

A LOON'S DEVOTION.

Efforts of the Parent Bird to Save its Young.

A Wonderful Exhibition of Courage and Sagacity.

In August 1893, while canoeing on Lake Sebago with Prof. W. A. Robinson of Roxbury, Mass., we witnessed a wonderful exhibition of devotion, courage and sagacity of a male loon which we chanced to find with his mate and young in a deep bay indenting the principal island. When about fifty rods from the mouth of the bay, we were startled by his frequent and loud alarm cry, and drawing nearer, we saw at the head of the bay the family, the male being on the side toward the canoe. The mother, with her young one on her back, holding hard by his bill to her short tail feathers, uttered low, plaintive cries, and occasionally would dive, remaining under a considerable time.

Returning to the surface, we noticed the little fellow, generally four or five feet behind his mother, but he would quickly join her and grasping her tail would give a little spring, while the mother would aid his efforts by a flit of her tail, and in less than a second he was on her back again.

For about five minutes we watched the birds beating back and forth and showing great anxiety, doubtless fearing that we would block their passage into the lake, the outlet being very narrow, when father loon suddenly dove, and passing under the canoe, emerged some fifteen rods beyond us in the lake, calling our attention from his family by a loud scream. Approaching until he was not more than forty feet from us, he employed several artifices to induce us to pursue him, and thus relieve his loved ones.

Failing in this, he resorted to intimidation, and rising until he seemed to stand on the water, he ruffled his feathers until he seemed fully twice his natural size, furiously flapping his wings and screaming violently. He approached so near the canoe at one time that it seemed as if he was about to attack us. This effort proving futile, he swam away some ten rods, while we remained quiet and awaited with interest his next move, which was very singular, and perhaps intended to convey the impression of a mortally wounded bird.

First diving into the water, he arose some five feet distant, then leaping into the air about four feet, and again diving when he reached the water, he described a series of cycloidal curves, having a base of about five feet, and uttering a loud scream each time he left the water.

Turning, he repeated the same manoeuvres in an opposite direction, coming very near the boat. At last he turned on his side and uttered cries which grew fainter and fainter until all motion ceased, and he lay still as if dead. My companion said (I held the paddles), "I am afraid the brave old fellow has really killed himself by his tremendous exertions; paddle over and see." We approached noiselessly until quite near, when, thinking he had really deceived us, he began to slowly move away from us fluttering with one wing as though the other was broken, and simulating the faint and mournful cry of a dying bird, all the while keeping just out of reach, evidently hoping to induce us to follow him out into the lake.

When we ceased to follow he returned in the same manner until our compassion got the better of our curiosity, and we withdrew so as to leave the mouth of the bay unguarded, but stopping near enough to see the outcome of the matter.

As soon as he saw the coast clear, our gallant bird so recently in mortal extremity, holding his great green head high in the air, quickly rejoined his mate carrying her precious charge. It was most affecting to see the mutual caresses by rubbing their necks and heads together, and the little one did not fail to receive a goodly share. As for the "loon talk" in which they indulged, the boatmen would have been gratified to know that the birds spoke as well of them as they thought of the birds.—[Leverett M. Chase in Our Dumb Animals.

Crazed by a Snake.

An aged lady named Mrs. Summerfield has been crazed by the awful experience through which she went a few nights ago. Mrs. Summerfield is the mother of a wheat farmer living in Vermont, Tex., and has been ill for some time with a throat trouble which has nearly destroyed her voice. She was attended to bed on the occasion mentioned by one of her granddaughters, who, at the lady's request left the lamp beside the bed burning.

The house has been newly built and is not quite completed, with the rafters of the roof still uncovered by any ceiling. During the night the old lady's eyes were attracted by some object moving along one of these rafters, and presently a large bull snake thrust his head over and hung there, looking down at her.

She in all probability tried to summon some one, but owing to her affliction was unable to make herself heard. So perhaps for hours she lay with her terrified eyes fixed on the hideous shape overhead until overcome with nervousness and fear her mind began to wander. When found in the morning she was unconscious, it was with difficulty that she was revived. Her first motion was toward the rafter just over head, but this was thought only a part of her delirium until all at once the snake ran down the rafter and then dropped down on the bed. The old lady screamed loudly and again fainted, and when she finally regained consciousness it was seen that her terror fairly unloosed her intellect. During the day she seemed quiet enough but at the approach of night became so frantic that it was necessary to restrain her.

The bull snake is not venomous, but is formidable and hideous enough to inspire repugnance in the strongest mind. On searching the rafters and roof of his house Mr. Summerfield, after his mother's fright, found and dislodged no less than eighteen snakes of several varieties. This is the season of their hibernation, and they seek the warmest spot at hand in which to lie until spring. Unless molested they are usually harmless at this time, being too sluggish to move, and can easily be killed; but near a fire they thaw out, and become aggressive if shut in.—[St. Louis Republic.

A Unique Monument.

It is not often that one sees a team of twenty-four horses, particularly on Sunday, yet such a sight was presented in San Francisco the other day, to the surprised gaze of all who saw it, on its journey through the city from the corner of Fourth and Townsend streets to the entrance of Laurel Hill cemetery on Central avenue, opposite Bush street. The horses, hitched two abreast, made a line more than half as long as the blocks west of Market street. Behind them was a truck of the largest size and strongest make, and upon the truck, supported by a platform of solid timber and lashed by ropes, a huge sandstone boulder weighing over eighteen tons. Its contour was much the same as the big end of an egg, the upper part being round. At a distance it looked to a Call reporter like a mammoth pumpkin in a fairy tale. The boulder is about seven feet high and has a circumference of twenty feet and six inches. It was brought by rail from Livermore and will mark the grave of the late C. H. Simpkins, a California pioneer, in Laurel Hill. He had often expressed a wish for a monument modeled by nature, not by marble cutters, and his executor, Captain Knowles, after much search, found a suitable boulder, convenient to a railroad. It will remain in its natural state, with the exception of a small square which will be chiseled off for a tablet.

The weather being wet and the streets muddy ascent of grades was made with great care and no little skill, and the contractors were relieved when the last hill in the cemetery was overcome and the giant boulder deposited. The cost of cartage from the depot to the cemetery was \$150.

Eyesight Killed by Poor Light.

Like every other sense that of sight improves by use under healthy conditions and, therefore, the people who have the greatest exercise of their vision in the open air under the light of the sun have the best eyesight. Generally speaking savage tribes possess the keenest eyesight, acquired through hunting. Natives of the Solomon Islands are very quick at perceiving distant objects, such as ships at sea, and will pick out birds concealed in dense foliage some 60 or 70 feet high. Shepherds and sailors are blessed with good sight. Eskimos will detect a white fox in the snow a great distance away, while the Arabs of the deserts of Arabia have such extreme powers of vision that on the vast plains they will pick out objects invisible to the ordinary eye at ranges of from one to ten miles distant. Among civilized peoples the Norwegians have better eyesight than most if not all others, as they more generally fulfill the necessary conditions. The reason why defective eyes are so much on the increase in this country and in Europe lies in too much study of books in early life and in badly lighted rooms.—[Brooklyn Eagle.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

SHE WAS A PIONEER IN RAILROADING.

It is a curious fact that the mother of Bishop-General Leonidas Polk was one of the earliest promoters of railroad enterprise. She had in fact projected the first line of railway in North Carolina. It was a cheap tramway, costing \$2,250 per mile, running from the east portico of the Capitol at Raleigh to a stone quarry, but it was the precursor of greater things, and was called the Experimental Railroad.—[New York Telegram.

A QUEEN WHO IGNORES THE SEASONS.

Every day of her life, no matter where she may be, whether in Balmoral, Osborne, Florence or elsewhere, Queen Victoria receives from Windsor Castle a supply of flowers, fruit and vegetables. Seasons may come and go, but Queen Victoria's green peas are always on hand, while cucumbers, cabbages, French beans, or any other vegetable her majesty expresses a wish to see on her dinner table, are there the following day, whether they be in season or not.—[Chicago Herald.

TWELVE DRESSES FOR AN EMPRESS.

The twelve dresses which the town of Lyons has presented to the empress of Russia are a dress of pale green velvet, in Henry II style, trimmed with black feathers; a dress of pale dead blue satin, embroidered with trails of heliotrope flowers and green leaves; a dress of heliotrope velvet; another of pale blue moire, trimmed in such a way with half-crushed roses that they look as if they were lightly strewn over it; a gown of cream colored cut velvet; another of ivory silk, and a satin dress of sunset shades, that is enough to make any woman who looks at it sick with envy; also one of reddish pink, velvety stitched, with gold stars, and, finally, a dress of silk that looks exactly like silver.—[New York Journal.

ROYAL GROOMS ARE SCARCE.

There are very few ladies whom an heir-apparent can marry. At present the heirs to the thrones of Austria, Russia and Italy, not to speak of the heir to the throne of Belgium, the King of Servia, and the Crown Prince of Montenegro, are all of a marriageable age, but have not yet made their choice. Without a change of creed on the part of a princess, the choice of the Russian Crown Prince, outside the Comaroff family, is limited to Princess Marie of Greece and one of the daughters of the Prince of Montenegro. Similarly, the young Serbian King Alexander has only the Russian and Montenegrin princesses to choose from. Only twenty-three Roman Catholic princesses, born not later than 1877, are now open to engagements. Five of these belong to the royal and ducal houses of Bavaria, three to Belgium, three to the Spanish Bourbons, two to the Bourbons of the Two Sicilies, four to the House of Parma, one to the House of Orleans and one to the line of the Chateaus, making altogether eleven belonging to the Bourbons.—[Argonaut.

EVENING BONNETS.

The latest evening hats and bonnets strongly resemble those worn during the summer. The shapes are different, as a matter of course, but they are distinguished by a grace and airy lightness that are truly summery. The daintiness of construction and material is often carried to the verge of impudence by women who value becomingness more highly than either health or comfort.

An exquisite example of this class of head-covering is a coronet formed of green glace velvet rose petals. The shape looks very much like a crown when on the head, strings being omitted to emphasize this effect. The black trimmings consists of two small jetted wings that rest snugly against the Psyche knot, one at each side, the knot fitting exactly the opening. In front are loops of jetted and spangled rope that suggest an Alsatian bow and complete the decoration of the charming, crownless bonnet.

Quite as small, but somewhat more protective, is an evening bonnet covered with yellow velvet, which is embroidered with gold and pearls and draped over the crown to form points toward the back. Folds of yellow velvet cover the brim, over which a short pearl-and-gold fringe falls from the elaborately wrought crown. In front is a dainty bow of white crepe that supports a white-and-yellow aigrette, and at each side of the bow is thrust a pear-shaped pearl pin set with Rhinestones. The ends reach almost to the ears and on each is adjusted a rosette of yellow velvet, from which falls a white velvet string. The

white and yellow combination is very delicate and is decidedly fashionable for both hats and gowns.—[The Delinquent.

WOMEN AS OFFICIALS.

The experiment of employing women instead of men in the French postal service has been tried with such good results in France of late that the government has recently appointed a number of women to excellent positions of trust. The principal departments where women clerks are employed is, in France, as elsewhere, the post, telegraphs, telephones, railways, the government banks and the central administration.

There are at present 5,353 women employed at provincial post-offices, 1,060 female telegraph clerks; in 69 towns the telephone stations are under the management of women, affording employment for 745. The national savings banks employ 425 women.

The railways have, however, been the best friends to the women. It was the Dombes company that made the experiment with employing female clerks at the offices, or as station mistresses at the small stations, but gradually nearly all the French railroad companies have followed this example. Women are used at the ticket offices as watchers, etc. The East company employs 3,082 women, the North company 2,790, the Paris-Lyon-Mediterranee 5,728, the Orleans company 4,358, altogether some 24,000 women, in which number the thousands and thousands of female gatekeepers are not included.

In the whole of Europe it is calculated that over 600,000 women hold public appointments.

FASHION NOTES.

Short basques with ruffled backs seem to be in the ascendant.

Among the novelties are the loop chain bracelets, which are made of odd-shaped beads connected by a few links of gold.

Pique and cheviot were so much liked last summer for plain suits that they are to figure very extensively in the present season's best stocks.

One of the leading ideas in spring cotton goods is the stripe. The lawns, batistes and similar goods in this design are pronounced exceptionally pretty by the best judges.

A long, black satin ribbon tied in a deep, double loop and with floating ends edged with white lace is among the new fads to tie about the throat. The ribbon is about six inches wide.

The earliest spring dresses in cotton goods are to be made with rather plain round skirts, some of them with lace or embroidery trimming, others with flat braid or cotton galoon in many rows.

It is an interesting study to watch the improvement from year to year in the printing and wearing of fine cotton fabrics. Some of the new pieces are color studies worthy the attention of an artist.

The newest wrap is called the "Clerical" cloak. It hangs loosely from the neck, like a cardinal gown, and is about the length of a sacque. The sleeves are large and long, falling quite low like the "angel" sleeves, but without the points.

The silk striped cotton fabrics are much liked and make very attractive semi-dress costumes for young girls and misses. Young ladies like them for their nattiest morning dresses, and occasionally a style is thought dainty enough for an informal evening wear.

Fine French organdie, printed in floral pattern, is to be a favorite summer material. There are patterns with black ground with yellow violets, which flower, by the way, seems to be one of the particular favorites; also violets in all shades of purple and heliotrope.

Stylish waists for cotton dresses are made in surplice shape or after any of the popular blouse ideas. Fitted linings are sometimes used and over these the material is drawn down to the waist line. Many of these waists have the outside and linings joined only at the shoulder seams and under the arms.

Lace striped batistes are to be among the prettiest and most expensive of summer cotton dresses. They cost rather too much, however, for ordinary purses, and women who have limited means will scarcely find them practical. There are, however, only a few of them, and exclusive styles usually find ready purchasers.

Watered silks and the quaint China patterns figured with pale, shadowy flowers, are made into pretty tea and theatre toilets, with long pincuisse bodice reaching nearly to the knees, with skirt cut to flare from the waist down, and a full skirt, with organ plaits on the back.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

A Maine man makes leather out of catfish skins.

The first Latin dictionary was compiled by Varro about A. D. 10.

Tories were originally bands of Irish outlaws. The Celtic word torse means robber.

A silver watch made in the seventeenth century is in the possession of a New York collector.

A diamond picked up in Oregon, Wis., by a boy proved to be a pure stone, but only weighs 3 1/2 carats.

A copper chisel has been taken from the famous mound of Lachish, in Syria, which dates back to about 1500 B. C.

The smallest book in the world contains 384 pages, weighs 44 grains, and requires a strong magnifying glass to read.

An Indiana athlete who was supposed to be dying of dyspepsia two years ago has lived since that time on ice-cream.

During the year 1893 over 4,000 corpses were cremated in France. Nearly one-third the number is credited to Paris alone.

Baxter wrote several ponderous volumes, but only his "Saints' Everlasting Rest" survives to interest the religious world.

The trousers pocket of a Kansas boy was found to contain a safety pin, six marbles, a top and string, a baseball and glove and a plow clevis.

An English officer, being hypnotized in South Africa, began to speak in Welsh, which he had known as a child, but forgotten for twenty years.

When only nine years old Meyerbeer was considered the best pianist in Berlin. His career as a musician began when he was an infant of two years.

Edward Walker, the expert bank note engraver, who died in New York the other day, had permitted no stranger to cross his threshold in thirty-nine years.

Though De Foe's "Robinson Crusoe" has made the fortune of a dozen publishers, it was originally hawked about London in a desperate endeavor to find some publisher enterprising enough to accept it.

From Arizona for three years past has come the earliest ear load of American raisins shipped east. The season there is ahead of that of southern California and the atmosphere is peculiarly suited to the curing of raisins.

There is a ripe side to the orange as well as to the peach. The stem half of the orange is usually not so sweet and juicy as the other half, not because it receives less sunshine, but possible because the juice gravitates to the lower half, as the orange hangs below its stem.

Tabular Bells.

Christ Episcopal Church, at Houston, Tex., is soon to be fitted out with a chime of bells. The chime has been ordered, and the ladies are hard at work raising the money to pay for them. The bells which it is proposed to buy are of a new pattern, which has been lately invented. They consist of long tubes of metal, carefully tuned, and are operated by wooden hammers which strike the tubes near the upper end. The chime consists of fifteen tubes, sounding a full octave and the semitones, with a third and fifth, and they hang suspended from a simple frame, occupying very little space. It is said that they give a peculiarly sweet tone, as well as a very strong one, and are much more satisfactory, being less clangorous than the old-fashioned bells, besides being cheaper. It seems strange that some of the wealthy congregations of this city have not long ago provided themselves with some such attractive addition to the ecclesiastical machinery.—[New Orleans Picayune.

Like a Floating City.

The modern American man-of-war is a little world in itself, or perhaps more properly a floating city, with its inhabitants of many trades and professions. Not only is there a doctor to dose you and a chaplain to care for your spiritual welfare, but many cooks, several carpenters, skilled machinists, electricians, tailors, musicians and barbers. There is at least one clever sailorman told off as ship's writer, which officer corresponds closely to the old-fashioned scrivener. It thus happens that one can have almost anything made aboard ship, from an engraved copy of a complimentary resolution to a complicated piece of machinery or cabinet work.—[Chicago Herald.

There is one deer to every fifty hunters in Missouri.

KEYSTONE STATE COLLINGS.

PLAYED WITH MATCHES.

ONE CHILD PROBABLY FATAALLY BURNED AND ANOTHER BADLY INJURED.

PHILADELPHIA.—The 5-year old son of David H. Thomas, mine inspector and his cousin, the little daughter of Matthew Morris, went into an out-building at the home of the inspector to play, taking with them a number of matches. On entering they locked the door. In the building a bundle of straw had been stored and shortly after the children entered the building neighbors saw smoke coming through the roof. The door was broken open and the children found near the door. Both were unconscious, the girl lying over the body of the boy. One leg of the latter was burned to a crisp and other portions of his body were badly burned. The little girl's injuries seem to be wholly internal. It is thought she will recover, but the boy will likely die.

BROKERS MUST PAY A TAX.

THEY ARE SUBJECT TO A 3 PER CENT. LEVY ON THEIR NET EARNINGS.

HARRISBURG.—In the opinion of Auditor General Gregg, about 1,600 persons subject to a tax of 3 per cent on their net earnings on their income under the brokerage act of May 15, 1891, are evading this law by a failure to report their annual business to the Auditor General's department. Under the law "every private banker and broker" is subjected to the 3 per cent tax. Real estate agents are among those who claim to be exempt from the payment of this tax, while the Auditor General maintains that they are taxable on their business. In 1878 the Attorney General took the view held by Mr. Gregg and Attorney General Hensel is said to entertain a similar opinion.

THE SLOT MACHINES.

SOME PRONOUNCED GAMBLING DEVICES AND OTHERS NOT BY JUDGE BELL.

HOLLIDAYSBORO.—In the Blair county courts Judge Martin Bell instructed the grand jury that nickel in the slot machines are not gambling devices. The Judge, however, held that slot machines, in which a nickel is dropped and by that means dice are thrown, was purely gambling apparatus and the jury was directed to return the owners of such machines to court.

HON. E. L. HEWITT DEAD.

HOLLIDAYSBORO.—Hon. Benjamin Lightner Hewitt, ex-speaker of the house of representatives of Pennsylvania and one of the best known Republican politicians of the state, died in the Bligham house Philadelphia, from a paralytic attack, which he received some time ago. Mr. Hewitt was a Scotch-Irish Presbyterian and was born at Petersburg, Huntingdon county, June 4, 1823. His parents were among the early settlers of the Juniata valley. He was district attorney for seven years. He was field paymaster in the army during the war of major. In the lower house of the legislature he served eight years, in 1881 being elected speaker. He also served as fish commissioner from 1873 until 1884. During the late legislature he became prominent in the opposition to the seating of Andrews and also as the father of the pure food bill. He leaves a wife and two sons.

A MANIA'S BLOODY DEED.

GREENSBURG.—Thomas Finnegan, who was demented but not considered dangerous grew violent at his home near Latrobe. He started to destroy the furniture and when his parents remonstrated he crushed his mother's skull and brutally beat his father. The former will probably die. Neighbors made a prisoner of Finnegan and took him to the county house, but in making the capture it was necessary to shoot him, the ball lodging in his jaw.

PENNSYLVANIA'S BIG COAL COUNTRY.

UNIONTOWN.—Reports of coal regions of the United States show that Westmoreland county leads with an output of 8,791,000 tons, Fayette second with 7,260,045 tons, Clearfield third with 575,745 tons, and Allegheny fourth with 539,193.

HOTEL CLERK DROPS DEAD WHILE SPARRING. WABASH.—James A. Carter, night clerk at the Arlington Hotel, at Rochester, dropped dead of heart disease, while sparring with a friend.

The returns of the assessors' books in the commissioners' office in Indiana county show that there are at least 3,833 dogs in Indiana county. This amount has been assessed and returned while the commissioners think there are fully 250 more of which no account has been rendered.

THREE POLES WERE KILLED IN No. 4 mine of the Kingston Coal Company at Edwardsville, near Williamsburg by a runaway car. Two of the men were killed instantly and the third died an hour after receiving his injuries.

AT Uniontown, Andrew Burz, aged 19, was struck by a Baltimore & Ohio freight engine and ground to pieces. Burz was deaf and dumb and did not notice the approach of the train.

JAMES O'NEIL, a book agent, while attempting to board a freight train at Conneville, fell under the wheels and was ground to death.

ALFRED T. COOPERSON, used the Pittsburg Western railroad for \$50,000 damages for the death of his wife and son who were killed by a train at a crossing in Evans City recently.

The Cochranton Savings bank is to be converted into a national bank. The present capital of \$20,000 will be increased to \$30,000.

The Valley flouring mills at Titusville, owned by Kuntz & Wagner, were destroyed by fire. Loss, \$14,000; insurance \$1,000.

EDWARD BARNES, aged 72, fell beneath the wheels of an ash cart he was driving at Gr.ensburg and was crushed to death.

BURGESS at Huntingdon, stole several thousand dollars worth of goods from Mayor Stewart's clothing store.

The Acheson coke company's anchor works, near Dunbar, closed down throwing 109 men out of employment.

L. GOLDSTONE's country store near Greensburg was robbed of \$1,500 worth of general merchandise.

MARION SMITH, of Spring Creek was killed while trying to board a moving train at Garland.

Filling a Long-felt Want.

Wolff Brothers of Kreuznach, have patented and put on the market a mute violin for the use of beginners on that instrument which removes the annoyance caused to listeners by the constant exercises of musical neighbors. The violin consists only of a mahogany frame without bottom or top. In every other way it is built like a violin. This unique instrument is not entirely mute, however, but produces an exceedingly soft tone, audible only to the player. The sound is delicately pure withal, as only in this way can it be of real value to the students.—[St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

THE only reason some people are considered religious is because they make a good deal of noise in church.