

QUAILS AND SNAKES.

Rather Dangerous Sport for Hunters That Are Not Wary.

A few days ago a Californian left the big brickyard, near Anderson, for a quail hunt along the banks of the Sacramento river. Under a cover of brush he discovered a nice flock of birds, but when he raised his gun to have a shot they disappeared. He felt satisfied that there were quite a number under a particular bush, and he blazed away.

The noisy fluttering which followed told him the result, and he ran for his prize, and just as he was reaching out his hand to catch a wounded quail he was suddenly shocked to discover an enormous rattlesnake in the line of the bird. The man, although weighing nearly three hundred pounds, jumped backward six feet from the brush, and then gained his breath. He approached the birds again, with his gun cocked and ready for a sudden shot, and learned that the snake was dead. When he fired at the birds he killed the snake and six quail, although none of the birds or the serpent were in view. The snake had eight rattlers and a button and was three and a half feet in length.

HARD ON THE STOMACH.

Instances Showing Its Powers with Starvation and Fledgling.

The human stomach possesses most wonderful powers of adaptation to circumstances. When Lieut. Bligh and his eighteen men were cast off from the Bounty by the mutineers in an open boat they subsisted forty-one days on a daily allowance of one-twenty-fifth of a pound of biscuit per man and a quarter of a pint of water. Dr. Tanner in 1880 fasted for forty days, subsisting, it is said, on water alone, and Succi and other fasting men have since excelled this.

Kaffirs, North American Indians, and the "fat boy" in "Pickwick" may well be quoted as fearful examples of voracity, but even their gastronomic feats are exceeded by the full-grown Esquimaux, who will eat daily twenty pounds of flesh and oil if he has a chance, while on the authority of Admiral Smitcheff a Yakut of Siberia has been known to consume in twenty-four hours the hind-quarter of a large ox, twenty pounds of fat, and a quantity of melted butter for his drink.

MEXICO NEEDS IMMIGRANTS.

People From Northern Europe Would Set a Valuable Example of Thrift.

There is a rumor to the effect that an effort will be made in Mexico to turn the current of European emigration from the United States to that country. There is room in Mexico for many more people, but it is by no means as sparsely inhabited a country as many Americans think, says the Denver Republican. In area it is about one-fourth as great as the United States. Its population is 12,000,000. The same density in the United States would give this country about 48,000,000, which is but 2,000,000 less than the census of 1880 showed our population to be in that year.

Mexico needs a different kind of population, rather than an increase. About one-half the people are full blooded Indians, and of these one-half are uncivilized. There are about 1,000,000 whites, the majority of whom, of course, are of Spanish descent. The remainder, with the exception of a few negroes and Chinese, are of mixed blood. Probably 9,000,000 of the inhabitants have Indian blood in their veins, two-thirds of this number being full blood. The hope of the country is, therefore, in the people who have Indian blood. If they shall not develop to a high civilization the country will always be governed by a small class, composed chiefly of the whites.

Fortunately the civilized Indians of full blood are a quiet, orderly people, capable of performing a great deal of labor and attaining to proficiency in the mechanic arts. Juarez, one of the greatest of Mexican statesmen and generals, was a full-blood. The hybrids, like hybrids generally, are worse than their parents of either stock and have caused a great deal of trouble. Immigration of a good class from northern Europe would do Mexico good, because the immigrants would set an example of industry and thrift to the natives.

But there is not much inducement for immigrants of the laboring, mechanic or agricultural classes to settle in Mexico. The demand for labor does not equal the supply, and the farmers would find but poor markets for their products. Mexico is a good country for men with money to invest in mining and other industries requiring large capital, but to immigrants without means the field is not inviting.

ARE WINTERS COLDER?

It Seems So in Europe, While Ours Are Growing Warmer.

It is often asked, regarding the seasons, whether they alter from year to year, whether there is a positive change in climate from century to century.

The general opinion seems to be, according to the New York Press, that the springs and summers are cooler than they were once, and that the winters are less cold.

The records of thermometrical observations show that the temperature of the month of May is diminishing, but that the temperature of the year, taken together, rather tends to increase.

Taking into consideration a period of fifty or sixty more years, there has been observed an actual diminution of the mean temperature in the climate of France. But observing a longer period—comparing, for example, the earliest centuries of French history with the present time—no sensible difference of the seasons can be established.

For example, the Roman emperor, Julian, was very fond of living at Paris, and about A. D. 360 he made several long sojourns in that city. In his Misogogon he relates that he was greatly surprised one fine morning to see the Seine stopped in its course and its waters changed into blocks of marble.

So we see that there was at that time, as well as to-day, winters severe enough to freeze the rivers, and that the climate has not changed much if any.

Perhaps the men of the present time have a more sensitive epidermis than had their hardy ancestors.

IN OLD ENGLAND.

ENGLAND is as large as Iowa.

The youngest man in the new British house of commons is twenty-two years old; the oldest, ninety.

An English company is being organized for the acclimatization of elephants in South America.

A RHINOCEROS has been in the London Zoo for twenty-eight years. This is stated to be the longest time an animal of this kind has lived in captivity in London.

In England alone more than 10,000,000 oil lamps are used nightly. They cause 500 deaths annually, and in London alone 156 fires in a single year have been traced to them.

HISTORICAL FACTS.

In China the year 1892 is the year 7,210,341.

Iron pavements were first laid in London in the year 1817.

The first French newspapers, the Gazette de France, was started in 1631 by Theophraste Renaudot. He also established the first Mont de Piete.

WHAT is known as "short whist" was introduced into England in 1800. In it the game consisted of five points instead of ten and no honors were counted.

QUEER PICK-UPS.

It is said that the "snake stones" of Ceylon will invariably cure snake bites.

A GIANT's skeleton has been unearthed at Brunswick, Ga., which is nearly nine feet long.

CONNECTICUT spelled in an Indian dialect, Quin-neh-tuk-gut, signified "land on a long tidal river."

At the poles, where all meridians converge, there can be no natural standard time, for it is every hour of the day at once.

"SAVECENEAREATORESOGARATLARMARONATETOK." That is Esquimaux for "You must get a good knife," an important thing to have in Labrador.

SINGLE sleeve-buttons are larger than ever. They are worn chiefly by men, and women who affect masculine dress. They prevail in dead gold. The more elaborate have a section in repousse work.—Jewelers' Circular.

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