

HER BIRTHDAY GIFT.

HER BIRTHDAY GIFT. (Emily Read in Godley's Lady's Book.) "We should not count our years a misfortune, and to be candid, this, my 40th birthday, is the one day of my life that I have constantly looked forward to with satisfaction."

"I did not run," he said, hotly; "I stayed quite long enough to see that some friends doubted me; not you, I am sure. Even that I could have borne if Frances had been true."

London's Importation of Birds. (Warehouse Man and Draper.) To specify minutely the number of birds which are imported from Calcutta each month in seemingly inexhaustible quantities would simply be to catalogue the denizens of an Indian jungle. It is somewhat perplexing, however, to conjecture what will be done with 44,351 green parrots, even supposing them distributed over two continents; but probably many will be dyed a less vivid color, for it is by no means a modicum's great ambition to be true to nature, and an art that admits of blue roses and dog-daisies will readily receive parrots of unknown hues."

AN AFRICAN "CONJUR" DOCTOR. An Interview with "Snakey Jake"—A Youdon Physician's Outfit. (Athens (Ga.) Banner.) There lives near Athens an old negro man, now verging on three score and ten, known as "Snakey Jake," and who has long been recognized as authority on the dark art by his race. Jake is a full blooded African—in fact, he claims that his ancestors were great "medicine men" in the black kingdom, who handed down to him the secret knowledge that he now enjoys. This old negro, with his snow white wool and ebony skin, has the eye of a hawk, and in speaking of his work, his tone and bearing almost convince one that he is honest in his convictions.

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"How do you know she did?" I asked. "You gave her no chance to speak. People said dreadful things of you which you did not deny, but ran away."

"I heard it last week," he said, and then added, "You have just left her?" "Yes," I said, "we have been keeping her birthday."

A Good Story (New York Herald.) The romance of the return of Charles R. Bishop, the reputed granite mason and son-in-law to the king of the island which islands, to his native home at Sandy Hill, bringing with him millions of dollars, is a story which is being told in a letter to a relative. He says, "I need hardly tell you that Sandy Hill was not my birthplace; that I left there early in 1848, not 1848; came around Cape Horn to Honolulu; did not visit California until 1868; was not a lawyer, did not go with the king to Washington; was never grand or any other chamberlain; did not marry the Princess Ruth (she was my wife) until I had made millions; and have not thought of returning to Sandy Hill to reside. I have lived too many years in this pleasant climate, and am now too far along in life to think of going back to a cold climate to reside. I know of no other place so favorable to old people as this. Here is my home, my largest interest, my proper field of labor, and here is the grave of the one who was dearest to me on earth. By and by I may travel for a while, but my hopes and plans have been so sadly and suddenly changed that I am still unable to say just what I will do."

Death Rate of Colored Troops. (Exchange.) According to the United States surgeon general's annual report the death rate for colored troops has, for the first time since their organization, fallen below that for white troops. Their mortality from respiratory affections—usually pneumonia—is more than four times as great as that of white troops.

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