaughan Nearing Seventy.

Cardinal Vaughan is now in his seventieth year, having been born at Gloucester on April 15, 1832. Of that period forty-seven years have been spent in the sacerdotal office and twenty-nine in the episcopal. Ordained when but 22, his eminence was consecrated bishop of Salford at the age of 40, and administered that busy and populous diocese for twenty years, when in 1892 he was chosen to succeed Cardinal Manning in the arch-episcopal see of Westminster.

Happiness.

We can't choose happiness either for ourselves or for another; we can't tell where it will lie. We can only choose whether we will indulge ourselves in the present moment or whether we will renounce that, for the sake of obeying the divine voice within us for the sake of being true to all motives that sanctify our lives.