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A TOUGH GOOSE.

Mose Wanted to See the Feet of the Next One.

Every day for the past half decade an old, gray-haired negro has passed through the grounds of the National museum on the way to the northwest, where he makes a living by doing easy tasks for his old mistress. The workshop of the taxidermists has ever been a place of great interest to the old man, and he never passes their door without a cheery morning greeting or a visit of uncertain duration.

The scientists, too, have grown fond of their dusky friend, and "Mose" is the first one for whom they inquire when returning from the long journeys and the last person for whom a good-natured message is left as they leave.

But the scientists cannot resist an occasional joke at the expense of the old man.

Mose happened into their workshop the day before Christmas, just after one of the scientists had been skinning a large bald eagle. As the old negro wandered aimlessly about the room, airing his unfailing wealth of interrogatives, one of the taxidermists called to him:

"Mose, would you like to have a nice goose for your Christmas dinner?"

"Deedy I would. I's 'bliged to you a t'ousand times if you gibs me de goose," exclaimed Mose, enthusiastically.

When he left the shop the lifeless body of the eagle protruded conspicuously from the newspaper bundle under his arm, the old man still expressing his gratitude volubly as long as he remained in sight.

Monday Mose again wandered into the shop. "How did you like that goose, Mose?" asked the chief.

"Dat goose," said Mose, ruefully, "was just de toughes' goose eber I see. Golly, he must hab been de fader t'all de ganders. I biled dat goose, and I parbiled 'im, den I biled 'im 'gen, but shu's you bohn dat ar wuz de chewines behrd me an' de ole woomun eber seed."

"Oh, you didn't cook it right," said the chief, with a smile at the others. "Come in to-morrow and we will give you another."

The next day, when Mose came hobbling in, a large snowy owl lay on the bench, with its skin drawn over its head.

"There is your goose, Mose," said the chief, in as nonchalant a manner as possible.

The old negro looked suspiciously from the scientists to the bird, scratching his wooly head meditatively.

"See here, boss," he said, finally, "ef 'tain't no trouble I's like t'see de feet on dat goose afore I carries 'im to de ole woomun."—Washington Star.

FIGURES BY TELEGRAPH.

Code by Which Any Large Numbers Can Be Sent as One Word.

To those people who use the telegraph extensively and who spend much time in attempting to crowd 20 words into ten, a new book by Charles Stewart will be of interest. The book contains a novel telegraphic code, by means of which any number from one to a million may be expressed by a single word of not more than ten letters.

Telegraph companies in transmitting numbers charge for each figure as a separate word. Thus 74,013 is reckoned as five words, whereas by the Stewart system "rulidoka," meaning the same thing, would only count as one word. In some cases, for the sake of clearness and to avoid possible error, people write out numbers in words when sending telegraphic messages, and in such cases, 34,968 would count at least seven, or possibly eight words.

The code contains two tables. One gives a series of equivalents for the numbers 1 to 999, and the other gives a series of equivalents for the number 1,000 to 999,000, and by combining the two tables one gets the equivalents of any numbers from 1 to 999,999.

This system may be better understood by consulting the following examples: The numbers 1,001, 1,002, 1,003, etc., are formed as follows: Du—1,000, da—1, duda—1,001; du—1,000, fa—2, dufa—1,002; du—1,000, ka—3, duka—1,003; fu—2,000, sona—86, fusona—2,086; kuli—34,000, tonsa—968, kulitonsa—34,968; tuti—99,000, totta—999, tutitotta—99,999; kulmi—345,000, norsa—678, kulminorsa—345,678.

The numbers from 1 to 10 are expressed as follows: 1 da, 2 fa, 3 ka, 4 la, 5 ma, 6 na, 7 ra, 8 sa, 9 ta, 10 doba.

These form the basis for combinations, which grow as the figures become larger, although some large amounts may be expressed with comparatively few letters. Thus: 865,000 sunmi, 866,000 sunni, 867,000 sunri, 868,000 sunsi, 869,000 sunti, 870,000 surbi, 871,000 surdi, 872,000 surfi, 873,000 surki, 874,000 surli, 875,000 surmi, 876,000 surni, 877,000 surri, 878,000 sursi, 879,000 surti.

When broker and customer use the code, an order to buy or sell "dubi shares" will mean "10,000 shares," and the election reporter who tells of "lunri votes," will mean 467,000. If the book is found to be all that its author claims for it, it will be a boon to telegraphers.—N. Y. Tribune.

Her Dream Rudely Dispelled.

They were on their way to the theater, and she was tremulously happy. She felt that the words she so longed to hear would be spoken that night, and the idea made her almost dizzy with delight.

"Mr. Simpson," she said, softly, "why do you wear that bit of string about your finger?"

"O," replied Mr. Simpson, taking it off, "that was to remind me of my engagement with you to-night."

It wasn't much, but it was enough to take away the delightful dizziness.—Odds and Ends.

MARVELOUS CHILD MUSICIAN.

A Six-Year-Old Girl Who Plays Everything She Hears.

[Copyright, 1898.]

The question, is music born in people, seems to have been answered by little Lulu Espach, of 512 West Seventh street, Cincinnati, O. When she was a baby of six months, the only thing that would quiet her was music. Now, six years old, she is capable of sitting at the piano and playing any music she hears. Strangest of all, the child cannot read music.

While playing the instrument, the little one never looks at the keys, but gazes upward as if inspiration came to her from above. Still, she has no great fondness for classical music, although she can play it as readily as any other. She best likes, her parents say, Sousa's music, although that is only a present fad, as from time to time she, like others much older, has new favorites.

A SIX-YEAR-OLD MUSICIAN WHO PLAYS EVERYTHING SHE HEARS.

Her mother is very fond of music, but has been able to teach the child only a little. Even this Lulu resents, and says to her mother on such occasions: "Mamma, go away. I will get it all right myself." This is the simple truth, for indeed Lulu always does get it right. After she hears a new tune once she will go to the piano at the first opportunity and play it over. Perhaps an occasional chord may be wrong, but the youngster will continue playing until she gets every note exactly as it should be.

Not long ago she was with her parents at the house of a friend, when some one of the guests played a Beethoven sonata. One of the ladies present said to Lulu that there was something that she could not play. The child insisted that she could, and begged permission to be permitted to do so. This being granted, she sat down at the instrument, and played this most difficult music from beginning to end without an error.

Lulu has been carefully examined by physicians to see if her nervous organization is different from that of others, or whether there is a development that would indicate that her fondness for music had resulted in some other of the qualities of the human being having been either omitted or undeveloped. On the contrary, the result disclosed the fact that rarely is there born into the world a child whom nature has so striven to create perfect; who has been so liberally endowed with the mental qualities that will enable her to enjoy all the higher pleasures of life.

It cannot be said that she has a taste for any particular line of music, but that is probably because she is so young. Though but six years of age, she appears to be much older, and the accompanying illustration is taken from a photograph made expressly to illustrate this statement concerning the child. Very many musicians have been to see her, and each of them has said that she has a remarkably accurate ear and a touch that is delicacy itself. In no sense a singer, she is in every sense a player, and the music that cannot pour from her throat seems to have found an avenue of escape by means of the fingers.

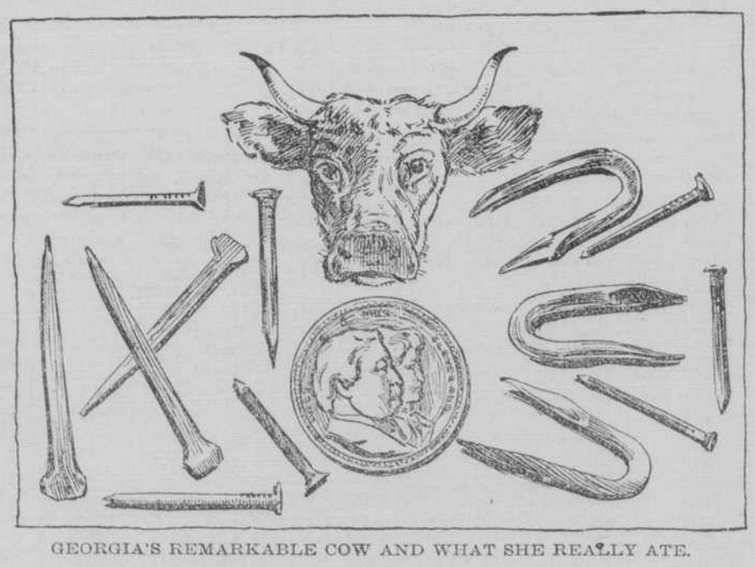
HAS AN OSTRICH STOMACH.

A Cow at La Grange, Ga., That Has a Remarkable Appetite.

[Copyright, 1898.]

The cow is trying to rival the goat in point of appetite. Thus far, it is in about the same proportion as the goat rivals the cow on the milk question. Nevertheless, if the predilection for hardware developed by a Georgia cow grows among the kine there is no knowing where it will stop.

The particular cow referred to is owned by Mr. Reuben Smith at La Grange, Ga., and although she is dead and gone the way of all beef, her memory bids fair to live after her, owing to the discovery made by those who dissected her. Look at the accompanying picture and it is not hard to fathom the reason why. Any cow that could eat ten penny nails, staples from a barbed wire fence and a brass medal with the face of Grover Cleveland stamped on one side is certainly worth a niche in the gallery of fame, not to mention a few echoes in the halls of time.



GEORGIA'S REMARKABLE COW AND WHAT SHE REALLY ATE.

No one knows how long this hardware diet had been cultivated by Mr. Smith's cow. He remembers now his attention is called to it that nails left about the cowshed mysteriously disappeared on various occasions. Then he thought some one must have needed them or a small boy made a discovery, but now he is convinced that he has wronged everyone in favor of his cow.

To show conclusively what the cow really did do, here is a list furnished by Mr. Smith himself of just what he found in the animal's stomach:

One brass medal, ornamented with the picture of ex-President Cleveland.

Six shingle nails.

Three staples, picked from a barbed wire fence.

Three horseshoe nails.

After this astonishing discovery was made, the cow's stomach was carefully examined to see what effect the taking of such substances into it had had. Contrary to expectation, it could not be learned that any injury whatever had resulted. Neither did the articles themselves show evidence of having been where they were found any great length of time. For all they showed, the cow might have been eating hardware for years.

It really demonstrates that the scientific opinions regarding the possibilities of the stomachs of animals are guesswork to a certain extent. It has been held concerning the cow's stomach, for instance, that it was very tender, when the variety of food the animal ate was considered. But to the lay mind to say that the stomach of any animal that can digest hardware is tender, seems bordering on the verge of nonsense.

Is there any reason, therefore, to suppose that the stomach of the cow cannot hereafter be classed with those of the ostrich, the goat and the camel? It really seems as if the cow might, in a measure, become a very scientific problem.

High Flights.

According to the figures of M. de Fonvielle, the famous French aeronaut, free balloons have attained a height about twice as great as that of any balloon carrying a man. In 1894 Mr. Berson ascended in a balloon to the immense elevation of 30,000 feet; but since then a free balloon, carrying self-recording instruments capable of registering the height attained, has reached an elevation of 60,000 feet—more than double the height of Mount Everest, the loftiest mountain in the world.—Youth's Companion.

THE ODDITIES OF THE WORLD.

Some of the Strange and Interesting Things That Happen on This Old Earth of Ours.

Marvelous Child Musician—Indianapolis Firemen Travel by Electricity—A Bicyclist's Daring Ride—New Use for Electric Light—Other Odd Things.

TO RESCUE THE DROWNING.

A New Use to Be Made of the Electric Light.

[Copyright, 1898.]

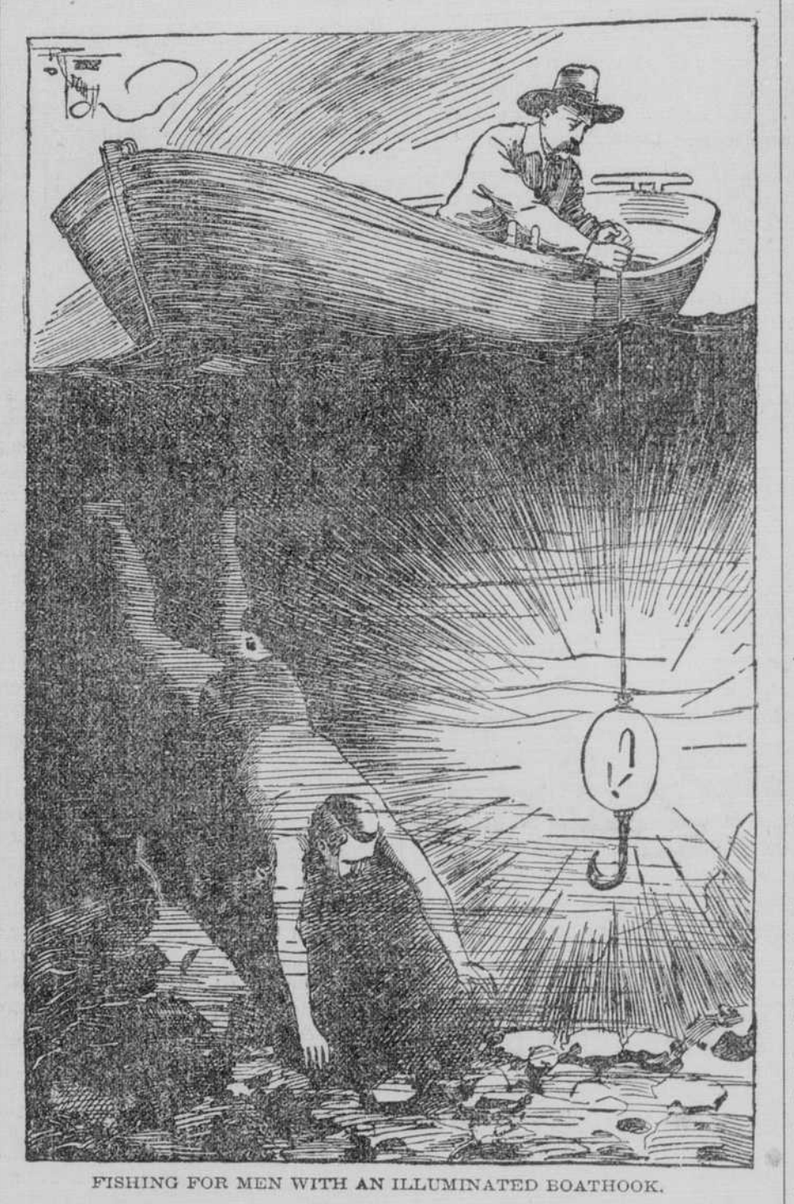
Not all the novel electrical inventions are produced of American ingenuity. Of course the Yankees lead, and always will; but they have a queer idea now and then across the water. For instance, in Paris they are now rescuing the drowning by electricity.

Any person who has ever had the thrilling experience of witnessing a narrow escape from drowning may remember the awful moment when the imperilled being disappears beneath the water. So long as he can be seen struggling upon the surface, though all the fates may be dragging him down, there is still a chance for hope. It is the moment when the mortal creature surrenders and sinks into the arms of death, that is unbearable to witness. The imagination is fearfully enticed by visions of the unseen close of the tragedy, the climax that is veiled from view by the dark water. To those who watch the broadening ripples on the surface, seconds stretch to hours. It is not the victim alone for whom time drags so slowly that there is leisure for the reviewing of a life.

No one ever estimates correctly the interval that elapses between the disappearance of the drowning man beneath the surface and the moment when the body is brought up from the depths, if that be speedily accomplished. It may be five minutes; but a majority of those who see it will say it was half an hour.

In proportion to the seeming extension of time is the importance of it. A half minute saved may mean the difference between death and life. That difference often depends upon the exact location of the body. In shallow water where a rower who has hurried to the spot may grapple for the body with a boathook, the impossibility of seeing more than a few feet below the surface is the obstacle that prevents a rescue.

This fact, so often noticed, has led some Parisian to invent an electrically-illuminated boathook for use in such emergencies. It is impossible to place the exact credit for the invention, but its utility has been subjected, recently, to a series of tests by the police in a natatorium in Paris and the results were in the highest degree satisfactory. An expert swimmer represented the supposed drowning man. He sank to the bottom of the tank and then moved stealthily along the bottom so that not a ripple showed which way he had gone. The surface light was so arranged that the bottom could not be seen, but in every case the swimmer was quickly located by means of the illuminated hook.



FISHING FOR MEN WITH AN ILLUMINATED BOATHOOK.

The implement is like any ordinary boathook, except that just above the gaff, a strong glass bulb is carried. In the center of the bulb is an ordinary carbon-fire electric light. Wires run up inside the handle, and are connected with a storage battery which may be so small as to be conveniently carried upon the belt of the rescuer.

It is the intention to equip the life-savers along the Seine—where drowning, whether from accident or suicide is notably frequent—with these devices, and it is also believed that they can be of great utility on much-frequented skating ponds, and at summer resorts where there is still-water bathing.

TEST COAL WITH AN X-RAY.

Remarkable Announcement Made by Caryl D. Haskins.

[Copyright, 1898.]

The remarkable announcement is made by Mr. Caryl D. Haskins, the well-known Barton electrician, that we can now determine by means of the X-ray exactly how much ash material there is in the coal that we burn before it is burned. In other words, turn the X-ray upon your coal and you can tell how much of it will remain as ashes after it is burned and how much will escape as gas. It really seems as if some of the most remarkable predictions concerning the Roentgen ray were coming true.

Mr. Haskins, on being requested to outline the discovery he believes he has made, has sent the following as an explanation to the public of just what he believes he has discovered:

It is of first importance to all users of steam power. The coal which costs the least per ton is not necessarily the cheapest coal by any means. One of the most reliable indications of the steam-making qualities of coal lies in the percentage of ash. A coal which leaves a large amount of ash is, of course, a coal which has a relatively small amount of combustible constituents and vice versa. It is the determination of the amount of ash in coal which I believe can be accomplished with considerable accuracy by means of X-rays. The shadow produced upon the fluoroscope by a piece of coal of a given size and thickness is apparently dependent for its relative density upon the amount of ash producing material in that piece of coal.

If, therefore, a number of samples of uniform size and thickness of various kinds of coal having known percentages of ash be prepared and if a lot of coal which is to be investigated have several pieces taken haphazard from it and reduced to similar sizes and thicknesses to the pieces of known coals above referred to, then it is only a question of matching up the density of the shadow case upon the fluoroscope by the unknown value of coal with a sample of known value, and the quantity of ash per ton in the coal under consideration is immediately fixed with I believe considerable accuracy. The method may be termed a kind of photo-metric veil.

So important is the subject considered that it has been taken up for discussion by a number of scientific societies both in this country and Europe. Analytical investigation is sure to follow which it is believed will result in most important developments. Mr. Haskins' experiments in this direction have been somewhat crude, and yet they have brought to the attention of the world knowledge which, from a mining standpoint, cannot be considered of too great value.