

THE IDLE AMANUENSIS.

BY CHARLES H. WHITE.

There. Now we can be comfortable and free from interruption while I tell you that little story I promised.

It seems good to be sitting with you once again, after so long a separation. Calls to mind the times we used to have in '76, when you were slaving for Boynton & Blackman, and I was learning the rudiments of the business that I followed until about a year ago.

Now I am independently situated owing to certain fortuitous circumstances which happened to come my way; yet I foot old and care-worn and my hair is tinged with gray.

Let me see; it was in '81 that I left Syracuse to take a position in a broker's office located on Broad street, in New York City. The atmosphere of my surroundings was entirely in accord with my heart's desire, which was to become a potent factor in the financial whirlpool that annually whisks away the fortunes of thousands, to place them at the feet of the lucky few.

The room assigned to me by my new employers was a small one, in the rear of the principal offices, and lighted from a court. The solitary window reached to the floor, and opened out upon a balcony which encircled the court, communicating with the elevator shaft at the back of the building. The chief offices had doors which led to this balcony. I was the sole occupant of the little office.

Directly opposite my window was the window of another room, the counterpart of mine, and similarly connected with the other suite on the same floor. It was occupied by a young lady, evidently employed as a stenographer, as her typewriter was visible through the glass. From the first glimpse I got of her she attracted me strongly. She was pretty, and I always possessed a fondness for feminine beauty. In addition to that, she seemed to have almost nothing to do, and that peculiar condition pliqued my curiosity.

Hour after hour she would sit by the window with a book in her hand. Only on rare occasions would I see her doing any work and then for a few moments at a time. I could not comprehend the reason for this, inasmuch as the concern employing her (the eastern agency of a large beef house), seemed to transact a good business. I marvelled that any man should pay a salary to and reserve room for a creature who then allowed her to fritter away nearly all of the time. It was not long before I had privately conferred upon my sweet neighbor the title of "the idle amanuensis."

I soon discovered that the girl was not a stickler on certain points of etiquette. She did not wait for an introduction, but began to smile and bow to me on the third day of my occupancy of the little office. I responded with alacrity, and soon felt that a personal interview was on the cards. We did meet in the elevator once or twice within the first week, but others were present on each occasion, and I made no advances. Doubtless the girl was of a similar mind, for she offered no active encouragement, merely nodding and bestowing on me one of her charming smiles. These smiles were sufficient to dazzle and captivate any man who was not already happily married or engaged.

It was during my third week that events began to draw in toward a focus. While working at my desk one afternoon, I heard a light tap on the window pane. Looking up I saw that the girl was standing on the balcony. She smiled and pointed to the balcony floor just outside my window. Following the direction with my eyes, I observed a folded paper lying there which I lost no time in securing.

It proved to be a note written by herself. The wording of the communication was brief but to the point and it set my heart to beating wildly. "Dear Sir—here's to our more intimate acquaintance. Shall be at home this evening, at No. — West Forty-second street. Please indicate through the window whether you will call. Sincerely, Ethel Thompson."

Would I call? I gave a series of most emphatic nods and had the satisfaction of seeing that their meaning was evidently understood.

I called on Miss Thompson that very evening. She bore herself in an intelligent and vivacious manner, as her appearance had led me to expect; and her demeanor was characterized by a refinement not in keeping with the unconventional nature of her invitation.

During our conversation she informed me that she was glad her office work was light, as she disliked the duties of an amanuensis. "I have noticed," I said to her, "that you are not often busily engaged. How is it that so large a concern conducts so small a correspondence?" This query provoked a laugh.

sition in the market. It was being manipulated by rival factions in such a manner as to render its future more than ordinarily uncertain. Furthermore, "D. K. & E." being merely a speculative centre, around which revolved interests more important still. The fight going on between the heavy operators was being participated in by many small investors; and, inasmuch as shrewd men with long pocketbooks were pitted against one another, the result would necessarily be that some wealthy operators would lose their fortunes, while the little fellows who happened to be on the winning side would be rewarded in proportion to the size of their investments. It is more or less that way in all stock deals, but this one was so stupendous a character as to outclass most of those that had preceded it.

I knew very little about the inner history of the affair, but what information I possessed was entirely at Miss Thompson's service. She expressed herself as delighted with my imperfect explanation, and I was so well pleased at finding that I could interest her, that I determined to learn all I could about "D. K. & E." for her edification.

The chief clerk in our office was an approachable fellow, and he seemed to have taken a liking to me. His name was Fenton. Mr. Fisk had asked him to help me all he could, that I might gain a rapid insight into the business. Now, with my mind full of "D. K. & E.," I applied to Fenton for information. He seemed pleased with my thirst for knowledge, and gratified it to the extent of his power. Every particle of fact or premise thus obtained was passed over to Miss Thompson. We met frequently; I became a regular visitor at her home, and notes were exchanged by us across the court. She had completely enraptured me, so that I was wondering how soon I might, with consistency, ask her to become my wife. On account of the low condition of my finances, I dared not yet broach the subject. Hence, nothing in the nature of love making was indulged in, though I was eager to advance beyond the stage of friendships, and she seemed willing to acquiesce.

Matters went on in this way for some weeks. We called one another "Ethel" and "Henry." This departure from orthodox formality had been taken at her suggestion. "We know each other so well now," she had said to me, "that we may as well make use of our Christian names. It will seem more friendly. You are acting in the capacity of a brother to me; and you know," she added archly, "that I stand ready to be a sister to you."

However much I objected, privately, to the manner in which the privilege that she proposed, the concession itself was delightful, for it seemed to draw me closer to her.

One morning Fenton appeared to be excited over something. "I tell you what, Walton," he said to me, "I'm in a devil of a quandary. I've just had a glorious tip on your favorite stock, 'D. K. & E.,' but cannot see my way to take advantage of it. If I only had from \$1000 to \$5000 just now, I could make a lucky strike."

"Would you mind telling me about it?" I asked, in as calm a voice as I could command.

"Certainly I will tell you," Fenton replied. "Of course you won't breathe it to a soul." (I made no reply to this observation.) "I have it on the best of authority that 'D. K. & E.' is to be heavily unloaded tomorrow—pushed down to zero, in fact. The holders who cannot put up margins will be forced to sell out. Under ordinary circumstances, you know, this would mean that it was time to get from under; but in this case the man who has 'D. K. & E.' stock would better hang on to it. If he has none, he should place his order to purchase as soon as it reaches 28. I have private information that it will drop rapidly and stop at 24. A man buying at 28, you see, would have to put up a short margin of four points. Immediately it reaches 24 there will be a rush for it, and it will shoot up like a rocket. As soon as it strikes 26, the holder should sell. All this comes from the fact that 'D. K. & E.' is being used as a blind to cover operations on 'P. T. & Q.' While the struggle is going on over 'D. K. & E.' some quiet work will be done with 'P. T. & Q.' which will result in a grand coup. I am satisfied that my information is correct."

Well, I am ashamed to confess it, but I lost no time in conveying this information to Ethel, by means of an unsigned note. I was so proud of my ability to secure information, that I wanted to deliver it before it was stale. There would be no glory in telling it after it had become public property. Possibly my action in the matter was hastened, however, by a little note which I received from the girl shortly after my conversation with Fenton. It merely contained the question: "Anything new today about 'D. K. & E.'?"

My message containing the "glorious tip" which Fenton had communicated to me brought forth a reply. It contained these words: "Please do not come up tonight. I have another engagement."

During the remainder of the day, I noticed that Ethel was absent from her office. The next day and for several days thereafter it was the same. I became alarmed. Finally I rushed up to her house, only to be met with the information that Miss Thompson was not at home.

Meanwhile matters had transpired as Fenton had predicted. "D. K. & E." had fallen with great rapidity to 24. A scramble for it had ensued, and it had risen with equal celerity to 37. It was a matter for public comment that a man named Thompson—unknown on the street—had purchased at 28 and sold at 37, thereby reaping a snug fortune.

I saw no more of Ethel, but a letter received from her explained the mys-

tery. I have it here, and will read it to you.

"Dear Brother Henry—You have earned the title I bestow upon you. I felt satisfied you would secure some valuable information for me. Papa made use of it. He is rich now, and we are to start for Europe immediately. I made him promise me a foreign trip when I could find him a way to make the needed money. He supposed it was a joke, but has learned to his entire satisfaction that I was in earnest. You have my blessing. I shall think frequently of you and should I ever marry, I will write my brother to the wedding. An revoir."

"Blossom has decided to employ but one stenographer hereafter. I have no further use for my 'pull.'—Waverley Magazine.

A DOG'S LOVE OF HOME.

Canine Travels Alone and Afloat from El Reno, O. T., to Muscatine, Ia. Half starved and sunk feebly swollen and eyes sunk deep in its head from privations endured during a long and wearisome journey, a large Newfoundland dog belonging to C. W. Franklin, of this city, arrived home today from El Reno, O. T., having made the entire journey from that city.

Arriving at his master's doorstep the faithful animal collapsed, and would have died of fatigue but for the immediate use of restoratives. His long nails had been worn most entirely off in his run for home, and all four feet were swollen three times their usual size. In spite of his fatigue the dog is already recovering his former health and spirits.

Knowing his qualities as a watchdog, Mr. Franklin loaned him to his brother, Melvin Franklin, who, with his family, was about to start for El Reno. The party left Muscatine on May 15 and arrived in El Reno three weeks ago. A letter to friends in Muscatine upon their arrival stated that the dog was still with the company and had proven a valuable aid in watching the wagons on the trip westward.

No further information was received until this morning, when the dog's arrival gave evidence that it preferred comfortable home in Iowa to the wild life of the land of lotteries district.

Mr. Franklin resided at 151 Boone street when the dog was taken away, but during its absence moved to the house adjoining their old residence. The dog naturally passed by the new home upon his return this morning and went to the old house and knocked violently on the front door with his paw. Mrs. Franklin saw him and rushed to the adjoining yard, closely followed by her children, and threw her arms about the dog's neck in her joy at his return. The children were heartbroken when the Newfoundland barked at their feet, thoroughly worn out after its long journey.

Mr. Franklin returned a neat sum for his dog this afternoon, saying that no price would now tempt him to part with so faithful an animal.—Kansas City Journal.

QUANT AND CURIOUS.

It has been calculated that the hair of the beard grows at the rate of one and one-half inches a week. This will give a length of six and one-half inches in the course of a year.

Paranips are supposed by many people to be very nourishing. A pound of paranips only gives 12 grains of strength, while the same amount of skim milk will give 34 grains and of split peas 250 grains.

The highest telegraph poles in the United States have just been erected in Beaumont, Texas. So far as known they are the highest in the world, their tops being 150 feet from the ground. They carry a Western Union cable across the Neches river—a span 144 feet in length.

A curious custom prevails in Bulgaria. All newly married women are obliged to remain dumb after marriage, except when addressed by their husbands. When it is desirable to remove this restriction permanently the husband presents her with a gift, and then she can talk to her heart's content.

In a Ventura garden in California there is a great Lamarae rose tree which has made remarkable growth since it was planted, more than 25 years ago. Its trunk near the ground is two feet nine inches in circumference, while the main branches are not much smaller. In 1895 the tree produced over 21,000 blooms.

A statistician asserts that when 360 years shall have passed the density of the earth's population will be so great that each person will have only two-thirds of an acre, which space will have to suffice for all purposes—agriculture, roads, houses, parks, railroads, etc. He estimates the present population of the earth at 1,600,000,000, and says that in 2250 it will be 52,073,000,000.

The first postage stamp of France was the head of a stern-looking woman, and was meant to represent Liberty. The present stamp used in France represents two figures, Commerce and Mercury, clasping hands across the globe. For most of her colonies France issues a special stamp with the eagle of the empire upon it, but there are several exceptions. The island of Reunion has a small stamp with the value alone marked on it.

A certain "common informer," who lived under the Stuarts, died, and left money and lands to one of the great city companies for schools and other charitable purposes. He directed in his will that his body should be kept above ground in such a way that it could be seen through glass, and that the governing body of the company should, each year, under penalty of forfeiting the property, visit his tomb and see the body. This visitation is still carried out every year.

The girl who is cultivating her voice can't expect to cultivate many friends.

FACTS ON NOAH'S ARK.

THE CHALDEAN RECORD OF ITS DIMENSIONS AND CONTENTS.

A Fresh Witness to the Tradition of the Story of Noah's Flood, probably a Lished Fragment of the Wonderful Story Preserved in the British Museum.

Many readers would, I believe, be interested in a fresh witness to the Chaldean tradition of the deluge, writes a correspondent of the London Times. The best known account of this tradition is contained in the late George Smith's "Chaldean Genesis." There was given in the first connected account of the Assyrian version of the old Babylonian myths concerning the flood.

The only version has been drawn up for the library of Ashurbanipal, the last great King of Assyria, and has been brought by Sir Henry Layard from the ruins of Nineveh. A more complete edition, consisting of all the fragments of the story, preserved in the British Museum, has been published by Prof. Haupt.

Unfortunately, the lines which once recorded the dimensions of the ark are defective, and though Prof. Haupt considers it probable that the length was 100 cubits, while the breadth and height were both 120 cubits, we have no certainty about the length. By assuming that the measure named in the text really denotes a half cubit, as was once held by Prof. Oppert, the conjectured length would agree with the 300 cubits of the Biblical narrative.

One of the tablets, probably the last great King of Assyria, and has been brought by Sir Henry Layard from the ruins of Nineveh. A more complete edition, consisting of all the fragments of the story, preserved in the British Museum, has been published by Prof. Haupt.

Unfortunately, the lines which once recorded the dimensions of the ark are defective, and though Prof. Haupt considers it probable that the length was 100 cubits, while the breadth and height were both 120 cubits, we have no certainty about the length. By assuming that the measure named in the text really denotes a half cubit, as was once held by Prof. Oppert, the conjectured length would agree with the 300 cubits of the Biblical narrative.

One of the tablets, probably the last great King of Assyria, and has been brought by Sir Henry Layard from the ruins of Nineveh. A more complete edition, consisting of all the fragments of the story, preserved in the British Museum, has been published by Prof. Haupt.

Unfortunately, the lines which once recorded the dimensions of the ark are defective, and though Prof. Haupt considers it probable that the length was 100 cubits, while the breadth and height were both 120 cubits, we have no certainty about the length. By assuming that the measure named in the text really denotes a half cubit, as was once held by Prof. Oppert, the conjectured length would agree with the 300 cubits of the Biblical narrative.

One of the tablets, probably the last great King of Assyria, and has been brought by Sir Henry Layard from the ruins of Nineveh. A more complete edition, consisting of all the fragments of the story, preserved in the British Museum, has been published by Prof. Haupt.

Unfortunately, the lines which once recorded the dimensions of the ark are defective, and though Prof. Haupt considers it probable that the length was 100 cubits, while the breadth and height were both 120 cubits, we have no certainty about the length. By assuming that the measure named in the text really denotes a half cubit, as was once held by Prof. Oppert, the conjectured length would agree with the 300 cubits of the Biblical narrative.

One of the tablets, probably the last great King of Assyria, and has been brought by Sir Henry Layard from the ruins of Nineveh. A more complete edition, consisting of all the fragments of the story, preserved in the British Museum, has been published by Prof. Haupt.

Unfortunately, the lines which once recorded the dimensions of the ark are defective, and though Prof. Haupt considers it probable that the length was 100 cubits, while the breadth and height were both 120 cubits, we have no certainty about the length. By assuming that the measure named in the text really denotes a half cubit, as was once held by Prof. Oppert, the conjectured length would agree with the 300 cubits of the Biblical narrative.

One of the tablets, probably the last great King of Assyria, and has been brought by Sir Henry Layard from the ruins of Nineveh. A more complete edition, consisting of all the fragments of the story, preserved in the British Museum, has been published by Prof. Haupt.

Unfortunately, the lines which once recorded the dimensions of the ark are defective, and though Prof. Haupt considers it probable that the length was 100 cubits, while the breadth and height were both 120 cubits, we have no certainty about the length. By assuming that the measure named in the text really denotes a half cubit, as was once held by Prof. Oppert, the conjectured length would agree with the 300 cubits of the Biblical narrative.

One of the tablets, probably the last great King of Assyria, and has been brought by Sir Henry Layard from the ruins of Nineveh. A more complete edition, consisting of all the fragments of the story, preserved in the British Museum, has been published by Prof. Haupt.

Unfortunately, the lines which once recorded the dimensions of the ark are defective, and though Prof. Haupt considers it probable that the length was 100 cubits, while the breadth and height were both 120 cubits, we have no certainty about the length. By assuming that the measure named in the text really denotes a half cubit, as was once held by Prof. Oppert, the conjectured length would agree with the 300 cubits of the Biblical narrative.

One of the tablets, probably the last great King of Assyria, and has been brought by Sir Henry Layard from the ruins of Nineveh. A more complete edition, consisting of all the fragments of the story, preserved in the British Museum, has been published by Prof. Haupt.

animals, as remarkable for its omniscience as for its contents, seem suited to no other explanation than that we have here a summary estimate of the size and contents of Noah's ark.

I may add that the shape of the tablet is unusual, one side being flat, the other convex. The contour is a long oval, like that of a pressed fig. The writing reads the same way on both sides, contrary to the usual custom of the scribes who "turned over" from top to bottom, not from left to right, as we do, and as in the case of this tablet. The text is in a sort of palimpsest. In that several lines are written upon a previously erased character. The ideographic style seems to indicate that this was an extract or abstract from a larger and probably older work.

HOW TO TREAT CATS.

Should Have Raw Meat to Eat, but Not Too Much of It—Some Hints.

Cats are by nature dainty—even in their cruelties. There is all manner of feline grace in the way they play with mice. Cats suffer much less from constant housing than dogs, although they run wild much more readily, and never quite get over their murderous instincts. A cat of fancy breed, as Maltese, Angora, Cooon-cat or Manx, is a possession more fashionable than a dog. Even several times as much as no decorative breed, but in affection, intelligence and playfulness they rank below their black, gray, tiger marked and tortoiseshell brethren.

White cats are in general more savage and less intelligent than gray or tortoiseshell. Many of them have blue eyes, and all such are said to be stone deaf; hence they are less desirable in the house. Unlike dogs, cats require to have their meat raw, but they must not have too much of it. Milk should constitute at least a third of their food. Crows and hawks are their natural enemies, and again beat up a raw case in it. A bit of raw liver as big as two fingers, or a fish head, is meat enough for a day's ration. Supplement it with milk and bread or milk and mashed potatoes, a cracker or two, or a bit of hard bread, lightly buttered, and a few small bones, as from chicken, game or sheep.

Cats as well as dogs suffer a plague of fleas. Oddly enough cat fleas are unlike dog fleas, and if two sorts of insects meet upon one poor beast there is victory for the cat fleas, which are extending over the body of ground, much larger and more voracious than those found on the dog. If left to ravage unchecked they soon reduce a sleek, healthy cat to a miserable skeleton, suffering all over from eczema. To get rid of the fleas, wash with sulphur soap—any good brand which the nearest shop affords—comb out the fleas with a fine tooth comb while the hair is still wet, then rinse the cat well in milk warm water, dry it with soft towels, and give it after a bath a saucer of warm milk with a teaspoonful of brandy or whiskey in it. A kitten should have only a few drops of spirits and be kept snug in a clean basket for an hour after the bath. When the hair is very dry, blow in all along the backbone some sort of good fine insect powder—either larkspur or pyrethrum. Rub behind the ears with the sulphur ointment directed for dogs.

For mange rub all over with the sulphur ointment, and give it after a bath a saucer of warm milk with a teaspoonful of brandy or whiskey in it. A kitten should have only a few drops of spirits and be kept snug in a clean basket for an hour after the bath. When the hair is very dry, blow in all along the backbone some sort of good fine insect powder—either larkspur or pyrethrum. Rub behind the ears with the sulphur ointment directed for dogs.

For mange rub all over with the sulphur ointment, and give it after a bath a saucer of warm milk with a teaspoonful of brandy or whiskey in it. A kitten should have only a few drops of spirits and be kept snug in a clean basket for an hour after the bath. When the hair is very dry, blow in all along the backbone some sort of good fine insect powder—either larkspur or pyrethrum. Rub behind the ears with the sulphur ointment directed for dogs.

For mange rub all over with the sulphur ointment, and give it after a bath a saucer of warm milk with a teaspoonful of brandy or whiskey in it. A kitten should have only a few drops of spirits and be kept snug in a clean basket for an hour after the bath. When the hair is very dry, blow in all along the backbone some sort of good fine insect powder—either larkspur or pyrethrum. Rub behind the ears with the sulphur ointment directed for dogs.

For mange rub all over with the sulphur ointment, and give it after a bath a saucer of warm milk with a teaspoonful of brandy or whiskey in it. A kitten should have only a few drops of spirits and be kept snug in a clean basket for an hour after the bath. When the hair is very dry, blow in all along the backbone some sort of good fine insect powder—either larkspur or pyrethrum. Rub behind the ears with the sulphur ointment directed for dogs.

For mange rub all over with the sulphur ointment, and give it after a bath a saucer of warm milk with a teaspoonful of brandy or whiskey in it. A kitten should have only a few drops of spirits and be kept snug in a clean basket for an hour after the bath. When the hair is very dry, blow in all along the backbone some sort of good fine insect powder—either larkspur or pyrethrum. Rub behind the ears with the sulphur ointment directed for dogs.

For mange rub all over with the sulphur ointment, and give it after a bath a saucer of warm milk with a teaspoonful of brandy or whiskey in it. A kitten should have only a few drops of spirits and be kept snug in a clean basket for an hour after the bath. When the hair is very dry, blow in all along the backbone some sort of good fine insect powder—either larkspur or pyrethrum. Rub behind the ears with the sulphur ointment directed for dogs.

For mange rub all over with the sulphur ointment, and give it after a bath a saucer of warm milk with a teaspoonful of brandy or whiskey in it. A kitten should have only a few drops of spirits and be kept snug in a clean basket for an hour after the bath. When the hair is very dry, blow in all along the backbone some sort of good fine insect powder—either larkspur or pyrethrum. Rub behind the ears with the sulphur ointment directed for dogs.

For mange rub all over with the sulphur ointment, and give it after a bath a saucer of warm milk with a teaspoonful of brandy or whiskey in it. A kitten should have only a few drops of spirits and be kept snug in a clean basket for an hour after the bath. When the hair is very dry, blow in all along the backbone some sort of good fine insect powder—either larkspur or pyrethrum. Rub behind the ears with the sulphur ointment directed for dogs.

For mange rub all over with the sulphur ointment, and give it after a bath a saucer of warm milk with a teaspoonful of brandy or whiskey in it. A kitten should have only a few drops of spirits and be kept snug in a clean basket for an hour after the bath. When the hair is very dry, blow in all along the backbone some sort of good fine insect powder—either larkspur or pyrethrum. Rub behind the ears with the sulphur ointment directed for dogs.

For mange rub all over with the sulphur ointment, and give it after a bath a saucer of warm milk with a teaspoonful of brandy or whiskey in it. A kitten should have only a few drops of spirits and be kept snug in a clean basket for an hour after the bath. When the hair is very dry, blow in all along the backbone some sort of good fine insect powder—either larkspur or pyrethrum. Rub behind the ears with the sulphur ointment directed for dogs.

For mange rub all over with the sulphur ointment, and give it after a bath a saucer of warm milk with a teaspoonful of brandy or whiskey in it. A kitten should have only a few drops of spirits and be kept snug in a clean basket for an hour after the bath. When the hair is very dry, blow in all along the backbone some sort of good fine insect powder—either larkspur or pyrethrum. Rub behind the ears with the sulphur ointment directed for dogs.

ONE OF FOUR ODD ISLANDS.

A TALL ROCK IN THE PACIFIC, INHABITED BY TAME BIRDS.

Remarkable Sight on Nihoa, One of the Hawaiian Group—Recently Visited For the First Time in Fifteen Years—Birds Not Afraid of Visitors.

The Pacific Commercial Advertiser says: H. A. Jaeger, of Wailuku, Kauai, having chartered the steamer Mikahala to make a trip to Nihoa, as it is more familiarly called Bird Island, one of the islands of the Hawaiian group, lying some 265 miles to the westward of Honolulu, organized a party to leave Kauai on the steamer on Saturday afternoon to make a trip to the island and return Monday.

The party consisted of the following: H. A. Jaeger, Allan Jaeger, John Newell, Mr. McClood, Mr. Wagner, Nick Louros, George Klugel, W. H. Rice, Jr., W. Finesse W. W. Chamberlain, L. Winsheimer, N. Craig, Thomas Kimble, R. B. Church, B. J. Rice, Hugh Phelps, William A. Ramsay, George Herriot, P. K. Guild, A. Arwaldt, J. Jorgensen, M. L. May, Dr. Wilkinson, Dick Dias, Mr. Miller and two sons and the captain and purser of the Mikahala.

The party left Eleie, Kauai, about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. As dawn broke the twin peaks of the island were seen just ahead on the horizon. Gradually as the steamer drew nearer the island rose plainly to view and appeared to be a rock rising abruptly from the ocean and about a mile in length by a quarter of a mile in width. On three sides the cliffs rise precipitously from the sea, while on the fourth side is a small bay, which appeared to be the only landing. The party made for this bay and reached the anchorage a little after 9 o'clock. The sea was somewhat rough and large swells came rolling in, dashing into spray against the rocks.

Just as anchor was dropped a swarm of sharks came around the boat. Captain Gregory, after taking a careful survey of the bay and noting the possible landing places, decided to make a landing at a bluff somewhat sheltered from the swells of the ocean on the mauka side of the bay.

The first boat put off from the steamer shortly before 10 and made for the landing place selected by the captain. As they approached the shore, huge waves rolled against the rocks, dashing into spray and rebounding with a strong undertow. The captain and the sailors to the back of the boat, and as the waves carried the boat to the rock the boatswain, grasping a rope in his hand, leaped ashore. Fastening this rope he made fast to the boat and thus with sailors backing water and the native on shore pulling the boat gradually in, as the waves rose against the rocks, each member of the party leaped ashore. After the third boat had landed its passengers the party all climbed from the landing place up the cliffs on the hillside above. There they paused to make a survey of the island and decide where they should go.

Around on all sides, darkening the air, were birds of all descriptions. From the point of observation on the windward side of the island the visitors could see every portion of Nihoa, and, dividing into parties, they decided to explore, each party in separate directions. The island is divided by several gulches or ravines. In the bottom of these ravines are lulu palms, a palm whose leaves the natives use in making hats very similar to the Panama hats. On all sides underfoot are the rocks, in the caves and in the crevices, were birds, large, small, black, white and spotted. The birds were not the least afraid. They circled around and in many cases attempted to fly in men's faces. As the party traversed the slopes it was difficult to escape from stepping upon the eggs and young ones.

One of the exploring parties scaled the highest point of the island and the view from there was well worth the hot and tiresome tramp. Said one of the explorers: "As we stood and gazed down some thousand feet below us we could see the sea, dashing against the rocks almost directly under our feet. The sky was clear and for miles in every direction nothing could be seen but the endless expanse of the ocean, and the thought struck us, what a terrible place it would be for shipwrecked mariners. There is very little water on the island. In the ravines can be found in the hollows of the rocks small pools of water, but this water is so saturated with guano that it is impossible to use it for drinking purposes. Some members of our party brought down and we shot quite a number of 'bo'sons.' These 'bo'sons' have two red feathers in their tails. These feathers were used by the ancient Hawaiians for making royal kahuks and are very rare.

We succeeded in shooting quite a number of the birds and capturing feathers from a large number of the female birds sitting on their nests amidst the brush of the island. As we passed along through the brush, scattered all over were nests of some of the larger birds. These nests are made of shrubbery, ferns and grass, and each female bird lays on eggs and hatches but one bird. These birds are about the size of an ordinary full grown fowl and are covered with a fuzz of snowy white or of gray, according to the species of the bird, and as you pass by they snap their bills ferociously at you and if you are unfortunate enough to be caught in their grip the mark would be a permanent reminder of the trip to the island. Among this underbrush live a large number of canaries very similar to the Laysan Island canary, only more gaudily feathered and a little smaller in size. We succeeded in capturing a few of these birds and brought them home with us.

"During the morning several sharks varying in length from four to six feet were caught. Their fins and tails were chopped off and they were then thrown overboard. In the afternoon a shark some fourteen feet in length was captured, and when his stomach was cut open it was found to contain two of the small sharks which had been captured in the morning and

whose fins and tails had been cut off. The large shark had evidently swallowed them as they were lying nearly by side in the stomach of the shark intact, and just in front of them was the body of a seabird shot by some member of our party.

"After hoisting up the boats we made a circuit of the island. Through one side of the island there extends a cave large enough to allow a boat to row through, providing the weather was calm, and it is possible for one to look through, seeing water on the other side. The island appears to have been thrown up from the bottom of the sea by some volcanic force, and in that action to have been split into many sections, these sections being filled up with molten lava, which has cooled into solid rock and shows in vertical layers from base to summit, whereas the sections between are in horizontal layers."

This island was visited by a party some fifteen years ago, and then they were Gov. Dole, Queen Liliuokalani, Mr. A. Jaeger and Mr. W. W. Hall. Since then no one has visited the place until this present trip.

He's a Daring, Hardy Diver That Feels Folks New to the Adirondacks. Of all the Adirondack birds the hardest to kill is the loon, writes the Osgood Lake (N. Y.) correspondent of the New York Sun. Indeed, if the guides are to be believed, nobody ever did kill a loon with the ordinary implements of the chase. It is one of the pleasures of the guides to see a stranger pride himself on his marksmanship, the pleasure of the guide is all the keener, for the chances are that the cleverest marksman unacquainted with the peculiar characteristics of the bird will have the mortification of shooting again and again and seeing his animated mark sail around serenely as if possessed of a charmed life.

Perhaps the fact that the loon is almost impossible to pluck and almost inedible after he has been plucked and cooked may account for his immunity from attack by sportsmen. Besides this, however, he is a quick diver with a marvelous power of staying under water, and such is the toughness of his skin and the thickness of his feathers, that even those who are skillful enough to hit him are far from sure of killing him. The guides solemnly assure the unlearned in Adirondack lore that the loon will swim miles under water, and that his coat will turn any ordinary bullet.

"I tried once when I didn't know as much as I do now to kill a loon up at Meacham," said a bronzed old guide. "I thought I had him where he couldn't get away. I never should a' tried it but for that. The lake was high froze over, and when I spied him he was swimmin' round and round in a little space of water tryin' to keep it open so he could fish. Well, I says to myself, 'Mr. Loon, I got you this time.' For I knowed that every time he dived he'd have to come up in about the same spot, because there wa'n't no other place for him to come up. I had a rifle, mind you, and when I saw him I was up on a bluff morn'n fifty yards from where he was a swimmin' round."