

## HOW A BIRD OUTWITTED THE MONKEYS.

BY ERNEST INGERSOLL IN ST. NICHOLAS.

"Of all the hanging nests, commend me to that made of grass by the baya sparrow of India. It is one of the most perfect bird-houses I know of, and seems only to need a fire-place to make it a real house. Its shape and mode of attachment at the top to the end of the limb are shown in the picture. It is entered through the long neck at the lower end. The bed for the eggs rests in the bulb or expansion at the middle of the nest, where there are actually two rooms, for the male has a perch divided off from the female by a little partition, where he may sit and sing to her in rainy weather, or when the sun shines very hot, and where he may rest at night. The walls are a firm lattice-work of grass, neatly woven together, which permits the air to pass through, but does not allow the birds to be seen. The whole nest is from fourteen to eighteen inches long, and six inches wide at the thickest part. It is hung low over the water,—why, we shall presently see,—and its only entrance is through the hanging neck.

"Why do birds build hanging nests?"

"Those birds that do make hanging nests, undoubtedly do it because they think them the safest. Bird's eggs are delicacies on the bill of fare of several animals, and are eagerly sought by them. Snakes, for instance, live almost entirely upon them, during the month of June; squirrels eat them, raccoons also, and opossums, cats, rats, and mice. But none of these animals could creep out to the pliant, wavy ends of the willow branches or elm twigs, and cling there long enough to get at the contents of a Baltimore oriole's nest.

"In the country where the baya sparrow lives, there are snakes and opossums, and all the rest of the egg-eaters; and in addition there are troops of monkeys, which are more to be feared than all the rest together. Monkeys are wonderfully expert climbers, from whom the eggs in an ordinary open-top pouch nest, like the oriole's, would not be secure; for if they can get anywhere near, they will reach their long, slender fingers down inside the nest. The baya sparrow discovered this, and learned to build a nest inclosed on all sides, and to enter it from underneath by a neck too long for a monkey to conveniently reach up through. Beside this, she took the precaution to hang it out on the very tips of light branches, upon which she thought no robber would dare trust himself. But she found that the monkeys knew a trick worth two of that. They would go to a higher limb which was strong, and one

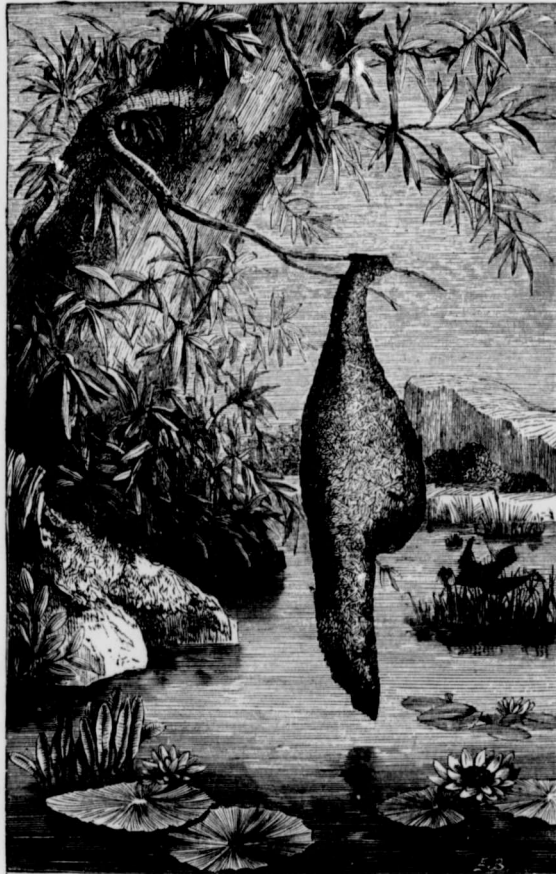
would let himself down from it, grasping it firmly with his hands; then another monkey would crawl down and hold on to the heels of the first one, another would go below him, and so on until several were hanging to each other, and the lowest one could reach the sparrow's treasures. He would eat them all himself, and then one by one they would climb up over each other; and last of all the tired first one, who had been holding up the weight of all the rest, would get up, too, and all would go noisily off in search of fresh plunder, which, I suppose would be given to a dif-

"The sparrow has fairly outwitted the monkey!"

## HOW A LITTLE GIRL SUGGESTED THE INVENTION OF THE TELESCOPE.

Some of the most important discoveries have been made accidentally; and it has happened to more than one inventor, who had long been searching after some new combination or material for carrying out a pet idea, to hit upon the right thing at last by mere chance. A lucky instance of this kind was the discovery of the principle of the telescope.

Nearly three hundred years ago,



THE NEST OF THE BAYA SPARROW.

ferent one, the rest making a ladder for him as before.

"Now the cunning baya sparrow saw a way to avoid even this dangerous trickery. She knew that there was nothing a monkey hated so terribly as to get his sleek coat wet. He would rather go hungry. So she hung her nest over the water close to the surface, and the agile thieves do not dare make a chain long enough to enable the last one to reach up into her nest from below, as he must do, for fear that the springy branches might bend so far as to souse them into the water.

there was living in the town of Middelburg, on the island of Walcheren, in the Netherlands, a poor optician named Hans Lippersheim. One day, in the year 1608, he was working in his shop, his children helping him in various small ways, or romping about and amusing themselves with the tools and objects lying on his work-bench, when suddenly his little girl exclaimed:

"Oh, Papa! See how near the steeple comes!"

Half-startled by this announcement, the honest Hans looked up from his work, curious to know the cause of the child's amaze-

ment. Turning toward her, he saw that she was looking through two lenses, one held close to her eye, and the other at arm's length; and, calling his daughter to his side, he noticed that the eye-lens was plano-concave (or flat on one side and hollowed out on the other), while the one held at a distance was plano-convex (or flat on one side and bulging on the other). Then taking the two glasses, he repeated his daughter's experiment, and soon discovered that she had chanced to hold the lenses apart at their exact focus, and this had produced the wonderful effect that she had observed. His quick wit and skilled invention saw in this accident a wonderful discovery. He immediately set about making use of his new knowledge of lenses, and ere long he had fashioned a tube of pasteboard, in which he set the glasses firmly at their exact focus.

This rough tube was the germ of that great instrument the telescope, to which modern science owes so much. And it was on October 22, 1608, that Lippersheim sent to his government three telescopes made by himself, calling them "instruments by means of which to see at a distance."

Not long afterward another man, Jacob Adriansz, or Metius, of Alkmaar, a town about twenty miles from Amsterdam, claimed to have discovered the principle of the telescope two years earlier than Hans Lippersheim; and it is generally acknowledged that to one of these two men belongs the honor of inventing the instrument. But it seems certain that Hans Lippersheim had never known nor heard of the discovery made by Adriansz, and so, if Adriansz had not lived we still should owe to Hans Lippersheim's quick wit, and his little daughter's lucky meddling, one of the most valuable and wonderful of human inventions.—St. Nicholas.

**BANANAS.**—Few people who see bananas hanging in the shops of fruit dealers think of them as more than a tropical luxury. The fact is, they are a staple article of food in some parts of the world; and, according to Humboldt, an acre of bananas will produce as much food for a man as twenty-five acres of wheat. It is the ease with which bananas are grown that is the great obstacle to civilization in some tropical countries. It is so easy to obtain a living without work that no effort will ever be made, and the men become lazy and shiftless. All that is needed is to stick a sucker into the ground, and it will at once sprout and grow, and ripen its fruit in twelve or thirteen months without further care, each plant having from 75 to 125 bananas; and, when that dies down after fruiting, new suckers spring up to take its place.

very soon learn if governed. And as the only thought they become the here is no restraint in Union.

## NURSING THE

nd upon to nurse and severe illness tance, not only to patient, that their served and their not only through- during the period mes so tediously ve submit the fol- recations, to aid veing their own nding the sick.

of the patient be any marked odor or noticeable ex-

he skin, take care t that side of the on which is op- away from the e the effluvia take lows or draft of a that their breath, away from you. close to them, or i if you can avoid

's strength in a ed care, and par- ged to sit up all ights in succes- it will be deriv ed varm bath early and putting on arments every ; or if the dis- rily infectious in best to change g every morning, t that the warm y brisk rubbing dy with a coarse - flesh brush, will ed body almost sleep.—Christian

A- CHE, a leper, t the Christian tow, and went ne at Na Thau, ull of joy in his e years passed ound. "A new r, who came for get, and then l be the verdict last year, news ionaries that at g a people no- acy, this poor red a little band and had taught he himself had his stay at the y after Sunday, ostility and the rest of the city, ship; and when iron Swatow t, they found a twenty or thirty as intelligent as l and prepared g. One and all ove and serve teaching of the er, still scarred t of his terrible ts in China, for t critics may say, scribes in search Magazine.

S.—Thick white of fleece on it. h we had used ears and four ht and pretty, t never had a silver an ugly ning, when the r scalding water hot wipe with a e a week with a e in thick canton urpose.