Exti

Ab[illegible] York S[illegible] seas were [illegible] erful ani[illegible] fact, it w[illegible] this anim[illegible] extrem[illegible] seem[illegible] taking th[illegible] place of the cloven-footed creatures among the milk-givers of the sea. In general appearance the Arctic sea cow was a stupendous spectacle, attaining when full grown a length of thirty-five feet and a weight of several tons. The general color was a dark brown; the skin thick and leathery, covered with a thick, bristling hair that matted together, forming a protection from the ice and cold, and was compared in appearance to the bark of a tree. The head of the sea cow was small in proportion to the animal's size, and, instead of possessing teeth, was provided with two curious masticating plates—one in the gum, and the other in the under jaw. The tail somewhat resembled that of a whale, having two flukes. The fore fins or paddles were blunt and without nails, having instead a thick growth of bristling hairs. Such was the general appearance of the animals that when first discovered were pasturing in vast herds among the seaweed of the shore. They showed no fear of the men, even allowing themselves to be touched by them; but when one was injured it is said that they displayed much bravery in its defence. Such was the state of things in the year 1742. At this time a vessel was wrecked in the Arctic sea, the crew escaping and making their way to Behring island. For some time they subsisted upon fish and birds, but finally the game became scarce, and on the first of June, in the year mentioned, they began a warfare upon the sea cow thath as since been named after Steller, one of the party. The animals were killed with harpoons, and each was so large that forty men could scarcely drag it through the water.

The men were finally rescued from Behring island, but in 1754 a vessel commanded by a Russian, Ivan Krassilnikoff, arrived there, and destroyed large numbers of the animals. In the succeeding year an explorer named Jackooley, seeing that they were about to become exterminated, laid a petition before the authorities at Kamchatka asking that the animals be protected by law. He was not heeded, however, and in 1757 another expedition landed at the islands, and others in 1758 and 1762, and until 1780, when the last living sea cow was seen by a native of Volhynia. Thus in thirty-eight years from the time these monstrous animals were discovered they were totally exterminated, and to-day not a single skin, and only a number of skeletons, remain in the possession of naturalists to tell the story of the destruction of an entire race of large and powerful beasts. Much interesting information concerning the Rhytina was obtained during the recent Swedish expedition to the north, and Professor Nordenskiold found numbers of deposits of their bones that are now utilized by the natives for various purposes, the ribs being used for shoeing the runners of sledges. When alive, the fur or hide of the animal was made by the natives into boats called baydars.

It is supposed by some writers that the extermination of the great mammoth was hastened by early man, who was of necessity a hunter, and that the great elephant existed at the same time with our ancestors is shown by the fact that in France their bones, together with those of man and many animals now extinct, have been found. As late as 1834, Nuttall, the famous authority on birds, wrote concerning the great auk:

As a diver he is unrivalled, having almost the velocity of birds in the air. They breed in the Faroe Islands, and in Iceland, Greenland, and Newfoundland, nesting among the cliffs, and laying but one egg each. They are so unprolific that if this egg be destroyed, no other is laid during that season. The auk is known sometimes to breed in the isle of St. Kilda, and in Papa Westra, according to Mr. Bullock, for several years past no more than a single pair had made their appearance.

To-day not a single individual of this species of aud is alive, and the skin in the museum of natural history in Central park, that is valued at over one thousand dollars, one at Vassar college, and several others, probably not over twelve in all, are the only specimens known in the world. Sixty or one hundred years ago they were extremely common along the northern coast, coming as far south as Nahant; but warfare was begun upon them also, and, though it hardly seems possible, their extermination is undoubtedly complete, the last living bird having been killed in 1844 on a group of islands called Funglasker, on the southwest coast of Iceland. In the last century these birds, which were large, handsome, and striking in appearance, were very common at the Faroe Islands. They were found to be good eating, and were slaughtered by the boat load, not only for immediate use, but to preserve or dry. They were finally driven to a desolate rock that was considered inaccessible, but on a calm day a Faroese vessel succeeded in landing, and the crew destroyed nearly the entire rookery. A few escaped to sea and returned after the departure of the men, and were for a time unmolested, but as if nature herself was in league against them, the rock was in a few years engulfed by submarine eruption. The few remaining great auks assembled and formed a rookery on a rock called Eldey, where for fourteen years they lived a precarious existence. During this time sixty of their nu[illegible] were captured, and finally the las[illegible] were destroyed. The history of [illegible] localities is very similar. That the [illegible] were once frequent on [illegible], that are found in [illegible] of that region.

[illegible] lived in the same [illegible] dor duck, a fine bird, [illegible] which are quite rare [illegible]. The last known [illegible] killed by Colonel [illegible] Halifax, in 1852. In a [illegible] the curious dodo, a giant [illegible] was exterminated, the sailors who visited the island of Mauritius killing them in mere wanton amusement, or to obtain the legs for pipe stems, and the curious stones found in the gullet. In our own time we have seen the buffalo crowded to the West. Civilization is also advancing from there, and before many years the buffalo, the mountain sheep, the prong horn, and all the noble game animals of the great West will be represented only by the stuffed skins and dried bones of our museums.

Farm Animals and Farm Labor.

From a report upon the numbers and values of farm animals in the United States and the wages of farm laborers, made by the statistician of the agricultural department, it appears that the whole number of farm animals in the country has increased since February, 1883, by about 1,000,000, as follows:

Stock.	1883.	1884.	*Increase.*
Horses	10,838,111	11,169,683	331,572
Mules	1,871,079	1,914,126	43,047
Milch cows	13,125,685	13,501,206	375,521
Oxen & other cattle	28,046,077	29,046,101	1,000,024
Sheep	49,237,291	50,626,626	1,380,335
Swine	43,270,086	44,200,893	930,807

The largest increase is in stock cattle, and is principally in the States west of the Mississippi. There has been an increase in the value of horses, mules and all kinds of cattle, with a considerable decline in the price of swine and a small falling off in the values of sheep. The comparison of average values with those of last year is as follows:

Stock.	1883.	1884
Horses	$70 59	$74 64
Mules	79 49	84 22
Milch cows	30 21	31 37
Oxen and other cattle	21 80	23 52
Sheep	2 53	2 37
Swine	6 75	5 57

In that part of the report which deals with the wages of farm labor, Mr. Dodge submitted statistics to show that both the value of farms and the wages of agricultural labor are greatest in those States where industries are most diversified. In the manufacturing States of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, where only eighteen per cent. of all laborers are engaged in agriculture, each of those laborers earns $457 per annum, and the average value of land is $47.34 per acre. In the agricultural States, on the other hand, where seventy-seven per cent. of the laborers are engaged in farming, the wages of such laborers are only $160 per annum, and the average value of farm lands only $20.81 per acre.

"In every State," Mr. Dodge says, "the rate of wages is affected favorably by the presence of manufactures, whatever other causes or difference may prevail. The presence of other industries gives more production per capita, while home markets make higher prices. Contact of industrial ideas and prevalence of mechanical skill also tend to labor-saving ingenuity and manual dexterity in the work of agriculture. The wages of the farm laborer (including board) now range from $13·67 per month in the States where agriculture occupies seventy-seven per cent. of the laboring population, to $24.14 per month in the States where only eighteen per cent. of all laborers are engaged in agricultural pursuits. The average of the whole United States is $18.58 per month, an increase of nearly forty per cent. since 1854."

An Example for Us.

The evil from which France suffered in the seventeenth century our country is enduring to-day, and it will require prompt measures to correct it. Our apparently limitless territory, studded over with forests, has made us profligate even to wastefulness, and we have been in danger of entirely destroying the greatest of our heritages.

In Prussia and Germany the laws relating to forestry exhibit the wisest forethought on the part of the government, and the people sustain it in every effort to preserve what other generations had well-nigh deprived them of. These nations set us an example which it would be wise to consider. Their laws have given rise to a large system of tree-planting, thinning and preserving, and also to an enormous literature regarding arboriculture and cognate subjects. Millions of trees are annually set out, examined and transplanted, and great rainfalls and droughts are obviated, while malaria from both causes is greatly diminished. The ill results of the old, denuding process are rapidly disappearing, showing that Nature's capillary clothing must be respected, for utilitarian as well as sentimental reasons.

In the United States the general fashion of extravagance prevailing in respect to forests is largely due to ignorance. Only lately has the scientific man impressed upon him of average intelligence the necessity of tree preservation, and the desirability of using other materials than lumber for many purposes in which wood was formerly considered indispensable. The wakening anxiety in regard to forestry culminated, a little more than a year ago, in the formation of what was denominated a forestry congress, of which Professor Loring, of the agricultural department, was elected chairman. Following their interesting sessions were the dissemination of much information in regard to arboriculture in the United States, and the inception of village and country societies for the purpose of tree-planting.—*Manhattan.*

[illegible] 000,000 pounds of India rub[illegible] [illegible] this country last [illegible] 2,000,000

FOR FEMININE READERS

A Model Royal Housekeeper.

According to M. Victor Tissot, the queen of Saxony is a model housekeeper. She excels in the making of jam, and all the cupboards in the palace are full of confections prepared by her own hands; but unfortunately there are no children there to eat them. In the autumn she spends days together in the kitchen, vested in a cook's apron, making preserves. Like the wife of the Vicar of Wakefield, "for pickling, preserving, and cookery, none can excel her." The queen is of a frugal turn of mind, keeps her own household accounts, which she balances every day, and will not suffer even that two candles should burn where one will suffice.

Gowns and Frocks.

By the way, the fashionable name for ladies' dresses is now "gown" or "frock." Worth no longer fabricates dresses, but frocks and gowns, and the sound falling upon unaccustomed or long-disused ears is quaint and rather pleasant. A famous dressmaker here is making some marvelous "gowns" and "frocks" for Mrs. General U. S. Grant and Mrs. W. Vanderbilt and Christine Nilsson. Patti does not affect American modistes and brings all her dresses along. One of Mrs. Grant's dresses is of rich black silk, with the front breadth embroidered by hand in passion flowers and leaves. The stamens and pistils are in small steel beads, while the flowers are worked with black twist and with raised patterns. The court train is lined with pale pink satin. The corsage is square and the sleeves come to the elbows. With this will be worn as head-dress an aigrette of pale pink feather and a jet buckle mixed with steel.—*New York Letter.*

Fashion Notes.

Spring dresses in velvet combinations frequently have pompon garnitures.

A veiling in fine Ottoman ribs is very lovely in combination with taffeta glace.

A great deal of gilt thread is found in spring laces, embroideries and braids.

Heather in bloom is a favorite garniture for the new Milan straws in champignon.

Soft silk with India designs is employed in the spring wraps of Recambier pattern.

Silver and gold soutache are used on the spring greens both in the dress and the bonnet.

Rubies, cat's-eyes, topaz, bronze and all dark precious stones are used to give Oriental coloring to the cold white diamonds of ear-drops, pendants, brooches and bracelets.

New cloth costumes are trimmed with pinked out bands of the same material, self-colored or shaded, as may be preferred, with the edges cut in large round scallops or elongated sharp teeth.

The wedding dress of a recent New York bride was trimmed with the Marguerite flower, instead of the conventional orange blossom. Her name being Margaret, the change was deemed admissable, as it was pleasing to the eye.

Black or dark brown hats of soft felt are boat shape; a broad galloon is passed around the crown, the turned-up brim is bound with the same and the hat is further trimmed with a small, flat ornament of brilliant plumage placed at one side.

Bridemaids, as well as the bride, now wear veils. Illusion embroidered in a polka-dot design in silks is the favorite material for bridemaids' veils. Lace, whether it is particularly fine or not, is now preferred to tulle or illusion by the majority of brides.

It is generally predicted that long mantles will continue in favor, and for young girls who have hitherto exclusively worn jackets and short wrappings. The transformation of the wrapping into a dress brings with it the combination of plain and figured stuffs.

Gloves of dark shades are worn in the day-time and frequently over the sleeves, but with evening toilets, tan, pale yellow, pearl gray, and even white gloves are worn. They reach the elbow if the sleeves are demi-long, and above the elbow with short sleeves.

Some new fabrics have been brought out in Paris for evening and visiting toilets. Among them is "taffetas chantilly." The ground of the goods is in such colors as pink, seal, green and cardinal red. On the ground is a peculiar embroidery in relief, in imitation of lace applique.

On party dresses showers of single blossoms now take the place of large sprays and festoons of flowers, and these are sown all over the upper skirt, sometimes hanging by their stalks with excellent effect. Such flowers are used as daisies, buttercups, forget-me-nots, blue-bells and tiny rosebuds.

Green is a most popular color for spring wear, many of the new cloths, velvets and other fabrics being in the various shades of that hue. An elegant imported visiting toilet is composed of a rich, deep shade of green velvet, combined with a new light tone of green and trimmed with golden-tinted fox fur.

Cleveland, Ohio.

The *Daily Anzeiger* says: "Chief Superintendent of police, J. W. Schmitt, of this city, who has been in the service a quarter of a century, endorses St. Jacobs Oil as a pain-banisher. It cured him of rheumatism."

They have counted 319 sorts of insects that eat the leaves or bore into the trunks of trees in Central park, New York city.