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NATURALISTS' PORTFOLIO.

geologists the benefit of his study of several birdbones which were discovered a short time ago in the Sheppey clay (county of Kent). They represented a large bird of flight, with wings measuring, when fully stretched, upwards of 10 feet from tip to tip.

THE DOG AS A CULPRIT -A dog had worried and to sleep on; but the concious guilty one, without looking up, crept silently away, not directly, but house. Very near the master's house was a cellar which was used for the purpose of barking the nets of fishermen, and a portion of the apparatus conc.ept intirely out of sight, and there it was discovered, and made to suffer the necessary constlull suspicion had completely failed.

THE LANMERGEVER, OR BEARDED VULTURE .- This is the largest of European birds of prey, being upwards of four feet in length and nine or ten across the wings. It is common in the mountains of Switzerland and Germany. The name Lammergeyer or lamb-vulture is given to it from its carrying off lambs and kids. It will attack full-grown sheep and goats. When it sees a chamois near the edge of a cliff it will make a sudden swoop, and drive the unsuspecting animal over the rocks, and instances have been known of its having descended with such force on the unfortunate chamois-hunter as to have driven bim from the narrow ridge on which he was into the gulf below. When Bruce, the traveller, was in Africa, he was an eye-witness of the daring and boldness of this bird. His attendents were preparing their meal of goat's flesh, when suddenly a Lammergeyer appeared in their midet. Though they raised a shout sufficient to scare away most birds, he beeded them not, but thrust his foot into the pan where there was a large piece of meat in water prepared for boiling, but receiving a smart which he had not looked for, he quickly witndrew his foot. There were however two large pieces—a leg and a shoulder—lying upon a wooden platter close by, and into these he thrust both his claws and carried them off. Many minutes had not passed before the bird made his appearance again resolved to make another attempt to possess the boiling goat's flesh. Bruce this time was prepared with a loaded rifle, and while he gradually approached the covated food he shot him. It is called bearded "from its a long tuft of hair with which the nostrils are closed.

PRAIRIE-Don VILLAGE.—Four hundred and thirty-five miles west of Omaha is situated the great taken up by the sagacious little prairie-dogs, and one lot from the company, or as much as saying By your leave." The dwellings consist of little mounds, from a foot to eighteen inches in height, raised by the dirt excavated by their burrows. On the approach of a train the little inhabitants can be seen scampering for their home. Arrived there they squat upon their hams or stand upon their hind feet at the entrance-a hole in the top-barking at the train as it passes. Should any one venture too near, down they go and their city is as silent as the city of the dead," It is said that the opening in the top leads to a subterraneous chamber, connecting with the next dwelling, and so on through the settlement; but this is a mistake. The prairie dog is of a sandy brown color, and about the size of a large grey squirrel. In their nests, living with them, is found the owl and the rattlesnake, though whether well or not is uncertain. He lives on grass, and rcots, and is generally fat, and is by some-Mexicans especially-considered good eating, as his flesh is sweet and tender, though rather greasy. Wolves prey on these little fellows, and may be seen sneaking near the town, hoping by chance to pick up some straggler. But the dogs are not ceally caught. Some one is always on the look-out for danger, and gives the alarm on the first intimation of trouble. Then, away they all scamper

HOW TO DRIVE RATS AWAY WITHOUT POISON .-We know of three methods: First, the old French plan; this is followed chiefly in Paris by men who make it a special business. They take a deep tub, with water on the bettom and a little elevation in has a large balance-valve, opening downward. On uty and strength of the middle of this valve a piece of fried pork or work, stillness of get the cheese the valve goes down, drops motion and a reput-ation attained by position. A road is made from the rat its own merits. It hole to the top of the tub by means of is the cheapest, pieces of board rubbed with cheese, so as to make handsomest, best the walk attractive for the rats. In the course of a night, some ten, twenty, or even more rats may go down, and if the island was not there, they would most durable and be found most all alive in the morning quietly the least liable to swimming around, but the provisions of the little island saves the trouble of killing them, because their egotistic instinct for preservation causes them to fight for the exclusive possession of the island, on which, in the morning, the strongest rat is found in solitary possession, all the others being killed and drowned around him. Second, the New York plan, invented by one of the Friends. The floor near the rat hole is covered with a thin layer of a most caustic potassa. When they walk on this, it make their feet sore. These they lick with their tongues, which makes their mouth sore, and the result is that they shun this locality, not alone, but appear to tell all the rate in the neighbourhood about, and eventually the house is entirely abandoned by them, notwithstanding the houses around are full of rats. Third, the Dutch method. This is said to be used successfully in Holland. We have, however, never tried it. A number of rate are left to themselves in a very large trap or cage, with no food whatever; their eraving hunger will cause them to fight, and the weakest will be eaten by the strongest. After a short time the fight is renewed, and the next weakest is the victim, and so it goes on till one strong rat is lett. When this has eaten the last remains of any of the others, it is set loose; the animal has now acquired such a taste for rat flesh that he is the terror of all ratdom, going about seeking what rat he may devour. In an incredibly short time the premises are abandoned by all other rate, which will not come back before the capulbal rut has left or died.

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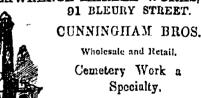
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