

Condor Individuality.

We had the best chance of studying the colors of the condor head. The bill was horn color, and the red skin of the head extended down, covering it about halfway. The legs were tan, but on each knee was a patch of red. On the breast of each bird the skin was blood red and could be seen occasionally when the breast feathers were spread and the birds were preening. Both had light colored wing bars, and the primaries were well worn. The skin on the throat hung loose, and the lower mandible fitted close under the upper. The chin was orange red, and below this on the neck was a strip of greenish yellow merging into the orange about the sides and back of the neck. The top and front of the head were red, but between the eyes was a small patch of black feathers, and these extended down in front of the eye into the orange red of the cheek. The pupil of the eye was black, but the iris was deep and red and conspicuous. The bald and wrinkled pate, the flabby jowls, with the cave-in expression of a toothless old woman—these helped to make up the condor individuality.—William L. Finley in Century.

It Didn't Come Natural.

"I have heard that man tell the truth once or twice," said one Wall street man talking of another. "He can tell the truth, I admit, but it does not come natural to him. He reminds me of the Russian moujik. "A Russian moujik sat one day in the anteroom of the military commissioner of his town. There was an anxious frown on his face. A friend approached and said: "What is the matter, Piotr? "I am worried," Piotr answered, "about my son. I don't know what to say when the commissioner asks me about his age. You see, if I make him younger than he is he will be sent back to school, and if I make him out older they'll stick him in the army. What the deuce am I to do? "How would it do," said the friend thoughtfully, "if you told the commissioner his exact age? "Piotr slapped his leg and laughed delightedly. "The very thing!" he cried. "I never thought of that!"

Pay of Army Officers.

When a young man becomes a cadet at West Point, he enters upon a government allowance of \$900.50 a year. On graduation the West Pointer is commissioned a second lieutenant and receives a salary of \$1,400 if unmounted or \$1,500 if mounted. Increases at each five year period bring the pay at the end of twenty years up to \$1,900 in the one case and \$2,100 in the other. The pay of first lieutenants begins at \$1,500 and \$1,600; captains, \$1,800 and \$2,000; majors, \$2,500; lieutenant colonels, \$3,000; colonels, \$3,500. Each officer attains a 40 per cent maximum increase in twenty years. On the average the salary of the army officer is higher than that of the college professor, the minister or the graded civil service employee. The officer has allowances for residence and personal attendance. He may buy household supplies from a government commissary at cost.—Detroit News-Tribune.

Could We Live on Mars?

The physical conditions on Mars are in many ways intermediate between those found upon the earth and the moon, and it seems plausible that the life existing upon it should similarly be of a higher type than that found on the moon and of a lower type than that found at present on the surface of the earth. Even if the physical conditions, as we understand them, were equally favorable with those on the earth, civilization would by no means be a necessary consequence. Had it not been settled by Europeans the United States would still be a wilderness. How much less should we hasten to accord civilization to a planet of which we know little, except that if we were transported there ourselves we should instantly die.—Professor W. H. Pickering in Harper's Magazine.

Wise Insects.

In his experiments to determine whether it is the color or the odor of flowers that attracts bees and other insects M. Plateau, the Belgian zoologist, bethought him of trying a mirror. He selected a flower of striking color and strong odor and placed it before an excellent glass in which the reflection was perfect. All the insects went straight to the real flower, and not a single one approached the reflection in the mirror.—Youth's Companion.

Joining the Great.

An Oxford undergraduate was reciting a memorized oration in one of the classes in public speaking. After the first two sentences his memory failed, and a look of blank despair came over his face. He began as follows: "Ladies and Gentlemen—Pitt is dead. Fox is dead. Gladstone is dead." Then, forgetting, he hesitated for a moment and continued, "And—I—I—I am beginning to feel pretty 'sick' myself."—Lloyd's Weekly.

Ruffled His Feathers.

Artist (showing friend his masterpiece)—Now, my boy, that is a picture, if you like—real and natural. What do you think of it? Friend—Capital! Capital! So lifelike! Such light and shade! I don't think I ever saw a better picture of a battlefield. Artist—Great Paul Rubens! That's not a battlefield—that's a basket of fruit!—London Standard.

Writers' Cramp.

Writers' cramp is a serious matter to people whose work requires that they use a pen very much, while for the unaccustomed writer who takes an afternoon off now and then to catch up with her correspondence it is, to say the least, very discouraging. The trouble is more than muscular in this kind of cramp. Very often a low, nervous condition will cause it. Then one should take it as a warning that the system is run down and needs general toning up. Very often, however, the trouble is all in the way you hold your pen. Children now in school are not likely to be troubled with writers' cramp, because they are taught to hold the pen lightly and make all the movements from the arm instead of the hand. The old fashioned method which most of us learned of holding the pen is also very likely to encourage a cramp. The muscles become tense and hard, until finally they contract so much that all control over them is lost. The pen should be held between the first two fingers, well up toward the joint. The trouble may often be relieved by putting the hand and wrist into the hottest water one can stand.—Boston Herald.

Tenderness of the Hanging Judge.

Mr. Justice Hawkins' tenderness for women prisoners was well known. He admitted it, and he had a great dislike of sentencing these poor creatures to death who had been recommended to mercy and would probably be re-privileged. On one such occasion the sheriff asked if he was not going to put on the black cap. "No," he answered, "I do not intend the poor creature to be hanged, and I am not going to frighten her to death." Addressing her by name, he said: "Don't pay any attention to what I am going to read. No harm will be done to you. I am sure you did not know in your great trouble and sorrow what you were doing, and I will take care to represent your case so that nothing will harm you in the way of punishment." He then mumbled over the words of the sentence of death so that the poor creature did not hear them.—London Graphic.

Lobster Fare.

Hungry lobsters in their natural state seldom refuse fish of any kind, whether dead or alive. The favorite bait with fishermen is fresh or stale herring, but even shark meat is used at a pinch. Lobsters also eat small crabs, sea urchins and mussels. Indeed, there are few forms of marine life suitable for food which they refuse. Lobsters sometimes capture fish alive, striking them with the smaller of their two great claws, which for this reason fishermen call the "quick" or "fish" claw, but they will live for a long time, especially when confined without taking any food. If you tether the lobster by the large claws, you will find that, like the muskrat, he will go off some fine morning, leaving only his legs in the trap, for this animal has the remarkable power of "shooting a claw," or amputating its limbs, and, what is still more wonderful, of growing new ones from the stumps left behind.—St. Nicholas.

The Microscope.

There is good reason to believe that the magnifying power of transparent media with convex surfaces was very early known. A convex lens of rock crystal was found by Layard among the ruins of the palace of Nimrod. And it is pretty certain that after the invention of glass hollow spheres blown of that material were commonly used as magnifiers. The perfection of gem cutting shown in ancient gems, especially in those of very minute size, could not have been attained without the use of such aids to the eye, and there can be little doubt that the artificers who could execute those wonderful works could also shape and polish the magnifiers best suited for their own or others' use.—New York American.

Rifled Firearms.

In the South Kensington museum are several wheel lock muskets with rifled barrels made during the reign of Charles I. If not earlier. Such barrels were then usually called "screwed." Zachary Grey in a note on "Hudibras," part 1. canto 3, line 533, says that Prince Rupert showed his skill as a marksman by hitting twice in succession the vane on St. Mary's Stafford at sixty yards with a "screwed" pistol.—London Notes and Queries.

The Forests.

A true forest is not merely a storehouse full of wood, but, as it were, a factory of wood and at the same time a reservoir of water. When you help to preserve our forests or to plant new ones, you are acting the part of good citizens.—Roosevelt.

Reputation and Character.

Lawyer (examining jury)—Do you understand the difference between character and reputation? Juror—Reputation is the name your neighbors give you; character is the one they take from you.—Judge.

Strategy.

"How did you act when you asked him for my hand?" "Very gentle and courteous. It quite took me by surprise." "I told him you used to be a pugilist."—Houston Post.

Too Late.

Muriel—Why didn't you marry him? Everybody says he has reformed. Maud—Yes, but he reformed too late. His money was all gone.—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Wasp's Jaws Make Colony's Nest.

Wasps readily succumb before the increasing cold of autumn. The few that escape the merciless scourge of mortality are the queens of next season. They pass the winter in some warm cranny, and when the spring arrives each comes forth from its hiding place and seeks a suitable place for the nest that is to be. This found, the queen repairs to a fence or tree trunk and with her jaw rasps off a bundle of wood fiber which when moistened with saliva and kneaded forms the papery substance of which the nest is entirely constructed. Just as bees have invented a peculiar nest building material in wax, so wasps have prepared a special durable paper for the same purpose. The queen mother lays the foundations of the city with her own jaws. She attaches a sort of stalk of wood paper to a chosen support. This may be the branch of a tree, a root in a cavity below ground or a beam in a garden shed. The stalk prepared, the queen builds a few shallow cells, in each of which she lays an egg. As these mature, hatch and develop into worker wasps the labor of the little colony is turned over to them, and thus a vast nest with thousands of cells is evolved.—Chicago Tribune.

The Wrong Nell.

Nell is a girl who lives up on Capitol hill. On Mondays a woman comes to Nell's house to wash clothes. The woman's name is Nell too. One Monday Nell, the girl, was in the sitting room reading when the telephone rang. Nell, the washerwoman, answered the ring. Nell, the girl, then heard Nell, the washerwoman, say: "Yes, this is Nell." Silence. "How's that?" Silence. "What! Am I mad because you kissed me last night? Look here, man, you're too fresh. Who are you anyway? I never kissed!" Just then the telephone receiver was wildly snatched from her hand. Nell, the girl, blushing furiously, had grabbed it. She hung it on the hook. "He wanted me," she said. "He always tries to tease me that way. I—I never kissed him in my life." As she disappeared up the stairs the washerwoman smiled and said: "That's a big one."—Denver Post.

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