

**THE ALBATROSS.**

The Largest Sea Bird Having the Power of Flight.

The albatross, that wanderer of the seas so often referred to in prose and poem, is nevertheless a stranger to the average person and by some is even considered, a myth. In Coleridge's "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" the albatross plays a leading part, and one sorrow for the poor bird, which, after following the ship for weeks, is pitilessly shot down by a mariner.

The albatross is the largest sea bird having the power of flight and is closely allied to the gull, petrel and Mother Carey's chicken. It has a tremendous stretch of wing, averaging from ten to twelve feet. The wings are, however, extremely narrow, being about nine inches in breadth. The body is about four feet in length, and the weight is from fifteen to eighteen pounds, a comparatively light weight when one considers the extreme length of wing. The albatross is possessed of a peculiarly long, oddly shaped bill, which gives it a strange appearance. The nostrils open from round, horizontal tubes on each side of the bill, but at its base.

This great bird is generally met with in southern seas, although it is occasionally seen on our Pacific coast. On the Atlantic side it is rarely found as far north as Tampa bay.

Its food consists of cuttlefish, jelly-

fish and scraps thrown from passing ships. It is a greedy bird and at times gorges itself to such an extent that it is unable to rise from the water.

Its power of flight is, however, the most remarkable thing about the albatross. It spends its life, with the exception of a few weeks given each year to nesting, entirely at sea and is on the wing practically all the time. Furthermore, it does not progress by flapping its wings, as most birds do, but seems to soar at will, rarely if ever giving a stroke of the wing, seeming to need no impetus.—St. Nicholas.

**PAINTING THE WORLD.**

Indian Legend of the Way Spring Came into Existence.

Once, long before there were men in the world, all the earth was covered with snow and ice.

White and frozen lay the rivers and the seas; white and frozen lay the plains. The mountains stood tall and dead, like ghosts in white gowns. There was no color except white in all the world except in the sky, and it was almost black. At night the stars looked through it like angry eyes.

Then God sent the Spring down into the world—the Spring with red lips and curling yellow hair.

In his arms he bore sprays of apple blossoms and the first flowers—crocus, anemones and violets, red, pink, blue, purple, violet and yellow.

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The first animal to greet the Spring was the white rabbit. The Spring dropped a red crocus on his head, and ever since then all white rabbits have had red eyes.

Then the Spring dropped a blue violet on a white bird, the first bird to greet the Spring, and that is the way the bluebird was made. Ever since then it is the first bird to arrive when the Spring comes down from heaven.

So the Spring went through the world. Wherever he tossed the leaves from his fragrant burden the earth became green. He tossed the blossoms on the frozen seas, and the ice melted and the fish became painted with all the tint of his flowers. That is the way the trout and the minnows and the salmon became gaudy.

Only the high mountains would not bow to the Spring. So their summits remain white and dead, for they would let the Spring paint only the sides.

The snow owls and the white geese and the polar bears fled from the Spring, so they, too, remain white to this day.

**Curious Tombstone.**

On a gravestone in the parish churchyard of Great Yarmouth, England, there is sculptured the unusual representation of a clown seated in a tub, which is being drawn down a river by two swans. Beneath this stone lies one of the many victims who were drowned years ago by the collapse of an iron suspension bridge on which they had crowded to see a clown pass underneath in the manner described. The feat, which was a novel form of advertisement by a traveling circus, was actually performed, but the rush of people from one side of the bridge to the other after the man had passed under caused the tragic ending.

**More Acceptable.**

The judge frowned down on the humorous tramp.

"At first I was disposed to give you a year and a quarter," said the former in stern tones, "but now I think I'll drop the quarter and give you a year."

The humorous tramp looked up quickly.

"Your honor, why don't you make yourself a good fellow and drop de year and give me de quarter?"—New York World.

**Back to Nature.**

"Agnes sat playing bridge all the afternoon with her back to a glorious mountain view."

"Yes; she is president of our Back to Nature club."—Life.

**How They Are Kept.**

Miss De Style—He said I was a little fower; that he intended to keep me. Miss Gumbusta—I noticed him pressing you.—Smart Set.

God has lent us the earth for our life. It is a great entail.—Ruskln.

**SIRES AND SONS.**

Charley No Shirt is the name of the chief of the Walla Walla Indians in the Umatilla reservation.

A. A. Aall for many years held the distinction of having his name appear first in the St. Louis directory, but this year he slips to seventh place.

The chief justice of the supreme court of South Africa, Sir John Henry de Villiers, has been made a baron by King George, the first exercise of the royal prerogative in adding to the peerage.

John Hays, twenty-six years old, tried to enlist in the United States navy at Evansville, Ind., but lacked one pound of the necessary weight. He went outside, drank a gallon of water, returned to the recruiting station and was accepted.

Paulhan, the French aviator, pronounces his name as if it were written "Pauyan" and not "Paulan." The name of another magnate of the flying world, Archdeacon, offers still greater difficulties to the French tongue, and it is said to be rare to find two Frenchmen in a company pronouncing it the same way.

Captain Cameron McRae Winslow, now federal supervisor of New York harbor, as Lieutenant Winslow in 1898 led the little party of volunteers that undertook to cut the Cuban cables of Cienfuegos, that the Spanish forces on the island might have no means of communication with the home country. By many critics and some historians this act has been called the bravest of the Spanish war.

**Current Comment.**

Soon it may be necessary to give the Interstate commerce commission jurisdiction over aeroplanes.—Atlanta Constitution.

Every little while some rich American coming home from Europe gets through the custom house at New York without a squabble or a scandal.—Chicago Record-Herald.

There are 400,000 members of building and loan associations in Pennsylvania alone, representing that number of home builders. What do the cliff dwellers of New York think of that?—Philadelphia Inquirer.

A Chicago judge proposes as a cure for the automobile evil that autolists be compelled to give bond for the payment of damages to persons or their

heirs. The old difficulty of first catching your automobilist would spell this recipe, as it has others for catching and cooking this feet hare.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

**The Royal Box.**

The late King Edward VII. was the first ruler of the new dynasty, the house of Saxe-Coburg.

There exists in Germany a superstition that the empire will be overthrown when the emperor has seven sons. William II. has six.

King George was the twelfth holder of the title of Duke of York and the eighteenth holder of the English title of Prince of Wales since its creation in 1301.

King Albert, the new monarch of Belgium, devotes two hours every day to the study of mechanical engineering. He drives his own automobile, and, what is more, he can repair it when anything gets out of order.

**Train and Track.**

There are 99,000 miles of railways in the British empire.

In crossing this continent a railway car has actually to be lifted or raised a vertical distance of more than two miles.

The Great Western, the largest railway system in England, operates with all its leased lines over 3,000 miles and has 2,596 locomotives.

The Prussian state railways have built a huge tank into which a car may be run and sealed for complete disinfection, both inside and out, by formalin gas.

**Healthograms.**

No spit—no consumption. When you must drink, drink Adam's ale.

Summer—the time to shun meats and take to vegetables.

An uncongenial occupation warps the body and withers the soul.

To relieve worry and sleeplessness take a bath—hot followed by cold.

Dirty milk is better food for bacteria than it for babies.—Dr. W. A. Evans, Chicago's Health Commissioner.

**Tales of Cities.**

The city of Detroit now manufactures more automobiles than any other city in the world.

Manhattan Island has three reservoirs, two in Central park and one at High Bridge.

Salem, O., has a big sign at the depot telling the traveler that it is the home of various important industries, all of which are listed on the board.

**English Etchings.**

Since the work of rat destruction began at the port of London in 1901 606,110 rats have been killed.

The London city policemen get from \$6.56 to \$10.33 a week. An extra allowance for coal is granted in winter, and uniforms are furnished free.

The traffic in rough diamonds is centered in London, as nearly the entire product of the mines of the Cape of Good Hope is in the hands of a powerful syndicate there, from which the manufacturers are obliged to buy.

**ANGLERS' FLIES.**

The Earth Ransacked For Feathers and Hairs to Make Them.

There are trout and salmon fishers who pay several thousand dollars a year for the "flies" alone. Few persons can learn to tie the artificial flies—knitting hairs that can hardly be seen—so the skilled fly maker commands high wages. The materials, too, are costly, for the earth is ransacked for feathers and hairs, and one hair wrong makes "all the difference."

The business done in mouse whiskers is considerable, for they are used in the making of a wonderful fly, the "gray knot," and they are expensive, costing nearly 2 cents a whisker. Trout rise much better at mouse whisker flies than at the same "gnat" dressed in junglecock hackles, which look much like them.

Bears' eyebrows, being stiff and exactly the right shade, are used in a fly that has killed quantities of salmon. These eyebrows come from the Himalayan brown bear and cost about \$150 a set.

There are agents all over the world searching tropical forests for the right birds to supply fly hackles. One of the most sought after skins is that of the rare "green screamer," an African bird about the size of a hen, which has a tiny bunch of feathers on each shoulder that is worth \$15 a bunch to the fly maker. One of these birds supplies only feathers enough to make rings for half a dozen flies.

There is no limit to the enthusiasm of an artistic fly tier, who will use hair from his own eyelashes to finish off an "extra special" fly. Babies' hair is much sought after if it is of the right shade—golden yellow—for all the lighter salmon flies, and one curl will make a dozen first class flies.

It takes an expert only fifteen minutes to turn out a fly which consists of a tiny hook with wings of Egyptian dove feather, legs of fox hair and a

body of mouse fur wound around with a thread of yellow silk. A carelessly made fly will have neither legs nor "feathers," but the true expert adds the legs and puts on a pair of long "feeler" of cat hair, white at the tips. All these tiny details will be exactly in their places and so firmly tied to the hook that the fly will take half a dozen strong fish and be none the worse.—Chicago Tribune.

**A GAMBLER'S RING.**

When its Owner Deals the Cards Are an Open Book.

A curious ring seen recently is one that belongs to a gambler, one of the most famous card players in the United States. It is a heavy gold band affair and is exactly five-eighths of an inch wide. Running around the band in such a way as to completely circle it is a row of five small signets. Each one of these is worked in gold in the form of a shield. These shields are polished on their surface and bear no marking of any sort.

Inside the ring and grooved into its outer circle is another gold circle. When the ring is put on the operator's finger by a slight movement it is possible to slide the outside band around on the inner one. The instant this is done from under one of the small shields appears a minute mirror. This mirror is a scant quarter inch in diameter.

When the operator sits in at a game of cards he wears the ring on the little finger of his right hand.

When he slides the cards off the pack as he deals this little mirror comes directly under the card that is being dealt. The dealer, looking down at his hands as he deals, sees each card as it comes off the pack. He knows each card that he has dealt and exactly who has the card.

As the dealer puts the pack down by a movement either slow or fast it is a perfectly simple matter to give the ring a slight rub, sliding it back into its original position. The mirror, even when it is exposed, is always on the inside of the band and concealed from every one. After long practice it is possible to pull every card off the pack in such a manner that it will reflect in the exact center of the mirror.—Boston Post.

**Back and Forth.**

"There's one thing about you sub-urbanites that I never could understand," said the city chap.

"What is that?" queried the commuter.

"I've noticed time and again," continued the c. c., "that when you fellows reach town in the morning and again when you start for home in the evening you have a happy look. Now, why is it?"

"Oh, that's easily explained," replied the other. "After the day's work in the city we are always glad to get out of it, and after a night in the country we are always glad to get back."—Chicago News.

**A Rude Intruder.**

He was standing among his fellows, this lion of the salon of the Independent Artists, telling what art and life meant to him, when he was approached by a matter of fact citizen, who wanted to know. "Can you tell me," he asked, looking straight into the eyes of the great man. "if these here durned pictures were done by real artists or just amateurs?"—Argonaut.

**Opposition.**

A certain amount of opposition is a great help to a man. It is what he wants and must have to be good for anything. Hardships and opposition are the native soil of manhood and self reliance.—John Neal.

It is not the insurrection of ignorance that is dangerous, but the revolts of intelligence.—Lowell.

**Dreams of Genius.**

An interesting book might be written on the subject of the dreams of genius. Stevenson maintained that much of his work was only partially original. His collaborators were the brownies who ran riot through his brain during the hours of sleep. He instances the case of "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." "I had long been trying to write a story on this subject," he writes, "to find a body, a vehicle for that strong sense of man's double being which must at times come in upon and overwhelm the mind of every thinking creature. For two days I went about racking my brains for a plot of any sort, and on the second night I dreamed the scene at the window and a scene afterward split in two, in which Hyde, pursued for some crime, took the powder and underwent the change in the presence of his pursuers. All the rest was made awake and consciously, although I think I can trace in much of it the manner of my brownies."—London Chronicle.

**Not Always.**

Teacher (of night school)—What do you understand by the term "life sentence?" Give an example of one.

Shaggy Haired Pupil—"I pronounce you husband and wife."—Chicago Tribune.

We can do nothing well without joy and a good conscience, which is the ground of joy.—Dibbes.

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