



Last Days.

BY ELIZABETH STUART PHILIPS.

The long, brown beak lies sleeping in the sun. The hot, white sun leaves idly to the boy. Cloud upon folded cloud, above my head. Opens the blossom of the perfect day.

Rivals of the Parrot.

Very likely many readers of the Coast Mail do not know that there are several other birds besides the parrot that can imitate the human voice.

Among these is the mino, a round, plump bird, about as large as a common thrush. It is found in the jungles of India, and on the islands near that country.

It is a very curious bird. It is often kept as a pet, and becomes so affectionate that it will keep near its master when it is not confined in a cage.

The starling is also a talking bird. It is very handsome, of purplish-green color, with some buff and reddish brown, and its natural song is soft and sweet.

Starlings have an amusing habit of snatching a beakful of wool off a sheep's back to help about their nest-building.

Science.

As a contribution to the discussion concerning intellect in brutes, Mr. J. J. Furniss has sent Nature some facts in regard to tame elephants, which he learned from the Superintendent of the Central Park menagerie.

A good deal of solicitude is expressed in Scotland in respect to the salmon disease, first noticed as widely prevalent last year.

Captain S. R. Franklin, of the United States Navy, defends the late Admiral Wilkes from the imputation of inaccuracies in his charts of the South Pacific islands.

The extensive fossil forests which occur in the tertiary formations of the Yellowstone National Park, have been described by Mr. W. H. Holmes.

The suggestion is made by Mr. W. F. Kirby, assistant naturalist in the Dublin Museum of Science and Art, that the plague in Russia may be a form of the disease known as malignant pustule.

The seeds is a recently discovered insect, belonging to the same genus as the cochineal, which occurs abundantly in Yucatan and Central America, and which promises to be of considerable commercial value.

A surgeon on one of the Peninsular and Oriental Company's steamships, returning from Europe to Bombay, announces that he has met with great success in the treatment of sea-sickness by nitrate of amy.

Origin of Two Popular Poems.

Hood's touching lyric, "The Song of the Shirt," was the work of an evening. Its author was prompted to write it in the condition of thousands of working-women in the city of London.

"The Old Oaken Bucket" was written fifty or more years ago by a printer named Samuel Woodworth. He was in the habit of dropping into a noted drinking-saloon kept by one Mallory.

The Bronte Family.—Mr. Francis Grant is an Englishman who at one time in his life was introduced by his friend Patrick Bronte into the domestic circle at Haworth Rectory.

SLAVERY IN AFRICA.—The idea that slavery in Africa disappeared with the abolition of the foreign slave-trade, an idea which seems to be prevalent both in Europe and in America, is nevertheless a mistaken one.

STRYCHNINE.—In Ceylon and several districts of India grows a moderate-sized tree, with thick and shining leaves and a short, crooked stem.

Human happiness has no perfect security; but freedom none but virtue; virtue none but knowledge; and neither freedom nor virtue has any vigor or immortality except in the principles of the Christian faith.

Burglar Porter.

Porter is one of four burglars who made up the most dangerous and successful gang of thieves ever known in this country.

The King of Bavaria, who, if he were not a king, would be adjudged a lunatic, and probably shut up in an asylum, is attracting the attention of the gossips for his eccentric, unique way of enjoying an opera.

Do the Dying Suffer Pain? People do not like to think of death. It is an unpleasant subject; but it constantly obtrudes itself, and there has been much speculation as to whether mental or physical pain attends the final act.

ON DIGESTION. It is incomplete digestion of the nature quantity of food crammed into the stomach during business hours, and when the mind and vital forces are completely swallowed up in the contemplation of money-getting, which forms a favorable soil for the propagation of disease!

CREAM CAKES.—Two cups sugar, one-half cup butter, well beaten together; three eggs, one cup milk, one teaspoonful cream-tartar, one-half teaspoonful soda, flour to make as stiff as cup cake.

ROULETS OF VEAL OR BEEF.—Cut a fillet of veal or rump of beef in slices half an inch thick and four or five inches round; salt and pepper these well on both sides; cut some bacon in slips, two by three inches; chop some parsley, salt and pepper; add some lemon-peel; roll the veal in this mixture; put a slice of the bacon on a piece of meat; roll it together, and tie with a string; four them, have a saucepan, with some melted butter and some bacon; when very hot put in the rolled pieces, and brown all over; cover them with bouillon or water; add half a sliced onion and some celery, and cook slowly for an hour and a half.

An Eccentric King.

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A Sermon to Girls—On Cooking.

Cooking-classes have been popular among fashionable young ladies of late years. But there is no cooking-class which quite equals the opportunity for excellent instruction, that which you may find at home.

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