

CLIPPINGS FOR THE CURIOUS.

The census shows the odd fact that the majority of people's ages are at even numbers.

It is said that in some parts of California and Nevada, where water is scarce, the machinery of large mills is driven by having sand instead of water propel the overshot wheels.

The hair is the least destructible part of our bodies. In Egypt it has been known to survive four thousand years, and bids fair to outlive the pyramids.

The birthplace of George Washington is at the inner side of a peninsula having for its water boundary Mattox creek, the Potomac river, and Pope's creek.

People know a great deal more about bees than they did once, and they are still learning. Though the bee has long been a type of the industrious worker, there are few people who know how much labor the sweet hoard of the hive represents.

Habits of Smokers.

Inveterate smokers do funny things. Carlyle smoked up the chimney with a degree of thoughtfulness for the feeling of others not universal in his conduct, and the famous Bishop Burnet, who like many another author found composition facilitated by puffings of seductive weed, disliking the interruption of removing his pipe constantly while he was writing, in order to combine the two operations with due comfort to himself bored a hole through the broad brim of his large hat and putting his large pipe through it puffed and wrote, and wrote and puffed with the most philosophical calm.

The Philosophy of It.

"I do hate to have a husband who towances me every time I want to buy anything," said Mrs. Slims. "When I tell Slims that I want a little change to go shopping with he don't aem and haw as some men do. He just takes out his pocket-book and says, 'Certainly, my dear; how much do you want, a five or a ten?'"

"And what do you say?" asked Mrs. Smith.

"Oh, I never say anything. He gives me the money right off without waiting for me to answer."

"Anu how much does he give you?"

"A dollar generally—unless he has some change handy. But it isn't the amount that I care so much about. It is the readiness with which he responds to my request that makes me think so much of him."

How to Select Flour.

In selecting flour first look to the color. If it is white with a yellowish straw color tint, buy it. If it is white with a blueish cast or with black specks in it, refuse it. Next examine its adhesiveness—wet and knead a little of it between your fingers; if it works, soft and sticky, it is poor.

Animal Fascination.

Is there not a good deal of nonsense about the wonderful fascination that poets and authors have from time immemorial attached to the snake tribe? They possess the peculiar charming power similar to that exhibited by the cat which eats up the canary, we are told, and the animal falls at once by a sort of magnetism into the fangs of death. Any one who has seen the snakes fed at the Zoo, and those who have not, certainly seen the doves placidly roosting on the boa constrictor's body as he lays coiled on the sandy floor of his cage, must have noticed how perfectly at home the birds seem to be.

Woman's Work in a Mint.

The San Francisco Chronicle says that fifty females employed in the mint in that city are called adjusters and their pay is \$2.75 a day, counting week-days and all holidays but Sundays. Their hours are from 8 o'clock in the morning until 4 o'clock in the afternoon, with the exception of Saturdays, when they cease at 2 o'clock.

Fruits of Advertising.

A prominent business firm in one of our leading cities, who have grown rich by liberally patronizing the printer, give to their fellow merchants the following concerning advertising:

"We have for many years studied the art of advertising, and still it remains a marvel to us that there is not a hundred times more of it. We never yet knew a man to advertise his wares liberally and steadily that it did not pay. Yet there are thousands of manufacturers and tens of thousands of men, having articles which they declare ought to be in every household in the country, who advertise as gingerly and closely as though they had at heart no faith at all.

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

Dost thou love life, then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of.

The claims of habit are generally too small to be felt till they are too strong to be broken.

The proper way to check slander is to despise it; attempt to overtake and refute it, and it will outrun you.

People who do not care do not say so. The soldier who is not afraid never boasts that he fears no ball.

There is no happiness like that of being loved by your fellow-creatures, and feeling that your presence is an addition to their comfort.

Duty is a power which rises with us in the morning and goes to bed with us at night. It is co-extensive with the action of our intelligence.

The primary use of knowledge is for such guidance of conduct in all circumstances as shall make living complete. All other uses of knowledge are secondary.

Like most garments, everything in life has a right and a wrong side. You can take any joy, and by turning it round, find troubles on the other side; or, you take the greatest trouble, and by turning it round, find joys on the other side.

Habits of Ostriches

The editor of the Anaheim (Cal.) Gazette has been viewing the ostriches on a ranch near Costa Station. He says: "The female lays an egg on alternate days to the number of fifteen, when, if permitted to set, she considers her work done. If, however, her eggs are taken from her, she will lay thirty before she discovers the deception. And such eggs! The one showed us weighs three and a half pounds, and contains food sufficient to furnish a plentiful breakfast for four men.

Wigged Women.

A New York correspondent, writing about fashionable women who wear wigs, says: There are still more curious wigged women in New York, however, though they are not fashionable. They constitute an overwhelming majority in several east side streets. One's first view of them is an astonishing revelation. Here is the world's greatest market for hair restorer, for fully nine in ten of all the women who stood in the doors of the tenement houses, or helped to fill the sidewalk, wore the most obvious of imaginable wigs—flat, lusterless, wholly unbecoming. Nevertheless, it is true that these women were bald only because they had shaved their heads.

Trained to Hunt Game.

In Florida the writer had an acquaintance—an ancient fisherman, not too sprightly withal—who possessed two tame pelicans that he had brought up from the nest. As catching bait was somewhat of a laborious task, the old man frequently attached a leather strap about the birds' necks, and they invariably came back with pouches distended with fish that they were unable to swallow and would not give up, and that were wrested from them by their owner, who, be it said to his credit, always gave the birds a fair share of the snappers and barracondas caught with the bait of their collecting.

In former years, to a considerable extent, the otter was used to fish, the animals being trained when cubs, and trained at first with leather fishes, so that they would fetch like a dog. Though not used exactly in hunting live game, a large lizard found in the Nile country has been put to a curious use. The animal is extremely powerful, using its claws to great advantage and a band of robbers being aware of this and having no ladder wherewith to reach the lattice of a second story window, secured a large one. The great lizard was placed against the rough wall, head toward the desired spot, and instantly it began crawling up, eventually hauling the robbers safely up, who were clinging to his tail.

The Real Home.

The real home is in the country; and it is something more than a dwelling; the field and trees around it are part of it, and the views from it of the landscape, and of distant mountains, perhaps, make it unlike any other place in the world. The country home with its fixity of surroundings, has usually some measure of permanence, and the social life formed there is under the favorable conditions of old family associations. Some have the happy condition of living in the home of their fathers, and are surrounded with objects of precious memory, daily mementoes of parental affection and instruction.

The home which it makes is the best thing of farm life. There is a necessity of permanence, and as there is no sudden or great accumulation of wealth, or large increase, the family is free from that discontent which usually comes with sudden or great acquisition. It is one of the compensations of their condition that the farmer's family is in that "fixity of surroundings" which favors their highest culture.—Country Gentleman.

Assuming that the migration of 1883 will equal that of 1882 and 1881, these three years, it is estimated will give the United States not less than two hundred and fifty thousand German farmers and mechanics, and over fifty million dollars of German money.

Little men are beneath boasting; great men are above it.

SCIENTIFIC SCRAPS.

Incandescent electric lamps are used in the carriage lamps of Baron Rothschild, of Vienna. Storage batteries placed under the coachman's seat are said to be capable of carrying a charge of electricity sufficient to feed the lamps for one hundred hours.

M. Charles Montigny, of Brussels, has noticed that not only does the aurora borealis increase the scintillation of stars—as other observers have noted—but that magnetic disturbances produce the same effect even when accompanied by no visible aurora. The influence is strongest for stars in the north.

Recently one man was taken very ill and another died from the effects of handling poisoned hides. There is no reason why hides should not convey serious and fatal diseases, like clothing. "Some years ago," says the Scientific American, "an importer of hides in New York died from the effects of a bite or sting of a fly which inhabited the loft where his hides were stored."

There are reports from several parts of Sweden of a hitherto unknown and very destructive kind of caterpillar which is giving a great deal of trouble to the farmers and anxiety to the whole population. It is gray-brown, with deep gray stripes; its appearance is most common after rain. Its work on the crops has been so serious as to demand the assistance of the government.

The opinion is said to be gaining ground among metallurgists, that whatever mechanical strength is desirable, an alloy is preferable to pure metal. One of the greatest obstructions to the mechanical value of iron is its tendency to crystallize, the result being the same whether the article be a monster gun or a ship's cable. But this tendency of iron to crystallize may be prevented by the admixture of other metals.

Prof. Proctor asserts that the moon has grown old six times as fast as the earth, a comparison of the masses and radiating surfaces of the two bodies making it evident that the earth's internal heat was originally sufficient to last six times as long as the moon's supply. On the very moderate assumption, therefore, that only twelve millions of years have passed since the earth and the moon were at the same stage of planetary life, this astronomer shows us that sixty millions of years must elapse before the earth will have reached the stage of life through which the moon is now passing.

Japanese Object Teaching.

The teachers at the school for the sons of Japanese nobles in Tokio appears to have hit upon a notable method of teaching physical geography. In the court behind the school building is a physical map of the country, between 300 and 400 feet long. It is made of turf and rock and is bordered with pebbles, which look at a little distance much like water. Every inlet, river and mountain is reproduced in this model with a fidelity to detail which is wonderful. Latitude and longitude are indicated by telegraph wires, and tablets show the position of the cities. Ingenious devices, are employed in illustrating botanic studies also. For example the pine is illustrated by a picture showing the cone, leaf and dissected flower, set in a frame which shows the bark and longitudinal and transverse sections of the wood.—Nature.

Half Worm and Half Snake.

The mountains furnish many strange forms of life which the dry, hot valleys never develop. Old rotten pine logs seem to be the favorite nest of a loathsome creature which is half-way between a worm and a snake. It is usually a foot long and nearly an inch in diameter, with a head like a snake, and a clumsy, blunt tail. It is of a dead color, between a dirty green and a brown, without spots or stripes. It is slow of movement, cold and clammy to the touch, and seems to be more of a jelly than bone and muscle. It is regarded as harmless, and the woodmen pick it up and handle it carelessly.—Virginia City (Nev.) Enterprise.

Cardiff, Wales, is to have another dock which will cover thirty-five acres and cost the marquis of Bute \$2,500,000. The Bute family have invested over \$12,000,000 in docks.