

A Remarkable Kingfisher.

There are over fifty species of the halcyonidae or kingfishers; but none is more remarkable than the one shown in our illustration. From its peculiar screaming laugh, not unlike the bray of a donkey, it has obtained the name of "the laughing jackass."

The Illustrated News, of Adelaide, Australia, from whose pages we select the engraving, gives the following particulars of this interesting bird: "The laughing jackass is almost too well known to need description. His appearance and extraordinary notes are peculiar to the inhabitants of every country village. Indeed, he frequently extends his researches into the neighborhood of towns, occasionally taking up his abode for life in some healthy suburb, and punctually entertaining the inhabitants thereof, morning and evening, with a succession of those singular sounds which have rendered his name famous. Although a kingfisher, he never procures his food from the water, after the orthodox fashion of kingfishers, but has more the habits of a bird of prey. Sitting motionless among the lower branches of some tall gum tree unnoticed, and apparently half asleep, he waits, like Micawber, for something to turn up. Suddenly, without noise, he drops off his perch and flies direct to a certain spot, whence he soon returns, bearing in his beak a lizard, a small snake, or perhaps a rat. His acuteness of sight is extraordinary. From his elevated post he seems to miss nothing, and discerns his prey in swamps and crevices, of rocks at a distance that is perfectly astounding. The laughing jackass has the advantage of being able to live on almost anything that presents itself, hence it is always in good condition, and apparently in good humor. It seems, indeed, to pass its life in self-congratulations; and when four or five meet and unite their voices, and they invariably do, morning and evening, the noise would seem to be a party of successful mischief. But in spite of his careless, happy life, the laughing jackass has his peculiar duty, and he performs it conscientiously. Snake killing is his specialty; lizards, frogs, beetles, small birds, rats, etc., are his usual food. In fact, nothing comes amiss to him; let a snake appear upon the scene, and the laughing jackass recognizes his quarry at once. Never hesitating, he makes straight for it, his agitation being observable by the quivering crest feathers. With some caution, he swoops backwards and forwards, seeking an opportunity to seize the reptile. The excitement continues for some time till the bird finally settles down, close by, on the ground. But all his stolid heavy appearance is gone. His wings and tail quiver with agitation and eagerness. Fully alive to the dangerous character of his opponent, he keeps at a safe distance. Flitting round, his head just out of reach, he continues to annoy him, till becoming exhausted, the snake efforts him the opportunity he is seeking. With the rapidity of lightning the bird descends upon his prey, then rises in the air, bearing with him the captured snake, which he held just behind the head, in such a position as to render him perfectly powerless. Rising until he has attained a considerable height, he directs his flight to a more open part of the country, then suddenly banking in the air, he drops the reptile, following it down and reaching the ground almost at the same time. Stunned and bruised, the unfortunate snake is in no condition to renew the contest, and is very soon despatched and eaten by his victorious enemy."

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Tricks of Artful Dodgers.

The police in London are smart, but notwithstanding their ability the problems, what has become of the Countess of Dudley's jewels? and who took the missing Gainsborough? are still unsolved. It is no wonder thieves are bold when so many of their moves have been crowned with success and a detection defied. They must be wonderfully expert, these disciples of Fagin. In the case of the Countess of Dudley's jewels they were stolen out of the maid's arms as she held them in a box at a railroad depot. The theory now is that whoever snatched them hurriedly pushed the box into an empty railway car and then returned and took them away leisurely an hour or two afterward, when the excitement, searching, &c., were over. The Gainsborough picture was cut from its frame on the very day of its sale for 10,000 guineas. It was locked up in a strong building in that extremely central locality, Bond street, before which policemen were patrolling all night. Another audacious robbery took place the other day in broad daylight at a railway station. A certain member of Parliament—an earl—arrived at a provincial railway station and found he had half an hour to wait. He strolled to the depot leisurely, but spoke to no one and no one came near him so far as he knows. As he was about to enter the train a gentleman sitting by his side said to him: "Have you not broken your watch-chain? I see it hanging." The chain had been cut, and the watch stolen! A lawyer told me that on one occasion he had a thief for client, he asked him to show him, to satisfy his curiosity, how he had done this very same thing, which was then created a discussion in the community. But before he had finished speaking the thief smilingly showed his learned counsel his watch, which he had abstracted as desired; and when the lawyer expressed astonishment at such wonderful dexterity, and laid his hand on his vest pocket in surprise, he found his watch was back again, safe and sound. The redoubtable Maskeyne himself would not be ashamed of such a neat bit of sleight of hand as this. Speaking of the celebrated conjuror, let me mention that this week he has offered some improvements in the already wonderful cabinet trick invented by the Davenport brothers. Maskeyne causes Cooke, his partner, to be tied up alone in the cabinet, thus exploding the theory that the two help each other to mite the knots. He also envelops Cooke completely in a fisherman's net, which is sown up and then, examined by a vigilance committee from the audience; also is whipped for lashing the wrists and ankles, being more difficult to unte than ropes; and still, in spite of all this, the cabinet doors are barely closed before hands appear, banjos and guitars are played, and trumpets blown; and when the door is frantically opened there sits Cooke, quite calm and serene as firmly as when they first tied up his net. Still the great feature of this entertainment is the wonderful automatic card-player Psycho. Professor Pepper, of "Ghost" renown, has invented something of the kind which I hear is almost as marvellous as Maskeyne's. But both are surpassed by a new Paris invention, if it has not been overhauled. We hear that a smart Parisian has invented an automaton which gives a sensible reply to any question asked it and in every case makes the response appropriate. We shall see this thing in its full perfection at the approaching Exhibition in Paris. As yet the inventor has not had time to construct a figure in human shape for his automaton talker and at present the replies come from a box, a small trunk full of wires and wheels of intricate machinery which only makes the performance more strange and glassy.—Olive Logan in Graphic.

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Wood, Morrell & Co., WASHINGTON STREET, Near PENN'A R. R. DEPOT, Johnstown, Pa. Wholesale and Retail Dealers in FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC DRY GOODS, MILLINERY GOODS, HARDWARE, QUEENSWARE, BOOTS AND SHOES, HATS AND CAPS, IRON AND NAILS, READY-MADE CLOTHING, CARPETS AND OIL CLOTHS, GLASS WARE, YELLOW WARE, WOOD AND WILLOW WARE, Provisions and Feed OF ALL KINDS, TOGETHER WITH WESTERN AND COUNTRY PRODUCE such as Fresh Meats, Flour, Bacon, Fish, Salt, Butter, Eggs, Carrots, &c., &c. Wholesale and retail orders solicited and promptly filled on the shortest notice and most reasonable terms.

DON'T YOU KNOW? CARPETS, OIL CLOTHS, CLOTHING, HATS, CAPS, BOOTS AND SHOES, IRON AND NAILS, READY-MADE CLOTHING, CARPETS AND OIL CLOTHS, GLASS WARE, YELLOW WARE, WOOD AND WILLOW WARE, Provisions and Feed OF ALL KINDS, TOGETHER WITH WESTERN AND COUNTRY PRODUCE such as Fresh Meats, Flour, Bacon, Fish, Salt, Butter, Eggs, Carrots, &c., &c. Wholesale and retail orders solicited and promptly filled on the shortest notice and most reasonable terms.

What to Do? OIL CLOTHS, CLOTHING, HATS, CAPS, BOOTS AND SHOES, IRON AND NAILS, READY-MADE CLOTHING, CARPETS AND OIL CLOTHS, GLASS WARE, YELLOW WARE, WOOD AND WILLOW WARE, Provisions and Feed OF ALL KINDS, TOGETHER WITH WESTERN AND COUNTRY PRODUCE such as Fresh Meats, Flour, Bacon, Fish, Salt, Butter, Eggs, Carrots, &c., &c. Wholesale and retail orders solicited and promptly filled on the shortest notice and most reasonable terms.

EBENSBURG BOOK, DRUG and VARIETY STORE. It is now prepared to sell at a great reduction from former prices. Our stock consists of Drugs, Medicines, Perfumery, Fancy Soaps, Hair, Halls and Toilet Articles, Stationery, Pens, Pencils, Arnold's Writing Fluid, Black and Red Ink, Pocket and Table Books, Magazines, Newspapers, Novels, Histories, Bibles, Religious, Prayer and Toy Books, Postives, Pipes, &c. We have added to our stock a lot of FINE JEWELRY, to which we would invite the attention of the Ladies. PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS at lower prices than ever offered in this place. Factured of the very best materials, and of the most artistic design. Wholesale or retail. LEMMON & MERRAY, July 30, 1895. Main Street, Ebensburg.

EBENSBURG INSURANCE AGENCY. T. W. DICK, Gen'l Insurance Agent, EBENSBURG, PA. Policies written at short notice in the OLD RELIABLE "ETNA" and other First Class Companies, Ebensburg, Sept. 22, 1876-77.

PARKE'S MARBLE WORKS 139 Franklin Street, Johnstown. MONUMENTS, HEAD AND TOMB STONES, COUNTER AND CARRIAGE SLABS, MANTELS, &c., manufactured of the very best Italian and American Marbles. Entire satisfaction guaranteed in price, design and character of work. Orders respectfully solicited and promptly filled at the very lowest cash prices. Try me. APRIL 24, 1893. JOHN PARKE.

WILKINSON & O'FRIEL, FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC MARBLE! Loretto, Pa. Work executed promptly and satisfactorily, and as cheap as the cheapest. (4-12-14) Miller House LATE "CORN HOUSE," Cor. Main and Pittsburgh Sts., GREENSBURG, PA. Very centre of town. Fronts the south entrance to the Court House. (19-4, 78-11) JOHN PORTER, Lessee. F. A. SHOEMAKER, ATTORNEY. F. A. SHOEMAKER, ATTORNEY. F. A. SHOEMAKER, ATTORNEY. F. A. SHOEMAKER, ATTORNEY.

MARVELS OF NATURE.

While the gastric juice has a bland, sweetish taste, it possesses a power of dissolving the hardest substances that can be swallowed. It is a powerful solvent of the living tissue, and it is with the power of the stomach that the body is built up.

There is dust on every particle of the valley, and on the mountain tops there is dust, always and everywhere. The atmosphere is full of it. It is the dust of the earth, and it is the dust of the sky. It is the dust of the sea, and it is the dust of the air. It is the dust of the sun, and it is the dust of the moon. It is the dust of the stars, and it is the dust of the planets. It is the dust of the universe, and it is the dust of life.

But this light, so mild and so gentle, is not blind, because it is not blind to the needs of the body. It is the light of life, and it is the light of hope. It is the light of the future, and it is the light of the past. It is the light of the present, and it is the light of the eternal. It is the light of the soul, and it is the light of the body. It is the light of the mind, and it is the light of the heart. It is the light of the spirit, and it is the light of the flesh. It is the light of the heaven, and it is the light of the earth. It is the light of the sun, and it is the light of the moon. It is the light of the stars, and it is the light of the planets. It is the light of the universe, and it is the light of life.

It is the light of life, and it is the light of hope. It is the light of the future, and it is the light of the past. It is the light of the present, and it is the light of the eternal. It is the light of the soul, and it is the light of the body. It is the light of the mind, and it is the light of the heart. It is the light of the spirit, and it is the light of the flesh. It is the light of the heaven, and it is the light of the earth. It is the light of the sun, and it is the light of the moon. It is the light of the stars, and it is the light of the planets. It is the light of the universe, and it is the light of life.

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