



THE OSTRICH.

OSTRICH RAISING.

Ostrich raising has been successfully introduced into southern California, and is likely to become a large industry in the future. There is no reason why equal success should not be reached in Texas. The business is very profitable, as the rich plumes of the birds always command a high price. Happily, wearing these magnificent ornaments does not imply the destruction of the birds, as is the case with the wearing of ornaments of other birds. The destruction of millions of birds annually to meet the demands of fashion is a deep reproach to our modern civilization, some of the loveliest races of birds, including some of the richest singers, as nightingales and others, having become almost extinct. The following is of interest on the subject of ostrich raising in South Africa.

Ostrich raising is coming to be a lucrative business in southern Africa, and is said to be the only means of saving this valuable bird from extinction. It is

found that they thrive much better on grass land than in the desert, and that the birds choose desert life merely for self-protection. The profits of an extensive ostrich breeder may be estimated from these facts:

A single pair will raise four broods a year of from ten to fifteen chicks each. A chick a month old will sell for fifty dollars; and a full-grown ostrich will yield twenty-five white feathers a year, worth five dollars apiece at Cape Town. Taking old and young together, it is estimated that the birds average over one hundred dollars a year profit. As they live forty or fifty years, the profits are simply enormous. They need little care, living easily on grass, though relishing grain, and giving in return for the luxurious diet finer feathers than those of the wild birds, and which bring higher prices. A flock of ostriches may be kept together in a field well fenced. They need no shelter, as they sleep in the open air. They are rarely sick; and if the field is well supplied with water they will fare

well without any herdsmen to watch them.

The value of the feathers exported from the Cape has increased in fourteen years from three hundred and fifty thousand dollars to over four and a half millions; and the demand is in excess of the supply.

WHAT AND WHERE?

Mischievous Tommy,
He hears every day,
A homily simple,
Beginning this way:
"Now, Tommy, you mustn't,"
And "Tommy, you must";
And "Tommy, stop running,
You'll kick up the dust";
And "Do not go swimming,
Or you will get wet,"
And "Do not go sailing,
Or you will upset";
And "Do not be wrestling,
You'll fracture your bones,"
And "Do not go climbing,
You'll fall on the stones";
And "Do not be whistling,
You're not a mere bird,"
And "Good little children
Are seen and not heard—"

Which Tommy on hearing
Exclaims, "Deary me!
What can a boy do,
And where can a boy be?"

—St. Nicholas.

A BOY HELPED BY GOD'S SPIRIT.

Little Ben ran in from school, smiling brightly. "Why, my dear, you look very happy," said his mother.

"Well, mother, I've had a regular fight, and now that it is over I do feel happy indeed."

"Had a fight, my boy? I'm sorry to hear you say that."

"Well, the other boys stopped on the way home to pick some of Farmer Adams' apples. I stopped, too, and as we were climbing over the fence something said to me, 'Don't do it.' I looked around, but could see no one. The voice was so small that it seemed like a little girl's voice. Then I heard quite a loud voice say, 'Oh, go on; he has plenty of apples.' 'It is wrong,' said the little voice again. 'Oh, it will not hurt any one, and the other boys are going,' the loud voice said. But the little voice said softly: 'It will hurt you, Ben; don't do it.' Then I jumped down and ran home, and I have not been able to do anything but smile ever since."

When little Ben jumped down from that fence Jesus smiled upon him. No wonder Ben smiled, too. Look out, children, for the little pleading voice, God's Holy Spirit. Obey that, and you will always have Jesus' smile.—*Westminster Quarterly.*