

MC2465 POOR DOCUMENT

THE GRANITE TOWN GREETINGS

WATCH THIS SPACE NEXT WEEK

For Announcement of HANSON BROS.

HONEY GUIDES.

African Birds That Lead Men to the Nests of Bees.

"For many ages," says a writer, "the small birds which are known in Africa as honey guides have been in the habit of leading human beings to the nests of bees. The first notice of the kind of which I have knowledge is in 'Lobe's Travels in Abyssinia,' published by Le Grand in 1728. 'The more or honey bird,' says this author, 'is endowed with a peculiar instinct or faculty of discovering honey. When the more has discovered any honey he repairs immediately to the roadside and when he sees a traveler sing and clap his wings, making many motions to invite him to follow him, and when he perceives his coming flies before him from tree to tree till he comes to the place where the bees have stored their treasure and then begins to sing melodiously. The Abyssinians take the honey without falling to leave part of it for the bird to reward him for his information.' Sparrman, who traveled at the Cape in 1775-76, gives also a very good description of the bird as observed in the southern part of the continent.

"The honey guides lead human beings to the nests of wild bees not so much for the honey as for the grubs or larvae found within the comb. The natives are for the most part well aware of this fact, and if they reward the honey guide, which they usually do to some grading extent, break off for it a piece of the comb in which the grubs are hatching. Sparrman has a curious note upon this detail. He says, 'I was informed by my boatman (Quashman), as well as by the colonists, that a man who makes it his constant business to go after the bees should not at first be too grateful and generous to this officious bird, but leave for it only just as much as will serve to stimulate its appetite, by which means it will be induced in hopes of obtaining a more liberal reward to discover another swarm of bees.

"When it desires to feed upon some comb which it has discovered it makes its way to a human being, suttors about restlessly and hops from branch to branch or from bush to bush or from one ant hill to another until it succeeds in attracting the man's attention. During this time it utters a shrill cry of 'cherr' frequently repeated. If the man is a native who understands its habits and is willing to follow it he often gives a soft, soothing whistle and, taking with him a hatchet, accepts the restless little creature's guidance. The honey guide now goes on ahead, never keeping very far away and always jealously noting whether the man is really following. At length the honey nest is reached, the bird's object accomplished,

nest and ride the comb the bird still flutters about, chirping. When the business is concluded and the man departs the honey guide descends from its perch and helps itself to as much of the larvae as it can find.

"When thus following a honey guide the natives, as a rule, very quietly, taking care not to frighten his small adviser. If the man by reason of bush or other obstacle travels, in the bird's opinion, too slowly it will repeatedly come back to him, fly closely and anxiously about him and with restless twitters and evident impatience urge upon him the necessity of hurrying up."

Roaring Wags.
Specialists modern scientists are bound to be. But they are not the skeptical specimens so often pictured by the man in the street, all cold intellect and devotion to the pursuit of an abstract idea. They know how to play. Like other men, they are gregarious and play together.

The Red Lion club was composed of great Englishmen, and Huxley was one of the members. The club used to meet during the session of the British association. To a certain meeting at Ipswich, England, which Huxley described in his "Letters," some foreigners were invited, the Prince of Canino, Bonaparte's nephew, among them, and greatly astonished they were at the exceedingly human behavior of the learned professors. The Red Lion men had a custom of wagging one coat tail—the lion's tail—when applauding. The prince was much impressed by these proceedings, and when he stood up to respond to the toast of his health instead of making a speech he gave three mighty roars and three wags.—*Youth's Companion.*

Lucky Edition.
When the late N. Villemessant, the proprietor of the Paris Figaro, died he left the paper to the three men who had done the most to aid him. But there were many old contributors on the paper, men with well known names, who made an outcry at this division of property. They insisted that they ought to have been consulted, and they threatened to found an opposition paper to Figaro.

This alarmed the three principals, and they made a proposition to the effect that they themselves should take each £7,000 out of the concern yearly and that the other men should each have a salary of £1,500 for the work they were to do and at the end of the year draw a like sum out of the profits, thus insuring them £3,000 a year each. For these men did not write an average of more than half a column a day each—indeed, that much so that they had a very easy time of it.

It was one of the conditions that when any one of them dies his share goes to the others, so that the last survivor will have an enormous income.—*London Observer.*

TWO QUEER ANIMALS

The Marabou and the Hyena of Central Africa.

BOTH VULTURES IN NATURE.

Each Gorges itself on Carrion, and the Bird and Beast Often Battle For Their Food—Fair-like Plumes That Are as Light as Air.

The ugliest stocks in the world are found in northern Asia and central Africa. Their flesh colored heads are only partially covered with stiff, wiry feathers, and hanging on the breast they bear a disgusting pouch, which answers the purpose of a crop. One of the largest of these stocks is the marabou. It stalks about the great sandy plains of central Africa with composure and a lordly grandeur, as if it were the most beautiful bird in the world. Its body feathers are of a dull metallic green color, and its wings and tail are dingy black. Looking at the awkward creature, no one would suspect that under its ungainly wings it carried the most exquisite and fairy-like little plumes, so airy that it takes basketfuls of them to weigh an ounce. They are pure white and so much desired for trimming that the bird is vigorously hunted by the natives, who sell these dainty feathers to traders for a very large price.

The marabou feeds on carrion, like the vulture. Its throat is very large, and it will greedily eat everything that comes in its way. In the swamps and plains around Khartoum, on the Nile, are immense flocks of marabous, and they are so daring as to come to the slaughter houses on the outskirts of the city in search of food, and whole ox cars and skin boxes with hoots attached have been found in the crops of specimens which have been killed.

These birds are skillful fishers. They hunt the low marshy islands in the rivers and lakes of central Africa, with elephants, monkeys, flamingoes and many species of birds for companions, and gain their principal food from the water. They often go in companies of ten or twelve to fish. Wading in the water, the birds form a circle, which they gradually draw together, gathering the frightened fish in the center of the net, when with their long bills and quick movements they speedily provide themselves with a hearty meal.

Although marabou mammals have been seen parading around with a brood of diminutive downy young ones, so shy and retiring is this bird in its domestic habits that naturalists have been unable to determine when and how it builds its nest. The marabou is a very voracious and

tree, but their statement is not confirmed.

In captivity the marabou is lord of the inclosure, and in zoological gardens, where specimens have been confined, no other birds or even small beasts dare approach the feeding trough until the hunger of this impudent bird is satisfied and it has retired to the warmest corner for a nap. The immense strength of its bill makes it a formidable enemy, and when fighting for food it will often overcome the largest vultures and wage successful battles with beasts of prey.

The hyena inhabits the same portions of Asia and Africa as the marabou, and travelers give accounts of terrible contests between these two singular members of the animal kingdom. The hyena is called the vulture among beasts, as it prefers carrion for its food, and as long as it can find dead animals to devour it leaves the flocks and herds in peace. Cowardly by nature, it rarely attacks man or beast unless driven to desperation by hunger.

The striped hyena inhabits the northern intrades of Africa, Persia and Syria, while the spotted species, which is easily tamed and is sometimes called hyena dog, is found in large numbers in the vast plains of South Africa. The hyena is a strange looking beast. It has a big head and a heavy, sluggy nose. The hind part of its body is much lower than its shoulders, and its hind legs are short. This odd formation gives it an awkward, shambling manner of walking, which is both ludicrous and hideous.

This creature rarely shows itself by day, but when the shadows of night fall on the plains and forests it comes out from its home among the rocks and caverns in search of food. African travelers are much annoyed by it. When the camp is silent and all are sleeping the hyena comes prowling round, uttering hoarse human cries, and should it fall to find sufficient camp refuse to satisfy its hunger some poor donkey is sure to be torn to pieces by its terribly strong jaws.

Few animals have been the subject of so much superstition. In ancient times it was believed that a dog went mad if a hyena turned its evil eye upon it, and the beast was believed by many to be a wicked sorcerer, who went about in human form by day and at night assumed the shape of a hyena. The poor and ignorant peasantry of Arabia even at the present day believe in the evil eye of this beast and are afraid to shoot it lest they should incur the wrath of the wicked spirit which they imagine walks the earth in this ugly form.

The poor hyena, however, far from being an evil spirit, is a real blessing to the regions it inhabits, as it is a natural scavenger, provided by the kind wisdom of nature to clear the ground of much loathsome and decaying matter, thereby rendering the air purer and more and more healthful.

Gesture Language.

Far away from the influence of civilized man gesture language is still extant in parts of Australia. Some of the tribes possess such an excellent code that it is almost as efficient as the spoken language.

Book Bindings.

Artificial heat of all kinds is damaging to book bindings. It not only cracks the leather, but the paste. A large bowl of water placed in a room containing books will moisten the air sufficiently to prevent the drying of the leather.

The Copper Age.

That copper preceded the bronze age is proved by the fact that articles unearthed at Abydos and Negadah, Egypt, have been pronounced pure copper.

Pope Adrian IV.

The only Englishman who ever ruled as pope was Nicholas Breakspear, who was born about the year 1100 at Langbeay, near St. Albans. He was unanimously elected to the papal chair in 1154 and bore the title of Adrian IV.

A Chinese Custom.

It is the Chinese custom to inaugurate a business venture with a display of fireworks.

A Clean Tip.

The dim uneven flame that is such an annoyance to most housekeepers is quite unnecessary if care is taken to run the edge of a wicking card or a coarse cotton thread through the gas burner every few days.

Ironclads.

The first ironclad warship was the Gloire of France, antedating the Monitor and Merrimack by nearly four years.

Icebergs.

The icebergs of the two hemispheres are entirely different in shape. The arctic bergs are irregular in form, with lofty pinnacles and glittering domes, while the antarctic bergs are flat topped and solid looking.

Volcanoes.

There are 270 active volcanoes in the world, many of them being comparatively small.

Hairbrushes.

Hairbrushes need a weekly cleaning. For this purpose add one tablespoonful of soda to a quart of hot water, dip the brushes—not the lacinto this and shake well until perfectly clean. Rinse and stand on edge to dry.

Licorice Root.

Licorice root grows wild in the fields of Asia Minor and until fifty years ago was practically unused. Today the annual exports to the United States alone are worth about \$500,000.

Plants and Minerals.

Some minerals, such as phosphoric acid, potash, lime and magnesia, are essential to the nourishment of plants, but plants have also a general appetite for mineral substances, getting freely in addition to the quantity necessary to their proper nutrition.

Silk and Flax.

A silken thread is three times as strong as a flaxen one the same thickness.

Remains of Ancient Cities.

All around Chingchow, China, there are mounds, earthenworks, lookout towers, etc., the remains of ancient cities and fortresses, which mark the sites of capitals from the very dawn of authentic history.

Maldivo Archipelago.

The Maldivo archipelago contains 14,000 islands, which abound in coco-nut palms.

Stone Barometer.

The "Imaktur," a Finnish stone which becomes almost white before the approach of fine weather and darkens when storms are at hand, is used by the natives as a barometer in which they repose the highest confidence.

Malaria.

Malaria renders nearly a fifth of the land of the globe dangerous to white men.

Evolution.

The idea of evolution—that is to say, of the origin of existing species from pre-existing ones as against the doctrine of the special creation of each species—is as old as the fourth century B. C., when it was advanced by the Greeks.

Greek Peasant Babies.

The baby wrapped in the heart of a Greek peasant home is washed in lukewarm wine and myrtle leaves, then its complexion is carefully covered with a layer of milk.

Legal Right to Pick Cigar.

According to Connecticut law, when you go into a cigar store and ask for a cigar, the dealer must place a number of the cigars of the kind you want on the counter to enable you to select the particular one you wish to buy.

Milan's Cab Drivers.

Some of the cab drivers in Milan, the most important industrial center in Italy, remain on duty day and night eating and sleeping in their cabs, winter and summer alike.

Road Rollers.

The use of a roller in roadmaking was first suggested by Cesar in 1783 and first adopted by Polineau and Morandiere in 1833. The first steam roller was constructed by the French engineer Balle.