

A SKILLFUL SHOT.

The Way to Bring Down an Overhead Incoming Bird.

One of the cardinal rules of the old time shooting school cautioned the gunner against ever trying to stop an overhead incoming bird, but to wait until it had passed by and to the rear and then take chances on what is undoubtedly the harder shot of the two.

It is surprisingly how difficult it is for some sportsmen to successfully score on their incoming birds. Many who can seemingly cope with game in any other mode of flight will habitually balk at this shot and acknowledge their inability to make it.

Yet once its principle is understood and the lesson learned the dropping of an overhead incomer is as easy as anything can well be. The miss is always made by the sportsman shooting under and behind the bird, and there is but one way in which the error is to be avoided.

To make the shot the gunner should wait until the bird is about to pass over him, then, bringing up his gun, follow in from behind, cover the bird and swing in ahead of it and, maintaining the same rate of speed, press the trigger the instant the bird is hidden behind the barrels. Do not stop the swing of the gun and be sure the bird shall have disappeared from sight. If the shooter will observe this rule he will be surprised how easily and invariably he will kill his bird.—Recreation.

Where Money Buys Life.

The rich Chinaman if condemned to death easily procures a substitute. Some poor wretch, without money to secure his spirits from becoming wandering devils, with the price of his miserable life can purchase proper care for his spirit. Anything, in fact, can be done if you have the money. It is this belief that causes the Chinaman to commit suicide by taking his life on the premises of his enemy to take vengeance on him. His spirit, he believes, will forever haunt him. There is another reason also. He knows that as sure as fate the officials will under such circumstances come down upon his enemy and strip him of everything. Poor Chinese have been known to sell everything they possessed, tear down their houses to sell the timber, sell or rent out their wives and children and even sell themselves to procure money for the proper rites for the peace and comfort of the ancestral spirits. One thing alone a Chinese will not do—namely, sacrifice his son.—Kenneth F. Junlor, M. D., in National Geographic Magazine.

His Testimonial.

Lieutenant Colonel Sir Henry Smith, formerly commissioner of the city of London police, tells an amusing story in his book of reminiscences.

Earl Grey once complimented Sir Henry Smith on some of his testimonials.

"I say, my dear fellow," he remarked on coming to a most elaborate one, "this is the best testimonial I ever read in my life."

"I am very pleased, indeed, to hear your opinion of it," Sir Henry replied, "for I wrote it myself."

"What's that you're saying? What do you mean?" asked Earl Grey in astonishment.

"This is what I mean," Sir Henry answered. "If a man has not intellect enough to write a testimonial in his own favor and energy enough to stand over a friend till he signs it he's not fit for the position I aspire to."

A Pretty Busy Man.

When a man's business prohibits his caring for the chickens, when his affairs become so important that he can

no longer shake down the furnace, help dress one of the children or tinker about the place with a hammer and saw, then that man's business had better be put into the hands of a receiver temporarily; his books do not balance, says Dallas Lore Sharp in the Atlantic. I know of a college president who used to bind (he may still) a cold compress about his head at times and, lying prone upon the floor, have two readers, one for each ear, read simultaneously to him different theses, so great was the work he had to do, so fierce his fight for time—time to lecture to women's clubs and to write his epoch making books.

Oh, the multitude of epoch making books!

Hugo's Practical Side.

It may not be generally known that Victor Hugo used to draft the advertisements of his own books, instead of leaving the task to his publishers. His correspondence with his Belgian publishers gives the following example of the great novelist's advertising style: "After the middle ages, the present time: Such is the subject of Victor Hugo's double study. What he did for Gothic art in 'Notre Dame de Paris' that he has done for the modern world in 'Les Miserables.' The two books figure in his scheme of work as two mirrors reflecting the whole human life." An encouraging example to those young authors who cannot make up their minds how much modesty is enjoined by the best literary traditions.—London Globe.

Why They Got the Freedom of the City

Extracts from old records, showing how people had earned the honor in former days, were read at Canterbury by Alderman Mason when the mayor and ex-mayor were granted the freedom of the city. One citizen received the freedom for "undertaking to serve as cook at every mayor's Michaelmas feast," another "because he cured Nicholas Johnson's leg" and a third "because he married a widow with a large family."—Pall Mall Gazette.

Many Sided Kicks of the Camel.

A camel's hind legs will reach anywhere—over his head, round his chest and on to his hump. Even when lying down an evil disposed animal will shoot out his legs and bring you to a sitting posture if he wants to. Compared with a camel, a mule is really a most considerate kicker, so beware when the camel looks as if he is going to kick.—New York World.

History.

History is made by one set of men and written by another.

The character of the written history depends upon the politics of the historian.

Most histories are written many years after the history was made. In these circumstances no one can step forward and dispute the historian.

History is studied at school and forgotten at home.

We are told to judge the future by the past, and after we read the histories we are as badly muddled as ever.

Some statesmen make history, but most of them make speeches.—Judge.

John O'Groat's House.

John O'Groat's house was formerly situated on Duncansby head, the most northerly point of Great Britain. It took its name from John of Groat, or Groot, and his brothers, who came, it is said, from Holland about 1480. The expression so often heard, "From John O'Groat's to Land's End," means the whole length of Great Britain from north to south, like the other expression, "From Dan to Beersheba," meaning the entire length of Palestine.

A HIRED SPY.

Patternmakers of Providence, Rhode Island, recently obtained proofs that one of their members was a paid employe of the union fighting Metal Trades association. He was very busy in fomenting trouble of all kinds in the union, and well paid for it. His name is W. H. Drummond, and the fact of his expulsion together with his portrait will be extensively circulated. There are probably hundreds of such spawn of sheol faking as labor leaders, and making trouble for organized labor.

JUDGES AND PEOPLE.

The founders of our government undoubtedly intended that judicial officers should be servants of the popular will just as much as legislative or executive officers. There is nothing in the record to indicate that they intended the judiciary to be a master over an unwilling people.

Nevertheless a federal judge is

to all practical intent an autocrat, accountable to nobody, and with a life tenure of office. And, being appointed by the president, his selection does not depend on the approval of the people over whom he is to rule. When, for example, the president, whose residence has been Cincinnati, New Haven, the Philippine Islands and Washington, came to the appointment of a judge for a western circuit with which he was unacquainted, it was not unlikely that he would pick a man whose habits of thought were out of harmony with those of the people of that region. And in such a case you have a case you have a master over an unwilling people.

If we are intelligent enough to be trusted with the choosing of our own senators, why not also our own judges? The interpreting of laws ought not to be more incomprehensible to the common citizen than the making of laws.—Omaha World-Herald.

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