

The Chatham Record.

AN OSTRICH CAMP.

ONE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S LITTLE-KNOWN INDUSTRIES.

Rearing the Ungainly Birds For Their Quaint Feathers—They Are Quite Savage at Times—Clipping an Ostrich.

THE rearing of ostriches for the sake of their beautiful feathers is an industry of which little is known.

Let me give you some sort of an idea of the country in which the ostrich lives. It is a country unlike any other on the globe.

A dry and arid prospect, and it is hard to conceive every inch of it is bounded below with vegetable life ready to shoot after the rains of spring into a wealth of verdant grasses.

You arrive at the homestead, a square, red-brick building, with a rich of relief, and glad to be out of the blinding glare and sandy plain.

A well fenced and secure enclosure is a luxury in the colony, and is only to be met with on the weather farms, the owners of which can afford to keep them in repair, and to place them in stock of the more expensive kinds.



OSTRICH ON NEST.

always selected as being the best piece of grazing ground on the farm, and capable of holding more stock in proportion than any other part of the farm.

These occasions are, let us say, in June, to pluck prime feathers. By these we mean the long whites, numbering from eighteen to twenty in each wing, eight or nine fancy feathers, and a few long blacks, all taken at the same time.



AN OSTRICH FARM IN CAPE COLONY.

An ostrich, like most other animals, in its wild state is terribly afraid of man or of any unfamiliar sight, and flees at the appearance of anything new to its ken.

fighting, or from scarcity of food in times of drought. The nest of the ostrich is a very rough affair, consisting simply of a round hollow carved out in the sandy ground.



A TROOP OF OSTRICHES IN THE "CAMP."

tious sitting of the birds on the one spot. One pair of birds will lay from ten to twenty eggs; but, as is often the case, three or four birds will lay in the one nest, thus making the number of eggs up to seventy or eighty.

Forty-four days is the recognized time to allow for hatching. When a nest is hatched out the family are taken out of the camp, and brought to the homestead to be tamed, where they come in continual contact with the farm hands, and are housed at night out of the reach of wild animals.



CLIPPING WITH BAG ON HEAD OF OSTRICH.

It is during the breeding season that the male becomes so savage, and his note of defiance—"brooming," as the Dutch call it—is heard night and day. The bird indicates his neck in a cobra-like fashion and gives utterance to three deep roars.

Undoubtedly the best weapon—barrier wire fence—is a good stout stick or blunt pitchfork. As a rule, if a bird means to have your life or die in the attempt, he charges from about thirty yards, when you receive him at the bayonet's point.



E. H. R. GREEN.

I have seen a bird so savage as to charge seven times in fifteen minutes, twice receiving the prongs of the fork through his neck. On horseback one is even more obstinate to an ostrich than on foot, but, so long as the horse is not afraid and will stand up to the bird, there is no fear of an accident.

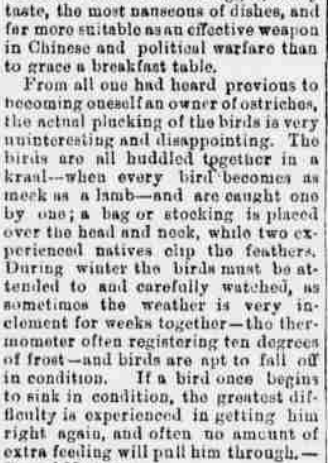
demeanor is a very mild affair compared to the male. Collecting birds for plucking is always a great day on the farm. Orders are given overnight to the Kaffirs and Hottentots to catch every available riding horse and have them saddled up and ready next morning at sunrise.



TWO-HEADED SNAKE.

and a regular cavalcade enters the camp, under the superintendence of "Do Hons van de Plas"—the master of the farm. They split up into parties of two each, and start off in different directions to drive up the birds from the remote spots to which they have wandered.

There exists a traveler's tale at home that, as soon as an ostrich catches sight of a human being, he turns tail and bolts in an opposite direction to hide his head in the sand. Another fallacy, equally devoid of foundation, is the belief that the female leaves her eggs in the sand to be hatched out in the sun. This is not so.



CLIPPING WITH BAG ON HEAD OF OSTRICH.

Income of Chinese Gardeners. Some Chinese gardeners tell with apparent truthfulness of making \$1000 a year apiece out of their business. Vegetables in five and ten cent lots seem small business, but it counts in the course of a year.

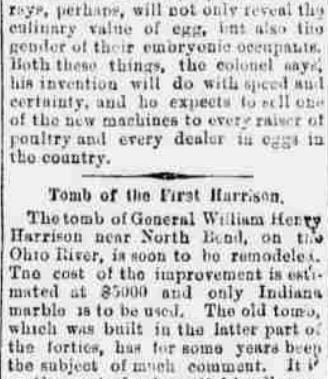
A NEW RAILROAD KING.

The Wealthiest American Woman's Son to Become a Magnate in the Southwest.



E. H. R. Green, President of the Texas Midland Railway, will soon be one of the most important railway magnates in the Southwest.

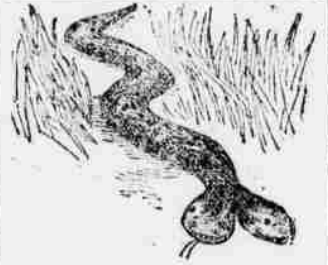
Projects of a Queer Genius. Colonel D. W. Hughes is a queer genius who lives in Audrain County, Missouri. He has invented many contrivances of one sort or another in the course of his wandering career.



TOMB OF THE FIRST HARRISON.

The tomb of General William Henry Harrison near North Bend, on the Ohio River, is soon to be remodeled. The cost of the improvement is estimated at \$5000 and only Indiana marble is to be used.

A Freak That Fights With Itself. A two-headed snake, hog-nosed—Heterodon Simus—has come from Central America into the possession of E. C. Fischer.



TWO-HEADED SNAKE.

Each head has apparently a separate will. The heads fight each other. They must be fed with milk, raw beef and blood at one time, or there is war. Often the two heads are friendly and play with each other.

Income of Chinese Gardeners. Some Chinese gardeners tell with apparent truthfulness of making \$1000 a year apiece out of their business.

The Queen of England's descendants either now occupy or will in one course sit upon seven thrones, namely, those of the British Empire, the Russian Empire, the German Empire, the Kingdom of Greece, the Duchy of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, the Grand Duchy of Hesse and the Duchy of Saxe-Meiningen.

BASQUE AND WAIST.

SOME NEW DESIGNS THAT ARE DAINY AND DRESSY.

Stylish Example of the Regulation Military Basque—Attractive Belle Waist with Mushroom Sleeves.

A STYLISH example of the regulation military basque is given by May Manton in the first large picture. It is carried out in broadcloth of Hussar-blue and the decoration is of black braid.



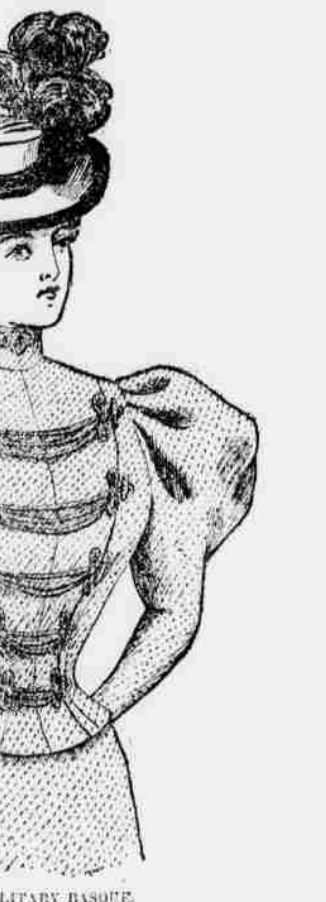
REGULATION MILITARY BASQUE.

with fanciful ornaments crossing the front where the closing is made inevitably on the left side. At the base the arms of the basque fit the figure closely, with the additional material below the waist line of back and side body laid in deep-pleats.

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stock of ribbon stylishly bowed at the centre-back. The waist is encircled by a girle of old-blue velvet carried to the front where it is caught up with loops of velvet.



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The River. When the river reaches the sea, all's well; it waters like thee. That its course is narrow, with barren banks.

Something for Somebody. Something for somebody! Let it peal through the canopy of the evening sky. Something for somebody! Let it stand as a soft glow after sunset.

Something for somebody! Let it bring a clear keynote through the common chord. Something for somebody! Let it bring a new, fresh grace to the family board.

Compensation. On Saturday, at midnight, in a square in St. Louis, I met a married pair. The wife was plucked and tired, her dress was torn.

When I am Dead. When I am dead, my dearest, Sing no sad songs for me; Plan thou no roses at my head, Nor shady cypress tree.

Winter. When autumn dies at last upon her throne Amid the rain of a regal state, Boreas' dirge from the northland's fairs.

Counting the Apple Seeds. Beside the hearth one winter night Made easy by the great log's light. That flaring up the chimney's bars.

THE MOHAIR GOWN. A mohair gown will wear forever if the owner desires it, but if she grows tired of it she can still make it do service as a petticoat.

Gothan's Breathing Spots. A complete list has been made of the park lands owned by the city of New York. They aggregate 4993 acres, divided into sixty-one different parks.

Motor Vehicles in India. Motor cars being the sensation of the day just now, wealthy natives in India are introducing horseless vehicles in the big towns.

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