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Swiftness of Birds.

It has been calculated that a hawk will fly not less than 150 miles in hour. Major Cartwright, on the coast of Labrador, found, by repeated observations, that the flight of an osprey was at the rate of 90 miles an hour. The flight of a common crow is nearly twenty-five miles an hour; and Spallanzani found that of the swallow to be about 62 miles, while he conjectures that the rapidity of the swift is nearly three times greater. A falcon, belonging to Henry IV. of France, flew from Fontainebleau to Metz in less than twenty-four hours, the distance being 1,350 miles; and it is probable that his flight was about 25 miles an hour as such birds fly in the day time only. The facts show how easily birds can accomplish their extensive migrations, especially when we consider that a favourable wind materially helps them on their voyage.

We take the following interesting description from a Birmingham (England) paper:—

The Scientific Balloon Ascent. Monday the 18th ult., two scientific gentlemen named Glaisher and Coxwell undertook the perilous experiment of ascending to the highest possible altitude in a balloon of immense size, which it had been said by many intelligent persons was too large to be manageable. The scene of the exploit was in the vicinity of Birmingham, England. The height attained was four and half statute miles, or 23,760 feet—a greater distance any other aerial navigators had ever before attained. The temperature at four and a half miles was twenty-four degrees, the barometer read thirteen inches, and the dew point was minus ten. At this point the hands became a blue color, and the brain and stomach labored under a severe nausea. These sensations continued to increase intensely later in the day and they seemed to have arrived at their acme between 11 or 12 o'clock at night. Mr. Glaisher, who had been habituated to the business, suffered severely but Mr. Coxwell, his aeronaut, did not experience the disagreeable sensation so intensely. The former, notwithstanding his debilitated condition, resolutely took notes and observations, which as a member of the balloon committee of the British Association he had agreed to do. The popular belief that so great a height could be attained without a single noise in the ears, a distending of the muscles of the face, and a bleeding at the nose being all painfully perceptible, was on this, as it had been on another occasion, exploded by experience. The faculty of hearing was quite acute, and by sipping a little brandy before reaching the highest altitude, the throbbing of the heart was averted. But the pulse of both Mr. Glaisher and Mr. Coxwell rose to an alarming height—the pulse of the former rising as high as one hundred and eight, and the latter from about seventy-eight on leaving the earth, to nearly one hundred. Before having the 'dip,' and when ascending through a temperature of fifty degrees, the gentlemen remarked that it was cold. At thirty-seven it was still colder; but when, during the making of the 'dip,' they were again in fifty degrees temperature, they experienced so great a return of warmth that the wrappers were thrown aside. At less than a mile the temperature was sixty degrees.

When three miles high they distinctly heard a clap of thunder. The dew-point on starting was fifty-one, or seventeen degrees above the air (sixty-eight degrees). At about half-past 2 o'clock, when the altitude attained was four miles, and the temperature twenty-eight degrees, the dew-point was six; in five minutes afterward it was three, and it subsequently varied from minus five to minus ten, at the greatest height at 3 20 o'clock. On descending to the earth 'gradual'ly increased to 40. Both the wet and dry bulbs of the thermometers were covered with a compact cake of ice. The views obtained were grand beyond description. Throughout the entire time the balloon was up a magnificent white cloud, resembling a whole Alpine region, moving in space, followed it in all its wanderings. As the gentlemen descended, the balloon was photographed as in a mirror, surrounded by a halo of the most brilliant prismatic hues. From a height of two miles the view of the country, with the water in the canal, which is visible with great distinctness. At all points of observation the horizon was seen at a line horizontal at half-past three, as it was feared that condensing effect of the humidity of a cloud beneath the balloon that proved to be two thousand feet thick, would produce a somewhat rough shock when the earth should be reached, if ballast was not kept at hand to control the descent. The precise spot upon which the balloon fell was a meadow on farm at Selkirk, about seven miles from Birmingham. Another

ascent will probably be made from Weymouth, where the instruments remain.

A Patent Sermon.—The Men Scratches Where the Expect to find a bug.

Fellow sisters, brethren, men, women and children; generally and particularly speaking: You need not hustle any paper for it isn't there. It is a special dispensation to your appointed pastor; and he hurls it at you for what it is worth. Where the ben scratches there she expects to find a bug. Did you come from the race track of the world to parade your "trotting harness" before the meek and lowly? Have you dropped the dazzling rattle of business and pleasure, to while an idle hour away listening to the mournful melody that is rung by angel hands from the sacred harp that hangs forgotten upon the drooping willows of mortality? Or are you to tussle with the arch enemy for the almighty dollar? Verily I say unto you when the ben scratches, there she expects to find a bug.

My drowsy hearers, we are all of us a lot of damaged goods, trying to palm ourselves off upon each other for more than market value; and the old firm of Time, Death & Co., is doing a heavy commission business upon our stock in trade. I hear the mallet of death, with its mechanical tap, tap, and stolid monotone of going, going, and the next minute down it will come upon some of our unconscious heads, and we shall be folded up like the tents of the Arabs, and as silently borne away to the other side of Jordan, where the dry goods man refrains from troubling, and the grocer has nothing to say, and the weary hon ceases from scratching, and the precious bug is found. In the midst of life we are in debt, says a notable prophet, who was near akin to your beloved pastor. If any of you are tempted to tarry in the tavern of life, and fail to settle your account with the landlady, may the next rise up before you like a fabulous Arabian hero only to rest from the rough and tumble giant, and deter you from that sink of utter depravity where bummers lead trustful heads to scratch up the bugs they devour.

Your undivided attention is furthermore solicited to the signification of the text, metaphorically and collectively, in small passages, to suit every capacity, from the boy sucking peanuts peacefully in the corner, to the hardened sinner who stocks so proudly into your pious presence. And woe unto you, young woman, seasawing up the broad aisle with your new calico bonnet and streamers affixed, for you are vanity-of-fancies. And you, young men in your fancy neckcloths, go on until you slip up over a bale of cotton and are left to drift away over a byword and a jest unto the world that you love as wisely, but two well. My beloved I warn you now, if you manifest symptoms of such cowardice as has been handed down to you from high places the biggest pair of stoggy boots in this congregation will rise up in judgement against, and kick you out into the broad road that leads to everlasting ruin.

And finally, when you cut the crust from your brown bread loaf, and scrape the hard beans from the top of your mountain pot, if you cut a little into the soft and scrape a little below the crisp for the beggar's and out-cast's portion, your conscience and digestion will trouble you less; and as you steal out as some of you will to-night, where the silvery moon of memory hangs low over the haunted hills of the past, to bow at some hallowed finger-post that points the way a beloved one went over your broken heart to heaven, may the eternal verdure of the evergreen hope spring up in the barren spots trod hard by the busy feet of the absorbing Now, and bring you to the sweetness of that peace and the tenderness of that love that overflows continually in deeds and words, for the elevation of the ragamuffins who march in the rear ranks of the great army of humanity; for the barbarians are not all in the ragged file, but many a gem of purest ray serene, want but a lifting from the filth to shine. So mote it be. Brother Silvestre circled the platter for the root of evil, until it is rooted out of this place. For verily I say unto you, the ben that scratches here expects to find a bug. Shell out!

CHATHAM.—The "Oleander" informs us that the Circuit Court for Northumberland County opened on Tuesday week. His Honor Judge Wilmet presiding. There were four criminal cases and thirteen civil cases. Of the former, one was a case of robbery, one of burglary, one of larceny and one of assault. The person who committed the last was charged with having assaulted a constable in the discharge of his duty. His Honor in charging the Grand Jury admonished them to be particular in observing

strictly the clause in their oath which runs:—"The Queen's Counsel, you fellows and your own, you shall keep secret." He said that secrecy should be stamped upon whatever took place within their Jury Room, and what they did there should die there.

FROM THE STATES.

BANNOCK, Sept. 17. Federal force six thousand under Col Miles at Harpers Ferry, surrendered to Gen. Jackson and Leaning on Monday morning, after three days vigorous resistance. Col. Miles was killed. Whole force paroled and arrived at Frederick.

Gen. Franklin was within 3 hours march at time of capitulation.

Confederates do not intend holding the place. McClellan on Monday pursued retreating Confederate army with destructive rigor, routing them point to point, securing greater results than in Sunday's battles. He had sent to rear 8,000 prisoners, 4 batteries.

Clayton's South Carolina Brigade annihilated. Howell Cobb was wounded and taken prisoner.

Fighting resumed at Mumfordsville, Ky., yesterday.

A portion of Buell's army arrived and engaged Bragg's forces.

Fighting in Maryland continued yesterday with unprecedented vigor.

Jackson and Hill retiring from Harper's ferry, crossed the Potomac, and reinforced Lee with 20 to 40 thousand men.

McClellan was also reinforced by 30,000 from Washington.

Herald's Washington despatch states that at 3 o'clock this Wednesday afternoon intelligence was received that since half-past 5 o'clock this morning the fiercest and most sanguinary battle of the whole war had been in progress.

All corps d'armee which Gen. McClellan had taken with him to Frederick were massed at the point indicated.

Engagement is believed to have been between the whole of the two armies. There is reason to believe that the losses on both sides have been very great.

Stated that Gen. McClellan destroyed Aqueduct at mouth of Antietam Creek, and Bridge across that Creek on road leading to Sharpsburg, cutting off retreat of rebels in direction of Shepherdstown.

Later reports from Hagerstown state that in afternoon rebels were retreating in great disorder, and that subsequently heavy and rapid firing was heard in direction of Williamsport, which induces belief that McClellan has pursued enemy to that point, and that they are making a stand there to cover passage across Potomac.

Times' despatch says very little is positively known in regard to day's fighting in Maryland, except that contest is still going on.

Government keeps silent in regard to information it possesses, but we learn from official sources that tenor of advice is favorable to Union cause.

Later advices state that the enemy have been driven steadily back towards the Potomac, and it is believed fighting was mainly by their rear guard contesting their advance of our troops, and covering retreat of main body.

A late Harrisburg despatch says that Gen. McClellan achieved a glorious victory.

An arrival at New York from New Orleans reports that the gunboat Essex arrived at New Orleans on the 8th. She reports the shelling of Matanzas and its partial destruction, when its citizens hoisted the American flag. Also the destruction of Bayou Sara; afterwards in passing down the Bayou, engaged and completely silenced a formidable rebel battery at Port Hudson, at 80 yards distance, without loss or damage to Essex although she experienced a terrific shower of solid shot and shell.

A MILITARY WAO HANDSOMELY OUT-GENERATED BY A CLERGYMAN.—Watty Morrison, a Scotch clergyman, was a man of great wit and humor. On a certain occasion he entertained an officer at Fort George to pardon a poor fellow that was sent to the hospital. The officer offered to grant his request if he would in return grant him the first favor he would ask. Mr. Morrison agreed to this, and the officer immediately demanded that the ceremony of baptism should be performed on a puppy.

The clergyman agreed to it, and a party of gentlemen assembled to witness the novel baptism. Mr. Morrison desired the officer to hold up the dog, as was necessary in the baptism of children, and said:

"As I am a minister of Scotland, I must proceed according to the ceremonies of the Church."

"Certainly," said the Major, "I expect all the ceremony."

"Well, then Major, I begin by the question—do you acknowledge yourself to be the father of this puppy?"

A roar of laughter burst from the crowd, and the officer threw the candidate for baptism away.

ELOPEMENT FROM RICHMOND.—The Colonial Times give the following particulars of an elopement which took place from the Shire town of Kent County last Saturday week:—

At the present time, nothing less than an elopement—did you ever!—is talked over and discussed by everybody. Mr. George C. of Shediac, took it into his head to have Miss H. of Richibucto for a wife; and Miss H. resolved to have Mr. C. for a husband.

However the young lady's father objected as she was very young, and disinclined to be altogether. But true love it is said will break through stone walls—so in the present instance. On the afternoon of Saturday last, Mr. H. got a private despatch or letter from Shediac, to look after his daughter for she was to be carried off that evening. Mr. H. of course kept a sharp lookout, all that afternoon, and towards evening nailed down the windows, it is said, to make everything sure. A little after sunset a remarkable looking man with a long beard down to his breast, was seen driving into town along the back street, and halting in the rear of Mr. H.'s garden. About this time an individual came into the house, and wishing to be served in some way or other, Miss H. referred him to her father. As soon as she got them engaged she slipped out the front door, took her hat and shawl from under the platform, where she had managed to conceal them, and in an instant was through the garden and into the carriage with her intended on the back street and off like lightning! The father on missing her took horses and a brace of pistols with him and pursued all night, but pursuit was vain, as the advance party had stables waiting them all the way along the road to Sackville, which they reached early next morning, and were married. Some folks blame both for the course they adopted; others consider Miss H. possessed of pluck, and applaud her husband as rivaling McClellan in generalship. The young ladies all round look thoughtful and hardly know what to think about it.

OAK ISLAND.—At this place are supposed to have been buried by the notorious pirate Kidd, a large amount of treasure—shall we say thousands of pounds or millions of dollars, bushels of gold watches, pecks of diamonds, rings, cartloads of silver teaspoons, silver candlesticks and crosses, fathoms of gold watch chains, boatloads of silver ingots and a variety of other articles too numerous to mention. But the oaken boxes which contain them are separated from the grasp of the preserving seekers by nearly a score of fathoms of clay and quicksand, and the wetness of the shafts has hitherto baffled the most persistent attempts to bring to light the hidden treasure. This year a most resolute attempt is to be made, we saw this week a large steam boiler being shipped off to the scene of operations. We hope by the aid of steam power the water may be conquered and a long pending question settled: whether there is anything at the bottom of the pit or not. We must express our surprise that in this age of the world money will be sent on such an uncertain undertaking. And we expect, that at no very distant day if the required depth could be reached, there will be quite a number converted to our way thinking.—Halifax Witness.

AN ENOBLISHED OFFICER SHARPLY ANSWERED.—One of the enrolling marshals, the other day, at Philadelphia, received a strong hint from a down town female.

Stopping at the lady's house, he found her door endeavoring to effect with a vegetable bucket a 20 per cent abatement in the price of a peck of tomatoes.

"Have you any men here, ma'am?"

The reply was gruff and curt—"No."

"Have you no husband, madam?"

"No."

"Nor brothers?"

"No."

"Perhaps you have a son, ma'am?"

"Well, what of it?"

"I should like to know where he is."

"Well, he isn't here."

"So I see, ma'am. Pray where is he?"

"In the Union army, where you ought to be."

The marshalled hastened round the corner. He didn't further interrogate the lady.

The Worlds centre.—The census develops the curious fact that there are more Scottish descendants in London than in Edinburgh.

burgh, more Irish than in Dublin. 100,000 more Roman Catholics than in Rome, and more Jews than in Palestine. There are also in the same metropolis more than 60,000 Germans, 20,000 French, and 5,000 Italians, a very large number of Asiatics, from all parts of the East, and many who still worship idols.

FEDRING BOXES BETTER THAN RACKS. Horses do not gather their food from trees, why then should they be compelled in winter to take it from a rack overhead? Every mouthful requires the animal to assume an unnatural position, which, with young horses particularly, must interfere with the proper development of the muscles of the neck, and the graceful carriage of the head. May not the awkward manner in which many horses trust their noses forward and upward be attributed to the force of habit acquired in feeding from a high rack? Another serious objection to racks is the danger from the seeds, dust &c., falling into the area of the nostrils; and further, all the effluvia of the stables, the vapors from the liquid and solid excrements, the exhalations from the skin and from the lungs pass upwards, and to some extent absorbed by the hay—an addition neither savory nor healthful. The feed box may be made equally convenient with the rack, and is open to none of the above objections. It need not be large, and if the bottom be made of slats, all rejected fodder can be easily removed. A close box on the side of the feeding grain will be needed if the main box be left open.—[Agriculturist.

OLD HORSES. The term old as applied to horses, is generally intended to convey not only the statement of their age, being past marks in the mouth, but also the common impression that comparatively they are of little value if passed eight or nine years. Now, if we rightly understand it, the horse has not attained his full growth and perfection of bodily frame until he has passed his seventh year; and until growth is attained he is just as unfitted for extreme hard labor as a man before arriving at full manhood.

In this country the practice of putting horses to work at two and three years, usually results in their becoming broken down by over-driving or over-straining before they have attained firmness of muscle and capability for enduring labor. Thus it is that horses are often, with us, rendered comparatively valueless before they have in truth arrived at an age of full powers and endurance.

We have owned a number of horses; and whenever we have had one that had not been injured before arriving at maturity, we have found him more capable of performing regular labor at ten to fifteen, than those of four to seven years. In our opinion therefore, judging from observation, we consider the horse in his prime at nine to thirteen years of age; always remembering that, previous to his having attained his growth say seven years, he has not been over driven, strained, or otherwise injured by reason of high stimulating food or abuse.—Ohio Farmer.

WEEKS ALONG FENCES.—Some farmers remove their fences when the ground on each side of the fence is overrun with weeds and briars, and plow the rabbit down as a manure for this part of the field, which will now produce better crops, than any other part of the same field. This will do very well in the case of our old-fashioned, worn-out fences, as they are called, but will not do in the case of regular post and rail fences, and hence the best way of cleaning such fences will be to plough down the rubbish and give the upturned earth a good sprinkling of salt, which will kill all upspringing verdure on this strip of ground for the ensuing season, and make it clean and rich for the next years crop, whatever it be.—[Hull's V.

GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN IN PORTLAND. Mr. George Francis Train arrived in this city early yesterday morning in the steamer New Brunswick from St. John, N. B., and took lodgings at U. S. Hotel. As soon as it was known that he was here some 300 or 400 persons collected in front of the hotel, and in answer to their calls, Mr. Train appeared upon the balcony and addressed them for eight or ten minutes. He was very sarcastic and severe in his remarks upon old England, and denounced the Provisional Government of New Brunswick as far as they had come under his observation, in bitter terms. They were full of the secession spirit, and that of the worst kind. Halifax, he said had become to be the port of refuge for Confederate vessels, instead of Nassau; an armed steamer was sitting out at that place for the Southern Confederacy. The merchants there all favor the South and hoped they would triumph.—[Portland Press.

The Draft in Pennsylvania is also put off until the 28th inst.

15 birds, bright Mesocercus Mohagens

10 boxes - alacratius 60lbs.
Do Black pepper, 4lb. 4lb. and 25lb.
20 Hhds. Muscovado Molasses,
6 Puncheons Alcohol 90 O P,
6 Hhds. Muscovado = ugr. &c. &c.
Nov. 12. J. W. STREET & SON