

ANOTHER FILIPINO REVOLT

A Comedy of Bowery Life.

By H. J. O'Higgins.



An explanation it must be acknowledged that the "live Filipino warrior and wild man" had endured more chaffing, that day, from the "barker" of the show than his self-respect as a white man and a citizen would allow him to bear cheerfully. And for that reason he sat at table when the management and the staff of the Bowery "Palace of Illusions and Turkish Beauty Show" sat down together in their eating-room to a luncheon of bread and sausages. It was the midday intermission. Below stairs, the barrel organ was dumb. The wicket of the ticket-office was empty of its vision of bellidonna eyes and coruscating shoulders. The hall of illusions—of incandescent lights and bewildering mirrors—was dark and deserted. And the curtains in the last compartment of the exhibition parted simply on a vacant stage where two ancient in flaxen wigs had been posing against the shabby laughing of a Turkish harem.

Here in the eating-room, the company was gathered about a greasy pine table that stood between the cooking-stove and the sink. A feeble light, filtering through the dirty windows upon the bare arms and bare shoulders of the women, showed a suspicious difference in color between the rough arm that had not been powdered and the tender white of the neck that had. The lad who tortured the agonized organ down stairs chattered rhythmically on a tough crust of bread, his head still turning tunes, his eyes set in the vacant stare of an animal at feed. A young girl beside him, with a smudged face and untidy hair, choked on her sausage, and "Snipey," the counterfeit Mexican for whom she posed as the human target in the great dagger-throwing "stunt" of the free performance, rallied her with a facetious "Think yeh'd been swallowin' swords."

The ticket-office beauty, who was the manager's wife, grinned at this wily and the scrawny beauties in the waxy wigs lifted their penciled eyebrows appreciatively—but with care. The manager—he was the "barker" and the official "bonnet" in one muscular person—directed the eyes of the company to chattering "Snipey" with a wink and a nod. "Think he'd been swallowin' swords," he chuckled. "Aguinaldo," as they called him, pretended not to hear, humped over his plate and glowering at a knot in the table. He had covered his painted nudity with an overcoat and an undershirt. He had pulled off his ruddy wig, and taken out the ring of bone that had been pinched into his nostrils. But around his eyes were still two circles of yellow ochre. His color was red brick-dust to within an inch of his flat black hair, and there it turned skin white. When he ate his sausage, he drew back his painted lips and took the food carefully between his teeth. The grimace set his face for a savage snarl.

"Eat human flesh," the manager quoted at, and laughed again contemptuously. The ticket-office exhibit drew her eyes over her husband slowly, and swung a glance down the table at the Filipino. "Aguinaldo" was staring at his tormentor dumbly. "Looks as if he'd like to eat me, don't he?" the latter whispered loudly to the table. They either laughed or they did not. The organist did not because he was thinking of nothing. "Snipey" laughed to carry favor with the management, and the two women laughed because they understood the game that was being played and mocked at it. They knew that "Aguinaldo" did not dare to face an open rupture for fear he should find himself on the street. There was a note in their cackling that was a challenge to the manager.

"Any time he likes to try a chat me, I'm game," he blustered. "I ain't heard that Filipinos are much on the fight," "Snipey" laughed. "Aguinaldo" picked up his overcoat, and slouched away to his sleeping room, patting down the hall with bare feet. The organ grinder, who shared the room, followed him. "Aguinaldo," in his room, cast off the shirt he wore, and appeared in a pair of knickerbockers, from which the legs had been amputated high on the thigh. He had only a coat of brown stain to protect the bulk of his body from the chill air. "I won't stand it much longer," he said to himself and the boy. "I'd sooner be a sandwich man again." The imitation bear-skin which he looked about his hips did nothing to warm or console him. He put on the overcoat again, and coughed tentatively. "A man might as well be in jail as cooped up in a spiciary packin' case. An' that fool pokin' fun at him."

He picked up the wig of red-black hair, and fitted it tightly to his scalp—so tightly that it pinched his skull as if in a vice, and pulled his eyebrows high on his forehead. Then the bone ring found a sore spot in his blood—the revolt of an irritated skin against the discomfort of a hair shirt—and he shook his fist savagely at his reflection in the mirror. Then he went into the back of the shop which served to house the exhibition, and from the wreck of a discarded peep-show drew out a flask. It would keep out the cold. It also kept in the heat—the heat, that is, of his irritation—and mixing with the luncheon, started a rebellion in his head. When he heard a thundering demand for his prompt appearance from that triune oppressor, the manager, "barker" and "bonnet," he lifted the tail of his bearskin and thrust the flask into the hip-pocket of his legless knickerbockers, planning to have another drink in his cage.

The manager did not see anything in his manner except a bluish bad humor, and "Aguinaldo," climbing up to his platform, got over the side of a box which was seven feet long, three feet wide and four feet high. He sat down in the bottom of it. A wire top was added, making the sides three feet higher, so that when the exhibition began he might stand up without showing more than his head and chest to the public who had not yet passed the ticket office to the platform on which he was elevated. When not roused by the manager to a mook fury that flung him with savage hands upon this wire netting, he sat with his back against the end of the box and his legs outstretched before him, scowling at the faces which showed over the side of his cage. The enameled beauty was already in the ticket office. "Snipey" and the human target were on the platform in front of "Aguinaldo's" box. A calico screen hung between them and the Hall of Illusions, and behind that screen the boy waited with the hand organ. There were two lines of mutescopes in the hall, and at the far end of it, behind a row of curtains, there was the machinery of three optical illusions—arrangements of lights and mirrors for the production of the "vanishing lady," the "beheaded lady," and the "animated bust." A door beside these curtains led into the second compartment where the scrawny beauties posed. There was a third room with nothing in it but the broken peep-show and such old lumber. And the method of the entertainment was just this. A crowd was gathered by the invitations of the "barker" at the door, and welcomed into the free show beside the ticket office. From that the honey-tongued orator drew them past the office (where they paid five cents each) over "Aguinaldo's" platform into the Hall of Illusions. This entertainment there was rather disappointing after the promises of the placards and pictures in the windows and of the manager on the platform. It would cost ten cents more to realize those promises in the next compartment. A number of "touts" led the gulls into the Beauty Show, where they received another disappointment when the golden-haired beauties were posed for them. They were told then that in the last compartment there was something that they must not inform the police about. It would cost ten cents more to see it. If any were fools enough to pay that ten cents, they came upon the lumber room. The three touts laughed at them. The manager and "Snipey" eyed them, and if they had any money left in their pockets, they were glad to escape by a side door and say nothing. It was this progression the manager intended to begin when he called out from the door, "Are yeh all ready?" The organ staggered into an uncertain melody for answer. "Snipey" twisted his tin-bladed daggers on the platform. The vision in the ticket-office smiled, and "Aguinaldo," hidden in his packing-case, got the bottle from under his bearskin and attempted to tilt it to his lips. He had forgotten the bone ring that hung from his nose as low as his lower lip, and he split the precious liquor over his face and down his neck before he knew it. Then he jerked out the inconvenient decoration—scratching the tender skin of his nostrils as he did it, so that his nose began to bleed—wiped off his face with his hand, smudging the liquor-loosened colors and drank copiously. The manager had thrown open the door and was already casting bait to his gudgeon. "Walk in, gents, walk in. Free performance right on the inside. No charge for admission. The finest show on the Bowery. The original Palace of Illusions an' Turkish Beauty Show. Children not admitted. Walk in, gents, walk in. It's free gratis—fer nothin'. Step right inside. Don't block the entrance." The three "touts" who had been gazing at the photographs of the chorus-girls in the window, led the invasion. It was a holiday afternoon. There were yonths sight-seeing on the Bowery who would not venture there after dark, and the barker's invitation gathered them in. "Free performance just beginning," he kept crying. "Snipey" began to juggle, with his daggers. When the crowd increased, he cast one against a shield of thick planks. The organ stopped. In a nervous silence "Jenny," who had been waiting in the back-ground, stood up beside the dagger in the plank, and the "Mexican," throwing aside his sombrero, cast the five remaining knives at her, one by one. They struck in a circle about her head, and the music burst out again triumphantly. This performance was repeated until some thirty-odd men and boys were jammed into the small space before the platform. Then the manager came in from the door, and took his place beside "Snipey." The music choked off an unfinished bar. "Now, gents," he said, "just a moment while I tell yeh w'at we got inside. I got the finest show that ever opened on the Bowery. First an' foremost, boys, we got the Filipino warrior an' wild man"—pointing from the painting of a hairy cannibal pursued by soldiers to the box in which the invisible "Aguinaldo" steered a whirling head at the voice of his tormentor. "He was captured eighteen miles from Manila, an' brought to this country, just as yeh'll see'm there, by Signor Marchesi"—pointing to "Snipey." "An' I tell yeh, boys, for the true, he's the ugliest an' the lowest species of the human race that ever breathed the pure an' enlightened air of this continent. Yeh'll see'm in all his native barbarity, the saltiest brute that ever ate a pork sausage. Women faints at sight of him. But yeh don't need to be afraid, boys. He's—"

There was a snicker from the audience. An indescribable face had appeared over the side of the packing-case. "Aguinaldo" had pushed back his wig to cool his forehead, and the

A PHILIPPINE RESUME.

GENERAL WHEELER WRITES A SURVEY OF PEOPLE AND RESOURCES.

Magnificence of the Churches and Monasteries—Natives Dress as They Did 2000 Years Ago—A Failure of the Rice Crop Would Cause a Famine.

GENERAL JOSEPH WHEELER, of the United States Army, writes as follows to the New York Sun from Santa Rita, Philippine Islands:

I have now seen much of the country and the people in that part of Luzon for fifty miles north of Manila. In about twenty there is a magnificent stone church and a convent or monastery. The value of the church and monastery of a town seems to be equal in many cases to the value of all the other buildings in the town.

The sugar storerooms are also extensively constructed buildings. They have very thick stone walls and either tile or metal roofs and cover considerable space of ground; some of them have dimensions of about sixty or seventy feet by 100 feet.

There is a general impression that the insurgent army is made up very largely of people without property, and that people who have property desire the Americans to control so that their property is secured to them, but I find that there is also a fear or apprehension among some of the wealthy that if the Americans control and give universal suffrage, the power of the wealthy people would be taken away and their hold on property very much impaired. I think that if the wealthy people could be assured that they would be protected in their property rights by the United States it would have a very good effect.

The friars and priests are charged with all sorts of oppressions and misdemeanors, but it must be remembered that friars and priests are very numerous, and in so large a body there will be found every possible phase of character and disposition. The religious orders are very rich. They have been acquiring property for nearly three centuries.

The statement I have seen that seventy per cent. of the people of Luzon can read and write is a great mistake. It may be true of Manila, but it is not true of the rural districts, and the percentage of illiteracy in the other islands is much greater than in Luzon. The appearance, mode of life and method of performing work is to-day very much like that described in the Bible of the beginning of the Christian era.

The people dress very much as they did 2000 years ago, the means of transportation by carts drawn by carabao is about the same, and their methods of shelling and cleaning rice are as primitive, as possible and no better than they were 2000 years ago. During the last few years sugar mills and rice mills have been erected in some of the larger cities, and this has especially been the case since the building of the Manila and Dagupan Railroad, but in the smaller cities and towns rice is husked by pounding by hand, and is winnowed by throwing it up and then separating the chaff just as in the earliest times.

Nearly everything can be grown, but oranges and bananas are not as good as in other localities, the reason no doubt being that they seem to give them no cultivation whatever. If they were cultivated I believe they would be as fine as the products of any other country.

Tobacco is grown in the valley of Cagayan, in the northeastern part of Luzon, which is said to be equal to any tobacco in the world. The coffee grown is said to be superior to Mocha.

Rice is the principal product, and a failure of that crop will cause a terrible famine, as the people depend almost entirely upon it for food. Sugar is the principal crop for export. The greatest amount exported in any one year was 261,681 tons, which was in 1893.

Corn grows very rapidly and the ears reach their full growth about sixty days from the time of planting. The provinces which are especially spoken of as productive of corn or maize are Viscaya, Isabela, South Camarines, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Nueva Ecija, Bulacan, Batangas, Albay and Abra. Wheat is grown in Batangas and San Isidro, Isabel and Ilocos Sur.

There is a great abundance of very valuable timber in these islands and many varieties of beautiful hard woods under native names, such as mahogany, black walnut and ebony, Gold, copper, coal, iron, sulphur, lead, building stone, petroleum and guano are found.

There are many different tribes living in these islands, the only ones in native rebellion being the Tagalos. This tribe occupies some eight provinces in the neighborhood of Manila, and their association with Europeans has made them more civilized than other tribes.

Monkeys are numerous, the flying squirrel which has a fine skin is found, and also the wild cat, the wild dog, and the water buffalo. The lion, the tiger, the hyena, leopard and the bear are found in these islands. In variety, plumage and charming singing the birds are said to be superior to those of any other part of the earth.

Crocodiles, boa constrictors and lizards are found. There are many dangerous snakes, but in this densely populated district there are very few, and the people tell me that very seldom is any one bitten by them. They also tell me that the natives understand how to cure the worst of the bites by using herbs.

The flowers of the island are very beautiful, and many years ago a priest collected thousands of varieties, and I saw in a convent a copy of some books giving a description of each flower and a painting of the flower, apparently in water colors, each painting occupying a large space.

The market place of each town is filled with men, women and children with their baskets, and fruits and other articles for sale. Although bananas and coconuts grow in our yards, we take care not to molest anything, but purchase of the natives. At first, prices were reasonable, but now we pay about a cent, Mexican, for bananas and about five cents apiece, Mexican, for coconuts. The natives bring very nice little fish to us, which they catch near the

The relations between the soldiers of my command and the people are most cordial. Our soldiers protect them in every right, and as they sell market products to the soldiers at higher rates than formerly obtained, they appreciate this as one of the advantages our occupation is to them.

There is no limit to the bamboo, which grows with great rapidity, and is used in building houses.

The leaves of the nipa palm are used for an outside covering of the roofs of houses. The women do a great deal of labor, and they and the men often wear hats made of grass palm leaves or bamboo, which are sometimes thirty inches in diameter. These hats turn water and serve as an umbrella as well as to protect the head from the sun. I often see women working in the fields with umbrellas like those in use in America.

The sugar mills are very primitive, very much like those first constructed in Cuba and other sugar countries. If the methods of cultivation now in use in the Hawaiian Islands and Louisiana were used, and if the improved machinery which these localities now have were introduced, the amount of sugar produced in the Philippines could be increased many fold. The exports of hump have greatly increased.

I learn the following about cotton from reliable sources: The cotton tree is found growing in an uncultivated state in many of the islands of the archipelago. Long staple cotton was formerly extensively cultivated in the province of Ilocos Norte, when, many years ago, large quantities of good cotton stuffs were exported. This industry still exists. The cultivation of this staple was, however, discouraged by the local governors, in order to urge the planting of tobacco for the Government supplies. It has since become difficult to revive the cotton production, although an essay in pamphlet form (for which a prize was awarded in Madrid) was gratuitously distributed over the colony in 1888 with that object. Nevertheless, cotton spinning and weaving is still carried on, on a reduced scale, in the Ilocos provinces (Luzon west coast).

Wild cotton is practically useless for spinning, as the staple is extremely short, but perhaps by hybridization and careful attention its culture might become valuable to the colony. The pod is elliptical and the cotton which bursts from it at maturity is snow white. It is used for stuffing pillows and mattresses.

It is a common thing to see wild cotton trees planted along the high road to serve as telegraph posts; by the time the seed is fully ripe, every leaf has fallen and nothing but the bursting pod remains hanging on the branches.

Roads judiciously located could be built very cheaply, and the dense population and the freight which must exist where the production is so abundant, could make the railroads very profitable.

The native horses or ponies abound. They are small but swift and strong. The domestic animal is fed on rice, molasses and grass. These ponies are also found wild in the forests. The buffalo or carabao is the draught and plow animal of the islands. It is powerful, docile and easy to train or manage. It is very slow and must be immersed in water every day and during hot weather two or three times a day. The flesh of the carabao is used for food. When tamed it is dangerous if deprived of water baths. Sheep do not thrive, but oxen, goats, dogs, cats, pigs, chickens, ducks, turkeys and geese are more or less abundant. A few deer are tamed; in a wild state they are frequently seen. The pigs are thin, but show marked traces of the Berkshire-Kentucky species.

Freighting on the Western Plains. Freighting by ox teams became so important an institution on the plains by 1852 that two companies with capital of about \$40,000 each, made the transportation of freights from the East over the plains and across the mountains to California and New Mexico a regularly organized enterprise. Alexander Majors, who is known all over the West as the prince of plains freighters, began freighting in 1848 on the Santa Fe trail with six wagons. James Fuller began a year later with twenty oxen and two wagons, on the Utah trail. In 1855 the firm of Russell, Majors & Waddell was formed at St. Joseph, Mo., and by 1861 the firm employed in its freight transportation to New Mexico alone 5000 men, 2300 wagons, nearly 500 horses, 18,000 oxen and 5000 mules. The capital invested at that time was upward of \$1,800,000, and the profits of the business were enormous. The United States paid \$270,000 to Russell, Majors & Waddell in 1860 for freighting to army camps, and even more during the days of the Civil War. The company formed by James Fuller for transportation of merchandise, army supplies and hides over the Utah trail did a smaller business because the transportation facilities by the Isthmus of Panama formed a great competing factor in the California freight business. Nevertheless the Fuller Company employed oxen, wagons, horses and mules that represented a value of \$700,000 in 1859.

Outwitting a Bull. After five men and a horse and cart had tried for an hour to get an unruly bull who had lain down a half block from the entrance to the Chicago stockyards to get up and move on to his doom, a boy came along and solved the problem in a moment. He said the bull was tired and hungry, so he ran into a barn, got a small bunch of hay, stood in front of the animal, and in less than two minutes he had it up on its feet. Walking ahead, he coaxed it into the yards and into a pen, in great gloe over his success.

American Hay Abroad. Immense quantities of hay are being shipped from this country to the British army in South Africa and to the American army in the Philippines. It is related here before shipment and the regulation package is about the size and shape of a nail keg. During the process it is subjected to great pressure so that a given quantity only occupies about one-third the space required by ordinary baled hay.—Philadelphia Record.

FARM AND GARDEN.

Best Soil For Lima Beans.

It is a fact that all Lima beans do best upon land moderately rich, as upon a strong muck soil they grow too rank, have too much foliage, and are not inclined to set the pods until the growth of vine has been checked in some way, either by dry season or by having completed their growth. This is even more noticeable in the bush Lima than in the pole Lima, and should serve as a caution in regard to the soil they should be planted in and against the use of strongly nitrogenous manures. Moderately well-manured clay or clay loam seems to be best adapted to their growth.

An Example of Forest Preservation.

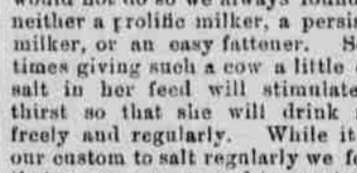
In his annual address before the Wisconsin Forestry Association, President B. S. Hoxie said that we are not in the dark concerning the preservation of forests, because in the old world it is no longer an experiment. Bohemia is one of the most populous countries on the globe. Its climate is cool with rather severe winters. As a consequence large quantities of fuel are used, most of which is taken from the forests that cover the mountain sides. For many centuries these forests have furnished fuel and building material for a dense population and industry nearly their primeval area. This is due to the foresight of the government in ordaining that as trees were cut down others should be planted to fill the vacancies. Now vast stretches of dense forests cover the mountain slopes.

Warm Water For Cattle.

Those who warm the water for their cows, or some who do so, say that the cows need to drink but once a day. With the water at a temperature of sixty degrees they will fill themselves with enough for twenty-four hours, and as there is no chilling of the system or the digestive organs, the digestion goes along steadily, and the milk product is much greater than when they are watered twice a day with cold water. We have no doubt that cows could become accustomed to taking enough water at one time to last all the day and night, but we should prefer that they had it twice a day if they were ours. We never had a cow that was a good one for milk that would not drink, and drink heartily, twice every day in winter, if the water was not colder than fifty degrees, and when we have had one that would not do so we always found her either a prolific milker, a persistent milker, or an easy fatterer. Sometimes giving such a cow a little extra salt in her feed will stimulate her thirst so that she will drink more freely and regularly. While it was our custom to salt regularly we found that some cows seemed to want more than others, and we tried to make sure that each one had enough, though sometimes after buying a cow we found it best to limit her on salt until she had been accustomed to having it every day. Too much salt, or the too much water they drank afterward, would soon tend to disagreeable extent, if not a dangerous one.—Boston Cultivator.

For Carrying Heavy Boxes.

One of the unhandy things to move upon the farm is a heavy box which has no handles or other projections. The illustration shows a contrivance that permits two persons to pick up a



EXCELLENT DEVICE FOR MOVING BOXES.

heavy box and walk off with it. A blacksmith from an old chain and a rod of iron can make the affair in a few moments. A pole can be slipped through the upper links of the chain to take hold of.—American Agriculturist.

Importance of Pruning and Soil.

Excessive pruning is to be credited for a share of the work of destroying the vigor of trees. Cutting away a great portion of the branches, some of them often large ones, causes decay at the point of severing and is a receptacle for insect pests, and the destruction of corresponding quantity of roots, which decay and give rise to fungus growth. Merely rubbing off superfluous buds as soon as they appear, or cutting out diseased or decayed branches, usually will be all that is necessary in the line of pruning. The other important point in the process of building up a tree is proper soil. Perhaps from no cause do trees suffer more than from lack of support from the soil. Orchards are too often planted on indifferent ground, because it is not so good for cultivation; and for this very reason it is not so good for fruit-growing.

Soil in which corn will grow well will produce fruit trees. But they must not be left to grow and bear fruit from year to year, depending on the natural strength of the soil. The corn field is not so left, but is replenished each year with more or less fertilizing material; and so must the orchard be, if healthy fruit-bearing trees are obtained.

For a situation for an orchard, upland, with rich loam soil, is best. If it must be on wet or heavy clay soil, it should be drained and supplied with plenty of sand or loam, worked well and deep into the soil. Loam or alluvium, composed with manure from the cattle stalls, is, in general, a good fertilizer for the orchard, and should be supplied every two or three years, or oftener if needed. The compost should be worked deep down into the soil at the extremities of the roots, and as deep nearer the tree as can be done without damage to the roots. Such management will insure vigorous, healthy trees, that will not so readily succumb to disease.—The Epitomist.

A Good Sheep Rack.

Perhaps no other thing connected with the feeding of sheep has been discussed more than the rack to feed in. Mr. L. W. Oviatt, of Michigan, after many years' experience contrived the rack shown in the illustration, which, he thinks, is more completely than any other

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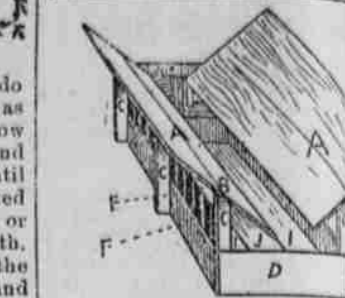


FIG. 1—AN IMPROVED SHEEP RACK.

devised. This rack combines wings of the folding rack manger-room of the old rack, described as follows: The wings (A) in Fig. 1, hinges (B), and may be tipped stand perpendicular on the rack. These wings are two wide boards, the wider (C) the posts (C) of 2x4 stuff, on the side of the rack, but they can be either out or in. D, base, inches wide; E, top board six inches wide; F, slats, about 3 inches space between E and D, 12-foot rack will accommodate 12 sheep on a side. I, bottom placed entirely under and securely to the bottom of the center bottom board placed and lapping onto the other two. This leaves a shoulder of six

inches against which the sheep can push their horns or roots of any kind. The base of the rack should be two feet wide. The wings should meet within six inches.

Mr. Oviatt thinks that the arrangement in Fig. 2 will be an improvement on that shown in Fig. 1, in that it is not properly made, but the slat (A) should be under the boards (B), and nailed firmly to (C). These remain firm and the hinges should be on top, and the wide boards (D) can turn on rest on B, D, out of the way so that he wants to clean out the rack. He wants the wings the same as in Fig. 1.—Ohio Farmer.

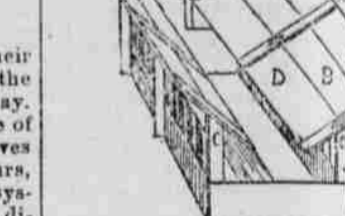


FIG. 2—THE RACK DIFFERENTLY ARRANGED.

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Diseases of Poultry.

Feather Pulling.—The measure that effects poultry, as they strip their feathers, and as they strip, they must be always renewing the feathers cannot lay. It is a common illness, and especially if active, are confined with no exercise. The best preventive is to keep the hens busy at work scratching. If she begins it she will soon teach others; therefore remove the culprit at once. If it becomes chronic it is not easily cured. It may sometimes be necessary to sell off and begin anew. We have tested from parties who cured the habit by cutting off the upper or lower mandible, which, of course, makes longer than the other. After cutting off one of them the edges are smoothed down. This makes it difficult to catch a hold on the feathers, but are not sure the remedy is infallible. The first wool caught in the act should be at once killed, as she will pull the others. The cause is ill-defined. When the neck of the cock is pulled or the breast bar of feathers, the hens are then picking him, and while they begin to pick each other, some have smeared the birds with oil, but smearing is unsightly. The remedy is to handle the birds. If they are not sure the remedy is infallible. The first wool caught in the act should be at once killed, as she will pull the others. The cause is ill-defined. When the neck of the cock is pulled or the breast bar of feathers, the hens are then picking him, and while they begin to pick each other, some have smeared the birds with oil, but smearing is unsightly. The remedy is to handle the birds. If they are not sure the remedy is infallible. The first wool caught in the act should be at once killed, as she will pull the others. The cause is ill-defined. 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