

THE NUT-SHELL, MAY, 1890.

The prefect de police likewise enters a large colony of cats which are chained 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 odd trades. One, who is called, in spite of the name of Mlle. Blanche. She is not prepossessing in appearance. Her skin looks like dried pumpkin, and is tanned like crocodile hide. She has leather gaitlets and trousers, and a square coat of armor, but notwithstanding this she is kind and as kind as her ungrateful stock to such an extent that she is perfectly hideous. She sleeps in the middle of the sacks of ants, and her eye emits has become so insensible to the bite 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 objected to the stray members of her farm skermishing on their own account in the pantries of the adjoining houses. Mlle. Blanche supplies bread and butter to the fruiterers, the zoological gardens, aquarists and large bird dealers with ants' eggs. It is interesting to record that Mlle. Blanche is by the time possessed of a handsome fortune.

Hornless is still eaten by the Parisians, much as such a statement may horrify most readers of the eye. At least a thousand horses are killed here every year to supply this meat to the capital. About thirty shops sell nothing but horse, mule and donkey's flesh, many of them have over their doors boucherie hippique, and do a rushing 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 "beefsteaks" at the restaurants as well as nine-tenths of the sausages come from sausages from the markets of France are made from horse flesh, and the Lyons sausages from the meat of the docile donkey.

SOME SIMPLE SAYS.

Susanna Snooks sings and sweet songs, she sees soft, summer skies;
Strange sunset shades sit silently—she somewhat smiles and sighs.
Soliloquiously she strays, sweet songsters shyly sing.
She sees slim spruce slanting shades surround sparkling spring.
Still southward silently she strays, She spies shy Simon Slade.
"Stop, Simon!" says Susanna Snooks
Still sits sweet sunset's shade.
Shy Simon six snug satisfying squeases silvly stives.
Susanna snickered, Simon stayed, Sick silly spoony soul.
Susanna's sire saw some shy, suspicious stranger stray,
Saw Susan say, "Stop Simon Slade"
Saw simple Simon stay.
Stern sire sought soon some solid stick—screery, shyly slipped.
Susanna saw, She shrilly shrieked,
"Skip, Simon!" Simon skipped.

STRAY BITS.

The sweet orange was first brought from China to Europe by the Portuguese in the year 1549.
The largest shaft in Africa was, recently opened in the Kimberley diamond fields. It measured 23 feet 3 inches by 1 feet 9 inches, and is to be 1,000 feet deep.
The longest lived people in the world are the Norwegians, 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 taken at the price of himself taken at an establishment upstairs.
Ireland has a coast of 2,337 miles, and inland waters covering 674,967

acres, which supply chiefly a few salmon and eels. Nevertheless Ireland, for home consumption, actually largely imports cured 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 request of their relatives.
The longest frost in England 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 236,000 tons are yearly required; Germany, 160,000 tons; Austria, 15,000 tons; Belgium, 461,000 tons; England, 622,000 tons.

The most costly book in the world is a Bible in Hebrew. An offer of its weight in gold was once made, and it was ascertained that this offer amounted to 122,000 dollars, which was refused and the volume is still in the library of the Vatican.

Out of a population set down at 253,801,821 in British India, there are now 29,138,129 widows, of whom there are 1,75,703 in Madras, 3,550,011 in Northwest Provinces and Oudh, 3,670,787; the Punjab, 1,563,253, and Bengal, 7,401,629.

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

Out of 100,000 Swedes were fished in one year the following odd animals: 2,921 dogs, 577 cats, 2,257 rats, 507 chickens and 100,000 swallows of butchers' refuse, 210 rabbits and hares, 10 sheep, 2 horses, 71 pigs, 49 geese and 4 turkeys, 10 calves and goats, 3 monkey, 1 snake, 10 squirrels, 10 porcupines, 1 parrot, 659 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 fattery you can't withstand?

The candidate,
Who asks you how the children do,
And how it goes to the bottle in the tooth,
And hopes that you'll help put him through?

The candidate,
Who says the country's going to smash,
Unless you vote for his side, and
The other side will vote and cash?

The candidate,
Who begs you to give him your vote,
And says your interests he'll promote,
And tries to out 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!

GENTILITY—AS SOME UNDERSTAND IT.

Gentle is to have soft hands,
But not gentle to work on lands;
Gentle it is to lie in bed,
But not gentle to bring bread;
Gentle it is to cringe and bow,
But not gentle to sow or plow;
Gentle it is to play the beau,
But not gentle to read or now;
Gentle it is to keep a girl,
But not gentle to hog or dig;
Gentle it is to lie in bed,
But not gentle to bring bread;
Gentle it is to play a fool,
But not gentle to keep a school;
Gentle it is to cheat your tailor,
But not gentle to read or now;
Gentle it is to fight a duel,
But not gentle to cut your fuel;
Gentle it is to cheat your tailor,
But not gentle to cook or brew;
Gentle it is to have the blues,
But not gentle to wear it like shoes;
Gentle it is to cheat your tailor,
But not gentle to have good health;
Gentle it is to "cut" a friend,
But not gentle to your clothes to mend;
Gentle it is to skip and hop,
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 mule,
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 play a debt;
Gentle it is to play at dice,
But not gentle to take advice;
Gentle it is to curse and swear,
But not gentle old clothes to wear;
Gentle it is to know a word,
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 my water;
She's to fight for the Brits, I say—
My daughter, O my daughter!
Ring out wild bells, and tame ones too!
Ring out the lovers' moon,
Ring in the little worsted socks!
Ring in the milk and water!
Ring out the nurse, 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 streets, and being 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.

"Oh, 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 slug 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 slug in the way, saying, 'I don't care, 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," suggested Applegate, ignoring the hand outstretched for the eight-cornered coin.
"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 made 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 landsting each receive about 3 dollars and 75 cents a day.
In Belgium each member of the chamber of representatives gets 55 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 dollars and a half per day, and the council of state, the lower house, one dollar and a half. 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 50 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 ruler, but a bad engine.
Lickin' ma' teach a boy to dance, but not to do sums.

You may get learnin' at school, but sense comes nat'ral nor not at all.
You just get the best of the people of little quarrels into the family an' they'll breed like sparrows.

Don't go back on your friends when you're in the sun, but remember your umbrella just because the sun ain't there.
You can't always judge a man by the blood he'll give, but an old whiskey come from the same.

A runaway horse is worse'n a runaway wife, because it sometimes takes you with it.

Sometimes w'en a man seems to be havin' the worst luck he's only getting ready to come out, like a log from a saw mill, worth double agent of a shove.

Don't send a fox to tend geese or a cat to skim milk unless they have a good reputation for honesty. Remember this w'en 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 state, was running a printing office and publishing a weekly paper in one of the largest towns in Kennebec county,

One day the advance agent of a show came along and ordered some posters printed upon cotton cloth. His order was filled, and the printer neglected to call for them and the sheets left on the printer's hands. The printer's wife ran across them, and as there was then high she took the cloth home and used it to line a pair of pants she was then making for the editor above mentioned, then a boy about ten years of age.

As the months rolled by the pantaloons grew thrashed and at school one day he accidentally tore the seat out, leaving about one foot of the lining exposed to view. This in itself would have made the boys smile, but they laughed till they were blue, and they observed the following words standing 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 in tears.

COST OF TYING SHOESTRINGS.

One of the managers of a big eastern knitting mill has made a calculation that the cost of a working girl will come untied on the average three times per diem, and that a girl will lose about 50 seconds every time she stoops to retie a shoe. Most of the shoe plays have two feet, so this entails a loss of 200 seconds every day for each girl. There are about 250 girls employed in this factory, and therefore the gentleman finds that 43,000,000 seconds are wasted in the course of a year, which time at the test price of wages, is worth \$4317-1/2 dollars. Orders have accordingly been issued that girls must wear only buttoned shoes or corrus gaiters under penalty of discharge.