### THE MILL.WHEEL'S SONG.

Round and round the mill wheel goes, From early morn till night; The mill-stream turns it as it flows, And then runs out of sight. But there the old mill-wheel remains, And lets the mill-stream run, And if it shines, or if it rains, It sings, at set of sun:

Drip, drip, drip, drip, drip, drip, drip, Many a wave from off of me will bear a gal lant ship! Drip, drip, drip, drip, drip, drip, But for me the miller in the tavern could not sip!

Round and round I cannot go When the bleak winter comes And wind and snow do bravely blow: And when the brown bee hums, I hear the children laugh and play, I hear the crackling corn. And merrily, all through the day, The gay wind blows his horn:

Furn, turn, turn, turn, turn, turn, turn, I make the fires in the cots upon the hill-side burn! Turn, turn, turn, turn. turn, turn, turn, When man is older than the world he need

Round and round I gaily turn From spring till autum flies: My humble role I do not spurn, Nor pass my life in sighs. I do the very best I can, And try to be content; And, since my modest life began, I've sung, when day was spent:

not live to learn!

Swish, swish, swish, swish, swish, swish, swish.

I clothe the good wives' children and fill the good wives' dish! Swish, swish, swish, swish, swish, swish,

swish.

The corn I crack pays for the good wives' meat and bread and fish!

Round and round I do not pass When long days go to sleep: Not when the lads have each a lass, As down the road they creep! I sometimes catch the whispers low, And sometimes catch a kiss, As by the old red mill they go-Next day I sing like this:

Dash, dash, dash, dash, dash, dash, dash, Gayly now I turn the yellow corn to yellow cash!

Dash, dash, dash, dash, dash, dash, dash, Just listen to the song I sing as waters from

me splash! -John E. McCann, in Once a Week.

WHITE AGAINST RED.

Directly following the close of the Indian campaign in which the gallant Custer lost his life, there was a year of dangerous peace on the frontiers. I mean by that that while the redskins were supposed to have been thrashed into submission, and while they were apparently at peace, they lost no oppor-tunity to murder helpless people. The whites were bound by honor to observe the peace and to trust them to a certain timit and knowing this, the more disinto submission, and while they were apparently at peace, they lost no oppor-tunity to murder helpless people. The were more settled, but with dissatisfied

Black Serpent, who was the son of of thieving. The three bucks whom to do, I left that all to him. About a week later I was called upon a camp on the Emoky Hill stage route, and as I was ready to set out several of my friends came to me and cautioned me to look out for Black Scrpent, who had been seen the day before about ten miles from the fort and directly on the route I should travel. According to the terms of surrender he should have been under supervision at the agency, dishorsed and disarmed, but here he was, galloping about on a war pony, armed with a Winchester and a navy revolver, and lying in wait to do murder. I was as ready as I could be to encounter him. I had the same firearms and a splendid horse, and unless he ambushed me he would have no odds in his favor. Fo far as animal cunning goes the American Indian has no superior on earth. He is quick of ear and vision, keen to take in a situation, and he reasons pretty well up to a certain point. Novelists have, however, ele-vated him too high. A white man who has been trained in the Indian country can see, hear or smell just as keenly, run just as fast, shoot better, go without

make an easy journey of it by riding about forty miles and camping for the night. He knew this would be the way of it, and he had no intention of attack-ing me during daylight. I kept on at the same deady pace dur-ing the afternoon, he ng twice to water

s during the aftermy horse. Three noon I got sly kept at a re

less chuck of being what is called a "dry had camp, wi s, with no water at hand. nt herbage for my horse, but I know he would not wander far, and that no Indian living could stampede him or ride him away. I knew from the actions of the animal as soon as I dismounted that there was another horse near by, but I built a fire and toasted my meat, and had enough water in my canteen to make a cup of coffee. Black Serpent would not be in a hurry.

When an Indian is trailing you he likes to enjoy his triumph. He plays with you as a cat does with a mouse. Ten o'clock would be soon enough for him, and I sat in plain view of my fire smokinfi until after 9. Then I smothered the was fifty feet from the fire.

It was, as near as I could figure it about an hour when the young buck came creeping up from the direction anticipated. I'll give him credit for passing over the ground an event. passing over the ground as noiselessly as a rabbit could have moved. He had left his rifle behind, calculating to use his knife on me. He was all of twenty minutes creeping his last twenty feet. ard I sometimes doubted if my eyesight had not deceived me. He was within six feet of the dummy before he detected it, and then he sprang high in the air and uttered his death-whoop, knowing that I was laying for him. He came down in a heap at the crack of my ride, and he came after the things. It was explained was dead when I got to him. I kept to him that the men had threatened my was dead when I got to him. I kept his entire outfit, sending word to his friends what had happened, and that I held myself answerable to them, but no one troubled me about it, even to lay grunt of approval, and said: claim to any of the property. "Man-Who-Rides-Fast do just right.

I was still in the employ of the Gov-ernment as a scout and rider, and it was any luck to bring about the capture of friends declared that I should pay for the should pay for the brock and vickar, one of the character and the character and the character and the character and the capture of friends declared that I should pay for the should pay for the should pay for the character and the four bucks who were guilty of murder- the "indignity" with my life. It was the grand fete day was in the street ing an old man. They were awaiting trial, when a young warrior named but a great indignity to pay the penalty the Czar and his magnificent retinue as Black Servert who are the the Tail one of the arrested men, sent me word that he would have my life in revenge. I was stationed at Fort Hays, and he sent word in by a trader. Black Sernest was an arbitrary and were supposed trader. Black Serpent was an Apache, and was described to me as being about most of the time and ripe for any mistwenty-three years of age, strong, neet, and as cunning as a fox. I did not know him by sight, while he doubtless about eighty miles apart. I took two had the advantage of knowing me. In days to go and two to return, and, then, two or three instances when such mes- after a rest of two days, I made the trip sages have been brought in they were again. This had been the programme accompanied by the further information for two months, and the Indians knew that the sender would be at a certain | it and could count on my wherabouts at place at a certain hour. The recipient a certain date. For twenty-five miles of had his choice to show up and kill or be the journey I had a stage road and was Vickar, of Chicago. He sent for him, killed in a fair exchange of shots, or re- sure of company. For twenty miles and "Brock" brushed up a little and killed in a fair exchange of shots, or re-turn the message in contempt, and take his chances of being assassinated. Black being many hunters and trappers and Serpent gave me no alternative. He scouts out. The dangerous part of the meant to catch me of my guard and kill country was confined to about twentyfive miles." The route lay along the base While it wasn't very pleasant to have of a mountain-up a valley-over a sharp such a threat hanging over a man, I did not worry much about it. Indeed, it was the habit of every scout to take all would attack me if they held to their possible precautions anyhow. I simply threat. Just as the trail left the base of felt that I had the right, he having sent the mountain to take to the valley there me the message, to shoot the young buck was a canon making into the great on sight, and as for what he was going mound, and the trail ran within thirty feet of its mouth before turning to the left. If the weather was good I always to make a ride of about seventy miles to passed this point in going West at about him. w o'clock in the morning. In going the other way I arrived about sundown, and made my camp in the bushes growing around a spring. I figured that the Indians would shoot me down as I rode up to the spring. or very soon after I had dismounted. They would then drag my body up the canon and conceal it, and lead my horse as far up as possible and then kill him. I would be missed and searched for, but it might be a week before any trace was discovered. By that time the wolves and vuitures would have left nothing to idestify, and the assassins would have been conspicuously present at the agency. It is still the unwritten law of the frontier that when a man threatens your life, even if he is drunk at the time, you are expected to protect yourself by shooting him first. I had witnesses that these Indians had threatened to wipe me these indians had threatened to when me out. I was expected to shoot any one of them on sight. I'd have been called a fool or a coward to take any other course. It was the cunning of the red man against the wisdom of the white. If I Just as fast, shoot better, go without food and water just as long, and when it comes to "figuring" he can beat the sharpest redskin by a length. I don't say this because I had to figure against Black Serpent, but because I have seen it proved in fifty instances. When an Indian plots against as white man he plots something to be executed under cover of darkness. While my route law plots something to be executed under cover of darkness. While my route lay over a lonely and broken country, small detachments of soldiers were shifting about, and I reasoned that Black Ser-pent would hardly take the chances of an ambush. The report of his gun might be heard, or he might be seen in the locality of the deed and suspected of it. While he would have an opportunity at every

mile of the journey to shoot at me from behind rock, or bush, or ridge, I rode along without special vigilance, arguing for reasons above given, that he would not dare to do it. It was 1 o'clock in the afternoon be-the timbered ridge he would rejoin his

It was 1 o'clock in the afternoon be-fore I knew that he was on my trail. As I rose a ridge I caught sight of him about a mile away, but my observation was so slyly made that he could not say I had detected him. He had been con-cealed in a gully about five miles back. I learned afterward that a half breed who hung about the fort had told him that I would probably be sent off in that direction, and that he had been en-camped in the gully for three days and watching for me. Black Serper was doing just as I reasoned he would— waiting for night. I intended to make an easy journey of it by riding

mouth of the canon just as he approached the spring. For a moment I was ready to acknowledge that I was beaten at my line of reasoning, as I could see nothing of the redskins, but while the horse wa

drinking, the would-be assassing, who ag twice to water during the after-my pursuer, who s during the alter-f my pursuer, who istance, and doubt-istance, and doubt-istance, and doubt-istance, and doubt-f my pursuer, who his rifle, and they had come to kill me. Their actions proved it. They waited three or four minutes to see why I did not come up, and were then about to move forward when I opened fire. I move forward when I opened fire. I dropped Half Moon in his tracks, tumbled Cloudy Day over as he sprang for shelter, and fired upon, but missed, Red Earth as he dodged behind a great boulder. Had he jumped backward into the canon he would have had all the advantage, but in his sudden surprise he made three or four leaps, and took shelter between me and the spring.

I should not have fired upon him had he run off, and if he had asked for a truce I should have granted it. But he was determined to have my life. He had a good Winchester, and he got such secure cover that I was obliged to lie low and let him do all the shooting. He blaze for five minutes, and during this interval rigged up my blankets to make a "dummy." When I retreated into the darkness and looked back, the figure was yelled out to me that he had me dead to rights and he would soon lift my scalp, good enough to deceive anybody. Black Serpent would not approach on my trail but from exactly the opposite direction, and I crept away in the darkness until I out had we been left undisturbed, but my horse presently came to my aid. The firing had excited him, and he had been

trained to look upon an Indian as av enemy. He saw the red skin down be hind the rock and charged him savagely. The fellow sprang up and exposed him self, and I was waiting for the oppor tunity.

The three Indians had come to the ambush on horseback. I took their ponies, rifles, and other truck to the post with me and turned them over to the commandant. He sent word to the head men of the tribe at the agency of what had happened, and a chief named Lame Deer, accompanied by three bucks. life and were in ambush to shoot me down, and Lame Deer took a pull at his whisky bottle, looked me over with s

Injun must let him alone. Who got smoke tooack for Lame Deer?"-New York Sun.

He Saved the Czar,

# QUEER BIRDS.

LIVING IN FRIENDSHIP WITH ANIMALS.

Subterranean Tenantry - The Feath red Friend of the lihinoceros and the Faithful Channa.

There are few visitors to the country districts of this State who have not been amused by noticing the sedate antics of sundry sun-dried looking little owls who, perched upon the rail fence or near hillocks, bow gravely to the passers by, They are by no means shy, or, perhaps, their apparent want of timidity is due to their poor sight: at any rate they can be easily knocked over. When shot, how-ever, they are found to be very poor game, not much better than carrion. As they stand blinking and ducking by the roadside they look to be quite a decentsized bird, but when examined after being shot they are found to be 70 per cent. feathers. Worse than that, these feathers are full of lice, and altogether the owl is found to be a very dirty and disappointing game. Another peculiarity appointing game. Another peculiarity to be remarked concerning these birds is that they are always found in localities that are infested by gophers or prairie dogs, and a little patient observation will show that gophers and owls or prai-rie dogs and owls live together as a hybrid community.

The owl is known as the burrowing owl, and though anything but an attractive creature, is to be commended for the wisdom it has shown in the selection of its home. The hole of the prairie dog is quite a pleasant place, cool in summer and warm in winter, and that of the gopher is very much like it. From the entrance the passage into the mound descends vertically for one or two feet, and is thence continued obliquely downward, until it terminates in the living apartment. It is globular in form, and generally compactly lined with dried grass. What the exact terms of the community are, is not known, but it is evident that the members live on terms of peace and good will. It is certain, too, that the owls live intimately with the rodents, and that they lay their eggs and and bring up their young in the holes. Whether the rodents lay toll on the eggs for rent or the owls occasionally take a nip at the young squirrels or gophers cannot be said, but both suppositions are possible. It is a curious fact that the cry of the owl, cheh, cheh ' pronounced several times in rapid succession, is that of the rodent with whom he associates and that some



EUROPEAN CUCKOO. The American burrowing owls are found

west of the Rocky Mountains, being especially numerous on the plains of the great plateau. They are strictly diurnal latter it cuts off the hinder end and frees the body from the intestinal canal by repeated jerks with its sharp bill. by repeated jerks with its sharp bill. The males are more numerous than the females, and are bold and fierce. In

The American cuckoo is a smaller bird, seldom longer than twelve and one-half inches or wider across the wings than sixteen inches. The general color of the bird's back and wings is a light greenish brown, the under parts being grayish white. They are shy birds,



SECRETARY BIRD.

frequenting the dense woods and solitary swamps. The notes resemble the word "Cowcow," repeated several times with increasing rapidity; hence one of its names; it is also called the rain crow and cowcow. Its food consists of caterpillars, insects, wood snails and berries. Its flight is rapid, but its gait on the ground is very awkward. It is found in all parts of the United States, though nowhere in great numbers; but there is another cuckoo, called the mangrove cuckoo, which is rarely seen out of Florida

Intruder and dishonest as the cuckoo is, he is a positive gentleman beside the crow. The crow is a born thief-a petty larcenist of the worst description. devours the eggs of the birds as a matter of principle. He murders a weak or wounded bird with malignity. He delights to worry the owl and to tease the opossum or racoon is his daily recreation. Even when brought into domesticity, as it easily can be, it displays considerable intelligence, but it will steal everything it can lay its hands on, from a door-mat to a silver teaspoon. It will eat fresh meat when it is to be had, but when this is not procurable it never hesitates to eat carrion or to begin upon any animal that is soon likely to be. In this respect his habit seems the same in all countries, and there can be nothing more heartless than the way in which he hurries up to the moribund. Whenever he sees an animal lying on the ground he soon collects all his comrades in the vicinity. One of the boldest hops upon the animal's body; hops slowly toward its head and looks inquiringly into its eyes. If the animal is able to defend itself, he removes the dangerous friend by a shake of the head but if the eyes be dim from disease or wounds, the crow perceives it, and plunging its powerful bill into the eyeball of the sufferer, digs it out and feasts upon his favorite morsel. At his signal the rest join in the attack and are busy at the

The males are more numerous than the females, and are bold and fierce. In autumn they are fat, the ancients killing and eating them at that time, although it would now almost be considered a sacrilege to eat a cuckoo even when at sacrilege to eat a cuckoo even when at its plumpest. strike the reptile, wounding it with the spur, and tossing it into the air and safely wearing out the most venomous species. They also eat lizards, tortoises, rats, small birds and large insects. Their vo-racity is remarkable, Le Vaillant men-tioning that he took from the crop of one eleven good-sized lizards, three serpents as long as his arm, eleven small tortoises and a number of insects. The natives domesticate them and place them in the poultry yard, where they watch over the fowls with all the care of

a mother tending her chickens. The Chinese have trained that gluttonous bird, the cormorant, to fish for them, and it will be an interesting task for the amateur student of natural history to add to the list furnished in this article of birds which, contrary to the general custom, are more at home with strangers than those of their kind. -San Francisco Chronicle.

# Chita Carrying in Mexico.

Does the question arise what may be a chita? It is a packing-case, a chair, a saddle, a chiid's cradle-so diverse are its uses by the Indians. It is made in the general shape of a clam shell, with a rim of hard bent wood, of some two inches thick, over which is woven firmly a rawhide lattice work of netting. Strapped upon the back, with stayropes or thongs passing over the forehead of the bearer, the chita is loaded with small goods, or else a great packing-case, or a pig, a sheep, or a human passenger. Almost every one who goes this road, makes the trip in a chita, resting side-wise against the carrier's back with his legs hanging out, while sticks are affixed by which to hold steady. Save F. Ducane Goodman, the biologist, and myself I know of no one but Indians who have gone over this road save in this manner. Nothing on earth would



induce me to be so conveyed. The In-dians are generally faithful, but they have been known to stop in a dangerous place and by threats extort large sums from their passengers. They are mostly sure-footed; I have never heard of one animal's entrails as quick as one could falling, while horses very often tumble off the other road. But there is always the possibility of a misstep, which would be irretrievable for the person carried by the Indian, while on "shank's mare" one might recover one's balance. Moreover, these people are personally so un-cleanly that such close proximity to them would be disgustingly offensive, especially when they are warmed by exercise. I know perhaps a score of people who have been so carried, among them a man who weighs 275 pounds. While this sounds incredible, I can vouch for it. In case of such heavy-weights, three or four Indians club together for relays and share the pay. The charge of portage over the cliff road only is \$6; from Jalapa to Misantia, \$11 .- San Francisco Chroni-

they passed on their way to the Tuil eries.

Suddenly an anarchist or nihilist in the crowd pulled a gun, and poking the muzzle under the arm of a man in front of m, blazed away at the Czar.

lose his identity in the crowd, hung or until the officers arrived and hurried the man to prison.

The Czar inquired who had stoppe the murderous nihilist. He was tolo went. The Czar thanked "Brock" for the service he had rendered and drcorated him with various orders as a re ward .- New York Herald.

## Telegraphers Who Make Fortunes.

I don't know how it happens, says a writer in the New York Sar, but it eems to me that more telegraphers drift into Wall street and achieve riches there than any class I am acquainted with. A few evenings ago I was at an uptown club with some gentlemen, when one of the party had a telegram delivered to him. He opened it, looked at it doubt-fully, and then said that it was unintelgible. The operator, in fact, had bulled" it badly, and as it was about a subject of importance to him, he was somewhat annoyed. Another member of the party, a prominent stock exchange man, quietly took it, and without a word jotted down the message as it was writ-ten in the Morse alphabet. He then separated the characters somewhat differently from the bungling operator who had received it, and gave the other gen-tleman what was evidently the correct wording of the message. "Where did wording of the message. "Where did you learn anything about telegraphy?" asked some one. He looked up and laughed. "Why, fifteen years ago 1 was a working operator at \$15 a month."

#### **Maxims of Great Warriors**,

Napoleon laid it down as a special rule that professional study in some form is the first condition of practical success. Wellington, at the close of his last great campaign, confessed to a junior staff officer his personal obligation to daily study.

It was Frederick the Great who said that war is a science in superior men, an art for ordinary men and a trade for ignorant men.

Marshal Turenne, the greatest of those reat soldiers of the age of Louis XIV., hought that the art of war was learned

oppers, cric

A much less agreeable bird is the cuckoo. Notwithstanding all the fine things that have been written about the "harbinger of spring," the cuckoo is a dissolute, dishonest and lazy bird. He never builds a nest for himself, but has the singular fashion of laying an egg in the most convenient nest of some other bird, leaving the care of the young one to the foster parents thus selected. Though the egg is rather a small one the young cuckoo grows rapidly and reaches a good size while the legitimate occupants of the nest are still unable to look after themselves. No sooner does the intruder attain its precocious strength than it proceeds to e ect the other birdlings from the nest by taking them on its shoulders and throwing them bodily over the side of the nest. Being the sole baby it receives all the support of the family, gets every worm or bug the mother brings home, and soon gets big enough to get out and shift for itself. The nest selected by the cuckoo mother is that of a sparrow, finch or lark, and it is believed by Montague and others that she has the power to retain the egg in the oviduct until she can find a nest

suitable for its reception. The evil practices here related are, it is pleasant to observe, characteristic of the European and not of the American cuckoo, the latter bird building its own nest and rearing its young in the usual manner. It is painful, however, to have to admit that the nest is a very slovenly affair, being flat and composed of a few dry sticks and grass on a horizontal branch of a low tree: and it is still more painful to have to admit that it is given to the highly reprehensible practice of sucking the eggs of other birds, and that in many respects it is no better than it shou d be.

Although so much has been written of the cuckoo by poets very little is known yet by naturalists. There are really more than forty well-defined species of the cuckoo, all of them being migratory. The most interesting is the European cuckoo, a bird about fourteen inches long and having a sweep of about twentyfive inches across the wings. The cor-ners of the mouth and eyclids and the inside of the mouth are of an orange color. The plumage of the head, neck, breast and upper parts is a deep bluish gray: the under parts and the auxiliary feathers are white with distinct black

bars; the quilis are blackish gray; the tail is darker, approaching to black at the end, and often with a dark greet. gloss, tipped with white, and each feather marked along the shaft with triangular white spots: the feet are yellow and the bill black. The female very closely resembles the male. It arrives from Southern Europe in Great Britain in April, and generally departs in August. It is very generally distributed over Europe, decreasing in numbers toward the north and going southward as far as Africa. The well-known notes of the bird are heard in the breeding

season, and very much resemble its name. The song is loud and joyful, confined to the males, and silent before the departure of the birds. The cuckoo's food consists of the larva of insects and caterpillars, but before swallowing the

say lack Robinson. Like the burrowing owl, the crow is very fond of the society of other animals, his favorite being the sheep and cow. The motives are not the same, however, and it requires but very little watching to find that all this affectionate herding with these animals is simply the question of gluttony. The sheep is a nicted with ticks and the cow with skin worms, both nice fat morsels, and master crow is after these. With his sharp, strong bill he digs out the parasite, and with the extent of this crop his interest in Mary's little lamb come to an end.

It is for no such sordid motives as these that the buphaga has struck up a friendship for that heavy and mischievous beast the rhinocerous. This bird, a small white one, is the best, if not the only friend owned by the thick skinned unicorn. It makes a harsh cry in the ear of the sleeping rhinocerous, which awakening rushes off into the forest to escape the hunter. As the animal scampers off the bird perches on his back, re-turning when frightened or swept off by the branches, and remains with it all night. Sir Gordon Cumming says he has often shot the rhinoceros at midnight at fountains, and that these faithful



AMERICAN BURROWING OWL. birds, imagining their lumpy friend was asleep, would remain until morning, and on his approaching, before taking tlight, would try to awaken him from his deep

sleep. There are two other kinds that enter There are two other kinds that enter-tain a peculiar affection for animals, the screamer and the secretary. The first is naturally a wading bird of South America, so named from the loudness and shrillness of the voice. The screamer to be particularly noticed is that known as the faithful channa. It is nearly three feet long of a blackish lead color. The head is adorned with a circle of erectile head is adorned with a circle of crectile plumes, and it possesses the singular power of inflating the skin of the body and legs with air. So puffed up and with the plumes erected it if quite an imposing bird, and as its courage quite imposing bird, and as its courage quite bears out its appearance, it is no mean adversary in a tight. The Paraguayans domesticate the channa, and then make of it a shepherd. In this capacity it is of great service, and it is quite capable of driving off a wolf, often laying down its life in defense of the flock. The secretary bird is a rapacious crea-ture, with a particular aptitude for kill-ing reptiles. The stout wings are armed with a stout spur, the legs scaled, and the general color bluish gray. It takes its name from a long crectile crest on the

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