

## THEIR DUCK HUNT.

"This traveling business is all right as long as you stick to getting orders," said the young man as he wearily put down his grips and registered. "But sometimes a fellow makes a fool of himself."

"Why, what's wrong?" asked the hotel clerk, as he wrote the traveler's name down on a little slip of white paper.

"You know Jackson—that grocery salesman who stops here. I met him on the train up in Wisconsin among the inland lakes. Every time the train stopped some prosperous-looking man would get on with a bunch of ducks. Jackson and I had it all fixed up that we would go duck hunting. He said he was born and raised in that part of the country and knew of an old slough that the ducks simply couldn't pass and we could shoot as many as the law allowed. It is fine to plan a hunting trip—better than getting orders on the books."

"We rented a complete outfit, from suits to guns, and started early in the afternoon. It was a fine day for ducks—so the man said who rented us the layout and held all the rest of our money on deposit—in case we didn't come back."

"I don't want to be a knocker, but I really don't think Jackson knows much about duck shooting. We sneaked along the shores of a small river, then along a lake, crawling under barb-wire fences and over wooden fences and making new trails through thick underbrush. It snowed most of the time and rained the rest. I never saw so many ducks before in my life, but they were always on the opposite side of the river or they would fly away before we could get a shot at them. Jackson and I didn't claim to be good shots and we didn't care to run the chance of shooting any stray hunters."

"I got disgusted and suggested going back, but the grocery salesman said we must go to that old slough where he had never failed to get at least three or four ducks with one shot. We dragged ourselves along another mile or two, but felt repaid when we saw a little bay half covered with ducks. Jackson said they were mallards. We crawled along on the wet ground until we were within shooting distance."

"Suddenly we heard people talking. Looking up, we saw a new farmhouse, just a little back from the lake. Then an awful suspicion flashed through our minds at the same time. Jackson said they must be tame ducks belonging to a farmer. They certainly did appear civilized—didn't seem to be worrying a bit about being shot, and kept getting nearer and nearer. But we didn't dare run the risk of shooting tame ducks. We didn't care to run the risk of getting arrested, as it might have hurt our employers' feelings to see our names in the paper when we were supposed to be getting orders."

"In a disgusted frame of mind we started for home, and hadn't gone ten yards when that whole flock started to fly away, but shots from real hunters made a lot of them change their minds."

"No, I don't believe I want any more duck shooting—it's too much like work, and if one isn't willing to take big risks he gets left."

### Precious Stones in This Country.

"It is a little strange," said Irving L. Russell, "that the United States, so far ahead in national resources of every other part of the globe in all essential things, should be so deficient as a producer of precious stones. I am of the opinion that there will be a big discovery probably in some out-of-the-way corner of the land."

"I do not mean to intimate that we are exactly destitute of fine stones, but that those found are mostly of inferior quality as compared with the output of the old mines."

"In North Carolina a good many emeralds and rubies and sapphires are to be had, but they are not of sufficient value to warrant cutting. Some very fine pearls have been taken out of the shells picked up in the streams of Arkansas, and at one time the search for them down there amounted to a craze."

"A great many semi-precious stones are mined in California, the turquoise found out there being especially beautiful, but lacking in hardness. Tourmalines also come from California in abundance."—Washington Post.

### The People of Manchuria.

Fortunate is China in possessing a province that is able to change hands with her to advantage. Hundreds and thousands of Manchus go south into China to become warriors, court signatories and provincial governors in the realm. Most of the fine, tall handsome men we have seen in this country come from original stock.

Curious to say, many Chinese of the washewashew type have also swarmed into Manchuria to engage in trade. The Manchus seem to furnish the stock for statesmen, soldiers and diplomats, while the more active little Chinamen emigrate to Manchuria. Thus both are benefited.

### Paid Without Any Delay.

On route from the funeral of her husband, the carriage of Mrs. Florence Stoner of Des Moines, Ia., was stopped and she was handed a purse containing \$1,777 in cash, the same being the face of a life insurance policy held by Mr. Stoner.

## NEW CARPET STRETCHER.

It Will Save the Back of Many a Hard-Working Man.

There is an addition to the list of carpet-stretchers which possesses merits that will appeal to the man who has had experience in laying carpet. With this machine there is no necessity for the carpet-layer to throw himself prone on the floor, break all his finger nails and cause a rush of blood to the head in forcing the stubborn carpet to fit evenly. All that is required is that he brace one end of the affair against the wall, press the toothed arm into the fabric and then gently manipulate the lever. This exerts a pulling force absolutely



direct and even, and equal to that which could be applied by a dozen men. The machine is adjustable and can be accommodated to any irregularity in the room or cut of the carpet.

Have You a Slave Mother? Daughter, don't let mother do it; Do not let her slave and toil, While you at a useless idler, Fearing your soft hands to soil. Don't you see the heavy burdens Daily she is wont to bear, Bring the lines upon her forehead, Sprinkle silver in her hair?

Daughter, don't let mother do it, Do not let her bake and broil; Through the long, bright summer hours, Share with her the heavy toil; See, her eyes have lost its brightness, From her cheek the ruby glow, And the step that once was buoyant Now is feeble, weak and slow.

Daughter, don't let mother do it, She has cared for you so long; Is it right the weak and feeble Should be toiling for the strong? Waken from your listless languor, Seek her side to cheer and bless, And your grief will be less bitter When the gods above her press.

Daughter, don't let mother do it, You will never, never know What was home without a mother, Till that mother hath low; Low beneath the budding daisies, Free from earthly care and pain.

A New Freckle Remover. "A small sheet of emery paper," said the young girl.

The clerk handed her the emery paper, and after she was gone he said: "Every now and then she buys a sheet of emery paper. She removes freckles with it."

"Freckles, ah?" said the proprietor. "How does she do that?"

"Rubs them off," replied the clerk. "She described the process to me the last time she was in. She said she never freckled anywhere but on the end of her nose. Whenever she is out in a high wind or in a glaring sun there appears on her nose a single big brown freckle. This she hates; she considers it a disfigurement. And to get rid of it she rubs it off with a piece of emery."

"Doesn't it hurt? Doesn't it bleed?" said the proprietor.

"It hardly hurts or bleeds at all. It merely abrades the skin a little. The end of her nose burns and smart for about a day. Then it is as well as ever and the freckle is gone, leaving no scar."

The Popular Girl. The popular girl is the girl— Who can always say a good word about everybody.

Who is never caught in disbarred or negligee costumes when she should be ready to receive visitors.

Who is always enthusiastic or at least interested in what is going on.

Who is not ashamed of a hearty appetite.

Who does not always imagine herself to be the most important member of her social circle, but who can forget herself and be easy and natural in her manners and conversation.

Asleep Since 1886. A Bremen woman, now 44 years of age, went to sleep in 1886 and has just awakened. During the whole course of her long sleep she never once opened her eyes. When she required food the sleeper would groan and, on food being given to her, swallowed it in a natural way. Most of her teeth fell out in the course of her sleep; some she swallowed, others were found on the pillow. She awoke suddenly while the fire-alarm bells were being rung.

Keeping Vegetables. The woman who keeps house with a cellar should pay it a daily visit and see that it is aired, even if she has to neglect her parlor. Enough germs may lurk in the willing leaves of cabbage or a handful of decaying potatoes to cause insupportable illness in her family.

Some Roast Beef Lost. A piece of raw beef, weighing 190 pounds, after being roasted, weighs only 87½ pounds.

## THE USUAL WAY.

What slaves we are to our possessions!" sighed the fatigued young woman, with weary emphasis, as she dropped into a chair. "I wish I were a Hottentot and owned nothing but a string of glass beads and a palm-leaf fan. Moving would be so much simplified."

"Why do people have so many things?" she continued, after her friend had remarked sympathetically that they had moved last year and therefore she knew just what it was. "For the last two weeks I have packed and packed and packed things and handled things and sorted things and sold them and given them away and thrown them away until my small remnant of mind is unable to segregate itself from the contemplation of endless personal and household belongings and the consideration of their disposal."

"I went to the matinee Saturday and all the time the star was leading up to the strong climaxes my brain was working automatically something like this: 'That little balsam cushion



will just go into my round work basket, I think, and I mustn't forget to pack them into one of the bureau drawers. Where did I put the key to the medicine chest? If that Indian paddle isn't too long it can go into that big box with the pictures, but if it is, what—oh, yes, I can strap it with the canes and umbrellas. I mustn't forget that bathroom mirror. That green portfolio and my cut-glass ink well— Just about this time the audience would break into applause and I would look blankly at the stage and wonder what it was all about."

"Well, you are nearly through moving now, aren't you?" asked the sympathetic friend.

"Through!" explained the fatigued young woman. "Do you know that things spring into existence and multiply over night? They form an endless chain. Perhaps we are unusually acquisitive as a family, because we are both thrifty and sentimental, which is a bad combination. I admit, but our house never seemed abnormally filled with things until we began to pack. Monday we really thought that we had finished. We worked and worked and worked and packed and

packed and packed until after midnight. Finally we had everything boxed or accounted for and at 1 o'clock in the morning mamma and papa and I sneaked out into the boarding house where we are staying temporarily, each of us with the proverbial lamp or vase in one hand and a basket filled with 'too late to classify' in the other. To-day, after the vans had left mamma and I thought we would just go over to the house for a final look around and remove the few little things we might have overlooked."

"Well?" repeated the young woman dejectedly. "We went through the house and collected into one room the few little things we had overlooked. I can't explain it all, but those few little things practically filled that room."

"What were they?"

"These were a few that I can remember: 'Two brooms and an alarm clock and a corner bracket and a matchbox and three pictures and a paper weight and a soap dish and a box of castors and some magazines and a hammer and a pair of andirons and two feather dusters and a coal bucket and a bundle of laundry and the crock that stands under the ice box and a paper of hooks and eyes and the gas lighter and the lava mower!'"

"Anyway, get these things off your mind."

"I can't," declared the fatigued young woman, in utter despair. "I shall go on thinking only of packing boxes and moving vans the rest of my life."

Some Roast Beef Lost. A piece of raw beef, weighing 190 pounds, after being roasted, weighs only 87½ pounds.

## CLOCKS OF ROYALTY.

Buckingham and Windsor Royal Houses Contain Several Hundred.

There are nearly 350 clocks at Windsor castle, and about 170 in Buckingham palace. One of the most interesting of those at Windsor is in a gilt metal case given by Henry III. to Anne Boleyn on the morning of their wedding. It is ten inches high and is engraved with the royal arms of England quartered with those of France. The lead weights are engraved with true-lovers knots and "H. A. Dieu et Mon Droit," at the base. This clock, which at one time became the property of Horace Walpole, was bought by Queen Victoria. It has survived four centuries, but four years only marked the duration of the royal love of Henry and Anne Boleyn.

A Louis XIV. buhl clock in red shell in the Van Dyck room at Windsor castle is very fine, supported by four sphinxes, and exquisitely engraved by Marot, who was born in 1620. His son was architect to William III. A lyre clock in King Edward's audience room shows the pendulum encircling the dial, and a third hand indicates the date of the month. There are several other buhl clocks, one in the corridor, one in the vestibule and the forms and sizes are various. The truest clock over the state entrance goes eight days and strikes the quarters, bearing the date 1877.

At Buckingham palace the Augsburg clock on the equestrian stairs is among the earliest examples of the clockmakers art and very beautiful is the clock in the state dining room. Hampton Court is also rich in historically interesting clocks, such as the old astronomical one made for Henry VIII., 1540, said always to stop when any one who has long resided in the palace dies.

A Wonderful Vessel. There was launched a short time ago at Lorain, O., the largest fresh water steamship afloat. The Wolvin is 569 feet in length and is designed to carry 12,500 tons of coal on her first trip and thus to break all cargo records on the lakes.

Some novel features have been introduced in the construction of this steamer, the chief being that the cargo space is one immense hopper, 409 feet long, with sloping sides and ends, and not an obstruction of any kind, the deck being supported by arched girders. This form was adopted to offer no obstruction to unloading ore through its 33 hatches by the clamshell scoop now in use at Conneaut and other ports.

Below and on each side of this hold are compartments for water ballast to insure stability.

The engines, bunkers and quarters for the crew are astern of the hold, while below the pilot house are the officers' quarters, and comfortable rooms are also provided here for the owners of the steamer.

Everything possible about the boat will be done by machinery, and she will acquire distinction by being painted yellow.—Scientific American.

Fatal Fireworks. Figures collected last year by the American Medical Association, shows that 4,449 deaths and injuries resulted from the celebration of July 4, 1903, in the country at large.

There were 408 deaths due to lock-jaw, for which the toy pistol was responsible. Other forms of mortal injury took sixty victims. There were ten persons who were made blind, seventy-five who lost one eye, fifty-four who lost hands, arms or legs, 174 who lost fingers and 3,670 who received other injuries.

At the battle of Bunker Hill, famous preliminary to the next year's first dawning of Independence Day, there were killed 145 Americans and 359 of the British—a total only thirty-eight greater than that in the celebration slaughter of this one Fourth of July.

Voices and Climatic Effects. Generally speaking, races living at high altitudes have weaker and more highly pitched voices than those living in regions where the supply of oxygen is more plentiful. Thus, in America, among the Indians living on the plateau between the ranges of the Andes, at an elevation of from 10,000 to 14,000 feet, the men have voices like women, and women like children, and their singing is a shrill monotone.

American Treasure Trove. Unable to resist the promptings of a second dream telling him where to dig for hidden treasure, John Stonebrunner of Springfield, O., has found gold once supposed to have been buried by the French near Beatty, in 1745. Its value to collectors is estimated at \$1,500. All the coins bear dates of the 18th century.

An Engineering Feat. A remarkable feat of engineering was accomplished at the Narragansett brewery, at Cranston, R. I., when a 182-foot chimney, four feet out of plumb was straightened without cracking it. When its fall seemed imminent J. H. Gerhard, a local civil engineer, by means of steel levers, raised the chimney and backed it into place.

Self-Lighting Cigars. An Austrian inventor has applied for a patent for self-lighting cigars and cigarettes. These are tipped with a chemical mixture, and on being struck against anything ignites like matches.

Object to Being Counted. The Boers resent an attempt to take a Transvaal census. They consider it an intrusion into their private affairs.

## AN OLD FASHION.

Famous Iron Bridge, Spanning the River, Placed by a Modern Building.

Lawrence, Kan., is building a new county jail, and the Gazette gives an interesting account of the old prison which will soon be abandoned. It was famous as the first iron jail west of the Missouri river. It was constructed for in 1859 and built in Pennsylvania under the supervision of Capt. John G. Haskell, the well-known Kansas architect. It came by steamboat down the Ohio, up the Missouri, and then up the Kaw.

Effect of Music on the Hair. Someone has drawn attention to the fact that music exercises an influence on the growth of the hair in a most curious manner. Constant playing for some years on metal instruments, the trombone in particular, will cause baldness, while the playing of the piano, violin and violoncello rather increase than otherwise the growth of the hair. Flute and clarinet players are not supposed to be influenced either way.

Cow Wonder in Missouri. Nature seems to have an eye to the convenience of both the milkmaid and the progeny of a certain cow on the Tucker farm in Callaway County. "She is a pure bred short-horn, and has seven well developed teats, every one of them giving milk," her owner tells the Gazette, "and we give the calf two and take five at milking time."—Fulton (Mo) Gazette.

A Curious Flower. Melville Ayer of Biddeford, Me., has an apple tree which blossomed very plentifully this spring. After the blossoms were gone Mr. Ayer noticed a peculiar flower that still remained high up in the tree. The flower proved to be curious monstrosity in the line of apple blossoms, having the right scent, but closely resembling a rose in appearance. The flower was white and measured fully two inches in diameter.

Dyes from Coal. If a pounds of coal is subjected to dry distillation and the products and residual treated chemically by the processes for obtaining the well-known coal tar colors, it will yield enough magenta to color 500 yards of flannel, vermillion for 2,560 yards, aurine for 120 yards and alizarin sufficient for 155 yards of red cloth.

An International Tangle. Here is a New York court item: A Greek driver for a Chinese firm is accused of running over an Italian boy, he was arrested by an Irish policeman; the boy was attended by a German doctor, and a Hebrew coroner held the inquest. Now a French and Polish lawyer are discussing before a Scotch judge and an American jury whether the firm shall pay damages.

Reflections. The lower children of a woman the more she knows about other people.

We resist temptation when we are alone to resist, as we say, when there isn't any to resist.

There is something very odd about a peacock that walks you into thinking you see him don't.

A nice thing about living in a city is it teaches you how to turn up comfortably in your grave after you are dead.

A \$10,000 Bill. The government recently called in the few \$10,000 bills which were in circulation, and only one is now missing. This was stolen from a bank in Denver by a man who went into the office of the president and showed him a bottle which he said contained nitroglycerin, which he threatened to drop unless he was given \$10,000. The \$10,000 bill was handed over to him and it was so rare a bit of money that it is supposed that he never dared to break it.

Ornith Plucking. Ornith plucking is really not a "plucking," but a "gutting," says a writer in "Country Life in America." The chicken is cooked into a well-shaped incision and a small bag drawn over his head, which renders him unresisting. The large plumes are carefully cut, leaving an inch of the quill, which in time drops out. A few of the small feathers, when ready to fall out, are really plucked. An ostrich yields about 50 feathers at a plucking.

Russian Horses in War. The Russian edict forbidding the exportation of horses on account of the war with Japan has very decidedly and adversely affected several sections of Germany, particularly those of Northern Germany, which portion of the country has been accustomed to depend for its general supply upon importation or horses from Russia.

Indian Population. The annual reports of the agents of the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1900 showed that the Indian population was 270,544. Of this number 98,108 were citizens and 83,410 were a mixture of Indian and civilized clothing. Those who could read numbered 40,444 and 27,778 could carry on our ordinary conversation in English.

A Freak of Lightning. During a heavy shower lightning struck a tree in front of the house of Per. J. H. Knott at Derry, N. H. It then jumped to the house, and followed the bell wire for some distance, melting yards of it. A ball of fire as large as a baseball rolled harmlessly past Mr. Knott's feet, through the length of the hall, and into the kitchen, where it burst with a loud report.

Lesson in Black and White. A Turk, it is said, took a piece of white cloth to a dyer to have it dyed black. He was so pleased with the result that after a time he went to him with a piece of black cloth, and asked to have it made white. But the dyer answered: "A piece of white cloth is like a man's reputation; it can be dyed black, but you cannot make it white again."

A Wonderful Tree. There is a Baptist church in Santa Rosa, Cal., holding 200 people, which is built entirely of timber saved out of a single redwood tree. The roofing, too, is made of shingles saved from the same tree, and after it was finished there were 60,000 shingles left.

Old Maid Insurance. "Old maid insurance" is carried on in Denmark. Women who think they may become old maids pay as much as a year, and at 40 receive pensions for life. If they marry before 40, they have paid in premiums gone to swell the amount available for the benefit of their less fortunate sisters.

Old Fishing on the Maine Coast. A new kind of cod fishing has been undertaken in the vicinity of Boothbay harbor, Me. They are catching cod in gill nets, each net being 10,000 to 12,000 pounds daily. A cod, taken on the coast, weighs from 20 to 40 pounds.

Women in Universities. Tubingen is the latest of the German universities to open its doors to women.

German Population. Prussia contains 68,425,000 people. New York contains about 8,000,000 and Great Britain 45,000,000.

Rebels for Service. Locomotive engineers in Germany receive a gold medal and \$500 at the end of every five years of service which they complete without an accident.

Length of Married Life. Married life on the average lasts 28 years, or almost half of the 58 which make up the allotted span of life.

Imprisoned for Profanity. A French soldier has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for profanity.

## SUGGESTIONS.

The sprinter always runs a risk of getting beaten.

The sharper can give the photographer points on the art of retouching.

The balloonist may be an upright man and still a downright failure.

A woman always thinks that a stylish hat is a good thing to top off with.

The woman who uses violet and white rose perfume at least has common sense.

The ocean is a difficulty which seems to be easily lifted over.

It isn't exactly roll-call with the baker when he has a call for rolls.

Does it give one dyspepsia to eat fast in a dining car?

"Knowledge is power," and, of course, it takes knowledge to build a power house.

In one way, at least, there is nothing to be gained by taking anti-fal.

Even careful stout people often seem to be waisting their substance.

It doesn't necessarily make two grumbling teeth feel friendly to be drawn together.

A man isn't half-witted just because he has a witty better half.

Unsuccessful hotel keepers seem to have both their inns and outs.

A Handsome Table. M. S. Hadden of Peacham, Vt., has just completed a very handsome table, the top of which is inlaid with many kinds of wood, both native and foreign. The table is 2 feet 8 inches by 3 feet 8 inches, and contains 1070 pieces of all shapes and sizes, and is made of 14 different kinds of wood.

A Runaway Car. Three runaway flat bottom cars, heavily loaded with waste stone, on the Hardwick & Woodbury railroad struck the best engine on the road in the yard at Hardwick, Vt., driving it through the end of the engine house and nearly burying it in a sand bank.

Rewards for Service. Locomotive engineers in Germany receive a gold medal and \$500 at the end of every five years of service which they complete without an accident.

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