

A HAWK'S REASONING.

How It Came to a Wise Conclusion When a Hunter Interfered With.

Birds of prey generally possess instinct enough for all ordinary emergencies. There are, however, special occasions on which a call is made for unusual sagacity, and it is then that we see how near these creatures come to reasoning in the same way as ourselves. The author of "Twixt Ben Nevis and Glencoe" gives, bearing upon this point, a story which he had from the keeper on an estate in that neighborhood.

One day in July the keeper in question, happening to be out after evening with his gun, saw coming in his direction a bird which he knew to be some kind of hawk, but whose manner of flight puzzled him extremely. It was beating up the wind toward him as if with a sorely wounded wing, manifestly impeded in some way that caused it to zigzag and struggle strangely in its flight.

Seeing that it kept its course it was likely to pass within easy shot, the keeper quietly retired into a clump of ferns on one knee, with his gun ready for action. He had, however, to wait longer than he expected, for the hawk, meanwhile, alighted on the top of a large gray bowlder a hundred yards away, and seemed very busy about something, though what it was the keeper at that distance could not make out.

In about five minutes, however, the hawk took wing again, this time with a much more steady and even flight. He was soon overhead, and near enough to drop to the keeper's gun. On going up to his prize the keeper found that it was, indeed, a hawk, and beside it was lying a plump partridge, well grown, but to the keeper's surprise, almost altogether stripped of its feathers.

On going to the bowlder on which the kestrel had rested for a while, all the missing feathers of the partridge were found scattered about, and the keeper instantly took in the state of the matters from first to last, and explained it thus: The kestrel, having struck down the partridge, was carrying the dainty morsel to his greedy fledgling in their nest. The wind, however, was strong and gusty, and adverse to the kestrel's line of flight; and of the wind, the wings and tail, limp and pendent, of the partridge caught so much, that it was only with great difficulty the plucky little captor could make any satisfactory headway.

Getting tired of the struggle at last, he must have reasoned with himself somewhat after this fashion: "My partridge burden is more difficult to get along with than it really need be. I am heartily ashamed of myself, acting thus like a booby. I will take a rest on yonder bowlder and pluck away all the wing and tail feathers of my dainty bit of game, an operation which, while it leaves my partridge quite as big and good to eat as before, will enable me to bear it up, and carry it against the wind with comparative ease."

The color of the sea is not uniform, though it is generally described as bluish green. In the tropics it is generally indigo blue. The cause of the change of hues is explained as depending on the action of suspended particles of solid matter on the light which traverses the water. Light entering the water is refracted, and therefore more or less resolved into its primary colors, especially if the water is of sufficient depth. The red, orange and yellow rays do not penetrate the water to so great a depth as the blue and violet. Now, the presence of minute solid particles causes some of the light after entering the water to be reflected, and the color of this reflected light will depend upon the depth at which the reflection takes place.

If the particles are large, and freely reflect from a moderate depth, they will also prevent reflection from greater depth, so that the rays coming from the eyes of the observer will be green; but if the particles in the upper strata are minute, and the reflection is from a considerable depth the color will be more nearly a pure blue. Professor Tyndall, it is said, while making a voyage in a steamer, had a white plate attached to a cord cast into the water at a moderate depth, and when it reached the proper point of observation its color was green, although that of the water was blue.—Montreal Star.

For one reason or another, the majority of flower users are not flower raisers, and necessarily the few must supply the many. In the city or large town all can procure their needed flowers from professional florists, but in many smaller places there is no small demand constantly being made on the amateur who raises choice flowers. It is a real pleasure to give one's pretty town girls the dainty, courage bouquets they ask for, and each Sunday morning to supply the neighbors' children with their little button hole bouquets. It is gratifying to one's pride to have a dozen or more persons call each day "just to see the flowers," quite expecting and in fact receiving, a nosegay each, and it is almost a privilege to send flowers to adorn the bride or to place on the bosom of the dead; yet if all these flowers, for all these varied purposes, must be furnished by one, that person must use some forethought or else see his or her flower beds robbed of half of their beauty.—Vick's Magazine.

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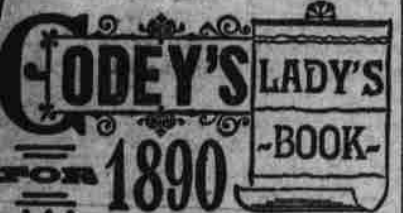
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Jan. 7, 1890.

Shipping Dressed Poultry.

First see that all poultry is well fattened, as there is a great difference between the price of fat and that of poor poultry, and, in a fully stocked market, good poultry, well fattened and well dressed, will always command ready sale and good prices, while poor, badly dressed, is slow sale at low prices. Therefore there is not only gain in weight by having poultry properly dressed, but also in price. Corn is the best for finishing off poultry, as it gives a firmer flesh and yellower color than buckwheat and other grains. Feed nothing from twelve to twenty-four hours before killing, so that the crops will be perfectly empty.

In killing, use a sharp, narrow-bladed knife, inserting it in the mouth as far back as the ears, and cutting the vein. Then hang it up by the legs, until thoroughly bled. The water for scalding should be at boiling point. Take the fowl by the legs and head, dip in the water two or three times, letting the hot water through the feathers to the skin. Then strip off the feathers clean, pin-feathers and all. If the heads are dipped in the water the scalding will make them look stale and shrunken. After thoroughly picking, dip in clean scalding water, then plunge in clean cold water, letting it remain about ten minutes. Take it out and hang up in a cool, dry place, in a current of air, but do not let it freeze. Do not draw it, or take the intestines out. Leave the head and legs on, and use great care in dressing not to rub or tear the skin, bruise the flesh, or break the bones. The above hints are for scalded poultry, which is in most demand.

For picking, kill by bleeding in the mouth, and immediately strip the feathers off clean while the fowl is warm, using great care not to tear or bruise the flesh. Then hang up by the legs to cool off, the same as for scalded fowls. Some persons also do what is called half-scalding, which is, after dry-picking cleanly, to dip in scalding water, then in cold. Turkeys, ducks, and geese go through the same process in dressing as fowls, both scalding and dry-picking. Some persons, after the ducks and geese are picked, to more thoroughly free them from pin feathers rub them over with powdered rosin; dip in scalding water and rub off the rosin and pin feathers, then wash through with warm water and brush with soap; then rinse in cold water and hang up until cold and thoroughly dried.—American Agriculturist.

Raise Your Own Cows.

A half dozen good cows are worth a dozen poor ones. It takes as much food and care to keep a poor cow as it does a good one, and while the former barely returns enough at most to "pay her way," the latter returns a comfortable profit to the owner. Those farmers who are looking around for really good cows know how difficult it is to buy one; when found, at a price, they can afford to pay. Yet they frequently keep "looking around" for several years, when they might, in the same time, have raised several choice cows themselves. Of course it takes time to rear a good sized herd of profitable cows, but this expenditure of time is only in lieu of the money expenditure absolutely necessary to purchase a desirable animal. As a farmer usually can spare the time better than he can spare the cash, it is easy to see what is the best course to pursue. There are but few farmers who do not now have, at least one, two or three cows fairly good, which can be used as a start in improvement. Do not use a scrub bull merely because your neighbor happens to have him and charges nothing, but rather pay a fair price for a good, pure-bred one. Save all the heifer calves and carefully raise them. When they are about three years old, and less than four years from the time the improvement is started, you will have fine young cows. Other calves will also be coming on, from them as well as from the original cows, and in five or six years there will be quite a herd; the common, unprofitable cows having been worked off to the butcher. Many a farmer wishes he had commenced five or six years ago. He does not think that he will likely say the same thing five or six years hence, yet does not commence now. Good, pure-bred bulls have now become so well distributed, that the use of one can usually be secured without much difficulty, while a good bull calf can be had from such stock, eligible to entry, for a comparatively low price. Enough can, as a rule, be counted on from neighboring farmers' herds to pay for his keep.—American Agriculturist.

Do you know that the largest room in the world, under one roof and unbroken by pillars, is at St. Petersburg? It is 630 feet long by 150 in breadth. By daylight it is used for military displays, and a battalion can completely maneuver in it. 20,000 wax tapers are required to light it. The roof of this structure is a single arch of iron, and it exhibits a remarkable engineering skill in the architect.

1890.

In 1890 we shall see Events as follows come to be:

Sea serpents, as in years gone by, will come around about July.

The ice man and the plumber will be usual present their bill.

The price of summer board will rise in August to the very skies.

The gray mosquito, as of yore, will humbly annoy you.

Likewise the festive fly, so fleet, will agitate his nervous feet.

Each fisherman will fish and lie as he has done in years gone by.

When comes along the verdant spring, The poet will be heard to sing.

And from the garbage pile of time Will prick the ashes of a rhyme.

The funny man his jokes will crack (The same old jokes—see almanac.)

On winter nights will povers sit For hours and watch the firelight flit;

And when the summer comes, they still Upon the beach will coo and bill.

"The oldest man," as in years past, At intervals will breathe his last.

In all trades merchants who are wise, As usual, will advertise.

In fact, these things and many more, In 1890 are in store.

And yet with sorrow is it fraught; Unhappy year! It ends with naught.

A Sam Jones Story.

A good story is told of Rev. Sam Jones—an incident that happened when the well-known preacher first started in evangelistic work. He went to a small town and was told that he would have a hard time in the church, as there were numerous feuds existing between the members, and two brothers, who both belonged to the church, never spoke to each other, nor did their families.

The night for opening the meeting arrived. Mr. Jones entered the church while the choir and congregation were singing:

"Come, angel band; Come, and around me stand. O, bear me away on your snowy wings To my immortal home."

When the center of the church, was reached Mr. Jones stopped in the aisle, waved his hat at his choir and shouted: "Stop! Stop that singing!"

The music ceased at once, and Mr. Jones continued:

"That's not a fit song to be singing in this church. I am told that there are brothers and cousins who belong here and yet don't speak to each other. Now do you think there is any danger of hearing the rustling of angels' wings beneath the roof with such a state of affairs? You won't hear any kind of

wings rustle as long as that sort of thing keeps up, unless it's a buzzard's wings."

The two brothers in his friends before the meeting broke up.

Axtell, the \$100,000 Colt.

Since the great Dexter excitement of more than twenty years ago, no event has created so much interest as the achievements and sale of the young stallion Axtell, whose portrait is given in the American Agriculturist for January. In fact the latter event so far surpassed the former that a comparison of the two forcibly illustrates the great advance of the American road horse during a period of a little more than twenty years. When Dexter was his record of a mile in 2:17; he was of mature age, and at the summit of his powers. Yet this speed was so far in advance of previous performances that the gelding was sold soon after for \$35,000. In the more recent event Axtell only three years old, yet he goes a mile in 2:12, and is sold for a price nearly three and a quarter times greater than was paid for Dexter.

The history of Axtell is as brief as sensational. He was foaled in 1886, bred, raised, trained, and driven by Charles H. Williams, a young man of Independence, Iowa. His first victory was at Keokuk, Iowa, August 9, 1889, where he won'three straight heats, in 2:50, 2:41, and 2:31. As it was a race for three-year-olds, he was protested, and the protest sustained. But this, though it deprived his owner of the immediate results of the victory, made it the more remarkable. During the same year the colt was trotted at Chicago, Minneapolis, Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, and Lexington, Ky., retiring with the unexampled record, for a two-year-old, of 2:23.

On the opening of the season of 1889, Axtell was an object of eager interest and great expectations which he has more than fulfilled. He began by winning a stallion race at Chicago in 2:19, 2:14, and 2:20. This left him the champion of three-year-olds. He wore this honor but a few weeks, however, when the California filly Sunol trotted in 2:13. But her triumph was short-lived, for at Indianapolis, October 11, Axtell trotted a mile in 2:12, beating his own time by two seconds, the three-year-old record by one and three-quarter seconds, the stallion record by one and one-quarter seconds, and making him the most famous horse in the world. Soon after the race Axtell was sold for \$100,000 to Col. J. W. Conley,

of Chicago, who represented a syndicate, which included Col. Conley, W. F. Jams, of Terre Haute, A. E. Brush, and F. T. Moran, both of Detroit.

Axtell represents a large proportion of Mambrioo blood, combined with that of George Wilkes, Rydick's Hambletonian, Seely's American Star, and Clay, upon thoroughbred foundation.—American Agriculturist.

Long Keeping of Apples.

Winter apples of the best keeping sorts may be kept until summer apples are available. Of course, perfectly sound apples must be selected—a small bruise or decayed spot cannot be allowed. A temperature just above the freezing point, and equable, is essential. Fruit do not keep so well in a warm temperature, and fluctuations are even more to be avoided.

This should be observed in keeping apples for use during winter and early spring; and for this reason it is best to have the fruit-room disconnected from the cellar, or at least separated from the rest of the cellar by a partition. If a brick partition cannot be afforded, one of matched boards will answer. Sliding sash will enable one to regulate the temperature. The fruit-room should always contain a reliable thermometer.

Select the apples for long keeping in the late fall or early winter, and wrap tissue paper around each apple. Bought in quantity this paper is cheap, and several bushels can be wrapped in an hour. Place the apples on shelves, stems up. Or, what is perhaps a better plan, pack the apples down in fire-dried mudst or bran, chaff or land plaster. The fruit may be packed in either kegs, barrels or boxes. First a layer of chaff, or whatever is used, an inch thick; then a layer of apples, stems up; fill all spaces with the chaff, and then a layer of chaff, and so on. Apples so packed will keep nicely in an outhouse with three or four feet of straw thrown over them. The barrels or boxes should rest on the ground.

The apples to be kept late should be stored out in the early spring and placed in a room that can be kept cool—ones that can be opened up to admit the cool night air and closed tight during the heat of the day.—American Agriculturist.

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