

AMERICAN NIGHTINGALES.

HOW MOCKING BIRDS ARE RAISED AND SOLD.

Half a Thousand of the Songsters in One Cage—How to Raise Them and Get the Best Results.

No bird in featherdom enjoys a greater popularity than the mocking bird. It is the king—the great artist of the feathered musicians. Washington has lately been made the supply center, and every week hundreds of the "American nightingales," as they are sometimes called, are shipped all over the country. The birds never were so cheap, and a good songster may now be had for the same price as a canary.

To learn something of the mocking bird a reporter of the *Star* visited the bird man and found him busily engaged opening a crate of birds just from Texas.

The crate was a peculiarly constructed concern, contrived after a great deal of experience in shipping birds. It consisted of a long flat box, with an apex-shaped cover of stout cotton. The interior arrangement was novel. At each end there was an automatic feeding cup, while the food troughs were located on each side, the contents being held in place by a wire netting. The birds could peck the food out from between the interstices of the netting, while the latter, on account of its density, could not shake out. The birds were lively and looked none the worse for their long journey. Forty-six was the number the cage contained, and when shortly afterward they were transferred to the big cage the birdman's stock in trade of mocking birds numbered 672. As soon as the birds had been transferred the bird man turned to the reporter.

"So you would like to know something about mocking birds. Well, to begin with, it is my favorite bird and rivals the far-famed English nightingale. "The mocking bird, you know," said the bird man, as he pushed a parrot's head from between the bars of its cage, where it had been caught, "is a thorough-blood American. It comes mostly from the Southern States, although it has been found in New England. His plumage is not beautiful, but his homeliness in this regard is lost sight of when you hear his wonderful voice. He commences to sing when about two months old. The first notes are weak, but the little musician, becomes bolder with age, and continues to improve in voice until he has passed three summers, when it is claimed he is in full song. No music was ever sweeter than the mocking bird's as he pours forth his melodious strains in his native element. When he is caged his voice assumes a certain harshness now and then which he learns from his habitation among men. He is a great mimic and imitates a buzz saw as well as a crowing rooster. He is very docile when raised by hand and can easily be taught tricks as well as tunes. Only the male bird sings. That is the rule, although the female has on rare occasions been known to sing almost as well.

"The great difficulty buyers experience in obtaining a male. It is not easy to distinguish the sexes so closely do they resemble each other. A shrewd Connecticut man some years ago advertised that for ten cents in stamps he would disclose a method whereby any one could immediately tell the difference between a male and a female mocking bird. A great many people invested. I did among them. When the reply came in this is what I received printed on a slip of pink paper: 'Take two birds and put them in a cage. Then get a worm. Carefully open the cage door, being sure not to frighten the birds, and throw the worm in. Now watch carefully. If he gets it it's a he and if she gets it it's a she.' It was a great sell.

"The only way I know of to distinguish between the sexes is by the marking of the wings. Catch your bird firmly by the body in the left hand and spread out the wings. A perfectly marked male is called a four-feather bird. That is commencing at the upper side of the wing, if you can count four white feathers without any splashes of black the bird is a male. It is not necessary for a bird to have four white feathers to be a male, as three indicate the same thing, but it is absolutely necessary for the feathers to be perfectly free from black splashes. A word about feeding and then I must leave you. Mocking birds are hardy and with care live to a good age. The diet must be carefully looked after. Prepared food is excellent and I use it altogether, alternating, however, with a little carrot mixed in it or a mixture of hard-boiled egg and potato. A meal worm is good now and then, and berries, when in season, are very good. I forgot to mention one thing which is absolutely necessary to even a brief description of the mocking bird, and that is this: Not a day passes but some person brings a bird back, declaring that it is a female and won't sing. This is the breeding season and for two weeks they don't sing to any extent. The only other time they are silent is in the moulting season."—*Washington Star*.

Largest Farm in the World.

There is a farm in the southwest of Louisiana measuring 100 miles north and south and twenty-five miles east and west. The 1,500,000 acres of which it is made up were purchased seven years ago from the State of Louisiana and from the United States Government by a syndicate of northern capitalists, by which it is now farmed. This immense tract is now divided into convenient pasture stations or ranches, the fencing alone having cost \$50,000. All the cultivating, ditching, etc., are done by steam power, a tract of about half a mile wide being taken and an engine placed on each side. The company has three steamboats upon the 300 miles of navigable waters which traverse their estate, and also possesses a ship yard, a bank and rice mills.—*Commercial Advertiser*.

WISE WORDS.

When suspicion is awakened doubt is aroused.

That is the safest policy which insures success.

A ray of hope makes the prospect brighter.

Everyone can master a grief but he that has it.

Better three hours too soon than one minute too late.

Give greed an opportunity and it will take advantage.

They lean to the side of virtue who are rightly inclined.

Ambition looks for opportunity; energy helps to find it.

The weak may be joked out of anything but their weakness.

If the temper must be ruffled let the reason for it be made plain.

Let insult be added to injury and difficulties will begin to multiply.

Nothing is so credulous as vanity, or so ignorant of what becomes itself.

Youth is the season of hope, enterprise and energy, to a nation as well as an individual.

It is a good plan to say as little as possible about that of which one knows absolutely nothing.

The two best rules for a system of rhetoric are, first, have something to say, and, next, say it.

What we wish to do we think we can do, but when we do not wish to do a thing it becomes impossible.

If cleanliness is next to godliness, then sanctity must occupy an isolated position in a slothful person's lot in life.

Time is the greatest of all tyrants. As we go on toward age he taxes our health, limbs, faculties, strength and features.

Society is the atmosphere of souls, and we necessarily imbibe from it something which is either infectious or healthful.

Making Beef Extract.

We may, for convenience, divide the factory into three departments: First, pressing; second, bottling, and third, finishing. To the first of these, supplies of the choicest parts of the ox are brought in the morning of every working day straight from the shambles. It is at once cut up into succulent steaks, each of which get a slight sprinkling of table salt, is then inclosed in a new muslin bag and an outer canvas bag, and with dozens more is placed between the perforated metallic plates of an hydraulic press.

When the company commenced work they were content with a press which took a charge of about 100 steaks at a time, but they have had to meet a greater consumption than was anticipated, so that lately they have installed an exceedingly powerful press, which would do perfectly for making bales of cotton, and this is tested to give a pressure of 400 tons.

When the pile of steaks is put on the receiver the whole is surrounded with a jacket (iced in the summer) and the pressure applied.

We need not follow the process too minutely; it is so simple. The juice as it is collected is mixed with an innocuous preservative, set aside for a month to clear, and then transferred to the bottling department. Here the liquor is filled into bottles by a siphon arrangement, so that the liquid comes into contact with as little air as possible; and the bottles when filled are transferred to a separate building, where they are corked, capped, labeled and boxed.

Our traveler observed that a girl examined each bottle before it was passed on to the capsuler, and any one which showed a speck of suspended matter or was in the least cloudy was set aside.

It was explained that this is part of the principle of the manufacture; the liquor is the pure juice of beef, and in order that it may keep, the most rigid attention must be given to exclude foreign matter from it, and as far as our representative could judge, the principle was adhered to throughout. And what becomes of the pressed steaks? Well, they are like cardboard when they come out of the press and as dry as a stick.—*Chemist and Druggist*.

Von Moltke and the Brave Boys.

One day Moltke stopped at a boarding-school kept by a person in a village near his Silesian country seat, and sat down to hear the teacher instruct the scholars—mostly young nobles preparing for the army—on the wars of France and Prussia. The clergyman being called away for a moment, Moltke asked to be allowed to take his place. Before long he asked one of the pupils, "Who do you think was Napoleon's best general?" "My grand uncle," your excellency, Marshal Ney, Prince of the Moskwa," was the answer. Turning to another boy, he asked, "And who was the bravest of Prussian generals in the same war?" "My grand uncle, Marshal Prince Blucher," said he. There was also a descendant of General Zieten among them. When the clergyman returned, Moltke said, with a humorous glance at his own plain civilian dress, "Oh, my dear Herr Pastor, you should have told me before that I was to find such famous generals represented here." He invited all the boys to visit him at Kresau, and gave them a most hospitable reception.—*Boston Transcript*.

A Reclaimed Desert.

The Russian explorer, Mr. Grum-Grzmailo, who has been traveling in Central Asia, says that the oasis of Turfau, in Tianghan, once the bed of a great lake, is a reclaimed desert. Being without water it is irrigated by the inhabitants, who have excavated a system of underground canals and wells some 300 feet deep. These canals collect the underground water and convey it to the surface in the lower lands. The works are so colossal that the members of the exploring party could only compare them with those of ancient Egypt.—*Picayune*.

NEWS AND NOTES FOR WOMEN.

Nowadays skirts are extremely plain. Turquoise jewelry continues fashionable.

There is a federation of women's clubs.

The new gauze parasols have gilt frames.

The fashionable flower is to be the carnation.

Coats with deep broad tabs are extensively worn.

Emeralds have been very little in demand of late years.

The long Louis Quatorze coats have made poplins again popular.

Swell modistes fit their skirts to the customer while she is seated.

Substitute teachers in New York schools are to receive \$1.25 a day.

Black hats are trimmed effectively with butterfly bows and purple thistles.

The trailing dip of the modern walking dress has been pulled up out of the dirt.

Black handkerchiefs, embroidered in silver and colored threads, are decidedly new.

An apartment house for women, soon to be built in New York City, will cost \$400,000.

The New York State Hospitals for the Insane utilize the services of women physicians.

Susan B. Anthony can speak louder and longer than half the male speakers in the country.

Mrs. George W. Childs's china is worth \$50,000, and she is the possessor of a service of gold.

Mme. Patti has an insatiable appetite for stewed prunes, which she eats for her complexion.

Miss Kate Marsden, an English girl, has gone to Yakutsk, Siberia, to study leprosy among the natives.

Miss Ethel Mackenzie, daughter of Sir Morell Mackenzie, is the London correspondent of a Chicago daily.

The first women's trade union in Belgium has just been formed by femiane tobacco workers at Antwerp.

Ann Eliza, the nineteenth wife of Brigham Young, is now the wife of Representative Denning, of Michigan.

Paris fashions are extraordinary this season. At a distance women look like an animated pagoda or moving Oriental bazar.

On Irish railways women are much employed as booking clerks, and in Dublin tickets are given almost entirely by women.

Young lady teachers are in such demand for wives in Dakota that it is extremely difficult to keep enough on hand to run the schools.

An economical way to trim a dress with a black lace flounce is to buy the lace made for gowns and to cut it up into the width desired, then hem the edge. Lace through which ribbon may be run is very pretty treated in this way.

The newest pattern in India silk is palm leaves, which takes the place of the flowers and figures of the last few seasons. The backgrounds are of some very dark color or black, strewn with these leaves, four or five inches long.

Bouquets are very original this year in London society, but are not more admirable on that account. Triangular and pointed ferns are concealed under a heavy mass of flowers and are more potent as weapons than as additional charms.

White chamois skin gloves are to be worn for outing purposes. These are not expensive in the first place, and then if directions are followed they can be washed successfully. For shopping wear the natural color chamois glove is very comfortable.

Black silk henrietta cloth makes a beautiful summer dress for an elderly lady. An all-silk grenadine made up over black satin is also a most suitable gown. The coat or basque may be relieved by a vest or double ruffle of some bright-colored silk.

Ladies who wear thin dresses will be glad to know that the prettiest and most comfortable underskirt in the world is called the princess petticoat. It is, of course, modeled as its name suggests and should be made of black or white China silk with a few ruffles on the hem.

The suits worn by little boys are very frequently in white, in spite of the facility with which such garments become soiled, while when but two or three years old they wear gingham, with high round waists, comfortable but not very wide sleeves, and kilted skirts, and four years sees them in jackets, with kilts and a shirt waist.

Butter making is advocated as an occupation for women. To be sure, it is usually the farmer's wives who make butter now, but there is still room for women who are obliged to take care of themselves to undertake the industry. Almost everybody prefers sweet butter to salt, and this, to be good, requires to be made daily.

Weak and Weary

In early summer the warmer weather is especially weakening and enervating, and "that tired feeling" is very prevalent. The great benefit which people at this season derive from Hood's Sarsaparilla proves that this medicine "makes the weak strong." It does not act like a stimulant, imparting feebly strength, but Hood's Sarsaparilla builds up in a perfectly natural way all the weakened parts, purifies the blood, creates an appetite.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Sold by all druggists. \$1.50 six for \$5. Prepared only by C. I. HOOD & CO., Lowell, Mass.

100 Doses One Dollar

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BEST IN THE WORLD. Get the Genuine. Sold Everywhere.

Tempering Tools.

The following is said to be the Swiss method of hardening cast steel for cutting tools. Mix in a suitable vessel four parts of pulverized resin and two parts of train oil. Stir well in this one part hot tallow. Into this mixture the article to be hardened is plunged at a low red heat and held there until thoroughly cooled. Without cleaning off, the piece is again put into the fire and suitably tempered in the ordinary way. An examination of steel thus hardened indicates that the hardening is deeper and more uniformly distributed than is commonly the case, and that the steel is less brittle. Articles thus hardened have excellent and durable cutting qualities.—*Stone*.

Unfinished Rivers.

A river, in the proper conception of the word, might be defined as a stream formed by the confluence of numerous little rills, and directly or indirectly carrying its waters to the sea; but quite a number of watercourses of both hemispheres make an exception from the general rule. On the south slope of the Atlas Range not less than forty good-sized streams are wholly lost in the sand, and Southern California has at least seven rivers, some of them as large as the James at Lynchburg, which fail to reach the ocean in midsummer.—*New York Voice*.

STATE OF OHIO, CITY OF TOLEDO, ss.

FRANK J. CHENEY makes oath that he is the senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of \$100 for each and every case of catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of Hall's Catarrh Cure.

FRANK J. CHENEY, Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 6th day of December, A. D., 1886 A. W. GLASSON, Notary Public.

Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally and acts directly on the blood and mucous surface of the system. Send for testimonials, free. F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O. Sold by Druggists, 75c.

The Swedes have become very skillful in the manufacture of cutlery.

Ladies employed in fashionable stores, whose duties keep them standing all day, should send two 2c. stamps to Pinkham's Compound Co., Lynn, Mass., for "Guide to Health and Etiquette."

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The pleasant flavor, gentle action and soothing effects of Syrup of Figs, when in need of a laxative and if the father or mother be constive or bilious the most gratifying results follow its use, so that it is the best family remedy known and every family should have a bottle.

The Convenience of Solid Trains.

The Erie is the only railway running solid trains over its own tracks between New York and Chicago. No change of cars for any class of passengers. Rates lower than via any other first-class line.

Many modest women suffer rather than apply to a physician; Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has saved thousands of such lives from misery and early graves.

FITS stopped free by DR. KILNE'S GREAT NERVE RESTORER. No other after first day's use. Marvelous cures. Treatise and \$2. trial bottle free. Dr. Kline, 661 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

The hand of time

deals lightly with a woman in perfect health. But all functional derangements and disorders peculiar to women leave their mark. You needn't have them. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription comes to your rescue as no other medicine can. It cures them. For periodical pains, prolapsus and other displacements, bearing-down sensations, and all "female complaints" and weaknesses, it is a positive remedy. It is a powerful, restorative tonic and nerve, imparting strength to the whole system in general, and to the uterine organs and appendages in particular. It keeps years from your face and figure—just adds years to your life. It's guaranteed to give satisfaction in every case. If it doesn't, your money is returned.

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We want the name and address of every sufferer in the U. S. and Canada. Address: F. Harold Hayes, M.D., Buffalo, N.Y.

Why It is Necessary to Adulterate Milk

The dairyman who was arrested and fined a few days ago for violation of the ordinance regarding watered milk, made a statement to a representative of the *Times-Democrat* tending to show that any question has at least two sides. He admitted that his milk was watered, but stated as a justification, therefor, that dilution was necessary in order to transport it in a merchantable condition over the rough streets of the city during the warm weather. The unevenness of many thoroughfares and in and beyond the business portion of the city had the effect, he said, of "churning" pure milk. In this condition it became unsalable, so that dairymen were compelled to adopt some method of preserving the lactical fluid in a state as near "fresh" as possible. Hence, to ten gallons of fresh milk he had applied one gallon of water and a tablespoonful of salt. For this he was arrested and fined.

On the other hand, it was impossible, he said, for the American dairymen to compete with the Gascon, whose milk was not only unclean, but absolutely impure. So far as he (the speaker) was concerned he would gladly do anything or comply with any law or regulation that might be passed concerning the internal management or arrangement of dairies; and if any harmless chemical could be devised by the Board of Health to overcome or neutralize the effects of the "churning" process of fresh milk while in course of delivery to customers, he would be more than willing to adopt it in connection with his business. Water was put in his milk, not to defraud customers, but simply to prevent it turning into butter.—*New Orleans Times-Democrat*.

It saves money to learn by the experience of others.

You Ought To Know

The continued use of mercury mixtures, poisons the system, brings on morcular rheumatism, and causes the bones to decay. The use of S. S. S., forces impurities from the blood, gives a good appetite and digestion, and builds up the whole human frame.

Good Advice.

Three years ago I was compelled to throw up my place because of blood poison. Hot Springs' physicians and mercury did me no good. Through the advice of another I began taking S. S. S., and to-day I am well and at work again. What more can I say for the medicine, except "go and do likewise." JASPER NOCHT, Liberty, Tenn.

his Son Cured.

Mr. W. H. Human, of Mount Vernon, Ill., writes as follows: "One bottle of Serrin's Specific (S. S. S.) cured my son permanently of a stubborn case of blood poison that defied the best medical treatment available. I have recommended S. S. S. to others for the blood troubles and diseases of the skin and have never known it to fail to cure in any case."

BOOK ON BLOOD AND SKIN DISEASES FREE.

The Swift Specific Co., Atlanta, Ga.

"German Syrup"

Asthma. "I have been a great sufferer from Asthma and severe Colds every Winter, and last Fall my friends as well as myself thought because of my feeble condition, and great distress from constant coughing, and inability to raise any of the accumulated matter from my lungs, that my time was close at hand. When nearly worn out for want of sleep and rest, a friend recommended me to try thy valuable medicine, Boschee's German Syrup. I am confident it saved my life. Almost the first dose gave me great relief and a gentle refreshing sleep, such as I had not had for weeks. My cough began immediately to loosen and pass away, and I found myself rapidly gaining in health and weight. I am pleased to inform thee—unsolicited—that I am in excellent health and do certainly attribute it to thy Boschee's German Syrup. C. B. STICKNEY, Pictou, Ontario."

DR. TOBIAS VENETIAN LINIMENT

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PUBLIC OPINION

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