

THE COLUMBIAN.

BLOOMSBURG, PA.

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1908.

WHERE DO THE OLD PIANOS GO?

That is, When They Get So Old You Can't Give Them Away.

What becomes of all the old pianos? Any piano dealer will take your old piano when you want a new one and will allow a substantial credit on it even if it is of another make. From time to time the dealers announce sales of used pianos. All dealers have large stocks of them on hand constantly. One piano firm has on exhibition an old fashioned square piano which was made at least half a century ago. The piano bears a placard to the effect that any one who will pay the cartage may have it for the asking. No one has accepted the offer. Suppose to one ever takes that piano off the hands of the dealers who want to get rid of it. What will the dealers do with it? Obviously with rents as high as they are it wouldn't pay to store a piano you can't give away. So the question remains: What, in the last stage of undesirability, becomes of all the old pianos? —N. Y. Sun.

Filling Many Wants.

One of the most useful trees in the world is a species of palm which grows in Brazil. It might safely be called a vegetable emporium, for it yields everything from medicine to cattle food. From the roots is obtained a very valuable medicine which is used for purifying the blood in springtime. Its timber takes a very high polish, and is much sought after by cabinet makers for fine work. The sap becomes wine or vinegar, according to the treatment it receives. From the sap, starch and sugar are also obtained. The fruit of the tree is given to cattle for food; the nut, ground to powder, makes a good substitute for coffee, and the pith becomes bottle corks.

Birds That Fight Windows.

"The mating season of the birds approaches," said a nature student, "and, if you live in a good bird country your windows will kill off many a male. Male birds in the mating season become extraordinarily bold and fierce. Houses have no terrors for them. Approaching, they see their own reflections in the glass of the windows, and mistaking these images for rival males, they dart indomitably upon the glass, to fall back stunned, or bleeding, or broken-winged. I have a south window that I can always rely on in the spring to kill me two birds a week. I grill them on toast."

Avoided the Danger.

It was a wise young man who paused before he answered the widow who asked him to guess her age. "You must have some idea about it," she said, with what was intended for an arch sidewise glance. "I have several ideas," he admitted with a smile. "The only trouble is that I hesitate whether to make you ten years younger on accounts of your looks or ten years older on account of your brains."

Not That Kind of a Talker.

"On one occasion when in Congress," said James F. Banks of Boston, "Gen. Benjamin Butler arose in his place and intimated that the member who occupied the floor was transgressing the limits of debate. 'Why, General,' said the member reproachfully, 'you divided your time with me.' 'I know I did,' rejoined Butler grimly, 'but I didn't divide eternity with you.'"

A Bequest Refused.

The French Academy refused the 520,000 bequeathed to it by Mile. Louise H. Leclere, to be used, according to the terms in her will, "in raising the moral tone of France." The Academy holds the acceptance of this fund would be tantamount to admitting the opinion of the testatrix, who regarded her native country as a sink of iniquity.

Why Indeed.

One old member of the New York bar, who has long been in touch with court methods and proceedings, says he wonders why a certificate of good character is required before a man is admitted to practice.

Where Grafters Live.

The guides on the Washington rubberneck automobiles take great pleasure in pointing out the Grafton hotel and informing the passengers that a great many politicians stop there.

Diamonds From Crater.

A South African diamond mine or "pipe" is the crater of an extinct volcano and the diamondiferous ground forms the filling of that crater.

The World Do Move.

When McCormack built his first hundred reapers in 1845 he paid 1 1/2 cents for bolts. To-day 50 bolts are made for a cent.

CHILDREN TO AID THE BIRDS.

A School Army Enlisting to Save the Guardians of Crops.

On the millions of school children in this country final hope of averting the extinction of the valuable insectivorous birds has been rested.

What the Federal Government, the State Legislatures, and even the granges, women's clubs or national commercial organizations have failed to accomplish completely, the National Association of Audubon Societies have announced will be now given to the children of the land to bring about. To organize every body of pupils from the largest New York public school to the most remote district school or the Pacific coast, into a general movement for housing, feeding and protecting the wild birds that save the country's crops is the object of the Audubon workers.

General headquarters for this new campaign are being established in the offices of the National Association of Audubon Societies, at No. 141 Broadway, New York. Already the organization is in touch with thousands of teachers and girls' and boys' clubs throughout the country, to which it has regularly sent literature on bird guarding and care. With these as nucleus, the children are to push the fight until the members of each school in every neighborhood are enlisted in the work of building bird houses and "restaurants" to sustain the sadly thinned ranks of the feathered army or insect destroyers. Special ammunition in the form of printed directions and suggestions for making bird shelters and "lunch counters" is being prepared for every boy and girl who will write and ask for it.

Old kettles, boxes, or milk, tomato and kerosene cans, are being used by the children as emergency bird shelters. Elaborate houses, rustic imitations of hollow limbs, and neatly furnished apartments are also being planned. All must be made cat-proof, and should face to the south or west if possible. The feathered pair who will seek quarters for rearing their families in the spring will be particular in their tastes. If they find no promising spot for a home in any locality, they will pass on and leave its fields and gardens at the mercy of the insects. The children are urged to the immediate building of houses for this season's bird families, because seasoned and weather-beaten structures most quickly tempt the birds when spring moving day comes.

Ornithologists declare that the march of civilization has robbed millions of useful, as well as sightly and tuneful, birds of their old-time facilities for home making. Sheltering tree trunks are being laid low every year over hundreds of acres. The old-fashioned structures, where birds might flock under open eaves, are being replaced by modern roofs that shut out bird life. Whole races, like the chimney swifts, are being deprived of their shelter in the big, old-style chimneys.

Such conditions, combined with lax laws for spring shooting and pot-hunting, may drive the valuable insect eaters to extinction. It will be the children's work to house the evicted birds at the time when they not only rear their young, but eat most copiously of the insect crop-destroyers.

"The children are now the great factor in this economic movement," said William Dutcher, president of the National Association of Audubon Societies. "Not only their patriotism but the self-interest of every one of their parents is the motive for preventing the extinction of the beautiful and highly valuable birds of this country. We are calling on Congress, the State Legislatures, and on every adult body to help; but I believe the work of the school children will accomplish more than than all the other methods combined. It is a fine chance for every boy and girl to do something for his village, State, and the country at large, and I know they will not neglect to do their part. 'Save the birds' is the motto and rallying cry."

Music in Mexico.

According to the American consul at Monterey Mexico everybody in that sunny land has a love of music. "Musical America." The common laborer who works all day paving the streets, may be found in the evening taking a leading part in an orchestra playing classic music. It is a poor house, indeed, that has not some sort of a musical instrument. Cotton goods, nails, steel rails, and various other articles of commerce are manufactured in Monterey, but as yet the consul is quoted as saying, that nobody has ever made a guitar there, except, perhaps, some lone genius who manufactured one for his own use. Guitars and mandolins are almost exclusively imported from the United States, though some come from France and Spain. Germany is supposed to be the home of the violin and nearly all these instruments used in this part of Mexico, come from that country, though an insignificant number come from the United States. In pianos, of which quite a number are sold there, the United States has the best of the trade, the balance going to Germany. In organs the United States is practically unrivaled in this country, very few of these instruments in any grade coming from Europe. But there is one general class of instruments in which the United States might do a good business, but as yet does practically none, and that is the instruments which go to the furnishing of a brass band. —Washington Herald.

SPIDER HAS HIS USE.

He's the Enemy of the Cockroach, and Nabs Him When He Can.

It is too bad so many people are prejudiced against spiders, said the man who always finds out curious things. "If they could stand it to have spiders around they would soon get rid of cockroaches. In the spider the cockroach has an enemy that pursues him with more malevolence than does the cleanly housewife. And not only is this hatred more deep-rooted, it is more deadly. All things considered the cockroach shows mighty little respect for the human race. He knows that, although he is small, he is chock full of inventive genius, and he laughingly scorns the futile attempts of men and women to circumvent and destroy him.

"So long has he been battling for life against Paris green, fly paper, hot water, and wire cages, that he has learned to slunter through green lines of poison and wade rivers of glue without so much as soiling his toes, and when it comes to the scalding bath he swims blithely out and wriggles his whiskers in derision at his would-be slayers. But he dares not treat the spider with such disdain. In fact, he doesn't have a chance, for the spider outdoes even the cockroach in cunning, and nabs him without the least ceremony. "Still, it would be hardly advisable to recommend raising a crop of spiders as a sure preventive of cockroaches, for in most people's minds the exterminator is more objectionable than his victim."

It was in a country tavern where a newly arrived commercial traveler was holding forth.

"I'll bet my case of samples," he said, "that I've got the hardest name of anybody in the room."

An old farmer in the background shifted his feet to a warmer part of the stove.

"Ye will, will ye?" he drawled. "Waal, I'll have to take you up. I'll bet \$10 against your samples that my name'll beat yours."

"Done," cried the salesman. "I've got the hardest name in the country. It is Stone."

The old man expectorated.

"Mine," he said, "is Harder."

Petroleum Butter.

One of the very late by-products of petroleum is butter. It is far superior to most of the cheap so-called butter that is sold in corner groceries, and a good deal better than oleomargarine. I had the experience of eating some the other day without knowing what it was and thought it was excellent. I assume it is vaseline prepared in a buttery way. Nothing simpler or easier. What next? Will wonders never cease? If olive oil were made into solid cakes and served as butter it would be in great demand as food. People in general believe it is made only for salads. A few cook with it. —N. Y. Times.

Inventor of Envelopes.

It is somewhat curious that such a simple contrivance as the envelope should be a comparatively modern invention. As a matter of fact, it is just a hundred years since a paper manufacturer of Brighton named Brewes invented envelopes for letters in their present form. Even then it was some considerable time before their use became at all general, not, in fact, until somewhere in the year 1850. Before this date, (as many who are living now will remember) a letter, written only on one side, was folded in two, then in three, sealed with a wafer or sealing wax, and addressed on one of the blank sides.—The Gaulois.

A Town Without Taxes.

Orson, in Sweden, has no taxes. During the last thirty years the authorities of this place have sold over one million pounds' worth of trees, and by means of judicious replanting have provided for a similar income every thirty or forty years. In consequence of this source of commercial wealth there are no taxes, and local railways and telephones are free, as are education and many other things.—Tit-Bits.

A Diving Sponge Boat.

A submarine has been built by a company at Bizerta, France, for sponge fishing. When sunk it can travel on a short of wheel along the bottom of the sea, being worked by two submarine oars from the inside. It collects sponges by means of a mechanical gripper, and has electrical searchlights, a telephone, and a speaking tube by which it can communicate with a boat on the surface. The submarine has already been down to a depth of 330 feet.

At the Dry Inn.

"No use to ask me, Colonel," said the landlord. "I'd like to oblige you, but you know as well as I do that Georgia is dry. Howsomever, if you set upstairs while I put out the light you may stumble over something—but even if you fall downstairs and break your leg—mind now—I don't know what done it!"—Atlanta Constitution.

Military Schools in U. S.

Of strictly military schools there are 175 throughout the land. New York has 32, New Jersey 9, Pennsylvania 11, North Carolina 7, Texas 9, Wisconsin 4, California 9 and Illinois 5.

A Reasonable Recantation.

"In order to be a regular optimist," said Uncle Eben, "it's a good idea to start out wif you arrangements all made foh, three square meals a day an' de payment of de rent."—Washington Star.

The Paying Teller Admonished. The Farmer—See here, young man, none o' your monkey business. Them ain't the same bills I deposited here last month.—Brooklyn Life.

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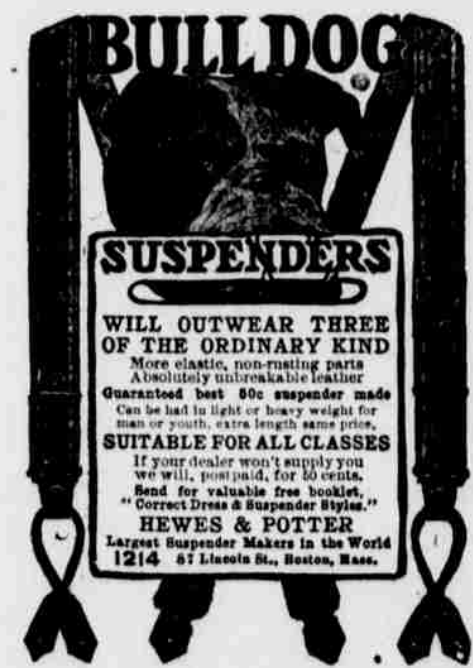
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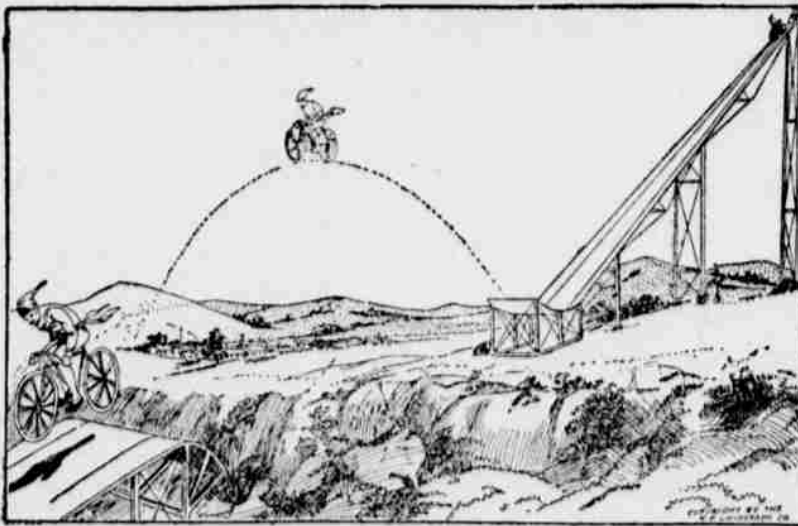
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