

# THE ALAMANCE GLEANER.

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## Blackbirds Eat Trout; Cows Are Fed on Fish

These who study Nature find that age-long traits and habits are being in some cases modified and in others entirely changed.

The writer knows of a case where a bird has its habits changed by altered conditions. A trout fishery was established on an estate in Scotland. During certain seasons a large number of the fry or young trout are crowded together in shallow ponds, as their inclination is to keep together just where the water enters.

One day a blackbird, drinking at one of these ponds, got hold of a young trout, probably accidentally, but found it was excellent feeding. A blackbird does not by habit get its food from the water, but this particular one, having tapped a new source of food supply, returned to it again and again.

The following season this bird had by some means been able to impart its newly found knowledge to all the other blackbirds on the estate, and instead of one bird stealing the young fish, all the birds got into the way of doing so! The owner had either to shoot the blackbirds or give up trying to rear trout.

That an entire change of food is not detrimental may be proved by the fact that many of the cows kept in Norway are fed on fish, yet who will say that a cow's teeth were made for dealing with a diet of this sort?—Philadelphia Inquirer.

## Ghost Gives Shampoo to Women Customers

The curious story of a ghost that occupied itself in shampooing customers in a Kensington hairdresser's shop is told by Mary L. Lewis in "The Queer Side of Things," recently published here, says a London correspondent of the New York World.

A woman who entered the shop in a busy hour was told she must wait until an assistant was free, the story goes. Very soon a tall girl with red hair and a velvet bow on her head came to the customer and set to work to shampoo her. The business owner and the lady ready to put on her hat again, she turned around to ask the assistant for her bill, but to her surprise the girl had gone. Just then another attendant came in and said: "Now, madam, I am ready."

"But I have just been shampooed," answered the customer, as indeed her hair showed, without doubt, that it had just been expertly washed. Whereupon the assistant had to give in, and at last, being pressed for explanation, owned that the same thing had happened to other customers. There was no ordinary explanation, beyond the fact that a girl with red hair who used until lately to be employed there had committed suicide, and that it was possibly her uneasy spirit that still returned to the scene of her former occupation.

## His Stroke of Luck

One of the best legal anecdotes on record is told by Sir Ernest Wild, K. C. A civil action was being heard in a certain court of justice, and counsel, having opened the case, called the plaintiff, whereupon a member of the jury rose, left the jury box, and made his way to the witness box. Asked what he was doing, he stated that he was the plaintiff. "Then what are you doing on the jury?" said the judge. "I was summoned to sit on the jury," said the man, producing the summons. "But surely," said the judge, "you know that you cannot help to try your own case?" "Well," said the baffled one ruefully, "I did think it was a bit of luck."

## Turn of the Tide

On entering his club one evening a young Washingtonian was accosted by a friend, who exclaimed: "Why, Dick, you are positively beaming! What's up?" "I am in the greatest luck imaginable," responded Dick. "You see, I have been attentive to a pretty Chevy Chase girl for more than a year. During all of that time she would never look at me; she loved me; she would only say that she respected me. But now, old chap, congratulate me, for last night she confessed that she respected me no longer—that she loved me!"—Kansas City Star.

## Lucky Brides

Three hundred years ago the owner of a castle in Norfolk, England, left £1,000, the interest of which was to be divided between the eldest and the youngest, the tallest and the shortest of the brides who were married during the year in the village belonging to the castle.

This original custom is still continued. After each wedding in the village the bride is measured by the clergyman, and at the end of the year the result is made known and the "record" brides receive the gifts.

## Claims to Have Seen Owls Flying in Flock

It is common knowledge that tawny, barn, and long-eared owls have increased considerably in numbers in East Latham in recent years, and there is no doubt that they are today far more numerous than most people have any idea.

Motoring recently after the fall of darkness along a byroad between Macmerry and Penciltand, writes H. M. B. in the Edinburgh Scotsman, I drew the attention of my passenger to an owl flying overhead, and at the same time I slackened speed so that we might obtain a better view of the bird. We then noticed a second owl, and almost immediately a third and a fourth, flying over the field on our right; indeed, it seemed that there was a whole flock of them, as we counted as many as six clearly visible against the sky at the same time. At first I thought that they must be peewits, which often besport themselves thus after darkness, but as the birds crossed the rays of the head lamps there was no doubting that they were owls—tawny or barn, I think the latter. Certainly they were not long-eared owls.

Long-eared owls are, to some extent, gregarious and sociable by disposition—that is, a number of them may foregather irrespective of food or mating attractions. Such meetings are purely social, and in the case of the long-eared owl they may occur at any season, day or night; but I have never heard of a purely social gathering of brown or barn owls.

## Both Birds and Animals Subject to Epidemics

Dr. Herbert Fox, pathologist of the Philadelphia zoo and head of the Pepper laboratory at the university, has written a book on the diseases of wild animals and birds. For the last eighteen years Dr. Fox has been studying the tenants of the zoological garden—the only place in the world where such exhaustive work has been done.

Pulling a tiger's tooth or treating a humming bird for tuberculosis is all the same to this man of science, observes "Girard" in the Philadelphia Inquirer. Dr. Fox has laid bare many startling results. Among others he found that tuberculosis was the foe which swiftly depopulated monkey cages. Epidemics afflict birds as they do men. The inference is drawn that distinct races of animals and birds were wiped out by disease.

A practical result of Dr. Fox's search is that monkeys and other animals and birds may now live for a far longer time in captivity than formerly. And his experiments on the epidemics among birds may give the real clue for the startling and sudden annihilation of our wild pigeons.

## Cleanly Wild Animals

With every wild creature cleanliness is essential. Even the despised rat spends a large proportion of its time in cleaning itself. All the cats, from the lordly lion downward, are most particular about washing and combing their fur. The rough tongue acts as a kind of sponge, and you will notice how a cat licks her paws and uses them to clean such parts of her body as are beyond the reach of her tongue.

As a substitute for the powder so popular with feminine humanity, birds find dust invaluable. The domestic fowl loves nothing better than a dust bath. Partridges, sparrows and larks roll and flitter in the dust until their feathers are full of it.

## Isles Bird Havens

Around the coast of Britain there are several islands chiefly populated by marine birds. The Farnes have been the winter resort of the elder duck for generations and probably for many centuries. The Skerries of the Anglesey coast are the sanctuary of the arctic tern and the beautiful roseate tern.

Holyhead island is visited occasionally by the whopper swan, the somewhat rare tufted duck and the red-breasted merganser, says the Detroit News. Puffin island, at the entrance to the Menai strait, is named after the birds that inhabit it.

## Odd Playing Cards

A pack of Hindustani cards in the possession of the Royal Asiatic society of England is supposed to be one thousand years old. It consists of eight suits of various colors. The kings are mounted on elephants; the viziers, or those second in rank, are upon horses, tigers and bulls. Some of the cards have such curious marks as a pineapple in a shallow cup and an object similar to a parasol without a handle, but with two broken ribs sticking through the top.

## Exceptions

Evelyn—Why worry? We can live on love, dear. Vaughn—You may love me but the landlord and grocer don't.

## Distilled Wisdom in Aged Irish Proverbs

"The proverbs of a nation are the distilled wit of generations of its people, and the true wit of the race is oftentimes in proportion to the truth and beauty of its proverbs," says Seumas MacLannan, who points out, according to the Montreal Herald, that the sayings of the Irish are singularly rich in poetry, philosophy, satire and wisdom.

"The silent mouth is melodious," is an Irish proverb of poetic beauty. "Our eyes should be blind in the abode of another," and "If the best man's thoughts were written on his forehead, he would wear his hat down over his eyes," inculcate charity in judging others.

"God never shuts one door but He opens two," and "Hope is the physician of every misery," express the optimism of the race.

"Fierceness is often hidden under beauty." "There is often anger in a laugh," and "A good dress often hides a deceiver," are other ways of expressing the idea that appearances are sometimes deceiving.

"A man with one eye is a king among blind men." "Without treasure, without friends," and "A heavy purse makes a light heart," show the advantages of possession.

"Look before you leap," and "Don't take the thatch off your own house to buy slates for another man's," are good advice to the improvident.

"Enough is as good as a feast," preaches a sermon on contentment.

## Many Countries Supply England With Oranges

We seldom stop to think in England what a wonderful and delicious fruit the orange is. Its "family tree" includes the lemon, the citrus, and the lime, and the first oranges seem to have come from India.

They came to this cold country by way of south Italy, Spain and Portugal, and until recent times, when millions of boxes reach us from California and Queensland, our main supply came from the south of Europe. The sight of a Queensland or California orange ranch is one to remember, for the orange tree bears blossom and fruit simultaneously. In Europe, where orange growing is an ancient industry, trees are to be seen whose age is reckoned by centuries. The up-to-date colonial orange grower clears his old trees out as soon as they begin to fall and puts young trees in their place.

Many thousands of boxes of oranges arrive at the London docks, not only from the countries already mentioned, but from the Azores, the West Indies, Tangier, Malta, Brazil and many other tropical and subtropical lands, says London Tit-Bits. There are nearly a hundred different varieties of orange, of which the navel orange is the pick. It is one of the triumphs of orange growers that they have created a fruit which is seedless.

## Lucky

A dentist was called on in a hurry by Jenkinson, who was suffering violently from toothache. The dentist examined the tooth, saw it was badly gone, and said it must come out. So he gave a tremendous yank with his big silver forceps, and the extraction seemed successful; but on closer inspection it was found that a small piece of tooth remained in the swollen and sensitive gum. The dentist went jabbing about for this piece a good while. However, he hadn't much luck.

"Hang it all," he said finally, as he jabbed at the gum in a rather impatient, cross way—"hang it all, I don't seem to feel it." "No?" said poor Jenkinson, all white and trembling. "You're in luck."

## "Poor Man's" Gout

Chronic gout is a lingering malady characterized by deposits of urate of sodium on the joint cartilages at the ends of the bones, especially in the fingers, and often in the ears. It is also marked by an excess of oxalic acid salts in the blood. There is severe pain in one or more of the joints at the time the deposits are forming, and the pain may recur from time to time in the same or in other joints. Frequently the eyes suffer and in some cases the disease attacks the internal organs. Chronic gout is sometimes called "poor man's" gout. Its treatment, which is usually dietetic, should be begun as soon as the trouble is discovered.

## Well, What Is It?

Henry Holt knew many of the great figures of half a century ago, and his reminiscences are full of anecdotes of the past and present. "One night at a dinner," he records in his "Garbures of an Octogenarian Editor," "we heard William Dean Howells declare to St. Gaudens that there is no such thing as genius; whereupon St. Gaudens asked, 'What do you call it when you see it?'"

## BILL BOOSTER SAYS

"GOLLY, THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME, BUT A FELLER HAS TO SPEND A FEW DAYS IN A BIG, DIRTY NOISY CITY TO APPRECIATE IT! THIS CITY STUFF MAY BE O.K. FOR MILLIONAIRES, BUT GIVE ME A PEACEFUL FRIENDLY TOWN LIKE THIS, BEZ I!"



## Story Tangle Has to Be Knotted in Hurry

If it had not been for the short story and its parallels in the other arts, there could be no question about the merits of this sort of orderly arrangement of facts, says Archibald MacLennan in the North American Review. But the short story made popular an entirely different model of display. The art of the short-story writer consisted in laying out something called the plot, which was a sort of intricate human tangle, and then magically unpulling the knot just before it choked the persons of the tale. The trick was to get the knot tied before any one saw how easily it could be undone. And that required a great many rapid gestures and a considerable amount of distracting noise in the first few sentences. So you had stories beginning with the echoes of a scream which had just been stifled to the left of the first paragraph. "My God!" gasped pretty little Nausicaa Nevvers of Prida's Crossing, sitting up quite straight in her little bed. Plump—you're in it. What an earth made pretty little Nausicaa Nevvers curse? And before you find out, or before you discover that you never will find out, the seeming tangle has been neatly caught and your fingers are working anxiously at the threads. Or you have stories which begin with a deliberate and brutal assault upon your intelligence. You read that "Lesbia was born upon a midnight bench in Madison square at the age of three-and-twenty." Well—really—you protest. And then you are in over your head.

## Dogs in Warfare

Egyptian paintings of 3,000 years ago depict the greyhound as not dissimilar to the bound of later years. The mosaics and sculptures of the Greeks and Romans show the dogs of antiquity to have been noble-looking animals. That they were also fierce would appear probable from a mosaic unearthed in ancient Pompeii, which shows a snarling watch dog in spiked collar, fastened with a chain. On the block of pavement appeared the familiar words "Cave canem." The Gauls made use of trained dogs in war. So did the Spaniards, in their early encounters with the Indians of the Americas.

## Just Give It Time

A woman of artistic pretensions invited an expert to view an escriptoire which she had picked up at rather a high figure.

"An antique," she explained. He responded politely to the call and went through all the motions of making a scientific examination, viewing the inlay, the varnish and the alleged wormholes through a magnifying glass. Then he shook his head and told her he feared she had been misled, that it was a fine bit of furniture, but not an antique.

The collector took it calmly enough. "No matter," she said cheerfully. "It will be before I finish the payments on it."—Collier's.

## Wanted to Get Even

A southern correspondent writes of the pious petition of an old colored preacher in a Georgia settlement: "Laud," he prayed, "we wants a blessing for every one 'cept one, en dat is de yaller hound, Sam Johnson, what boarded de railroad train en runned off wid de whole collection what wuz took up ter pay our salary wid. Lawd, please make de train jump de track—don't hurt de yuther passengers, but take one leg off fum dat wicked nigger."—Boston Transcript.

## Handshaking Old Idea

Even Homer, Aristophanes and Virgil mentioned the social custom of shaking hands. English-speaking races took it up vigorously apparently as none are more adept in that custom than British and Americans. Many others, like the French and Italians, have variations in their form of greeting which the English-speaking countries do not. At the confirmation of a bargain it appears in II Kings 10:15. It is nevertheless practically relegated to the Anglo-Saxon races today.

## May Be Hard Task to Teach Parrot to Talk

Parrots can be more obstinate than mules, but if you are a determined instructor and not easily discouraged excellent results will follow.

Remember that the best talker is not the one with the gayest plumage but the gray parrot found principally on the west coast of Africa.

If the parrot is to become a talker he will, in the first three or four days, begin to make confused and indistinct efforts to copy your remark. Whenever he does this reward him with a taste of his favorite delicacy, as this will induce further efforts.

In a few weeks the parrot should be able to exclaim "good day" or repeat any remark you have taught him whenever he sees any one enter or leave.

Other appropriate phrases can be taught in the same manner, such as the useful remark, "Time to be going," by uttering the phrase as you look at your watch. It is always wise to teach each sentence separately, never starting a new one until the previous one has been mastered.

In three or four months your parrot should be a speaker of some pretensions. If, however, at the end of this time he has shown no sign of profiting by your lessons be assured he never will. The most to expect is that he may one day make a good whistler.

## English Designs on Playing Card Faces

While we are indebted to the French for the modern suits and colors of our playing cards, the designs of the face cards are English. The French changed the portraits in their decks from time to time to honor first one, then another royal family, and always printed the name of the honored one beside his portrait. The English also made changes, but eventually settled on King Henry VIII, and Elizabeth of York, his mother and the wife of Henry VII, says the Detroit News.

It is interesting to note that the queen, whose marriage terminated the War of the Roses, still holds the rose of York in her hand. The knave, or fool, now called the jack, was the court jester, whose chief duty it was to amuse the king. He still wears the jester's costume, though the modern custom of cutting the bodies of the court figures in half has eliminated the most distinguishing characteristics of his dress.

The word "ace" probably is Latin, meaning origin, course, beginning, first. Deuce and trey are doubtless derived from the Spanish dos and tres, meaning second and third.

## Religious Art Gems

While it is not literally true that all of the greatest paintings are of religious subjects, since there are many famous paintings that are not religious, of the following list of so-called twelve greatest paintings, ten are of subjects connected with religion: "The Last Supper," Leonardo da Vinci; "The Last Judgment," Michelangelo; "Descent from the Cross," Daniela da Volterra; "Sistine Madonna," Raphael; "Assumption of the Blessed Virgin," Titian; "Holy Night," Correggio; "Communion of St. Jerome," Domenico; "Aurora Preceding Charlot of the Sun," Guido Reni; "Immaculate Conception," Murillo; "Descent from the Cross," Rubens; "The Transfiguration," Raphael; "Sortie of the Civic Guard."

## Dodging the Question

"Exactly how old are you anyway?" a friend once asked Lillian Russell. "I have a friend," replied the actress with apparent irrelevance, "who was born in midoccean on a steamer. After she and her mother had landed, the steamer, on its return trip blew up. So practically she has no birthplace." Then, after a pause: "My age is like that."

## Charge

The chairman of the gas company was making a popular address. "Shirk of the good the gas company has done," he cried. "If I were permitted a pun I should say in the words of the immortal poet, 'Honor the light brigade.'"

At this point a crassman jumped up with a shout: "Ch, what a charge they made."—Collegian Reporter.

## How to Bud a Fruit Tree

Raleigh, N. C. June 17.—"If you want new fruit trees of a desirable variety, these may be secured by taking buds from a tree of the variety wanted and inserting them on seedling stocks or on new wood of old trees. June is the month that this is generally done because the bark slips easily.

Stone fruits such as peaches, cherries, and plums are always budded. Other fruits as apples, quince, and pears may be grafted but are usually budded because it is a cheaper, quicker, easier, and a simpler process, explain horticultural workers of the State College and Department of Agriculture.

Shield budding is the type most used. The bud is placed on a stock about the size of a lead pencil. This usually means one year old wood with the peach and two year wood with the apple.

A cut is made on the stock about 3-8 inch around the tree and another one about 1 1/2 inches long above, vertical to and dividing this horizontal cut so it will look like an inverted T.

The buds to be used are taken from present season's growth where the leaves have been removed but part of the stem left to be used as a handle. Make a cut about 1/2 inch above the bud so that it will be about half way through the stick when it reaches the lower end of the bud; there the bark should be cut square across. Then taking hold by the stem remove the bud from the stick and insert on the tree to be budded, under the flaps until the lower end comes in contact with the lower part of the inverted T. Press down the edges and bind with raffia or any other good string.

After the union is made this string should be cut to prevent binding. The top may be cut off next spring after the bud starts.

Have you prepared for the boll weevil? If not write for a copy of Extension Folder 14 that tells how to fight the insect. A card to your Extension Division, State College of Agriculture, will bring it free of charge.

This is a good time to select the best small grain for seed this fall. Dr. R. Y. Winters, plant breeder for the State College, says that the State never does produce enough small grain seed to supply its own needs.

The hog show at the State Fair to be held on Oct. 13 to 19 this year will be of more educational value than in the past. The judge will use a blank by W. W. Shay, swine extension specialist, to show the reasons for placing the animals.

The spring emergence of boll weevils may be light but that doesn't mean the weevils will not develop sufficiently fast and numerous not to harm the cotton this season, counsels Franklin Sherman, Chief of the Division of Entomology for the State College and Department.

If you can't get ice this summer, build a home-made iceless refrigerator. They are cheap and serviceable and will keep food cool during the hottest weather. Write Mrs. Jane S. McKinnon, State Home Demonstration Agent, at Raleigh, for details.

Feeding the pigs liberally this summer will make them less costly this fall and it might cause them to be in condition to sell on the high market in September, suggests W. W. Shay, swine extension specialist for the State College.

Many other counties now want to begin the cooperative carlot shipment of poultry. The success attending the efforts of County Agent John V. Attendale in Macon county is attracting attention in the other mountain counties.

Business men of Granville county have pledged \$500 in cash to be used as prizes to stimulate more interest in the Live At-Home program of the Agricultural Extension Division, reports county agent J. H. Blackwell.

## Don't Pull Fodder, Plant Hay Crops Now.

"Many sermons, articles, letters and other speeches both written and spoken have been directed at the practices of pulling fodder and cutting corn tops; but, it is useless to preach on this subject in the late summer or fall," says E. C. Blair, extension agronomist for the State College of Agriculture. "It's too late then. At that time the farmer generally has his last chance to provide sufficient feed for the coming winter and rather than do without, he saves it from his corn crop. For that year, therefore, he is compelled to take the tops and fodder or else hire a shredding outfit and in most cases this is out of the question. This, then, is why provision for hay and roughage should be made at this season of the year."

Mr. Blair states that by August or September it is easy to realize the advantage of a mowing machine over the bare hands as a gatherer of roughage. The proper time to give the matter consideration is while there is yet time to plant hay crops. If enough hay is grown for the livestock, then the fodder and tops will not be needed. Soybeans and cowpeas may be planted now and will make from one to two tons of nutritious hay per acre. Sudan grass, sorghum and the millets all yield heavily on good land. Some farmers may find it convenient to plant a hay crop after wheat, oats or rye and still others may replace part of the corn crop with a planting for hay.

At other times of the year red clover, alsike clover, Japan clover, sweet clover, alfalfa, vetch, oats, rye, barley, wheat, grasses and many other crops might be used for hay.

Plant two acres of land to oats followed by soybeans to produce the hay or roughage needed to carry one mule one year, say livestock workers for the State College of Agriculture.

Frank Bennett of Anson county is selling over \$2000 worth of hogs from his farm each year largely because he grazes them on a legume pasture, reports county agent J. W. Cameron.

Mrs. Crandall (Lown) Tells How She Stopped Chicken Losses

"Last spring, rats killed all our baby chicks. With just one large package we killed swarms of rats. They won't get this year's batches, I'll bet." Rat-Snap is guaranteed and sells for 35c, 65c, \$1.25. Sold and guaranteed by GRAHAM DRUG COMPANY.

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