

These are the smallest of the feathered tribes, some of them being no larger than insects. Their movements are so rapid that they seem to be in a constant state of vibration. They are over seventy different kinds of humming birds, and these are all to be found in North and South America. The bar-tailed humming bird is one of the most beautiful varieties. It is distinguished by having its long forked tail regularly marked with black bars. Each side of the tail being formed by five feathers of different lengths, so that the lower one is much the longest, and the end of each feather is tipped with black, producing, in contrast with the brilliant color of the body, a very beautiful effect. The wings in all the species are very long and narrow, and they are, by means of the rapid motion, given to them, hovering about flowers and shrubs and plants, drawing their honey, and at the same time emitting a humming noise caused by the movement of their wings, whence their name "humming birds."

**AGRICULTURE.**  
**CALIFORNIA VINEYARD.**—One hundred and forty acres are now engaged in planting the following crop: The Barton vineyard, Mr. Barton estimates the yield of his vineyard this season at about 2,000 tons. His Zinfandel grapes are turning out at the rate of about seven tons per acre on the 1 year old vines. From one acre of choice vines he obtained nine tons of grapes. The acre originally contained 650 vines, but some of the vines died when first planted, so that there are but 650 vines growing. The yield of the vineyard last year was less than 850 tons, showing an increase in the crop in one season of about 1,700 tons. There are in Yuba and Sutter counties, land well adapted for grape growing that can be bought for one-fifth of the value of Illinois corn land. We have just as good climate and soils for all kinds of fruit as in the State, and that equivalent to saying in the world. If our fruit lands in these two counties were devoted to orchards and vines, and cultivated with skill, the value of productions would be increased millions of dollars. One large cannery in the State is now producing 200,000 cases of the population of the city 33 per cent. The lands in Fresno County have doubled in value in the three years by fruit-ree and wine-planting. The vineyard crop of the following crop is 200,000 cases, and it yields \$50,000 worth of grapes. Once turn the tide of immigration here and in ten years we can rank with Sonoma County as a fruit producer.

**THE CARBAGE MAGGOT.**—This insect is becoming a worst pest every year. Already thousands of dollars are lost annually in the raising of our largest crop, account of its ravages. The eggs, which are laid by a fly about the size of the common house fly, hatch into small, light-colored maggots. These maggots eat the sap from the roots of the plants, causing it to wither and die. Many remedies have been tried for this pest with varying success. Among other substances sulphuric acid has been much recommended, but the present season has shown that it cannot be used with safety to the plants. An Ontario gardener has recently advocated the use of a solution of corrosive sublimate. He gives an ounce of the poison in hot water, and then adds four gallons of cold, soft water. The roots of the plants are dipped in this mixture before setting and the earth in which they are set is wet with it. As this substance is a deadly poison, care must be taken to prevent its getting into the hands of any kind of animal. On account of its poisonous nature it is doubtful if it will ever be generally used.

**FARMERS AND HEALTH.**—The causes of sickness among farmers are summarized as follows: 1. Overwork and exposure, the women being more frequently overworked. 2. Improper and improperly cooked food. 3. Damp location of dwellings. 4. Want of cleanliness. 5. A small number of branches tied into a bundle and then to the middle of a rope of the right length. A person gets on the roof and lets one end of the rope down; the chimney is closed with a sack or sheet to keep the draft from blowing out; below pulls the brush down; it is then pulled up again, and this is repeated until the fire is clear. As soon as the dust is settled it is put into the sheet, or bag, or pails are carried out.

**BEET KIDNEY STREW.**—Parboil a beef kidney and cut it in slices the thickness of a penny piece, toss them in a saucepan with a piece of butter for five minutes; into another saucepan put one ounce of butter and one dessert-spoonful of flour, stir on the fire until it begins to brown, moisten with a scantful of stock, add some finely-minced parsley, salt to taste, pepper and salt to taste. Pour this into the saucepan with the kidney, and let it simmer gently until thoroughly done.

**TO CLEAN A CHIMNEY.**—A chimney can be cleaned with ease in the following manner: A small number of branches is tied into a bundle and then to the middle of a rope of the right length. A person gets on the roof and lets one end of the rope down; the chimney is closed with a sack or sheet to keep the draft from blowing out; below pulls the brush down; it is then pulled up again, and this is repeated until the fire is clear. As soon as the dust is settled it is put into the sheet, or bag, or pails are carried out.

**HOW TO GET RID OF THE BEET KIDNEY STREW.**—Parboil a beef kidney and cut it in slices the thickness of a penny piece, toss them in a saucepan with a piece of butter for five minutes; into another saucepan put one ounce of butter and one dessert-spoonful of flour, stir on the fire until it begins to brown, moisten with a scantful of stock, add some finely-minced parsley, salt to taste, pepper and salt to taste. Pour this into the saucepan with the kidney, and let it simmer gently until thoroughly done.

**THE MOST WONDERFUL DESTRUCTION OF A MOUNTAIN WAS THAT WHICH TOOK PLACE ON THE 20TH OF AUGUST, 1853, WHEN THE LAND VOLCANO OF KRAKAOA, IN POLAND, VANISHED BENEATH THE SEA.** In the afternoon of that day there came suddenly a tremendous burst of subterranean thunder, and immediately the volcano of Krakaoa threw forth a black cloud which overpowered the sky. In a few moments a large fertile section of the island of Java was turned into a barren waste by a violent earthquake, and many persons were killed. Terrible explosions took place all over the mountain. Its great sloping sides were blown out into the water, and the volcano, together with the island upon which it had stood for unknown ages, crumbled away and disappeared. Within three hundred miles around was covered with floating islands, and a choking smell of sulphur pervaded the air.

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