

PIGEONS SUPERSEDED

Wireless Telegraph Takes Place of Birds in the Army.

The Foreign Wars the Wired Carriers of Dispatches Were Much Used, but Electricity Displaces Them. The adoption of the wireless telegraph systems for transmission of messages apparently sounds the doom of the carrier pigeons in army and navy service both in this country and abroad...

When the English invaded South Africa they carried several hundred pigeons with them, and these were used in many ways. Pigeon quarters were established at Cape Town and Ladysmith, and from these places the pigeons carried their messages through the air.

WHAT A CONSUL IS.

Some Interesting Particulars of His Official Etiquette and Honors Accorded.

I was highly gratified to discover in the consular regulations that consuls of the United States rank with colonels in the regular army or captains in the navy, although even before learning this I felt quite as important as any consul, writes J. B. Osborne, in Atlantic. The chapter on the official relations of consuls to naval officers was also pleasant reading...

THE AVERAGE MAN.

What Census Statistics Show Him to Be in America.

Interesting Data Regarding Occupation, Aspirations and How Influenced by Surrounding Conditions. These many years newspapers, orators, political economists, party managers, pulpiteres and others have been pointing arguments at "the average man" and "the average American"...

His veins is 57.9 per cent white, 11.6 per cent negro, 0.3 Indian and 0.2 Mongolian. This blood is 13.7 per cent foreign, and the foreign blood, out of a total of 10.34 parts, is 2.66 parts German, 1.61 parts Irish, .78 parts Canadian, .37 parts Swedish and .32 parts of all other nationalities. Although the average man has so strong a strain of mixed blood in his veins, both his parents were born in this country.

Since he is a farmer, the average man owns his home free of incumbrances. Only the class of farm families, however, has a majority that own their homes. The majority of other families live in hired homes. The average man may live anywhere in the land except in the towns. His farm contains 146.2 acres, of which 50.6 per cent is improved. It yields him from \$500 to \$1000 a year in produce net, but to live stock. His principal income is from hay and grain.

PUNGENT PARAGRAPHS.

Perilous Attention.—Bob "Talks cheap," Joe "Yaps" but listening often costs as much as a fever, too.—Detroit Free Press.

Mrs. "This is why a window like an aching tooth." "Because it's pane full, I suppose." "No, my dear, it's because it can't climb a tree"—Yonkers Statesman. Proof Positive.—First Heiress.—"But are you quite sure the count loves you?" Second Heiress—"Of course I am. He said if I would marry him he'd let me keep half of my own money."—Chicago Daily News.

MADE DRUNK BY MOTORING.

New Mania Which Is Traced to the Present-Day Mania for Automobile Riding. A new disease has been discovered by the medical profession of Paris which they have named "motor intoxication." It is an affection of the mental faculties and is directly traceable to scorching on automobiles, says a Paris report.

Hatchet Souplet, at the last meeting of the Societe de Psychologie et de Psychologie, spoke of the motor intoxication effect of rapid motor locomotion. The mental and moral state of the driver become abnormal. He grows vindictive, furiously aggressive and lets himself be carried away by the impulsive of the moment.

Do birds commit suicide? It would seem from circumstantial evidence that they do. The other morning while passing a large sycamore tree in the state university grounds, I happened by some chance to look up into the tree, and there I saw a robin about 20 feet from the ground hanging to a string by the neck. Each end of the string was wrapped around limbs about 18 inches apart, and the middle was wound around the robin's neck, so that it was hanging about midway between the two limbs. I at first thought it was dead, but while looking at it, I saw its wings move when I rushed into one of the buildings, got a ladder and soon had it rescued. Its life was nearly gone, but after a little while it revived and flew away. A partly built nest in the tree would indicate that it was carrying a string to put in with its building material, and in some way became entangled in the string with the above result.—Forest and Stream.

Getting Close to Nature. Richard and Cherry Kerton, who have recently brought out in England a new edition of William White's imperishable book, "The Natural History of Solomons," illustrated with photographs of the birds, animals and insects described by White, adopted methods of getting close to their subjects without alarming them, which are worth the attention of amateur photographers. Sometimes they concealed themselves and their camera in a stuffed sheep, and sometimes it was a stuffed cow that they employed. On other occasions they built an artificial hollow rock near the haunts of the birds they were studying.

German Omeler. Beat five eggs and five tablespoons of each milk or cream together; add half a teaspoonful of finely minced parsley. Simmer six very thin slices of bacon in boiling water five minutes. Put a piece of butter in the omelet pan, and when hot pour in a thin layer of the egg mixture; lay on this the slices of bacon wiped dry; pour in remainder of the egg and cook over a slow, clear fire hard cook best. When it begins to set turn into a buttered tin that will just fit the top of omelet pan, then slide back into the pan again and brown the other side.—Washington Star.

Safe Military Communication. Kites carrying aerial wires are considered by military experts the safest of all means devised for establishing communication between widely separated divisions of an army, because of their practical immunity from damage from snipers. A balloon may be pictured and destroyed but the passage of a string of bullets through a kite would not materially injure it. The Germans have perfected a kite with thin, soft wood sticks, strengthened by a slender steel rod, which offers the greatest amount of freedom from injury by bullets. Six or seven of these kites are flown in tandem fashion to carry the wires to a sufficient height in the air. The German military authorities use in the field the Braun-Stein-Halkes wireless system, and they claim that the attachment of both the receiving and transmitting instruments is such as to provide absolute secrecy. Balloons were also tried at the imperial maneuvers, but these were not better than the kites, and far more expensive. N. Y. Times.

THE OLD MAID AGE.

A Woman Is Not Beyond the Line Now Until She Is Thirty.

Even at That Period She May Still Be the Heroine of a Drama—Mature Woman to the Fore. A few years ago 25 was regarded as the age at which a woman became an old maid. The limit has now been set at 30. In other words, at 30 is the imaginary line which separates the term of spinsterhood into halves, the first stage being that of eligibility to matrimony and the second that of forced or voluntary recognition to single blessedness.

As the cry of "old maid" may still be heard, it has ceased to alarm. Indeed, there are no old maids in the sense in which the expression was once used, and the idea that marriage is the chief aim of woman no longer exists in the minds of sensible people. Nor is a woman supposed to have lost all power of attraction because she has entered her third decade. Balzac has laid down the theory that a woman at 30 is at her most fascinating and dangerous age, dangerous, that is, to the hearts of men. She cannot boast, perhaps, of a long train of admirers. Partners of balls are less persistent and fewer in number. The delicate aroma of flattery has become fainter, and now and then a very young man may make her feel like her own grandmother by asking advice about his love affairs. Nevertheless, many women who have entered the thirties are the center of a drama upon which the curtain is not likely to fall for many years. In all womanly loveliness, it may be, she reveals in her part of loveliness and in the disturbances and agitations of which she is the cause. This kind of woman, as Landor puts it, "warms both hands at the fire of life."

"One thing I am thankful for," says the bachelor maid, "and that's I'm not so much of a bread-and-butter miss. There is no period of her existence, I think, when a woman appears to less advantage. It is almost impossible for a girl of 15 to be conceited, and she has so little knowledge of the world that she is unable to hide her awkwardness."

HOUSEHOLD BITS.

Items of Information of a Domestic Nature That May Prove of Value. To which you might put two tea-spoons of soda, and then you have the best thing in the world for cleaning your stove. To clean aluminum. Wash thoroughly in warm soap and water, rinse well and dry at once in a clean cloth and polish with cream skin. If very dirty, make a paste with some whiting and a little water or methylated spirit. Apply this thickly, leave it on a few minutes, and then rub it off, polishing well with a clean leather. Never use soda, as it blackens and discolors this metal. Brooklyn Eagle.

Spanish Omelet with Sauce. Beat four Spanish onions and set in a pan with meat broth to cover. Cover and simmer until done, but not so long as to fall to pieces. Place the onions in a dish, let the fat drip in the pan, but do not wash it out. Wash the pan with one level heaping-spoon of flour to one cupful of water with salt and pepper and butter. Pour the gravy around the onions. Detroit Free Press.

Notes of the Modes. Fresh Linery for Fair Wearers That Will Be in Vogue for the Season. Many of the latest dress fabrics, with which the shop girls are so familiarly represented as being so plenty, suggest to the woman a new idea of dress-making. The most of these new fabrics are being cut up into small pieces and made into dresses and blouses. A very attractive color effect appears in the East Indian drapery rug, in which reds, blues and yellows are mingled in true Indian splendor. The dark blue and red drapery rug is especially well on the decks of yachts or for summer camps at the seashore. The winter rug made in the far west by Indians are the oldest and most durable floor coverings for the veranda. They are not affected by moisture, and their colors endure all kinds of hardship.

OLD-TIME COOKERY.

Reliance of the Baker-Dress as It Was Taught Over Two Centuries Ago.

In the early days of the seventeenth century gastronomy was truly a wonderful science, if a little cookery book, published in 1636, and now in the possession of a Chicago woman, is any criterion, says the Tribune of that city. The title it bears is "Mirecole's Two Books of Cookerie and Carving. Printed for John Marriot, and are to be sold at his Shop in Saint Dunstan's Church-yard in Fleet-street, 1636." To bake "Red Deer" you are directed to "Parboyle it, and press it, and let it lie all night in Red-Wine and season it with Pepper-Salt, Cloves, Mace, Nutmeg, and Ginger. Bake it in a deepe Dish of lye-paste, with clove of Buttire, let it soake well. Leave a venthole in your Pie, and when you draw it out of the Oven, put in melted Butter, Vinegar, Nutmeg, Ginger, and a little Sugar, shake it very well together, and let it stand three or foure hours at the least, to soake thoroughly, when your Oven is cold take it out, and stop the hole with Butter."

Next is a heading, "Fritters on the Court Fashion." "Take the Curds of a Sack-pot, the yolks of six Eggs, and the whites of two of them, beat flower, and make butter, season it with Nutmeg and a little Pepper, put in a little strong ale, and put them into a Lard; neither too hot nor too cold. If your butter swim it is in good temper."

A recipe "To make a little Manchet in a Frynpan" by it, "Institution of a Sack-pot, the yolks of six Eggs, and the whites of two of them, beat flower, and make butter, season it with Nutmeg and a little Pepper, put in a little strong ale, and put them into a Lard; neither too hot nor too cold. If your butter swim it is in good temper."

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