

Some who intend adopting New Year resolutions should begin to turn the new leaf now.

The talk of cutting down Southern representation in Congress grows beautifully less. The professional South haters are not able to get much response from the country.—Washington Post.

The Washington Star, which celebrated its 50th anniversary on the 16th inst., was established in December, 1852, with, according to the Louisville Courier Journal, a capital of \$500. Fifteen years later it was sold for a hundred thousand dollars and could not be bought today for \$2,000,000.

STATE PRESS.

Winston Sentinel: Your true North Carolinian is a man not afraid to work.

News and Observer: Mr. Cleveland says we may forfeit the Monroe Doctrine "by taking our lot with nations that expand by allowing un-American ways." And therein lies the chief danger to the Monroe Doctrine. The purchase of the Philippines jeopardized it. Until then, it had been as unassailable as the rock of Gibraltar.

Raleigh correspondent Charlotte Observer: It is said by people in Washington that Senator Simmons is recognized as perhaps the best equipped politician among the Democratic Senators. He has made some great fights and won them all. There are said to be not a few Democrats who desire that he shall be made the chairman of the national Democratic committee.

Greensboro Telegram: Christmas accidents are most deplorable. It is terrible to think of a man being maimed for life when the occasion is no greater than the satisfaction of having a little fun in the Christmas time. There are various remedies suggested, one of which is that the law should prohibit the sale of things which can cause such suffering. That remedy may or may not be the best. The law is sometimes perhaps too much depended on to remove all troubles. But Christmas would be happier for all if the dreadful accidents which characterize it could be averted.

MERE MEN.

Lieutenant Colonel Henry Lionel Gallway has been appointed governor of St. Helena.

W. T. Ford, the oldest employee of the pension office, has just died at the age of eighty-five. He was appointed by President Polk in 1845.

Thomas F. Walsh, the Colorado millionaire, is having erected for his eleven-year-old son in Washington a fully equipped theater, intended to develop the dramatic talent of the boy.

The retirement from the United States senate in March next of John P. Jones of Nevada will leave William Boyd Allison of Iowa the senior senator in unbroken length of service.

John Bigelow, former United States minister to France, has entered upon his eighty-fifth year apparently in the best of health. Mr. Bigelow was born at Malden, N. Y., on Nov. 29, 1817.

The Marquis Raimondi, an Italian nobleman, has so many estates that a visit to each of them every year is out of the question. He is considered one of the richest landowners in the world.

Dr. Daniel Elmer Salmon, chief of the bureau of animal industry of the agricultural department, has held that office since 1884 and has been in that department of the government since 1879.

Christian Meinrich of Washington is laying out a "German garden" on his grounds, composed of dwarf trees, shrubbery and the more hardy tropical plants. It will be the first of its kind in this country.

Robert Bacon was as conspicuous at Harvard a little more than twenty years ago as he is now as the partner of J. Pierpont Morgan. "Handsome Bob Bacon" they called him at Cambridge. He was Harvard's football captain in 1879, and there never was a finer physical specimen on Harvard's eleven.

PEN, CHISEL AND BRUSH.

Rudyard Kipling will go to South Africa shortly to spend several months in that land, where it will be summer.

J. Q. A. Ward and Daniel C. French of New York will design heroic statues of Napoleon and Jefferson for the world's fair.

It is a common belief that Huckleberry Finn is Mark Twain himself, but Mr. Clemens says that this idea is wrong and that his original in his books is Tom Sawyer.

For the second time Mrs. Anna L. Stacey has won the Chicago Art Institute Cash prize of \$100. Mrs. Stacey's conquering picture is this time a dreary and tender landscape, "The Village at Twilight."

ADVERTISING.

The success of modern newspaper advertising is about the greatest incentive to young business men of today.—News paperman.

Some people pretend that they do not believe in advertising. People advise the with every breath they draw. The only difference is that some are better advertisers than others.—Athensville's.

Little Creatures
About Our
Homes
By LE ROY WELD

IX.—Some Facts About Pussy.

It is probable that some of my readers will wonder what there is for anybody to learn about the cat, an animal which so constantly presents itself to us that one might expect everybody to know all about it. We shall see.

Did it ever occur to you to wonder where our cat came from and whether there ever was a time when folks did not have cats in their houses to catch rats and mice? No doubt many people have the idea that our domestic cat is nothing but a descendant of the so called "wildcat" of our woods. But this is not the case, as we shall soon learn. As nearly as we can find out by carefully examining pictures and inscriptions on monuments and mummies found in Egypt, as well as mummies of cats themselves, our present feline pet is a mixture of races of small cats native to the northern part of Africa.

Our cat is not exactly like any of the wild species found there, but she resembles them closely enough to be a mixture of the races, and, besides, it is a well known fact that domestication for many ages will modify the structure and habits of an animal to a remarkable degree, a fact which is well illustrated by the widely different varieties of the dog, all belonging to the same species, this species not being known at all in the wild state. The wildcat of America is really a lynx.

There are some points of historical interest about cats. In ancient Egypt these animals, along with some others, were regarded as sacred. Their mummies have been found among the ruins of Egypt. It is said that Cambyes, king of Persia, in an attack upon the Egyptian city of Pelusium in 525 B. C. caused cats to be carried with his troops, and the Egyptians, fearful lest a battle might be fatal to the cats, made no resistance.

Now let us bring pussy in and see if there are not some things about her wonderful little body that we have not noticed before. First look at her eyes. Did you ever wonder what makes a cat's eyes shine in the cellar when you open the door and look down at her? Many people think a cat's eyes shine in the dark, but they do not.

The light you see is merely the reflection of the light from the door in her silvery eyeballs just as it might be reflected in a mirror. Look closely at the cat's eye; then take a mirror and look at your own. You will see that, while the pupil of your eye is round, the pupil of the cat's eye is long and slender vertically, sometimes appearing merely as a line or slit. Now take the cat into a dark closet for a few minutes and when she comes out quickly examine her eyes. You will find the pupil nearly round and much larger than yours, though yours is somewhat larger for having been in the dark. If you ask a photographer how he regulates the amount of light in his camera, he will show you a set of stops, or plates of metal, with different sized holes in them, which are placed in front of the lens. The eye is a camera, and the pupil is the stop.

When the cat wants to see well in partial darkness, she opens wide the stop and lets in all the light possible. The fact that the pupil of the cat's eye is more dilatible than ours explains why the cat can see so much better in the nighttime. The same is true of owls and other nocturnal birds and animals.

The ears should be examined next. They are regular ear trumpets, catching every sound. While pussy is resting on the rug gently scratch the carpet with your finger nail and watch her ears. If you turn one of the ears inside out, you will see that it is made of a stiff, cartilaginous substance well adapted for the purpose. The hairs in the ear keep out the dust.

Her mouth is the next object of interest. A cat generally objects to having her mouth meddled with, but you can get her to open it by gently pressing with thumb and finger against the sides of her face, gradually increasing the pressure. While it is open glance at her teeth. Notice that there is on each jaw in front a row of little, flat, short teeth which together make a sort of dull knife edge. At each side of the jaw near the front is a long, sharp, curved tooth that enables the cat to seize and tear flesh. Behind these fangs on each side is a set of teeth so arranged and shaped that when they shut together they form several pairs of very sharp shears for cutting meat. Did you ever notice a cat when she is trying to bite off a piece of tough meat or gristle? She always gets it around on one side of the mouth, where these sharp edged teeth are.

As soon as you let her close her mouth she will invariably stick out her tongue. Watch your chance, carefully

size her nose and lower jaw between your thumb and finger, and while the tongue is out gently close her mouth on it. This will give you a chance to observe this remarkable organ. Notice that it is covered by a multitude of horny hooks pointing backward. These aid her in cleaning her fur and in licking meat from bones.

The whiskers of the cat are a most noticeable feature. It is said that they are for the purpose of aiding the animal in walking in dark places. The whiskers extend out to a width about equal to that of the widest part of the body, so that if the extended whisker will pass through an opening the cat knows that her body will also pass through without difficulty.

A professor once asked a class of forty intelligent young people if they could tell him how many toes a cat has. Some said twenty, some sixteen. Not one of them knew. Now, readers: how many of you could answer the same question? Take the cat and look at her feet. You will find five toes on each front foot and four on each hind foot. The inside toe, or thumb, on the front foot is higher than the others and is not used in walking. Notice how well formed the retractile claws are and how nicely the sole of the foot is padded.

It is often asked what the cat's tail is for. One of the invariable laws of nature is that an animal is never provided with an appendage that is not or has not at some time been of use to it. If you will watch a cat climbing and jumping about in a difficult place, as on top of a fence, you will immediately see that the tail is a most effectual balancer.

Now place the cat on the floor and watch her play. See how splendidly built she is, how admirably her body is shaped for its various purposes. There is not a curve or line of her form that is not graceful. Her strength is such that when frightened it is almost impossible to hold her. Altogether she is one of nature's most admirable creatures.

The intelligence of the cat is inferior to that of the dog. She can learn very few tricks and seldom comprehends anything said to her, though she readily learns the common cat call, "kitty." She is easily deceived, as is shown by the following incident: A cat of my acquaintance was once placed before a mirror standing on the floor. She immediately walked up to it with evident signs of interest and surveyed carefully the cat confronting her in the glass, smelled the glass and then, suddenly drawing back, ran around and looked behind it, much to the amusement of the spectators and to her own chagrin.

The jealous care which a mother cat bestows upon her kitten is familiar to every one. Kittens are born blind and helpless, but soon become quite strong and active. It is touching, however, to see how carefully the mother guards them even after they have become old enough, in a measure, to take care of themselves. Let any animal but man approach the kittens, and the mother cat will fight with all the strength of her supple body so long as she is able to ply her sharp teeth and claws.

A laughable incident occurred not long ago with some kittens belonging to one of my neighbors. They were playing in the front yard when a friendly dog came along and ran barking at them. One kitten ran up a tree, the other up a fencepost, and the cur continued to bark and jump up toward the kittens. Suddenly there was a gray streak across the lawn, a furious snarl and a wild yelp of pain. The old cat had boldly leaped upon the brute with her powerful teeth and claws. The dog at once decided that his presence was necessary elsewhere and acted accordingly.

It should be remarked here that, though the mother cat carries her kittens by the back of the neck, we should not pick up kittens, and especially heavy ones or mature cats, in a like manner. It is likely to hurt them and even injure them, and we can just as well pick them up some other way.

It is often remarked that cats in falling always alight upon their feet, even when dropped back downward. How a cat does this is not quite certain. Series of rapid photographs have been taken of cats while falling, but do not succeed in explaining the fact. It is certain that the cat does not give a push upon its support when dropped, as it will turn over when suspended back downward by threads if the threads are suddenly cut. It is probable that the turning is the reaction of a sudden movement of the paws in the air, just as we can stand on one toe and turn completely around by suddenly swinging both arms to right or left.

It is not necessary to dwell upon the usefulness of the cat about our homes. As a pet and as a catcher of vermin it is invaluable. It should be kept at home as much as possible, should be fed with wholesome food consisting partly of meat, should be provided with a place to sleep under shelter and should be frequently admitted to the house. Children who abuse cats should be either taught better or deprived of their company. If well provided for and kindly treated, any cat will soon become a most useful and affectionate pet.

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