# THE COLUMBIAN, BLOOMSBURG. PA

## THE COLUMBIAN.

### BLOG. ASBURG, PA.

### THURSDAY, JULY 2, 1908.

#### QUEER BERMUDA FISH.

#### Brilliant Hues and Peculiar Shades Among Their Characteristics.

The aquarium, which is one of the most interesting places in in Bermuda, occupies the old imperial magazine on Agar's Island, opposite the Soncy hills, writes Lucy Elliot Eopler in the Indianapolis News, The underground chambers and vaulted passages afford excellent opportunity for the arrangement of vall tanks, where one may observe the fish comfortably on a level with ene's eyes. The fish are all from Bermudian waters, and though the numbers are far less than those in the New York aquarium the collection is the most brilliatly colored of any it has been my fortune to see. Indeed, many of the colors are of the kinds called impossible. Nothing but the rainbow itself can rival the angel fish, with its flashing blues and greens and yellows, as it swims lazily, its slow motions in-stinct with grace. It is broad, often weighs up to four pounds, and surpasses . il other local fish in the flavor of its flesh as well as in its lovely hues.

The tour eyed fish, small and delighting in sheltered coves, has its true eyes hidden in a long black stripe, slanting cross its body, while two black spots in its tall are sufficiently realistic to deceive any casual enemy into mistaking the fish's tall for its head.

The hog fish is very common here, its popular name being derived from its swinelike profile and dentition. The long streamer like extension of its fins gives it a singularly graceful appearance. Specimens often weigh twenty pounds. The Spanish hog fish has a coat of much splendor about half blue and half yellow.

Hamlets and groupers are the same thing, the young fish called by the first name, and those longer than twenty inches by the second. "Hamlet" suggests a dual personality, the fish changing color rapidly, representing when dark, the gloomy Prince of Denmark; and when pale and gloomy, the Prince's father's ghost. We went to the Devil's Cave one day, a natural cave open above, where the fishermen often keep their catches; and over which an ancient Neptune looking native, with his trident, ; resides. At feeding time the groupe's, many of them four feet long, rished up savagely for their food, making a tremendous splashing; and the array of their great open mouths was almost terrifying. These fish possess the protective device of changing their color rapidly.

Sergeant majors, with five black cross bands upon their yellow sides. like the chevrons of that non-commissioned officer, the doctor fish, with lancelike processes on the side of its candal peduncle, and with professional instinct keeping its nose slose to the pipe down which fresh water was brought to the tank; the uquirrel fishes, brighter than the cold fishes of our fresh water aquacia: and the bonito and amber fish. to highly prized for table use: the seacat, less than six inches long, old gold in color, elevating at will a decided coronet, and tumbling gently from ledge to ledge as it worked its way down the tank; and the soanash, which makes a lather, when attacked, to conceal itself from its enemy-how different all the cretures are from the fish of our northern waters. Among the other forms of fish were black eels and morays; some striped morays weaving themselves in and out of a drain pipe and about each other until it seemed as if they sould never get untied. The green morays were solid moss color, six inches thick and possibly seven feet iong. I was told that these creajures coil themselves and strike like cobra, up from a depth of thirty feet of water but I cannot youch for he truth of the statement ... One tank was devoted to small sctopi, sticking like inert masses igainst the sides of the tank fastenad to its glass wall by hundreds of Juttonlike suckers. As the keeper poked them with a stick they changed color, unwinding their vicious arms, recalling to the spectator the monsters in Victor Hugo's movel, "Toilers of the Sea." A dead octopus, uncurled on a neighboring beach, measured fourteen feet spread. No less fantastic, though far less hendish, were the crayfishsuch as we eat for Sunday suppers, a delicious white flesh-with gorcolored shells, which once a ear split down the back and are mmediately crawled out of by their rstwhile inhabitants. Bermuda children have a debonair fashion of ishing for crayfish with a bit of red flannel tied to a stout string. only the fisher must be patient and allow time for digestion to begin pofore jerking the victim out of the water. These creatures have more age than I could count, very long thips pointed almost to a hair; and hey propel themselves with their alls moving through the water with artling sapidity.

#### Baby Bait for Crocodiles. QUEER AUSTRALIAN GAME.

Native Pheasants and Qualls-The Bustard-Soup of Kangaroo Tall.

It is on the billabongs and creeks of the back country that the best sport is to be obtained. In wet seasons ducks and teal are to be shot, and in the ranges between the Murray and the Murrumbidgee Rivers the "native pheasant," or mallee hen is to be found. This is a fine table bird, quite equal in my opinion, to any English pheasant. It is very shy and not easy to obtain. I knew a man who kept a few bloodhounds for hunting diagoes. He used to go into the scrub where there were malee hens, put the dogs on their tracks and canter after them. The birds would sometimes rise in an open space in the scrub, and I have known him to bring down a brace of them when shooting from the saddle.

Good duck shooting might be had at the large water holes if it were possible to get near without being seen, and in the summer evenings excellent sport is obtainable by waiting for the bronzewinged pigeons, which at sunset fly to water, There is also a small quail, like the Egyptian, to be shot in New South Wales after harvest. There they strip the wheat, i. e., take merely the heads off with a stripping machine, leaving the straw. 1 have known half a dozen guns make a capital bag without dogs.

The Australian game bird, however, is the native bustard, or "wild turkey, as it is there called, nlthough it is now very scarce except in the extreme back country. At one time it was common enough in Victoria, though now rare in that State, but on the back blocks of New South Wales it was plentiful a few years ago.

They were, nevertheless, difficult to stalk on foot, but, curiously enough will allow one to drive quite within range, and I have seen many shot from a buggy toward the Darling River. They are capital table birds, often larger than the biggest turkey one could buy at an English Christmas market. The flesh of the breast is brown and tastes like wild duck. Properly cooked the Austral'an bustard has hardly its equal. It prefers arid plains and I have shot them on the goldfields of Western Australia, where there is little or no water. They must be able to fly great distances, for one never sees them about the desert country of West Australia in the hot weath-

er. Imported hares are very numerous in certain parts, and the rabbit is ubiquitous. I remember an Australian squatter, who was ruined by rabbits, saying he had not much left, but he would be glad to subscribe a pound toward a monument to the idiot who introduced rabbits and foxes into Australia! Rabbit shooting is to be had almost anywhere, and as they are trapped and poisoned by the hundred thousand, perhaps they too may become extinct in time. No one who has not seen the rabbit warrens in the sandy back country of the Darling would credit the enormous number which exist there. I have passed miles of sandhills at dusk which seemed absolutely alive with vermin, as Aus tralians call them. This reminds me of an Englishman engaged to cook for the shearers on a back station, who by way of a treat, made a rabbit pie for the men He was nearly murdered for his pains! Austrian shearers had not come, they said, to eat vermin. Twenty or thirty years ago the back country squatters, in order to destroy kangaroos, used to dig huge pits at the corners of their paddocks, running yards of calico along their wire fences and then drive the kangaroos into the pits, clubbing and shooting them. In those days kangaroo skins were of no value; now that they are almost extinct, there is a great demand for them. The flesh of a young kangaroo is ov no means to be despised, and the kangaroo tail soup is a delicacy now hardly to be obtained .-- London Field.

#### "Wot do ye think," said the sailor. "of usin' live bables for balt? We done it in Cevlon."

"Bables for balt? Fishing for shark?

"No; crocodile. Date balt is the only thing for erococile, and gverybody uses it. Ye rent a baby down there for half a dollar a day."

"Of course," the sailor went on, 'the thing ain't as cruel as it sounds. No harm ever comes to the babies, or else, o' course, their mother wouldn't rent 'em. The kids is simp. ly sot on the soft mud bank of a crocodile stream and the hunter lays hid near them, a sure pertection.

"The crocodile is lazy. He basks in the sun in midstream. Nothin' will draw him in to shore where we can pot him. But set a little fat naked baby on the bank and the crocodile soon rouses up. In he comes, a greedy look in his dull eyes, and then ye open fire.

"I have got as many as four crocodile with one baby in a morning's fishin'. Some Cingalese woman wot lives near good crocodile streams make as much as two dollars a week reg'lar out o' rentin' their bables for crocodile bait."

There was so much ceremony connected with a church cornerstone lay\_ ing in New York City a few weeks ago that the moving picture machine man felt warranted to take a couple of miles of photographs.

These pictures proved to be very good, and large crowds were delight\_ ed with the exact reproduction of the dedicatory exercises.

"I like the moving pictures better than I did the original service," con. focsed a prominent member of the congregation.

"You do?" gasped a devout elder, 'I'm surely pained to hear you say no. Why should you prefer the pic\_ tures?'

"Because the picture man," answer. ed the prominent member, pleasantly, "cut out all the sermons."

In a Texas tourt not many months ago the clerk asked:

"Gentleman of the jury, have you agreed upon a verdict?"

"We have," said the foreman. "What say you-do you find the

prisoner at the bar guilty or not guil\_ ty ?" "We do," replied the foreman.

"You do? Do what?" asked the clerk.

"We find the prisoner at the bar guilty or not guilty," said the fore-

man "But, gentlemen, you must explain," said the clerk.

"Of course," responded the foreman. "You see, six of us find him guilty and six of us find him not guilty, and we're agreed to let it stand at that."

A small brain that works is of more use that a massive intellect that balks.

## HOME COOKING.

Parsnip Fritters. Boil in saited water until very tender, then mash, seasoning with a little butter, pepper and salt, add a little flour and 1 or 2 eggs well beaten; make into small balls or cakes, and fry in hot lard.

#### Spiced Lamb.

Boil a leg of lamb, adding to the water a handful of cloves and two or three sticks of cinnamon broken up, 2 tablespoonfuls of salt; boil slowly 3 to 4 hours.

#### Fried Cucumbers,

Cut off the skin and then cut in strips lengthwise very thin. Rub the slices in meal and salt. Fry a long time until tender, and then put on butter and serve very hot.

#### Sham Sponge Cake.

Put two eggs in a coffee cup, beat until light, then fill cup with sweet cream; 1 cup sugar, 1 cup flour, 1 heaping spoon baking powder, 1-2 spoon salt, flavor with lemon and bake in moderate oven.

#### Cocoanut Pie.

Procure a medium sized cocoanut and grate it. Add to this one cup of sugar, 2-3 cup of milk and the milk of the cocoanut. Separate two eggs, add the yolks then the whites beaten stiff; line a deep plate with a rich crust; pour the mixture in and bake.

#### Gray Celluloid.

So well are the needs of elderly women met that it is possible now to get all kinds of pretty combs and hair ornaments in gray celluloid. At one time gray haired women were confined to the choice of steel only if they wished decorations to match the hair, and such accessories are decidedly expensive. There is, however, no reason why every shade of gray hair may not be matched for the celluloid comes in a variety of tones, plain or steel mounted, and costs no more than the usual line of combs or ornaments..

#### Money Matters,

In all money matters a fair start is essential, and there should be a clear understanding about it from the first. Begging for money is undignified

to say the least. A girl's parents should arrange the matter for her before she is married, and also that of her own personal expenses, that she may not have to go to her husband every time she wants money .-Phoebe Wardell.

#### Not In.

"Is the lady of the house in?" asked the man at the door. 225 Fourth Avenue "Say!" replied the kid on the stoop; "yer don't happen t' hear no woman talkin', does yer?"-Yonkers Statesman.

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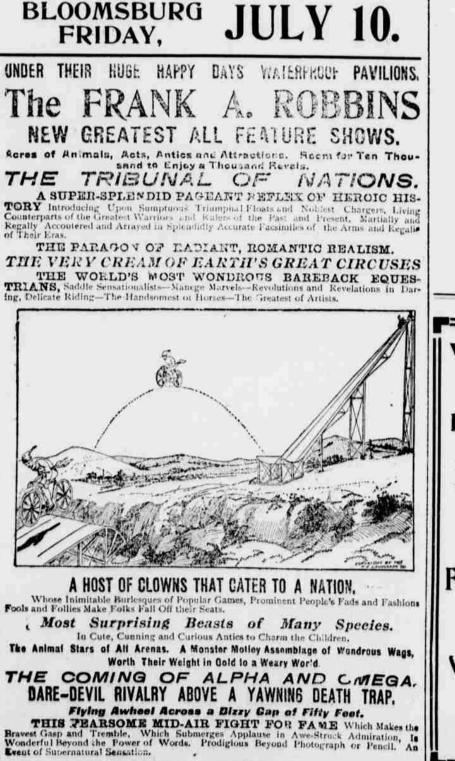
#### Lived 3,000,000 Tears Ago.

A feathered glant of the past. Extinct b'rd called the phoyochacos. It lived about 3,000,000 years ago



and had its home in Patagonia. Its height was eight feet and its head as large as that of a horse. It could not fly but was a swift runner. It lived on living prey.

fid you ever hear of a coroner's jury returning a verdict of "killed by 1: indness ?"



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