

# MEETING OF THE BIRDS

IDYL.

By S. ROTHSCHILD

Musical notation for the first system, including piano (p) and fortissimo (ff) markings.

Musical notation for the second system, including piano (p) and fortissimo (ff) markings.

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Meeting of the Birds—2

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Despite Their Great Age They Have Never Faded.

Despite their extreme old age, in spite of the long time that these colors have been exposed to the influences of the weather, they are yet so brilliant and fresh that it is scarcely conceivable that they have endured for thousands of years. With few exceptions, these astonishingly durable colors were made of minerals. The ever present brownish red was a mixture of ferro-oxide and clay from the Egyptian red iron-ochre beds. As for the yellow color, besides gold bronze and leaf gold, ferro-oxide was also made to serve, this being mixed, according to the shade desired, with variable masses of alumina, lime and the like. By heating these last mixtures, the brown tints were obtained, and the orange shades by adding red. An inscription written by a builder of the Pyramids, Neb-Fermed, and placed there four thousand years before Christ, proudly proclaims that "All color decorations for the Temple must be everlasting as the gods themselves."

### Foundation of Skeletons.

It has been discovered that the great city of London rests on a foundation of skeletons—hundreds of thousands of skeletons that extend east and west, north and south, from boundary to boundary of the world's metropolis, and beyond. There they lie, compressed into a compact mass by the superimposed clay, gravel, sand and surface structures. These skeletons were once the framework of living beings—beings that were the most simple, multicolored animals known as sponges. Many thousands of years ago, when the great sea ebbed and flowed where London now stands, these metazoan organisms, these cities of cells, these venices, with their thousands of canals, lived and did their unconscious part in the great plan of evolution. Now the life has gone, the cells are crushed, the canals are closed, and only the frames of flint, compressed into a homogeneous mass, remain.

### Skinning a Pearl.

The lapidary was skinning a pearl, according to the Philadelphia Record. He had on gloves of a very delicate sort of kid, and the glasses that he wore had lenses of such great magnifying power that his eyes, through them, looked as big as saucers. "I wear gloves," he said, "because the hands perspire freely in this work, and perspiration has often been known to discolor pearls. This stone was injured by the accidental dropping on it of some acid. The dis-

color disappeared, you see. With this very delicate little tool I am removing its outer skin and if I find that the acid has filtered through and discolored the inner skin also, I may remove that as well. A pearl, you see, is composed of concentric layers, or skins, and you can, if you are a clever workman, peel it down and down until it disappears."

### Strength of Sand.

Over thirty years ago M. Beauder-noud, a French savant, proved by experiment that a quantity of dry sand, placed in a box of thin sheet iron, or even in a canvas bag, and subjected to slight compression, forms a mass capable of resisting a pressure of sixty tons, without breaking or even straining the box or bag. The sand, however, remains perfectly divisible, so that if a small hole be made in the box or bag, it will flow slowly, and with so little force that a small piece of paper, pasted over the opening will check the flow, even with the sixty tons weight upon it.

### Washing in the Orient.

The Japanese rip their garments apart for every washing and they iron their clothes by spreading them on a flat board, and leaving this up against the house to dry. The sun takes the wrinkles out of the clothes and some of them have quite a luster. The Japanese woman does her washing out of doors. Her wash tub is not more than six inches high.

The hardest worked washerwomen in the world are the Koreans. They have to wash about a dozen dresses for their husbands, and they have plenty to do. The washing is usually done in cold water and often in running streams. The clothes are pounded with paddles until they shine like a shirt from a laundry.

### Bird of Paradise.

Probably no famous bird has a smaller habitat than the bird of paradise, whose beautiful feathers are so highly prized in the millinery trade. No one knows why the varieties of this beautiful bird are confined to the island of New Guinea and the neighboring coasts of Australia. There are many other islands not far away where the conditions would seem to be equally favorable to their existence.

The males and females of Japan are from a very early age instructed in physical exercise, with the result that at maturity the women are almost as strong as the men. It is not an unusual sight to see a company of girls, who are strolling along a country road, step back a few yards for headway, and then following a leader, all nimbly clear a five-foot fence by leaping over it.