# THE KINNDOM OF ANIMALS.

Interesting Stories Concerning Al Kinds of Qaudrupeds.

## A CAT'S TASTE FOR MUSIC.

Horse Hair Snakes—A Dog That Whipped a Bird—A Queer Fight With an Alligator.

### Horsehair Snakes.

Golden Argosy: Have any of our readers ever thrown a horsehair into a basin of water and waited patiently for it to turn into a snake? This seeming absurdity is thus explained by a writer in the Hartwell Sun:

"Our friend asked us if we didn't want to see a horsehair that had turned into a snake. We did, and he drew a bottle from his pocket filled with water, in which was what appeared to be a diminutive snake, five or six inches long, writhing and twisting, as if anxious to escape from the bottle. When put in the bottle it was nothing more than a hair from a horse's tail.

"It was then explained that the hair does not undergo change, but that invisible animalcules that generate in the water collect on the hair and make it twist and squirm after the manner of a snake or worm. It is held by good authority that many of the so-called animalcules have been shown to be plants, having locomotive powers something like animals; the motion, however, is not supposed to be voluntary. But the horsehair makes a first-class snake all the same.

### A Peculiar Cat.

A farmer by the name of Thomas, who lives near Wakenda, Mo., has a motherly old cat that just now, in addition to raising a large family of kittens, is tenderly nursing a young squirrel and a mink. The latter two were captured this spring by some of Mr. Thomas' boys and brought home. They were permitted to run free around the house, and in the course of their travels ran against the old cat. The latter took kindly to the two motherless little animals and conducted them to her nest of young ones, where she has since guarded them with great care. The family get along very well.

### Fight With an Alligator.

Lazaretto Creek, a short distance from Tybee, Ga., was the scene recently of a fearful combat between three fishermen and a monster alligator. The fishermen had been down the creek fishing, and were on their way back to the city. They drew their boat to the place of landing, and as they did they were confronted by an alligator measuring nine feet in length. As the boat landed within three feet of the saurian he lashed the sides and edges of it fiercely with his tail, and was only prevented from capsizing it by the promptness of the fishermen in seizing their oars and beating him over the head and body. The contest lasted fully a half hour before the animal was captured. Mr. M. C. Russell, who was one of the party, secured a lasso, and in the struggle succeeded in fastening it around the alligator's upper jaw. He struggled to escape at first, but was finally subdued, and the fishermen carried him to a hotel and put him on exhibition. During the combat he snapped one of the men on the leg, severely wounding him.

### A Cat With a Taste for Music.

A young girl at Mercer, Pa., has a cat with decided musical taste and discrimination. She listens to the practice of her young mistress with much enjoyment, but to one piece puss has a decided aversion. This is the "Dying Nun," and anyone who has heard its dolorous notes will credit puss with good sense. Sometimes she lies on the rug fast asleep when her mistress begins the despised air, immediately she lifts her head, listens a moment, then, rising, walks to the performer and begins a most positive remonstrance. She reaches up, takes her mistress by the arm and with mouth and paws tries to pull her from the piano. Failing in this, she next mounts the piano and walks on the keys. But the teasing young mistress still persisting, puss finally despairs and beats a retreat, if the door is open; if not, she begs with piteous mews to be let out. She has been tried again and again, but never will she allow that piece to be played without decided remonstrance.

### The Bird Whipped the Dog.

There was a big time in a Ridge avenue car recently, says the Philadelphia Times, in which a dog, a crane, the conductor, two men, three women, a broom and a boy participated. William Jones, a news-agent on the Reading railroad, got on the car at Twenty-fifth street in company with a huge crane about three and one-half feet tall and with three stripes down its breast. The crane had a light chain attached to its right leg, and when Jones sat down he fastened the chain to a buttonhole of his coat. The crane stood up in the centre of the aisle and went to sleep.

At Twentieth street three women got on and awoke the bird with their laughter. At Eighteenth street a small boy and a big brown terrier got on the car. The boy looked at the crane and laughed. Then he looked at the dog and said: "Sic him, Carlo." Jones quickly unfastened the chain which held the crane, and said: "Shake him, Bismarck."

The dog made a rush for the bird, and for about a minute nothing was seen but flying hair and two long, skinny legs which flashed in the air like streaks of light. Then there was a yell. The dog went flying and howling down the aisle, followed by the bird, shaking with rage and uttering a shrill, piping noise, and dragging his owner, who held on to the chain. The conductor stopped the dog at the door, and as he came back, followed by the crane, the women jumped upon the seats, gathered up their skirts and screamed.

The driver stopped the car just as the bird caught the dog at the rear door, and, making one snap at him, ripped about six inches of hair from his back with its back with its bill and sent him yelping into the street. Then the crane shook itself and made a desperate attack on a broom which laid beside the seats. It shook the broom up and was beginning on the conductor when its owner lassoep it with a piece of clothes line and threw it on the floor.

By the time Green street was reached Bismarck was taking another standing nap and made no resistance when his owner lifted him off the car. Jones called the bird a "mountain crane," and said it was caught in the woods around Williamsport. He has been keeping it chained up in his back yard at Twenty-fifth street and Ridge avenue, but it whipped his dog so badly last Saturday and gave him so much trouble on Sunday, when it broke loose and gave him a chase of four squares with a lasso before he caught it, that he decided to return it to its mountain home. He was taking it to the depot for shipment when the fight occurred.

### He Died of Grief.

A correspondent of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, writing from Cadiz, Ohio, tells the following dog story:

A touching incident occurred a day or two ago at the residence of Mr. William Trumbull, in Belmont county. His little daughter, Maud, has been for some time sick with typhoid fever. She was the possessor of a fine Newfoundland dog, and a warm attachment sprang up between them, and in the little child's rambles the dog was her sole companion. Since Maud has been sick the dog refused to eat, and would wander from place to place—familiar spots to both dog and girl—apparently in search of her, uttering low plaintive wails. Day before yesterday (Wednesday) the dog was admitted to the bedside of his little mistress, and its joy was unbounded. The animal walked around and around the bed, and rubbed its shaggy head lovingly against the little hand of the sufferer resting on the outside of the covering. Time came for the dog to leave, which it at first refused to do, but finally yielded. It was then offered food, which it refused. It wandered off to some familiar haunt, where happy hours had been spent with little Maud, and finally laid down by the stairway leading to the little girl's bedchamber, whining in a pitiful manner. No attention was paid to the dog for an hour or two. At last some one called it, but it did not move. An examination was made and the brute was found dead. Died of pure grief at being parted from its friend.

### Rome's Antique Roosters.

The extreme antiquity of pedigree boasted by the domestic fowl hag gone far to excite the favorable regard of Boston people in its behalf, says the St. Louis Globe. It is supposed to have originated in eastern Asia, whence are derived, even to the present, many of the finest breeds. The primitive bird of 5,000 years ago was, probably, something like what is known to-day as the "Cochin"—a variety still common among the Chinese, who have always been great fanciers of poultry.

The ancient Egyptians kept hens and are familiar with the principles of artificial incubation, for which purpose they employd ovens, heated by lamps to an even temperature of 106 degrees. The old Greeks and Romans had famous strains of chickens. In their time cock fighting was much in vogue. Of the dantams they raised, Pliny speaks, referring to them as "a dwarfish kind of hen that is extra little, and yet fruitful."

In Rome the poultry did not lack respect and consideration. No magistrate would open or close his doors before their pleasure was known, and upon their direction the imperial faces were advanced or contrariwise. Accounts extant, in languages long dead, of wooly hens, which are said to have formerly existed; of hairy hens also, and of wingless and tailless fowls; of horned roosters and other barnyard curiosities. Unfortunately, however, like the dodo and the great auk, these are all extinct.

### The Bloodthirsty Weasel.

Youth's Companion: The common weasel or ermine is one of the most bloodthirsty of all animals. It has been known to kill forty well-grown fowls in a single night. "Ever victorious," says Dr. C. H. Merriam in his "Mammals of the Adirondacks," "of pre-eminent assurance, this indomitable little animal is, in courage, ferocity and audacity almost without a parallel among the mammalia." He describes a scene which seems to prove his statement.

"I once put a very large rat into a square tin cage with a weasel. The rat had been caught in a steel trap by the toes of one of his hind feet and was in no way injured.

"He was very ugly and bit fiercely at the trap and at the stick with which I assisted him into the cage, but no sooner had he entered the cage than his whole manner and bearing changed. He immediately assumed an attitude of abject terror, trembled from head to foot and crawled into the nearest corner.

"The weasel advanced toward him at once and as he did so the rat rose upon his hind legs, let his forepaws hang helplessly over his breast and squealed piteously. He showed neither disposition to fight nor to defend himself when attacked.

"The weasel did not sieze him at first, but cuffed him with his forepaws and drove him from one corner of the cage to another, glaring at him continuously. Then suddenly he sprang upon his victim, already paralyzed with fear, laid open the back of his head with a single bite, ate the brains and left the quivering carcass untouched."

### A Cat's Dismay.

In a garden near this city, says the Pittsburg Dispatch, a young cat was prowling around yesterday, trying in her sweet natural way to look as much like a tiger as possible, when a "mee-yah" in a high key fell upon her ear. She stopped, held up one paw, and opened her blinking eyes to the widest. No other cat could she see in the garden, nor in the adjacent orchard. She looked at me, and I'm certain she said to herself something like: "That man thinks he's doing something smart, imitating my voice!"

But I had not taken such a liberty with my feline friend, a trustful young tabby, hardly a year old, by the way. The imitative genius was a catbird, whom I could see swinging on a slender branch weighted heavily with superb blossoms of white in the center of a large cherry tree. The dingy catbird, with its muddy coat, was rejoicing in the sunshine just as heartily as the bluebird or the black and orange oriole piping near by among the fading magnolias and budding apple blossoms. To show his joy he sang, and, as everybody knows, his song was like the cry of a recently weaned kitten who is suffering from a severe cold.

The cat passed underneath the cherry tree ultimately just as the catbird gave vent to a "mee-yah" of unusual clearness and piquancy; repeated the cat-like cry several times, in fact. The cat was intensely interested at once, and throwing up her head she examined the tree branch by branch. I could almost see her wrestling with the problem of a cat's voice coming from a tree where there was no cat. It was a terrible puzzle for a young cat. But I was powerless to help her.

Then the bird again sang out defiantly: "Mee-yah! Mee-yah! Mee-yah!" and the cat seemed for the first time to see the bird, though hardly recognizing in the feathered thing a talker of cat language. But the cat fastened her eyes on the bird and climbed a little way up the knotty trunk of the cherry tree as if to get a closer view.

The finale was very funny. The bird began its song again, and at the first sound the cat slid down the tree and ran into the house, tail high in the air and fur bristling, as badly scared as she is likely to be if she lives out all her nine lives. She had heard for the first time a bird sing with a cat's voice.


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# ELECTRICAL DEVELOPMENTS.

A Visit to Edison in His New Laboratories.

## HIS NEW TALKING MACHINE.

What is Being Done by the Electricians All Over the World—Experiments and Discoveries—Electric Notes.

### Another Edison Triumph.

Edison's new laboratory and perfected phonograph at Orange, N. J., says the New York Times, were thrown open to representatives of the press yesterday. The plant is purely for experimental purposes, and is one of the largest in the world. An entire block of land is occupied, and there are five separate buildings of brick with hardwood interiors. The main one is three stories high, 200 feet deep, and 75 feet wide. There is a combination office and library in it, besides a lecture room, stock room, machine room, department rooms, and power room. The structure is a model of its kind, and the equipment appears to be complete. The library and office is in the form of a hollow square, with three galleries rising to the third floor. The cases contain 16,000 volumes of choice scientific works, but the capacity is 35,000 books. Four one-story buildings, each 100 by 30 feet, are used for ore milling, blacksmithing, the manufacture of patterns, etc. There is a capacity of 320 horse power on the plant, and electricity is supplied for 650 lamps on the premises and in neighboring dwellings.

Edison entertained his visitors, among whom were a number of electricians, with some astonishing experiments on his improved phonograph. The "talking machine" of a dozen years ago has disappeared, but the principal remains and is now in the form of a practical commercial invention as well as a pleasing toy. There is a motor box about 11 inches square and the armature in it is only a horizontal ring or wheel of metal with 10 pole pieces at regular intervals on the rim. The "cat-power" battery is in a separate case underneath. The phonograph is a separate arrangement, attached to the motor box by two screws. There is a small shaft four inches long, with 100 threads to the inch, which feeds what looks like a pair of spectacles with a receiver and transmitter in one ring. Then there is a recorder in the form of a steel knife fastened to the diaphragm. The receiver is a delicate metal needle, which operates on a phonograph blank of white wax. This blank is hollow and tapers inside so as to bind by friction in hot or cold weather on a metal drum. A second shaft has a coarse reverse thread, and is only used where repetition is desired. On the surface of the little wax blank, which looks like an ivory dice-box, can be recorded from 1,000 to 1,200 words, or several musical compositions. A wax blank can be automatically pared from fifteen to twenty times for new record. When in motion the phonograph looks very much like a turning lathe.

Edison's literary and musical experiments with the invention yesterday were wonderful. Not only were words and sentences reproduced, but the voices of the readers were readily recognized. The piano, cornet, violin and clarionet were repeatedly tested, singly and together, with marvelous success. The phonograph has been so far perfected that next week the work of erecting a factory on the Edison plant will be begun. The inventor expects within a month to have the machine on the market for commercial uses. Its possibilities are beyond calculation.

### Dynamo Efficiency.

Mr. R. W. Blackwell, in an article in a recent number of the Electrical Engineer, of London, has the following on dynamo efficiency: "The dynamo-electric machine, by which the power of the steam engine is converted into electricity, has reached a degree of perfection unappreciated by those not engaged in the business. Less than five years ago the best dynamos gave an efficiency of 75 per cent; there was an excessive heating of the wire coils, and of the journals, so that a machine could rarely be depended upon for a run of twelve to eighteen hours at a stretch. There were frequent burnings out of the armature, and of the commutator, and other recurring faults, which caused uncertainty and expense. At present the best manufacturers sell their guaranteed efficiency of 90 per cent., so that for every 100 horse-power of the steam engine, 90 will appear on the line in electricity, and 81 will appear in the motor in the form of mechanical energy. The latest series of tests made with railway motor demonstrated an efficiency of 80 per cent. from the steam engine to the car axle. From this must be deducted, in actual practice, 5 per cent. for the line wire, and 10 per cent. for contingencies of all kinds, leaving 65 per cent. actually to be relied on. Therefore, from 100-horse power at the engine, 65 will be delivered on the car axle."

### The Electric Light and Gas.

At a meeting of the Western Gas association, held in Chicago recently, the president, Mr. Emerson McMillin, made a remarkable address as to the manner in which the sentiment of gas engineers has changed in regard to electricity. He said: "More than one-fourth of the companies (responding to a circular of inquiry) were doing electric lighting, and more than half believed that gas companies should do electric lighting. Both the arc and incandescent systems of electric lighting were growing rapidly. But few cities or towns were now without arc lights in the streets. While it was yet far from being the most economical mode of lighting, it was rapidly supplanting other modes in the denser parts of citet and towns, and the time was coming when the public would demand arc or other powerful lights on most of the public streets. Incandescent lighting was making equal progress with arc lighting. It was the most convenient, the most cleanly and the least objectionable, from a sanitary standpoint, of any light now in use. It would not do for gas managers to longer expect to fight it off by proclaiming its unreliability. It was more reliable today than gas was during periods of low temperatures." As to the electric motor, it was reported in 82 per cent of the replies that it had not replaced gas engines, while 6 per cent said it had. Another year will bring that 6 per cent up to a much higher figure. Mr. McMillin expressed his belief that gas would remain the light of the masses. The converse to the electric light, being that electricity is getting the cream of the business. And yet we have heard of many instances in which the electric light is in use in fifth-rate barber saloons, cheap eating houses, outside peanut stands and in modest lager beer saloons, where the "masses" are seen and do congregate.

### The New Phonograph.

The introduction of the new phonograph to the public by means of the exhibition of it, accompanied by Mr. E. T. Gilliland's paper, before the New York Electric club last Saturday evening, was a memorable occasion. The paper, which will be found in full in our columns, is not only an admirably succinct narrative of the manner in which Mr. Edison made his invention and of the nature of his exclusive claims to it, but gives also an excellent idea of the variety of uses to which the phonograph will be put.

### Electricity on Shipboard.

While the question of the most compact form of engine and dynamo to be used on board ship is one that applies to all vessels, the application of electricity, and the electric motor in particular, is especially convenient in war vessels. In a recent article appearing in the Army and Navy Journal, Lieutenant Bradley A. Fiske points out the great convenience of the electric motor and its eminent adaptability to replace the large number of small steam engines now employed on shipboard for a variety of purposes. But in addition to this he points out that a new use for the motor can be found, not only in the training of guns, but in elevating them for firing in a seaway. With an electric motor to aid him, the gunner can keep the piece on the target independent of the rolling of the ship. In the article referred to, Lieutenant Fiske mentions the fact that at least one of the new ships, the "Chicago," the dynamo, which generates current for the lights and the electric motor to be employed in traing one of the guns, is placed above the water line and exposed to the enemy's projectiles. Why such an important part of the equipment of the ship should be placed above the water line any more than the boilers and engines seem difficult to understand, and we venture to hope that in future this oversight will be remedied.

### An Electric Woman.

Pall Mall Gazette: Dr. Fere, of the French society of biology has discovered an electric woman! The name and address of this phenomenon are not given, probably to avoid her being got hold of by some enterprising Barnum. It appears that both her hair and body emit electric sparks. The electricity is more visible when her hair is combed. The hair then stands on end. When she puts on her underclothing its contact with her skin first produces a crepitation, then the clothes adhere as it were to the body, and finally her movements are partly paralyzed. These phenomena are particularly observable during dry weather. The electric tension also increases under the influence of emotions—such, for example, as the effect of music, which augments the crepitation. This extraordinary creature, however, is not unique. Dr. Legue mentioned the case of a woman who during an aurora borealis was suddenly charged with electricity, which manifested itself when she passed her finger over the face of her brother; she remained electric for two months.


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Has obtained a reputation wherever introduced for "CORRECT STYLE," "PERFECT FIT," "COMFORT AND DURABILITY." They have no superiors in Hand Turns, Hand Welts, Goodyear Welts, and Machine Sewed. Ladies, ask for the "LUDLOW" SHOE. Try them, and you will buy no other.



St. Jacobs Oil Cures STIFFNESS. Stiff Neck, Soreness PROMPTLY & PERFECTLY, also SORE THROAT WOUNDS, CUTS, SWELLINGS Surely and Permanently sold by DRUGGISTS AND DEALERS. THE CHAS. A. VOGELER CO. BALTO. MD.



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This house has just been thoroughly refitted at a cost of over $15,000, making it far better than any hotel of the same price in the West. Elevator, Electric Lights, Bath Rooms, and all modern improvements.

Rates, $2.00 and $2.50 per Day, including meals. Centrally located; accessible to all railway stations, theaters and business houses. Street cars to all points of the city. Special rates to professional people.

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TAPE WORM

REMOVED WITH HEAD COMPLETE. REMEDY INFALLIBLE. SUCCESS GUARANTEED. WRITE

PROF. BYRON FIELD. TOPEKA, KANSAS.


### Notice to Bridge Contractors.

Sealed bids will be received at the office of the County Clerk of Dodge County, Nebraska, until 12 o'clock m., of June 11th, 1888, for the rebuilding of the superstruction of two 50 foot spans 14 feet wide straining beam combination bridge to replace the two spans in the Platte river bridge near North Bend. Also for the rebuilding of the superstruction of seven 50 foot spans 16 feet wide straining beam combination bridge to replace seven spans in the Platte river bridge near Fremont, Nebraska.

Bids will also be received for all piling, caps and ice breaks that may be needed in building and repairing said bridges to be computed by the thousand feet when completed work included. All lumber and timber to be of oak; the floor plank to be 2½ inches thick; piling to be 10 inches at point and 15 inches at butt end, and to be driven not less than 28 feet.

All bids to be accompanied with a deposit of fifty dollars, ($50.00) and to be forfeited to the County, in case the bidder or bidders to whom the contract or contracts are awarded fails within five days to enter into contract & execute a good and sufficient bond for the faithful performance of said contract.

The board reserves the right to reject any or all bids. By order of the Board of Supervisors, of Dodge County, Nebraska.

Attest: O. H. P. SHIVELY, County Clerk.


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Where you can furnish a home of your own by paying $5.00 to $10.00 down and from $5.00 to $10.00 a month.

We have the largest stock of GENERAL HOUSEHOLD GOODS of any house in Omaha. You will save 25 per cent by buying of us.

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We are also agents for the OLD RELIABLE GASOLINE STOVES.

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FERGUSON FURNITURE CO.,

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606 and 608 North 16th Street.

and We offer a choice line of HARDWOOD CHAMBER SUITES at $15 $20.
PARLOR SUITES, $35 to $200.
DRAPERIES, $3 to $25 per pair.
Full line of BRUSSELS AND INGRAIN CARPETS.

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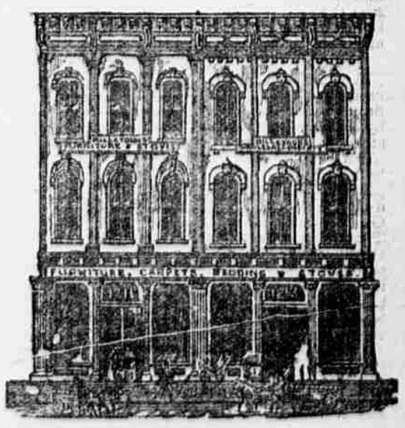
WEEKLY AND MONTHLY PAYMENTS.





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