

BOLDNESS OF BIRDS.—Timid as birds are, attachment to their young will frequently change their very nature, and inspire a boldness and confidence in these little creatures, which calls for respect and admiration. What can be more interesting and affectionate than the two linnets we are about to mention? A nest containing four young ones, scarcely fledged, was found by some children, who resolved to carry them home, for the purpose of rearing and taming the young birds. The old ones, attracted by their chirping, continued fluttering round the children, till they reached the house, when the nest was carried up stairs to the nursery, and placed outside the window. The old birds soon afterwards made their appearance, approached the nest, and fed the family, without showing any alarm. This being noticed, the nest was soon afterwards placed on a table in the middle of the apartment, and the window left open. The parent birds came boldly in, and fed their offspring as before. Still further to put their attachment to the nest, the nest and young ones were placed within a bird-cage; still the old ones returned, entered boldly within the cage, and supplied the wants of their young brood as before, and towards evening actually perched on the cage, regardless of the noise made around them, by several children. This continued for several days; when an unlucky accident put an end to it. The cage had been again set on the outside of the window, and was unfortunately left exposed to a sudden and heavy fall of rain; the consequence was, that the whole of the young were drowned in the nest. The poor parents, who had so boldly and indefatigably performed their duty, continued hovering round the house, and looking wistfully in at the window, for several days, and then disappeared.—*Familiar History of Birds.*

THE PITCHER PLANT.—This plant abounds in the stony and arid parts of the island of Java, from which, were it not for this vegetable wonder, small birds and quadrupeds would be forced to migrate in quest of water. At the foot stalk of each leaf is a small bag shaped exactly like a pitcher, furnished with a lid, and having a kind of hinge that passes over the handle of the pitcher, and connects it with the leaf. This hinge is a strong fibre, which contracts in showery weather and when the dew falls. Numerous little goblets, filled with sweet fresh water, are thus held forth, and affords a delicious draught to the tiny animals that climb their branches, and to a great variety of winged visitants. But no sooner has the cloud passed by, and the warm sun shone forth, than the heated fibre begins to expand and closes the goblet so firmly as to prevent evaporation, precluding a farther supply till called for by the wants of another day. This beautiful and perfect provision of nature would afford a fine theme for a Thompson or Wordsworth, and would afford an illustration of the designs of Providence, such as Paley would have delighted to press into his service.

THE PAINS OF OFFICE.—To be responsible for measures which others control, perchance contrive; to be chargeable with leaving undone things which he ought to have done, and had all the desire to do, without the power of doing; to be compelled to trust those whom he knew to be utterly untrustworthy; and on the most momentous occasions, involving the interests of millions, implicitly to confide in quarters where common prudence forbade reposing a common confidence; to have schemes of the wisest, the most profound policy judged and decided on by the most ignorant and the most frivolous of human beings, and the most generous aspirations of the heart for the happiness of his species, chilled by frowns of the most selfish and sordid of his race; these are among the unenviable prerogatives of place, of what is falsely called power in this country.—*Lord Brougham.*

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