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THE PLAYMATES.

## THE OSTRICH.

The ostrich, because of its resemblance to the camel, has been said to be the connecting link between beasts and birds. There is a horny excrescence on the breast of both the dromedary and the ostrich, on which they lean while resting; they have similarly formed feet; the same muscular neck; their food is much the same, and

both can go an incredibly long time without water. Moreover, an ostrich never flies, nor is it possible for it to lift itself from the ground in the slightest degree by the use of its wings; but, like the camel, it is very swift-footed. In its native country the shells of the eggs afford almost the only household utensils used. An egg will weigh from three to four

pounds, and is equal to two dozen hen's eggs. It requires thirty-five minutes to boil one, and longer if required hard. A fresh egg is worth twenty-five dollars.

The keeper of an ostrich farm says they are the only thing he ever tried that he has not succeeded in taming. They are known to live to be seventy-five years old, and some think they will reach a hun-