

From the Standard.

The Ethnology of Eyes.

The eye is notoriously one of the most characteristic features of the face. It is "the window of the soul," and an index to many of the owner's mental and moral characteristics. We have the wild eye and the gentle eye, the stern eye and the melting eye, the swimming eye and the voluptuous eye, the eagle eye and the shifty eye, the eye that is the herald of the words that are to follow, the snakey eye of the Oriental that bespeaks treachery and cunning, and the impassive, unreadable eye of the Indian that suggests a character lying in ambush. Not to enumerate all the eyes that the poets and the lady novelists have so lavishly described, we all know the boiled eye that bespeaks the sodden mind; the saucer eye, which, like the rabbit-shaped incisors, is too much of a good thing; and the eyes not unfrequently seen in the New Cut and the Old Bailey, which look for all the world like holes burnt in a blanket. But it is as an ethnic or race mark more than as a mental or moral index that the eye is interesting. In a community so mixed as ours we have all colors of eyes. But, as a rule, blue eyes go with fair hair, and fair hair is an index of Teutonic origin, unless we consider, with Dr. Barnard Davis and Dr. Beddoe, that the combination of black hair with dark blue or grey eyes, so common in some districts of these islands, indicates Celtic blood. A German or a Norseman with flaxen hair and black eyes is about as rare as a Spaniard or an Italian with blue ones, so that it is safe to say that a nation with a preponderance of blue eyes has also a majority of fair-haired citizens, and therefore a marked prevalence of the Germanic, Celtic, and possibly the Slave elements in its population. Now we know that the latter race emigrates to the New World in numbers so few as scarcely to affect the general result, while the Latin races, with dark eyes, seek, for the most part, new homes in more southern latitudes than the United States. The glass eye statistician unconsciously brings out this point. Twenty years ago many more dark than light eyes were sold in America but from that date there has in the sale of dark eyes been a perceptible falling off. About twenty light eyes are now sold to one dark. In Boston the percentage is even higher, viz., about thirty-five blue or light eyes to one brown, whilst on the other hand in New Orleans fifty dark eyes are sold to one light one. Now, were it possible to change the color of the eye to be matched, it might be supposed that the facts noted were due to the change in taste, which recently prescribed fair hair as the fashionable hue. This is, however, out of the question. Hence the only explanation is, that the vast German and Scandinavian immigrations of the last two decades have utterly swamped the mixed English population which previously occupied the Northern and Western States of the Union; whilst in the South the original French and mixed negro races have not been diluted by the fair-haired, blue-eyed northern arrivals. Curiously enough, the recent census entirely confirms this theory deduced from the return of glass-eye sales. In Nevada, as might be expected, 70 per cent. of the inhabitants are of foreign birth; in California, 51; in Arizona, 65.5; in Dakota, 65.5; in the Northern and older Western States, about 32, on an average, while in most of the hotter Southern States there is practically no foreign element whatever. The same assertion may be made for the purely rural districts of New England, the immigrants finding homes chiefly in the large manufacturing towns. In the cooler ex-slave states there is on an average ten per cent. of foreigners; in the others less than two per cent.; while in North Carolina the people of foreign birth resident in the state are barely a quarter of one per cent. But this immigration consists almost entirely of the Teutonic and Celtic races. The agricultural states are peopled by a preponderance of Germans and Scandinavians. Whole districts are inhabited by settlers from Mecklenburg, Denmark, Sweden, or Norway. The German tongue is often the only one generally spoken over one or two counties, and in others Norse will as generally be the language in which the vernacular non-official intercourse of the settlers is carried on. In Canada there are Gaelic districts. But in the States the Highlanders mix with the rest of the population. Comparatively few of the Irish or French—out of Canada—take to farming, and Erse is in the New World an unknown tongue. In

parts of Louisiana, Florida, Arizona, California, and New Mexico there was, and is still, a large Spanish element. But it is disappearing before the Anglo-Saxon and getting confined to certain districts, so that even there the blue eyes are beginning to predominate, except in the warmer regions, which have no attractions for the Northerners. A certain amount of negro blood has permeated the South and still more intensified the prevalence of black eyes, whilst on the Indian frontier the aboriginal skin, hair, and iris are more frequent than the moralist might desire. It has been mooted whether the white race is yet fully naturalized in the New World and it has been suggested that it would die out when the stream of navigation from Europe stopped. It is certain that in Massachusetts the native American women of the old stock have, as a rule, few children compared with the Irish and German immigrants, and that this peculiarity follows the fresh arrivals to their homes in the West. In any case, it promises a preponderance of the blue-eyed race; for the black-eyed Irish Celts are scanty in numbers compared with their red-haired countrymen, as a something of Bowery on an election day will amply prove. It is therefore evident that the blue-eyed men are to rule the New World. In time the two great streams that at present flow apart will gradually coalesce. The Teuton and the Celt will become one race, and a race of which the world may well be proud. The impulsive, reckless disposition of the one will be sobered by the grave, rather parsimonious, discreet nature of the other. The quick-brained Celt will supply fire to the dull, laborious Teuton. Hence, from the ethnologist's point of view, the drawers of the Chicago glass-eye dealer are pregnant with the promise of mighty "nations yet to be." In the rattle of their contents, the thoughtful politician must hear

The first slow, sullen rush of waves.
Where soon shall roll a human sea.

From Nature.

The Shining Slave-Maker.

(*Polyergus lucidus*.)

The Rev. H. M'Cook is as fortunate as he is energetic in his studies of the American ants. At the December, 1880, meeting of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia he read a paper on the discovery at the foot of the Alleghany Mountains, near Altoona, of a nest of *Polyergus lucidus*, the American representative of the legionary ant of Huber (*P. rufescens*), an ant associated with that author's discovery of ant nests, in which certain ants have associated with them, in sort of slavery, ants of another species. The nest had four gates separated a few inches from each other; the chambers were placed above the other, united by tubular galleries. In an inner ovoid chamber numbers of ants, male and female, appeared; mingled with these in large numbers were workers in three forms—major, minor, and dwarf of *Formica schauinslandi*. A portion of the excavated nest was broken into, and on the next day but one was visited. None of the shining ants were at work, but the "slaves" were very busy cleaning out the galleries; a portion of the slaves were engaged in an extensive migration; a few were carrying their fellows, but for the most part the deportation was confined to the males and females of the shining ants. It was wonderful to see the large virgin-queens carried up the perpendicular face of the cutting for eighteen or twenty inches, and then for the distance six feet over the ground and through the grass, and this in a few seconds over a minute. The shining ants are able to take a most wonderful grip. One of them had fallen under the displeasure of another, who held her firmly grasped by the middle thorax. Anxious to preserve the colony from unnecessary loss, Mr. M'Cook lifted the two out on a point of a toothpick, laid them on his hand, and thrust the fine point of the quill between the jaws of the aggressor, and so teased her that she released her fellow. The rescued ant instantly clasped the palm of his hand, threw her abdomen under her, and then, with back curved like that of an angry cat, sawed and tugged away at the skin until an abrasion was made. The other ant still clung fast by her mandibles only to the toothpick's point, her body stretched out into space, her limbs stretched outwards, except one hind leg, which was a little bent upward, and

thus without any perceptible support except that which her jaws gave her upon the quill-point, she hung outstretched for several minutes. About a month after its discovery the nest was again visited; it was abundantly peopled; the winged forms of the shining ant were however gone. Having succeeded in colonizing these ants Mr. M'Cook was able to confirm in many particulars the statements of Huber, Forel, and others, but he never happened to see the slaves feeding their masters. He noticed that they seemed to like to move towards both warmth and light, but he does not seem to have settled the question whether they would not prefer the warmth without the light. They would appear to be very clean in their ways and persons. Various experiments seemed to establish the fact that these slave-makers always keep a guard ready at once for any attack.

Chambers Journal.

A Sheep-Eating Parrot.

A singular bird has recently been added to the collection in the Zoological Gardens, London. This is none other than a carnivorous parrot, whose love of animal flesh manifests itself in a very decided predilection for mutton. There are two things which the naturalist are remarkable in connection with this bird. First, it is, in respect to this flesh-eating propensity, an exception to the whole family of parrots, which are frugivorous, living on fruits, seeds, leaves, buds, and the like; and second, this carnivorous taste is not a natural but an acquired possession, the species of parrot in question having been till a few years since frugivorous, like others of its family.

This curious bird is the kea (*Neslor notabilis*) or mountain parrot, and comes from New Zealand. The general color of its plumage is green; its length from point of bill to extremity of tail, is twenty-one inches; its bill is about two inches long, the upper mandible being curved, and very strong. It inhabits the higher wooded glens and recesses of the mountainous districts of New Zealand, and, like the owl, is generally nocturnal in its habits. The kea was first made known to science in 1856. In the time of Maori rule, the bird was as innocent and harmless in its habits, as respects its food, as any other of the parrot family; and it was not till the higher tracts of country were utilized by the early settlers as runs for sheep, that the kea was tempted to desert its fruit-eating habits, and to join the destructive army of the carnivora.

About 1868, it was noticed that the sheep-shearing season on the upland runs that many sheep were suffering from sores or scars, more or less recent, on the back, immediately in front of the hips. Curiously enough, it was observed that in all the animals so injured the wound was in precisely the same place in each—fairly above the kidneys. In some cases [says Mr. Potts, who was contributed an article to the *Zoologist* on the subject], the part affected had a hard, dry scab, or merely a patch of wool stripped off; others showed a severe wound, in some instances so deep that the entrails protruded. The animals so injured were invariably those that were in the best condition; and many discussions ensued as to what could be the cause of this singular state of things. At last a shepherd gave it as his opinion that the injury was inflicted by a kind of parrot, rather a tame sort of bird, that was to be met with in the higher ranges; but the shepherd's opinion was only laughed at. Yet the shepherd, after all, was found to be right. In connection with the stations on sheep runs in New Zealand, there is a meat-gallows where the carcasses of sheep killed for food are kept; and it was observed by the shepherds that the keas were in the habit of visiting the gallows and breaking off bits of mutton fat with their strong beaks. Soon afterwards, some of the hands actually saw a parrot on the back of a sheep, plucking and tearing the wool and flesh on a precisely similar spot to that where so many had been found to be fatally wounded.

There was no doubt about the keas being the offenders, and means were at once taken to have their numbers reduced. Since then, a mortal enemy has existed against them on the part of the shepherds; and justly so, as it is found that from three to five per cent. of every flock is so wounded or killed.