

A DETHRONED KING.

Passing Away of the Buffalo,
Once Monarch of the Plains.

Immense Herds Extinguished For Their Hides.

Up to 1869 the Indians usually killed the buffalo by thousands. During many generations they slaughtered them only for the meat and skins which they themselves could use. Then there came a time when there was a market for the hides and tongues, and countless other thousands were slaughtered for this purpose. As late as 1874 one could buy a beautiful fur robe overcoat, well made and lined with flannel at the retail clothing stores in St. Paul, Minnesota, for \$10. There was a market, too, for the choicer portions of the flesh, but this only cut a small figure in the dreadful total, so that finally the trade in robes constituted the only incentive for slaughter. The Union Pacific Railroad was completed in 1869, other railroads began to reach out their iron arms across the Kansas and Nebraska plains, and from that hour the fate of the buffalo was sealed.

For several years to come he could be hunted, shot from horseback, driven into enclosures and slaughtered, or perhaps forced over precipices after the manner described in old geographies and school-books. The animals seem to have divided into two great herds towards the close of their career, for we hear of "the great Southern herd" and "the great Northern herd." The Southern herd was the first to go. Buffalo Bill and his kind with English "sportsmen" and American army officers, vied with each other in the wanton slaughter. During three short years 1872-3-4—the number so killed has been estimated in millions. It matters not how accurate this estimate is, or whether the number so slain was one million or ten millions, the fact remains that at the end of 1872 the great Southern herd was extinct.

In the North the conditions were more favorable, but the relentless hunter was hot upon the trail of the diminishing herds. In 1876 Fort Benton alone sent eighty thousand hides to market. In 1883 two car-loads of hides were shipped from Dickinson, North Dakota. In 1881 Fort Benton sent none at all. In 1879 a little band of the animals were known to be grazing near Fort Totten, on Devil Lake, North Dakota, and it is believed that these animals furnished the two car-loads of robes which came eastward to St. Paul from Dickinson in 1883. This was the last year of the buffalo—1883. A herd, numbering perhaps eighty thousand, crossed the Yellowstone River in that year, and went north towards the British line.

"They never came back," is the pitiful refrain which one hears from the Indians along the border from Winnipeg in Manitoba to St. Mary's Lakes in Alberta. No, they never came back, and last summer and fall, while riding with the officers of the Canadian mounted police through Alberta, they told me the story of this last year of the buffalo, but it was never told twice alike by any two men, for a strange mystery seems to hang over the closing scene of the great crime which annihilated the mighty herds.—[Harper's Magazine.]

The Walrus.

As the walrus lay upon the ice, their immense bulk and massive forms could be better appreciated. Lieutenant Schwatka described the walrus as "huge seals, with upper canine-teeth prolonged into tusks." These tusks are usually from one to two feet in length, and I have seen some that were two and a half and even three feet long. When full-grown, the tusk weighs about five pounds. Their length does not seem to be dependent upon either the age or size of the animal, as often a young, small walrus will have long tusks. The average weight of the animal is about a ton, and ours weighed between 1200 and 1500 pounds. One was ten, the other thirteen feet long. They attain, however, a length of from fifteen to eighteen feet, and half as much around the fore flippers. The flippers are some two feet long, and capable, when extended, of covering a considerable area, and of forcing the animal rapidly through the water. Walrus also use these flippers to protect wounded comrades or to carry their offspring. The inside of these paws is covered by a horny skin that serves to protect their palms in scrambling around over the rough ice. The walrus-flippers, when properly cooked, are considered a great delicacy by the Eskimos. The flavor of the flipper is very similar to that of the coarser

clams. The meat did not delicate as that of the seal or narwhal. The flesh of the walrus is protected by a thick blanket of fat—the blubber, which enable it to resist the icy water of the arctic seas. This fat yields nearly a barrel of oil. The hide and tusks also are valuable. The hide is used by the Eskimos to make soles for their boots, or kamiks, and it is also cut into strips for their harpoon-lines. It is from one to one and a half inches thick.

The formidable tusks are used as weapons of offense and defense, and also, it is stated, to gather their food, the clams.—[St. Nicholas.]

Peter, The "Mint Bird."

If you have a silver dollar of 1836, 1838 or 1839, or one of the first nickel cents coined in 1856, you will find upon it the true portrait of an American eagle that was for many years a familiar sight in the streets of Philadelphia. "Peter," one of the finest eagles ever captured alive, was the pet of the Philadelphia mint, and was generally known as the "mint bird." Not only did he have free access to every part of the mint, going without hindrance into the treasure vaults where even the Treasurer of the United States would not go alone, but he used his own pleasure in going about the city, flying over the houses, sometimes perching upon lamp-posts in the streets. Everybody knew him and admired him, and even the street boys treated him with respect. The government provided his daily fare, and he was as much a part of the mint establishment as the superintendent or the chief coiner. He was so kindly treated that he had no fear of anybody or anything, and he might be in the mint yet if he had not sat down to rest upon one of the great fly-wheels. The wheel started without warning, and Peter was caught in the machinery. One of his wings was broken and he died a few days later. The superintendent had his body beautifully mounted, with the wings spread to their fullest extent; and to this day Peter stands in a glass case in mint's cabinet, where you may see him whenever you go there. An exact portrait of him as he stands in the case was put upon the coins named.

The Mysteries of Suicide.

A Connecticut man took poison and proceeded to make written notes of his sensations. He was saved from death in the nick of time. His methodical manner of preparing for death and his devotion to science prove that he is a man of ability who had no right to sacrifice a life with which he might do good. It is possible to imagine conditions under which a logical mind could discover some justification for suicide. But it is not the people whom disease has reduced to the verge of abject helplessness, mental and physical, that as a rule take their own lives. The vigorous, healthy people, whose ambitions are lofty and whose energies are great seem most susceptible to the temptation of self-destruction. The intensity of an energetic nature makes the step from disappointment to despair the more easily taken. Theorists are interesting when they argue that people who are ready to leave the world should be allowed to do so, but as a matter of fact the laws which interfere with attempts in this direction as a rule reach people whose spirits recuperate almost as rapidly as they droop and who live to wonder how they could ever have contemplated such a step.—[Washington Star.]

Columbus Was Pious.

That Christopher Columbus was pious is shown by the name San Salvador, which he gave to the land he first sighted in the New World, but the names Trinidad and St. Kitts prove him imaginative as well. He gave Trinidad its name because its three conspicuous mountain peaks suggested to him the mystery of the Holy Trinity, and St. Kitts or Christopher he called so, not impiously in honor of himself, but because a great mountain on the island, bearing upon its shoulder a mound of lava, suggested to his pious imagination that loveliest of the Christian legends embodied in the etymology of his own name, Christopher, "the Christ bearer."—[New York Sun.]

He Was Sorry.

Housekeeper—This is the 20th time today that I've had to come to the door to tell peddlers that I did not want anything.
Peddler—Very sorry, mum!
Housekeeper—It's some comfort to know that you are sorry, anyhow.
Peddler—Yes mum, I'm very sorry you don't want anything, mum.—[New York Weekly.]

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

Blue is the mourning color in China. The first college was Harvard, in 1638.

The United States have 48,000,000 sheep.

Umbrellas were imported from India in 1772.

Chinese botanists can grow oaks in thimbles.

Nails were first made in Rhode Island in 1777.

Last year our railroads carried 600,000,000 people.

An oak tree nearly five centuries old was recently felled near Castleton, Ind.

De La Reyniere's "Almanach des Gourmands" is the most famous cook book.

The royal crown of Great Britain weighs thirty-nine ounces and is valued at \$1,200,000.

Berlin, Germany, has the widest train roof on the continent—that at Anhalt station, which is 198 feet five inches.

The Fijians believe that the souls of all people of marriageable age who die unmarried can never enter into heaven.

An agency for the sale of exclusive recipes for soups, sauces and entrees has been opened in Paris by a "retired chef."

Hash must have been an invention of the old Romans, for it is related that they mixed all sorts of meats and "pounded them into a pulp."

Black patches shaped like stars, crescents, horseshoes, and even like coaches and shoes, were worn by the ladies of the court of Queen Anne.

The Mariposa (Cal.) Big Tree grove has 427 big trees. The largest is 84 feet in diameter. Through a tunnel or hole cut in one a four-horse stage is driven daily.

The ancient Romans made the kitchen one of the chief rooms of the house. It was paved with tiles, while the walls were hung with pictures and otherwise decorated.

Oregon, it is said, purposes sending to the World's Fair a horse that overtops all others, and "can pick the tallest persimmon." He is twenty hands and two inches high.

Life insurance dates from almost the year 1650, and was the invention of the Chevalier de Mere, a Flemish nobleman and the Abbe Blaise Pascal, the famous Jesuit priest.

The largest sequoia tree in circumference is in Tulare county, California, given by United States surveyors at 109 feet. The tallest is the "Keystone," in Calaveras, being 365 feet high.

An English walnut tree at Vallecito, Calaveras county, Cal., measures nine feet in circumference, and is probably the largest in the state. It produces annually a large crop of superior nuts.

It's a Nap You Need.

A room without a couch of some sort is only half furnished. Life is full of ups and downs, and all that saves the sanity of the mentally jaded and physically exhausted fortune fighter is the periodical good cry and momentary loss of consciousness on the upstairs lounge or the old sofa in the sitting room. There are times when so many of the things that distract us could be straightened out and the way made clear if only one had a long comfortable couch on whose soft bosom he can throw himself, boots and brains, stretch his weary frame, un-mindful of tidies and tapestry, close his tired eyes, relax the tension of his muscles and give his harassed mind a chance.

Ten minutes of this narcotic when the head throbs, the soul yearns for endless, dreamless, eternal rest, would make the vision clear, nerves steady, the heart light and the star of hope shine again. There is no doubt that the longing to die is mistaken for the need of a nap. Instead of the immortality of the soul, business men and working women want regular and systematic doses of dozing—and after a mossy bank in the shade of an old oak that succeeding seasons have converted into a tenement of song birds, there is nothing that can approach a big sofa, or a low, long couch placed in the corner, where tired nature can turn her face to the wall and sleep and doze away the gloom.—[Hall's Journal.]

Not Hopeless.

Teacher—This is the fifth time you've been late to school this week.
Boy—Yes'm.
"How do you expect to keep business appointments when you grow up?"
"My legs'll be longer then."

FOR THE HOUSE WIFE.

WASHING THE DISHES.

The order in which dishes are washed is generally as follows: Glass, silver, china, cooking utensils. But there has lately been a question raised in relation to this order, and housekeepers are preferring to wash the cooking utensils first, as thus, the lighter washing coming last, the hands are left in much pleasanter condition.—[New York World.]

MENDING TABLE LINEN.

A housewife whose table linen always does her good service mends it with flax embroidery cotton of a number to correspond with the quality of the cloth. Under the ragged edges of the tear she bastes a piece of stiff paper and makes a network of fine stitches back and forth over its edges, carrying the stitches about an inch beyond the edges of the cut. Thin places and breaks in linen may be run with the flax or embroidery floss, and towels should be mended in the same way.—[New York Recorder.]

COOKING IN HIGH LATITUDES.

Housewives who think they struggle with many difficulties in cooking should be thankful that they are not dwellers in some of the high places of the West. There, according to the testimony of cooks, many recipes, and those for rich cakes in particular, are a failure. A woman living in one of the Western forts, at an altitude of 6500 feet above the level of the sea, found out by inquiring of the best cooks in the garrison that more flour and eggs, and less butter and sugar, must be used in cake baking than in lower latitudes. The largest quantity of butter that could be used successfully in a large loaf of cake was one-half cup. Those who have lived in some parts of Colorado at an elevation of 9000 feet or more have also noticed the effect of the altitude on cooking, and found it necessary to revise their recipes.—[New York Post.]

RECIPES.

Oatmeal Pone.—After oatmeal has been boiled put two pints in a buttered pan, season with salt and half a cup of sweet milk to moisten it. Bake for half an hour, in a steady oven. Serve while hot.

Estella Pudding.—Five well beaten eggs, two and a half teaspoonfuls of sugar, two tablespoonfuls of butter, one tablespoonful of baking powder, one cup of chopped raisins, flour to stiffen. Bake two hours.

Boiled Parsnips.—Wash the parsnips and lightly scrape them, boil them till they are soft, which can be ascertained by putting a skewer in them. Small parsnips are served whole, and large ones are cut in halves.

Prune and Rice Pudding.—Wash thoroughly and soak over night one-half pound of prunes in one quart of water. In the morning, to the prunes and the water in which they have been soaking, add one-half cupful of rice, one-third cupful of sugar and a half-teaspoonful of salt. Cook in double boiler one hour, then turn into buttered dish, sprinkle with sugar and brown in the oven for half an hour. Serve with cream or sauce.

Crumpets.—Warm one pint of new milk and one ounce of butter in a saucepan; when the butter melts take it from the fire, let it cool a little and mix with it a beaten egg, a pinch of salt and flour enough to make it into a batter; lastly put with it a quarter of a pint of fresh yeast. Cover it and let it stand in a warm place for a quarter of an hour. Bake the crumpets slightly on an iron plate made for the purpose and well greased.

Clear Tomato Soup.—Into a soup kettle put a cup of canned tomatoes, a quarter of a pound of ham, a slice of onion and a quart of water. Cover closely and boil twenty minutes, then strain. Add a heaping tablespoonful of butter, a level tablespoonful of sugar; salt and pepper to the taste. Bring to boiling point again and thicken with two tablespoonfuls of corn-starch—moistened. Just before taking it up stir in about a fourth of a teaspoon of soda. Serve with crackers or small squares of toast.

A "Dark Breakfast."

Governor Russell's little son Estis surprised his mother one morning a short time ago by exclaiming: "Mamma, I want a dark breakfast."

Mrs. Russell was at a loss to know what he meant and demanded an explanation.

"Well," replied the young hopeful, "last night you told Mary to give me a light supper, and I didn't like it. Now, mamma, please do let me have a dark breakfast."—[Boston Globe.]

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

The European locomotives have no headlights.

Lieutenant Peary says that he saw butterflies and bumblebees in the north of Greenland.

The electric light promotes the formation of chlorophyll in all kinds of plants, both wood and herbaceous.

A hypodermic syringe that can be thoroughly sterilized after use is a recent invention of two English physicians.

At a meeting of the Ornithological Society in Berlin Dr. Reichenow communicated some particulars of the finding of remarkable remains of gigantic birds in the Argentine Republic double the height of the ostrich.

The wind blows because the air is colder and therefore heavier in one region than in another; the cold, heavy air flows along the surface of the earth, creeping under the warmer, lighter air; the flowing air is wind.

The Chinese make what is called "chi-wa-hi," or grass cloth, from the fibre of the common nettle. It is said to make a splendid cloth for tents, awnings, etc. When made into belting for machinery it is said to have twice the strength of leather.

A novel lathe is the invention of a New York man. It is automatic in its action, as it self-centres, self-dogs and self-releases the stick to be turned. Almost any shape can be made on the machine, round, square, oval, octagonal or any number of sides.

Professor Bailey found that many plants which are injured by the direct rays of light are actually benefited when the light is passed through clear glass globes or through a glass roof. The light has the effect of accelerating growth without changing its normal periodicity.

A singular practice has been found by Doctor Wibo in certain villages of Belgium. "Vaccination" is performed with a needle charged by insertion into pustules found on pigeons in summer, these pustules being supposed by the peasants to be those of smallpox, but being really due to mosquito bites. The scars can hardly be distinguished from those of true vaccination.

A French cavalry officer has invented what he dubs a "hippometer," for measuring the distance covered by a horse. It is very much like an ordinary pedometer, and its strapping to the horse in front of the saddle. Like the pedometer, it works by the stepping of the animal. It is expected to be specially adapted to the requirements of hunters, travelers, and military men.

Imperial Telephone Etiquette.

Emperor William II. has his own imperial way of using the telephone. Despite mistakes caused by the emperor's refusal to name himself at the opening of his conversation, as other people do, he invariably introduces his telephoned orders merely with the words: "I command that," and so forth. As soon as a chief of department hears these words he motions that his subordinates must at once leave the room. The significance of this arrangement is supposed to be that the chief is having something like an audience with his Majesty and that it would be presumptuous for a person not summoned to hear the imperial voice to occupy the room into which his tones are conveyed. At the end of the conversation the Emperor walks away without saying "good-by," and the chief with whom he has conversed must listen for five or six minutes afterward to make sure that the imperial orders have been completed. Then he calls back his assistants and the usual etiquette is resumed.—[New York Sun.]

Electricity as a Purifier.

Electricity is coming prominently to the front for use in purification processes. It has been successfully introduced in France and England for purifying sewage, and if worked with a refuse destructor, in which the heat can be used for generating the current, it is thought it will be found not only more satisfactory but more economical than existing methods.

In Germany an electrolytic process for purifying mercury for use in very accurate work is coming into general use. A new method of bleaching starch by electricity is also reported, by which, it is said, second and lower qualities of the product can be treated electrolytically so that they can compare favorably with the first quality. Methods of manufacturing ozone by electrical action are also well known. The subtle fluid is destined to play an important part in the sanitary engineering of the future.—[New York World.]

Just to Be Good.

Just to be good
This is enough—enough!
O, we who find sin's billows wild and rough,
Do not feel how more than any gold
Would be the blameless life we led of old
While yet our lips knew but a mother's
kiss?
Ah! though we miss
All else but this,
To be good is enough.

It is enough—
Enough—just to be good!
To lift our hearts where they are under-
stood;
To let the thirst for worldly power and
place
Go unappressed; to smile back in God's
face
With the glad lips our mother used to kiss.
Ah! though we miss
All else but this,
To be good is enough!

HUMOROUS.

'Tried and found wanting—The
beggar.

Mrs. Pie—What will you do if I
give you a good breakfast? Happy
Tite—Eat it, mum.

Madge—Do you prefer blond men?
Beatrice—No; I prefer old gold—
very old and plenty of gold!

"I guess that must be a watch-dog,"
remarked Tommy, "for his tail be-
gins to tick when you speak to him."

A Kansas cyclone is spoken of
which was so terrific in its fury that
it blew all the keyholes out of the
doors.

A man feels proud when he is work-
ing his way up to the top, but he feels
different if his necktie undertakes to
do the same thing.

Clara—And so you have at last
brought Harry Goodcatch to your feet?
Maude—Yes; but I'm afraid it's for
the last time. I accepted him.

Miss Laker—Isn't it too bad there
are so many failures in life? Wis-
well—Can't say as it is. I've been
assignee in three and they paid me so-
well I wouldn't mind tackling more.

Oh, parlor critic, it is not
The strictly proper thing
To say the encores all belong
To the girl who will not sing.

"The Czar must have a pretty nice
time after all, said Mr. Meekins.
"What makes you think so?" asked
his wife. "His wife takes chances
on going to Siberia if she blows him
up."

Annie—Why did you refuse Mr.
Specio? I am sure the presents and
flowers he has sent you show him to
be in love with you. Belle—I was
afraid he had spent all of his money
on me already.

A stump orator wanted the wings
of a bird to fly to every village and
hamlet in the broad land; but he col-
lapsed when a man in the crowd sang
out: "You'd get shot for a goose be-
fore you flew a mile.

"Did you write James Skidmore's
name on his note?" said the judge to a
prisoner accused of forgery. "I'd
like to know, judge," said the culprit,
"if Jim Skidmore has a copyright on
the letters as happens to form his
name?"

A restaurant keeper and dentist in
New York, who are next door neigh-
bors, have fallen out; and it is rather
rough on the former that the latter
should have a glaring announcement
in his window to the effect: "Teeth
sharpened to tackle tough steaks."

Do Ants Talk.

I once saw a drove of the small
black ants moving, perhaps to better
quarters. The distance was some 150
yards. Most all which came from the
old home carried some of the house-
hold goods. Some had eggs, some
had what might have answered for
their bacon or meat; some had one
thing and some had another. I sat
and watched them closely for over an
hour. I noticed that every time two
met in the way they would hold their
heads together as if greeting each
other, and no matter how often the
meeting took place this same thing
occurred, as though a short chat were
necessary.

To prove more about it, I killed one
who was on his way. Others being
eye-witnesses to the murder, went
with speed, and with every ant they
met this talking took place as before.
But instead of a pleasant greeting, it
was sad news they had to communi-
cate. I know it was sad news, for
every ant that these parties met hastily
turned back and fled on another
course, as much as to say, "for the
king's sake and for your safety do
not go there, for I have seen a mon-
ster, just behind, that is able to de-
stroy us all at one blow. I saw him
kill one of our family. I do not
know how many more are killed." So
the news spread, and it was true.
How was the news communicated if
not by speech?—[Magazine of Nat-
ural History.]