

ABOUT GOLD BEATING.

AN INTERESTING ACCOUNT OF THE CURIOUS TRADE.

At the Physical Editor to Looker, Although the Hammer Used Weigh Many Pounds—The Great Care Necessary in the Progress of the Process.

Gold beating is a trade of muscle and judgment. There is judgment in knowing just how to strike the little mallet on the stone, muscle in the hammer's stroke and the fall. The mallet is one of the most curious tools of the trade. It is made of iron, and is about the size of a hammer, but the head is of a peculiar shape, and is set with a piece of wood.

The second and is the "shooter." It is a small mallet, and is used to beat the gold into a thin leaf. It is made of iron, and is about the size of a hammer, but the head is of a peculiar shape, and is set with a piece of wood.

The third process there are three kinds of gold. The first is the "soft" gold, and is used for making jewelry. The second is the "medium" gold, and is used for making coins. The third is the "hard" gold, and is used for making armor.

When sufficiently beaten the gold is then rolled into a sheet. This is done by passing it between two rollers. The rollers are made of iron, and are set with a piece of wood.

Wild Game of Alaska. A resident of Sitka, Alaska, says that Alaska fairly teems with animal life. The sea along its shores and the rivers, inlets and lakes are filled with an inexhaustible supply of the largest and finest fish.

The sea cow, which used to be found here, has become extinct. In the interior parts of the country and in the north the greatest breeding places for birds in the world. For miles the country will be covered with myriads of geese, swans, ducks and hundreds of other varieties of the feathered tribe.

He Has Buckets of Gems. Hitherto Deep Singh's emerald has been considered the largest known, being three inches long, two wide and half an inch thick. The Duke of Devonshire's is the largest in England, two inches in height, and two and a quarter across.

Imitations of Old Bronze. An excellent imitation of old bronze has been introduced in some of the art products of that character. It is well known that the repeated applications to copper or brass of alternate washes of dilute acetic acid and exposure to the fumes of ammonia result in a very antique-looking and highly prized article.

The Biggest Brown Trout. The biggest brown trout ever caught on this continent was landed a few evenings ago at Spring Creek, Mumfords, N. Y. The fish weighed six pounds and two ounces, and its proportions and complexion were perfect.

Notes of Heroes. Two ghastly relics of national heroes have been presented to the Museum at the Hague—the tongue of John De Witt and the great toe of his brother Corneilus.

Revenue from Patent Must Increase. For the year ending March, 1888, the revenue of London received no less than \$10,175 from the issue of patents on patent medicines, this amount being nearly \$12,000 in excess of that received during the previous year, and very nearly \$20,000 in advance of the amount received in 1871.

VAGARIES OF THE WIND.

Old Time Reminiscences of Rough Life in an Arkansas Town.

Reading the local gossip relating to the curious finding of a jury in Louisiana, Mo., recalls an observation of my own. In 1856 I was on my way to Hot Springs, and I stopped at Nepoleon, Ark., for a few days, says Judge Collier in the St. Louis "Globe Democrat."

I also observed another peculiarly interesting feature of life in Napoleon at that period. I was coming down the street one day during my stay and I observed a man with his coat off, two ugly looking revolvers protruding from his belt, and a shotgun thrown over his shoulder.

Of course I was glad to avail myself of the clerk's thoughtfulness. The marshal continued to pace back and forth for some time. I observed people here and there in the vicinity thrust their heads out of doors and windows, and quickly withdraw them, precisely like a soldier on guard duty.

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BIRDS AND THEIR NESTS.

FECCULARITIES OF THE HOMES OF WINGED CREATURES.

A New England Newspaper Man Relates His Experiences While Hunting Eggs. The Crow and His Kidnaping Propensities—How Two Robins Displayed Reasoning Powers.

Some years ago I was presented with a copy of Samuel's "Birds of New England," writes a correspondent of the Lowellist "Journal." It contains complete descriptions of every bird that ever visits New England. The nests, eggs, habits, plumage are so accurately described that it is nearly impossible to mistake any specimen.

The first egg I got nearly proved to be the last. A golden-winged woodpecker had a nest in the top of a high smooth stub. A rough and scratchy ladder led from a fence to a convenient ladder to the nest. The hole was too small to admit my hand, but my knife soon made it larger.

A cuckoo's eggs were found in a robin's nest. The robins had abandoned nest and all. I think the robin, often any other bird detects the fraud of the cuckoo, for once since then I have found a cuckoo's egg on the ground under a robin's nest where the birds had evidently thrown it.

A visit to the Egg Rocks, near Franklin Island, yielded nearly a bushel of gulls' eggs. The eggs were very similar to hen's eggs for cooking purposes. They lay on the bare ledge to be hatched by the heat of the sun.

The nest of the loud-mouthed crow is extremely easy to locate either before the eggs are hatched or after the young have hatched. The crow is very noisy, and his raucous croak is heard enough of the crow's performance to condemn him.

Bluejays are really as mischievous as crows. As for the English sparrow, it is a pity he cannot be sent back to England together with the criminals and lunatics who send to our shores.

Another View of Carlyle. The new volume of Mr. Carlyle's "Letters," contains an inimitable scene, which reveals Carlyle as really and truly as he was.

Left Her Money to Her Counsel. Henry D. Faxon, executor of Sarah J. Faxon's estate, was called for poisoning her husband and two children.

The longest stretch across London is from Brentford to Stratford-le-Bow, a distance of over twenty-one miles. That is to say, London, inclusive of suburbs, without a break of houses.

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MONKEYING WITH A BABOON.

The Bad Man of St. Louis Was Knocked Out in One Round.

In the old St. Louis museum we had, among other attractions, a baboon called Dick, says a correspondent of the New York "Sun." He was a solid chunk of a fellow, good-natured, and a great favorite.

One day, soon after Dick had closed his eyes, a half-drunken chap entered the place and created considerable disturbance. He went by the name of Awful Pete, and was a hard slugger. I tried to get him to leave, but he would not.

"I paid to see the bab, and I'm going to see him or bust the b'ler!" "But if you walk him up he'll fight."

"Then I'll wring his neck!" "Before I could stop him he dodged under the rope and lifted Dick out of the cradle. The animal woke up and took in the situation in about the tenth part of a second, and then he fastened his hands into Pete's hair, got a grip with his teeth on the slugger's nose, and we had a museum menagerie, and a circus combined for the next five minutes.

Our Russian Caviare Product. The greatest industry at Delaware City is the catching of sturgeon and the making of "Russian caviare." There are three firms engaged in the work, and during the spring there were 4,700 sturgeons caught. The aggregate weight being about 376,000 pounds.

The sturgeons are put in large nets, and the roe must be removed while the fish is still alive, or it is of no use. The roe is in large dark flakes. It is carefully rubbed through sieves to separate the eggs, about the size of duck shot, from the fishy membrane which holds them together.

There is nothing wasted of the sturgeon. The meat is cut into steaks and kept cold, later in the season being shipped to New York and Philadelphia where the price is from 22 cents a pound. The hides are used, and the refuse is sent to New Jersey, where it is converted into oil and compost.

President Jackson Was Firm. Many years ago Edmund Driggs, who died the other day, was a member of a committee sent from here by the Democratic leaders to get President Jackson to remove Col. Swartwout from the New York collectorship.

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TANNED BY ELECTRICITY.

FRENCH TANNERS BRING OUT A NEW PROCESS.

Americans Hard to Convince That the New Idea Was Really Practical—How the Work is Done—Over 50 Per Cent. Saved by This Latest System—The Speed of Preparation.

The process of converting hides into leather, as now followed, consumes a space of time varying from six to twelve months. It also demands close attention and good management, as well as experience. Great care has to be exercised in the selection of material, also a lot of choice hides are found at the expense of the tanning season to have deteriorated into second or even third quality leather.

But now since tanning by this process seems an assured fact it is no longer regarded as a sort of transatlantic offset to our electric sugar refining. Every item that can be gleaned is thoroughly discussed and every source of information eagerly sought.

Just what effect the electric current has upon the tannin is, as yet, a question of dispute. Some claim that its effect is upon the tannin, giving it more active properties. Others say that it effects the hide only.

The process is described by those who have seen it as a very simple one. The hides are placed in large cylinders, which revolve upon horizontal axes. The drum is filled with a decoction of tannin and closed. Provision is made for the passing of a current of electricity through the drum.

The cost of production is greatly reduced by this method, for not only is the saving in time, but in labor. The actual cost of working is reduced over 50 per cent. By the bark process the cost of tanning is from 7 to 8 cents per pound of dry leather, as against that of 3 or 4 cents by the electric method.

As hides often require to lie in the tannery a year, it will be seen that a great number must be in process of tanning in order that a certain amount of leather be turned out each week. In addition to extensive plant, heavy investments are represented by the hides in tannage. But the electric process completely revolutionized this. Hides purchased on Monday have been converted into leather and put on the market by Saturday.

A Lucky Mining Venture. The Helena assay office takes all gold bullion that comes. It may be no more than a spoonful of dust from the man who is working with a shovel and wheelbarrow and a little sluiceway near the entrance to Yellowstone Park, or it may be the single consignment from the Spotted Horse mine in Fergus county, which yielded the owners of the mine \$55,000.

Spotted Horse has a short but interesting history. P. W. McAdow was in business at Billings. He crippled himself financially by advancing supplies to the parties who owned the mine. The property was put up at sheriff's sale and McAdow bid it in to save himself. He took out \$50,000 in thirty days, and recently sold to Helena men for \$500,000 cash.

A Curious Phase of Insanity. William C. Klemmer, of Reading, Pa., some time ago lost considerable money, and his mind became affected. Since then the man has been a devout worshiper of images. They are as odd and hideous as they are variegated in color and peculiar in shape and size.

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COL. ADMIRE'S BABY.

The First Child in Oklahoma, Which It Cost \$50 to Raise.

Everybody who comes to Kingfisher hears of Col. J. V. Admire and "Admire's Baby." The colonel is from Osage City, Kan., and is receiver of public moneys. He is known of all men who come to Kingfisher—rather below the medium height, fat, well rounded, plump as a partridge in looks, his face inclined to be florid, and his mustache, beard and hair showing a grayish tinge.

On the morning of April 24, at 11.10 o'clock, not more than five days after the opening of Oklahoma, a small child under a flapping window cover on the town side of Lisbon, told that a child had been born—the first child to be born in the new territory. Its mother was Lillie Lewis, a slender little woman barely 20 years of age; its father, J. T. Lewis.

On the same night that the child was born a city council meeting for the exchange of congrats, and an argument arose as to what the child should be christened, the populace taking it upon themselves to relieve the parents of this duty. Finally it was decided to give the privilege of naming the baby, which was a boy, to the highest bidder. Five dollars was the bid which started the ball rolling.

As soon as the workmen could see the child, they sufficiently to act they pulled him out of his unpleasant bath, and he stood dripping on the walk, looking like some beer god just after a bath in the liquor loved and protected by Gambrinus. The hose which had originally caused all the trouble was now brought into play to repair damages.

The London Fog is Healthy. If London is the metropolis of the land of fogs, there is much consolation to be found in the fact that in spite of its smoke and its fogs it is not only one of the healthiest cities in the world, but is growing healthier every year.

Waste of Coal Due to Exposure. The waste of coal by exposure to the weather has been variously computed and depends very much upon the nature and quality of the coal and the climate to which it is exposed.

Belgium Drink Statistics. Temperance advocates should certainly turn their attention to Belgium. The little kingdom contains 150,000 public houses, about 1 for every 40 of the population, and the annual amount of spirits consumed reaches nine liters—nearly two gallons—per head.

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