

THE NUT-SHELL, MAY, 1890.

The perfect, delicate likewise entertain a large colony of cats which are placed under the care of an old woman of 70, who supplies them with daily rations of meat and milk.

"Ant farmers," though only numbering half a dozen or so in Paris, are not to be overlooked in our study of oddities. One, for instance, resides in the name of *Millie Blanche*. She is not prepossessing in appearance. Her skin looks like dried pippins, and is tanned like crocodile hide. She has leather gaitlets and trousers, and a regular coat of armor, but notwithstanding this she is known and bitten by her ungrateful stock to such an extent that she is perfectly hideous. She sleeps in the middle of the sack of ants, and her epidermis has become so insensible to the bites of those insects that she slumbers soundly and sweetly while hundreds of them are endeavoring to extract a meal from her thick skin.

She was some time ago compelled to remove her quarters to a spot just outside Paris, because the neighbors not unreasonably object to the strange members of her farm skanking on their own account in the pantries of the adjoining houses. *Millie Blanche* supplies breeders and keepers of pheasants, the zoological gardens, aquariums and large bird dealers with ants' eggs. It is interesting to know that *Millie Blanche* is by this time possessed of a handsome fortune.

Horseflesh is still eaten by the Parisians, much as such a stimulus may horrify my readers across the sea. At least a thousand horses are killed here every year to supply this meat to the capital. About 100,000 sheep sell nothing but horse, mule and donkey's flesh. Many of them have over their doors bucheerie hippique, and do a trading trade among the working population, who have no foolish scruples about eating portions of what is certainly the cleanest of animals. It is no secret that the major part of the "best steaks" at the restaurants as well as nine tenths of the sausages come from defunct pigs. The thin fattened sausages from the north of France, are made from horse flesh, and the Lyons sausages from the meat of the docile donkey.

SOME SIMPLE SAYS.

Susanna Snooks sings sad, sweet songs, she sees soft, summer skies ;
Strange sunset shades oft silently—
"Some what sad eyes."
Noloquissingly she strays, sweet songsters shyly sing,
She sees slim sparrows' slanting shades surround some sparkling spade.
Still southward silently she strays,
She spies shy Simon Slade.
"Stop, Simon!" says Susanna Snooks,
"Still sits sweet sunset's shade."
Shy Simon six wing satisfying squeezes shyly stole.
Susanna snickered, Simon stayed. Sick sily sporey soul.
Susanna's spy saw some sly, suspicious stranger stray.
Saw Susan say: "Stop Simon Slade."
Saw simple Simon stay.
Stern sire sought sun some solid stick—
"serenely, shyly slipped."
Susanna saw "She shrilly shrieked :
"Nkip, Simon!" Simon skipped.

STRAY BITS.

The sweet orange was first brought from China to Europe by the Portuguese in the year 1547.

The largest shaft in Africa was, recently opened in the Kimberley diamond fields. It measures 21 feet 3 inches by 7 feet 9 inches, and is to be 1,000 feet deep.

The longest lived people in the world are the Norwegian, among whom the average duration of life is now 48.33 years for the men, and 51.30 for the women.

A play at one of the English theatres recently had to be modified because the actors had a superstition against the appearance of a peacock or its feathers on the stage.

A London confectionery store gives to every purchaser of a shilling's worth, a ticket entitling the purchaser to have one photograph of herself taken at an establishment upstairs.

Ireland has a season of 2,337 miles, and inland waters covering 574,367

acres, which supply chiefly a few salmon and eels. Nevertheless Ireland, for home consumption, actually largely imports cod fish.

It is now possible to be cremated in Paris for sixty cents, recent improvements having greatly reduced the cost. Nearly all the cremations, however, consist of the remains of persons disposed of at the public execution.

The longest frosts in England are as a general rule, those which begin between Christmas and New Year's day, and the deepest falls of snow during the last twenty years have commenced in the middle of January.

There is a vast quantity of meat required in Europe over and above what is provided. In France 238,000 tons are yearly required; Germany, 350,000 tons; Austria, 15,000 tons; Belgium, 491,000 tons; England, 672,000 tons.

The most costly coin in the world is a Billie in Helms, the offer of its weight in gold was once made, and it was ascertained that this offer amounted to 102,400 dollars, which was refused. The coin is still in the library of the Vatican.

Out of a population set down at 253,801,231 in British India, there are no fewer than 29,528,927 widows, of whom Bombay claims 1,755,763; Madras, 3,550,011; Northwest Provinces and Oudh, 3,670,787; the Panjab, 1,503,223; and Bengal, 7,401,000.

A Russian practitioner recommends the use of hyemycinus seeds for toothache. His plan is to burn the seeds and to convey the smoke through a little paper tube to the hole in the tooth. He declares that in nearly all cases one application, or most two, will suffice to cure the toothache.

Out of the Seine there were fished in one year the following animals: 2,021 fish, 100,000 crabs, 507 chickens and ducks, 3,068 kilos of butchers' refuse, 210 rabbits and hares, 10 sheep, 2 hens, 11 pigs, 49 geese and turkeys, 10 cats, 2 monkeys, 3 monkeys, 1 snake, 2 squirrels, 3 porcupines, 1 parrot, 873 birds of various kinds, 3 foxes, 130 pigeons and partridges, 3 hedgehogs, 8 peacocks and 1 seal.

THE CANDIDATE.

Who comes and grasps you by the hand
And welcomes you with greeting bland,
And flattery you can't withstand?
The candidate.

Who asks you how the children do,
And how the world is using you,
And hopes that you'll help put him through?
The candidate.

Who says the country's going to smash
Unless you help his side to thrash,
The other side with vote and cash?
The candidate.

Who begs you to give him your vote,
And says your interests he'll promote,
And tries to cut his rival's throat?
The candidate.

Who, when his victory is won,
Will straight forget all you have done,
And look out sharp for Number One?
The candidate.

GENTILITY—AS SOME UNDERSTAND IT.

Gentle is to have soft hands,
But not gentle to work on lands;
Gentle is to play with a ball,
But not gentle to earn your bread;
Gentle it is to cringe and bow,
But not gentle to sow or plow;
Gentle it is to play with a pig,
But not gentle to reap or mow;
Gentle it is to keep a girl,
But not gentle to hoist or rig;
Gentle it is to play with a fall,
But not gentle to swing a fall;
Gentle it is to play a fool,
But not gentle to keep a school;
Gentle it is to cheat a pig seller,
But not gentle to be a sailor;
Gentle it is to fight a duel,
But not gentle to keep a fuel;
Gentle it is to eat rich cake,
But not gentle to cook or bake;
Gentle it is to have the blues,
But not gentle to roll in blues;
Gentle it is to roll in blues,
But not gentle to have good health;
Gentle it is to "cut" a friend,
But not gentle to your enemies to mend.
Gentle it is to make a show,
But not gentle poor folks to know,
Gentle it is to go away,

But not gentle at home to stay;
Gentle it is to shirk and snide,
But not gentle to shun all guile;
Gentle it is to be a knave,
But not gentle your cash to save;
Gentle it is to make a bet,
But not gentle to pay a debt;
Gentle it is to play at dice,
But not gentle to take advice;
Gentle it is to drink and swear,
But not gentle odd clothes to wear;
Gentle it is to know a lord,
But not gentle to pay your board;
Gentle it is to skip and hop,
But not gentle to keep a shop.

THE NEW BABY.

There came to port last Sunday night,
The queerest little craft,
Without an inch of rigging on,
It looked, and looked, and laughed.
It seemed so curious that she
Should cross the unknown water,
And moor herself right in my room,
My daughter, O my daughter!
She has no manifest but this,
No flag floats o'er 'er water,
She's too new for the British Lloyd—
My daughter, O my daughter!
Ring out with bells, and tangle ones too!
Ring in the moon,
Ring in the little worsted socks!
Ring in the bib and spoon!
Ring out the muse! ring in the nurse!
Ring in the milk and water—
Away with paper, pen and ink—
My daughter, O my daughter!

A GOLD-SLUG WORKER.

"This thing of trying to crowd big gold pieces onto street-car conductors by people who hope to ride free because the conductors can't always give the proper change, reminds me how that kind of a game used to be worked in early days," said Captain George H. McBride, of Portland, to a San Francisco Examiner man.

"Old Man Applegate lived on the road between Oregon and California in those days, and just for accommodation he would provide meals and lodgings for such travelers as chanced to travel his way. It was an annoying custom with a certain class of stock dealers who frequently went over the road, to offer a 50 dollar nug in payment for a night's entertainment, and if the change could not be given, they would settle in full the next time they stopped."

"One day a fellow whom Uncle Applegate had spotted, offered a nug in the way, saying he was sorry, but really that was the smallest coin he had about him."

"I'm sorry too," said the host, "I haven't a bit of change in the house."

"Oh, never mind," replied the guest, "I'll hand it to you as I come back."

But may be I'll never see you again, suggests Applegate, ignoring the hand outstretched for the nug—

"Yes, you will, I'll be along here in about a week," said the other.

"Oh, well, in that case I'll just keep the slug, and when you come back I'll have the change for you," replied the old gentleman, and putting the piece in his pocket he bade the stranger good morning, with best wishes for a prosperous journey and a safe return.

"That man didn't try to fool with old man Applegate any more."

PARLIAMENTARIAN WAGES.

In Germany both houses receive about two dollars and a half per day. In Austria the pay is the same as in France 5 dollars a day.

In Greece the senators get 100 dollars per month and the deputies 50 dollars. In France members of each house receive the same—5 dollars per day.

In Denmark the members of the landing each receive about 3 dollars and 75 cents a day.

In Belgium each member of the chamber of representatives gets 35 dollars a month.

In Portugal the peers and commons are paid the same sum, which is about 33 dollars a year.

In Spain the members of the cortes are not paid for their services, but en-

joy many advantages and immunities. In Switzerland the members of the national council get two hours and a half per day, and the council of state the lower house, one dollar and a half per day. In Italy the senators and deputies are not paid at all, but they are allowed traveling expenses and certain other privileges.

England is the only country where members of parliament are not only unpaid, but have no special rights or privileges whatever.

In the United States of America the members of both branches of congress receive the same amount of pay—namely, 5,000 dollars per annum. In Sweden the members of the diet receive 30 dollars for a session of four months, but they have to pay a fine of 3 dollars for every day's absence. In Norway the members of the storting receive three dollars and a half per day during the session, which usually lasts about six weeks, but which has been extended to that many months.

OLD JONES' PHILOSOPHY.

Modesty is a good rudder, but a bad engine.
Lickin' mad teach a boy to dance, but not to do sums.
You may get learnin' at school, but sense comes nat'ral or not at all.
You just bring a couple of littl' quarterns in your family an' they'll breed like sparrows.
Don't go back on your friends when you're in luck, nor give away your number just because of sun shinin'.
You can't always judge a man by the blood he's got. Corn, bread an' whiskey come from the same family.
A runaway horse is a runaway wife, because it sometimes takes you with it.
Sometimes a man seems to be havin' the worst luck he's ever gettin' ready to come out, like a hog from a saw mill, worth double price.
Don't send a fox to tend geese or a cat to skim milk unless they have a good reputation for honesty. Remember this: you put your money in the bank.

HOW EDITORS ARE MADE.

The following story is told about the editor of one of Maine's most prominent dailies:

When a small boy his father, now one of the most prominent men in the city, was a printer's apprentice and publishing a weekly in printing office and school. One day that a girl of his own age had printed upon advance agent of a show came along, and he saw some posters filled, but for some reason he neglected to care for them and they were left on the printer's hands. The printer's wife ran across them, and as cloth was then high she took the cloth home and used it to line a pair of pants she was then making for the editor she was mentioned, then a boy about ten years of age.

As the months rolled by the pants-loons grew threadbare and at school one day he accidentally tore the seat open, leaving about one foot of the lining exposed. That a girl of his own age would have made the boys smile and they laughed till the tears came when they observed that the following words stood out boldly upon the lining in large type:

"Doors open at 7.30. Performance at 8."

It is needless to state that the boy was sent home to tears.

COST OF TYING SHOETRINGS.

One of the managers of a big eastern knitting mill has made a curious estimate that the shoemaking of a working girl could save untold on the average three percent per day. That a girl will lose about 50 seconds every time she stoops to retie them. Most of the employes have two feet, so this entails a loss of 300 seconds every day for each girl. There are about 400 girls employed in this factory, and therefore 400,000 feet of feet. That at 43,800,000 seconds are wasted in a year of 365 days, which time at the average rate of wages, is worth 943 1/2 dollars. Orders being given to have the girls' feet must wear only buttoned shoes or congress gaiters under penalty of discharge.