

not answer him, he looks for a speedy death." The colour of the upper parts of the body of this Owl is a rich chocolate-brown, dotted and splashed with many white markings. The under portions of the body are greyish-white, and the plumage of the legs and toes is also grey-white, sprinkled with brown spots.

4. The Snowy Owl, is one of the handsomest birds in this family. It is arrayed in a beautifully soft, white mantle; while its bright orange eyeballs shine among the snowy plumage like a living topaz. It is a mighty hunter—when its size is considered. Its flight is rapid and powerful, and it strikes down ducks, grouse, pigeons, &c., on the wing, like a falcon. It hunts in the day time, and at morning and evening twilight. It is a terrible foe to the smaller mammalia. Mr. Yarroll, in his History of British Birds, states that a wounded bird disgorged a young rabbit whole; and another had in its stomach a small bird with plumage entire. "It is also a good fisherman, posting itself on some convenient spot overhauling the water, and securing its finny prey with a lightning-like grasp of the claw, as it passes beneath the white-clad fisher." The length of the male is about twenty-two inches, and that of the female twenty-six or twenty-seven inches.

The Short-eared Owl, is remarkably formed, inasmuch as its head is smaller than its neck. It flies by day, and hunts in the open country in preference to the woods. It is somewhat weak in the wing, and does not often fly for more than a hundred yards at a time, and at a very short distance from the ground. Its food consists of mice and birds, and even bats and half-grown rats. It is very widely distributed, and is found in many portions of the Old World as well as on this continent. The length of the bird is about fifteen inches, the female being longer than the male. The upper part of the bird is fawn-coloured, interspersed with dark-brown patches. A few spots of yellow are scattered over the wings, with some bars of dark brown across the tail. The legs and thighs are pale buff, the claws and beak and the eyes golden yellow.

The Rat.

No other animal is placed in circumstances which tend so continually to sharpen its wits as a rat; nor does any other appear to be of a more improved nature. He is of a most intelligent family, being related to the beaver. And in civilized countries he is not a wild creature; for he follows the progress of civilization, and adapts his own habits of life to it, so as to avail himself of its benefits. The "pampered goose," who, in Pope's Essay, retorts upon man, and says that man was made for the use of geese, must have been forgetful of plucking time, as ignorant of the rites that are celebrated in all old-fashioned families on St. Michael's day. But the rat might, with more apparent reason, support such an assertion.—He is not mistaken in thinking that corn-stacks are as much for his use as for the farmer's; that barns and granaries are his winter magazines; that the miller is his acting partner, the cheese-monger his purveyor, and the store-keeper his steward. He places himself in relation to man, not as his dependant, like the dog; nor like the cat as his ally, nor like the sheep, as his property, nor like the ox as servant, nor like the horse and ass, his slave, nor like the poultry who are to "come and be killed" when Mrs. Bond invites them; but as his enemy—a bold borderer, a Johnny Armstrong or Rob Roy, who acknowledges no right of property in others, who lives by spoil.

Wherever man goes the rat follows, or accompanies him. Town or country is equally agreeable to him. He enters your house as a tenant at will (his own, not yours), works out for himself a covered way in your walls, ascends by it from one story to another, and leaving you the larger apartments, takes possession of the space between floor and ceiling, as an entrepot for himself. There he has his party revels, gallopadés, (merry ones they are), when you would be asleep, if it were not for the spirit with which the youth and belles of ratland keep up the ball over your head, and you are more fortunate than most of your neighbours, if he does not prepare for himself a mausoleum behind your chimney-piece or under your hearthstone, retire into it when he is about to die, and very soon afford you full proof that though he

may have lived like a hermit, his relics are not in the odor of sanctity. You have an additional comfort of knowing that the spot appropriated will henceforth be used either as a common cemetery or a family vault. In this respect, as in many others, nearer approaches are made to us by inferior creatures than are dreamed of in our philosophy.

The adventurous merchant ships a cargo for some distant point; the rat goes with it. Great Britain plants a colony in Botany Bay, Van Dieman's Land, or at the Swan River; the rat takes the opportunity of colonizing also. Ships are sent upon a voyage of discovery; rat embarks as a volunteer. He doubled the stormy cape with Diaz, arrived at Malabar in the first European vessel with Gama, discovered the new world with Columbus, and took possession of it at the same time, and circumnavigated the globe with Magellan and with Drake and with Cook.—Southey.

A seal weighing 128 lbs., one of the largest ever seen in the St. Lawrence, was caught a few days ago at Port St. Francis.

GREY EAGLE SHOT.—A grey eagle was shot near Pittsburgh last Friday, by Mr. L. C. Bruiton. It measured seven feet between the extreme tips of its wings.

BATS.—We extract the following from Allen's *Monograph of Bats*.—"The numerous parasites infesting bats is perhaps the most revolting feature in these creatures. The enormous population of *Acar*i found upon their bodies is due to the great generation of animal heat in their close haunts—a condition conducive to a rapid increase of all kinds of vermin. In North America the common bed bug (*Cimex lectularis*) is frequently found upon their fur. The entrance of a bat, with its precious burden, into the open window of a farm-house is the solution of that frequently propounded question of the despairing housewife—'Where can the bugs come from?'"

PIGEONS ROITED BY SWALLOWS.—A pair of pigeons have for the last two years made their nest in a box attached to the wall of an outbuilding, the door of which is regularly closed at night. Two swallows attached their nest to a beam of this building, and so persecuted the unfortunate pigeons that they were suddenly compelled to retreat, and establish a home elsewhere. The circumstance did not come under my notice until the swallows had hatched their eggs, when the swallows' nest was removed and placed outside the building, under a spouting which protected it from the wet, and the pigeons reinstated. The old ones continued to feed the young, and the swallows soon were on the wing. The pigeons, however, did not long enjoy their quiet, for, having laid more eggs, they were again attacked by the swallows, who made great efforts to build a second time on the beam, but were prevented by my servant. It was very curious to witness the attacks made on these unwieldy pigeons. The persecution was not confined to the building, but wherever these unfortunates were met, down the swallows were upon them, skimming the air, and with the rapidity of lightning, pouncing upon them, and removing a lot of feathers with their beaks. Whilst the larger birds were turning round to make their attacks, the smaller ones were far out of reach.—Charles Wotton, M. D., in *Hardwick's Science Gossip*.

The Dairy.

Rules for Management of Cows.

NEVER buy a cow of a dairyman, for if he is a good manager he will sell only his poor animals.

To determine which cows are best for keeping, try their milk separately, and weigh their butter—for sometimes a cow may give much milk and little butter, and vice versa.

Cows should run dry six weeks before calving—if milked closely toward calving, the calves will be poorer.

A cow newly come in should not drink cold water in cold weather, but moderately warm slop. Calves intended for raising should be taken from the cow within a few days, and they will be less liable to suck when old. Feed them first with new milk for a time, then skim milk, then sour milk, taking care that all the changes are gradual, by adding only a portion first; add gradually a little meal.

Calves well fed and taken care of, with a quart or two of meal daily in winter, will be double the size at two years they would have attained by common treatment.

Heifers thus treated may come in, at two years old, and will be better than neglected animals at three, and one year of feeding saved.

Hearty eaters are desirable for cows, and they may usually be selected while calves. A dainty calf will be a dainty cow.

Heifers should become accustomed to be freely handled before calving, and drawing the teats.

They will then not be difficult to milk. Begin gradually, and never startle them.

In milking cows, divide the time as nearly as practicable between morning and evening, especially at time of early grass, that the udder may not suffer.

Persons who milk should keep the nails cut short—animals are sometimes hurt with sharp nails, and are unjustly charged with restlessness.

Old cows should be fatted at fifteen years. The dairyman, therefore, who has fifteen cows, should raise a heifer calf every year to supply the vacancy—if the herd is thirty cows, he should raise two calves, and so forth.

Heifers dried up too early after calving, will always run dry about the same time in after years—therefore be careful to milk closely the first year, until about six weeks before calving.

Spring cows should come in while they are yet fed on hay, and before they are turned to grass, which will be more likely to prevent caked bag and milk fever.—*Annual Register*.

COWS LOSING THEIR CUD.—A friend writes us that he has seen two cases where it was said the cows had "lost their cud." In both instances the animals were nearly doctored to death before the character of the disease was ascertained. The remedy then applied was to administer a "cud," composed as follows:—Salt pork chopped fine, mixed with dough, a little chimney soot, and an egg. A ball as large as a goose egg was given for a dose. The cattle recovered. We do not believe "loss of cud" to be a disease of itself, but the result of disease or debility. The medicine administered in this case proved an alternative; and that, together with cessation of "dosing," recovered the animals.—*Rural New Yorker*.

THE BEST COW IN VERMONT.—We have, from Amasa Scott, of Craftsbury, the following statement of the product of one cow in golden butter. We have no doubt it is the best cow in the best of dairy States, and suggest to Mr. Scott that he ought at once to name her "Gold-Trop":

Butter from Dec. 25th, 1864, to April 20th, 1865	200 lbs.
April 20th to Aug. 20th	180
Aug. 20th to Sept. 20th	40
Sept. 20th to Oct. 20th	34

Total in ten months	454 lbs.
Sales—200 pounds at 60 cents	\$120
180 " " 30 do.	54
40 " " 40 do.	16
34 " " 50 do.	17

454 pounds in ten months..... \$207

Oct. 20, 1865, she was producing one pound per day, and if she continues at that rate two months, to Dec. 20, the product for the year would be 514 lbs.—*Vermont Watchman*.

BUTTER MAKING.—The *Revue d'Economie Rurale* states that, from recent experiments made by a French farmer, it appears that the last milk drawn from the cow contains ten times more cream and butter than the first milk. Hence it follows that if, after drawing eight or ten litres of milk from a cow, the operation is stopped, and about a litre left in the dugs, nearly one-half of the cream and butter is lost. The best way of making butter, according to the same authority, is to pour cream into a linen bag, then to tie it up and put it into a hole dug in the ground, which is afterwards covered with earth. There it must remain for twenty-five hours; after which, on being taken out, the cream is found to have become quite hard. It is then crushed in a mortar with a wooden pestle, half a glass of water being added to separate the butter, an operation which does not last two minutes. No other system of making butter is now employed either in Normandy or the Berry; for there not only is a saving of time and labour, but a large quantity of butter is got out of the cream, and its quality is excellent. Some people put the first bag into a second one, in order to avoid bringing the earth too closely into contact with the butter.