

WADING BIRDS.

Habits of the Heron, Stork, Crane, and the smaller Waders.

From the long neck and the long naked legs of the heron we may form a pretty good idea of what to expect of all wading birds, no matter how much they may differ in size. The long toes spread out very far apart, and thus prevent the birds from sinking in the soft mud as they wade about in shallow water near the banks of rivers and marshes. Places like these are the favorite haunts of the herons, and here they stand patiently watching for fishes, frogs and small reptiles. Their long necks are admirably suited for reaching out to catch such creatures, and their slender beaks quickly seize the prey, seldom missing their aim.

Heron are found in all parts of the world, and they form one of the greatest ornaments of our Southern marshes and streams. Their flight, however, is not very graceful. These birds have no tail webbing, so when flying they always stretch out the legs behind them to act as a rudder, while most other birds tuck their legs snugly away out of sight.

Another large and elegant bird is the crane, which is sometimes over four feet in height, but otherwise not especially remarkable, unless it be for its long migrations twice every year, and for the perfect discipline which is observed on these journeys.

Those who have read the interesting stories about the storks that live in European and Asiatic cities, and perhaps have seen them there, may be surprised to learn that they are also waders. These city birds seem to have given up their aquatic habits since they came to live in town, and now they stalk about the streets amidst throngs of people, and are not the least disturbed by them. The presence of the stork in these cities is not only tolerated, but on the contrary, they are highly valued because they feed upon garbage and small vermin, and in this way help to keep the streets clean. On account of these services special laws have been made in some countries for their protection.

Their nests, placed in tall trees, towers or chimneys, are coarse affairs, loosely built of sticks. In Holland persons sometimes make false chimneys to the houses on purpose for the storks to build on, and that family is considered fortunate that has a stork's nest upon the roof. These dignified birds are especially numerous in the eastern hemisphere. They assemble in large flocks before starting on their migrations, and it is a common belief that at such times they are consulting about the intended journey.

The beautiful ibis, inhabit all warm countries. One species, the wood ibis, has gained for itself the reputation of being very greedy, and not without good cause. With its strong bill it kills a great many fishes, snakes, young alligators and other small animals, which form its favorite food. At these various feasting on the water round about the scene of their destruction, the ibis swallows as many as it can well take, and then stands stupidly on the edge of the stream, waiting until the stomach is digested before it is able to indulge in another.

Then there is the sacred ibis, which was worshiped by the people of Egypt in olden times. Perhaps they loved the bird because it devoured the serpents which annoyed them so much, or else because it returned each year at the time of the overflow of the Nile, and the superstitious Egyptians may have thought they were indebted to the bird for the fertility of the country which results from the overflow. It is at least certain that they were in the habit of embalming the bird with their mummies, and placing curious still pictures of it on the monuments.

Among the smaller waders are some of our prettiest little shore birds, whose quick movements are so interesting to watch. Small flocks of these little birds on the beach may be seen running on eagerly after a retreating wave, snatching up tiny fishes and crabs, and hurrying along to gather as many of these dainties as possible before the next wave comes in. Then they all mount rapidly into the air to escape this coming wave as if they were exceedingly anxious not to wet those slender legs. Their feast is interrupted but a few seconds for they soon alight and go through the same performance. —Sarah Cooper, in Harper's Young People.

An Ingenious Contrivance.

The microphone is now being used in Germany for the purpose of detecting loss of water through leakage in town mains. The apparatus consists of a steel rod, which is placed upon the cock in the ground, and a microphone attached to the upper end of the rod. A dry battery and a telephone complete the equipment. No sound is heard in the telephone if the cocks are closed and no leak occurs; but a leak of even a few drops causes sufficient vibration in the pipe to affect the microphone and give and be sound in the telephone. At the recent meeting of gas and water engineers in Eisenach it was stated that the apparatus is so simple to handle that with a little practice ordinary workmen are able to detect and localize any leak. —N. Y. Post.

The Provincetown people say that the coast line of Cape Cod is continually undergoing changes, and the shores are gradually retreating and washing away. Paved harbor at Taro which in old times was a busy place accommodating a large fleet of fishing vessels, has so filled up that it is almost impossible to enter the harbor with a five-ton fishing smack. Provincetown harbor is also steadily filling up. The shores of the cape are constantly changing, rendering them dangerous to mariners. While the sands are being washed seaward the wind is also sweeping them landward in large quantities, covering the bushes and trees. It is estimated that the sand hills have moved toward three-quarters of a mile in the past dozen years. —Boston Herald.

Among the orange trees of Versailles is one more than four centuries old, which was planted by Eleanor of Castile, Queen of Charles III.

INVESTIGATION INTO THE LEGAL STATUS, FAIRNESS AND HONESTY OF THE LOUISIANA STATE LOTTERY COMPANY.

NEW ORLEANS (La.), December 15. —California has been a large patron of the Louisiana State Lottery. It may be added, paritetically, that it has been also particularly fortunate in its investments in this direction, winning many of the capital prizes. The chances of winning in the schemes of this company are thoroughly understood by its patrons. It would be a waste of time and of space to analyze the schemes; the only questions that interest the lottery-ticket holder are: Is the scheme honestly drawn and is the company financially responsible? To satisfy itself on these points a member of the *Chronicle* staff was sent from San Francisco to this city to investigate the affairs of the Louisiana State Lottery Company, and to witness the extraordinary drawing which took place yesterday.

LEGALITY OF THE LOTTERY. —The first duty of the *Chronicle* reporter was to ascertain the legal status of the company. "Does it have a legal existence?" was the question he put to a member of the Louisiana Bar, and a gentleman who will soon occupy a high judicial position in the State.

"Of course it has," he replied very promptly. "Its franchise is now unquestioned in the State. In 1868 the Legislature of Louisiana enacted a law entitled 'An Act to increase the revenues of the State and to authorize the incorporation of The Louisiana State Lottery Company, and to repeal certain laws in that behalf.' This law provided that no foreign lottery tickets should be sold within the State, and gave to certain citizens named authority to organize a corporation 'to protect the State against the great losses heretofore incurred by sending large amounts of money to foreign countries for the purchase of lottery tickets, to establish a sound and reliable home institution and to insure perfect fairness and justice in the distribution of the prizes.' The capital stock was fixed at \$1,000,000 in shares of \$100 each. There were provisions for a Board of Directors and all the corporate rights to sue and be sued, etc. The duration of the company was for twenty-five years. It was to pay \$30,000 a year to the educational fund, and was required to give bonds to carry on these provisions. The Constitution of Louisiana adopted in 1879 touches the lottery question as follows:

ARTICLE 167. The General Assembly shall have authority to grant lotteries or privileges; provided, each charter or privilege shall pay not less than \$30,000 per annum in money into the treasury of the State; and provided further, that all charters shall cease and expire on the 1st of January, 1895, from which time all lotteries are prohibited in the State. The \$30,000 per annum provided by law to be paid by the Louisiana State Lottery Company, according to the provisions of its charter granted in the year 1868, shall belong to the Charity Hospital of New Orleans, and the charter of said company is recognized as a contract binding on the State for the period therein specified, except its monopoly clause, which is hereby abrogated, and all laws contrary to the provisions of this article are hereby declared null and void; provided, said company shall file a written renunciation of all its monopoly features in the office of the Secretary of State within sixty days after the ratification of this Constitution. These conditions were promptly accepted by the Louisiana Lottery Company; indeed, this constitutional provision guaranteed the company exactly what it was contending it possessed—a contract with the State of Louisiana. This contract was further strengthened by a decision of the United States Supreme Court rendered within a few days. An effort was made to tax the lottery company under an act taxing stockholders in corporations in cities and cities purposes. This tax the company resisted, on behalf of its shareholders, on the plea that the company had a valid and bona fide contract with the State, and that it committed the whole tax by payment of \$30,000 a year to the Charity Hospital. This plea was supported by the United States Supreme Court which holds that the lottery company does have a legal and binding contract with the State of Louisiana, and that the attempt to extort from it a sum in excess of the \$30,000 is illegal. This decision, however, carries with it a benefit to the Louisiana Lottery something more important to the managers than the saving of dollars and cents—recognition by the laws of Louisiana and of the nation as a corporation engaged in a legitimate business under a legal and valid charter. This recognition of the validity of contract gives the Louisiana State Lottery what no lottery has ever had in America since the days of Washington and Jefferson, when the presidents were authorized to draw lotteries for the benefit of the national capital—a legal existence for the period of its charter.

A RECOGNIZED INSTITUTION. —The legal status of the Louisiana State Lottery is thus clearly and indisputably established. One cannot long remain in New Orleans without discovering that it is one of the recognized institutions of the city, and one that possesses the fullest confidence of the people. Whatever the rest of the world may think of lotteries, New Orleans believes in them. Interviews with the presidents of the leading banks, merchants and planters, not only proved this, but the further fact that these men have faith in the honesty of the management of the drawing and the perfect validity of the institution. Indeed it is generally asserted that the Louisiana State Lottery is stronger than any bank in the South, and all the banks cash its prizes at full value, its stock is regularly quoted in Chicago, sells at \$550. Its par value is \$100. The management of the lottery is in the hands of the foremost citizens of Louisiana, financially and a specially considerate men who are open-handed, broad and liberal.

G. Kohn, president of the Union National Bank, said: "I do not believe in lotteries in any way and am opposed to gambling in any form or guise it may take. I do not think gambling should be encouraged, but if ever an institution deserved the friendship of a Louisiana citizen, the Louisiana State Lottery deserves it. It has done, and is constantly doing a great work for humanity. No one can imagine the far-reaching charity of that institution." Its vaults are always open to the poor and the needy. It is a rich corporation, perfectly responsible, and conducted with the strictest integrity.

J. J. O'Leary, president of the Louisiana National Bank, a conservative business man, who does not believe in lotteries, said: "The company is thoroughly responsible, is carefully and honestly conducted." A. Baldwin, president of the New Orleans National bank, said that the managers of the lottery were thoroughly honest men, responsible and charitable almost to a fault. P. O. Fagnade of the banking house of Fagnade & Sextas, said: "There is no stronger or more responsible corporation in America than The Louisiana State Lottery Company. The standing of the managers in the community would preclude the idea of dishonesty in connection with it. It could not afford to be dishonest. It is very it depends up on its honesty. It is strictly honest, and has the full confidence of our people."

These sentiments were expressed by every prominent man seen by the *Chronicle* reporter, and his interviews covered fifty different persons, in every walk of life. Not one man was found who had an evil word to say of the lottery, though nearly all deprecated the drawing of lotteries.

EXTRAORDINARY DRAWING. —Satisfied as to the legal and financial

status of the concern, the reporter determined to investigate the honesty of the drawing. This was an event in New Orleans. It took place in the Academy of Music, which had been specially engaged for that purpose. It was an extraordinary drawing, prizes aggregating \$322,000, including a Capital Prize of \$50,000, one of \$20,000, one of \$10,000, two of \$5,000, four of \$2,000, and many smaller ones. The drawing of this lottery was wholly in the hands of General G. E. Beauregard of New Orleans, and General Jubal A. Early, of Virginia. The management of the company had absolutely nothing to do with it. The preparations began on Monday and were not concluded until Friday. The scheme was based on a representation of 10,000 tickets, against which 579 prizes were to be drawn. Then there were 1,300 Approximation Prizes, not drawn from the wheel, making a total of 11,379 prizes. The numbers were printed on blue paper, measuring two and one-half by one and one-half inches. These had to be carefully counted from 1 to 100,000. Then they were rolled up by means of an instrument and then inserted into a small rubber tube. The prizes were also printed in bold figures and similarly enclosed in tubes. This count consumed five days and were not concluded until Friday.

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When the tubes were completed the tubes containing the numbers were put into bags, which were sealed with the autograph of the general in charge, General Beauregard and Early. These bags were placed in a box and stored in a vault. The tubes containing the prizes were similarly sealed and stored. Yesterday these bags were opened by the officials of the Louisiana State Lottery Company, and as opened their contents were placed in a large wheel. The prizes when opened were placed in a smaller wheel, which was now in readiness for the drawing, toward which at least a quarter of a million people looked anxiously and hopefully. The wheels are made with glass sides. The one containing the numbers, which is much the larger, is placed on the left of the stage and was in the personal charge of the venerable Confederate cavalry leader, Gen. Early. The smaller wheel, with the prizes, was on the right of the stage under the honest and manly care of the distinguished soldier and eminent engineer, Gen. Beauregard. There were present on the stage several clerks, who registered the prizes as they were drawn, four sub-commissioners, Messrs. Ross, Jones, Piquet and Roux, and reporters of the daily press. At precisely 11 o'clock the drawing began. The tubes were taken from the wheels by blindfolded boys. There was really no occasion for this precaution, since the tubes were thoroughly concealed in the custom, but the Commissioners continue the custom. The boys are brought from a local asylum and are well paid for a few minutes of their services. The drawing is one and especially to a student of human nature. The house was fairly filled, many of those present being strangers who wished to satisfy themselves as to the honesty of the drawing. Many, however, had held in their hands lists of their numbers, which they anxiously scanned as the drawing proceeded.

THOSE ON THE STAGE were clearly in a business capacity. They had no interest in the drawing save to see it honestly done. With the audience it was different. Anxiety and expectancy beamed on every countenance. As soon as the drawing began and leaned forward in their eagerness to catch the numbers as they were announced. They seemed to forget everything about them. One clergyman in the audience, who had an interest in the drawing, said: "The drawing is a masterpiece of human nature. The house was fairly filled, many of those present being strangers who wished to satisfy themselves as to the honesty of the drawing. Many, however, had held in their hands lists of their numbers, which they anxiously scanned as the drawing proceeded."

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of a wide and happy distribution of prizes, and while yesterday's drawing has brought disappointment to some, it has also gladdened many a heart and smoothed the downward journey of life for hundreds. The writer is convinced that every ticket holder has a fair and equal chance; that the lottery was fairly and honestly drawn, and has seen the prizes promptly paid, without deductions of any sort. —San Francisco (Cal.) Daily Chronicle, Dec. 30.

PERSONAL AND IMPERSONAL.

—They do say that a girl never looks so pretty to a young man as when she has just refused to be his wife. —Somerville Journal.

—Pierre Lorillard has spent one million three hundred thousand dollars on Truxedo Park, on the Ramapo, in New Jersey. —N. Y. Times.

—G. B. Thayer, son of ex-Senator Thayer, of Connecticut, traveled 4,224 miles this year on a bicycle. He left his home in Vernon, Conn., last April. —Hartford Post.

—Frederick the Great in his youth was noted for his stubbornness and badfulness, and, we are told, showed this at his sister's marriage. Instead of appearing at the ceremony in court attire he came with the servants, dressed as one of their number.

—It is not generally known that President Lincoln was an inventor, but the first installment of the "Lincoln Life" in the *Century* contains reduced fac-similes of the drawings in the Patent Office, on which was obtained a patent for "A. Lincoln's improved manner of buoying vessels."

—Blind Bill, a colored inmate of Georgia poor-house, has a most remarkable sense of touch. He can tell an one whom he has met by feeling of his hand. A man whom he had not met for ten years shook hands with him by name, though not a word had before been spoken. —N. Y. Sun.

—Jay Gould figures that if he should give fifty men five thousand dollars each to go into business for themselves one-half would fail and lose all within five years, and the other twenty-five would be ten thousand dollars and didn't do it. He argues that men appreciate their own earnings far more than a gift.

—Mrs. Grant still takes special interest in one of her oil-paintings, a large canvas representing herself, the General and their children as they appeared just after the close of the war. "It may not be a work of art," she says, "and, indeed, some of my friends ask me why I let it hang in my parlor, but to me it is better than a work of art." —Chicago Journal.

—A St. Paul editor paid Emma Abbott a big compliment. He was sitting by the singer's husband while she was singing in "La Traviata," in which the heroine is dying of consumption. Emma was doing her best, cough and all, and the editor, turning to Mr. Wetherell, said most sympathetically, "Your wife seems to have quite a bad cough." As soon as Mr. Wetherell recovered he explained that the cough was part of the performance.

—Mrs. A. T. Stewart's immediate family was not very large. She had three unmarried half-sisters, Misses Anna, Julia and Emma Clinch, and a nephew and a niece, the children of Charles P. Clinch, her half-brother, who, for fifty years before his death, was a deputy collector of New York. The nephew was Mrs. Stewart's favorite. He is Charles J. Clinch, a resident of Paris, where he is President of the American Club. —N. Y. Herald.

—Two well-known characters among the Onondaga Indians have recently died. One was Aunt Cynthia Farrar, famous for her wealth. She kept a bank account at Syracuse, loaned thousands of dollars, and bought the land of her debtors when they could not repay her. The other celebrity was Aunt Dinah, an Onondaga of pure blood, and believed to be one hundred and eight years old when she died. She was feeble and totally blind, but had good use of her mental faculties. —Buffalo Express.

—Customer (to waiter who has brought him a steak of the smallest dimensions)—Bring me a glass, please. Waiter—Glass of what? Lager or bitter, sir? Customer—No, a magnifying glass; I am afraid of cutting into the plate. —N. Y. Telegram.

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—All-ock's are the only genuine porous plasters. All other so-called porous plasters are imitations. Their makers only get them up to sell on the reputation of All-ock's. All so-called improvements and new inventions are humbugs. No one has ever made an improvement on ALL-OCK'S POROUS PLASTERS. When you buy ALL-OCK'S POROUS PLASTERS you obtain the best plasters made.

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A CHANCE FOR HEALTH. It affords the best sinking into a condition of hopeless debility. The means are at hand. In the form of a genial medicinal cordial, Hostetter's Stomach Bitters embodies the combined qualities of a food fertilizer and depurative, and an alternative. While it promotes digestion and assimilation, and stimulates the appetite, has the further effect of purifying the life current and strengthening the nervous system. As the blood grows richer and purer by its use, they who resort to this sterling medicinal agent, acquire not only vigor, but bodily substance. A healthful change in the secretions is effected by it, and that sure and rapid physical decay, which is a chronic obstruction of the functions of the system, is arrested. The prime causes of disease being removed, health is speedily renovated and vigor restored.

It is officially stated that 403 people were burned to death in an incendiary fire which destroyed the reserve enclosure in the People's Park, Madras, India.

"ONE NAIL DRIVES OUT ANOTHER." Is a French saying that finds exemplification in the way one disease will substitute itself for another and graver one, in very many cases. Liver diseases, for instance, will soon induce blood disorders, throat ailments, skin affections, and eventually, because of impoverished blood, consumption itself, unless, indeed, it be treated in its incipency and early protected by Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery," which acts as a specific in these ailments, accomplishing a rapid cure by its powerful alterative action upon the great organs of the body.

Seventy-four Chinese gamblers, with \$2,000 were captured by the New York police.

When Baby was sick we gave her Castoria. When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria. When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria. When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

A great revival is in progress in Tallmadge church, Brooklyn. So far 2000 persons have been converted.

YOUR FRIENDS WILL NEVER TELL YOU. But perhaps somebody, who isn't your friend, will, that your presence is rendered offensive by the foul, fetid smell of your breath. Every word you utter, though it be the very echo of wisdom and poetry, disgusts your hearers, and your laugh is productive of anything but mirth to them. It is a duty you owe, not only to yourself but to society, to remove this cause of offense. Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy will bring relief to yourself and others. Do not hesitate to employ it.

Twenty persons were drowned by the sinking of the steamer Blair Athel in the Black Sea.

In 1850, "Brown's Bronchial Troches" were introduced, and from that time their success in Colds, Coughs, Asthma and Bronchitis has been unparallel led.

Old Material is taken on account by Palmer & Rey; remember this fact.

Six thousand men have been thrown out of employment by the closing of the Lehigh and Wilkesbarre coal mines.

Young or middle-age men, suffering from nervous debility and kindred weaknesses, should send ten cents in stamps for large treatise, giving successful treatment. World's Dispensary Medical Association, Buffalo, N. Y.

Illinois is in the best financial condition of any State in the Union. It is free from debt and has \$3,451,000 in the treasury.

If a cough disturbs your sleep, take Pisco's Cure for C. consumption and rest well.

Go to Towne & Moore when in Portland for best Photographic and Craven work.

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