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### THE BIRD THAT

A bird which stands absolutely alone, without a relation in the world, is the kakapo, or ground parrot, the largest of all the parrot tribe, being upward of two feet in length. It has much of the owl in its appearance and habits. The small face is very owl-like, and it is the only parrot which, like the owls, has a facial disk of feathers. It is strictly nocturnal in its habits, and its beautifully mottled green plumage so perfectly harmonizes with the green mosses on which it feeds that if it should be accidentally surprised outside the hollow trees or burrows in which during the day it secrets itself, it is impossible to detect it. A colonist told me that on one occasion, in the early morning, he heard the note of the kakapo, and marked the spot. He carefully quartered the ground with his eye, for he was certain the bird could not have escaped from the little plot of moss. He stood watching for half an hour, but could not detect it, until at length it incautiously winked its eye and he found the bird had been all the while within two yards of his feet. Even then, he said, had he taken his eyes off for a moment, he should have lost trace of it. The kakapo, like many other birds of New Zealand, has no power of flight, but, unlike other flightless birds, has fully developed and well formed wings, with good pinion feathers. How should it have wings which it cannot use? On examining the muscles, it has been found that, though fully developed, they are mere masses of fat without any strength or power. Here

Between Billy saved three children and one grown boy. Thenceforth his strength failed, and all his fangs fell out one by one, until last winter he had not one left. He was a huge, genuine Newfoundland.

### RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SELLER OF LIVE STOCK WHERE SECRET DEFECTS ARE NOT DIS- CLOSED.

A case was recently decided by the Court of Queen's Bench, England, involving a point of considerable interest to dealers in live stock. A Mr. Hobbs sold at auction a lot of pigs, making no express representation as to their condition, and the sale was made subject to the condition—"No warranty will be given by the auctioneer with any lot, and as all the lots are open to inspection previous to the commencement of the sale, no compensation shall be made in respect to any fault or error of description of any lot in the catalogue." The pigs were bought and removed by the plaintiff, and shortly after their removal they all died of typhoid fever. The plaintiff now brought his action to recover the price of the pigs, and in this he was successful, the jury finding that Hobbs had taken the pigs from a herd which many had died of typhoid fever, and therefore knew that they were suffering from the contagion, although they showed no outward symptoms of disease.

The recovery in this case must have been on the ground of fraud—the fact that the pigs were taken from a diseased herd should have been made known to the purchaser, and the withholding of it was a fraud, for the consequences of which the seller was justly responsible.

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A Mrs. Wells, of Sutton, a few days ago heard a noise among her hens. She went out to see what was the matter, and beheld a large snake of a darkish color. It did not seem like the ordinary striped snake, and our informant says was coiled up beside one of the hens, and the hen was flapping her wings and seemed to be fixed to the spot as if she were charmed by the snake. Mr. Wells succeeded in killing his snakeship, but out the most curious part of the story is that the hen has since laid an egg, the small end of which is in exact shape of a snake's head. The egg was broken and in the end was a small and perfect snake, alive, about one inch long, the whole can be seen at the place. This is a question for naturalists.

Quietness of intellect is no proof of solidity; the deepest rivers flow on the smoothest bottoms.

A false report does not last long, and the life one leads into the best apology of that which one has led.