# QUEER ANIMALS TO

INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS OF A NATURALIST.

Wild Boars That Fight at the Drop of the Hat-The Ara-Tricolor, A Bird of Wonderful Plumage-The Anaconda's Presence Proved-Soldier Encounters a Boar,

From the New York Sun.

Outside of the wild boar, a small deer and the jutia or wood rat, a short enumeration would cover the list and leave little to be told. Alligators are plentiful, and the cayman or crocodile is numerous, but as to the rabbit, raccoon, opossum or fox, which afford so much sport in the United States, these and all others of a like kind are unknown in Cuba.

The wild boar of Cuba answers in They run in small packs or droves, have an over abundance of courage and weigh from 250 to 350 pounds. In the tiful in Eastern Cuba, and they form Their tusks are sharp and prominent,

#### THE JUTIA.

shunned by all except the inland inhabitants, who prize it as one of their choicest foods. To catch the junita, a simple box trap is arranged with double doors and a baited spring, and the foolish creature unhesitatingly walks to his destruction without so much as the thought of an investigation. The younger members of the species are easily captured in hollow trunks or rotten logs, and no dogs are necessary to ferret them out, for upon the approach of a stranger to their hiding places they crawl forth to satisfy their curiosfly and are easily made prisoners. After once tasting captivity the animal never seeks to escape.

The Nipe savannas on the northeastern coast of Santiago province, mag-nificent rolling prairies diversified with every variety of grass indigenous to the country, is now the only section where deer may be found in considerable numbers. Back in the interior, among the swamps and heavy cover, in the forests and mountain foothills. and in unsettled and unfrequented for ions and settlements. As these resources for a living, they may develop into a wild species similar to our

## DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

The domestic animals let loose in the island from the earliest period of its occupation have found a place favor-able for their reproduction but while increasing they have also undergone modifications. Cuban horses of the Andalusian race have lost in stature and breadth but they have gained in sobriety endurance and vitality. Before the insurrection of 1868 they were so especially in the central and western regions, that nobody traveled afoot Today the number of saddle animals has greatly diminished in proportion to the inhabitants, and nowhere are wild horses found, as thy formerly were in Romano Cay, in the Nipe savannas and other isolated regions. Asses are not numerous, being kent mainly for breeding purposes. Overworked mules are seen everywhere, and as there are few railroads and no other kinds of roads to speak of, these hardy animals are used for transportation over the trails and across the mountains. The camel of the Canaries which was introduced at one time, did not succeed, owing to the rigues, a species of insect which wounded its feet. In certain parts of the island, especially in the district of Baracca, the ox is used as a beast of burden and for driving. Goats and sheep have not thrived as well in Cuba as hogs and cattle, the goat has lost its vitality, while the sheep, being poorly cared for, has replaced its ffeece with a coat of hair. The foregoing enumeration covers about all of the land animals at present to be found in Cuba,

## BIRD LIFE.

Bird life is abundant, and well protected by cover. There are over 200 land, and over forty of the migratory classes that yearly visit its shores. Handsomest among the native flyers is the tocoloro, crimson and creamy white, with blue bust and spotted neck, and a crown of tufted feathers. It is no mean singer and its pretty notes can be heard in forest or jungle or among the mountain guiches, where it builds its nest. The ariara is a longtailed member of the thrush family, which inhabits thickets, and the sorzal s a sister of the tocoloro, having pretty feathers but no voice.

The rarest of all birds in Cuba is the ara tricolor commonly known as the Cuban macaw. Its habitat is the swamps, and the following general description will illustrate its beauty. Forehead, red, becoming yellowish on top and shading into bright yellow on back feathers, cinnamon edged with green, under parts scarlet with a dash of orange on the throat; secondary feathers bright blue on the apper surface, pale brown underneath. tail feathers cinnamon, tipped with blue; legs brown and eyes yellow. Seen in the dusk resting on the fily pads of a swamp, the ara tricolor is one of the handsomest specimens of bird life to be found in any land or any clime,

in the deepest thickets, and wild guinea | rule, the Cuban maja does not possess

fowls are found everywhere, especially BE FOUND IN CUBA along the southern coast in the neighborhood of Santiago and Guantanama, Qualls of the Bob White species, but larger and unlike our own birds, are pientiful, but owing to the cover it is difficult to make a good bag of these birds. Dogs are of no use to hunt them, and the only way to enter a thicket and get a shot is by means of

BEST GAME BIRD.

The tocaza, or wood pigeon, not unlike our old passenger pigeon, is the best game bird to be found in Cuba. It grows to an unusual size in hot cli-mates, and, strange to say, is found in the greatest numbers during the months of April, May and June. It is not swift flying, and an indifferent marksman in almost any of the woods of the island would find little difficulty in filling his game bag. Doves are onsidered a plague by the planters. who look upon these intruders as American farmers regard crows. There are four species of la palama in Cuba, the principal variety being the same as our Carolina turtle dove. They fly in great numbers through the for ests and across the fields, but are litsize and ferociousness to the jaball of the hunted owing to the lack of proper northern Mexico and southern Texas. shooting material and the inherent laziness of the inhabitants. Wild parrots and paraquets are plen-

latter respect they have the advantage over their cousins of Texas and Mexico. the favorite article of food for the settler and planter. Undoubtedly this liking is considerably enhanced from being several inches in length, and the fact that the bird is simple in its when they encounter an adversary in nature and can be trapped, approached the brush, be he man or beast, there is or clubbed without much effort. So sure to be a fight to the finish. With tame are they that a man with a each drove of these creatures runs a long steut stick can enter the brush leader, who is called by the natives el and knock them from their perches in solatorio, though why he should be almost any number he desires. They designated a hermit no one is able to can be seen flying so thick through the mahegany forests of the Cauto river that a single shot would probably bring down more than enough for a The jutia (pronounced hoo-te-ah) is day's eating. These birds are cleanly the only wild animal in Cuba that is in habit and their fiesh has a fine native to the country. It is found in taste. They are easily tamed, become no other land, and is simply the overgood talkers, and after being once grown rat of the states. It ranges in domesticated are nover persuaded by length from twelve inches to two feet, their fellow kind to escape. Indeed, exclusive of the tail, is a nocturnal a soldier carried one fine bird entirely feeder and can be tamed almost to the across the island on his saidle how degree of the domestic dog. The jutia and from the north to the south coast, is very common throughout Cuba, in- and although it had its freedom in habiting the mountains, forests and camp and at night would fly an ay and lowlands, and is a general article of chatter with its fellows, it always rediet in both the wild and domestic state. turned in time to resume the journey The creature, however, has the repul-siveness of the common rat and is tivity more than a month.

#### THE RAIN CROW.

There are in Cuba neither the blackbird as we know it nor the full grown row such as we have in the states; but between the two, larger than the former and smaller than the latter, there is a creature which the natives call the "rain crow." It is found in every part of the island, on the mountops and in the depths of the swamps, but it is useful neither for food nor song and is generally disliked. It has a curious, stumpy, rounded bill which has caused some to nickname it "jewbird". The origin its title "rain crow" is the fact that the bird does not seem to find discomfort in exposing itself to the heaviest showers, and after a rain the hill, bushes, trees and plants for miles in every direction present the curious staggered the horse, unseated the rider spectacle of thousands of black wings and tore the saddle loose. Capt. Smith spread out to dry in the sun. No one was thrown into the soft brush, the disturbs them and, therefore, they do frightened horse galloped away and the not fear the approach of man.

places, they are also encountered, but they have been almost exterminated by the savage wild dogs, which, escaping from civilization have become caping from civilization, have become as ferocious and as dangerous as the timber wolves of our Western country.

These dogs are of as many colors as These dogs are of as many colors as and it is well that they are so industhe domestic breeds and are low a d trious in their calling: for otherwise cunning, their talls being quite as long much of the filth in the towns and in as their bodies. The woods also the country surrounding would be left abound in cats run wild, driven from their former homes by the burning of coast in Santiago Province is called "La Ciudad de las Auras," are now thrown on their own means "city of buzzards;" and it is correctly named, too, for these the buzzards are more numerous than the inhabitants and share with the latter their domiciles, taking the places of logs, cats, chickens and other domestic creatures. There is no law against their destruction, and yet no one thinks of disturbing or injuring them. visitor crossing interior prairies and They are as much at home about a human dwelling as the owners them-

## MIGRATORY BIRDS.

Among the migratory birds that visit Cuba in winter are the green-winged numerous throughout the island, and teal, the pintail, whistier, wood duck and coot. Great sport can be had with these birds if the sportsman is properly equipped. Pelicans, water-turkeys, fish-ducks, herons of all varieties and colors, cranes, eagles, flamingoes, hawks and owls of several kinds, including the rare white owl, woodpeckers, especially the ivery bill, the bis, and along the shores gulls and sea and hideous enough to give the holder birds innumerable can be seen. One beautiful bird of the interior deserves especial mention. Owing to the dis- shores of Cuba are many varieties of tance at which it was seen, the writer the octopoid family, the most numerwas unable to identify it. It was a ous of which is the argo, which is not tall, handsome creature, and was walk- without a certain deg se of beauty. Its ing lightly on the lily pads. Its color above was a beautiful spectrum blue and fine dottings of rose color, which fading into creamy white on the sides and bursting into a brilliant sea et on the breast and lower body. Ita legs were green, bill orange, and the head was crowned with a coronet similar to that worn by the California quail. It was not web-footed, but had three broad toes branching to the front and one to the side, which indicated

wader rather than the swimmer. Fifteen species of the humming bir1 are peculiar to the island, the largest of which is the long-tailed hummer, measuring ten inches from tip of beak to end of tall, and the smallest, the versin, which weighs but twenty grains. This birdling has a head no larger than a pea, and legs hardly longer than those of a good-sized mosquito. Its entire measurement from tip to tip is an inch and a quarter. Strange as it may seem these tiny creatures are easily tamed, and it is not unusual to see pets of this kind enjoying the same freedom in a household as a parrot that has been domesticated. At one hovel, presided over by a mistress as hideously ugly as the was beautiful, the writer saw a tiny vervain contentedly taking its ood from a quill inserted in a top cup filled with juice of the sugar cane,

#### and both were held in one hand of the woman. REPTILES.

The reptiles of Cuba are generally not polsonous, though the juba, a snake that grows to a length of six feet, is said to possess a certain degree of venom. The natives, however. leclare the juba to be absolutely free from all harmful qualities, and in proof of their faith in this assertion freely handle it. The maja, a member of the boaconstrictor family, is the largest serpent on the island. It grows to a length varying from 12 to 24 feet, and is more freely encountered in the swamps and jungles than among the Wild pea fowl conceal themselves foothills or in upland territory. As a WALDRON'S

Auction Sale of Horses Today, Friday, at 1 O'clock.



The thirty head consists of big draughters, express and general purpose horses. In fact, there are some of all kinds. They will be put up and sold to the highest bidder, without reserve, at

# CUSICK'S STABLES

Friday Afternoon at 1 O'Clock, Regardless of Weather.

the aggressiveness so prominent in other members of the species inhabiting the Isthmus and South American countries, but once in a while the creature becomes arouse I to a sense of its powers, and declares war against anything in sight. A short time ago at Sagua de Tanamo Capt. E. C. Smith of the United States Postal Service had an adventure with a huge maja which he will probably remember for many days. Capt. Smith was mounted on a native pony and was armed with a Mauser, a Colt's revolver and a mache-

Upon nearing a small stretch of cleared ground on the side of a hill he noticed the maja crossing the spot and riding around in front attempted to head it off. The snake turned in another direction, crawling sluggishly along, but the captain blocked it again. Then the boa became somewhat angry and began to form a coil, but instead of completing the coll, threw itself in a bunch. At that moment Capt. Smith fired. The bullet grazed the snake's neck, but did no other damage than to scorch the skin and cause the creature to become furlous. It formed itself into a ball and, rolling like a shot down threw itself with great force against horse and rider. The impact maja, seeing no other victim handy, at-In no other land are the buzzards tacked the saddle and soon crushed the so numerous and so useful as they are leather and woodwork to a more bun-inght be said. Nowhere else, except

from tip to tip. Although the fact is not generally known, the anaconda is also a native

## CRABS AND OCTOPOL

Perhaps the most interesting sight to the stranger in tropical countries is the countless number of cangrejos er climbing crabs which one meets far inland, several miles from the shore. Some one has said that there are more crabs on land in Cuba than there are in the surrounding waters; and the meeting these crustaceans in great swarms while they are migrating from place to place, is apt to declare the statement true. They are seen at times when on the march covering many miles of territory, and a horseman suddenly surrounded by one of these moving armies becomes convinced that the cangrejo was built for speed.

One must travel in strange lands in learn strange facts. In the markets of Neuvitas and Gibara the writer first made acquaintance with the octopus as an article of diet, and saw prawn the size of young lobsters, grotesque the nightmare. All along the hidden reefs and saw-tooth rocks lining the body is covered with silver cloud spots are enhanced by a broad band of ultramarine blue crossing the back diagonally and fading away in the lower parts of the body. The animal is however, as dangerous as it is beautiful. A gentleman who not long ago was searching for shells along the north coast discovered among the rocks a baby argo, which upon observing him tried to escape. He was not sufficiently cautious, for upon attempting to capture the strange thing it ang upon him and fastened its long tentacles to his shoulder and arm. He could not tear it loose, for its suckers seld firmly, and nothing but the will of the animal could release him. In this condition he ran towards a boat that happened to be near, while the enraged argo, with its eyes protruding from the middle of its body, made every effort to get its beak in position to bite. At last, nearly fainting, he was about to give up the struggle, when a man, hearing his cries, rushed forward and by several sharp cuts with a boat knife killed the argo. He could only remove portions of the carcass at a time, so firmly did the suckers hold even after the animal had been killed. The argo is the smallest of the species,

and this specimen, which nearly conquered the gentleman referred to had body no larger than the ordinary clenched hand. With arms expanded it measured from tip to tip not quite four feet. The true octopus is a dangerous, repulsive thing, and is much dreaded and feared, especially by the sponge fishermen along the Cuban coast. It has two ugly, movable eyes, eight long feelers, each feeler being provided with 120 powerful suckers, by

prey while in the act of eating it. INSECTS.

means of which the creature holds its

But it is in the insect creation that Cuba excels all other Islands in the ++++++++++++++++++++++ Western Hemisphere. There are few Mention this Journal, as Adv. is insertvenomous insects flying or crawling ed as our Contribution.

about, but they are remarkable for size, brilliancy and inquisitiveness by day and luminosity by night. There are all sorts of beetles, among which the electric bectle, with its night-burning lamps, is the most conspicuous. There is the great Atlas moth, gigantle fur-coated night-flying insect, the largest winged bug in the world. An unusually large specimen of this moth would measure about fourteen inches from tip to tip. Of flies alone over 300 species are known. The one most dreaded is called " rodador" the roller, something like the mosquito, which fills itself with blood like a leech and when satiated drops off and rolls away. Of butterflies, the name is legion, from the tiny atom no larger than a pin head to the gigantic wing-spreading beauty reflecting the colors of the rainbow. At night fever-breeding, germ-spreading marshes are turned into flames of light not mere dots and twinkles as on ponds at home, but large brilliant glares that give the impression of an electric display. A few of these brilliant insects are used at times by the natives to give a most charming effect to some of their entertainments. At the dances or on the various town plazas of an evening the senoritas and children often adorn themselves by attaching electric beetles or other luminous insects to their clothing.

FLEAS AND KIN.

dressed state measures 17 feet 8 inches in cojnunction with the latter the mosquitos are a terrible torment, for whether by day or night, in the cities or forests or wherever one may chance to be, these annoying insects are constantly on the alert to rob one of rest, and no one yet has discovered a mosquito bar that is proof against them. Of scorpions, centipedes, spiders and tarantules there are no end. The continede often attains a length

of from ten to twelve inches, but it is not feared so much as the tarantula, for the latter grows to an enormous size in the island and is said to be simply overloaded with venom. Mexico and Southwestern Toxas there is a brown or mud-colored scorpion that is not entitled to much respect for its stinging powers, but in cuba there is a deadly, black variety whose sting has been known to produce fatal results. The agricultural ants of Cuba are also dangerous to human kind, and there is another equally dangerous and ugly insect which, translated as nearly This from the Cuban patois into our language, signifies "bullant." Lis bite is considered to be almost as deadly as the sting of a black scorplon grows to a size larger than the amon wasp or hornet, and builds a mound so strong that the dome will easily support the weight of a man. An 18-year old Cuban boy was stung on the ankle recently by one of these insects and di d a few hours later. The writer found in one a well-developed ooison sac and a stinger fully half an inch long.

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## Second Anniversary=December 11.

Christmas enthusiasm and our Friday sales make a happy combination. We are busy—fearfully so—but we halt for a moment to prepare you another interesting program for Friday. We again demonstrate the richness, the genuineness, the sovereignty of



Commerce sways the world. Some say it is because men are greedy for gold; others that it is manifest destiny. A broader humanity says it is because we are glad to have whatever of beauty and comfort the world offers, and to get them we institute and carry on an exchange.

You are elbowed by pleasant people here. Come to enjoy just as you would go to any great exhibition. You will buy—but only as needs suggest, and not through

The store is in most perfect bloom. We shall get a deal of pleasure out of this holiday business-you shall, too. ·····

#### Dolls for Friday.

We add to the activity of our busy toy store with an immense offering of dolls for Fridaythough we ought not to do so, as they're selling very rapidly at present prices.

15 cents. This for your choice of over two hundred of the prettiest and the merriest faces we have ever seen. Bodies are full jointed, extra large size-and it's up to you to choose a dark lassie or a bright-eyed blonde.

They are worth 39 cents at the very least.

On sale at 10 o'clock.

#### Misses' Underwear.

19 cents.

Vest and pants. Choose. These are in heavy quality, fine ribbed and come in grey, white and ecrue. Just the right weight for mild winter wear, and not too heavy for the sunny days.

Every size is in the lot-two suits, and you've a winter outfit that has never been equaled for

On sale at 10 o'clock.

## Children's Hosiery.

Eight hundred little feet will grow warmer on Friday because of this hosiery offering.

11 cents the pair. Heavy ribbed, woven from pure Egyptian cotton, warranted to give good wearing service. Made with double knees, seam-

less and perfectly shaped. Shop around a little and you'll see them in many stores at 17 cents the pair, at which price we acknowledge they're a bargain. 11 cents on Friday.

On sale at 10 o'clock.

## Basement Offerings.

Painted chamber pails, with covers, are but 18 cents on Friday-wasn't long ago you paid double that for them. Berlin granite sauce pans-the

two-quart size-at 10 cents; always sold at 18 cents. Wooden salt and pepper

boxes, nicely made and finished. Very handy, especially at 6 cents -though they've been good sellers at a dime.

Woolen dusters-just the thing to keep the piano glistening and the bric-a-brac clean. 7 cents on Friday instead of 10c. Granite serving trays at 5

cents; always 10c. You'll be quite sure to visit

the basement on Friday.

## Fancy Dress Goods.

Two thousand yards. 19 cents. Worth from 25c to 39c, and

never sold for less than that. The lot consists of 34-inch imported novelties in small dot and

pin-style effects, heavy in weight and with silk finish. Also 34-inch satin bar plaids in ten attractive color combinations, and 36-inch fine twill, fast color Henriettas in a full range of colors. There is certainly nothing

more appropriate for a holiday gift than dress goods. Combined with this Friday opportunity, it solves the problem of gift-giving very happily for you,

On sale at 10 o'clock.

#### Very Warm Blankets

Are these we offer for Fridayextra large size, too. 49 cents the pair.

They come in the new mode shade, with fancy borders, such as cardinal and orange, red and yellow, and gold, blue and redvery showy and pretty.

These blankets sell regularly at 79 cents the pair, and at that price they are remarkably cheap. The hundred pairs won't last a great while on Friday. On sale at 10 o'clock.

#### Shoes for Everybody.

Women's shoes. Men's shoes. Boys' shoes. Misses' shoes. The greatest offering of the year. One Dollar the pair. Think

We'll tell you how it is. Our shoe store has recently undergone a general overhauling. In sorting up different lots some sizes were missing and our not being able to replace them puts them in the category of "odds

and ends." There are many styles to choose from, but not all the sizes in any one style.

You understand our position -we do not want the shoes, because they do not form complete lines-but the saving is all yours -not ours.

On sale at 10 o'clock.

## Fleeced Flannelettes.

61 cents the yard on Friday. There are fifty pieces-to be exact, 1,983 yards. All of them are in dark grounds, such as black, navy, cardinal, cadet, etc. Some of them have pretty figured designs, while others are in

scrolls and fancy stripes.

For ladies' and children's wrappers? Of course, they're just the thing.

Thousands of yards have been sold at ten cents; how many yards shall we cut off for you at six and one-half cents?

## Pretty New Denims.

On sale at 10 o'clock.

Double faced.

10 cents the yard on Friday. We do not know of it ever having been sold for that price in any store. There is quite a lot of it here

at that price for Friday-something like eight hundred yards, which isn't so much after all. Most of it is in bright and pretty shades, with large floral designs and jardiniere effects.

For curtains, dressing scarfs, upholstery purposes and the like. Worth 15 cents the yard. On sale at 10 o'clock.

## Photo Pictures.

23 cents.

You can never have too many pictures in your home-of that you may be sure. But you cannot always buy such nobby ones as these we offer for Friday at a very special price.

They are photo-colored-photographs from natural scenes and sketches, highly colored and mounted on mats.

They are nine by twelve inches in size and are worth a half more than you'll pay for them.

On sale at 10 o'clock.

#### Many, Many Laces

are in this special lot for Friday. 6 cents the yard.

There are two kinds-valenciennes and point de Paris style, running in widths from one-andone-half to four inches.

Most of them are worth ten cents-a good share is worth considerable more. Take all you care for at six cents, and be sure you've never bought them for

On sale at 10 o'clock.

#### Brussels Rugs.

75 cents for Friday. Worth from \$1.00 to \$1.25and cheap at that.

This lot of bright and pretty patterns in brussels rugs were bought especially for this Friday sale. Even these would be pretty for gifts-that is what we had in mind when we bought them.

There's only a hundred of 'em, large in size, of extra heavy qual-

ity brussels, fringe at ends. Lay a few of them down in your different rooms-they'll save wear and tear of the carpets and brighten up the house a bit.

## Waists—A Clearing Up

Of all the Odd lots.

On sale at 10 o'clock.

\$2.69 for your choice. Not one worth less than five dollars.

The assortment is elegant-if you will permit the word. Some are in fancy silks of the very newest patterns; others are of French flannel-the very finest quality, along with some of mo-

They are elegantly made and finished, made up in the most approved styles and guaranteed as to fit and wearing qualities.

You who know the character of these Friday sales in our Cloak store will come a-running for these waists.

On sale at 10 o'clock.

## Decorative Opal Ware.

This price gives you your choice on some of our choicest holiday goods-bought to sell at a good deal more money; but we like to make you welcome with extraordinary offerings at these Friday sales.

You may be sure there'll be no more interesting spot in the store than where this opal ware is being sold.

There are fancy plates, lace edged Flower Placques, Sacred Heart Placques, Candle Stick Holders, Comb Trays and many other designs, especially gotten up for appropriate gifts.

It is for you to take your choice on Friday at the 19-cent price. You'll get no other chance at the lot this year.

On sale at 10 o'clock,

## Children's Tam Hats.

Tam O'Shanters, if you please. Trimmed, too, in the height of style. Some of them are very prettily stitched, which makes them all the more attractive.

Some of the same kind were here early in season at 75 cents and 98 cents-but it's late now,

and you pay less for this lot. 21 cents on Friday. There is only a hundred of them. They may last all day;

they may not. This is only to ad-

vise you to come early and be Surc. On sale at 10 o'clock.

ANNIVERSARY

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