

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:  
One Copy, One Year, \$1.00  
One Copy, Six Months, .60  
One Copy, Three Months, .35

Local Advertisements to be paid for upon making  
Proof by the Publisher.  
Personal Advertisements 50 cents a Line.  
Subscriptions sent East, \$2.00 a Year.

LAFAYETTE COURIER.

VOL. XII--NO. 8.

LAFAYETTE, OREGON, APRIL 13, 1877.

PRICE TEN CENTS.

RATES OF ADVERTISING. Table with columns for One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Six, Seven, Eight, Nine, Ten, Eleven, Twelve months and corresponding rates.

BUSINESS NOTICES  
In the Local Column, 25 cts. per Line  
Each Insertion.

Yearning.

I laid me on the grassy river bank,  
And watched the fleecy piles far overhead,  
And strained my eyes into the upper depths,  
If haply I might see the form  
Of one now dead.

When setting summer sun threw his high  
flames,  
And opened his gates of fire so bright,  
I peered through wistfully and tried to see  
The golden city where she walks  
Who was my light.

Oh, deplorable sky! oh, ocean dim and vast!  
Oh, western gates, with endless corridors!  
Ye all are closed, and I can only weep--  
Ye cannot give me back the form  
Of one now dead.

—J. G. W., in Hartford Churchman.

Do Animals Understand Human Speech?

From Beverly Taylor's interesting article in the February Atlantic we take the following extract:

Animals have much more capacity to understand human speech than is generally supposed. The Hindoos invariably talk to their elephants, and it is amazing how much the latter comprehend. The Arabs govern their camels with a few cries, and my associates in the African desert were always amused whenever I addressed a remark to the big dromedary who was my property for two months; yet at the end of that time the beast evidently knew the meaning of a number of single sentences.

Some years ago, seeing the hippopotamus in Barnum's Museum looking very stolid and dejected, I spoke to him in English, but he did not even move his eyes. Then I went to the opposite corner of the cage, and looked in my face with a touching delight while I stroked his muzzle. I have two or three times found a lion who recognized the same language, and the expression of his eyes for an instant seemed positively human.

I know of nothing more moving, indeed semi-tragic, than the yearning helplessness in the face of a dog who understands what is said to him and cannot answer. We often hear it said that no animal can endure the steady gaze of the human eye; but this is a superstition.

An intelligent dog or horse not only sees the color of the eye, but is restless from natural habit, but hardly more so than that of savage men. Cats, birds, and many other animals seek, rather than avoid, a friendly human eye. It is possible that tigers may have been turned away by an unfilching gaze, but I suspect the secret lay in the surprise of the beast at so unusual an expression, rather than in direct intimidation. Thieves are said to have believed that a dog, for the same reason, will not attack a naked man, but I do not remember any account of a burglar who they have tried the experiment.

Cattle, however, are easily surprised. Once, in 1849, on the Salinas Plains in California, I escaped exactly the same onset of a vast herd of wild cattle as Mr. Hart describes in his "Gabriel Conroy," by sitting down on the ground. They were unaccustomed to seeing a man, except on horseback, that the position was an absolute bewilderment to them. The foremost halted within a hundred feet, formed a line as regular as a file of soldiers, and stared stupidly, until a team, luckily approaching at the right time, released me from my hazardous situation.

Few persons are aware of the great effect which quiet speech exercises upon the most savage dog. A distinguished English poet told me that he was once walking in the country with Canon Kingsley, when they passed a hedge where an immense and fierce mastiff, confined by a long chain, rushed out upon them. They were just beyond his reach, but the chain did not seem secure; the poet would have hurried past, but Kingsley, laying a hand upon his arm, said, "Wait a moment, and see me subdue him!" Thereupon he walked up to the dog, who, erect upon his hind feet, with open jaws and glaring eyes, was the embodiment of animal fury. Kingsley lifted his hand, and quietly said, "You are wrong! You have made a mistake; you must go back to your kennel!" The dog sank down upon his forefeet, but still growling angrily; the canon repeated his words in a firm voice, advancing step by step as the dog gave way. His confident speaking gave proof, as to a human being, until he had forced the mastiff back into his kennel, where the latter sullenly, and perhaps remorsefully laid down.

I cannot now tell whether I remembered this story, or acted simply from a sudden instinct, in a very similar case. I was in San Francisco, and went to call upon a gentleman of my acquaintance, who lived upon Rincon Point. The house stood a little distance back from the street, in a beautiful garden. I walked up between clumps of myrtle and fuchsia to the door, and rang the bell. Instead of answer, there was a savage bay by a gleaming opening around the corner of the house, and rushed at me with every sign of furious attack. I faced him, stood still, and said, "I am a friend of Mr. —, and have come to visit him. You must not suppose that I mean any harm. I shall wait to see if the bell is answered; you may stay and watch me. I am not afraid of you."

The animal paused, listened intently, bit was evidently most earnestly convinced; he still growled, and showed his teeth in rather an alarming manner. Then I said, "I shall ring once more; if there is no answer, I shall go away." He followed me up the steps to the door, glared fiercely while I rang, and would undoubtedly have dashed at my throat had I made a suspicious pause. As no one came to the door, I hastily said, "I see there is no

The Tastes of Royalty.

The Paris papers have recently been giving some curious and interesting details respecting the costly articles of dress or ornament possessed by the royal and noble ladies of Europe. The young Comtesse de San Fernando possesses, it seems, a lace tunic, the like of which is owned by no other lady in the world, Queen Isabella of Spain alone excepted. Her Majesty has, it appears, a perfect passion for lace, and possesses thereof a collection which is valued at \$1,000,000. This collection is a perfect museum of lace of all kinds, epochs, and nationalities. One dress, composed entirely of pearls, is valued at \$30,000, and a set of flounces in antique Venetian gauze is still more costly. Of the Spanish mantilla velis her Majesty owns a large number, some worth from \$5,000 to \$6,000 each. Queen Victoria's passion is for India shawls, and her collection of diamonds, the Grand Duchess of Saxe-Weimar owns the richest and most perfect collection of rubies in the world. The finest and largest turquoises and pearls that exist are among the crown jewels of Russia, and the finest sapphires in the world form part of those of England. Maria possesses among her crown-jewels a pair of pink diamonds that is perfectly unique. As far as the ordinary diamonds of commerce, apart from the great historical stones of the world, there are many private jewel caskets that might compete with those of queens. Among historical stones there exists but one really perfect gem that stands high in the estimation of lapidaries and collectors, and that is the peerless "Regent." One of the great diamond-cutters of Amsterdam on one occasion was summoned to the Court of France on professional duty, and was permitted to take the Regent in his own hands for inspection. The old man spoke of the peerless gem with the same enthusiastic reverence that a painter might display towards Raphael's Transfiguration, or a sculptor towards the Venus of Milo. The King-hoop he looked upon as a mere stone, valuable only for its size, but lacking the true aesthetic qualities of a really perfect diamond.

Fashionable Dolls.

It is an amusing proceeding to purchase a doll here and to note how her ladyship's wants are supplied. First she must be dressed, and you are called upon to select what style of undergarments you would prefer, whether embroidered, trimmed with lace, or plain, and the tiny articles are produced, folded and tied up with blue ribbons in packages of half a dozen each, exactly as they are in the real-life lingerie. The dresses are charming, all silk or velvet, sometimes trimmed with real lace, and cut and fashioned stylishly as Worth himself could do. There are also dresses of various materials, and under the name of dolls' dress-maker, as it requires a special talent to reduce the fashions of the day into such miniature shapes. Then Mademoiselle must have her poodle and her prayer-book, her writing case, her letter and note paper, stamped with her monogram, her work-box and her jewel-case, her set of fans in muff box, with some dozen of "practicable" gloves, etc., etc. For be it known that she is an accomplished lady, whose gloves can be changed at will, and whose finely-pointed fingers are quite capable of holding a pen or glass or a handkerchief, an ornament of small volumes, just proportioned to her size; she has brushes of real ivory and combs of real tortoise shell; she has tea-services of solid silver and shawls of variable India baize, and under the empire she was occasionally known to wear real diamonds, and to indulge in tea sets of solid gold. She has dresses, even now, trimmed with real Valenciennes and she costs a good deal more than any toy ought to.—Paris Correspondence Philadelphia Telegraph.

Fatal Fun.

A letter from St. Louis to the New York Herald relates how a saucy of coarse jesting ended in homicide: One evening, not long since, a number of young men and boys were lounging at the corner of Jefferson Avenue and Pacific Street in the western part of the city, when three men in a buggy drove past. Something peculiar in the style of the horse attached to the buggy caused the boys to hoot and utter coarse jokes, whereupon the man in the buggy pulled up, and considerable badinage followed, including such remarks as "the crowd crossing the reins in the bridle of the horse. This enraged the men in the buggy, one of whom jumped out and demanded to know who did it. A young man named George Williams, aged twenty-one, who was simply a looker-on, was pointed out as the practical joker, and the man from the buggy attacked him and a scuffle ensued, in which a pistol was discharged. Young Williams fell to the pavement and died within three minutes.

The Wretched Man in America

lives on North Hill. He has one hundred and fifty dollars bet on the election, but it was so long ago that he can't remember which man he bet on, and the other fellow won't tell. And the air is full of intimations and threatenings and things.—Burlington Hawkeye.

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Starching and Ironing.

It seems strange to us old housekeepers that anybody should find difficulty in doing up bosoms and collars nicely, but our ranks are continually recruited by women quite ignorant of these mysteries. The matrons in Wall street a year ago left a neighbor of mine poor, and now the leave wife hires nothing done but a bowl of thin cold water from which I wash. She came in to-day to ask just how to make and manage the starch, and I was glad to tell her. Dissolve the pearl starch in cold water, pour on boiling water, stirring all the time till it is the right consistency, that is, about as thick as paste for ordinary purposes; if too thick it will not iron nicely; if too thin the linen will not be stiff enough. I search my clothes when they come from the rinse water, rub the starch well into them and hang them on the line. When I sprinkle the clothes I have a brush, and a few shavings of white soap stirred in the starch just after hot water has been poured over it. Others use a teaspoonful of white sugar, or a bit of wax candle, or a little of gum arabic water. Some boil their starch five minutes, others only one, and others not at all. Some do not make their starch until they sprinkle their clothes, and then rub the starch into the dry linen and let it lie overnight before ironing, and some depend entirely on the cold starch. But I have found the first method given the surest results.

Russian Customs.

The English Royal Horse Guards has been traveling in Russia. In his book of travels he gives an account of some odd customs which prevail there. Among others he notices the use of a potent beverage supposed to be adapted to the climate. "The Russian officers, by way of thoroughly keeping out the cold, have invented a singular drink. They call it jockey. After dinner, and when champagne, claret, and liquors have been drunk to an extent of which people in this country have no conception, a huge silver bowl is produced; brandy, rum, spirits, and wines of all kinds are poured promiscuously; apples and pears, with all the fruits on the dessert-table, are cut up and tossed into the liquid, which is then set on fire, and when in this state the flaming mixture is poured out into large goblets, which are handed round the table. It is a high trial, if the drinking-bout has been persisted in for several hours, and it is one calculated to try the stomachs as well as the heads of the guests; but we are in Russia, and we are well suited to a Russian climate, where an enormous quantity of nitrogen must be consumed to keep up the animal heat."

The Astor Idiots.

Speaking of families, one is led to notice peculiarities which are bequeathed from father to son. Thus it is said that the Astors have an idiot in every generation. Old John Jacob's oldest son, who was the subject of the Astor's will, was a subject of the idiot in a private asylum built for him by his father. This, was no doubt, the finest institution of the kind in America, and consisted of an entire square walled in, containing a residence for the keeper, with stables. The patient was twenty-five years of age. The president of the order of the day with some of the travelers, for instead of putting the sugar in their glasses, they would take a lump in their mouths, and thus sweeten the scalding draft."

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Our Foreign Trade.

The gold value of the goods which we sold to foreign countries and bought from them during 1876, was a little under one thousand million dollars. Although this is an enormous sum, it is less than the value of our trade with other countries in some former years, but there has never been a year, when our foreign trade has been so favorable to us, or when our own people derived a greater profit from it. There are two causes for this: one arising from the kind of goods we bought and sold during the year; the other, the fact that we sold vastly more than we bought. The latter circumstance is commonly described by saying that the balance of trade was in our favor. The meaning of the phrase, and the results of the condition it describes, we shall explain hereafter.

THE BLACK HILLS.

What a fascinating cry! spiced at once with the flavor of romance and wild adventure, in a hitherto but little known or explored country, with the prospective of realizing youth's wildest dream of riches! Stribald's fiction at last realized. The Black Hills, as you will perceive by the map, are situated northwest from here and Cheyenne, in a hitherto but little known or explored country, with the prospective of realizing youth's wildest dream of riches! Stribald's fiction at last realized. The Black Hills, as you will perceive by the map, are situated northwest from here and Cheyenne, in a hitherto but little known or explored country, with the prospective of realizing youth's wildest dream of riches! Stribald's fiction at last realized. The Black Hills, as you will perceive by the map, are situated northwest from here and Cheyenne, in a hitherto but little known or explored country, with the prospective of realizing youth's wildest dream of riches! 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