

A Merry Xmas to you all,
A Happy New Year to both large and small;
For good Footwear it is very plain,
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J. M. BAILEY,



Costly Fare for Ostriches.

There was a happening at the Arizona ostrich farm recently which disproves the theory that the ostrich is satisfied with eating nails, barbed wire and the like. A man who had visited the farm the day before discovered that his gold watch was missing. Thinking that he might have lost it at the farm, he returned to look for it. When he arrived he enlisted the services of a youth and started in quest, without entertaining much hope of finding the watch. About the first thing noticed by the youth was an ostrich tossing something in the air. It was the watch, and would have been swallowed if it had been a glass-faced watch. It happened that both sides were opened and lodged in the beak. The next day the valuation of one of the birds was enhanced \$50. It swallowed a diamond from the setting of a woman visitor, who inadvertently sought to console the bird by caressing its forehead.

How to Make a Fernery.

An unsightly or dark corner of a back yard or garden may, without much difficulty, be converted into quite an attractive spot by the construction of a fernery. This can be done by removing the flags, if any, rearing them on edge as a kind of border line, filling in behind with good garden soil, if leaf mold and sandy peat are not obtainable for mixing it. See that there is plenty of drainage by placing a thick layer of broken stones or bricks at the bottom, then add the soil in the shape of a gently sloping bank, studding it with rough stones (the rougher the better) from a sandstone quarry. In gathering wild ferns do not attempt to bring home large specimens. Be content with small plants with plenty of fronds. They will make a fair show for themselves if properly attended to.

British Tars Row Against Malays.
There are a harbor at Port Elizabeth, Cape of Good Hope, the other day, an interesting race was held, a crew of British rowing boats being pitted against some of the Malay rowers. The five seamen who were selected for the British navy were selected from the crew of the cruiser "H. Harris," one of the smartest and fastest of the navy, and now in command of the Cape of Good Hope and the coast of Africa squadron. If the moment came, thought they were going to walkover they were greatly surprised. The Malays gave them a good race; sometimes the naval men led, and then again the Malays would overtake them. Toward the finish, however, the seamen obtained a tactical advantage and managed to win with about a dozen lengths to spare.

New Mail Box.

A Washington inventor has devised an ingenious attachment for a mail box. Every time that the door is opened by the collector of the mail a small movable sign is changed. This sign, which consists of a card, is visible from the outside, and shows when the next collection will be made.

A RARE DOLLAR.

A Big Lawsuit Over Its Ownership—\$1,500 Offered For It.

The New York Evening Post reports a curiously complex situation at Racine, Wis., over the ownership of a silver dollar of the coinage date of 1804. It is said that only one of four of these dollars ever left the mint, and they are consequently very valuable. The dollar in question was given several months ago by a woman whose name, if known, is kept secret, to Ladislav Altmann, a clerk in the dry goods store of L. T. Hartnett in payment for goods bought. The woman did not know that the dollar was worth more than its face value; in fact, she hesitated about using it at all for fear that it was not genuine. The clerk, without knowing how rare the coin was, recognized it as an odd piece and put it into his pocket, handing over to the cashier a dollar of his own. For several months thereafter he carried the 1804 dollar about as a pocket piece. One day he showed it to a friend at a bank and was informed that it was worth not less than \$500. In order to verify this estimate he sent it to a coin buyer in Chicago, who promptly offered \$1,500 for it. The clerk still did not sell, having heard that a similar coin had sold for a still larger sum in New York. But, though he did not sell, he talked, and the story reached the ears of Mr. Hartnett, his employer. Mr. Hartnett promptly claimed that the dollar either belonged to the funds of the store or to the woman who had tendered it without knowing its value. He demanded that it be returned and held for the woman. If she could not be found he claimed that the coin belonged to him. The clerk claims that he was justified in substituting his dollar for the one paid in, and pertinently calls attention to the fact that had the coin proved a bad one he would have been held responsible. Both sides have employed attorneys and a lawsuit seems inevitable.

GIRL WHO HAS A TAME DUCK.

Odd Pet of a Young Woman Who Lives at Lake Bluff and Goes in Surf.

When the neighbors first observed Miss Stella Tunnison in the rolling waves of Lake Michigan on the sandy beach at Lake Bluff they thought little of the occurrence. Even when close observers noticed a duck swimming around in close proximity to the young woman it was looked upon as a coincidence. But when on other occasions it was observed that the young woman and the duck took the water together, left at the same time and walked across the beach side by side to the bathhouse, then the watchers knew they had something to talk about. Miss Tunnison is perhaps the first society girl to make a pet of a duck and go bathing in company with her quacking friend. Other girls have "taken in" their pet dogs on occasion, but a duck for a swimming companion is certainly an innovation. The fowl makes no attempt to swim far from its mistress when they take their daily trip. It accompanies her solemnly across the sand to the water's edge and when she wades in with little screams over the chilliness of the water the duck boldly breasts the waves and paddles around delightedly. While Miss Tunnison is splashing in the shallow water the duck remains near until she has finished her "dip" and then contentedly accompanies her to shore.

NOT THE SAME.

A little girl who was being taken into the country for a day's outing by the Chicago vacation school committee was observed to be very sedate as she sat in the open street car. "Have you ever had a ride on the cars before?" the teacher asked. "Yes, I've hitched, but I never sat up straight like this before," she answered.

Properly Treated.

"You didn't even pay the minister who married us!" cried Mrs. Peck. "He deserved to be hung up!" shouted Henry, savagely. — Philadelphia North American.



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SEEMS SLOW NOW.

Ten Miles an Hour by Rail Forty-Seven Years Ago.

"I was greatly interested the other day," said a passenger conductor who runs into New Orleans, "in looking over an old schedule of the South Carolina railroad, printed just forty-seven years ago, in the fall of '52. It is hard to realize what tremendous changes have taken place within the memory of the people who are now alive and hearty. In the 50's the South Carolina line was considered one of the best equipped and fastest in the country. I find by the old schedule that the night express between Charleston and Columbia, which is a distance of about 130 miles, made the trip, when it had good luck, in 12 hours and 15 minutes, but the public was warned not to expect such a feat every day. The freight service between the two points was scheduled to cover the run in 29 hours, there or thereabouts. That was a shade better than four and one-half miles an hour, and was considered so fast that there is a special order to trainmen to stop at the first siding 'in dense fogs and wait for the same to lift.' It seems to me that order gives one a wonderful picture of the good old times. Think of a through freight roosting on a siding, waiting for a fog to lift! Nowadays the passenger trains make the run from Charleston to Columbia in four hours. According to the '52 schedule, there was an express train that left Charleston at 5 p. m. and arrived in Hamburg at 6 the following morning. The distance is 136 miles. A freight for Aiken, 120 miles away, left at the same hour, and reached its destination at 9:40 next night. Ten miles an hour was considered remarkable speed for passenger trains in those days, and an old inhabitant told me that many people declined to risk their necks at such a gait. From what I hear of the rolling-stock equipment, they showed their good sense."—New Orleans Times-Democrat.

An Interesting Find of Coins.

The house at Falkirk, Scotland, in which Prince Charlie slept before the historic battle of 1746 was recently removed. The pulling down of the structure resulted in an interesting find of coins, mostly belonging to the reign of George III. The most interesting is one dated 1791, bearing on one side the arms of the city of Edinburgh and the inscription, "Edinburgh halfpenny," and on the other a representation of St. Andrew, the Scottish thistle and the motto, "Nemo me impune lacessit."



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The Dean and the Lunatic.

Dean Stanley had great respect for presence of mind, and used with great delight to tell a story of presence of mind by which he liberated himself from a dangerous visitor. Since he was willing to see almost any one who asked for him, he once told his servant to usher into his study a gentleman who had called, and who happened to bear a name which was familiar to him. When the gentleman appeared he proved to be an entire stranger. It was evident there had been some mistake. This became still more evident when, advancing with an air of great excitement, the gentleman exclaimed: "Sir, I have a message to the queen from the Most High. I beg that you deliver it instantly." "In that case," said the dean, taking up his hat, "there is not a moment to be lost. Let us go at once." They went downstairs into the hall, and, opening the door, the dean requested his visitor to step out. No sooner had he done so than the dean shut the door behind the lunatic.

Among the Malays.

The Malayalis, a caste of Madras, have a most curious custom. A man having very young sons takes to himself new wives, which he calls his sons' wives, the children of the marriage being called the sons' children. This particular relation continues from one generation to another.

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