



THE GUINEA A PROFITABLE FOWL.

With the gradual disappearance of natural game birds there is growing up a demand in the cities for a domestic bird which has all the qualities of the game bird in color and texture of the flesh and the game flavor that epicures so much delight in. We refer to the guinea fowl, which has heretofore been kept more as an odd bird than because there was any particular profit in breeding it.

The guinea, as we know it, is but one of many varieties, all of which originally come from Africa. The ancient Romans were acquainted with the guinea fowl, but there is good reason for thinking that the guinea fowl of old Rome was one of the species found in eastern Africa, rather than the native of the west coast, which is found in large numbers in its native country, identical in shape and color with the guinea of our farmyards.

Guinea are fowls that do best when treated on the let-alone principle. They have a natural inclination to wander in the field and seek their own food. If given a wide range, such as they can have on a farm, they care little for the feeds of domestication, wandering forth early and staying abroad late, during all the year when they can find seeds, green stuffs and insects to eat.

In mating guineas, not more than two hens should be allowed for one cock, although occasionally a cock will mate with more than this number. In their natural state they mate in pairs, but under domestication they have broken away from the original plan and accept more than one mate. It requires from twenty-six to twenty-eight days to hatch guinea eggs, and it is best to hatch them under common hens.

When they are first hatched they are as wild as quails, and will run away and hide and finally become lost if they are not confined in a pen in which they cannot find a hole out of which to creep; and they will find the hole if it is there. A pen made of foot wide boards will keep them long enough so they will become accustomed to the mother hen. Once they get acquainted with their foster mother and learn her language they are very affectionate and will talk to her as they follow her about, never leaving her day or night. Indeed, they stay with the hens all the season and even through the winter.

Guinea are quite prolific layers, hiding their nests in the fields as does a turkey, unless they have been accustomed to sleeping in a house. If hatched with the hens they do not have such wild dispositions and frequently lay in the nests provided for hens, until about the time when they become broody, when they steal away and lay a clutch of eggs to hatch.

The young are quite tender for a few days and should be fed little and very often at first. In a short time they become hardy, and after that will endure any kind of weather that may come, even to sleeping out of doors in the coldest weather.

The eggs are small, but of good flavor, but there is no market demand for them, and, except for home consumption or for use in hatching they are not valuable.

Guinea hens are not good mothers. It must be a very favorable season in which a guinea hen will raise more than a few of the young she hatches. As a rule they wander about through damp grass until the young are mostly lost.—Indianapolis News.

CHICKEN TALK.

For a long time I have longed to return to the country, but as the way has been closed, three years ago I commenced to raise chickens in desperation on a city lot.

A friend said to me: "If you are determined to raise chickens you might as well raise big ones." I thought so myself and bought the biggest I could find—feathered elephants. The first year I raised a hundred with six hens. That fall as I looked my beautiful pullets exultantly over, I figured on getting four or five dozen eggs a day all winter, but the plain truth of the matter is, I didn't get four or five. But my flock was the admiration of the whole neighborhood. People would line up against my fence and watch my chickens, with the most unabated enthusiasm. Of course I felt flattered, but when it came to the question of eggs, I kept my thoughts to myself.

Once in a while an ardent chicken fancier would ask: "Do they lay?" Remembering the one or two eggs I had carried proudly in and laid out in state on cotton-battling, I would answer: "Oh, yes, they lay," and then silently ask the Lord to forgive me.

I loved my chickens and I could not betray them. But night and day I struggled with the egg problem, and asked myself over and over again: What, in the name of heaven, am I doing? I finally came to the conclusion that there must be something wrong with their internal machinery, but this did not dampen my ardor, and the next spring I raised another hundred. But with the same old story. For all the winter eggs I got, I might as well have raised guinea pigs. I puzzled over poultry books. I bought every known kind of feed. I provided grit, and chopped raw meat, and dug up bugs and worms, and about bank-

rupted myself buying winter lettuce, but still no eggs. Their combs were red, their feathers were glossy, their songs were gay and innocent, and their appetites something fearful to witness. It cost me almost as much to keep them as it would a drove of cows, and I finally made up my mind that I had better get some kind of a cinch on a feed store or give up raising chickens.

But the cloud was lifting, though I did not know it. In the latter part of June of that year, a boy came to my door with three tiny little black chickens in his hand and wanted me to buy them. I didn't like black chickens and I didn't want them, but they were so little and so helpless and so hungry that my heart went out to them, and I bought them on the spot; and that is the way I made the acquaintance of the Black Minorca.

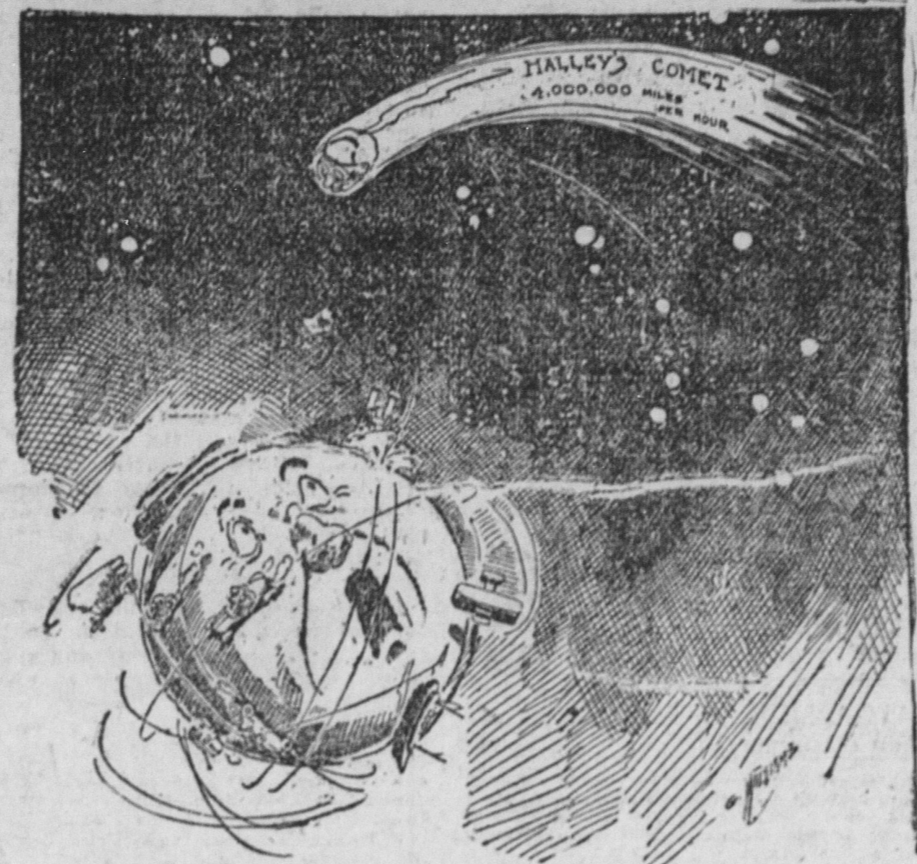
In two days those little chicks were running all over my yard, and digging and scratching and sipping and taking care of themselves in the brightest and most independent way, and at four and a half months they commenced to lay, and they laid all winter. And they were beauties, with the sheen and lustre and the trim carriage of the black bird. I had always liked chickens but it remained for the Black Minorca to thoroughly bewitch me. Their glossy black feathers and brilliant red combs and snow-white ear lobes were a delight to the eye, while their general air of being bright and wide-awake and of knowing more than any other created thing but added another rivet or two to the chain of my bondage. After a two or three years struggle with the chicken problem, I have found, if not the secret of success, why at least the next thing to it, and it means that all my heavyweights will have to go, and that if I want eggs I must raise a light-weight ranger. Neither the Minorca nor the Leghorn will stand confinement well, but put them on free range, and when it comes to eggs they will break the record of anything that ever wore feathers. They are very light eaters, they are healthy and hardy, and as I said before, their general air of knowing everything and a little more, is enough to make one sit up and take notice.—H. H. P. in the Indiana Farmer.

LACK OF GRIT.
Many who keep poultry overlook the importance of grit. Lack of grit means poor digestion and few eggs. A load of gravel near the chickens' home would improve the health and increase the egg yield on many a farm. It is claimed that the grit of commerce is the best, but the gravel is good enough grinding material. If you have never tried it you will be surprised how fast it will disappear when placed in a box where the hens can help themselves.—Farmers' Home Journal.

EGG PRODUCTION.
Three things are essential to heavy egg production. Early pullets, started laying early and kept at it. Green food and animal or meat food. Green food can be supplied in winter in the form of cabbage leaves, mangels, steamed alfalfa or clover. No better meat can be found than green ground bone. Commercial beef scraps are very good.—Farmers' Home Journal.

NOTES.
Lots of warmth in good corn. Fine for cold days.
Keep the old fighters apart and so remove them from temptation.
Egg-shells are largely lime. The hens can't make good shells unless you furnish plenty of lime.
Milk has albumen in it. Hens need lots of albumen and that is what they find in milk. Give them some every day if you can.
The claim is made that there are 20,000,000 hens in New York State. Think of it! An increase of one egg to the hen is \$400,000 in money.
On sunny days let the hens take a few turns out in the scratching shed. But see that the wind is on the right side of the building. Hens are very sensitive to raw winds.
The poultry product of Minnesota last year is said to have amounted to over \$30,000,000 and poultry authorities contend that the basis of computing the figures was a very conservative one.
It sometimes troubles young poultry keepers, who have never lived on the farm, to know when the hen gets old. The spurs are a pretty good thing to go by. You do not see long spurs on young hens.
Ice-cold water can not help chilling the hens. It must be warmed up somehow, and that takes vitality. Save the hen's strength of body by warming the water. You can do it cheaper than the hen can.

The Earliest Aeroplane.
The earliest effort to construct a machine which, according to modern ideas, is entitled to be called an aeroplane, was undoubtedly that of William Henson, in 1842.
Prince Rupert and his fellow-adventurers, with a charter granted by Charles II, were the pioneers of the now famous Hudson Bay Company.
When a woman does her hair the way her husband likes it, it is a sign, to the Dallas News, that he likes the way she does it.



THE EARTH—AND I THOUGHT I WAS GOING SOME.

—Cartoon by G. Williams, in the Indianapolis News.

HALLEY'S COMET HIDES ITS TAIL

Its Disappearance For Two Months Was Noted on Previous Visit—Not Likely to Be Visible to the Naked Eye For Some Time.

Chicago.—Minus its tail, its lustre dimmed to a point below the light of a sixth magnitude star, but rushing earthward at the exact place its schedule prescribed, Halley's comet returned to the ken of astronomers, and for more than half an hour before dawn was watched from Yerkes Observatory at Williams Bay, Wis., by Professors Frost and Bernard, working independently. That the spectrum may show what has happened to the apparently lost tail of Halley's comet is the belief held by Professor Frost.

"It is worth noting that when it was here before in 1835 the tail disappeared two days before the perihelion, and was not seen again for two months," he said. "Halley's is the only comet ever known to behave like this. It is probable that the tail is there, but is so dispersed that it is not bright enough to be seen."

"The theory of its being foreshortened or the head being between us and the tail is altogether untenable. A comet's tail always points away from the sun, and if there have been any pictures printed in which this was not the case they are incorrect. Sometimes a second tail appears, and this freak tail may point toward the sun, but the main tail always points away."

"If the tail is there and is merely invisible to our eyes the spectroscopic method should show it. There was, of course, no such instrument when the comet was here in 1835. We hope to be able to use the spectroscope on it in a short time, and may prove that the tail is present by this means. The fact that the spectroscopic did not reveal its presence would not necessarily mean that the tail is not there, however, for it might be too dim for that instrument."

COMET WON'T HARM US.

Its Track is 13,000,000 Miles From the Earth, But Its Tail Will Reach Us.

Washington, D. C.—Willis L. Moore, chief of the Weather Bureau, issued a statement that will bring peace of mind to folks who are worrying about a possible collision with Halley's comet. Here is what Chief Moore has to say:

"Popular apprehension regarding harm to the earth and its inhabitants during the impending visit of Halley's comet to this portion of the universe is unfounded. The result of a collision between the earth and a comet would depend upon the mass of the comet, the velocity of the bodies and the angle of impact. A collision in the present case will be impossible owing to a safety margin between the tracks of the earth and the comet of some 13,000,000 miles. The tail of the comet through which the earth will probably pass will be noticeable only as an absolutely harmless luminous gas or dust, and may produce electrical and magnetic effects that can be detected only by self-recording instruments. A source of possible

danger or discomfort to the earth attending cometary visits would be the falling into the sun of a comet. As the least distance between Halley's comet and the sun in the present instance will be more than 54,000,000 miles the possibility of discomfort from solar excitations will not exist."

Halley's comet was sighted by Professor Asaph Hall, U. S. N., at the Naval Observatory through a powerful telescope. At 4:59 o'clock in the morning Professor Hall saw the dim outlines of the approaching comet. Its position was one hour and forty minutes west of the sun. The comet should have been visible during the past week, but its approach was obscured by cloudy weather. This was the first time the comet has been sighted in this city. On May 19 next the earth will pass through its tail, and after that date the comet will be visible only in the evening. It will then be leaving the earth, not to reappear again for about seventy-five years.

TO MARK LINE OF LINCOLN'S MARCH IN INDIAN WAR

Illinois Representative Takes Up Prosecution of Interesting Historical Project—Only Oldest Inhabitants Have Memory.

Burlington, Iowa.—Representative Frank O. Lowden, of Illinois, a former Burlington resident, has taken up the prosecution of a historical project of interest to Western Illinois and to this part of Iowa. By the donation of a sum of money he has furthered the project of setting up permanent markers to outline the march which Abraham Lincoln took up in the Black Hawk war. Only the oldest inhabitants in those regions now have any memory of the course of that campaign, which is not adequately outlined in history.

The object of the markers will be to fix permanently the line of march and the camping grounds planned by the martyr President. The way led across the prairies of Illinois to the Mississippi River at a point near Burlington, then known as Flint Hills. The march was made from Beardstown, Ill., to Oquawka, then known as the Yellow Banks on account of the peculiar coloring of the river shore line. From Oquawka the route was laid to the mouth of the Rock River.

There were two expeditions in the Black Hawk war, one in 1831, when Black Hawk escaped from the prairies and crossed the Mississippi, and the second in the following year, when Black Hawk returned to the Illinois shore with the determination to remain.

Lincoln was made captain of one of the companies which took up the campaign against the Indians. The expedition gave several names to the localities along the route which are still borne. It is interesting to note

that twenty-five years after his brush with Black Hawk Lincoln, when he was coming into prominence, again visited Yellow Banks, and, after making a speech there, came to Burlington by boat. Yellow Banks had become Oquawka and was a thriving village.

HISTORIC ELM SAVED.

Washington Tree on Cambridge Common Given New Lease of Life.

Cambridge, Mass.—After considerable hard work on the part of the Cambridge Park Department officials the Washington Elm on the Cambridge Common has been put in excellent condition and probably will live for many years to come.

According to the report, just issued, strenuous measures—the same as were used on the historic tree—are being used to save the trees bordering Decatur street, many of which have been badly eaten by the elm leaf beetle.

On the Washington Elm much of the dead wood was removed, the tree was sprayed twice with arsenate of lead and watered twice a week from a perforated pipe, which was laid a year ago. It was also watered frequently from a near-by hydrant.

High Price of Beef and Mutton Leads the Poor to Try Goat Meat.

Brooklyn, N. Y.—Brooklyn is "getting the goat" of a lot of people these days because of the high cost of living. With the prices of beef, mutton, lamb and pork soaring, the poor of the borough are turning to the meat of "Nannie" and "Billy" for food.

For the first time in its history the flesh of goats is being offered for sale in the poorer quarters of the borough. The price is from five to seven cents a pound lower than lamb or mutton.

Drags Babe From Fire.

Sayre.—Leaving her house and her infant daughter to enjoy a gossip with a neighbor, Mrs. Chester McCracken returned to her home to find the place in flames. She knew the location of the cradle that held her 18-months-old daughter and through the smoke and flames she rushed. She found the covering of the cradle had burned and the gown of the infant was on fire.

She clutched the baby and hurried back through the fire. When in the air and thinking her baby had been burned to death she fainted. The mother is now in the hospital, suffering from severe burns. The baby died at 5 o'clock.

The McCracken house was destroyed, the flames spreading to the home of Verne Tiffany and the residences of E. M. Roberts and R. C. Callier, all of which were damaged.

Found Dead In Bathroom.

Carlisle.—Peter Wertz, president of the Farmers' Trust Company of Carlisle, and general manager for a score of years of the Carlisle Branch Manufacture of the Standard Chain Company, of Pittsburgh, was found dead in the bathroom at his home here. Death was due to heart failure.

Deserts Bride At The Altar.

Tamaqua.—James Minds, of Hometown, and Miss Annie Vomen, of McAdoo, were to have been married here by Justice of the Peace Leopold. While the witnesses and a few invited guests were assembling the prospective bridegroom left the office for the alleged purpose of having a check cashed, and that was the last seen of him. It is believed that Minds boarded a freight train for other parts.

Memorial To J. Gust Zook.

Lancaster.—As a memorial to her late husband, Mrs. J. Gust Zook has bequeathed the sum of \$2,000 to St. James' Episcopal Church, to be used for the erection of a robing room for the choir.

Auto For Schuylkill Sheriff.

Pottsville.—At a meeting of the Schuylkill County Commissioners it was decided as economy of the county in car fares to purchase an automobile for Sheriff P. J. Murphy. It is claimed the Sheriff's office will in this way save three-fourths of the traveling expenses incurred in former years.

Pays \$500 For Book.

Lebanon.—William J. Campbell, a book dealer, of Philadelphia, has paid Henry Hellman, of Sunnyside, a suburb of this city, \$500 for a book a quarter of an inch thick, with thirty-two pages, measuring only 3 1/2 by 6 inches. "Mystische und sehr Geheimne Sprüche," is the title of the volume, and it was printed in Philadelphia in 1739 by Benjamin Franklin. So far as known, it is the only copy in existence. Campbell bought it for a book collector of the Quaker City, who is said to have a splendid collection of Franklin's works. Hellman, who is a wealthy miller and farmer, secured the book several years ago at a sale in Lancaster County. He did not appreciate the value of the book when he saw it first, but recognizing that it had more than ordinary value, he bid it up to \$5, and it was knocked down to him for that sum.

Government Of Cities.

Wilkes-Barre.—Mayor Kniffen, of this city, in a published statement, comes out strongly in favor of the commission form of government for cities. He says after a study of the subject he is convinced that a board of commissioners can do better work than a councilmanic body. The Mayor also declares that if the next Legislature should pass a law providing for a form of government of cities by commission he would not stand in the way but would resign at once.

There has been friction between Mayor Kniffen and the Councils for some time past, the crisis being reached when Councils passed an important resolution over the Mayor's veto.

Entire Block Burned.

Kittanning.—The power house of the Kittanning Electric Light Company and the Kittanning & Leechburg Street Railway Company, a brick building covering an entire block, was destroyed by fire. The loss is estimated at \$200,000. Exploding gas accumulated in a generator started the blaze.

Crosses Continent To Wed.

Bethlehem.—Traveling across the continent to become a bride, Miss Mary Hunt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Hunt, of this place, a talented musician, was married at Spokane, Wash., to J. Fred Farquhar, formerly of this city, but now of Moscow, Idaho. Mr. Farquhar is a graduate of Lafayette College and a son of Professor T. M. Farquhar, superintendent of the Freeland public schools.

Chester.—While kindling a fire with headlight oil at her home Susie Hendrixson, a 12-year-old girl, was badly burned. Her clothing caught fire and she was enveloped in flames until a neighbor wrapped a piece of carpet about her. The child was preparing dinner for her father, Samuel Hendrixson, who is very ill.

No Money In The Ministry.

Reading.—At the close of the fifteenth annual session of the Reading Classis of the Reformed Church, held in Grace (Alsace) Church, Rev. M. L. Herbine, of Reading, created a stir in submitting his report. He recounted the hard work of a country preacher, with little compensation, and said that he was considering giving up the ministry for some other profession or business in which there was more chance of success. The statement came as a surprise to the classis.

Good Trout Season.

Harrisburg.—In spite of the absence of rain Fish Commissioner William E. Meehan says the prospects are good for the trout season, which opened Thursday night and will continue until July 31.

"According to all accounts trout fishing this year will be excellent," said the commissioner. "With the exception of Susquehanna, County streams and several others, where the drought has affected the creeks, fishing will be unusually good."

"It is probable that no very large fish will be caught, but there should be plenty from six to eight inches in the waters. Some streams have already been fished for trout, but I do not believe this will affect the sport."

Reports from the best fishing streams, such as Broadheads, show that the streams really contain many trout. The streams in Clinton, Clearfield, Lycoming, Tioga, Monroe and Pike are all said to be in the best of condition for trout fishing and all of these streams are well stocked.

Woman Led Hold-Up.

Pittsburg.—The police are working upon the theory that a woman was the instigator of the bank hold-up at the Victor Banking Company, McKees Rocks, one week ago, when two officials of the bank were killed and all the ready cash was taken from the vault by four masked persons. Two women are under arrest.

Katie Prosk, employed in the household of Dr. J. A. Ruben, of McKees Rocks, has revealed information why she drew \$300 from the bank on the afternoon of the hold-up.

The police will not reveal the name of the second prisoner, but acknowledge it is a woman.

"While we cannot discuss the details," said Chief Henry Muth, of the county detective force, "we now know that the hold-up was planned and may have been executed with the assistance of a woman. We do know the names of two of the men implicated and we believe the lookout, whose gun did such terrible execution, was a woman attired in male garments."

"From our information she is a veritable Amazon, planning the entire hold-up and still with decency enough to notify some of her close friends to withdraw their money from the institution."

Fight Mine Fire.

Cannonsburg.—Flames threaten to consume Manifold Coal Mine No. 1, owned by the Youngbushen & Ohio Coal Company, six miles from here. Sixty streams of water are being poured down the shaft, but frequent falls of slate and caving timber retard the progress of the volunteer firemen. Union miners, on strike, waiting for a settlement of their wage demands, are manning the hose lines.

State After \$5,000,000.

Demurrers to the actions in equity brought by the Commonwealth to recover nearly \$5,000,000 as the result of the Capitol furnishing frauds, will probably be filed within the next two weeks. At a conference held here by attorneys representing all defendants except T. Larry Byre, who has filed a denial and answer, the pleadings were discussed and arrangements made for the defense.

Announce November Wedding.

York.—Miss Grace E. Keller, a school teacher, and Alfred D. Horn were secretly married last November in Williamsport. Miss Keller is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Keller, and has taught school for the past five years.

Steel Trust Raises Wages.

Pittsburg.—An advance in the pay of thousands of employees of the various subsidiary companies of the United States Steel Corporation equal to about six per cent, is said to have practically been decided upon. The changes expected principally for laborers and men getting less than \$100 a month.

Body Rolls Out In Grave.

York.—While the body of William E. Randall was being lowered into the grave at York one of the straps tore, allowing the coffin to fall heavily to the bottom of the grave. The coffin broke open and the body rolled out. The mourners, greatly shocked by the accident, were ordered to return to the church until the body and coffin could be rearranged.

Sunday Rest For Steel Employees.

Pittsburg.—Not only on the Bessemer & Lake Erie Railroad, as previously announced, but on nearly a dozen other lines subsidiary to the United States Steel Corporation, is Sunday work to be abolished. It is learned. The order just issued for Sunday rest of practically all the great steel company's employees in mills and railroads is to include upwards of 100,000, it is said.

Thief Works Under Cover Of Noise.

Chester.—While trains rumbled by the house burglars operated in the home of Jacob R. Buchanan, near Cram Lynne Station, securing a large quantity of silverware and about \$20 in money.

Progressive Party Pre-empted.

Harrisburg.—The name of the Progressive party was pre-empted for elections in Pennsylvania this fall by John R. Hart, Francis Wood, Fremont Bowman, Albert A. Redifer and George D. Cox.

Philadelphia Charters Issued.

The following Philadelphia charters have been issued: Anderson & Jansson Company, capital \$10,000; The Caloris Company, capital \$50,000; P. Meehan Company, capital \$15,000.

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