

BOILING POTATOES.—The correspondent of the London Times says:—"The following method of dressing potatoes will be found of great use when skins are tough and potatoes are watery. Score the skin of the potatoe with a knife lengthwise and across, quite around, and then boil the potatoe in plenty of water and salt, with the skin on. The skin readily cracks when it is scored, and lets out the moisture, which otherwise renders the potatoe soapy and wet. The improvement to bad potatoes by this method of boiling them is very great; and all who have tried it, find a great advantage in it, now that good potatoes are very difficult to be obtained.

NOCTURNAL LIFE OF WILD ANIMALS.—Below the mission of Santara Barbara de Arichuna we passed the night as usual, under the open sky, on a sandy flat on the bank of the Rio Apure closely bordered by the impenetrable forest. It was not without difficulty that we succeeded in finding dry wood to kindle the fire with which it is always customary in that country to surround a bivouac, in order to guard against the attacks of the jagur. The night was humid, mild, and moonlight. Several crocodiles approached the shore; I think I have observed these animals to be attracted by fire, like our cray-fish and many other inhabitants of the water. The oars of our boat were placed upright and carefully driven into the ground, to form poles from which our hammocks could be suspended. Deep stillness prevailed; only from time to time we heard the blowing of the fresh-water dolphins which are peculiar to the Orinoco net-work of rivers [and, according to Colebroke, to the Ganges as far as Benares], which followed each other in long lines. Soon after eleven o'clock such a disturbance began to be heard in the adjoining forest, that for the remainder of the night all sleep was impossible. The wild cries of animals appeared to rage throughout the forest. Among the many voices which resounded together, the Indians could only recognise those which, after a short pause in the general uproar were first heard singly. There was the monotonous howling of the alutates [the howling monkeys]; the plaintive, soft, and almost flute-like tones of the small sapajous; the snorting grumbings of the striped nocturnal monkey [the Nyctipithicus trivirgatus, which I was the first to describe]; the interrupted cries of the great tiger, the cougar or maneless America lion, the peccary, the sloth, and a host of parrots, of parraquos, and other pheasant-like birds. When the tigers came near the edge of the forest, our dog, which had before barked incessantly, came howling to seek refuge under our hammocks. Sometimes the cry of the tiger was heard to proceed from amidst the high branches of a tree, and was in such cases always accompanied by the plaintive piping of the monkeys, who were seeking to escape from the unwonted pursuit. If one asks the Indians why this incessant noise and disturbance arises on particular nights, they answer, with a smile, that "the animals are rejoicing in the bright moonlight, and keeping the feast of the full moon." To me it appeared that the scene had originated in some accidental combat, and that hence the disturbance had spread to other animals, and thus the noise had increased more and more. The jaguar pursues the peccaries and tapies, and these, pressing against each other in their flight, break through the interwoven tree-like shrubs which impede their escape; the apes on the tops of the trees, being frightened by the crash, join their cries to those of the larger animals, this arouses the tribes of birds, who build their nests in communities, and thus the whole animal world becomes in a state of commotion. Longer experience taught us that it is by no means always the celebration of the brightness of the moon which disturbs the repose

of the woods; we witnessed the same occurrence repeatedly, and found that the voices were loudest during violent falls of rain, or when, with loud peals of thunder the flashing lightning illuminated the deep recesses of the forest. The good-natured Fr. mission monk, who, although he had been suffering for several months from fever, accompanied us through the Cataracts of Aurea and Maypures to San Carlos on the Rio Negro, and to the Brazilian boundary, used to say, when fearful on the closing in of night that there might be a thunder-storm, "May Heaven grant a quiet night both to us and the wild beast of the forest!"—Humboldt's *Aspects of Nature*.

LAMPAS.—The brutal custom of the farrier, who sears and burns down the bars of the mouth with a red-hot iron, is most objectionable; it is torture to no purpose, rendering that part callous on the delicate sensibility of which all the pleasure and safety of riding and driving depend. It may be prudent, in case of Lampas, to examine the grinders, and particularly the tushes, in order to ascertain whether either of them is making its way through the gum, and if so, two incisions, across each other, should be made on the tooth, which will afford immediate relief. In the majority of cases, no surgical operation is necessary; in others, a few slight incisions across the bars, with a lancet or penknife, may allay the inflammation, and cause the swelling to subside.

THE TERROR OF THUNDER.—Timid people are subject to alarm at a clap or roar of thunder, when, in reality (despite the saying that "man has too high an opinion of himself who is afraid only of thunder and earthquakes") *thunder is harmless*: it is only the martial music of heaven, vaulting over us, the fear-inspiring tones proportioned so truly to the terribleness of the most dreadful war-weapon, lightning! It remains for some future chemist to develop better information than we now possess concerning the relations of electricity, and its twin (more subtle) element, galvanism, to vital economy, both animal and vegetable; but, in the mean time, it has to be thoroughly believed and acted upon, that man has power over this fluid, to control it, and that its mischief is in no instance of heaven's ordaining, but because, notwithstanding its fugitive track has no definable point, people will not understand how they may get out of its way; and one or another object comes within its reach, forming the chiefest attraction. They act cautiously who allow the freest possible access of air into their rooms during the prevalence of a thunder storm.

USEFUL RECEIPTS.

Lime Liniment for Burns, Scalds, &c.—Lime seed or common olive oil and lime water, equal parts; to be shaken up together every time of use, for scrofula and syphilitic sores, and still more for burns and scalds.

To Cure Hiccough, or Hiccup.—This spasm is caused by flatulency, indigestion, and acidity. It may be relieved generally by a sudden fright or surprise, or any sudden application of cold, also by swallowing two or three mouthfuls of cold water, by eating a small piece of ice, taking a pinch of snuff, or anything that excites coughing.

SODA CAKE.—Take one pound of flour, half a pound of butter, half a pound of sugar, three quarters of a pound of currants, two eggs, a few drops of essence of lemon, and a teaspoonful of carbonate of soda, which should be previously mixed with the flour; the whole to be mixed with half a pint of warm milk.