

# THE SLAUGHTER OF HERONS

## Their Feathers Cost Forty Five Dollars An Ounce. CANNOT BE IMITATED

### White Egrets in This Country Are Now Protected the Demand for Their Plumage Has Sent Hunters to India, China and Burmah—Work of the Audubon Societies.

Six times a year a sale of plumage is held in Mincing Lane, London. Look down the long tables over which stoop the connoisseurs to color and the quality of feathers. There are gorgeous tall feathers from Australian lyre birds, and humming birds from Venezuelan thick-kets. Ibis wings from up the Nile, parrots and tanagers from the Amazon, with peacocks and pheasants from India. There are purple, yellow and green fruit pigeons from North Africa, orioles, swallows, honeysuckles, toucans, trogons, the quetzal, too, sacred and resplendent, with crested orange and scarlet cock-of-the-rock. Lastly, there are the glorious bird of paradise from New Guinea, with sweeping plumes of silk and gold, and sixty varieties of egret and heron.

Surely the world has been despoiled of its feathered beauty for women's hats. And each bird differs in beauty from the other, as one differs from another star in glory.

"Item, 5,026 oz. of osprey," the milliner's pride, you read in the catalogue. India, China, Japan, Australia, Africa and both American continents have been diligently hunted for it is fine and precious stuff, silky and delicate as a woman's hair. Each beautiful bird yields but one sixth of an ounce of osprey, and 230,000 birds were sacrificed for the Paris market alone last season.

The much sought after trophy consists of the loose, slender waving plumes of the snowy heron, which cannot be imitated artificially. Human fingers may dexterously model a white wax plumage; a rose that would deceive the honeysucking bee, but the snowy silver, fiber plume of the white egret is beyond imitation.

And so the heron's enemies are abroad over the earth, and the dealers in great cities seek to reinforce them by making tempting offers to traders, missionaries, naval and military officers on foreign stations, Consuls and explorers generally.

In China the blue bloused peasants call these birds "the good to eat" and they encourage them to search the rice fields for food. But now that the plume hunter is found in every province of China, seeking nodding bunches of slender beauty for women's hats there is no more homing of the herons to their hereditary nests above giant Buddhas, telling the hour of the dusk to all the village.

The finest tufts are the wedding garments of both birds. They grow only as breeding time on the egret's back and droop gracefully over sides and tail. The less fine plumes, with shorter and stiffer filaments, such as form the yellow egret, are plucked from the buff backed or squacco heron, which properly speaking is not an egret at all.

The snowy heron has plumage of surpassing whiteness. Viewed side by side with it, the swan, the wood ibis and the stork look earthy. Referring to this excessive whiteness different species have received such scientific names as "alba," "immaculate," "candidissima." It is as if the lovely bird had some luminous quality existing within itself and showing through the plumage.

The havoc wrought among these beautiful creatures in Florida was enormous before the Audubon societies stepped between them and their slayers. The latter having discovered a rookery by watching the birds flying to and from their nests would survey the ground, learn the lines of flight followed and the perches or lookout stations commonly frequented. Then, armed preferably with a small rifle, the plume hunter would secrete himself and wait for his prey.

The busy birds, having families to provide for, would be active all day, and as they returned with food for little mouths they would rest a moment on the lookout perch, offering an excellent mark to the hunter below. The bird fell; a slight report did not alarm the others; and in a few days most of the parents would be slain for the sake of their nuptial plumes.

At present the Florida egrets are strictly protected, yet such is the cupidity of plume hunters that Warden Guy Bradley of the local Audubon Society was shot dead by poachers while watching over his feathered charges two or three years ago.

A writer invariably falls into a curious error about cats namely, the supposition that a "tabby" is a female cat. As a matter of fact the word "tabby" is merely descriptive of the color of the animal, which is a light ground with "tiger" bars and markings.

### Price of an Invention.

The inventor of eau de cologne was an Italian, Giovanni Farina. Farina offered vainly to sell his receipt for \$3,750 in 1893, but a few years ago it was sold by his heirs for \$200,000.

## TO FRESHEN FLOWERS.

### One of the Little Things That Every Woman Should Know.

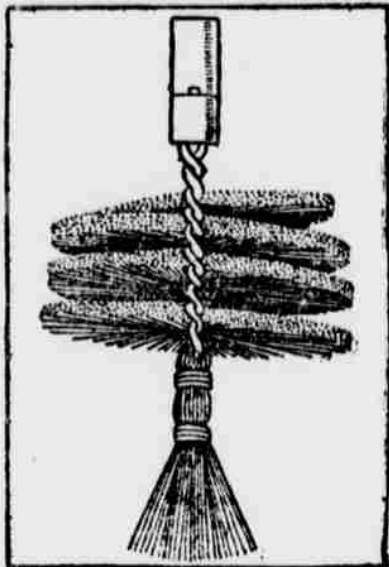
It always seems so distressing to see beautiful cut flowers wither and fade, and to revive flowers that are not actually dead try my plan. Cut a tiny piece from each stem and place the stems in a large glass, or, even better, jar of cold water; then submerge the jar in a bucket of cold water, allowing the entire bunch to be almost covered. Put all in a dark place, cover with a newspaper to exclude the air; let them remain thus overnight; in the morning they will be as fresh as new, even to the glistening "dew drops."

Roses and carnations respond better than other flowers treated in this manner, but so far I have not found any way to freshen violets satisfactorily, says a writer in Success.

It might not be amiss to add that wilted green vegetables, such as spinach, lettuce and celery, are to be freshened by this same means, and may be kept for days, changing the water every morning, of course. However, we all know that the fresher all vegetables, the better they are.

### Novel Bottle Washer.

Very few of the brushes designed to clean bottles and similar receptacles come up to expectations. In the majority of these cleaners the bristles of the brush fail to reach the sides of the bottle, which renders them practically useless for cleaning nursing and medicine bottles. This failure seems to have been overcome



### CLEANS BOTTLE THOROUGHLY.

In the bottle-washing brush shown in the accompanying illustration, the invention of a Chicago man. In this cleaner two brushes are used, one to reach the bottom of the bottle and the other to remove particles adhering to the sides. All the brushes are connected to a spiral handle, the operation of which is well known. Then the handle is pulled, a whirling motion is imparted to the brushes, any substance adhering to the inside of the bottle being thus cleaned off.

### HOUSEHOLD SUGGESTIONS.

A pinch of salt improves cakes, candies, and almost everything that is cooked.

Salt on the fingers when cleaning meat fowls and fish will prevent the hands from slipping.

Starch made with soapy water prevents the irons from sticking, and gives a better gloss to the linen.

Cold baked potatoes, sliced thin, then put in a baking dish with salt, pepper, butter and milk, make a much better scallop than raw potatoes.

The molasses to be used for gingerbread is greatly improved by being first boiled then skimmed.

In roasting meat turn with a spoon, instead of a fork, as the latter pierces the meat and lets the juice out.

An equal mixture of turpentine and ammonia will remove paint spots, no matter how long the blot has been upon a garment.

Paraffin can be used the second time to cover jelly and jam if it is washed clean and boiled before being turned over the fruit again.

### A Hard-Working Queen.

A hard-working queen is Wilhelmina of Holland. She rises early, breakfasts at 7 with her mother, Queen Emma, and then withdraws to her private study, where she conscientiously goes through the state documents which await her perusal and signature. It is a task involving serious application, for the young queen insists on making minute investigations of all details, and puts her name to no documents with the contents of which she is not thoroughly familiar. Like the queen of Portugal, she finds a congenial hobby in millinery, in which she is skilled

### When They Have a Chance.

One has only to go to a fancy dress ball to see how eagerly the men folk escape from their eternal black and white; how they revel in uniforms and burnouses, in robes and petticoates, in sandals and turbans. For one golden hour they live in a fantastic world, in which they are not all garbed like crows, but can taste the innocent vanity of the Spanish toreador or the African sheik, and wear as gaudy and as rakish dress as any woman.

## CANNIBALS OF NEW HEBRIDES.

### Strange Mixture Of Races—Their Peculiar Custom and Rites.

In Southwestern Bay, alone I have seen, writes Beatrice Grimshaw in the Windsor Magazine, describing the people of the New York Hebrides, distinctly Jewish types of face, types suggesting the West African negro, types like an extremely depraved monkey and types like nothing else on earth but themselves. There are in the bay three distinct languages, no one of which can be understood by the speakers of another, and in the rest of the island there are at least seven or eight other languages.

The houses are of a very low and degraded type, being merely roofs set on a bamboo stockade a couple of feet high, but the hamals, or sacred houses, of which each village owns one, are high, pointed, gabled buildings, with tiers of windows in the gable and lofty, narrow doors, apparently meant for the admission of very high prowed canoes, which the New Hebrideans do not possess. There are certain Jewish rites in use among them; they have caste regulations suggestive of India, and they make mummies not very inferior to those of Egypt. Also, they are cannibals, and they sing Gregorian chant or its first cousin in their devil dances. They worship the man-of-war hawk, which holds an extraordinarily high place in their religious beliefs, they set an almost sacred value on pigs, and the real object of their idols or images, which are hideous, no man knows.

The existence of mummies has, I believe, been questioned. This is small wonder, since they are always kept in the hamals or temples of the heathen cannibal villages, and strangers are not encouraged to meddle. I have much difficulty in seeing one myself, as the temples are most strictly barred to women. A native woman would be instantly killed if she so much as put her head inside, and I do not think it probable that a white woman would escape either if she were caught doing it. I was, however, lucky enough in another part of Malekula to find a temple unguarded save by a few women squatting outside, and seizing the opportunity I entered.

It was not a very good specimen, being little better than a shed, and it was very dark inside; further, I thought it well not to stay very long. However, I saw a number of mummies, mounted on carved stretchers and painted red and blue, hanging up around the supporting parts of the roof; also a good many skulls placed on rough shelves, their faces covered by a mask of fibrous stuff painted red, and some curiously curved spears, adzes and killing mallets hung around the walls. I got away again without being seen, and left that afternoon by the monthly steamer, it being the last day of my stay in Malekula. I heard afterward, however, that ill feeling had been caused among natives by my violation of their Bluebeard chamber.

On another occasion I succeeded in seeing a place into which no white person had ever ventured before—a forest cannibal fortress, six miles up in the untraveled interior. My host told me that if I went with him quite unarmed and with only a couple of boys to guide us and carry our dinners our insignificance would probably bring us through all right. Within the bamboo stockade that surrounded the houses dancing had begun.

I have not space to relate the tale of that strange sight—the wild, weird dance, performed by a band of howling black demons, carrying cocked and loaded rifles, around a group of skull faced drum idols in the centre of the square; of the deafening boom made by the hollow idols themselves as they were loudly beaten by the musicians; of the strange solo dance performed by a famous cannibal chief, wherein he enacted, with unpleasant realism, a mad pouncing down on its prey; of the still stranger dance performed by another, who capered lightly about with a large, squealing live pig on his shoulder; of the extraordinary character of the dancing chant, as like Gregorian, pointing and all, as a small pea is like a big one.

### Fear to Admit Identity.

"It's really alarming how hard it is getting to be nowadays to get a person to admit his identity to a stranger," said a Boston business man, recently. "Now, I have a perfectly legitimate line which draws me to a middle class of people and those who are on the edge of so-called society. I go to their places of business. Some of them I know by sight. I go up to them and ask if Mr. So-and-So is in, knowing at the time he is the man I am looking for. Half the time the man will reply: 'No, he's out just now, but I will take the measure.'"

"When he finds out my business he generally laughingly admits his identity and says he thought I was the representative of So-and-So. I suppose this is the result of the modern way of living on the installment plan, with collectors at our heels."

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## HAUNTS OF OUR REPTILES

### Many Varieties Found in This Country.

### ALL NOT DANGEROUS

### The Diamond-Back Rattler in Point of Venomousness is Second to None of the Poisonous Snakes of the World—Habits of the Deadly Water Moccasin.

Quite a number of varieties of sea turtle are to be found in American waters. They incline to the warmer latitudes but are sometimes driven as far north as Connecticut and Massachusetts. The cold readily benumbs them, and the severe hurricanes of the autumn and early winter often cast them upon the beaches along our northern Atlantic coast. Of our sea turtles the best known and most highly prized is the green turtle, individual specimens of which sometimes attain a weight of 500 pounds.

Next comes the snapping turtle. This is a fresh water turtle. Its members are barn fighters. They are possessed of jaw of great power. They live on fish and water-fowl. One of the snapping turtle's chief peculiarities is that it can feed only under water. Unless its head is completely submerged it seems unable to swallow.

Another distinguished member of the turtle family is the diamond-backed terrapin, whose home is in the salt marshes of the Atlantic Coast and the Gulf of Mexico. It cannot live in water that is entirely fresh, although it is found sometimes in the brackish Hudson.

The upper shell of the diamond-backed terrapin is grayish or olive in color, and it reaches a maximum length of about ten inches. Diamond-backed terrapin are growing scarcer every year.

The alligator alone among reptiles has the habit of bellowing. The noise it makes resembles somewhat the plaintive moaning of a cow when milking time draws near. The sound will carry for a mile or more.

The crocodile is a much more vicious animal than the alligator, and more agile. It was not known that it was indigenous to North America until 1875, when a pair of crocodiles were discovered in Biscayne Bay, in Florida. Except in Florida, the species does not exist north of Mexico.

There are more different varieties of lizards in North America than any other reptile. The only poisonous lizard found in the United States is the Gila monster. It takes its name from the Gila River, in the vicinity of which it abounds.

The Gila monsters total length is usually nineteen inches. Its body is streaked, in a sort of marble fashion, with black and some pale color, usually salmon pink or light yellow. It has heavy jaws and long fangs, and where once it imbeds its teeth in a foe, it has the tenacious grip of a bulldog.

The two most deadly classes of snakes are the elapine and viperine families. To the elapine family, but few of whose branches are to be found in this country, belong the dreaded hooded cobra, the Australian tiger snake, and the death adder. The viperine family comprises among its offspring the copperhead, the moccasin, the fer-de-lance and the rattlesnake.

The American elapine serpents are the coral snakes. In their anatomy they show their kinship to the cobras, but they belong to a degenerate offshoot of the elapine lineage. The North American coral snakes are to be found from North Carolina to Southern Mexico. Around their bodies they have broad rings of red and black and narrower rings of yellow. Their heads from their slender shape, look harmless, but the sub-family to which the coral snakes belong is one of the deadliest of all the serpent tribes. They can move with a rapidity that is lightning like. The fangs are small, but after the coral snakes have succeeded in affixing them in the flesh of their prey they bite and bite again, until their fangs have made a number of incisions.

Of the viperine family the most common in America are the water moccasin or "cotton mouth" snake, the highland moccasin or copperhead snake, and the rattlesnake.

The moccasin is an extremely venomous reptile. The water moccasin is met with in the Atlantic Coast region as far north as North Carolina. In a wild state these water moccasins are inclined to be pugnacious, but after a few months in captivity they become docile and lazy. They derive their nickname of "cotton mouth" from the habit they have of opening their jaws wide when startled, and showing their mouths' white interior. It is impossible, as popularly asserted, to tell the age of a rattlesnake by the number of its rattles. A rattlesnake does not acquire a new ring in its rattle every year, and after a rattle attains a length of ten or eleven rings any subsequent additional segments soon break off.—New York Sun.

### Oysters in Sponges.

Live sponges furnish homes for oysters, mussels, crabs and other small animals, which often live in the sponges their entire lifetime. Sometimes the creatures grow too large to get out, remaining until they die.

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### Fortune Telling in Olden Days.

Nowadays girls go to fortune tellers with strange names shiny, fascinating eyes and weird studios, when they want a peep into the future. In grandmother's day the mystery of to-morrow was read in much more simple ways. One popular way was to learn which of two sweethearts was to be the final choice was to plant three sprigs of some rapid growing plant, one named for the girl and the other two for each of her two favorite beaux. The one that grew nearest to her was destined to be her husband. Another way was to lay three twigs on a bench or shelf. If two of them, one named for the girl and one for one of the beaux blew off, it meant that the two would marry and go away. If only one twig, that of one of the beaux blew away, it meant that the two remaining would be married. If all three twigs blew off the bench the occurrence was interpreted to indicate that the girl would remain an old maid. If the two beau twigs were blown away and she remained on the bench, it meant that she would marry, but not one of those two.

In the winter when there were no buds and all the ground was white with snow the girls used to be so anxious to know their fortunes that they would creep down in the big cellar and hide three onions on a shelf. They named each onion, and the one that sprouted first was the man they were to marry.

### Properties of Gold.

Pure gold is unaffected by the atmosphere either at ordinary temperatures or when the metal is heated. It is also proof against the action of common acids when used singly.

Moreover, it confers its properties more or less upon copper and silver when these metals are alloyed with it. Thus, for example, twelve karat gold will withstand the action of nitric acid and the atmosphere at ordinary temperature, but some of the copper will be oxidized during annealing. Nine parts of gold may be alloyed with ten parts of platinum in an ordinary crucible and fire, but such an alloy will not be uniform; a larger proportion of platinum will free itself from the solidification and a homogeneous alloy of the two metals cannot be obtained.

### Home Made Liniment.

One cup of vinegar, 1 cup of turpentine, 1 raw egg, put in a bottle and shake well; good for sore throat.

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### Important Rules for Vendors of Ice Cream, Fish and Meat to Remember During Hot Weather.

Dairy and Food Commissioner Foust has laid down some new rules under the new food law, especially relative to fish and meats offered for sale in summer. All such food must be covered and protected from flies and insects by screens. Any meat or fish kept for sale in any other manner will be held to be a violation of the law. This will be the first time such requirements have been laid down for the sale of such provisions and Mr. Foust believes that it will do much toward preventing possible illness.

The last requirements are that any foreign substance will be considered an adulteration.

As to fruit, and nut ice cream, they must be true to name, no matter whether fresh or canned fruits or nuts are used, and must contain no less than 10 per cent. butter fat, together with sugar, eggs and a small amount of gelatine, not exceeding 3 ounces to 10 gallons of cream.

### Can you believe your senses?

When two of them, taste and smell, having been impaired if not utterly destroyed, by Nasal Catarrh, are fully restored by Ely's Cream Balm, can you doubt that this remedy deserves all that has been said of it by the thousands whom it has cured? It is applied directly to the affected air-passages and begins its healing work at once. Why not get it to-day? All druggists or mailed by Ely Bros., 56 Warren Street, New York, on receipt of 50 cents.

There are people who seem to spend most of their lives trying to get even.

### A Sustaining Diet.

These are the enervating days, when, as somebody has said, men drop by the sunstroke as if the Day of Fire had dawned. They are fraught with danger to people whose systems are poorly sustained; and this leads us to say, if the interest of the less robust of our readers, that the full effect of Hood's Sarsaparilla is such as to suggest the propriety of calling this medicine something besides a blood purifier and tonic, —a sustaining diet. It makes it much easier to bear the heat, assures refreshing sleep, and will without any doubt avert much sickness at this time of year.

Some men are so constituted that they would rather lose a friend than an argument.

### Forebode Facts.

One-sixth of the deaths from disease are due to consumption. Ninety-eight per cent. of all those who have used Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery for "weak lungs," have been perfectly and permanently cured. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is not advertised to cure consumption in its advanced stages. No medicine will do that. The "Discovery" does cure obstinate, lingering or "hang-on-coughs," and all those catarrhal conditions of throat and bronchial passages which if not properly treated end in consumption. Take the "Discovery" in time and if given a fair and faithful trial it will seldom disappoint.

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