

The Great Tumbleweed of the Prairies.

During his wanderings in the great West, Mr. Daniel C. Beard, the well-known artist and naturalist, came upon a curious vegetable growth known popularly as the tumbleweed and scientifically as *Clethra alamoensis*.

A startling story is told by the veracious Western man of the plains on a shooting excursion. They had been out the greater part of the day without meeting with any game, and one of them was repeating for the hundredth time that their luck was 'beastly' when they noticed a large animal some distance away, which was approaching them in a leisurely and very unobtrusive manner, for it paused occasionally as if to study them.

The Englishman pointed the animal out to his companions, and they, among themselves that it must be a lion, though its movements were different from those of any four-legged animal they had ever seen before.

As such it was attracted by curiosity, that one of the hunters determined to beguile it by a device he had heard spoken of as very successful with the animal. Accordingly he lay upon his back and kicked his heels in the air, while the crack shot of the party prepared to shoot when the proper time arrived. The creature, however, did not approach and he was obliged to give up the idea.

The breeze had grown momentarily stronger, and though it was fortunately blowing toward them, it increased so much that it was not easy to get good aim. However, the animal had increased its pace, and with an occasional bound into the air, rapidly approached them.

The animal had been hit, for they could see the fur fly, but it paid no attention to the shot, unless it was to bound into the air, and it continued to approach so much that in a few minutes it was near enough to be easily distinguished. It was an uncouth monster of huge proportions, and progressed not in the usual way, but by a series of leaps.

The hunters were greatly startled by the appearance of this unknown animal, but they realized that they must lose no time in firing, and they wanted to keep it away. They all fired at once, but they wounded or killed the monster only once.

They paused in amazement for a moment, but were again startled by a sound when one of the hunters shouted that a whole herd of the monsters were upon them. True enough all over the plain they came with a frightful rapidity, creating such tremendous leaps that they seemed as many in the air as on the ground.

The hunters lingered no longer, but with the haste of terror threw their rifles from them, and for the purpose that they soon distanced their pursuers and found shelter, late in the town from whence they started. Their story caused a great sensation, and was not exactly the kind they had expected. Next morning it was found that the tourists had left for San Francisco.

The story, if not true, at least serves well to illustrate the habits of the great tumbleweed. This strange growth, which belongs to the pigweed family, is very abundant in the great American valleys, and is the cause of the huge specimens shown in the illustration to one foot or less in diameter.

It grows upon a disproportionately small stem which, in a high wind, is so stout as to sustain the mass until it is ripened and, when a slight gust of wind will suffice to blow it over and snap the brittle standard.

It now rolls like a ball over the surface, and being both light and elastic will perform a series of bounds over any impediment or bushes. In a high wind it will be blown to a point of utility to himself, and he may not comprehend the necessity for the existence of the tumbleweed at all; but in every created thing there seems to be inherent a continual effort to progress in kind. Examples for the working of this spirit cannot be necessary, for even in the cities, the trees—the alantins, for example, when they are blown to give evidence of it. The fantastic and seemingly senseless whirling, rolling and bounding of the tumbleweed when understood, tells the story of a unique method of scattering seeds.

PHENOMENA OF SOUND.—The following curious observation of sound has been carefully noted by an individual series of experiments. The whistle of the locomotive is heard 3,300 yards; the noise of a railway train, 2,900; an orchestra or roll of music, 1,800; the human voice reaches to a distance of 1,000; the croaking of frogs, 900; the croaking of chickens, 800; Distinct speaking is heard in the air from below up to a distance of 800 yards; from above it is only understood from a range of 150 yards downward. It has been ascertained that an echo is well-reflected from the surface of smooth water when the voice only comes from an elevation. Other similar phenomena connected with the transmission of sound have been made, but the results are not so clear from the inaccuracy of the observations or the varying nature of the circumstances affecting the numbers obtained.

Such variations occur to an extent of ten to twenty per cent, and even more. The weather being cold and dry and water wet are the chief influencing cases. In the first case the sound goes to a greater and the second to a lesser distance.

ERIE'S EXPERIENCE.—Another Erie City man writes: "I cannot express my thanks to you for the great benefit I received from the use of your 'Kidney Wort.' One bottle of each placed the fairly on my feet, after a long sickness, which had me in bed and then left me in a distance of three days, use of these remedies dispensed with the case, and in a week I was perfectly well."

Business agent, Erie Evening Herald. Ask your druggists for Dr. Hartman's Book on the "Hills of Life." He will give gratis. If not, address Dr. H. at Oberlin, O.

It has been found by experiment that a crumpled under a door large enough to push a penny through will let enough cold air in a room to require 400 extra pounds of coal per month.

Over 5000

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Messrs. Seabury & Johnson, Manufacturing Chemists, 21 Platt St., New York: Gentlemen:—For the past few years we have used various brands of Porous Plasters. Physicians and the Public prefer Benson's Capsine Porous Plaster to all others. We consider them one of the very few reliable household remedies worthy of confidence. They are superior to all other Porous Plasters or Liniments for external use.

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You will be disappointed if you use cheap Plasters, Liniments, Pads or Electrolic Magnetic Tapes.

A PERFECT REMEDY AT LAST. Price 25c. Benson's Capsine Plaster is a genuine Pharmaceutical product, of the highest order of merit, and is recognized by Physicians and Druggists.

PARKER'S HAIR BALSAM. The elegant hair dressing which has made it famous, is now made in a more perfect form than ever before. It is a perfect hair restorer, and will cure all kinds of itching humors, dandruff, and all other diseases of the scalp and hair.

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FIORISTO. It is a perfect perfume and is used by all the fashionable people of the world. It is a perfect perfume and is used by all the fashionable people of the world.

THE MILLER CUTLERY CO. MERIDEN CONN. U.S.A. Having attained a national reputation in the manufacture of fine pocket cutlery, we are enabled to offer to the public a complete line of pocket cutlery, including pocket knives, pen knives, and all other kinds of pocket cutlery.

STAINLESS STEEL PENS. We continue to receive orders for our stainless steel pens, which are made of the finest quality of stainless steel, and are guaranteed to be perfect in every respect.

AGENTS are seeking a barometer for sale. The barometer is a perfect instrument, and is used by all the fashionable people of the world.

MASON & HAMLIN'S ORGAN. The organ is a perfect instrument, and is used by all the fashionable people of the world. It is a perfect instrument, and is used by all the fashionable people of the world.

PHILADELPHIA SINGER MACHINE. The Singer machine is a perfect instrument, and is used by all the fashionable people of the world. It is a perfect instrument, and is used by all the fashionable people of the world.

JOHNSTON & SCANLAN. ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW. Office on Centre street, nearly opposite to the Court House.

THE SUN.

NEW YORK, 1888.

More people have read The Sun during the year just past than ever before since it was first printed. No other newspaper has so large a circulation as The Sun, and it is the only one that is read by so many people in so many parts of the world.

Because its news columns present to attractive and readable form the most important news of the day, and because it is the only newspaper that is read by so many people in so many parts of the world.

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VEGETABLE WONDERS.—The great entrance to the Botanic garden of Perugia is through a noble avenue of ficus rubber trees. This tree, which is known to us of the North only by puny specimens in greenhouses, grows in these tropical regions to a giant's stature, of a size comparable to that of our largest oaks. An immense crown of many thousand leaves covers with the aid of its horizontal limbs, which are thirty or forty feet long, the tree of stately palace; while from the base of its thick trunk extends a framework of roots over a space of often between one and two hundred feet, and which become much larger than would correspond with the height of the tree. This wonderful structure consists of twenty or thirty chief roots proceeding from the trunk and capable of holding up the tree in the most extraordinary manner. The roots of the trunk and spreading themselves like snakes on the ground. The tree is hence called the snake tree by the natives, and has been compared by the poets to the coiled serpents of the Laocoon. The roots, with the ribs which mark the swelling out from the trunk, form strong buttresses to the trunk, and are capable of holding up the tree in the most extraordinary manner.

Among the other arboreal wonders of Perandria are the giant bamboos that are a marvel to all visitors. They here form thickets along the banks of the river, and are of a height of one hundred feet high, and a hundred feet wide, bending their great heads, like the waving plumes of a giant, high over the river and the adjoining fields. The thickets are composed of cylindrical stems a foot or two thick, which, closely crowded together below on a common root, diverge as they rise, and bear on their tips a great number of thin, pointed leaves, which are of a length of one foot, and are of a thickness of one-eighth of an inch. The leaves are of a green color, and are of a length of one foot, and are of a thickness of one-eighth of an inch.

PROVIDENT RATS.—Rats are very apt to take heed for the morrow. Eggs, which they have been known to carry from the cellar to the garret, and other tempting food, instead of being devoured immediately, are stored away for the hour of need. A gentleman who fed his own pointers, noticed through a hole in the door that a number of rats ate from the trough with the dogs, which did no molesters. He resolved to shoot the intruders; so, when he served out the food he kept the dogs away. Not a rat came to feast, although he could see the trough full of food. He was so angry that he shot the rats, and fed them with his usual. The forethought of rats is indeed proverbial, and instead of being careless and selfish, the intelligent rat, as it is called, proved to be a dutiful, industrious, careful parent and friend in need.

TO REMOVE GREASE SPOTS.—If Mrs. P. will apply dry buckwheat flour at night to the spots, and wash it off in the morning the grease spots will have totally disappeared without injury to the texture or color of the choicest fabric. The flour is very soft, and it is a pleasure for me to give the knowledge to your numerous readers.—Cottage Health.

CHEAP! CHEAPER! CHEAPEST! HAY BROTHERS, Manufacturers, Wholesale and Retail. Tin, Copper, Sheet Iron Wares, and Dealers in Heating, Parlor and Cooking Stoves, Sheet Metals, House-furnishing Goods, Builders' Hardware, Carpenters' Tools, Table and Pocket Cutlery, Glassware, Queensware, Silver Ware, Wood and Willow Ware, Wall Paper, Paints, Oils, and all other kinds of goods.

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A DOG'S LONG WATCH.—A dog in New Mexico, returning one evening with his sheep to the fold, discovered that his master was still in his shanty and kept very quiet. The next evening he was very hungry, but his master did not move. The dog, true to his appointed duty, went out for the sheep on the third morning; but that night when he drove the flock into their pen the last one to attempt to get in became the victim of the dog's appetite. This method of providing for the sheep became a part of the faithful dog's duty. Every evening the sheep to try to enter was seized by him and served for supper and for breakfast and dinner the following day. The ranch to which the dog belonged was in a solitary part of the Territory, and out of the track of travel and visitation. For two years from the time of his master's death, ascertained by data left by the latter—the faithful dog attended the flock left in his charge, and had fresh meat for his supper every night. The flock was not decimated by the steady drain upon its resources. On the contrary it increased in numbers, and when, at the end of two years from the time of the death of the proprietor, the ranch was visited and the remains of the owner found, the dog was still at his post of duty, jealously guarding the flock, and driving them to the best pastures every day and to the fold at night, before which he slept, to keep the wild sheep-eaters of the plains at a civil distance.

CHAPPED HANDS.—The raw winds of late autumn often produce in the hands of those who are much exposed to them that roughness and cracking of the skin, known as chapping. If nothing is done to prevent, and the person is obliged to have his hands frequently wet and dried, the cracks will yet be deep and painful. Corn busing is frequently accompanied by sore hands. In the hands of those who are much exposed to them that roughness and cracking of the skin, known as chapping. If nothing is done to prevent, and the person is obliged to have his hands frequently wet and dried, the cracks will yet be deep and painful.

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