

### PLUCK ROMANCE AND ADVENTURE.

#### DIFFICULT LETTER CARRYING.

WENTY-SEVEN native postmen were killed and eaten by tigers and other wild beasts last year in India, while no fewer than 150 lost their lives through being bitten by poisonous snakes. But then, says Pearson's Weekly, India is a large country, and the ordinary rural carrier will not take precautions.

He insists on going barefooted and barelegged in regions known to be infested with venomous reptiles, and he will calmly lie down for a nap in a tiger haunted jungle. Nor can he be induced to arm himself properly. All his forefathers carried, when on similar errands, was a small spiked stick, and that is all the true native postman will consent to carry today.

There are several postoffices in Switzerland at a height of 7000 or more feet; and a letterbox on the very summit of the Langgaur, from which four collections are made daily, is nearly 10,000 feet above the sea level. Near here, some few years ago, three letter carriers were crushed to death by an avalanche. In an adjacent canton, in the summer of 1833, a postman fell into a crevasse while crossing a glacier, his two full bags on his back. All efforts to recover either the body or the mails were fruitless; but thirty-four years afterward, in 1867, the glacier cast forth its prey many miles lower down the valley, and the long-lost letters were delivered to as many of the addresses as could be traced.

Not infrequently, too, these Alpine postmen are attacked by the huge, fierce eagles that soar hungrily above the less frequented passes. Usually the men are able to beat off their feathered assailants, but not always.

In July, 1899, a postman who carried the mails on foot between the villages of Sospello and Puget Thenters was fatally mauled by three of such birds. Of two men who attempted to avenge his death, one was killed outright, and another injured so severely that his life was for a long time in danger.

The camel postman of the Sahara—Hinterland is another letter carrier who has need of plenty of pluck. The wild tribesmen of the desert look upon him as their natural prey, so that he never knows, when he sets out in the morning, whether he will reach his destination at night. But he trots his eighty miles a day, and regards a stray shot from a lurking "sniper" or an ambush of spearmen as part of the ordinary routine incidental to his business.

In Japan the rural post runner still swings his baskets across his shoulders precisely as his ancestors did centuries ago. In Formosa also the mails are carried to this day by a man on foot, who jogs along with a paper lantern and an umbrella.

Siberia, except along the line of the new railway, has to rely on post sledges; and there are towns, and fair sized towns, too, where more than two deliveries a year would be exceptional. The postmen of the Landes, in southwestern France, strike across the waste on gigantic stilts, their feet a fathom or more above the ground.

In the interior of China, except in a few districts, there is no regular letter delivery, and consequently no postmen. But many of the mandarins and taitals maintain semi-public services of their own, and keep their runners up to the mark by the simple expedient of beheading laggards.—Youth's Companion.

#### A STRUGGLE WITH THE ICE.

The last craft to get through at the end of the season often gains something of a reputation. Practical reasons prevent any stoppage until the last moment possible. The longer a vessel runs, the greater the freights earned, and often chances are taken. No boat ever had a more typical and exciting trip than the Hutchinson in the year just passed. On the evening of November 29 the Hutchinson, in a high sea and driving snow storm, ran on an uncharted rock in Lake Superior. The sharp points tore a hole through the bottom of the big vessel. In sudden terror some of the firemen and crew made for the small boats, but were driven back by the captain. Rockets pierced the darkness, and a huge ball of inflammable stuff soaked in kerosene was set flaming at the masthead. Fires were lighted on the steel decks, and all night long the signals of distress burned. With the notification of the life saving station the life savers put off through the winter seas. During two days the crew and the life saving men remained upon the ship. In the meantime the underwriters had learned of the wreck; and the Hutchinson being abandoned by the owners, Captain Charles M. Davis, a lake veteran of seventy, a famous wrecker, was sent to take charge. Wrecking outfits were summoned from the "Soos," and a working party engaged. At once the work of jettisoning the cargo began. Six-inch centrifugal pumps poured water into the holds filled with flaxseed, until fourteen inch pumps could suck up the valuable stuff and force it overboard. Fifty thousands bushels, worth \$50,000, were pumped into the lake in thirty-two hours. A wrecking tug then started to pull the Hutchinson off, but so violent a storm came on that the immediate breaking up of the vessel seemed unavoidable. With this apparently inevitable, the crew and the wreckers left her. Before leaving the heavy anchor was let go. On the following day, however, with the subsidence of the tempest the astonished wreckers found that the waves, instead of destroying the

Hutchinson, had lifted the boat off the rock and that she was riding in safety.

Then began one of the runs to be celebrated in lake history. Nineteen feet of water was in one compartment and fourteen in another. The remaining cargo had to be stowed so that it would not shift in the heaviest seas. The pumps were kept going the entire time. In this condition the vessel plowed steadily through the heavy waves, the thickening ice. At one time, in zero weather and with a blinding snowstorm a fifty mile gale blew about the boat. She rolled heavily, and because she was so weighted down with the thick coating of ice the water broke over her at every plunge. Two ferry boats opening a way were needed to help her to make Pointe au Pelee.

At the port of destination the appearance of the battered warrior of the waters aroused the greatest enthusiasm. The whistle of everything that had steam up was set going. The wailing sirens of the great boats, the tooting of the smaller, welcomed the arrival in a cacophonous chorus. Three hundred and fifty thousands dollars were saved to the underwriters by the exploit—and the last boat of the year was "in."—George Hilliard, in Harper's Magazine.

#### RECKLESSNESS IN MIDAIR.

That familiarity breeds contempt of danger is shown by an article printed in the Pittsburgh Leader. "See that?" asked an engineer of the East River bridge, pointing to a small ladder set into one of the steel piers at an elevation of more than 200 feet above the street. So closely did the ladder cling to the smooth surface of the steel that it seemed almost impossible to get the fingers between the rungs and the pier. "Those steps were intended to be used only under the most pressing circumstances," continued the engineer, "and only then with great care. Yet the men would leap for the ladder from a platform about three feet away, snatch at a rung and climb up rather than use a safe and guarded scaffolding erected for the express purpose only a few yards away. Warning notices were posted that any one did it would be discharged, yet the very day the decree went forth a man jumped for the ladder. He struck the side of the steps with his head and was dashed to the ground. Of course he was killed instantly.

"That stopped the ladder climbing, but the men still do all sorts of reckless things. For instance, they climb out on a narrow beam projecting over the river from the very top of the structure, and stand there on one leg to be photographed.

"Not long ago one of our foremen found a man taking an after dinner nap on a girder at a height equal to that of a twenty-story building. The girder was just wide enough for him to lie on, and there was nothing but air between him and the ground. Yet he was quite indifferent when the foreman woke him up and threatened to discharge him."

"Our window cleaners are as rash as any workman," said the superintendent of a skyscraper. "Each of our windows is fitted with heavy iron eyebolts, into which the cleaners are expected to snap steel hooks attached to broad canvas belts that are buckled about their waists.

"You would not imagine that any man would dare to stand on the teak-wood window sills without seeing that the bolt is hooked into the eyebolts as firmly as it will go. There is absolutely nothing else for the cleaners to hold on to, and in front of them is the smooth face of the glass. The men stand bolt upright, and even lean back a little. Yet every day we catch one or more of them climbing out on those narrow sills, twelve stories and more above the sidewalk, with the belt unhooked."

#### FREE AFTER FORTY YEARS.

In 1874 I was traveling in the Australian bush—New South Wales—when I came across a respectable old man, over sixty years of age, who told me an extraordinary story. He said his name was Edmund Galley. He and a man named Oliver were tried at Exeter in 1830 for the murder of a yeoman farmer named May, on July 16, 1825.

They were both convicted and sentenced to be executed. Oliver, in the dock, turned to the Judge and said: "This man, Galley, is quite innocent." Mr. Cockburn, afterward Lord Chief Justice, who defended Galley, and a shorthand reporter, who was also present at the trial, made such strenuous efforts that Galley's sentence of death was not carried out, but he was transported to New South Wales, where he arrived in 1839. Oliver was executed. Many years afterward, a man named John Loughey, on his deathbed, confessed that he and Oliver were the murderers of May, and Galley was innocent.

A number of people, and I among them, wrote to my fine old friend, Sir Eardley Wilmot, M. P., who took up the case and presented it to the House of Commons in a simple, clear and effective manner. Galley did not like to marry until he received a free pardon. The proceedings in the House of Commons are fully reported in Hansard, especially the great speech of John Bright. After an exciting debate, it was resolved to recommend the Queen to grant a free pardon to Galley, which was accordingly given in 1879, forty-three years after the conviction of this poor old Australian shepherd.—J. H. H., in the London Times.

As trade now stands, there is not enough gold out of the earth, if it were all coined, to transact the business of a day.

### AGRICULTURAL HINTS

#### COST OF SPRAYING.

The cost of spraying apple trees three times with bordeaux mixture at the Maine Experiment Station is from ten to fifteen cents per tree. Baldwin appleson sprayed trees showed ninety-seven per cent. of the fruit free from scab, while unsprayed trees showed only sixty-seven per cent. of the fruit free from scab. On full-grown trees it is reckoned that the average crop is about three barrels, which would give a gain of a barrel of clear handsome fruit as a result of the spraying. The profits of the operation, however, vary, as some years there is but little scab, while other years it is very prevalent.

#### THE VALUE OF TREES.

Plenty of trees about the farm and especially the building and yards, are a splendid thing, both for ornament and comfort. Trees break the monotony of landscape, make the country beautiful, afford shade and shelter for man and beast, and enhance the value of farm property. The farmer has cut down and grubbed out many a fine tree in the field because it occupied a little room and he had to work around it. Leave them for ornament and to shade the stock. Don't deface the beautiful country for a dollar or two that may be had from the soil occupied by one of nature's grand productions. Better leave such trees to the children rather than a few extra dollars.—Wisconsin Agriculturist.

#### FLOWERS TO SELECT.

For all stationary boxes a favorite covering is birch bark, and all the new hanging baskets are made in a coarse mesh, of wire or rush, so that vines may grow out through the crevices, for which purpose both ivy and blue lobelia are favorites. Fuchsia, geranium and variegated yinkers are reliable bloomers for the centre of a hanging basket, though the smartest touch is given to the porch by hanging baskets in green alone, with all colors reserved for the boxes. Kentia palms are a favorite of the hour for small baskets, boxes and fern dishes.

When the portable boxes border the porch the following arrangement of plants is recommended by a successful florist: With the house for a background, set a row of daisies or marguerites, which, if properly cut, will bloom almost the summer through. Next comes a row of geraniums, which must not be too large when transplanted from the florist's beds or hot house; then begonias, and finally yucca, to trail over the front of the porch. All these plants are sturdy and will bear transplanting when in bloom.

If the taste runs to old fashioned flowers, verbenas may be set into the boxes when almost ready to bloom, and magnolias, lady slipper and portulaca seeds may be planted among the harder transplanted blooms. But for the emergency garden, started at this season of the year, the transplanted blooms are the safest investment.

#### CARE OF SMALL FRUITS.

Frank Allen, in the American Agriculturist, writes: The small fruits I grow are red and black raspberries, blackberries, currants, gooseberries, and strawberries. The year's care of all these except strawberries begins with taking out of the dead wood in March. With raspberries and blackberries all the wood that fruited last summer is taken out with a sharp knife made of a large flat file and attached to a handle about three feet long. With this tool I cut off all dead canes and pull them out between the rows as I pass along. Then a week or two later I go over the same rows and cut back all the new wood that is to fruit this year. My raspberries are pinched in summer, so this growth is mostly lateral and is trimmed to about two feet long. Plants set the year previous are cut about one foot.

This leaves the dead wood and trimmings in the middles, where afterward they are pulled to ends of rows with a one-horse rake, then piled and burned. This leaves the plantation ready for cultivation, which begins some time in May. I use a one-horse hoe with a wide sweep for the back top.

I cultivate every week or two until after berries are all picked. I usually hoe once, and about midsummer or later pull out tall weeds that often appear. Gooseberries and currants are gone over in the same way, except that usually there is not much dead wood to remove and not so much trimming is necessary. I shorten some of the longest growth and thin old wood where too thick. The cultivation is the same as for raspberries and blackberries.

The only insect enemy of these fruits is the currant worm, which will eat all leaves from currants and gooseberries if not prevented. These worms appear soon after the bushes are in full leaf. They are easily killed with Paris green and water put on with a fine spray. I use weak Bordeaux mixture and Paris green. If I spray after fruit is half grown I use white hellebore and water instead of Paris green.

#### Some Hints.

Duty is always divine. He who cannot bear humility cannot wear honor.

When a boy looks saintly send for a doctor.

Hitch your wagon to a star, but don't sell your mule.—Woman's Penny Magazine.

### FARM TOPICS.

#### RYE AS A SOIL IMPROVER.

Rye is not a profitable grain crop on good wheat land. It will not yield from ten to fifteen cents per bushel. It is difficult to harvest. It will not pay for the grain alone on good land. If the soil is a depleted clay, heavy and cold, rye will prove more profitable than wheat. It is a soil improver. If sown in the fall on very thin land and permitted to mature, the grain, remaining unharvested on the ground until the next fall, then all turned under, the poorest, saddest land, if well drained, will grow clover fairly well.

Rye will furnish considerable pasture for sheep and swine in early spring, and is not only an excellent cover crop, but is probably the surest crop for fall and winter pasture.

#### HORSE TECHNICALITIES.

A white spot on the forehead is a star. A white face from eye to eye is a bald face. A strip between the nostrils is a snip. A white eye is a glass eye. A horse has peters, not ankles, and there is no such point as a hind knee or fore shoulder. While around the top of the hoof is a white coronet. While below the pastern or above the pastern is a white leg. A snip cannot be anywhere but on the nose. Amble is a gait like pacing, but slower, in which the two legs on the same side are moved together. The crop is that part of the horse's back of the leg between the elbow and the knee, and the elbow is the joint of the foreleg next to the knee and not to the side. When the horse forges it strikes the toe of the forefoot with the toe of the hind one, and this is sometimes the result of bad shoeing. Every one should know that the hand, a term commonly used in describing the height of a horse, is one-third of a foot, or four inches.

#### APPLYING MANURE.

Farmers will have their own views and practices how to apply the manure. Circumstances and conditions will make more or less difference. A farmer should study the matter carefully and by experimenting on his own land try to find the best methods.

Both methods of plowing manure under and surface application are practiced, and each will have its advantages. Coarse, strawy manure should produce the best results by plowing under, as it is difficult incorporating it with the surface soil to any satisfactory degree by harrowing. Turned under it will be out of the way of cultivation, decay and furnish food for the roots of the plants as they extend downward.

It will also serve to lighten the soil, and furnish vegetable matter which is of importance. The writer used to have an idea that surface manuring, at least on his own land, was altogether the best, but later developments rather indicate that plowing the manure under has its advantages, and is to be preferred.

Of course, rolls, ruts and depth of plowing will have some influence or effect in the matter, and one should not be so decided in his opinions and practices that he will not be willing to make a change when indications point to an improvement in so doing. Then, in conclusion, do all possible of the manure available in the manner calculated to do the most good.—C. B. Towle, in The American Cultivator.

#### POULTRY NOTES.

Even those skeptically inclined admit that now, when eggs and chickens sell at high prices, it is better to raise them than to have to buy them.

After the trick of egg eating is once learned by a hen, she very likely will soon begin to pick at whole eggs, and perhaps finally manage to break even eggs with good, hard shells.

The treatment for the prevention of the egg-eating habit consists of supplying the hens with proper and sufficient food, including grit and eggshell materials, and the regular and prompt removal of the eggs from the nests.

Hens will eat eggs whenever broken ones are placed within their reach. It is natural for them to eat anything that is good to eat and in proper shape for them to eat. To stop them from eating eggs, therefore, is to keep broken eggs out of their reach.

Nobody can get more enjoyment and real comfort out of an egg than the producer who knows all about its antecedents and is sure that his own hens have manufactured it from objectionable materials only a day or two before it is used on the table.

Just at this time, with some of the old stock still on hand, and the surplus of the young stock not yet disposed of, with capons, pullets and old hens all ready for their daily mash, or mashes, we need plenty of feed troughs if we wish to protect the birds from unduly crowding one another and possibly preventing the weaker ones from getting their share.

It is often stated that eggs laid in early spring, while the weather is cool, have better keeping qualities than eggs laid during August or even September. This seems hardly probable, and one should not hesitate to store the summer eggs for winter use, provided they are gathered the day they are laid, then put away in waterglass solution, and stored in as cool a place as may be handy.—Indianapolis News.

### "JACKIES" PROFICIENT WITH RIFLES!

Secretary Morton Commends Their Work at Fort Riley.

Lieutenant M. L. Bristol, of the navy, a member of the National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice, recently called the attention of the Navy Department to the result of the national rifle match at Fort Riley in August. Secretary Morton has written a letter to Lieutenant Provost Dabin, of the navy, stating that the department has noticed that the team under that officer's command gained second place with a final score of 4,294 out of a possible 6,000 in competition with eighteen other teams, including two from the army and one from the Marine Corps. It is also noted that the naval team stood number one in skirmish rifle. The department commends Lieutenant Dabin on the ground that the gratifying result is manifestly due to his intelligent, earnest and careful training of the team. The commendatory letter has been added to the official record of that officer.

FITS permanently cured. No fits or nervousness after first day's use of Dr. Allen's Great Nerve Restorer, a strictly natural treatment from Dr. R. H. ALLEN, Ltd., 931 Arch St., Phila., Pa.

Jews whose language is Spanish abound in the East.

Pilo's Cure for Consumption is an infallible medicine for coughs and colds.—N. W. BARRETT, Ocean Grove, N. J., Feb. 17, 1903.

It is suggested that bees be used as carriers of military dispatches.

Icebergs are the product of Greenland glaciers and are formed by the thousand in the far northern froids. As the glaciers sweep into the sea they "calve" or throw off mighty blocks, and these are what we know as icebergs.

How's This? We offer One Hundred Dollars Reward for any case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure.

F. J. CURENEY & Co., Toledo, O. We, the undersigned, have known F. J. CURENEY for the last 15 years, and believe him perfectly honorable in all business transactions and financially able to carry out any obligations made by their firm.

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WALDRON, KINNEY & MARVIN, Wholesale Druggists, Toledo, O. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. Testimonials sent free. Price, 75c per bottle. Sold by all Druggists. Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

The carcass of an elephant in the Ghent Zoological Gardens, which had been killed, was bought by a local pork butcher, who transformed it into Frankfurter sausages. He was able to manufacture no fewer than 3900 pounds of sausages, which sold like hot cakes.

#### Gladstone vs. Ingersoll.

About 16 years ago a young lady went on her first visit to Hawarden. She had never been there before, and had never met either Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone. Miss Gladstone, whose friend she was, had been unavoidably called away from home. The first evening, to her dismay, she was taken in to dinner by Mr. Gladstone and placed by his side. Though invariably courteous, he never was good at making conversation with strangers. He was almost silent, she was too shy to start a subject, and it seemed as though the evening would be a failure. Luckily, however, someone was there who knew well how to draw Mr. Gladstone out, in the shape of his nephew, the present colonial secretary. It was at the time Mr. Gladstone was engaged in a correspondence with Ingersoll, the atheist, and Alfred Lyttleton mentioned in a casual manner that he had met him. "How! You know that second?" Mr. Gladstone turned upon him with an eye of fire, and thundered forth a denunciation of Ingersoll and all his opinions, which lasted, through the rest of the evening, to the mingled delight and relief of the shy girl. Her name was Edith Balfour, and a few years later she married Alfred Lyttleton.—Lippincott's.

#### Target Practice vs. Glass Balls.

Shooting at glass balls and clay pigeons doubtless renders one proficient with a shotgun, but in time of war the enemy will not be up in the air or sprung from a trap. Target practice is quite as harmless as shooting at glass or clay, and when a military rifle is used a soldier is being trained for the nation. What the country needs is a nucleus for a volunteer army made up of qualified marksmen, men who can hit an enemy at from half a mile to two miles. A National Board for the Promotion of Rifle Practice has been created by Congress, and has devised a comprehensive plan to encourage rifle practice among the militia, in military and other schools and among individuals who may be called upon to serve in time of war. The idea promises well, and Congress should give the board adequate financial support.

The public health department of the city of London issues certificates to restaurants and bakeries which have been inspected and found in good sanitary condition.

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To be a successful wife, to retain the love and admiration of her husband should be a woman's constant study. Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Potts tell their stories for the benefit of all wives and mothers.

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound will make every mother well, strong, healthy and happy. I dragged through nine years of miserable existence, worn out with pain and weariness. I then noticed a statement of a woman troubled as I was, and the wonderful results she had had from your Vegetable Compound, and decided to try what it would do for me, and used it for three months. At the end of that time I was a different woman, the neighbors remarked it, and my husband fell in love with me all over again. It seemed like a new existence. I had been suffering with inflammation and falling of the womb, but your medicine cured that and built up my entire system, till I was indeed like a new woman. Sincerely yours, Mrs. CHAR. F. BROWN, 21 Cedar Terrace, Hot Springs, Ark., Vice President Mothers' Club."

Suffering women should not fall to profit by Mrs. Brown's experiences; just as surely as she was cured of the troubles enumerated in her letter, just so surely will Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound cure other women who suffer from womb troubles, inflammation of the ovaries, kidney troubles, nervous excitability, and nervous prostration. Read the story of Mrs. Potts to all mothers:—

"DEAR MRS. PINKHAM:—During the early part of my married life I was very delicate in health. I had two miscarriages, and both my husband and I felt very badly as we were anxious to have children. A neighbor who had been using Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound advised me to try it, and I decided to do so. I soon felt that my appetite was increasing, the headaches gradually decreased and finally disappeared, and my general health improved. I felt as if new blood coursed through my veins, the sluggish tired feeling disappeared, and I became strong and well. Within a year after I became the mother of a strong healthy child, the joy of our home. You certainly have a splendid remedy, and I wish every mother knew of it. Sincerely yours, Mrs. ANNA POTTS, 610 Park Ave., Hot Springs, Ark."

If you feel that there is anything at all unusual or puzzling about your case, or if you wish confidential advice of the most experienced, write to Mrs. Pinkham, Lynn, Mass., and you will be advised free of charge. Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound has cured and is curing thousands of cases of female troubles—curing them inexpensively and absolutely. Remember this when you go to your druggist. Insist upon getting

Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound.

### "All Signs Fall in a Dry Time" THE SIGN OF THE FISH NEVER FAILS IN A WET TIME

In ordering Tower's Slickers, a customer writes: "I know they will be all right if they have the 'Fish' on them." This confidence is the outgrowth of sixty-nine years of careful manufacturing.

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