

## PROTECTED BY NATURE.

WONDERFUL PROVISION FOR THE DEFENCE OF ANIMALS.

Though They May Lack Size and Strength, They Have Peculiarities to Save Them—Sometimes Their Best Protection is Their Shade of Color.

A recent writer in an English paper says that in Texas, California, and some other parts of North America, there is a peculiar species of lizard, popularly known as the "horned toad," which, when irritated or attacked, throws a jet of blood into its enemy's face, and, strangely enough, this jet is thrown from the creature's eye. A naturalist, who closely examined one of these lizards, found that the fluid ejected was really blood. There was thrown out on each occasion as much as a teaspoonful, to a distance of about twelve inches, each ejection being followed by a sort of stupor, lasting for a few minutes, but after two or three discharges following on irritation repeated at brief intervals, the supply appeared to be exhausted for the time. Some of the fluid accidentally got into the investigator's eye, without producing any more serious effect than a slight inflammation, which was felt next day. This is not remarkable, as the blood of many reptiles is known to be more or less poisonous.

The ejection of secretions of a disagreeable kind is a widely used means of defence. A common European frog is stated by Dr. Mivart, when attacked, to emit a vapor which smells of garlic strongly enough to make the eyes water. This frog, according to the same authority, also "news like a cat" when touched.

Doubt has been thrown on Shakespeare's reference to the "weaseling venom," but the correctness of the great poet's observation has been recently established by naturalists of repute, who have found that the tolerably strong venom of the toad, instead of being entirely secreted by the salivary glands, as in snakes, is actually secreted by the skin, so that "weaseling" is the correct word. Dogs strictly avoid touching toads, and if a foolish puppy should by chance bite one, profuse salivation and foaming at the mouth follow as a severe lesson of experience. One observer also noticed that the venom acts strongly on the skin, so that after carrying a toad in his hand he felt numbness and tingling, with slight swelling and dryness of the skin lasting for several hours.

Almost all the members of the zoological family of the weasels, which includes, beside the common weasel, the polecat, the skunk, the ferret, the mink, the badger, the martens, and many other fur-bearing animals of great commercial importance, have a disagreeable odour, arising from the secretion of certain glands, the contents of which can be ejected as a means of defence. The cuttlefish balls its pursuers by ejecting the contents of its "ink-bag," which darken the water all round it, thus cutting off its retreat. These ink-bags furnish the valuable pigment known as sepia.

The highly variegated wings of many butterflies serve to make their appearance correspond almost exactly with that of the plants they frequent. An Alric butterfly has been described which has the upper and under surfaces of its wings of different colors, and in certain districts, it settles on the ground with its wings expanded, while in other parts of the continent, the soil of which is of a different color, in both cases being admirably protected by the close resemblance of the displayed surfaces to the prevailing hue of its haunts.

Remarkable examples of color adaptations are formed by the mountain hare, the willow grouse, and the ptarmigan, which in summer are colored with close resemblance to the hue of their surroundings; but in winter become white, the prevailing color of animals inhabiting northern regions.

A very curious mode of defence is practiced by a small toad, known as the "fire bellied toad," from the fiery red color of its under surface. When hotly pursued and cornered, it suddenly falls on its back and displays a startlingly red expanse of color, which has the effect of alarming the foe.

### IDEAS IN PRECIOUS STONES.

The suggestion that Ivory should take the Place of Gold and Silver.

The study of precious stones has suggested to the wife of an English expert and sometime collector an idea for reformation in the settings of diamonds. Whether it is practicable is a question for jewelers. The proposal is that ivory should take the place of gold or silver. All wearers of diamonds are aware how troublesome is the process of washing and drying silver-set diamonds so as to avoid the slightest tarnish, and a gold setting has the disadvantage of causing a reflection of its own colour as to render the whiteness of a fine diamond difficult to gauge. But even more important would be the gain of beauty. The brilliance of gold and silver mar their charm as a setting for transparent and sparkling stones, though it makes them a good setting for opaque stones and for pearls. Ivory would give the gentle effect that is now sought for by setting diamonds together with merely semi-precious stones—a combination deplorable to the expert. Ivory would have even more than a quieting effect of cat's-eye or chrysoptase, and its thick warm whiteness by the lucid and darting diamond would make an effect of great refinement. Perhaps a difficulty would be found in its comparative fragility.

Of semi-precious stones none is lovelier than the opal, with its fiery rose and an alternation of green and blue that shame the peacock, while by a change of posture all these starry ardours can be lost in a milky way of whiteness, as suits one's mood. Opal runs, much like a vein of marble, through a matrix of brown ironstone. When the vein is seen to be thick enough to yield good pieces the ironstone is split and the opal cut out. But a singularly beautiful art is practiced by a German carver, who leaves the matrix as a background and cuts the opal lying attached to it, following the suggestions of colour and form after the well-known manner of a cameo. A cameo, however, is opaque and mere brown and white, whereas the opal is translucent and

full of colour. A dying aurora with a burning sun rising over the sea, a mermaid with the rosy fire in her cheek and the peacock tints in her tail, birds standing by a pool in violet twilight, are among this artist's happiest carvings to be seen at a mineralogist's in Regent-street.

It is pleasant thus to follow an opal to its home in nature. To do this with some of the things of common use is sometimes to get a new idea of them. Loathe patchouli as you may—and it can hardly be loathed too heartily—it must lose half its vulgarity after you find that it is not only a bad smell in the Burlington Arcade, but the simple, unmix, and innocent breath of a shrub whose leaf you may pinch in an Italian garden. Patchouli, green and alive, out of doors, must necessarily make you more tolerant of patchouli, betraying itself in "white rose" inside a shop.

### FOR THE MASTER'S SAKE.

The Story of the Life and Death of a Crippled Factory Boy.

Down at the end of the road which led through the village, the old factory hummed all day with its iron tongues and at night-fall winked its flaming eyes at the gloom around it. As the workmen passed the window of a little cottage that stood flush with the street, half way down the road towards the great arched entrance to the factory enclosure, they stopped to leave a flower, a bit of ribbon, an apple or a broken scrap of bright colored glass in the little white hands of the crippled boy within.

They had known his father when he had been the leading spirit in all their humble merry-makings and they had seen this little fellow, striving with the courage of a man, forgetful of his own danger, trying to save his father's life when he had been caught in one of the great machines.

Ever since that dreadful day, the little fellow had lain here, smiling through his pain and they had learned, day by day, to give a few minutes in the morning and again at evening to the widow's loom at the factory that she might have more time to give her boy a mother's care.

They did not speak of it to each other. It was all too sad for them to talk about, but no day passed that did not find some little gift upon the window ledge.

By and by, the workmen seemed to grow gentler and kinder and some of them stopped swearing as the pale face at the window took on a patient but weary look which told that the end was drawing near.

One morning the bell in the tower of the village church was tolled slowly and when the little coffin was borne out of the cottage door, a hundred brawny men followed it to the church-yard with uncovered heads and moistened eyes.

And when the preacher had spoken the last word of his tender tribute to the dead boy's memory, a fervent "Amen" was breathed in a hoarse whisper from the sympathetic breasts of those rough men, as they turned to resume their daily toil.

The sorrowing widow went back again to the lonely cottage, and there upon the window ledge, where they had so often left their little gifts, she saw, shimmering in the sunlight a pile of coin, dimes, quarters, half-dollars and dollars, and peeping out from amongst the silver here and there, even the glitter of a piece of gold, and on a bit of paper, roughly scrawled, she read with tear-dimmed eyes: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

### Reading for Girls.

Do not have a narrow range of reading. Keep in touch with current literary and scientific matters by glancing over the table of contents and the leading articles of the best periodicals. Get out into the full swing of the world's thought by investigating sermons, pamphlets, political orations, music scores, art books, archeology, folklore and economics, as well as books bearing upon the direct academic studies. Absorb literature as you do the air you breathe—the greatest works in every language of which you are master. Have only one care; when by chance you get hold of a book or part of a book which your instinct tells you is not pure, drop it, and never be ashamed to say that you have done so. It is impossible to have a superb literary training without ever having read an evil book. It is wonderful how delicately a healthy, right instinct distinguishes in this direction. And a pure taste once formed, it is impossible to read anything against which it revolts.

Of course in many masterpieces there are objectionable passages. This is apt to be the case in the older writers, and in nearly all the medieval works. But these passing flaws, belonging to ruder times and more outspoken ways, are scarcely noticed. They are very different from the poisonous atmosphere exhaled from some modern books about which a review tells one enough to know that they should be let alone. Above all things discourage in yourself the habit of reading carelessly or aimlessly.

### Womanly Dignity.

The woman of great dignity is a power greater than one positively aggressive—she can influence where much talking and many threats will not prevail. She can make the thoughtless girl think, and the rude boy feel that his slang and rough manners are not, after all, as interesting as he supposed them to be. Her dignity diffuses itself like the perfume of a rose, you delight in it as much as you respect it. It is a safeguard against all unpleasantness, and no one is foolishly enough to attempt to break down a barrier which has its foundations so well placed. It is gentle from the mingling of gentleness and self-respect, with an atom of consideration thrown in to make the different parts mingle perfectly, and make a delightful type of womanhood.

Rough on Eighty-one Journalists.

The Paris tailors' syndicate are preparing a new edition of their black book, which was originally published seventeen years ago. The book contains the names and descriptions of persons who do not pay. Once a man's name is inscribed in it he is unable to obtain clothing at any establishment unless he is prepared to pay cash on delivery. The delinquents absorbed of tailors include 254 tradesmen, 185 commercial travellers, 94 students, 81 publicans, 81 journalists, 79 professors, 50 engineers, 46 artists, 40 actors, 40 servants, 28 druggists, 36 financiers, 33 architects, 27 doctors, and 27 jewellers.

### WON BY A HALIFAX MAN.

Groder's Prize of \$15 Goes to Mr. Robert Graham.

The prize poem competition of the Groder Dyspepsia Cure Co., commencing in the columns of PROGRESS a few months since, terminated the first of September. Since that date the judges appointed have duly considered the merits of the writings submitted and having decided to make the following awards: 1st. prize, ten dollars, to Robt. Graham, 2 Bauer street, Halifax, 2nd. prize, five dollars, to Mrs. Graham. A number of bright and original contributions were submitted, but two from the pen of Mr. Graham seemed to merit not only first but also second position. At the request of the Groder Company PROGRESS prints below, the verses awarded first prize.

### A Changed Man.

"John Anderson my Jo, John,  
When last I saw your face  
Nicht dalest' did ye talk, mon  
Wi' not of hope or trace:

But now your lullin' spruce, mon,  
An' joy is in your ee  
You're cauty bath and cruise, mon,  
Your step is strag an' free."

Ay, ay, your spakin' truth, mon,  
Nor tellin' ony lee;  
An' I will tell you sooth, mon,  
What makes the change in me.

I lang was aill'n sair, mon,  
In vain I sought relief,  
An' I bided for the sickle, mon,  
Like ony o'er-ripe aye."

They say that doctors deef, mon,  
But on me they did agree;  
They all said 'twas Dyspepsia,  
An' weel I'd never be.

But I heard say just then, mon,  
Wi' what joy I canna tell  
That Groder's was the remedy  
That would surely mak me well.

I didna ken what Groder's was,  
Nor ken whaur it might be,  
But I hurried there to see,<  
Sae I hurried there to see."

I asked him, what is Groder's?  
He said he didna ken for sure,  
But likely I'd be meanin'  
Groder's Great Dyspepsia Cure."

Sae I took the wee bit bottle  
And used it like a ray  
Till now I'm jist another mon  
An' Dyspepsia's a' away."

Sae gin ye would luk weel mon,  
Just as ye say I do,  
Why, Groder's will make you feel mon,  
Happy an' healthy too."

### A Newspaper Sensation.

COLLINGWOOD, Sept. 25.—A big sensation was created in this vicinity a couple of weeks ago by the Collingwood Bulletin's account of the case of Mr. Valentine Fisher, who has been cured of sciatica of nearly thirteen years' standing, by Dodd's kidney pills. Everyone who talks with him is speedily convinced that his was a marvelous cure. The general conclusion is, that there may be many more like him, who are using remedies for rheumatism, sciatica, dropsy, or other diseases, but fail to obtain relief, because they do not attack the seat of the disease, which is, in many such cases, the kidneys. Anyone who doubts the efficacy of Dodd's kidney pills, may soon be convinced by writing to Mr. Fisher himself, or William Williams, Esq., principal of the Collingwood College Institute, Capt. F. A. Bassett, or A. H. Johnson, all of whom are well acquainted with Mr. Fisher, and know the history of his illness.

### A Reasonable Hypothesis.

Cumso—I didn't see you at church on Sunday, Fangle?

Fangle—I wasn't there.

Cumso—I wasn't either. Perhaps that accounts for it.

### This is the Season

For New Buckwheat Meal, Green Tomatoes, Green Peppers, Pickling Spices, Crab Apples, Gravenstein Apples, California Grapes, Spiced Bacon, New Hams, etc. Enquire of J. S. Armstrong & Bro., 32 Charlotte St., next Y. M. C. A.

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Perrin Shorthand is so simple that Scholars are ready for practical work in three months of study of this system. The following article from the "Daily News" of Sept. 19th shows that the Perrin system of Shorthand is even better than what it is claimed.

### Prize Winners.

A public exhibition of the work of the students of Snell's Business College was given last night, in which very gratifying results were shown. The gold medal for the greatest speed in shorthand was won by Miss Gertrude Kent, who is taking a course in shorthand and typewriting, and making the extraordinary speed of 140 words a minute, new matter, after only about three months study. While this shows the ability of Miss Kent, it also speaks a good deal for the simplicity of the Perrin system. Miss Kent only made three errors in reading, 143 words being actually written. Miss Minnie Blacknor came next with 120 words, which is certainly extraordinary from the fact that she has taken a full Business course, Bookkeeping, Arithmetic, etc., and could of course give little time to the study and practice of shorthand. The prize for the best specimen of typewriting was awarded to Miss Fannie Fletcher, while the prize for the fastest typewriting was awarded to Miss Mary Kellock, of New Glasgow, writing 90 words a minute. Miss Kellock entered the school about six weeks ago. Miss Maudie Creelman took the prize for the best specimen of rapid writing. If you do not get satisfactory results in shorthand why not adopt a simpler system. In the Perrin system we write the vowels, which makes it much easier to read, still this system is as brief and can be written fast enough for verbatim and court reporting. Hundreds have learned. Circulars free.

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Why He Asked.  
"Say," said the regular customer of the side street restaurant as he stopped at the desk to pay his check, "where did you get that beef you are serving to-day?" "What's the matter with it?" "Aggressively asked the cashier, who scented another kick." "There's nothing the matter with it; that's why I asked."



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Advertisements under this heading not exceeding five lines (about 25 words) cost 25 cents each insertion. Five cents extra for every additional line.

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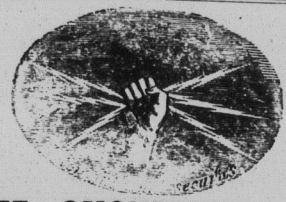
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