

ADORNMENT OF THE HOME.

Importance of Pleasing Surroundings in the Education of the Family Circle.

The wake of spring and the return of autumn, clad in the brilliant dress of purple and golden foliage, imparting to nature that characteristic charm of endless variety of hues and colors—a frolic, as it were, before the dreary death of winter—reminds the editor periodically of his duty of offering to his patrons a few practical suggestions in regard to the embellishment of the grounds surrounding the home, and therefore in constant sight of the inmates—old and young.

The subject has, like many other kindred topics, two sides from which it may be viewed, it has a bearing on the mind, its nourishment and expansion, and it is a question of what to do, what to plant, and how to arrange the immediate surroundings of the home-stead. Let us first remember that cleanliness is an important attribute of godliness. Our foremost efforts should in consequence be directed to a thorough cleaning of the yard, the garden and the orchard. Give to them an honest combing, and they will be much brighter and inviting in return for the labor bestowed upon the operation. Remove the weeds, the piles of rubbish that may have accumulated during the busy time of summer, and all that mars the clean and bright looks of the premises. This change will be a pleasant episode in the routine of daily life of the family circle, it will be pleasing to all alike, it is the most important step in improvement.

Next, let us inquire into the sylvan decoration of the place, which gives the real, the solid, comfort to the home grounds. How wide a field of speculation and reflection is opened to us in this direction, how many trees may be missing, how bare and dreary may be the surroundings of the house, or how wild and uninviting to the eye may be the natural forest growth happening to be on the ground. Give this question, for once, a serious consideration, and adopt the most rational course to remedy the defects, remembering the fundamental principle expressed in Nature's scenery everywhere, a proper balance of light and shade, of wood and lawn. Select the spots where shade will be most desirable, and plant on them the needed trees. No better, more convenient time to do this work will come the year around, than the present, the pleasant days of fall and early winter. Deferring it till busy spring is in most cases equivalent to neglecting it altogether.

It will be readily understood that good judgment should be used in the question of what to plant in front of the house and around the most frequented places of the premises. It is evident that shade and ornamental trees and shrubs are more desirable and bolting materials of ornamentation than fruit trees and bushes. The latter are far better located when planted by themselves, in orchard form, encouraged by suitable cultivation, than when scattered promiscuously all over the grounds, mixed between the shade trees and ornamental shrubbery. The plainest rules of rational fitness of things demand this separation, though it is strangely ignored in very many cases.

The front yard should be the lawn, from which arise the stately trees, of shade and ornament, and clumps of flowering shrubs, bordered by bright flowers. The ground in the rear of the house is devoted to the orchard and the garden. How great is the difference in places improved on this plan of rational separation, and such as planted in a planless haphazard manner of intermixture of everything that may be set out. Judicious association of trees and shrubs is equally necessary also in the arrangement of the lawn devoted to ornamental purposes. A planless mixing up of things will never produce a pleasant sylvan scene, nor a befitting foreground to the residence, but will ever be a confused mass of shrubbery, no matter how many fine and interesting specimens may be found therein. The disposition of the material of decoration of the lawn is a direct test of the planter's conception of design, of the beautiful in nature. If he plants simply as his fancy may direct regardless of the pattern of natural scenery, he can not expect to produce in time a sylvan picture resembling a beautiful natural scene, and therefore pleasing to every beholder. This is the point, where horticultural efforts must be assisted by artistic considerations, its discussion in this connection would lead us into matters appertaining to the art of landscape gardening, which we do not design to touch on this present occasion. It will suffice to say that lofty growing trees, shrubs and evergreens, should not be planted as the merest notion or accident may will it, but should be associated to some extent at least, and associated in such a manner as to form groups, whose development will not be impeded or prevented by surrounding trees.

Foresight to the future is indisputably necessary to success in ornamental planting, but most strangely ignored in many cases. Attempt to form a group of shade trees, where shade may be most desirable, select a spot where flowering shrubs and flowers may be in harmony to their surroundings, and plant the evergreens where they can develop freely, to form a pleasing contrast to the leafy trees. In this wise you will produce a striking and pleasant variety, whilst a promiscuous mixing up of shrubbery can only result in a confused mass of foliage, continually losing instead of gaining in beauty and attraction, as vegetation develops the true proportion of the different trees and shrubs.

It is impossible to offer to the planter any suggestions on ornamental planting of more vital importance, than to remind him of the necessity of a rational balance of light and shade, and of artistic association of all the various materials of embellishment at his disposal. Let him but give a serious thought to these considerations, and his natural taste, coupled with horticultural energy, will soon discover a pleasant pathway in a truly artistic direction, in the pursuit of which, his

grounds will forthwith gain in attractive natural beauty, and his mind will be gratified by a steady progress in the study of true rural art. Try the experiment this very fall, study the matter during winter, and with the return of spring you will be prepared to go to work more knowingly and more pleasantly than ever before, whilst the uncertainty and ignorance of what to do in the line of ornamentation has always prevented the proper efforts in this direction.

Shade trees and shrubbery can be transplanted now to the very best advantage, but evergreens are handled safest in the spring. Remember the usual pressure of work of all kind returning with each spring, and perform the pleasant duty of embellishing the home grounds in the season of leisure and comparative rest—that time is now—do not permit it to pass without doing something in the elevation of the standard of beauty of the home grounds, which are constantly in the sight of the family circle, and on the attraction of which much of the enjoyment of true happiness in rural life depends.

Pleasing surroundings of the home are far more important in the education of the family circle than most people are willing to see and to admit. The question is by no means one of mere gardening, but one of education, of nourishment and expansion of the mind.—*Cotman's Rural World.*

TAME COBRAS.

A Man Who Made Pets of Two of the Most Venomous Serpents in the World.

Up in Poona, a delicate gentleman named Quain, passionately fond of natural history, was visited one morning by three Hindoo snake-charmers. In the bungalow compound, or garden, they showed off their time-immemorial tricks of making cobras raise themselves half up and sway gracefully to the harsh music of bamboo pipes.

It occurred to him that he might train a couple of snakes, and be in a position to observe their habits closely. He asked the snake-charmers if the fangs of the cobras were out, and seeing that he contemplated purchasing the snakes, they assured him, by Gumpu, that the fangs were undoubtedly extracted. For a few rupees he bought the reptiles and turned them loose in his own bedroom, where he used to watch them crawling along the bamboo matting, sniffing with their cold noses against the walls, or twisting themselves up within each other's coils like a silken knot.

He made a little box for them, lined with cotton-wool, in which they used to creep in the heat of the day, for at night-time they were always peculiarly active, probably because the weather then was comparatively cool. In different parts of the room he laid down platters full of milk, and towards these the cobras crawled whenever they felt inclined for food. It would seem almost as if they knew his voice, for when Quain entered the room and spoke, they would lift their heads and crawl slowly in his direction. He even had a pet name for each, but I am not aware that any of them recognized it, for when he called, they would both wriggle quickly over to his feet. He often fed them himself when they came to him in this way, and many persons used to call and see Quain's loathsome pets, which were considered one of the wonders of the cantonments.

Ladies were frequently invited to call at Quain's bungalow, and see what a human being could do by kindness etc., even with cobras; but they were more interested in the phenomenon in the abstract than in detail, and preferred to stay away and hear all about it from the officers who called upon them. Most of them agreed that Mr. Quain certainly had very singular tastes, and that it would be an outrage for any person to marry him. Quain, however, lived through warnings and ridicule, and went on feeding his cobras.

Quain had a small imported Scotch terrier, which was a great favorite, as it had a wag of the tail and a merry little bark for everybody that looked respectable and friendly. "Zip" used to go regularly into the cobra room with his master, and, after he became accustomed to the reptiles, would crouch down, bark at them, and then leap and tumble over their backs. The cobras would only wriggle out of the way, Zip following them and barking at their tails; so that everybody believed and said that the terrier and the snakes were the best of friends.

About four months after Quain's purchase of the cobras, he entered the room with some bread and milk and called them to him. Both glided noiselessly to his feet and lapped contentedly at the milk. Zip, pretending to be jealous, jumped forward barking, and leaped with his forepaws upon one of the cobras. It shook itself out, and went on lapping. Zip then went for its head, and jumping and running back, barking all the time, made a playful snap at its head. The cobras ceased lapping the milk, reared its head about a foot from the ground, and with its speckled, outstretched hood, commenced waving the upper part of its body to and fro. Zip made one more jump forward.

Like lighting the cobra struck at the dog, and then wheeled off, hissing, to its lair beneath the couch. In ten minutes afterward, after enduring horrible sufferings, poor Zip lay dead with his master almost crying over his body. Quain then learned for the first time that a cobra can renew its fangs in about three months, that his pets had renewed their fangs, and that he had actually been playing with certain death for several weeks. The accidental death of the dog had in all probability saved his life.—*Youth's Companion.*

There are now at Rugby, Tenn., 255 persons, of whom 135 are of American and 120 of English birth. The 35,000 acres which compose the settlement, and were originally purchased for farming purposes by the syndicate of English and Boston philanthropic gentlemen, of which Mr. Thomas Hughes is the head, have been found better adapted for the raising of garden produce, fruit and berries, for which there is a ready market.—*Chicago Tribune.*

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

—London has one clergyman for every four bar-rooms.

—In Paris there are 150 tradesmen who deal in nothing but old postage stamps.

—The Russian platinum mines in the Ural Mountains are said to be the most valuable mines in the world.

—The experiment of making horse-shoes out of sheep's horns has been repeated in France, it is claimed, with success.

—The pauper population of England exceeds by some 100,000 souls the entire population of the great colony of New South Wales.

—Since 1870 the acreage of crops in the British Kingdom has decreased almost two million acres. English agriculture is thus shown to be far from prosperous.

—Joseph I. of Portugal had a State coat with twenty buttons, each a diamond valued at \$20,000, and the rest of its ornaments being in keeping with the buttons.

—Some of the wealthy Romans had as many as 10,000 slaves. The minimum price fixed by law was \$80, but after great victories they could sometimes be bought for a few shillings apiece on the field of battle.

—Herr Spivoter, a German publisher, living in Rome, bought Sallust's house and grounds some fifteen years ago for 60,000 francs. Now the property is valued at 7,000,000 francs. There has been a remarkable advance lately in the value of real estate in the famous town by the Tiber.

—After much experimenting, Dr. Richardson has found a satisfactory means of causing painless death, and has introduced it into the Home for Lost Dogs in London. The animals to be killed are placed in a chamber charged with a mixture of carbonic oxide and chloroform vapor, when they tranquilly fall asleep and wake no more.

—Cremation continues to win favor in Germany. Thus the 200th case has just been registered at Coburg, where fifty-four people have been cremated this year alone. These 200 cremations have occurred since 1878, when the furnace was first erected in Coburg, and the cases include sixty-two inhabitants of the Duchy and 138 foreigners—126 men, sixty-nine women and five children.

—A Paris paper tells of a new science in Germany, the art of discriminating character by the beard. Close-growing hair indicates a vigorous temperament and a decided temper; coarse hair, obstinacy; fine hair, refinement and erratic tendencies; curly beards appertain to brilliant and sprightly but superficial persons; harsh, to amiable but cold natures. The character of a man is variously indicated, according as he wears his hair, beard, mustache, etc.

—Two years ago a large water-spaniel called "Black," the property of a bathing-machine owner, was the means of rescuing eight sailors at Biarritz, France, by carrying a corked line to them on a rock. A dog fete was organized in his honor, the municipality subscribing \$10; and he was, further, presented with a silver collar. Unfortunately he was bought by the Grand Duke Vladimir and taken to Russia. He lately was seen at Paris, fat and well, with the Duke. He had silver bracelets around his paws.

COREA.

Customs and Habits of Its Inhabitants.

Among the interesting papers read in the section of anthropology at the recent meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Philadelphia was one by Professor Edwards Morse on "Interview with a Korean." According to this paper, the relations between father and the son in Korea are strict and severe. When the son comes into a room where his father sits he must stand with his hands folded until invited to sit. He sweeps his father's room, makes the bed and rises early to light the fire, even at night. If the son wakes up at night hungry or cold he inquires if his parents are not hungry or cold also. Boyhood lasts until married. All property belongs to the father until he dies, no matter how much his son earns. If the son lives in a separate house then he has his earnings, but if his father should have no money he can sell his son's house. After the death of the father the money goes to the eldest son. The daughters are perfectly free about the house. They are familiar with the father and their brothers and act a good deal like spoiled children. Male and female servants do not sit down together in the same room. Servants are inherited. They are bought and sold. Loyal servants work and support their masters when poor. The higher classes employ private tutors for the education of their children. In olden times there were public schools in Korea. The schools of the country are now of a private character. Five rules are drilled into the children from the earliest age: To obey their father, respect their elder brothers, be loyal to the King, respectful to the wife and true to their friends. Koreans eat rice, soup and fluids with a spoon. In this respect they are different from other Asiatic tribes, like the Chinese, Japanese and Manchurians, who employ, as a rule, chopsticks. At the table they never speak, and always eat slowly. In passing dishes both hands must be used. To use one only is considered impolite. There is a prohibition against decorating the outside of private houses. Streets are named after trees, men, historical events, and attributes. Mourning clothes consist of a hat of large size coming down on the shoulders, which also covers the face. The mourning color was formerly white; it is now yellow. No one ever interrupts or accosts a person in mourning on the street, and Jesuit priests have often availed themselves of the use of mourning clothes as a disguise. The position of women in Korea is degraded and unhappy to the last degree. Among the better classes they never attempt to go out, and seldom visit even their relatives. Under the customs existing five hundred years ago they enjoyed much greater freedom. Among the Korean

superstitions is a dislike to have a cat approach a dead person. If such an accident happens the corpse will rise upright, and the body has to be knocked down with a broom. In eating rice, which is always eaten with a spoon, if the first spoonful is dropped, it is considered a sign of bad luck. Unlike Europeans, they believe the number thirteen to be lucky, but they agree with them in considering a horse-shoe over the door as bringing good luck with it. They play, as people do here, get over bad dreams by saying that dreams go by contrary. In occupying a new house the first thing they do is to have a woman carry in a bunch of matches. This means prosperity. If the ear itches it is a sign that some one is talking about you. If it is the chin, that cake will be received. If a Korean dreams of a Buddhist priest, he considers himself in danger of being poisoned. The hooting of an owl is thought to announce the death of the master of the house. Money found is considered bad luck, as it is gained without labor, and every evenly-balanced Korean will spend it before he enters a house. This, he thinks, will avert any calamity.—*Christian Advocate.*

WITH WOODEN LEGS.

Eighteen Thousand Veterans Who Have Applied to Uncle Sam for Repairs.

"We have the names of about 18,000 veterans who have applied for repairs," said Mr. Ramsey, who has charge of the Artificial Limb Department of the Surgeon-General's Office, to a *Star* reporter. "You know we fit them out with new sets of legs, arms, or other apparatus every five years. It is now getting toward the close of one of those periods, and we have repaired 14,000 veterans."

"Aren't the one-legged men dying off?" asked the *Star* man.

"Now that's an interesting question. I guess they are. I presume many of those whose names we have since died, but I can't tell certainly. Now, as I've said, every five years we reconstruct the maimed veterans of the army, but they have their choice to take the repairs or the money. The allowance for a leg is seventy-five dollars, for anything less than a leg is fifty dollars. From one period to another many old veterans drop out. Some of them make one or two applications; and then we never hear from them again. Naturally, we conclude when they don't send for their money or legs, they must be dead and have no more use for them. But we don't limit ourselves to men who have actually lost their limbs. A man who has simply lost the use of his limb is entitled to a wooden leg or arm, as the case may be, though he can't wear them. So you see, we can't keep a record of all the one-legged men, but I guess there aren't as many as there used to be. Yet there are lots of them, and many who haven't any legs at all, and some with neither legs nor arms. Then there are many who have not lost their limbs, but who have no power to move. There is one man who gets two arms and two legs allowance, who can not move any part of his body except the little finger on the left hand, which he can bend the least little bit. There is another, a New England soldier, whose arms and legs are dead, and who is blind in both eyes. Not long ago a man came in here with no arms and sat down at one of the desks and wrote with his teeth. It was not particularly fine writing, but you could read it. I know of another man—he was in the sharpshooters' service—who can't be stood on his feet because he is bent in the back, so that his head would strike the floor first. Think how many years these men have suffered, and how many of them are still living! Why, there's hardly enough left of some of them to hold together."

"But you asked if they were dying off. Now, here's a roll we are just completing," and he laid several tally-sheets out on his desk. "You can see how they run. This is the fourth period, and here's a man who has gotten four legs, quite a number for one man, if he used them all at once. And here's another who has gotten four legs and four arms. No, we don't furnish heads, but we supply parts of skull and eyes. Now, here's a man who got one leg in the first period, and has never gotten any since. He is probably dead. But here is another, who came in for repairs just after the close of the war and was never heard from again until now, when he comes up again. He didn't wear out very fast. Some men wear well and don't bother about getting repaired so often. Here's another man," he added, pointing to another name on the list—"here's a man who comes up now for the first time, having done without his limb all these years. It runs this way, you see, all the way through. Those men who have not applied for their fourth leg, or whatever it is they want, we conclude must be dead. Some, I presume, will live to get five or six legs or as many arms."

"What are the legs made of?" asked the scribe.

"Willow wood generally, and there are a variety of styles. They can take their choice. Some take the straight stick and stump it through life. Some legs have rubber feet and rubber joints. There is one made with a very fine 'ball and socket' joint at the foot. There are many men with wooden legs whom you would never suspect. We furnish limbs to some brave and distinguished men. There are several officers of high rank who come here for arms and legs. There is a young Lieutenant we recently supplied with one arm who is, I believe, the only survivor of the Custer massacre."—*Washington Star.*

—Edward Clark, the architect of the Capitol at Washington, in his annual report notes the success of his attempt to transplant over one hundred trees averaging a foot in diameter. To adapt them to removal their roots were cut off at a distance of three and a half feet from the trunk. The operation was regarded as hazardous, and was characterized as an injudicious and disastrous one. All of the trees, with two exceptions, have flourished, and are growing more rapidly than others in the same park.—*Washington Star.*

A GOOD DINNER FOR EVERYBODY.

The Universal Spirit of Good-Will That Prevails on Christmas Day.

It would have been a wild prediction of the optimist three centuries ago that the time would ever come when on one day in the year everybody would have a good dinner. And yet it is almost realized. The gospel of humanity has almost reached that point. It is perhaps a wasteful and excessive mode of showing our humanity, but there is this good about it, that the feasibility of accomplishing it on one day will suggest the possibility of making at least decent dinners more common to people generally, and that when a man has once tasted the pleasure of a prodigal meal, he may be induced to some personal exertion of industry and thrift to procure himself the pleasure again. We know by statistics that there is food enough to satisfy everybody if properly distributed, and the lesson that it can be distributed one day is a most important one. The danger, of course, is that it is in human nature to depend upon charity when once charity is accepted, and so to lose the one priceless thing to any man, which is independence. But the beauty of Christmas is in its recognition of common humanity and common dependence on something beyond humanity, and the charity of it is not a condescension that can puff anybody up or hurt any man's pride, but a diffused good feeling, and a drawing together in a common fate of all sorts and conditions of men. Here in the United States it is literally of all sorts and colors, a commingling of people under one privilege absolutely unparalleled. And to enjoy the Christmas of humanity we are not required to eat the same sort of dinner, any more than we are required to have the same sort of creed. The plantation negro with 'possum fat and 'coon (brown cracklin', wid graby—go 'way dar, eh!) is just as much alive to the odor of the anniversary as the English denizen with his traditional roast beef and plum-pudding. We have learned by the hard discipline of a new country that we can make a very thankful meal for the day out of wild turkey and canvas-back ducks, flanked by a green goose, with appropriate accompaniments. People can get used to anything if they only have the right spirit. Indeed, it has been said that it is not so much what we eat on Christmas Day as what we give away that raises our spirits; but this is to be understood within limits, for it cannot be denied that there is such a thing as universal hunger on Christmas Day that will not be allayed any more in the case of a rich man than of a poor man by the remembrance of a good deed warmed over. But the best sauce to a good dinner is the thought that nobody else within reach is hungry. And better even than the dinner of the day is the universal spirit of good-will that broadens year by year, and deepens, we are sure.—*Charles Dudley Warner, in Harper's Magazine.*

EMBROIDERED BONNETS.

Something New in Headgear, Which Is Said to Be the Feature of the Season.

The embroidered bonnet is a great feature of the season, particularly embroidery upon cloth. The novelty, in fact, is a cloth or felt crown, the latter usually plain, the former embroidered with flies, stars, dots, clover leaves, tiny butterflies, or other small and distinctive figures, which can be executed in silks of varied shadings or iridescent beads. The front is usually composed of woolen lace massed toward the front, plain at the sides, and embroidered with beads or gold thread to harmonize with the general tone. Birds, wings, spotted breasts and velvet bows form the trimming, with the addition of the almost universal pin, enlarged or at least elongated.

A dressy bonnet, for wear with combinations of ecrú and brown, consists of seal-brown velvet with full crown, embroidered with bugs in brown and shaded amber. These beads form a solid edge of nearly an inch in depth to the brim, and the colors in them are repeated in the group of lovely feathers which curl over the front. There is a good deal of distinction as well as difference in the shape of the leading hats and bonnets this season. The high, full crowns have high narrow brims, which not only ascend to a point, but are sometimes split, and form two points, the lace, feathers or flowers being brought down between and made to fill or partly fill the space which forms a sort of nest. The capotes stoutly hold their own, and are preferred by ladies of quiet tastes who declare they will not be mounted like jackdaws. But even the capotes are dotted and embroidered, or the velvet forms a double series of which meet and form a hollow plait in the center, while as much trimming as possible is massed on the front. Bonnets, the simplest in form, are often the most striking in color, and red velvet, red plush and red leather (perforated, embroidered and made over satin) are among those seen in the importing houses. The red is not the coarse or flaming shade, but a soft color even when it is full, and usually it approaches garnet or the more fashionable plum shades. Gold is always associated with these bonnets in the form of gold tinsel ribbon, beads, or fine, flat braid, doubled at the edge. They are worn as carriage bonnets, with red or broadened wraps into which red enters, and not for receptions, though they are often seen at theatres.

Hats are uniformly high-crowned and narrow brimmed. The trimming, flat bands of velvet or canvas ribbon, with birds and wings upon the front, mounted so as to accentuate the height of the crown. Furred hats and bonnets are not excluded by any means from the season's resources. In cold climates they are a necessity, and always take the form of a poke, which can be tied comfortably down under the chin, and is so exactly what is needed that no substitute can be found.—*Demorest's Magazine.*

—Journalists in India are excused from jury duty.

A NEW CRIME.

How An Arkansas Justice of the Peace Resented Interference With His Judicial Prerogatives.

When old Anderson Brumley announced himself as a candidate for Justice of the Peace, the people of Buck Short Township felt that the time when they were to have an able and upright administration of judicial affairs had arrived. Old Brumley had never opened a law book; therefore he was regarded as honest. He had never hesitated to take off his coat and fight the best man in the neighborhood; therefore he was considered able. He had never been backward in denouncing his enemies, consequently he was regarded as a citizen of wisdom. With these accomplishments, his election, in the expressive parlance of politics, was a "walk over." Shortly after Brumley took his seat on the red oak woodcock, a man named Billy Malone was arrested for stealing a grind-stone.

"This here is a mighty important case," said the magistrate, when the culprit had been arraigned before the court. "In lookin' over these here law books I don't find no mention of grind-stones. It was a big oversight in our Legislature not to put down grind-stones in the books, fur it mout have been know'd that some blamed rascal in this part o' the State was goin' to steal one. Folks in this here part o' the country, let me tell you, will steal anything. Wa'al, in the absence o' any statutory barin' in the subjeck, reckon I'll make this here charge manslaughter in the first degree."

"Your honor," said a lawyer, "that would be impossible."

"Wood it? Wa'al, I'll jes show you I'm runnin' this here court."

"Your honor—"

"Call me Judge, if you please."

"Well, Judge, there is no such thing as manslaughter in the first degree."

"Ain't thar? Well, I'll jes show you I'm runnin' this here court. Prisoner at the bar, I have longed fur a opportunity o' teachin' a lesson to the risin' generation. You have given me that chance. I don't delight in seein' a man fall from grace, but when he does fall, thar ain't nothin' that pleases me so much as to tangle my hand in the ruffles o' his calico shirt. Manslaughter is a mighty serious charge, young feller."

"I ain't slaughtered no man yit, Judge."

"Shet your mouth, impudent violator o' the sacred law o' the land. No matter what you done, I say it was manslaughter in the first degree, an' when a man disputes my word, w'y, he'd better wush that his bones was made outen Injun rubber an' his back kivered with the skin o' a yalligator. Young out-rager o' the principles of civilization, fur this great crime of manslaughter in the first degree, I sentences you to be hung next Friday."

"Judge," exclaimed the lawyer, springing to his feet, "this proceeding is impossible."

"Is it? Wa'al, I'll jes show you I'm runnin' this court. When you git to be a Judge, I won't come round tellin' you what you can do an' what you can't."

"Great Caesar, Judge, such a course as you are taking is a violation of the State Constitution."

"Is it? Wa'al, I'll jes repeal the State Constitution right here. This feller oughter be hung, an' if I had catch him ten days ago, whether or not he had committed manslaughter in the first degree or sold a grindstone in the second, which is the same, I would have sentenced him to be hung. Mr. Constable, take charge o' this man an' see that he is hung up in respectable manner. Any lawyer what don't wunter be served in the same way had better keep his mouth shet. I'm runnin' this court."—*Opie P. Read, in Texas Siftings.*

NATURE'S ZOO.

The Wonderland of the World, and the Grandest Out-Door Museum of Natural Curiosities.

The country of the Upper Nile was par excellence, the wonderland of the Roman world, as it is still the grandest out-door museum of natural curiosities. Zoologically there is no more densely populated country. All the wild beasts and birds, made homeless by the devastation of Northern Africa, seem to have taken refuge in the Nubian highlands. In the terrace-land of the Nubian and Abyssinian Alps there roam herds of elephants, buffaloes, wild sheep, and fourteen different species of antelopes. Further below the hippopotamus and white rhinoceros haunt the river swamps. Professor Blanfond enumerates 290 species of water birds.

With these harmless settlers less desirable guests have crowded in, the spotted hyena, the jackal, the black and yellow lion, four species of smaller cats, wild dogs, and above all, the cynocephalus, the wily and mischievous baboon. Three varieties of these Darwinian pets inhabit the rocks of Southern Nubia; the little babuin, the cynocephalus proper, and the celaha or mantle baboon, a fierce and powerful fellow, whose shaggy mane protects his body like a cloak, and enables him to brave the climate of the upper highlands. Professors Kuppel, Hotten and Major W. C. Harris agree on the fact that a troop of these brutes, in ravaging a cornfield, will not only hold their ground against all comers, but on the slightest provocation take the offensive in a way not likely to be forgotten by the unarmed natives.

Dogs have no chance whatever against a full-grown baboon. The old males do not wait to be tackled, but charge them at once with an energy and skill of co-operation that would do credit to a troop of well-drilled soldiers. The hyrax, a queer pachyderm, allied to the European badger, inhabits the rocks with a hibernating marmot, and the coast jungles swarm with wild hogs that multiply undisturbed, for the Abyssinian natives share the pork prejudice of their Mohammedan neighbors.—*Prof. Oswald.*

A citizen of Troy is said to have recently papered the stalls in his stable with paper that cost him \$60,000. Part of the covering consisted of bonds of a defunct steam-heating company, and the balance was bonds of other "busted bubbles."—*Troy Times.*