

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."
"You gave her no chance," I maintained. "Do you think I have forgotten that miserable evening? It all seems as yesterday; the birthday fete, the color of the sunset clouds, the pink ribbon Frances wore in a knot at her throat. Poor girl! she was as white as her dress when her own father accused you of—"

LONDON'S IMPORTATION OF BIRDSKINS.

[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 44,381 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 modest'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.

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Fashion in Poker Chips.

[New York Sun.]
"Poker chips," said a man who deals in these necessary adjuncts to a game of draw and is himself a player of some twenty odd years of experience, "are selling very rapidly now, and as far as my own experience is concerned, the game becomes more popular every hour.

A Laughing Plant.

[Vick's Flower Magazine.]
This is not a flower that laughs, but one that creates laughter, if the printed stories of travelers are to be believed. It grows in Arabia, and is called the laughing plant, because its seeds produce effects like those produced by laughing gas.

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.

Danger Ahead.

[New York Graphic.]
We are in danger of having too much culture in this country. An aesthetic buff colored pug recently went mad in Boston because his mistress dressed him in a light green blanket.