

I Used to Kill Birds.
BY M. C. EDWARDS.
I used to kill birds in my boyhood. Blue birds and robins and wrens. I hunted them down in the morning. I never thought it was sinful. I did it only for fun. And I had rare sport in the forest. With the poor little birds and my gun. But one clear day in the spring-time. I killed a brown bird in a tree. Most mysteriously and suddenly. As happy as a bird could be. And raising my gun in a twinkling. I fired, and my aim was true. For a moment the little thing fluttered. Then off to the bushes it flew. I followed it quickly and softly. And there to my sorrow I found. Right close to its nest full of young ones. The little bird dead on the ground. Poor bird! for food they are calling. But now they could never be fed. For the kind mother-bird who had loved them. Was lying there bleeding and dead. I picked up the bird in my anguish. I stroked her more motherly wing. That could never more feed its dear young ones. Nor dart through the air on swift wing. And I made a fine vow that moment. When my heart with such sorrow was stirred. That never again in my lifetime. Would I shoot a poor innocent bird!

BERLIN, June 14.—The Samoan conference met at 9 o'clock this afternoon. It is understood that the American Commissioners have withdrawn their objections to certain provisions of the protocol. The agreement negotiated by the commissioners for the settlement of affairs in Samoa was signed by all the members of the conference this afternoon. Dispatches from Bremen state that Mr. William Walter Phelps, one of the American commissioners to the conference, will sail from that port for New York on the North German Lloyd steamer Fulda tomorrow.

WASHINGTON, June 14.—Information has been received at the State Department that the Samoan treaty was officially ratified this morning at Berlin. The announcement was made at the cabinet meeting by Secretary Blaine, and it was agreed that was eminently satisfactory to our government in its final stage. Little additional information could be gleaned at the treaty. Indeed it was not possible to learn whether the paper drawn up is regarded at the Department as a treaty, and this is a rather important point to be left unsettled. If it is a treaty, the Department cannot divulge the nature of the paper just signed until it is acted upon by the Senate, but if it is regarded as an international agreement, it will be made public. It is known that the matter has been the subject of discussion in the Department within a few days past.

Officials whose opinions are entitled to weight will not undertake to give a formal definition of the difference between a treaty and an agreement. Unofficially, however, it is said that an agreement concerns private rights of individuals, while a treaty relates to the public welfare. In support of this definition, it is said that a few years ago an arrangement was made with the Spanish government for the settlement of a number of private claims. This was not sent to the Senate and was regarded as an agreement, although the State Department did not escape adverse criticism at the time for withholding it. In the present case, however, the best opinion inclines to the belief that the arrangement made to the Senate for ratification, and that the State Department is inclined to this view is patent from the fact that officials refuse to say anything of the understanding reached.

ARMAGH, June 13.—An excursion train from Armagh, Ireland, loaded chiefly with Methodist Sunday School children, was wrecked near Armagh, June 11. Seventy-four bodies have been recovered. Many anxious friends are making inquiries for missing children at the infirmary. The railroad accident was taken. Crowds surround the building, and the discussion of terrible disaster engrosses the attention of the entire community. The interior of the infirmary presents a sad spectacle. It appears to cost the people of this country about ten cents apiece to be counted, calculates the Chicago *Inter-Ad.* The appropriation for the census of next year is \$3,400,000. The original appropriation for the census begun in 1880 was \$3,000,000, but as the work progressed from year to year additional sums were appropriated, and the former figures do not portend a census report proportionally bigger than the present one. Over 40,000 enumerators will be employed in addition to a force of 1400 clerks at the main office in Washington.

One of our Southern Methodist exchanges has for some weeks been printing a sermon by Rev. B. Carra-dine, D.D., on "The Louisiana State Lottery Company Examined and Exposed." Not many years ago, but the States permitted lotteries; and, seeing their tendencies were evil, have by one abolished them, until now (we think) Louisiana alone permits them. But it will not be long before even this State will be free of them. If the excellent Bishop of the Diocese of Louisiana, instead of sitting on the fence about changing the name of this Protestant Episcopal Church, would jump down and declare this Louisiana Lottery a nuisance and a temptation to evil, he would exhibit such a spirit that every good man would applaud him. In the meantime, the columns of the *Southern Churchman* are opened to him to declare his moral indignation against this lottery. *Southern Churchman.*

News has been received at the City of Mexico of a discovery of great archaeological importance in the State of Chiapas, near the ruins of Palenque, being nothing less than a large city hidden in the depths of the forests. Some buildings are fine stories high, and in a good state of preservation. The ruins are in length still perceivable in the midst of a tropical forest. Very few particulars have been received, but the report comes from good sources. Palenque is said to be a mere village in comparison with this lost city of prehistoric times.

Lord Mayor Whitehead of London, at the farewell banquet to Minister Phelps, said the two nations have set an example to the other countries of the world. I hope they have, as they appear to have, determined for all time, that in the event of any disputes, arising between the two countries, those disputes shall be referred to a gentleman-like and Christian-like spirit to adjudicate upon them. This surmises worthy of a man descended from George Whitehead, who was the contemporary and associate of William Penn.

If self-denial be the greatest part of godliness, the great letter in the alphabet of religion, self-love is the great letter in the alphabet of practical atheism.

The natives of Damascus call drunken men "victims of the English disease." Among those believed to have been swept away by the flood is "Blind Tom," the well-known pianist. Mr. Spurgeon says that he has never had to exclude a single member from the Church who was received as a child.

The Columbus (Ga.) *Enterprise-Sun* has suspended publication one day in the week avowedly to allow its employees to enjoy Sunday as a day of rest.

The Jews of America will have two anniversaries to celebrate in 1892—the discovery of America and the expulsion of the Hebrews from Spain, both of which took place in 1492.

Since the purchase of Alaska it can be said of the United States what has been said of England for the last century—that the sun never sets on her dominions. At sunset in Alaska the next morning's sun is an hour high in Maine.

Every newspaper, no matter where it is printed, is opened at the frontier offices in Russia and carefully looked over before being sent to its address, and objectionable matter is stamped out.

Do you imagine that the Lord will be satisfied with what you can spare, the "strait" of your full measure? Has it never occurred to you that God demands, not what you can spare, but what you will *give*; that he requires a real sacrifice at your hand?

Don't try to restrict communion with the Lord to meditation on the written word of God and to acts of devotion. You cannot do it. To know him you must seek him in *all* the transactions of your life, and learn daily of him who manifests himself as "Wonderful, Counselor, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace."

An inquirer, at a temperance meeting, interrupted the speaker by exclaiming, "I say, mister, do you think a gin sling does any harm?" To which the lecturer replied, "Not if the man slings it far enough; but when the gin slings him, ever so little, then it does harm."

When you take your seat in your pew in church the next time, bow your head a few moments in silent prayer, and maintain a meditative and prayerful silence until the service begins. This will give you a good start for real worship.

A TIN SCARECROW.—An old fruit can is prepared by punching a hole in the center of the bottom, through which is thrust from the inside a stout string, to the end of which is tied a large nail or spike. This is hung from the top of a pole or stake driven into the ground in a leaning position. As it sways in the wind the spike acts as a clapper in tolling this improvised bell, while the glint of the sunshine upon the tin has some terror for the wary marauders, by suggesting the flash of a gun.

If the rate of self-destruction which has been maintained since the beginning of the year shall be kept up till its close, "not less than twenty-five hundred will have died by their own hand," or twice the number of the year 1891. Five suicides in a single day recently occurred in Chicago. *Presbyterian Observer.*

All the flags now doing duty as ensigns and union jacks on board the ships of the United States Navy will be called in on July 4 of this year, and new ones, having forty-two white stars on the blue union in the upper left-hand corner, will fly from the mast-head or gaff instead of those that had thirty-eight stars.

The way some men recount their labors impresses us with the idea that they will go to heaven by arithmetic. The number of visits made, the prayers offered, the amounts given, are all told with an exactness that induces a certain reliance upon the virtue of quantity. These arithmeticians seem to forget that quality more than quantity is the measure of valuation of religious services.

It ought not to be necessary every day to print evidence of the bad effect of cigarette smoking on growing youths, but the evidence from 200 doctors before the Michigan legislature is worth heeding, and they each cited cases of boys being dwarfed, made insane, killed or rendered incapable of speech, and the professors of Michigan University also testified at length of the effect on the students who were made stupid by cigarettes.

Bismark said something in a speech the other day which has very wide application. "There have been times when I thought it possible to hold an imposture over a dead body, no trial Justice has the legal right to hold the inquest, and if such inquest is held by any Trial Justice, the County Commissioners have no authority to pay for the same, unless authorized to do so by the Board of Supervisors."

The children of to-day will hardly be able to call up any thing that will remind them of the devotions of their parents when those parents are removed. Few things in memory are so dear and touching to our hearts as the sweet and favorite songs sung over and about us in childhood's susceptible hour by our parents. Modern hymnology has virtually destroyed that holy and touching chain by the trashy and silly songs too much used.

Fifty-two short sentences of prayer, "O Lord, accept and bless this offering," are better than one petition half-an-hour long at the end of the year. Fifty-two gentle touches of a man's heart-strings are more efficacious of permanent results than one eloquent appeal at the end of the season. Fifty-two gentle pulls on a man's purse-strings are more promotive of healthy liberality than one convulsive jerk on the "annual Sunday."

Life should be conceived as first of all, a serious thing. Look into some face and you will feel that their great aim and regard pleasure in the great aim and subject of life, and serious pursuits as of secondary importance, to be engaged in only so far as is absolutely necessary. Look upon others and you will feel that they regard pleasure as legitimate only secondary, and as conducive to keeping mind and body in fit condition for the attainment of ends that are serious, lofty and permanent. Reader, to which of these classes do you belong?

COLUMBIA & GREENVILLE DIV.
CONDENSED SCHEDULE.
In effect June 9th, 1890.
(Trains run by 7th Meridian time.)

SOUTHERN.		
No.	No.	No.
4.	50.	51.
5.	49.	50.
6.	48.	49.
7.	47.	48.
8.	46.	47.
9.	45.	46.
10.	44.	45.
11.	43.	44.
12.	42.	43.
13.	41.	42.
14.	40.	41.
15.	39.	40.
16.	38.	39.
17.	37.	38.
18.	36.	37.
19.	35.	36.
20.	34.	35.
21.	33.	34.
22.	32.	33.
23.	31.	32.
24.	30.	31.
25.	29.	30.
26.	28.	29.
27.	27.	28.
28.	26.	27.
29.	25.	26.
30.	24.	25.
31.	23.	24.
32.	22.	23.
33.	21.	22.
34.	20.	21.
35.	19.	20.
36.	18.	19.
37.	17.	18.
38.	16.	17.
39.	15.	16.
40.	14.	15.
41.	13.	14.
42.	12.	13.
43.	11.	12.
44.	10.	11.
45.	9.	10.
46.	8.	9.
47.	7.	8.
48.	6.	7.
49.	5.	6.
50.	4.	5.
51.	3.	4.
52.	2.	3.
53.	1.	2.
54.	0.	1.

PORT ROYAL & WESTERN CAROLINA R.Y.
AGUSTA, GA., JANUARY 5, 1890.
Commencing Sunday, March 4th, Passenger train will run as follows, by 7th Meridian time.

GOING SOUTH.		
No.	No.	No.
1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.
7.	8.	9.
10.	11.	12.
13.	14.	15.
16.	17.	18.
19.	20.	21.
22.	23.	24.
25.	26.	27.
28.	29.	30.
31.	32.	33.
34.	35.	36.
37.	38.	39.
40.	41.	42.
43.	44.	45.
46.	47.	48.
49.	50.	51.
52.	53.	54.
55.	56.	57.
58.	59.	60.
61.	62.	63.
64.	65.	66.
67.	68.	69.
70.	71.	72.
73.	74.	75.
76.	77.	78.
79.	80.	81.
82.	83.	84.
85.	86.	87.
88.	89.	90.
91.	92.	93.
94.	95.	96.
97.	98.	99.
100.	101.	102.

Ar Greenville.....	11 40	5 35	.....
Ar Anderson.....	.....	4 40	.....
Ar School.....	.....	6 39	.....
Ar Wadalla.....	.....	7 00	.....
Ar Atlanta.....	.....	10 49	.....

*