

UNCLE SI, DIPLOMATIST

GOOD MAN'S METHOD OF DEALING WITH HARD SITUATION.

Unusual Doings in Meeting House Yard Turned to Financial Account by Elder Who Was Not Superstitious.

"Wall," said Uncle Si, as he took his accustomed place on the pickle barrel, "we had a high-falutin, lawn party up tew the meetin' house at Lapham's Corners last night. There was sure a heap of folk thar, and the way they carried on seemed to me wasn't exactly in place in the meetin' house yard," said Uncle Si, looking pious and thoughtful.

"Tell us about it," said Hiram, helping himself to another cracker from the open barrel near by.

"Wall, it was jest this a-way. In the fust place a party of city folks come down from up the hill—we could see at once that they was goin' to run things to suit themselves. If they hadn't a-bought a lot of peanuts, ice cream and lemonade, we'd have broke up the jamboree right thar and let 'em go home. The fust thing they done was to start a Virginia reelin', which I reckon is an imitation of how a person acts when he has got full of Virginia corn juice. Us country folks, we gathered around in the corners of the lawn and says nothin'—at least, not so as the city folks could hear. We thought they'd gone far enough with the Virginia tramping, but we found we was plum mistaken.

"Some female says, says she, 'Let's chase the turkey around this lawn.' Wall, there wasn't any turkey, but there was some of the worst doin's that was ever seen in Lapham's Corners. I bein' the elder, the members of the meetin' house riz up unanimous and told me I'd got to stop them fireworks. After knocking a nearby table, in order to bring silence, I spoke something like this: 'Brethern and sistern, this yer is in the meetin' house yard. Such goin's on as has happened here tonight has disgraced us all, and to make our consciences easy I shall take all the money we've rize here tonight and raise the insurance on the meetin' house. I ain't superstitious, but I don't believe no building could stand to see what's went on here tonight without either burnin' up or gettin' struck by lightnin' or havin' coffee spill on the vestry carpet. I hope you will now all go home and come again to the next lawn party we have and be enthusiastic as ye was at this one.'

"Wall," said Si, "the crowd they went home, and I guess they was ashamed of themselves."

"Wall," said Lem Beacher, who occupied the only chair in the grocery store, "I never did believe in them excitin' ways to make money for the meetin' house. It's much better to take up collections now and then, get along with the old meetin' house."

To that all the bysitters answered: "You're right, Lem!" and Uncle Si bought his groceries, consisting of a package of tobacco, and went home to do the chores.—Judge.

Writing for Posterity.

A story about George Bernard Shaw comes from London.

A prominent French critic, the story runs, once said to the playwright:

"You are putting on a new comedy Monday night. Let me attend one of the dress rehearsals, won't you?"

"Impossible," said Mr. Shaw. "My dress rehearsals are always private. I have to refuse even the most distinguished critics access to them."

"But," said the other, "I want to write a careful criticism. If I have to write it and telegraph it in a few minutes on Monday night, it will be very hurriedly done, and I fear that it will give a wrong impression of your comedy in Paris the next day."

"Have no anxiety on that score," Mr. Shaw replied. "My comedies are not written for the next day."

Word Properly Condemned.

George Meredith, according to the London Chronicle, "employs that abominable contraction 'alright.' It can't be a printer's error, for it occurs more than once. And he uses it as early as 1863, so that the abusers of our language may now claim Meredith, of all men, as their prophet. This is one of those things that baffle explanation, particularly from a writer whose use of words was meticulous and who always refused to delete the first 'e' in 'judgment,' always spelling it 'judgement' in his novels. Some of us, however, will fight 'alright' to the bitter end."

"Wise-Acres."

"Wise-acre" has its origin in Ben Jonson's retort to a countryman who boasted interminably of his acres, till Ben said: "What signify to us your dirt and your clods? Where you have an acre of land I have ten acres of wit." The countryman retorted by calling Ben "Good Mr. Wiseacre." This is a good story, but perhaps the term wiseacre comes from the corruption of the German, weisager, a wise-
sayer

OUR MOST DESTRUCTIVE BIRD

Cooper's Hawk is Strong Enough to Carry Away Good-Sized Chicken or Cotton-Tail Rabbit.

(By W. L. M'ATEE.)

Cooper's hawk may be taken as a type of the group of hawks whose habits are responsible for the condemnation of birds of prey as a whole. This group includes three species: Cooper's hawk, the sharp-skinned hawk and the goshawk. They are often spoken of as blue darters, a name which expresses a characteristic difference in their manner of hunting from that of other hawks. They



Cooper's Hawk.

course over the country at great speed and capture their prey by sudden darts, seizing their victims while in full flight.

Cooper's hawk, which occurs throughout the United States, is pre-eminently a "chicken hawk," and is by far the most destructive species we have to contend with, not because it is individually worse than the goshawk, but because it is so much more numerous than the aggregate damage done far exceeds that of all other birds of prey.

It is strong enough to carry away a good-sized chicken, grouse, or cottontail rabbit. It is especially fond of domesticated doves and when it finds a cote easy of approach, it usually takes a toll of one or two a day. Practically every stomach of Cooper's hawk examined in experiments have contained remains of wild birds or poultry.

Keeping Eggs Fresh.

In Germany eggs are kept fresh for any length of time by simply immersing them in a ten per cent. solution of silicate of soda, commonly called "liquid glass." This produces the formation of a coating which renders the eggs perfectly air-tight. The eggs so treated retain their fresh taste for many months. The best proof of the efficacy of this treatment has been furnished by the fact that such eggs, after having been kept for a whole year, were hatched and the chickens were strong and healthy. The preserving solution is best prepared by dissolving one pound of liquid glass in four quarts of cold water. The eggs are then immersed in this solution, which should be kept in a glazed earthenware vessel, and the eggs are kept in the solution for a short time. If one of these preserved eggs is to be boiled, the shell must be first perforated to prevent cracking.



Hens will not lay when permitted to run about the farm in the wet and cold.

A large part of the food for poultry should be grains because they are natural grain eaters.

Green food of some kind is necessary to make hens do their best in the line of egg production.

All laying and growing chickens must have some kind of meat food in order to do their best.

Get in plenty of litter for the winter scratching.

Careful breeding, proper feeding and the right kind of care will produce heavy laying in any breed.

Sudden fright and excitement at once tells on the egg crop. Never allow strange dogs about where the hens are.

Light framed birds that mature quickly, such as Leghorns and Minorcas, should not be kept with those of the heavier fowls.

Visit the chicken house at night. Note the quality of the air, and the breathing of the birds. If the house is stifling, it needs more air.

A laying flock of hens will drink about seven quarts of water a day.

White of the egg is recommended in cases of fracture in chickens, for soaking the bandages, thus binding them together and stiffening.

Exercise produces warmth, provides pleasure and promotes health, therefore it is well to let hens hunt in a deep litter of straw for all their grains.

There is little doubt that the incubator has not always been given the credit it deserves for having brought the poultry industry up to its present enviable position.

NOVELISTS AND CRIME

GREAT WRITERS HAVE INTERESTED THEMSELVES IN SUBJECT.

At the Present Time Arthur Conan Doyle is to the Fore, Following Course of Other Masters of Literature.

The creator of Sherlock Holmes certainly ought to be himself a competent amateur detective, and his success in the famous Edalji case proves that his powers in that direction are of no mean order. He has now undertaken another difficult case—that of proving the innocence of Oscar Slater, who is at present undergoing a life sentence for murder.

Quite a number of novelists have interested themselves in crime and criminals. Edgar Allan Poe used to state that there was no problem which a man could set which another man could not solve, and he applied the rule to crime. His greatest triumph in this method of unraveling apparently inexplicable mystery gave the world that famous story, "The Murders in the Rue Morgue."

Dickens was strangely drawn toward the alleviation of suffering of all kinds, and his novels did much to bring about the more humane treatment of prisoners. But Charles Reade not only exposed harsh prison methods in his famous novel "It Is Never Too Late to Mend," but actually, like Conan Doyle, took up the case of what was known as the Penge murder.

In spite of a magnificent and moving speech for the defense by Sir Edward Clarke, the judge summed up against the prisoners so decidedly that the jury found them guilty. It was then that the novelist entered the lists, with such telling force and convincing argument that the home secretary promptly commuted all the sentences.

Probably the earliest instance of the intervention of a novelist to save a man from the gallows was Dr. Samuel Johnson's herculean efforts to obtain mercy for the celebrated Doctor Dodd, who was executed in spite of all that the sage of Fleet street could do or say. Today, thanks to writers like Reade and Dickens, no such advocacy would be needed, for this famous parson's crime was forgery, for which death is no longer the penalty. Boswell, in his "Life of Johnson," devotes a large amount of space to this characteristic example of his hero's kindness and humanity.

Many years later the famous French playwright Balzac made an effort to save the life of a man named Peytel, who had been convicted of the murder of his wife and servant, but equally without success.

Volcanic Dust in Atmosphere.

From many points in America and Europe come reports of an unusual turbidity of the atmosphere, which began early last summer and still continues. This is manifested in a marked diminution of the intensity of solar radiation, as measured with the pyrheliometer, abnormal displacement of the neutral points of atmospheric polarization, a hazy appearance of the sky, and the presence of Bishop's ring around the sun. From Dublin Sir John Moore wrote last August: "The sky is constantly covered with a thin film of uniform cloud in which no halos develop, and through which the sun, moon and stars shine with a subdued, sickly brightness." Observers in Russia, Switzerland, Sweden and Germany, as well as America, report an unusual lack of blueness in the sky. There seems to be every reason to attribute these phenomena to the presence in the upper atmosphere of an immense pall of dust arising from the explosive eruption of Katmai volcano in Alaska last June. Similar effects were observed after the eruptions of Kratatoa and Mont Pele.

One Dry in the Ward.

In St. Louis there is one ward that is full of brewers and Germans. In a recent election a local option question came up. After the election some Germans were counting the votes.

One German was calling off and another taking down the option vote. The first German, running rapidly through the ballots, said:

"Vet, vet, vet. . . . Suddenly he stopped. "Mein Gott!" he cried: "Dry!"

Then he went on—"Vet, vet, vet, vet." Presently he stopped again and mopped his brow. "Himmel!" he said. "Der son of a gun repeated!"

Had an Alibi.

While the talesmen were being examined for a murder trial in the west one was asked if he knew what an alibi was.

"I think I do; yes, str."

"What do you understand by it?" The talesman reflected for a moment and then, with a hesitancy indicative of graveness, replied: "An alibi is when the fellow who did it wasn't there."

SEES CHINA A GREAT NATION

Their Wonderful Physique, Aided by Modern Sanitary Methods, Must Have Its Effect.

The vitality and endurance of the average Chinaman are remarkable. I doubt if there exists a nation anywhere better qualified to illustrate the "survival of the fittest." From a physical point of view the body of the Chinese coolie is a perfect specimen of human anatomy. I have seen this class of natives work like pack horses carrying heavy loads upon their shoulders, and like horses pulling heavy loads along the thoroughfares of the city and countryside. They even take the place of horses at the plow. Among no class of people have I ever observed an exhibition of more wonderful powers of endurance, writes Clyde Witmer in the Kansas City Journal.

The native can live in the torrid zone, in the temperate zone or in frigid northern Manchuria. He can bear hunger, thirst or exhaustion. Yet there seems to be a cold-blooded paradox about the Chinese who are sick and ailing. Little can be learned in a statistical way regarding this phase of Chinese health. The medical dispensaries and hospitals which I visited revealed the widest range of diseases, both medical and surgical cases, which had been turned over in despair to the medical skill of the "foreign devils."

Infant mortality is enormously high and while the average native birth rate is unknown, yet the Chinese women are very prolific. In many instances the Chinaman possesses several wives. Frequently I have observed old people engaged in heavy labor either in the fields or transporting freight and baggage in the Chinese cities. Eventually, with such a strong and vigorous heredity back of the present generation of Mongolians, and with the advanced sanitary methods of modern science pushing in among the native people, the Chinese race will become an increasingly wonderful, strong and vigorous nation.

Japan's Sudden Rise.

An idea of how Japan has leaped into the forefront of nations since her victory over Russia was furnished the other day by a man who had traveled extensively in Java and other parts of the Far East.

"The Dutch in Java," he said, "make a point of treating people of all the eastern nations well, but there is always a certain difference between how an Oriental and how a European is treated. Europeans are always looked upon as belonging to the dominant races in the Far East, and are treated accordingly in commercial and other dealings. On the other hand, the Chinese, for instance, though they may be the richest and most influential citizens in a community, are always made to feel that they are not quite on a par with Europeans.

"But it is otherwise with the Japanese. In Java and elsewhere they are treated exactly as if they were Europeans. It was not so before the Russian-Japanese war, either, but it certainly is now, and it makes the Chinese and other Orientals mighty jealous."

Capable of Wider Application.

A clever scheme for checking the discreditable practice of "joy-riding" is credited by the Boston Herald to Commissioner Rourke of the public works department.

According to officials of the department a certain chauffeur went out joy-riding with his chief's machine, and had a collision. His chief then suspended him for a month.

When Commissioner Rourke was informed of the accident and the suspension, he said that if the young man wished to be reinstated in the city's employ at the end of the month, he must start as a laborer with pick and shovel.

"He can't go joy-riding with those," the commissioner dryly added.

Triangular Smile.

No lady is suitably equipped now for any big function unless she has contorted her face into what is known as the "triangular smile." This "expression" is supposed to represent simplicity and innocence! It is formed by lifting the center part of the top lip to form an apex of the triangle, the

Women and Congress.

The question as to woman's eligibility to congress has never been raised and, of course, not decided, but if the people of a district in a state where woman suffrage existed and where women were eligible to any office should elect a woman to congress she would probably be admitted.

On the Contrary.

"People in very cold climates need a heavy diet." "No, they don't—they have light diet. Don't the Eskimo eat candies?"—Baltimore American.

Love Altered.

Some women's love is like a 1600-man's livery—slightly altered to fit and handed on to the new man.—The Tattler.

POULTRY



HARM IN CROWDING THE HEN

Results Given of Interesting Experiments Made at Maine Station—Must Have Room.

The Maine experiment station recently finished a test to ascertain the number of hens most profitable to keep in pens. All the pens were 10 by 16 feet, giving 160 square feet. The hens were Brahmas and Plymouth Rocks, and these tests continued six months.

The pens were fifteen, twenty, twenty-five and thirty to a pen. The conditions and hens were as much alike as possible to make the test a conclusive one.

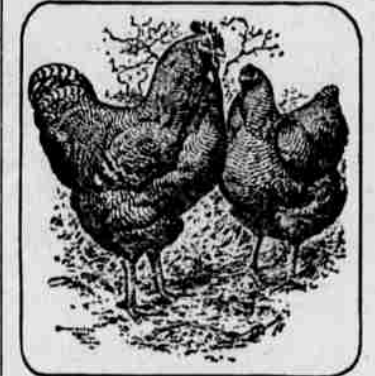
The pen with fifteen hens made a profit of 80 cents per hen, and the eggs laid numbered 976.

The pen with twenty hens made a showing of 1,208 eggs for the pen and a profit of 71 cents per hen.

The pen with twenty-five hens made a laying record of 1,328 eggs and a profit of 35 cents per hen.

The pen with thirty hens had an egg production of 1,200 and a profit of 30 cents for each hen.

The experiment shows distinctly that hens can be so crowded as to reduce the profit of an egg farm. The



Barred Plymouth Rocks.

difference of twenty-five eggs per hen for six months is great. On the basis of fifteen to the pen the profits of the total ninety hens were \$72; on a basis of thirty to the pen the profits were \$36. In each case the actual cost of feed was deducted.

Windows in Poultry Houses.

Put the windows in the poultry houses low down to the floor, so that the hens will get the benefit of the light and sunshine when scratching for their feed. The trouble with windows set high up is that they let the sunshine in on the perches when the hens are on the floor scratching, and when they are on the roost the sun doesn't shine, so there is no equilibrium in such plans.

Discarding the Mongrels.

Mongrel fowls should not be kept for egg production because the eggs will be uniform in neither color nor size. This factor of itself is of enough importance to induce one to select a pure breed, even though the mongrels might possibly lay as well as the pure-bred fowls, but this is very doubtful.

Cold Storage.

Cold storage is increasing and becoming more appreciated, according to a French writer. Dr. Bordas, who says: "From a hygienic point of view it was desirable that all eggs used in baking were preserved by cold."

Nest for the Hen.

Everything from a nail keg to a grocery box may take a hen's nest. The hen is not a sentimental bird, and does not care for fancy frills and contraptions. Give her a box or a barrel, filled with the right nesting material, soft bruised straw, and the whole properly darkened, and she will do her share in trying to keep it supplied with eggs.

Pekin Ducks.

The best all round duck is the Pekin. They mature quicker, feather out sooner, and put on meat more readily than any other variety of ducks.

Improving the Flock.

The welfare of the flock is in no way improved by irregular and indifferent breeding. Regularity is to the liking of the business hen as well as of the business man.

The male bird is the most important individual in a breeding pen through which to raise the egg laying qualities of young fowls.