

# THE HUMMING BIRD.

## CURIOUS FACTS ABOUT THE FEATHERED JEWELS.

How They Are Collected for Ornamental and Scientific Purposes—Their Nests and Eggs—Invisible Warriors—What Makes Their Varied Hues.

Birds of Fancy Feather.

The Smithsonian Institution has issued a monograph full of fascinating information about humming-birds. One reason why these daintiest of feathered creatures are interesting is that they were unknown to the white man until Columbus discovered the new world, their range being confined to the continent of America.

It is not the naturalist alone who has found them worthy of attention. The demand for them is great for ornamental purposes. Dealers, mostly Frenchmen and Belgians, have established themselves in many cities of South America for the sole object of buying and exporting humming-birds. From Santa Fe de Bogota alone many thousands of skins are annually sent to London and Paris. The Indians readily learn the art of skinning and preserving them, and, because of the exceptional profits to be got by this industry, they often traverse great distances to procure the birds. Residents of many parts

of whatsover kind, humming-birds are sometimes chased by the larger species of bumble-bees, of which they seldom take the least notice, as their superiority of flight is sufficient to enable them to leave the slow-moving insect far behind. These tiny feathered beings are readily tamed and soon become accustomed to the society of human beings, but they do not long survive confinement. Whether for want of sufficient exercise or for some other cause unknown, they invariably die within a few weeks. They are very inquisitive. One of them will sometimes approach like a flash and poise itself directly in front of one's face, its wings vibrating so rapidly as to appear as a mere haze on each side of its body, which itself remains so stationary that the inquiring expression of its bright black eyes and the outline of its nearly every feather of its compact little figure can be seen. But the slightest demonstration causes it to vanish so swiftly that the eye can scarcely trace the line of its flight. In sleeping, humming-birds frequently suspend themselves by the feet, with their heads downward, in the manner of some paroquets.

Their Food. In feeding from flower to flower the humming birds, besides obtaining nourishment for themselves, perform in the economy of nature the same office as insects, by transferring pollen from one blossom to another, and thus assisting in the fertilization of the plants. Prof. Robert Ridgway, the distinguished ornithologist and author of the monograph quoted, states that these creatures do not feed exclusively on nectar obtained from flowers, as is popularly supposed. Insects furnish a large part of their diet, and their crops and stomachs are commonly found to be filled with beetles, bees, ants and spiders. They rob spiders' webs of the insects which those crafty arachnids have captured in their snares so industriously spread. It is very interesting to watch them in the performance of this thievery, which they are obliged to conduct with great skill and care, inasmuch as they themselves run a risk of getting caught in the webs, and the larger spiders boldly defend their homes against such

of Brazil employ their slaves in collecting and preparing them for European markets, and great numbers are shipped from Rio Janeiro, Bahia, and Pernambuco. Inmates of the convents are supplied with many of the most richly colored species for the manufacture of artificial feather flowers. Myriads of hummers are also used by the natives of Mexico in making the wonderful feather-pictures for which the descendants of the Aztecs are famous, plumes of different colors being employed in place of pigments.

American Birds. The humming-birds constitute the most remarkable feature of the bird life of the New World. They have no representatives in any other part of the earth. About 500 distinct species are now known, while others are being brought to light with almost every fresh collection made in Mexico, Central America, or the higher lands of South America. They are most numerous in mountainous countries, their center of abundance being among the Northern Andes, between the parallel of 10 degrees north and south of the Equator. The great focus of this feathered family is in Ecuador, where more than one hundred species are found, over half of them being peculiar to that country. Colombia has about one hundred species, and Peru and Bolivia together have ninety-six known species. In the United States only seventeen species exist, the Valley of the Mississippi and all the States east of that river possessing only a single kind of humming-bird. The geographical distribution of humming-birds is very interesting, some species having a widely extended range, while others are confined to single mountain peaks or valleys. One group of them frequents the darkest and most retired parts of the forests of Brazil, from which fact they have come to be known as the Hornbills.

The nests of humming birds are among the most beautiful examples of avian architecture. They are usually made very compact, most of them cup-shaped or turban-shaped, the materials composing them being chiefly plant-down, interwoven with and strengthened

by spiders' webs, and often ornamented by an external mosaic of small lichens.

They Warriors. Notwithstanding their diminutive size, pugnacity is one of the most conspicuous traits of humming birds. Even

afraid of them, being compelled to retreat before the impetuous assaults of the tiny warrior, whose boldness is only equalled by the lightning-like rapidity of his movements, thus baffling any attempt at resistance on the part of the more powerful adversary. The lance-like thrusts of the needle-like beak are usually directed at the eyes of the enemy. When two or more individuals of either sex happen near the same spot spirited and often violent conflicts are almost certain to ensue. While invincible against other birds



SPANGLED COCKATOO

worn by the Indian women as decorations for the ears. A poet once said: "Each and all these a bird in me am I, A bee collecting sweets from bloom to bloom, A butterfly in brilliancy of plume."

Have You Ever Noticed It? Did you ever know a woman's character to be read by her hair? Palmistry having gone out of date among fashionable people, this unveiling of the disposition may be done by a close examination of my lady's locks.

If the hair shows much care, being glossy, well kept, and every pin in its place, you may rely on it that she is a lady, born and bred, whether her own or the deft fingers of a maid arranged it.

Gloss only comes from constant attention, and the woman of innate refinement is the one who lingers over her toilet, revels in baths, and adores shampoos. Therefore sign No. 1 reads truthfully. Coarse hair shows humble birth. Brown hair, as a rule, if of the peculiar line character that makes it seem very thin, will indicate a good disposition. Hair that splits in the ends is a representation of the owner's tendency to quarrel and have bickering and differences on all occasions. Black, glossy hair shows treachery; blond, fluffy hair weakness and vanity; and red hair, temper, but truthfulness. The sort of hair known as drab, the kind so hard to match, and awfully high-priced when one wants a false bang, reads thus: highly sensitive and touchy. Either dye your locks or expect to be read of all men, for though hands sometimes lie, hair never does.

How to Clean Bottles. It is surprising how many people persist in cleaning bottles with shot after the frequent cautions that have been given. Nothing cleans a bottle so easily as a handful of shot, which can be shaken into every corner until the glass fairly shines with cleanliness. But the danger of lead poisoning is very great, even when the bottle is rinsed out with clean water, and it is doubly dangerous when, as is the usual case, there is no rinsing out at all. A little clean sand is a convenient and thorough bottle-cleanser, especially as it is absolutely necessary to complete the process by washing out the particles of sand which adhere. When time is not an object, a bottle can be well cleansed by aid of potato parings, but as they must be corked in and left to ferment the plan is too tedious for general use. But under no circumstances should shot be used, especially in bottles about to be filled with drugs or medicines.

Why Men Are Bald. "Fifty years ago it was an uncommon thing to see a young man with a skating rink on his head," said a physician. "Now most men begin to grow bald before reaching 40, and many have little hair left at 30. This is due chiefly to the heavy head coverings now worn. Did you ever see a bald-headed Indian? The ancient Greeks and Romans went much with their heads uncovered, and, if we can depend upon the counterfeit presentments of them left to us, baldness was very rare among them. The hat most injurious to the hair is the soft felt. The heavy cap worn by many Northern people is also a great promoter of baldness. The high silk, or 'plug' hat is, perhaps, least injurious of any head gear now worn. I do not believe that it was intended that the head should have any covering but the hair. Baldness is the penalty we pay for persistent violation of the laws of nature."

Wales Went to the Races. Certain English papers are creating quite a commotion over the fact that the prince of Wales instead of attending the funeral of Alfred Lord Tennyson went to the Newmarket races. His absence would be less noted had any of the royal personages been personally present, but they were not. Surely in an event of such national importance as the funeral of a poet, create, and that laureate Tennyson, the Prince, the future head of the nation, might have foregone a day's sport to attend to a day's duty. Had it been the funeral of a second Colly Cibber attendance might mean hypocrisy, but there could be no such feeling in laying Tennyson to rest in Westminster. Tennyson was the prince of Anglo-Saxon song, and that title he earned and did not inherit.

PATRY BEANS of Howard County, Ind., aged 108 years, has been a church member 100 years.

did not give them voice for song, and the notes they utter amount to nothing more than a warbling twitter, which the males produce during the pairing season. They have remarkably large breast-bones, for the attachment of the powerful wing muscles. It is reckoned that their wings vibrate as fast as 500 times in a minute. So great an exercise of muscular force as is involved by such rapid movements calls for an ample supply of blood, and this is provided for by a heart of unusual size. The actual flying speed of the humming-bird is less than the ordinary observer might suspect, for the small size of the creature adds to the seeming rapidity of its flight, just as the little puffing tug appears to move faster than the ferryboat, though it really does not do so.

So far as the coloration of the head is concerned, no other humming-bird equals the ruby-and-topaz. It is the species of which the greatest number are exported from South America to Europe, for the purpose of adorning hats and bonnets, for the manufacture of artificial flowers, etc. Humming-birds were great favorites of the ancient Mexicans. They used the feathers for their superb mantles in the time of Montezuma, and in embroidering the pictures so much extolled by Cortez. Their name signifies, in the Indian language, "sun-beams," and their feathers are still



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# SOLDIERS' COLUMN

## PREMONITIONS.

An Ohio Lad Who Knew He was to be Killed at Kenesaw Mountain.



Sure it is that fate often speaks in unmistakable terms to her victims. That death comes without previous warning is not always true; and the great beyond is oft revealed to mortal eyes. Instances like that which I am about to relate could, doubtless, be recounted by innumerable numbers, be recounted by comrades of the battlefield.

Around the base of "Old Kenesaw Mountain" we had been maneuvering for many days. Constantly under fire, with death staring us in the face both by day and night, we had become habituated to danger. Our regiment had been on the front line the day before, and, following the established rule, we were having a rest in the third line from the front. A short distance to the right of our brigade the Johnnies had kicked up a small row, and threatening an onslaught on our lines, we were hurriedly sent over there to strengthen the reserve. Arriving on the ground we took position in the rear of all. As the firing lulled we quietly sat ourselves down to await further developments. Robert J. Rice, a private of our company, came and sat down by my side, and remarked: "We are going to have a battle."

I saw no unusual indications of such an event, and replied to him accordingly. Without any appearance of concern or alarm he replied: "Yes, we are anxious to be killed. I am going to the front, and Lieutenant, I want you to notice that I do my duty, and go as far as any man." Hardly had he finished this remark when we were called to attention, and on the "double-quick" we were rushed to the front, not stopping until we reached the reserve picket-line, entirely out of our place, according to the regular order of things. On reaching the reserve there was considerable confusion apparent in front, and without waiting to catch breath, "The three left companies deploy as skirmishers" was the ringing command of our commanding officer. On the run we obeyed the order, and changing front we rushed down into the woods. Reaching the picket-line, we halted, and without waiting an introduction we took part in repelling a sortie of the enemy. Glancing around to see how it was with those under my command, I saw Robert in our immediate front, with a small tree for shelter, firing his rifle with great deliberation. Then it was that his admiring presentation of his death-came look to me so suddenly. Yes, and while I looked he staggered and fell—shot dead, with a bullet through the head.

One may say that such dangers as we were accustomed to had caused him to think that he had become despondent, etc. This was not the case, because he had just joined us from a long siege in the hospital. This was his first battle. We held that line, but our loss was very considerable. I think it was an Illinois regiment that was ordered to the front, and they were shot through both eyes. He lay on the ground there awhile, and only complained that the stretcher-bearers were slow in coming after him. He grew impatient and getting on his feet, made his way back undisturbed.

## WITH SHERMAN.

### Another Chapter of the Peach Tree Creek Battle.

Gen. Newton's Division, of the Fourth Corps, took a hand in this battle. Comrades who have written before have unwittingly described things as they saw them, and as memory reproduces; but men in the line had little chance for observation, except in their immediate front and neighborhood. The firing had begun a little before noon, as I remember it.

Newton's Division crossed the creek on the bridge near that redoubt spoken of by the last comrade. We followed the road toward Atlanta. Our brigade was in the rear, and had only reached a point about a quarter of a mile from the bridge when the rebel force was seen in front of us. Away to our right the roar of battle was tremendous. The smoke came rolling up, though the woods were on fire. We were not long in expectancy. Our brigades advanced in quick succession, and our rifles began firing back in all directions. One of them stopped long enough to tell us that the whole rebel army was bearing down upon us; that he had been sent to Gen. Thomas for reinforcements.

These brigades of ours came back down the road in great disorder. They were being flanked, they said, and this, too, on the left. The rebel force was between them and the creek, and seemed determined to get around and in possession of the bridge. The creek along here was hardly fordable, by its water deep, and the banks of that kind of clay which was more difficult to scale than the Chinese wall.

Between us and the creek, and in our rear, was an open field. On the flats next the creek was a cornfield. While cheering was heard on our right, out of the woods on our left came a rebel column, company front, on the double-quick, en route for the bridge. Our brigade, hitherto inactive, quickly changed front and began firing into this rebel column, and what with our bullets and the grape and canister from the small works spoken of near the bridge, we had the satisfaction of seeing this rebel column melt away before the cornfield was crossed. They went back faster than they came out, and over the same route.

# PENNSYLVANIA PICKINGS.

## SOME IMPORTANT HAPPENINGS.

Of Interest to Dwellers in the Keystone State.

### A CHANGED WATER-COURSE.

A LAND OWNER AWARDED DAMAGES FOR INJURIES CAUSED BY IT. An important case was decided by a Dauphin county judge. The Lykens Valley Coal Company changed the course of a stream on its property and dumped a large quantity of coal dust into the channel of the old stream. A big flood caused an overflow of the stream and the cutm was carried on the land of David S. Elder, doing much damage to it. Elder instituted suit for the recovery of \$7,500, and the jury awarded him \$1,000. If a new trial is not granted the case will be appealed to the Supreme Court by the Corporation.

### MINEERS' HOUSES TIPPLE OVER.

At an early hour Sunday morning the ground began to settle over the workings of the Langcliff colliery at Avoca, caused by a cave-in that took place in the mine during the night, doing considerable damage to property. The place where the surface is settled is known as "Brown's Patch" and to-day it is reported that several acres have gone down from two to six feet, causing a few of the miners' houses to topple over, while many others sustain more or less damages.

### FOLEY LOSES HIS LIBERTY.

The jury in the case of Pat Fek Foley, of Pittsburg, against Editor Laird, of the Greensburg Argus, for criminal libel, returned a verdict of not guilty. Two-thirds of the cost were assessed on the defendant and one-third on the plaintiff. The Argus in a political article referred to Foley as a "founder, heeler and ruffian."

### GET THE TOOLS IN A HOT PLACE.

Frank Hodges and William Murphy, prisoners in the Blair county jail at Hollidaysburg on suspicion of being the attempted murderers of a man in Altoona, escaped Friday night by digging through the walls with tools their friends on the outside sent them concealed in a mammoth potato pile.

### A SAVING FOR PENSION APPLICANTS.

Adjutant General Greenland says applicants for pensions, who have lost their papers, go to unnecessary expenses in paying persons to secure from the department certificates showing their service in the Union army. These can be secured by simply asking the department for them.

### AN EARLY SKATING ACCIDENT.

William Polecki, of Blackwood, aged 9 years, while sliding on the ice at Blackwood reservoir, near Tremont, in company with several young companions, broke through and was drowned.

### JOSIAH LYDICK, A MERCHANT OF GREENVILLE,

while crossing the street from his store to his dwelling, carrying a large sum of money Monday night, was attacked by a robber who called Mr. Lydick to the ground with a sand-bag and after rifling his victim's pockets, escaped.

### WILLIAM WHALEN WAS CRUSHED BY ROCK

falling on him at the South West Conellville (Loken Company's) mines, near Mt. Pleasant. He died several hours afterward.

### THE BUSINESS MEN OF BELLEVILLE ARE

excited over the fact that the town will likely lose its free mail delivery service. In 1890 the postoffice receipts were \$10,000, but last year they were only about \$7,000.

SATURDAY night and Sunday the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad moved 60 coal trains from the mines in the Schuylkill region down their main line to sidewater. Each of the trains averaged 60 gondola cars or in all 3,600. Each car carried an average of 28 tons, making a total of 100,800 tons for each ton the company gets \$1.50 main line tolls, or in all \$547,400, which the pair "share" pays.

EARLY a 7-months-old child of Mr. and Mrs. A. Comp, of Harrisburg, was fatally burned by the explosion of an oil lamp.

A 2-YEAR-OLD daughter of Robert Meehan, of Pittsburg, was fatally burned. The child fell playing about a fire when her clothes ignited, literally cooking the flesh. Dr. Graham pronounced the child's injuries fatal.

BLACK diphtheria has broken out with great violence at Mammoth, a mining town in Westmoreland county near Greensburg, and a half dozen deaths have occurred.

A LOCKPORT (Westmoreland county) farmer discovered a broken frog on one of the main tracks of the Pennsylvania railroad on Tuesday morning just in time to stop the southwestern express, thereby saving it from being thrown from the track.

A LEHIGH Valley engine exploded near Shenandoah Wednesday night, killing Engineer William Barry, of Shoemakers, and seriously injuring a fireman and a brakeman.

A LITTLE child of Andrew Johnson at Brady's Run, was burned to death while playing about a fire in a room with other children.

AT Beaver Falls Saturday afternoon during a foot-ball game John Mitchell of New Brighton was severely injured. Little hopes are entertained for his recovery.

A CUMBERLAND county jury yesterday rendered a verdict of \$500 against the Philadelphia and Reading railroad, for the killing of Charles Evilhook, near Carlisle, Pa., in April 1891.

LAWRENCE county school directors favor free text books.

Mrs. MARY WILKES, an aged crippled lady, was attacked by two unknown men, near New Florence Sunday, and robbed of \$3.40.

AT Schuylkillhaven, Mrs. Ann Davis died at the almshouse, aged 101 years. She was born in Wales in 1791, and has been a widow for fifty years.

ALBERT TANKER, a lumber merchant, of Sandy Lake, fell asleep in a train returning from Buffalo and was robbed of \$433.

The treasury of Mercer county, is in straightened circumstances because of uncollected taxes during the past three years, aggregating about \$50,000.

A FIRE that broke out in J. D. Hepburn's restaurant, Mahaffey, destroyed all the buildings from the river to Mahaffey Hotel. The loss which amounts to thousands of dollars, falls heaviest on A. D. Lydick, who owned five of the burned buildings. A. Spruener and J. D. Hepburn are also heavy losers.

JOSEPH, the five year old son of John Henry, of Canoe creek, near Hollidaysburg, applied a lighted match to his clothing and was burned beyond recovery.

GOD never stops trying to use an earnest man because he now and then makes a mistake.

# LATER KEYSTONE STATE ITEMS

## A COSTLY CITY HALL.

The Philadelphia Building Has Cost \$16,700,000, and is Still Unfinished.

Philadelphia City Councils have resolved that no money whatever for the construction of the public buildings shall be appropriated out of the proceeds of the annual tax levy for 1893, unless the commission shall within ten days furnish Councils with a statement exhibiting item by item the manner in which the appropriation requested is to be expended, and also an approximate statement of the sum necessary to complete and furnish the buildings in accordance with existing plans and specifications. This action has long been looked for. The Public Building Commission, which has sole charge of the erection of Philadelphia's big city hall, was created by the Legislature over 23 years ago, and has so far defied all attempts of the city officials to inquire into its affairs. It has demanded certain sums each year, and the money has been grudgingly handed over. The amount asked for this year is slightly over \$2,000,000. When the erection of the building was begun it was to be finished in a few years at an estimated cost of \$5,000,000. Over \$10,000,000 have been spent on it. Nobody knows how much more will be required, and no one believes it will be finished before the beginning of the next century.

## FACTORY INSPECTIONS.

### THE YEARLY REPORT SHOWING WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED.

The following summary has been prepared by Factory Inspector Waterborn of the work done by his department for the year ending Nov. 30, 1892. Number of deputy inspectors on inspection work, 8; number of inspections made, 1,931; number of males employed under inspections have been made, 134,145; number of females employed under inspections have been made, 62,212; of the foregoing the number between 12 and 19 years of age, 33,217; total number of employees in establishments that have been inspected, 230,008; total number of or es given, 1,704. The orders were given as follows: Fire escapes to be erected, 187; elevators to be guarded, 171; sanitary orders given, 319; miscellaneous, 1,027; orders reported complied with, 1,300; number of accidents reported, 246. They were as follows: Fatal, 34, serious, 97, less serious, 125.

## THE COST TO THE STATE.

### ADJUTANT GENERAL GREENLAND FIGURES THE

HOME-MADE EXPENSES AT \$490,000. Adjutant General Greenland now estimates the cost of the recent troubles at Homestead to the State for the pay, maintenance and transportation of troops, etc., at \$450,000. Of this amount warrants have been drawn in the aggregate sum of \$575,225.49. The claim of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for \$52,000 for transportation and other claims not yet paid are not included in this amount.

## A FATAL BOILER EXPLOSION.

MARCH CHYKE.—A fatal boiler explosion occurred here at the power house being built for the Carbon County Electric Railway. Partin Albright, the construction engineer, was so badly scalded that he died. He resided at Muncy, Pa., and leaves a young wife, Francis Barwasser, of the county, was hit by flying debris and can hardly recover.

## PENNSYLVANIA'S CIGAR FIGURES.

The report of the commissioner of internal revenue shows that Pennsylvania is now the greatest cigar manufacturing State in the country. The number of cigars manufactured in this State in 1891, for the year was 1,232,800,859, which was nearly 100,000,000 in excess of the number manufactured in New York State and about four times as many as the number in any other State.

A PETITION is being circulated at Monongahela City asking the coming council to repeal the local option law.

Mrs. LEZZIE GRADER, of Mt. Pleasant, charged with illegal liquor selling, was fined \$1,000 and sent 10 months to the workhouse by Judge Doty, of Greensburg.

## EX-GOVERNOR HOYT DEAD.

### He Quietly Crosses the Dark River. A Sketch of His Military and Political Career.

Ex-Governor Henry M. Hoyt died at Wilkesbarre, Pa., on Thursday. The end was peaceful. Six months ago he was stricken with paralysis and three months later he had another stroke and began to fail rapidly. Mr. Hoyt after the war was never a strong man, having contracted a disease in the army which made him more or less of an invalid ever since. His estate will not reach over \$5,000.

Henry Martyn Hoyt was born at Kingston, Luzerne county, Pa., June 8, 1833, of New Eng and stock. He was the son of Siba Hoyt, who emigrated to Luzerne county from Danbury, Conn. After working on his father's farm, he went at the age of 14 to the Wilkesbarre Academy, where he prepared for Lafayette College. After studying two years he went to Williams College and graduated in the class of 1850.

After graduation he taught school for a few years and then studied law under the late George W. Woodward. He was admitted to the bar in 1853. On the advent of the Civil War General Hoyt was active in raising the Fifty-second Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, of which regiment he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel. He distinguished himself for bravery at Fair Oaks, Chickamauga and before Charleston.

His political career began in 1857, when he was appointed additional Law Judge of Luzerne county. In 1869 he was appointed Collector of Internal Revenue for the counties of Luzerne and Susquehanna. In 1869 he was chairman of the Republican State Committee, and in 1878 he was elected Governor of Pennsylvania on a hard money platform. Governor Hoyt was married September 23, 1855, to Mary E. Loveland. Three children—a son and two daughters—survive him.

## Proving Ownership.

A very amusing trial developed out of a suit of replevin for a dog brought by Dr. E. T. Brady against John A. Levi in Justice Shannon's Court, in Kansas City, Mo., recently. Both parties claimed the ownership of the dog. Dr. Brady's attorney, however, stated that they could prove the claimantship beyond doubt by the recognition of the dog for Mrs. Brady, and she was accordingly summoned.

The animal immediately jumped from his place in the prisoner's dock and showed with every demonstration of canine joy his recognition of his mistress. In consideration of the adverse testimony this was still not convincing to the Judge, so Mrs. Brady said that if she would sing a certain song the animal, in response to his training, would join in with her in his dog fashion and voice and sing the song through. This she did, and at the first words of the song the dog leaped for joy and fulfilled his part of the duet. No further evidence was taken, and the canine returned home with Mrs. Brady.