

Where Starlings Bring Ruin.
In "Quiet Days in Spain," the author, C. B. Luffman, describes the ravages of the starlings in a hacienda devoted to raising muscatel raisins near Malaga:
"Dogs and goats are very fond of grapes and are only kept off them by rural guards, but the greatest enemy of all is the starling. This bird flies over from Africa in such millions as literally to darken the earth. Whenever they camp for the night they leave a desert. Every particle of fruit, leaf, tender shoot and piece of soft bark vanishes. As the saying is, 'Many crops spell various fortunes; one crop of starlings spells ruin.' The blowing of a southern wind and the sound of wings in the air produces panic, men's faces blanch with terror. In despair, bells are rung, guns fired, torches lighted, and donkeys, mules and horses are galloped up and down and round about to scare 'los bichos'—the beasts—as they are termed."

Thumb Prints.
In the Argentine Republic the identification cards of policemen, coachmen, cab drivers, commissionaires and servants have since 1896 borne their finger prints. Upon all passports and bank receipts for deposits the imprint of the thumb must be made at the time of delivery. In Roumania since 1903 the thumb print has been substituted for the cross made instead of signature by persons who cannot write. In the Philippine Islands those who cannot write are not obliged to be identified by witnesses at savings banks, but have to make their mark with their thumb. The same system has been used in the banks of Bengal for fifty years. In France to put an end to the fraud of enlistment, desertion and re-enlistment for the bounty paid in the Foreign Legion, every man's finger prints are taken and kept on file.

The First Railway Gauge.
An interesting story was told by one of George Stephenson's biographers relating how the great engineer came to adopt the four foot eight and a half inch gauge for his railways. A little time previous to the building of his Newcastle and Carlisle railway Stephenson had an opportunity of inspecting some portion of an old Roman wall, through which the chariots used to be driven. Deep ruts made by the chariot wheels were still visible, and on measuring these he found their distance apart to be as near as possible four feet eight and a half inches. Stephenson thereupon came to the conclusion that if a world power like the Romans had made such use of the measure for its chariots he could not be wrong in adopting those measurements as a rule for his railway.

Fogs Bewilder Birds.
It is a curious thing that, though human beings are utterly bewildered in a dense fog, most animals find their way through it without much difficulty. A horse will trot along in the right direction as though the air were perfectly clear, and not only that, but will take the right turning at the right moment if it is at all accustomed to the road. A human being would take any turning but the right one. Birds on the other hand, are utterly bewildered by fogs. Pigeons, for instance, will remain motionless all day long, half asleep, huddled up in their pigeon houses. Chickens and poultry of all kinds won't stir all the time a heavy fog is about. Birds of all kinds, as a matter of fact, seem helpless during foggy weather.—Pearson's.

Snow Garlands.
Curious ropes of snow that form on window ledges, tree branches, etc., at a temperature near freezing point have been brought to notice by Dr. Karl Kassner as "snow garlands." One of these ropes photographed on the building of the Meteorological Institute in Berlin was four inches in thickness and was suspended by the two ends, the distance between the points of support being three and three-quarters feet and the vertical sag about one and one-half inches. The snow on the little projection of the wall, it is supposed, was warmed by the heat of the building, when the middle slipped down and, being thus removed from the source of heat, froze again.

He Told Her.
A middle aged governess on arriving at a new situation was formally introduced to the family, and the next morning "Master Tom," the hopeful of the family, said to her, "Miss Parker, are you Leghorn or Cochon-China?" "Why do you ask such an extraordinary question?" she asked.
"Because," answered the boy, "I heard dad say to mummy after you left the room last night that you were no longer a chicken."

Disconcerting.
A prominent English clergyman once congratulated an old lady on her bravery in fighting her way to church against a terrible tempest, but received the disconcerting reply, "My husband gets so cross-grained after meals that I have to get out of his way, so I might as well go to church."

Used to It.
"Why, man, you have no sense of humor. When I first heard that joke I laughed till my sides ached."
"So did I"—Christian Advocate.

Deeds and Motives.
Let the motive be in the deed and not in the event. Be not one whose motive for action is the hope of reward.—Kreeshna.

Post-Thinks he's the whole thing.
Post-Thinks he's the whole thing, doesn't he? Parker—Well, I'd hardly go as far as that, but he certainly considers himself a quorum.—Smart Set.

The Tribute of the Powhatans.
What is perhaps the most interesting ceremony to be witnessed in the United States takes place at the state capital at Richmond on Feb. 16 of each year. It consists of the delivery of the annual tribute of the Pamunkey river Indians, representing a surviving tribe of the Powhatan nation, to the governor of Virginia. The manner of the presentation of the tribute is simple. The chief and the head men of the tribe upon the appointed day appear at the capitol bearing baskets of ducks and fish and lay the baskets at the feet of the governor. The few and simple words which are spoken are traditional and do not vary. Originally the tribute consisted of venison, ducks and fish, each of the finest and representing the dominion of the state of Virginia over the animals of the forest, the birds of the air and the fish of the waters, but the state law establishing a closed season for deer now prevents the Indians from including venison in the tribute.—Harper's.

Beck's Narrow Escape.
David Beck, the celebrated portrait painter and pupil of Van Dyck, while traveling through Germany was suddenly taken ill and to all appearances died and was laid out a corpse. His servants, sitting around the bed, grieved heartily for the loss of so good a master and, as grief is thirsty, drank as heartily at the same time. One of them, becoming more befuddled than the rest, then addressed his companions thus: "Our master when alive was fond of his glass. Let us out of gratitude, then, give him one now he is dead." Assent was given. The head of the dead painter was raised up and some wine poured down or spilled about, the fragrance or spirit of which caused Beck to open his eyes, upon which the servant, who, being drunk, half forgetting his master was dead, forced down the remainder of the glass. The painter gradually revived and thus escaped a living interment.

To Escape Gold Bricks.
A man or a woman with funds to invest should make if a primary principle to first consult an experienced banking house of established reputation. The first step in the prudent investment of your money is the selection of your banking house. You should choose a banker not only willing but competent to serve your every need—one with the requisite patience and sympathy to study your investment problem from all angles, to make your problem his problem. Few investors realize that within the past few years there has sprung up a new guild in the banking business, bankers whose business runs well over \$100,000,000 annually and whose success is largely due to the faithful and thoughtful attention given each serious inquiry or request for advice. If you can save and invest \$100 or more each year you can command the best financial brains in America.—Charles E. Merrill in Leslie's.

An Astronomer's Wit.
Professor Adams of Cambridge university, England, who discovered the planet Neptune, was a distinguished proof that a man may have his head among the clouds and still keep a ready wit for mundane occasions. At a dinner of the Philosophical Society, runs a contribution to the Cornhill Magazine, one of the company was concluding an after dinner speech about the activities of the society for the past year. He pointed to the book of the proceedings lying on the table near him, adding:
"But of all the proceedings this year, gentlemen, you will agree with me that one of the best is this [waving his hand at the assembled diners] philosophical proceeding."
"Illustrated with plates!" flashed out Professor Adams to his neighbor at the table.

A Left Handed Compliment.
"Ma," said little Harry, "I'll tell you what you ought to do."
"What, dear?" his mother asked.
"You ought to go over to live in some country where the people are Mohammedans."
"What on earth ever put such a thought as that into your dear head, darling?"
"Cause over there they think all fat women are beautiful."
"Harry, if you dare to open your mouth again this evening you will be sent to bed with nothing to eat!"—Chicago Record-Herald.

More Exactly Stated.
Jamie, having come into the possession of considerable wealth through the death of relatives, was thus addressed by one of the neighbors:
"Aye, Jamie, it was a gold thing for you that your rich freens waur born afore ye."
"Weel," said Jamie, "I'm nae soo sure about that, but it was a gold thing that they dee'd afore me."—London Tit-Bits.

A Good Scheme.
Husband—Why do you scold the butcher? It isn't his fault that the meat comes to the table all dried up. Scold the cook. Wife—I don't dare to, but I'm in hopes that if I keep on scolding the butcher he'll get mad and come around and scold the cook.

Amazed.
Newman—I met your wife today for the first time, and, for one thing, I found she was outspoken. Henpeck—You surprise me! By whom?—Philadelphia Press.

Puffed Up.
Post—Thinks he's the whole thing, doesn't he? Parker—Well, I'd hardly go as far as that, but he certainly considers himself a quorum.—Smart Set.

A Solemn Dance.
They have a singular kind of dance conducted on the greens of country villages in Russia. The dancers stand apart, a knot of young men here, a knot of maidens there, each sex by itself and silent as a crowd of mutes. A piper breaks into a tune; a youth pulls off his cap and challenges his girl with a wave and bow. If the girl is willing, she waves her handkerchief in token of assent. The youth advances, takes a corner of the handkerchief in his hand and leads his lassie round and round. No word is spoken and no laugh is heard. Stiff with cords and glich with braids, the girl moves heavily by herself, going round and round and never allowing her partner to touch her hand. The piper goes droning on for hours in the same sad key and measure, and the prize of merit in this "circling," as the dance is called, is given by spectators to the lassie who in all that summer revelry has never spoken and never smiled.

Seeing Distances.
About 200 miles in every direction is the distance a man can see when standing on a clear day on the peak of the highest mountain—say at a height of 28,698 feet, or a little over five miles above the level of the sea. An observer must be at a height of 6,667 feet above sea level to see objects at a distance of a hundred miles. The distance in miles at which an object upon the surface of the earth is visible is equal to the square root of one and one-half times the height of the observer in feet above sea level. Some allowance has to be made for the effect of atmospheric refraction, but as the refraction varies at different heights and is affected by the various states of the weather no precisely accurate figures for general purposes can be given. Probably from one-fourteenth to one-tenth of the distance given by the formula would have to be deducted owing to the refraction of the atmosphere.

"Long Live the King."
The expression "The king is dead, long live the king," indicates the automatic succession of ruling sovereigns—that the moment a king dies his successor becomes king without any further formality. It is believed to have had its origin at the death of Louis XIV. of France. In Pardo's "Life of Louis XIV." is the following account of the announcement of the death of that monarch:
"The death of Louis XIV. was announced by the captain of the bodyguard from a window of the state apartment. Raising his truncheon above his head, he broke it in the center and, throwing the pieces among the crowd, exclaimed in a loud voice, 'Le roi est mort!' (the king is dead). Then, seizing another staff, he flourished it in the air as he shouted, 'Vive le roi!' (Long live the king)."—New York Times.

Primitive Screws.
Screws are still made in India just as they were made originally, by winding two soft wires together around a mandrel. The wires are then carefully separated, and one of them is soldered into a tube or nut, while the other is soldered to a short rod. All the silversmiths make their screws in this way, and they are all left handed, for they are wound over and over by the right hand. Screw bolts and screw presses were introduced by Europeans, and for many years all the cotton exported from India was compressed by a massive screw of wood, turned round by cattle yoked to a long lever. This screw may still be found in remote districts. It is cut entirely by hand and is set out by winding two ropes around the hand dressed beam to give the pitch.—Eastern Engineering.

Dickens and a Face Ache.
Dickens wanted to be an actor before he was an author. He would have been but for a face ache. When he was a lad and a lawyer's clerk he had attained a trial of his power of reproducing "character and oddity" before Mathews and Charles Kemble. But a face ache kept him at home, and soon after he "made a great splash" as a newspaper reporter. Thereafter, he reproduced "character and oddity" on paper instead of the stage.

A Surprise.
Rector (on his way to church, meeting a gamekeeper)—Come, my good fellow, how is it I never see you at church? Gamekeeper—Well, sir, I don't wish to make your congregation smaller. Rector (puzzled)—I don't see how you could. Gamekeeper—Well, sir, you see, if I came to church the rest of the parish would go poaching.—London Telegraph.

A Matter of Change.
"What a change a woman can make in a man's life!" sighed the very young man.
"Right you are, my boy," sighed the scanty haired man who had been up against the matrimonial game for many years, "and what a lot of change she requires while doing it!"

A Time Limit.
"I think I'll go and get a drink now."
"Oh, darling, you know you swore off for a year!"
"Yes, but two years elapse between this act and the next."—London Tatler.

Musical Criticism.
The Musician—Hang it, Bill, don't you realize that one of your shows squeaks in a B flat and the other in G major?—Life.

Ignorance of one's misfortune is clear gain.—Sartre.




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SALE DATES:
June 6-7-8-13-15-17-18-19-20-21-24-25-27-28-29.
July 2-3-6-7-11-12-15-16-20-22-23-26-29-30-31.
Aug. 1-2-3-6-7-12-15-16-22-23-29-30-31
Sept. 4-5-6-7-8-11-12-30.

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Bay City.....	\$4.00	\$3.70	\$4.00	\$3.10	\$0.30	\$0.35	\$0.90
Brighton Beach.....	3.30	2.95	3.80	2.30	\$0.75	.50	1.10	.15
Fishers.....	3.20	2.90	3.75	2.30	.80	.55	1.15	.10
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Hobsonville.....	3.85	3.60	4.00	2.95	.15	.40	.20	.95
Idaville.....	4.00	3.80	4.00	3.15	.15	.40	.20	.95
Lake Lytle.....	3.50	3.15	4.00	2.55	.55	.30	.90	.35
Life Saving Station.....	3.70	3.35	4.00	2.75	.35	.10	.70	.75
Manhattan Beach.....	3.40	3.10	3.95	2.50	.60	.35	.95	.30
Mohler.....	3.00	2.70	3.55	2.00	1.00	.75	1.35	.15
Ocean Lake Park.....	3.60	3.30	4.00	2.60	.40	.15	.75	.40
Rockaway Beach.....	3.55	3.20	4.00	2.55	.50	.20	.80	.40
Tillamook.....	4.00	4.00	4.00	3.35	.35	.60	1.20
Tillamook Beach.....	3.55	3.20	4.00	2.55	.50	.20	.80	.40
Twin Rocks.....	3.60	3.30	4.00	2.60	.40	.15	.75	.40
Wheeler.....	3.15	2.80	3.70	2.20	.90	.60	1.20

WEEK END FARES
From Portland, Hillsboro and Banks to all stations named above, \$3.00
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Denver.....	55.00	New York.....	108.50	Toronto.....	91.50
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DATES OF SALE
May 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 29, 1912. July 2, 3, 6, 7, 11, 12, 15, 16, 20, 22, 23, 26, 29, 30, 31, 1912.
June 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, August 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 12, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, 21, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29, 1912. 30, 31, 1912.
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