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EARLY HEARD CALL OF WILD

John Muir, Great Naturalist, Showed His Bent in the Earliest Years of His Long Life.

When I was a boy in Scotland I was fond of everything that was wild, and all my life I've been growing fonder and fonder of wild places and wild creatures, wrote John Muir in the Atlantic. Fortunately around my native town of Dunbar, by the stormy North sea, there was no lack of wilderness, though most of the land lay in smooth cultivation. With red-blooded playmates, wild as myself, I loved to wander in the fields to hear the birds sing, and along the seashore to gaze and wonder at the shells and seaweeds, eels and crabs in the pools among the rocks when the tide was low. And best of all, in glorious storms to watch the waves thundering on the black headlands and craggy ruins of the old Dunbar castle when the sea and the sky, the waves and the clouds, were mingled together as one. After I was five or six years old I ran away to the seashore or the fields almost every Saturday, and every day in the school vacations except Sundays, though solemnly warned that I must play at home in the garden and back yard, lest I should learn to think bad thoughts and say bad words. All in vain. In spite of the sure sore punishments that followed like shadows, the natural inherited wildness in our blood ran true on its glorious course as an invincible and unstoppable as the stars.

QUEER LEGACIES ON RECORD

Meant Much in the Old Days, Though They Seem Peculiar to the People of Today.

Ancient bequests for having bells rung and beacons lighted for the purpose of guiding travelers by night are quite numerous, which is hardly to be wondered at when one considers the apologies for roads and the absence of fences in the "good old days."

A plot of land, rejecting in the name of "Petticoat Hole," is held at Easton-on-the-Forest, in Yorkshire, England, on condition of providing a poor woman of the place with a new petticoat once a year.

In the old days, when rushes were strewn on the floor in lieu of carpets, many persons left bequests of money and land for providing rushes for the floors of churches. Their use, of course, has long been discontinued, but in certain places the church wardens attend to the preservation of their rights by cutting a little grass each year and strewing it on the church floor.

There may have been seen on the benefaction table at Deptford church a record to the effect that "a person unknown gave half a quarter of wheat, to be given in bread on Good Friday, and half a load of rushes at Whitsuntide, and a load of peastraw at Christmas yearly, for the use of the church."

TAUGHT HIM VALUE OF TIME

Customer of Benjamin Franklin Given Object Lesson by the Eminent Philosopher.

Benjamin Franklin sagely said: "Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for that is the stuff life is made of!" Franklin not only understood the value of time, but put a price upon it that made others appreciate its worth.

A man came in one day and picked up a book that he wished to purchase. The price that the clerk asked was not satisfactory. He insisted on seeing the proprietor.

Mr. Franklin hurried from the rear of the store at the clerk's summons.

"What is the lowest price you can take for this book, sir?" asked the customer leisurely.

"One dollar and a quarter," was the terse reply.

"One dollar and a quarter? Why, your clerk asked me only a dollar just now."

"True," said Franklin, "and I could better afford to take a dollar than leave my work."

Without another word the crestfallen purchaser laid the amount on the counter and left the store.

He had learned not only that he who squanders his own time is foolish, but he who wastes the time of others is a thief.

Queer French Food.
The French eat many things which other nations do not care for or eye askance and only partake of sparingly. Not the least of these tidbits is the Gallic estimation are small turtles, snails and frogs. So popular are all these that they are hawked publicly on the streets of Paris, the live frogs being fastened on skewers, in long rows, and the snails being advertised as fresh from the vineyards, their quality being considered then the best.

Looking Ahead.
Fenshaw—I hear you are to wed Colonel Swinger, Mrs. Grasse. He's a noble fellow, every inch a soldier, born to command.
Widow Grasse—H'm! We'll see about that.—Tit-Bits.

Simplicity and Depth.
Simplicity of character is the natural result of profound thought.—Hazlitt.

Renew your subscription for this paper.

JOHN ALVIN, PARIAH

To All Except His Mother, Whose Love Endured Through All His Trials.

BY HAROLD CARTER.

Ten years in prison take a good deal out of a man's life that can never be replaced or made up again, and when John Alvin found the gates of the state penitentiary barred behind him instead of in front of him, he felt acutely the gap that had to be bridged between the Alvin of 1902, the young bank cashier who had flung his firm's money into the bottomless pit of speculation, and the Alvin of 1912, prematurely bowed, embittered by brooding over his planned revenge, and walking with the peculiar gait which made him the object of suspicion to every passing policeman.

He had a new suit of fairly good blue serge, a new hat, a new pair of shoes, and fifty-one dollars in his pocket, besides a ticket for Cranston.

But Alvin was not going to Cranston. He was going to Myrtle, two hundred miles in the opposite direction, and he had asked for a free ticket to Cranston to blind the spies of Howell, his enemy. He meant to kill Howell, and thus to wipe out the disgrace which he had brought upon him.

What happened after that he did not care. There was no one to whom he mattered. His mother might have cared, but Alvin was confident that she was dead. It was ten years since she had seen or written to him—in brief, since he entered the penitentiary. And a mother's anger seldom lasts ten years.

All the way in the train to Myrtle, Alvin was busy bridging over the hiatus in his life. He had been just an ordinary clerk in the bank in his home town, engaged to an ordinary girl who, nevertheless, seemed very extraordinary in his eyes. He was just a weak, foolish boy who, believing that he saw a short cut to wealth, had played with the bank's money and lost. Howell, the director, had prosecuted, and, having considerable influence, had obtained for Alvin the sen-

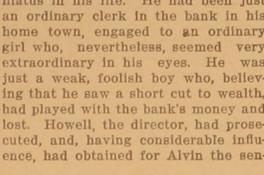
toe which he had heard with dismay and terror. Ten years to expiate for the theft of ten thousand dollars! Why, he was not getting a thousand a year in those far-off days when he was engaged to Isabel!

But Alvin was not going to kill Howell for that. He was going to kill Isabel, because he had afterward married Isabel. That was the barb, that the secret of his incredible vindictiveness! He had never suspected a rival in the smooth, plausible bank director. And Isabel, her foolish little head turned by the opportunity of a great match, had promptly married him. That was eight years ago. Nobody had wasted any sympathy upon Alvin.

He had placed events together with difficulty since that day. His father, the faithful old cashier with the Glass company, had, he knew, forbidden his name to be mentioned again. His mother was evidently dead. Nobody came near him; nobody had written to him. He was a pariah. Even now, for one helping hand he would have turned aside from his project; but none was extended. He changed trains at Lowell and, during the interval, purchased a revolver.

The thought of his revenge, cherished during those terrible years, had become a monomania with him. He felt exiled from humanity; life was something fantastic and alien. He did not look upon the uninterested, hurrying passengers as fellow-beings of his. He lived in a world of phantoms.

It was strange how little Myrtle had altered. When Alvin descended at the station he noticed two or three new blocks of buildings that had not been erected before; otherwise the streets were much the same. Nobody recognized the dapper young bank clerk in the gray-haired man who strolled up the high street, though Alvin knew several of them. There was Joe Miller, the banker—unchanged; Schmidt, the butcher—unchanged; and that stout man with the paunch who hurried past must be the cashier, Knowles—unchanged! A sudden thought impelled Alvin to buttonhole him.



Almost Reluctantly He Raised the Revolver.

"Don't you know me, Mr. Knowles?" he leered, thrusting his grinning face within an inch of the other's. "I'm Alvin."

Knowles stammered in embarrassment. "Why, I'm glad to see you, Mr. Alvin," he muttered. "Let me see—you've been away quite a while, haven't you?"

"Yes, but I've come back," answered Alvin. "Mr. Howell has promised me a position with the bank again, but he's moved, hasn't he? Where is he living?"

"On the corner of Main street," faltered the other. "I—positively I have an engagement." And he shambled away, casting back frightened glances at the ex-convict as he walked.

That was all Alvin wanted to know. He guessed that Howell occupied one of those new white frame structures that he could see in the distance, very pretty in their groves of shade trees. If he hadn't been a fool he and Isabel might have occupied one of them now. Isabel! He had not thought of her, but now, in his desperate temper, he resolved to make her suffer just a little. He would not hurt her much, of course; she was almost beneath his notice.

And Isabel was seated on the lawn, right at the edge of the lawn, under a tree, watching the passers-by in her foolish, empty-headed way, and rocking. As he approached he saw that a boy some seven years old was standing by her side and that another sprawled at her feet. Her children, evidently! He stopped, and suddenly the veil that obscured his mind was lifted, and with a sob he turned away. She had not recognized him.

He knew that Knowles would spread the story of his return all over the town. What a fool he had been to betray himself! He might have gone to the bank and accomplished his purpose; now he would have to wait till dark and fire through Howell's dining room window. As he meditated on his revenge he noticed that, automatically, his feet were leading him in the direction of his father's home, two blocks away. It was a street he had trodden a thousand times. He halted and looked up at the little house. It was unchanged. But the shades were down and evidently it was unoccupied.

It had grown dark when Alvin finally turned toward his enemy's house. He passed the little place of his birth. A light was burning in the parlor. Then it was occupied, after all. But he did not speculate as to its inmates. He passed swiftly along the empty street to Howell's residence. Once, as he walked, he thought he heard steps behind him and hastened, for that which he was to do had to be done quickly and there was no time to temporize. Yet, when at last he crouched outside the room and saw Howell, his feet in slippers, stretched out in a chair, reading, he forbore to fire. His hatred needed the sight of the man to enkindle it. At last, almost reluctantly, he raised the revolver.

Just then his arm was caught from behind—not that which held the revolver, invisible in the darkness; nevertheless he lowered it and swung round to look into the face of a little elderly lady. His mother stood there at his side.

"John!" she whispered, clinging to him. "You've come home, John! I knew you would. Father is waiting for you. He is bedridden now, but he has forgiven you."

"He wouldn't let me write or see you for years, John, but his illness has softened him. He said you would come home. He made me promise to wait for you. We have a light in your room every night, John."

Then the mists lifted entirely, and suddenly he understood that the most precious love in all the world was his; and, having that, what did he care for others?

He felt his eyes blinded with tears as he slipped the pistol into his pocket and clasped his mother in his arms.

(Copyright, 1913, by W. G. Chapman.)

Leopard and Tiger Coats.
So numerous are the coats of leopard skin that one might imagine it child's play to pop one of these snarling beasts into oblivion and rob him of his pelt. Even the tiger must be ever on the alert if he does not wish to donate his striped skin to adorn some smartly dressed daughter of civilization. It would not be a wise purchase for the woman who can have only one fur coat to buy one of leopard skin—she would thus be compelled to advertise to her friends that it was her only fur coat, for a leopard or tiger skin is not easily forgotten. This very quality, however, makes the coat desirable to the woman who sheds her fur coats as many times a day as she does her cloth ones.

Talking Money the Latest.
"Money talks" is a well-known metaphorical saying, but if the latest idea to prevent counterfeit notes is carried out, we may yet hear our dollar bills asserting their genuineness with an uncertain sound. The proposal is that each note should carry a given phrase, which would be inscribed on the edge just as on a phonograph cylinder, a specially prepared paper being used for the purpose. When a note is tested it will simply be placed in a properly designed phonograph, when, if genuine, it will repeat or sing the phrase, but if counterfeit, it will either remain silent or give itself away by using the wrong accent.

New French Propeller.
Two French engineers have patented a propeller with the blades extending far forward and back of the hub, and so shaped that the water is not churned and no vacuum is formed around the hub.

HOME COURSE IN SCIENTIFIC AGRICULTURE

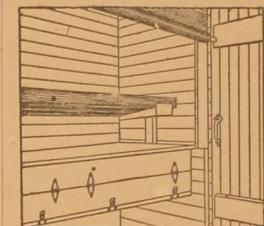
EIGHTH ARTICLE—POULTRY MANAGEMENT.

By A. ARTHUR BELL, Assistant Animal Husbandman, Bureau of Animal Industry, United States Department of Agriculture.

THE safest way for those who are about to make their first attempt at poultry raising is to start in a small way with a few fowls and learn the business thoroughly before making large investments. Mistakes will be made and many difficult problems will be presented for solution before success in any large measure will be attained. As soon as it is found to be a paying investment more capital may be put into the plant.

Another good plan for the beginner who wishes to learn the art of poultry keeping is to secure a position with some successful poultry man. One or two years of work on a large, practical plant will be found a great help.

When to begin is not very important, but the fall of the year is a good time, for then stock can be purchased for less money than at any other season.



CURTAINED ROOSTS AND HINGED NEST BOXES.

It is also advisable that the fowls be moved to their new quarters before they begin to lay. If the beginner has had experience in poultry keeping it will be all right to purchase eggs; otherwise he should begin with the fowls and thus gain some knowledge of caring for poultry before attempting to raise chickens.

For convenience, chickens may be classified as egg breeds, meat breeds, general purpose breeds and fancy or ornamental breeds.

The egg breeds include the small or medium sized fowls, which are very active, quick to mature, producers of white shelled eggs, usually nonsitters or at best but poor sitters and rather poor mothers. The various varieties of Leghorns and Minorcas are good representatives of this class. Because they are poor sitters some other breed, or at least a few other fowls, should be kept if natural methods of incubation are to be employed. On account of their early maturity it is not uncommon for individuals to begin laying at the age of four and one-half months. These breeds do not fatten as readily under ordinary conditions as the larger and less active breeds. The fowls of this class have large combs and wattles, which make them rather sensitive to low temperatures.

The largest fowls are represented in the meat class, and these breeds are especially suitable for the production of large roasters. They are slow and somewhat sluggish in movement, with little desire for foraging, easily confined by low fences, rather slow to mature, persistent sitters and rather indifferent layers of large brown shelled eggs. Many poultrymen, however, are getting very good egg yields from them. The Brahms, Cochins and Langshans belong to this class.

The general purpose class includes fowls which are of fair size and which will also produce a good quantity of brown shelled eggs. As one has to make frequent sales of flesh in the shape of surplus cockerels and hens, the carcass as well as egg production should be considered. The general purpose breeds are usually good sitters and good mothers. They have medium sized combs and wattles and endure cold weather well. They occupy a medium position between the egg and meat breeds as to size, egg production and docility. The Plymouth Rocks, Wyandottes, Orpingtons and Rhode Island Reds are good representatives of this class.

As a rule, the breeds in the ornamental are not so well adapted for farm purposes as are the breeds of the other three classes. The Polish, Exhibition Games, Silkie, Sultans, Frizzles and Bantams are representative ornamental breeds.

In the manner of housing fowls we have two systems, widely different in their extremes. At one extreme is the colony plan, which consists in placing small houses for small flocks far enough apart to obviate the necessity of fences, thus giving free range, with but little mingling of the different flocks. At the other extreme we have the continuous apartment house. This kind of house consists of a series of separate pens, under one roof, opening directly into a hallway in the rear, or having doors between the pens without the hallway, or opening into a hallway and also into one another. There are

several plans and arrangements between these two extremes.

Advantages of the colony plan are, first, small flocks on free range; second, no expense for fencing; third, there is less need for scrupulous attention to cleanliness and providing regular supplies of animal and vegetable feed during summer months. This plan, however, has the following disadvantages: First, extra cost of labor in caring for fowls in stormy weather, when it will often be difficult to get around to feed and care for the fowls regularly; second, houses built on the colony plan, if built as well, cost more than a continuous house of the same capacity, for partitions, which may be constructed largely of wire netting, are much cheaper than two end walls; third, the colony plan allows but about 100 birds per acre, while the continuous house system, with suitable yards, allows 450 to 500 birds per acre.

The first consideration in locating buildings is a suitable location for the poultry house or houses. If possible it is best to select an elevation having a natural drainage away from the building, for damp ground means cold ground. If the house can be built in the lee of a windbreak or a hill or in front of farm buildings, so much the better. A dry, porous soil, such as sandy or gravelly loam, is preferable to a clay soil, for the former is more easily kept in a sanitary condition. If it is impracticable to select a soil that is naturally dry the soil should be made dry by thorough underdrainage. A purely sandy soil should not be selected.

As sunlight and warmth are essential to success, the buildings should face the south. Other things being equal, they will be warmer and drier. When a direct southern exposure cannot be obtained a southeastern exposure, for fowls seem to prefer morning to afternoon sun. A gentle slope facing the south is the most suitable.

It is best to build the houses during the spring or early summer, for then they have time to dry out during the hot days. Lumber is often rather damp and should be thoroughly dried out before winter. Cement floors and foundation walls will also have an opportunity to dry thoroughly, and thus may be avoided much of the dampness so often attributed to them.

The size of the building required will depend largely on the number of fowls to be kept and on the size of the flocks. From forty to fifty seems to be about as many as is safe and economical to keep together. With flocks of this size about five square feet of floor space should be allotted to each bird, which will suffice in most cases where careful attention is given to cleanliness and ventilation. If the fowls are kept in smaller flocks more floor space per bird will be needed. Where the climate is so mild that it is unnecessary to keep the fowls confined, except for a few days at a time, less space per bird will be sufficient. The smaller breeds, being more active and restless, require about as much room as the larger breeds.

For the greatest amount of floor space for the least cost a building should be square, for other things being equal, the nearer square a house is the less lumber it will take. It is, however, out of the question to have a large house built square.

The building should not be so wide that the sun cannot reach the back of the house, otherwise it will be damp. Fourteen feet is a convenient width if there are no alleyways.

The house should be built as low as possible without danger of the attendants bumping their heads against the ceiling. A low house is more easily warmed than a high one.

When permanent houses are to be built it is usually most economical to erect them on foundations made of brick, stone or concrete. These should be built deep enough to prevent heaving by frost and high enough to prevent surface water from entering. Where large stones or bricks are not readily available good walls may be made from small stones. In case none of these foundation materials is available the building may be erected on posts.

There are three general styles of roofs—the single pitch, the gable roof or double-pitch with equal sides and the combination with one long and one short pitch.

The single pitch roof is the easiest to build. It gives the highest vertical front exposed to the sun's rays and throws all the rain water to the rear. But in order to have the back wall of sufficient height to allow a person to work conveniently in the rear portion of the house it is necessary to have the front wall very high—unless a very slight pitch is used—which requires much more lumber for the front side than in the case of the other two styles. The gable roof provides for a garret space, which may be filled with straw, thus helping to make the house warm and dry.

The floor may be of earth, wood or cement. Earth floors are excellent provided they are kept dry. Except in very dry climates, however, they are apt to be damp. Board floors are usually short lived unless air is allowed to circulate under them. A good cement floor is the best, for it is easily cleaned and very durable. It should be covered with one-fourth or one-half inch of the soil or sand and plenty of litter. In constructing this floor the ground should be excavated to the depth of three or four inches and then filled in with small stones or coarse gravel to make a good foundation. Cover with about two inches of mortar made by mixing thoroughly with dry one part of good cement to three or four parts of sand and then wetting with water and mixing thoroughly.