

Treacherous of Tropical Nature.

It is very like a fairy story, said Esther under her breath. "Very," said he. "And in fairy stories there are witches, enchanters and horrible things that come out of the forest, are not there? Well, so it is here in South America.

"There is everlasting strangling going on in the woods. Even the flowers are not kind and harmless. The orchids twist and perch and swing and bloom on branches they are hanging to death. You break a twig of something that looks like a vine, and its milk raises a blister on your hand; you touch what you think is a leaf, and it gallops off on a hundred legs.

"The result of my trials was the production of the so called Rhode Island Reds of today. Previous to that they were called the John Macomber or the Tripp fowls. It is only about eight years since they were called the Rhode Island Reds.

"When his fowls began to take the lead as winter layers, about thirty-five years ago, people wanted to get some of the 'Tripp' fowls and commenced to come after eggs to set, as they found out that his fowls were great layers, and he also got 3 to 4 cents more per dozen for his eggs than the rest of the farmers in the town.

RHODE ISLAND REDS.

Good Layers and Dress Off as Good Looking Fowls for the Market. As a factor in the poultry world Rhode Island holds an enviable reputation, and those chicken raisers of other sections who are on the lookout for good things in unfamiliar breeds will therefore be interested in her "Reds," a variety of fowl which has proved of great utility in the hands of the farmers of the state.

"Once a very fierce old tiger which we had in London had nearly killed my brother, and her keepers were afraid of her. It happened that she ran a bit of bone into her paw and had a very sorry time of it. I undertook to remove it and by the use of lashing and a little patience succeeded. It took four men to help me. When we were about half way through the operation, she got the idea of what we were trying to do for her, and a massive double patient surgeon never had, though the pain was great, I am sure.

"The dying man asked feebly, 'Will Schneider be there, your reverence?' 'Thinking to give him pleasure, the priest replied, 'Yes; Schneider will be there.' 'Ach,' said the other, 'Dot is very bad. All dose dringings and endings and findings all over again, all dot beer and whiskey!'

Winning a Brute's Respect.

In an article on the training of wild animals in Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly Frank C. Bostock, the famous showman, said: "If I were to lay down a basic principle, I would say, just as my father did to me the first time he ever gave me a whip and a lion, first of all, wrap up to him." That does not mean to get him or talk silly nonsense of the affectionate sort, but to treat him with a frank, common sense and a kindly hand and care.

"I'm sure that the man who has the power to give an inch of rain. Now, see these figures. New York city contains 308 square miles of surface, and one inch of water over that would mean 715,455,600 cubic feet, which at 63 pounds—which is the weight of a cubic foot of water—makes 45,079,372,800 pounds, or 22,539,680 tons. Can you realize it?

Long Courtships in Norway. Norwegian weddings are almost always celebrated at the close of a short Scandinavian summer, a season which does not last long, and from which they would never dream of taking the days that are necessary for the long drawn out festivities of the Norse wedding. So the maidens who are wooed all the year round are usually wedded at the beginning of winter. Norwegian wooings are very frank and very long adoring. On summer Sundays the lanes, the highways and byways are lined with lovers.

Table of the Babbling Brook. Once upon a time a fish in search of adventure came to the broad mouth of a brook which emptied itself into a great river. He turned into the smaller stream, ascended its current and listened to its constant babbling as he went leisurely along.

Slung In 1892. In 1892 Coleridge in his Table Talk spoke of the word talented as follows: "I regret to see that vile and barbarous vocable 'talented' stealing out of the newspapers into the leading reviews and most respectable publications of today. Why not 'shillined', 'farthinged', 'tenpenced', etc.? The formation of a participle passive from a noun is a license which nothing but a very peculiar felicity can excuse. If mere convenience is to justify such attempts upon the idiom, you cannot stop until the language becomes, in the proper sense of the word, corrupt.

Where Voices Are Raised. Russia is the natural home of the basso profundo; Spain is the country of tenors and has been from the time of Imperial Rome, when the Gattinarian (Cádiz) singers brought high prices in the slave market; France produces mezzo sopranos in profusion; England, contraltos; America, sopranos; Naples, pure screamers, and no one as yet knows why.—Musical Record and Review.

Dreams Without Sleep. Mistress—Well, Bridget, and how is your husband? Washerwoman—Sure, an' he's all used up, mum. Mistress—Why, what ails him? Washerwoman—Indeed, that dream that he couldn't slape a wink all night, mum.—Harlem Life.

That Sinking Feeling. When the self made man says, "Gimme some of the pumms de terrey," and the waiter wants him to repeat it, he has a feeling of fear that never comes over him in the busy wars of trade.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Promptly Given. He—My train goes in fifteen minutes. Can you not give me one ray of hope before I leave you forever? She—Er—that clock is half an hour fast.—Brooklyn Life.

Power of an Inch of Rain.

"Fine shower we had last night," said a talkative man. "Yes," answered the thoughtful man. "How much rain fell?" "The weather report says just an inch."

"Do you know what that means?" asked the other as he took a pencil from his pocket and began to figure. "It means clearing the air, laying the dust and furnishing needed moisture for vegetation and for us, I suppose."

"He wouldn't interfere. An old Scotchman went to stay for a short time, as he said, with friends of his, a young couple with no family. After living with them for some two or three weeks the young couple began to get tired of their visitor, but did not like to tell him the state of their feelings toward him, so they arranged a little plan between them as to how they would get rid of him.

A Story of Wendell Phillips. At the close of the civil war and before he was well known Wendell Phillips, the distinguished abolitionist, went to Charleston and put up at a hotel. He had breakfast served in his room and was waited upon by a slave. Mr. Phillips seized the opportunity to represent to the negro in a pathetic way that he regarded him as a man and a brother, and more than that, that he himself was an abolitionist. The negro, however, seemed more anxious about his breakfast than he was about his position in the social scale or the condition of his soul, and finally Mr. Phillips became discouraged and told him to go away, saying that he could not bear to be waited on by a slave.

Charley's Choice. "Mummy," said a little girl—"mummy, dear, I do wish I might give some money for poor children's dinners." "So you may, darling." "But, mummy, I haven't any money." "Well, darling, if you like to go without sugar I will give you the money instead, and then you will have some." The small child considered solemnly for a moment, and then said, "Must I be sugar, mummy?" "Why, no, darling. I don't mind much. What would you like to do without?" "How would soap do, mummy, then?" exclaimed the small maiden in triumph.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Got His Money. When King Edward VII was an undergraduate at Oxford, he was a great humorist, and few men could beat him across country. On one occasion his royal highness and some other riders galloped into a farmyard by way of a short cut. The farmer, a sturdy yeoman, closed the gates and told the humstems they must pay £1 apiece for trespass.

A Lost Chance. "He that will not when he may" is likely to repent his indecision for many a long day afterward. A lady who had spent a weary hour in "beating down" the salesman at a Turkish shop in Paris returned the next day prepared to purchase. "I believe you sold 200 francs," said his majesty, "on his purchase."

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