

ISLAND HOME OF PELICANS

Favorite Nesting Resort of the Birds in Indian River, State of Florida.

In that long, narrow lagoon on the east coast of Florida known as Indian river, writes Frank M. Chapman in "An Intimate Study of the Pelican," in Century, there is a muddy islet three or four acres in extent. Originally it doubtless did not differ from hundreds of similar neighboring islets; but for some reason past finding out this islet, and this alone, forms the nesting resort, the home of all the pelicans of the Indian river, if not indeed, of the east coast of Florida.

PERIL OF PROFANATION.

Disregard for That Which is Holy Declared to Be Man's Greatest Failing.

The chief peril to which man is exposed is that of profanation of what is holy, from which he is shielded by shutting him up in the circle of his senses, and restricting him to the shallows of this reason, writes Julian Hawthorne, in "Lovers in Heaven," in Century. Within that circle, and in those shallows, he acquires what he believes is wisdom, pursues what he names ambitions, suffers what he fancies are pain and sorrow, wreaks what he intends for revenge, commits what he calls sins, indulges what he mistakes for love, and, in a word, lives what it is given him to imagine is human life.

SOCIETY BEAUTY A SPY.

Russian Lady Apprehended in Germany for Perpetrating Espionage.

Mlle. Zinaida Smolianoff, a beautiful young Russian lady, writes the Leipzig correspondent of the London Express, will appear in the dock at Leipzig very soon to answer the charge of perpetrating espionage in Germany on behalf of the Russian government. She has been a most prominent figure in the most fashionable society of the German capital for several years, and came here with warm letters of introduction from prominent Russians, describing her as a lady of noble family, with great literary accomplishments.

Dramatic Criticism.

"The best dramatic criticism I ever heard," said Will Winch, the theatrical press agent, "was made for a man who was in his cups. The piece, an English comedy, was dragging awfully. 'The curtain had been up nearly half an hour, I guess, and nothing had happened to check the yawns that were seen on the faces in the audience. At this point our slightly intoxicated friend straightened up, yawned, looked at his watch and said in a voice heard through the theater and on the stage: 'Say, what time does this show begin?'"

Authors' Two Sides.

Most of us mean to be acquainted with the great writers of the English language, at least, and it is only fair to them and to ourselves to begin our acquaintance as pleasantly as possible. For that reason it is wise to ask the advice of some older person who is fond of the author we mean to read. Often an author will have written in several differing styles. Some writings may like, others may offend us, and prevent us from inquiring further. No author has written always well; and there is trash published under all great names.

Indians as Farmers.

Peter Bird Chief, a Comanche Indian, living near Clinton, has been very successful in farming this year, says the Kansas City Journal. He has already gathered and marketed more than 500 bushels of corn and has more to place on the market. There are a number of the Comanches trying to follow the white farmer's footsteps, and many of the cotton fields were dotted with redskins this fall.

EXPERT ON SHIPWRECKS.

Principal Causes Attributable to Drink, Fogs and Unknown Currents.

"I have taken part, as a representative of the insurance underwriters, in the investigation of 100 shipwrecks. Most of these wrecks are due to running aground. The causes of wrecks are drink, fogs, neglect to use the sounding lead and unknown currents." The speaker was a bronzed ex-shipper. He went on: "The most dangerous waters lie off the east coast of England, Cape Cod and Cape Finistere. 'In the past the shifting of the cargo caused a good many wrecks, but the adoption of feed pipes has changed all that. Cargoes liable to shift consist of wheat, iron ore, coal and so on. Great feed pipes, filled with part of such cargoes now run down into the hold, and if the cargo shifts at all the pipes automatically pour more cargo into the space that has been made vacant. 'Off a wild part of the South American coast a four-master loaded with high-heeled French shoes was once wrecked. The native Indians stole the shoes, but couldn't wear them. They used them, instead, for boxing gloves, giving each other terrific taps with the French heels.'"

STORMS DUE THIS WINTER.

Weather Prophet of Massachusetts Announces That There Will Be Thirty-Four.

Perry L. Sheperdson, of this city, who has attained notoriety as an amateur prognosticator, makes the announcement that 34 storms are due this winter, reports the Springfield (Mass.) Union. He bases his calculations on the snowfall of a recent afternoon. The method by which he arrives at this conclusion is, to say the least, unique, and is calculated to do away with all the worry and nerve strain undergone by the official weather men, who base their predictions on general averages. Moreover, it is so simple that a mere child can work it out as well as his bearded senior. All that is necessary to know is the day of the month, the day of the week, and the number of days since the last change of the moon when the first snowfall occurs, and the rest is an easy example in addition. The snowfall of the other afternoon occurring on the 25th day of the month, the third day of the week and the third day after the new moon, gives a total of 34 storms for the winter.

WHERE MARRIAGE PAYS.

Traveling in Couples on the Ocean Can Be Done Much Cheaper.

"Married people have the best of it in ocean traveling," said a sea captain. "For they have a stateroom to themselves. People traveling alone, unless they are willing to pay a good deal extra, have to sleep in the same room with strangers—an unpleasant thing. 'Some of these lone travelers, to secure privacy, pay the extra fare. Others—many others—try to secure privacy by giving us lies instead of money. 'One man will tell the chief steward that he has an intolerable snore. Another will say that he is subject to epileptic attacks, wherein, in the small hours, he becomes a shrieking and dangerous maniac. Another will say that in the throes of acute seasickness, from the beginning of the voyage to the end, he fills the cabin day and night with dismal noises. 'No matter. They all have to share their staterooms with strangers. The only way out of it is to plank down the coin.'"

The Shrike or Butcher Bird.

There is a strange little bird, about as big as a robin, which nearly every winter brings us. He is generally alone, like a tiny black and gray hawk in many of his ways, but related truly to the gentle vireos and waxwings. He is the northern shrike, or butcher bird, and he gets a cruel living by catching mice and little birds, which he hangs on locust thorns, sharp twigs, or the points of a wire fence, as his feet, unlike the hawk's, are not strong enough to hold his prey. But he is a handsome fellow, and rarely one may hear a very sweet little song as he sits on the top of some leafless bush, particularly late in the winter. But generally he is silent, like the true birds of prey, or at best gives only a rasping squeal.—St. Nicholas.

Why Onions Induce Sleep.

"An old woman, when I said I had insomnia, told me to eat a raw onion every night before retiring. I did so, and slept excellently thereafter. Why, doctor, do onions induce sleep?" The physician, with a laugh, answered: "They induce sleep still better if, instead of eating them, you use their juice as a smelling salt—bottle it, sniff it. 'Why? You ought to know why. It is because the onion is a cousin to the poppy, and contains a mild form of opium.'"

Different Now.

"In ancient times," stated the professor, "all idiots were taken out and drowned. Why was that?" "Well," replied the student with the bulging forehead, "I suppose there were no openings for insurance inspectors and bank examiners in those days."—Pittsburg Post.

SHOT STRUCK DEER'S HORN

Hunter's Bullet Stuns Big Buck Without Having Entered the Hide.

"I had a chance this year of seeing what effect a bullet striking a deer's horn would have on the animal itself," said P. P. Wilder, at the St. Louis, according to the Duluth Herald. "My path lay along the old logging road, over a rolling country. I had traversed perhaps half the distance when, greatly to my surprise, on looking ahead, I saw a large buck walking along the road toward me. He was about 225 yards distant. I was just coming over the brow of a hill, and as yet the animal had failed to see me. I quickly dropped back behind the rise of ground and got in readiness to shoot, expecting the deer to come quite a lot nearer. Probably it wasn't more than 15 seconds, or possibly ten, before I cautiously raised my head over the knoll. M. game had disappeared. 'I started on the run down the road, in his direction. The trail was soft, and I wore rubbers, making scarcely a sound. I had nearly reached the place where I saw him when there was a great crashing off to the right. There was the buck, running at full speed, not more than 50 or 60 yards away. Only a little brush was between us. I got in two shots, and at the second he stopped almost dead still, and then began moving forward at a snail's pace, barely being able to drag himself along. It was just as if something was holding him back. Under these conditions I was able to land the next bullet in a vital spot, and the buck dropped in his track. On examining the body I found that the second bullet had struck near the base of the horn, almost shattering it. The shock stunned the animal so that it could scarcely move.'"

DONE FOR THE INDIANS.

Benefits Conferred Upon the Nation's Wards in the Last Nineteen Years.

Under the title "A New Chapter Opening for the Indians," the Boston Transcript reviews what has been done for these national wards since the Dawes bill in 1886. Concluding it says: "There is no longer any reason to doubt that, as humanitarians have always hoped, what is left of the race will become a sturdy and valuable strand in the national cable. Too many Indians among those who have been fortunate in their surroundings and circumstances have become well-to-do and respected citizens in the western states; too many flourishing districts in the transmississippi country are already to their credit as civilized and improvers of the land, to doubt this any longer. The Indian of romance has gone; but the time will come when any strain of Indian blood will be gloried in by its possessor, as, indeed, it is now by many a person of note in the country. There were at one time, not long since, three or four living United States senators of Indian stock, including the distinguished senator from Alabama—Morgan. There has never been any time, from the foundation of this government, when there has not been Indian blood in the senate from John Randolph, of Roanoke, down. The latest conclusion of the bureau of ethnology of the Smithsonian institution is that instead of tending toward extinction, the North American Indians are in greater numbers in this country to-day than they were at the date of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus."

DESTRUCTION BY WEEVILS.

Insects Cause Great Loss in the Chestnut Groves of the Various States.

A fair estimate of the damage done annually by weevils to chestnut grown in the United States would probably fall little short of 25 per cent, while in some years the percentage exceeds that figure, running as high as 40 or 50 per cent., states the Scientific American. Growers in some localities report no damage, others place losses as low as five or ten per cent., while instances are cited of whole crops being destroyed. The amount of loss is dependent on locality, season, and to a more limited extent on the variety of nuts grown. The greatest damage is usually incurred in regions where chestnuts have grown wild for many years, and the least where there are no wild chestnuts or chinquapins and the nuts are grown only for market and are carefully gathered. The most extensive losses, judging from available sources of information, appear to be in Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York (in the vicinity of New York city), Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee and North Carolina.

Animals Have Thick Coats.

Hard winter signs, according to predictions handed down by our forefathers, are in abundance this fall. "Expert" woodsmen declare that the squirrel and other animals of the woods have thicker coats of fur than usual. There is an old saying handed down from time immemorial to the effect that wild animals grow much thicker coats of fur when the winter is going to be hard. So taking these signs, as well as hundreds of others, which each of the local "prophets" can give, under consideration, the farmers have been unusually active in their preparations.—Richmond Times-Democrat.

Why He Didn't Propose.

Borum—If I were to ask your hand in marriage would you say "No?" Miss Cotrox—Not me. I'd turn you over to papa and telephone for an ambulance.—Chicago Daily News.

MARINE ENGINEER'S JOB.

The Difficulties of His Duties Are Illustrated by a Startling Incident.

Of all causes of boiler deterioration, says E. P. Watson, in the Engineering Magazine, by far the most numerous are those arising from the presence of scale and its twin sister incrustation; but broken braces can give an engineer a very bad quarter of an hour. A steamer plying on the great lakes many years ago, carried very high steam for those days—50 pounds per square inch on a very large and light shell. The engineer on watch was down in the fireroom looking around when a loud bang came from one of the boilers. Instantly divining the cause he looked questioningly at the head watch-tender, who replied: "Be jabers, I hope that ain't next-door neighbor to the one that let soon the other watch." That startled the engineer, for he had not been told of the other broken brace; he at once stopped the blowers, opened the doors, shut the stop-valve between the boilers, and put on the feed pumps as rapidly as they could go so as to reduce pressure. The deck department was notified that it would be necessary to stop, and they hauled to one side of the channel and waited for the coming up of another boat in the same line passed a few miles back. The passengers (there were 1,000 on board) and mails were transferred, and the boat returned with the injured boiler out of business. Upon examination the next day it was found that three braces had given way at or near one another, two letting go simultaneously apparently, and that the precautions taken against a disaster (which would have been terrible if it had occurred) were none too soon. This was merely an episode within the every-day duty of an engineer, and carries its own warning.

HER PET WAS NOT A DOG.

And the Women with Canine Pets Turned Up Their Noses At Her.

When the thin woman in the long gray ulster sat down in the subway car opposite the fat woman holding a bright little Scotch terrier it could be seen at once that they had points of common interest, and that these points of common interest consisted of dogs. "What a dear little fellow he is," chirped the thin woman. "Isn't he dear?" cooed the fat woman, snuggling her pet so closely that he had to sniff for breath. "Mine is a French poodle," ventured the thin woman. "I hear those gray terriers are coming into style, though." "Yes, they're all the rage," said the fat woman. "I had to give up 50 for Sandy." A handsome young woman who occupied the seat by the thin woman was an interested listener to the colloquy. She was good looking enough to attract attention anywhere, and she looked as if she loved everything that was worth loving in this world, including dogs. She leaned over and gave Sandy's head an affectionate pat, and Sandy tried to lick her gloved hand. "You love dogs, too?" said the fat woman. "Oh, yes," was the reply. "Who could help it?" "What kind is yours?" came the eager query. "Mine? Oh, haven't any. Have a baby." And the fat woman and the thin woman raised their brows, turned up their noses and grew coldly silent, just as if some one had said something to shock their sense of modesty.

RUSSIA MAY RIVAL AMERICA

Growing Enlightenment and Freedom Promise Great Agricultural Advancement.

Illustrations of the world's economic solidarity are the recent Russian influences on the security markets everywhere. Russian enlightenment and freedom promise to make marked impressions on future American farming. Henry D. Baker says that agriculture now gives employment to 87 1/2 per cent. of Russia's population, but Russian agriculture is now in a terrible condition. The Russian peasant-enlightened will prove a powerful rival to the Yankee farmer. The average return per hectare of land in Russia is said to be 382 kilos, while the German return is 1,300 kilos. Russia has to use 25 per cent. of her harvest as seed for future sowing, which is about double what other nations use. Curiously, even in the direct times, like during the recent war and late chaotic conditions, Russia still makes heavy exports of wheat. This doubtless is because wheat is one of the chief quick assets of the country. The Russian peasantry have wheat to export to England when they scarcely can afford to buy rye bread for their own hamlets. Their exports of wheat will help pay the interest on their nation's enormous foreign obligations, but individually they yield trifling cash returns.

Temperature and Butterflies.

Some remarkably interesting experiments are reported from Zurich showing the effect of temperature on the development of species among butterflies. The experiments have been continued through a period of about 14 years, and it is found, for instance, that the common small tortoiseshell butterfly, if subjected to warmth of from 37 degrees to 39 degrees centigrade—devalpe into the variety found in Sardinia while those bred in a temperature of from four degrees to six degrees produce the Lapland variety. Similarly the application of heat produced the Sardinian form of the swallow-tail butterfly and the Syrian form of the Apollo.

SALARIES TO DAUGHTERS.

Novel Theory Which is Said to Be Very Successful in Home Practice.

Where there is need of her work in the home, and often help has to be hired to take her place, the daughter should be given a regular salary, approximately the equivalent of what she could earn outside after making allowance for board, room rent and the numberless privileges a girl has in her father's house. The salary should be at least equal to what would have to be paid for the same work if a stranger were called in to do it, says the New York Independent in advocating the custom, and the duties should be as distinctly defined and as promptly and efficiently performed. This is a very different thing from an allowance without definite duties. We know of several families where this plan has worked successfully. In one instance the daughter, while unmarried, became a capable housekeeper and manager, parents of care and annoyance, for which she received a housekeeper's wages at the end of every month. Another, whose mother is an invalid, gets a weekly envelope containing the same amount that would have been paid a nurse. Both these salaried daughters were happy, contented and efficient, and each had a feeling of independence and self-reliance never to be attained under the "allowance" system or the usual haphazard appeal to father for money to gratify needs or whims.

THE BENEFITS OF FREE ART

Influence on the Public of Fine Collections Placed on Exhibition.

Few men buy foreign masterpieces for the purpose of keeping them sequestered in drawing rooms—they are freely shown to artists, students of art, and the public in loan exhibitions, at clubs, in museums, and even in tenement house regions, and eventually will find their way to the great free public collections, says Century. Their influence in elevating the taste of the country is direct, strong and indispensable, and the people opposed to the free importation of them are those who have least acquaintance with them, and who, therefore, suffer most from the absurd restrictions of the law. The representative of a constituency remote from an artistic center, who should vote against free art, would simply be cutting off his nose to spite his face. The argument that free art would open the flood gates to foreign trash loses sight of the fact that good taste in art is formed by seeing the best pictures, not by failing to see poor ones. There is plenty of wretched art in this country already, but there never can be a sufficiency of masterpieces. If two famous Titians in a certain dining-room in New York could daily be seen of all men—they have been loaned for months at a time to the Metropolitan museum—they alone would measurably decrease the demand for trash.

TOMMY'S KIND ACTS.

Took Mamma's Talk on Charity to Heart and Carried Out Injunctions.

Gov. Folk of Missouri was talking about reform, relates the Kansas City Journal. "We all believe in it," he said, "but we want to see it brought about at other folks' expense. We are like, too like a certain Kansas City boy. 'This boy's mother said to him on her return from a long day's shopping in the Thanksgiving season: 'Now, I hope my little Tommy has taken to heart mamma's talk of last night about charity and unselfishness. Since he has few troubles of his own, I hope he has thought of others' troubles all day long. Since he has many causes for thanksgiving himself, I hope he has tried to give cause for thanksgiving to others. What is my Tommy's report for the day? How many acts of kindness has he done? How much woe has he lightened? How many hearts has my Tommy made grateful and glad?' 'In this rather mushy way spoke the good young mother. And her Tommy replied: 'I've done a whole lot of good, ma. I gave my new hat to a beggar woman, and I gave the cook's shoes to a little girl in busted rubbers what I seen on the street, and I gave a poor lame shoe-streting seller pa's evening suit—the open front one that he hardly ever wears.'"

America and Rome.

With idleness and luxury went the usual tendency to brutality and demoralization. The historical novel was not invented; so that Roman ladies and gentlemen could not sit by the fire of an evening and read highly-spiced narratives of murder and torture. But after all, the incidents of the arena, though less varied, were perhaps even more poignant than Mr. Kipling or Mr. Jack London. Social morals, too, were of a quality which seems only too apt to accompany the highest civilization. Divorce was almost as easily obtained as in some of our western states, and nearly as common. Cicero, for instance, was separated from two wives; yet he was universally regarded as of stainless character, and that he was wise is shown by his remarking, when urged to marry a third time, that "it is difficult for a man to devote himself at once to a wife and to philosophy."—Gamaliel Bradford, Jr., in Atlantic.

He Took No Risks.

Smith—How about your family after your death? Jones—They will be provided for, old man. I carry no insurance.—Life.

FAILED TO BEAT 'PHONE.

Man with Plugged Coin Was Not Foxy Enough to Make It Work.

A friend of the proprietor went into a cigar store the other day and stepped to the slot telephone. Taking down the receiver, he told the girl at the central station what number he wanted. Then, says the Philadelphia Inquirer, while she was ringing up that number he called out to the proprietor or the store: "Say, Bert, why isn't this a good place to work off this plugged dime." "It is," said the proprietor. "Chuck it in." In a moment the girl said: "Ten cents please." Down went the plugged dime into the slot. "Too-oo-oot," went the little horn in the machine. "Ten cents, please," said the girl again. "I just put in a dime," he protested. "I know," she answered, "but you'll have to put in another. That one was plugged." "I thought probably it would be a good place to work off the plugged dime," the proprietor laughed later. "It was. You worked it off all right." "But how the mischief did she know it was plugged?" asked the friend. The horn tooted all right. "Yes," said the proprietor, "but she's a pretty smart girl. She knows especially when you hold the receiver in your hand and tell somebody you are going to put in a plugged coin."

MONKEY AND THE LADY.

Feminine Fashionable Has a New Whim Which Makes Her Conspicuous.

The monkey is being adopted as a pet by some women in these days. This fashion is exhibited to the world because it is the thing to do to take the monkey out driving with you if you own one, says the New York Sun. "I take my monkey out driving, just as I would a pet dog," explained a pioneer in this field. Her friends did not believe her until the other day, when one of them came forward to corroborate her. "I saw her," said this witness. "I was on a side street, standing at the curb about to cross the street, when I found my eyes fixed upon the almost human eyes of a monkey walking on the top of the closed doors of a passing hansom. 'Back of the monkey she sat looking as pretty as a picture and evidently much pleased with the attention that her pet was drawing to herself if not to mention herself. 'He was not one bit the barrel-organ type of monkey, but a dainty monkey wearing no other coat than his own natural fur, the color of a fawn with a sheen of satin. 'A silver collar set with turquoise circled the little creature's neck. A silver chain attached the collar to the mistress's hand. She, by the way, carried out the silver and pale blue color scheme charmingly in her own attire.'"

WORLD'S WETTEST PLACE.

Where the Average Annual Rainfall is Nearly Thirty-Seven Feet.

The wettest place in the world, according to the Russian Meteorological Journal, as abstracted in the Revue Scientifique, is Cherrapunji, in the Indian province of Assam. From 1895 to 1902 the average annual rainfall was 11,223 meters (nearly 37 feet). Next came the environs of Bombay, with 6,833 meters annually. But it should be noted that at the station of Debundscha, in Kamerun, 10,464 meters (34 feet) of rain fell annually, chiefly in summer. The wettest year in Cherrapunji was 14,789 meters (48 feet) in 1861, and in Debundscha 14,133 meters (46 feet) in 1902. In the latter place there fell in the one day of June 16, 1902, 456 millimeters (over one and a half feet) of water—more than the whole annual average in the Parisian basin. The neighborhood of warm seas and high mountains is the principal cause of these extraordinary precipitations. It may be expected that the extension of meteorological observation will show other zones of rainfall more intense than has been hitherto believed, as in Java and Sumatra.

Hoot of the French Motor.

One generally thinks of the French language as being more musical than our harsher northern tongue. But the motor-hoot in French is a far more ear-splitting affair than it is in English. To begin with, it is more often a siren than a hoot, and all over France one now hears the long, extructuating wails that are generally associated with ships—or with souls in torment. And when, as in some instances, a railway whistle is substituted, and the automobile rushes shrieking over the country-side like an express train, the English tourist discovers very emphatically that he does not like the motor-horn with a French accent.

Never.

Him—Do you think women should have the privilege of proposing? Her—Emphatically not. "Why not?" "And give men the privilege of refusing?" Never.—Cleveland Leader.

Bather Indefinite.

Miles—You ought to see the horse I purchased last week. He can pass anything on the road. Giles—So? Going in the same direction?—Chicago Daily News.