

FACTS ABOUT FEATHERS.

PLUMES THAT COST MORE THAN THEIR WEIGHT IN GOLD.

Birds of the Tropics—How the Ornithological World Pays Tribute to the Mighty Ostrich.

The jaunty hat has given a great impetus to every novelty in the shape of feathers for decorating it. First the pheasant plume was introduced as an ornament for hats; then followed the paragon, peacock, trogon, imperial and argus pheasants, ibis, heron, sea gull, black cock and owl, and now almost every variety of plumage may be seen in the hats of ladies and children.

Out in the Atlantic, over 1,200 miles from Land's End and about 600 miles due west from Lisbon, lies the beautiful island of St. Michael's, the largest of the nine islands forming the Archipelago of the Azores. It is beautiful in its variety of mountain, lake and valley scenery, in the rich verdure of its cultivated lands, its equable, mild climate and in its wonderful thermal springs.

Either in the town or suburbs you see the gates of many orange gardens invitingly open, and you will be politely invited to walk in and help yourself to flowers and fruit. If you are a stranger the "cabeca" or head man of the garden, will bring you a bunch of lovely carnations and a branch on which hang clusters of ripe oranges and invite you to be seated on a garden bench, for though it is the month of February you can enjoy sitting out of doors. There you can watch the juvenile toilers sorting the fruit and the dried leaves of the Indian corn.

The elegance of the feathers of the ostrich, arising from the slender stems and graceful barbeles, has caused them to be prized in all ages. They are the dearest and most sought after in consequence of their fineness and elasticity, being employed for court-plumes and head-dresses, as well as the nodding plumes on the hearse. Their value is enhanced because they can always be changed, dyed and remade into larger and richer plumes by patience and assiduity in the attachment.

Ostrich feathers in commerce are classed in the following order as regards value: First, those coming from Magdore; second, those from Egypt and Barbary, and third, the South African feathers. These are long, and therefore esteemed for many purposes, but have not the delicacy and elegance of the barbeles of the North African feathers.

The Aleppo feather used to be considered the type of perfection of ostrich feathers, but they are now so scarce as seldom to be met with in commerce. For the bows or tail feathers of the ostrich there is an enormous demand, and perhaps more of this kind are sold than any other. Northern and Southern Africa are the quarters from whence supplies are obtained.

A man may eat and drink heartily all day, and sit and lounge about doing nothing, in one sense of the word; but his body must keep hard at work all the time or he will die. Suppose the stomach refused to work within ten minutes after a hearty dinner, the man would die of convulsions in a few hours; or cholera or cramp colic would rack and wreck him. Suppressing the pores of the skin—meaning thereby the glandular apparatus with which they are connected—should go on a "strike," he would in an hour be burning up with fever; oppression would weigh upon the system, and soon become insupportable.

Suppose the kidneys shut up shop, danger most imminent, sufferings undecipherable, and death most certain, would be the speedy and unenviable result. If the little workshops of the eye should close, in an hour he could not shut nor open them without physical force, and in another hour he would be blind; or if those of the tongue should close, it would become dry as a bone and stiff as steel.

To keep such a complication of machinery in working order for a lifetime is a miracle of wisdom; but to work them by the pleasures of eating and drinking is a miracle of beneficence. Goose feathers for ornaments are obtained from all countries. They form in this country a considerable article of commerce; the best are used for head-dresses and the bad quality for plumes.

In France a large quantity of goose skins are prepared for winter garments. They strip the entire skin from the bird, leaving merely the raw carcass, which is scrutinized by persons who buy geese with the intention of returning the feathers to the vendor. The difficulty of separating the skin from the flesh prevents many countries from preserving it. From the prepared downy skin a great quantity of ladies' powder puffs are also made, an article with which France supplies the world.

Swan skins are employed for much the same as goose skins, especially for trimmings for mantles and dresses; but they are getting more scarce, as they can only be obtained during the immigration of birds. Peacock's feathers are obtained in many of the collectorates of the Madras presidency, the gorgeous plumage being shed every year. Fly flappers or fanning brushes are made of them in India. Permission to wear the peacock's feather in the hat in China is like the European orders, only granted by special permission of the sovereign.

The birds of paradise, distinguished for their splendor and elegance, are used for ornamenting turbans in the East, as well as for hats and head-dresses by European and American ladies. The genus Paradise is chiefly restricted to New Guinea and the small islands in its vicinity. The most elegant in its plumage is the great bird of paradise, the best part of the neck being of a pale gold color. The hen birds are the most esteemed, being brighter in tint; the body feathers, which are yellowish, are partially dyed to enhance the color.

The Ex-Presidents.

Mr. Arthur is in the prime of life, and enjoys at his age—fifty-four years—vigorous health. If the careers of the majority of his predecessors go for anything he ought to live to a good old age. John Adams lived twenty-five years after he left the White House on the crisp March morning of 1826, and died at the ripe age of ninety. Jefferson passed away on the same day seventeen years after the expiration of his presidential term. He was eighty-three years old, Madison was eighty-six when he died, and had been an ex-president twenty years. Monroe survived his retirement six years, and died at seventy-two. John Quincy Adams attained the age of eighty, and finally died at the post of duty in the capital eighteen years after the termination of his presidential service.

Andrew Jackson lived to be seventy-eight, and died in 1845, eight years after his departure from Washington. Van Buren and Tyler were eighty and seventy-two respectively when they were called hence, the former having been an ex-President twenty-one, and the latter seventeen years. Franklin Pierce died twelve years, and James Buchanan seven years after leaving the White House; the former was sixty-five and the latter seventy-seven. Fillmore was seventy-four at his death, and lived twenty-one years after his presidential term expired.

Andrew Johnson was six years an ex-President and died at sixty-seven. George Washington and James K. Polk were the only Presidents who died very soon after their return to private life; Washington living less than three years and Polk only three months. The former was sixty-eight at his death and the latter fifty-four. Harrison, Taylor, Lincoln and Garfield died in office. Harrison was sixty-eight, Taylor sixty-five, Lincoln fifty-six, and Garfield fifty. Grant is now sixty-three, and it is eight years since he was President; Hayes is sixty-three, and has been an ex-President four years.

The Japanese are, as a people, quick at repartee; their wit is keen and tempered, and they can often administer a perfect snub in brief, terse form. I remember an instance of this that struck me forcibly at the time, though I had by no means yet mastered the niceties of the language. I was loitering in Yeddo, waiting orders, and I stepped into a court or examination room where a trial was going on. The case was one involving the possession and ownership of a certain piece of property about which two brothers had violently quarreled.

The holder, who was clearly not the rightful owner, had assaulted and ejected his brother, and was protesting his right to defend his claim. The examiners listened very patiently to him until he closed with the words: "Even a cur may bark at his own gate," when a judge quaintly voiced the universal judgment, as if stating an abstract point of law: "A dog that has no gate bites at his own risk." This was the only judgment rendered, but it was final.

"I heard a story in New York," said Emory Storrs, "the other day that rather amused me. You know the Knickerbocker club there is the nursery of the Anglo-American. You don't find anything at the Knickerbocker club but b. and s., as they call it, and English literature. English newspapers are daily filed; footmen and tigers abound, and the whole atmosphere of the place is the one eye-glass order. A friend of mine, Captain Bacon, was coming up the street in front of the club house, when a young man whom he knew came out.

"Why, Jack," he said, "what's the matter? Got your trousers rolled up and an umbrella spread. Why, it is a bright day—what does it mean?" "Yes, my dear boy. Sun here, you know, but they've just got a cable in the club house that it's raining in Lunnon. You see!"—Chicago Herald.

Not a Trace. Dr. D. F. Pennington, D. D. S., 538 West Fayette street, Baltimore, Maryland, states that he has personally used the Red Star Cough Cure, and in his family has found it a prompt and sure remedy for coughs and colds. No bad results of other cough remedies. Not a trace of opium or morphia.

An exchange asks: "Does dairying pay?" Judging from the strong, healthy condition of our boarding-house butter, we should think it did pay a big per centage.—St. Paul Herald.

"Fools Rush In, Where Angels Fear to Tread." So impetuous youth is often given to folly and indiscretion; and, as a result, nervous, mental and organic debility follow, memory is impaired, self confidence is lacking; at night bad dreams occur, premature old age seems setting in, ruin is in the track. In confidence, you can and should write to Dr. R. V. Pierce, of Buffalo, N. Y., the author of a treatise for the benefit of that class of patients, and describe your symptoms and sufferings. He can cure you at your home, and will send you full particulars by mail.

There are 1,915 trotting horses with records of 2:30 or better. "Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there?" Thanks to Dr. Pierce, there is a balm in his "Golden Medical Discovery"—a "balm for every wound" to health, from colds, coughs, consumption, bronchitis, and all chronic, blood, lung and liver affections. Of druggists.

The curiosity of River Fork, Ga., is a "milk-white blackbird." The Origin of Music. In all countries legends exist ascribing the origin of music to celestial source. China, Greece, Rome, Assyria, Egypt and India all concur in giving the art a divine origin, and also in returning the gift to its Maker in songs of praise. Egypt, however, recognized the dual character of music by a legend which described music as springing from two sources, the one good, the other evil. The Egyptian was more sparing of music in religious service than Roman or Grecian, but deserves thanks for at least understanding that music, like any other art, could be abused. Even to-day, the division between the sensuous and lofty in music is a strongly marked one; and, unfortunately, the tendency of modern composers is too often toward the former style, and the oratorio school seems almost extinct.—Musical Herald.

Spring Medicine

Everybody needs a spring medicine. The blood must be purified, the system strengthened, and the digestive organs toned and regulated. If you have never tried Hood's Sarsaparilla, do so this season. It has just those purifying, regulating, and strengthening influences which you so greatly need. Take Hood's Sarsaparilla now and you are sure you will be glad that you resorted to this reliable spring medicine. Do not delay.

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Purify the Blood

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Strengthen the System

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TRUE ECONOMY.

Every one must realize the true economy to succeed in life. But it is not economy to use at any price a kind of bad flour, butter and bad food of any kind, but it is economy to use at any price a kind of good flour, butter and good food, which tends to cure, but makes the patient worse.

"As the best food is the cheapest because it is nutritious and strengthening to the whole system, even in small quantities, so is a pure medicine which cures every time, even in small doses, therefore always keep in mind these two solid facts.

"There is more real solid cure in one bottle of Hunt's (Kidney and Liver) Remedy, for the disease it is prepared for than in a barrel of the so-called cures, the dose is 30 to 40 drops.

"It cures, restores, regulates and invigorates the Liver, Stomach, Kidneys, Bladder and Urinary organs, creates a marvelous appetite and retards the entire system, and it is never known to fail."

"It will prevent as well as cure Malaria, Fever and Rheumatism and all diseases which come from impure blood. Keep the fountain and the springs that supply it, pure, and the stream flowing therefrom will be healthy and life-giving."

"Special and interesting case of Bright's disease described on second page of our Banner Book."

"Hunt's (Kidney and Liver) Remedy purifies the blood, thereby keeping the Kidneys, Liver, Stomach, Bladder and Urinary organs vigorous with life and action, causing them to free the system from the poisonous waste which brings disease and death."

"It reaches the seat of the disease at once—removes the cause—stimulates and assists the functions of the Kidneys, Liver, Stomach, Bladder and Urinary organs, and it is never known to fail."

"Save your health by using Hunt's (Kidney and Liver) Remedy, as millions will not recognize the loss of the precious blood. It will cure Female Weakness, and prevent monthly suffering."

Correspondence freely answered by our Consulting Physician at this office.

The largest sales are at the home of the medicine; where it is used most extensively and prescribed by its physicians. No advertisement could be offered?

Hunt's Remedy Co., Providence, R. I. Sold by All Druggists. N. Y. N. U. 10

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