

## The Story Teller.

### A TALE FOR TRUANT HUSBANDS.

"Where are you going, George?" asked Mrs. Wilson, as her husband rose from the table, and took his hat.

"O—I'm going out," was the careless response.

"But where?" asked his wife.

"What odds does it make, Emma?" returned her husband. "I shall be back at my usual time."

The young wife hesitated, and a quick flush overspread her face. She seemed to have made up her mind to speak plainly upon a subject which had lain unheeded upon her heart for some time, and she could not let the opportunity pass. It required an effort—but she persevered.

"Let me tell you what odds it makes to me," she said, in a kind but tremulous tone. "If I cannot have your company here at home, I should at least feel better if I knew where you were."

"But you know that I am safe, Emma—and what more can you ask?"

"I do not know that you are safe, George. I know nothing about you when you are away."

"Pooh! pooh! Would you have it that I am not capable of taking care of myself?"

"You put a wrong construction upon my words, George. Love is always anxious when its dearest object is away. If I did not love you as I do, I might not be thus uneasy. When you are at your place of business, I never feel thus, because I know I can seek and find you at any moment; but when you are absent during these long evenings, I get to wondering where you are. Then I begin to feel lonesome; and so one thought follows another, until I feel troubled and uneasy. Oh—if you would only stay with me a portion of your evenings!"

"Ah—I thought that was what you were aiming at," said George, with a playful shake of the head. "You would have me here every evening?"

"Well—can you wonder at it?" returned Emma. "I used to be very happy when you came to spend an evening with me before we were married; and I know I should be very happy in your society now."

"Ah," said George, with a smile, "those were social meetings. We were arranging then for the future."

"And why not continue so to do, my husband? I am sure we could be as happy now as ever. If you will remember, one of our plans was to make a home."

"And haven't we got one, Emma?"

"We have certainly a place in which to live," answered the wife, somewhat exasperatedly.

"And it is our home," pursued George.

"And," he added, with a sort of confident flourish, "home is the wife's peculiar province. She has charge of it, and all her work is there; while the duties of the husband call him to other scenes."

"Well, I admit that, so far as certain duties are concerned," replied Emma. "But you must remember that we both need relaxation from labor; we need time for social and mental improvement and enjoyment; and what time have we if we are not together? Why should we be at home every evening, as well as in daytime and in the night?"

"Well—what do you mean, George?"

"How can it be if you are not here? What makes me go for children, if it be not the advice of the parents? What home can a husband have where there is no wife? And—what real comforts can a wife enjoy where there is no husband? You do not consider how lonesome I am all alone here during these long evenings. They are a very serious when I am at leisure to enjoy your companionship, and when you would be at leisure to enjoy mine, if it is worth enjoying. They are the seasons when the happiest hours of home life might be passed. Come—will you not spend a few of your evenings with me?"

"You see enough of me as it is," said the husband, lightly.

"Allow me to be the best judge of that, George. You would be very lonesome here, all alone."

"Not if it was my place of business, as it is of yours," returned the young man. "You are used to staying here. All wives belong to home."

"Just remember, my husband, that previous to our marriage, I had pleasant society all the time. Of course I remained at home much of my time; but I had a father and mother there, and I had brothers and sisters there—and our evenings were happily spent. Finally, I got up and went out on my own. I found that this was no home for you. I found that this was no home for me, while my sweet wife was absent. I thought I would walk down with Uncle John's and see your face, if possible. I had gazed upon my empty chair all my heart ached." He kissed her as he spoke, and then added, while she reclined her head upon his arm, "I have learned a very good lesson. Your presence here is like a bursting forth of the sun after a storm; and if you love me as I love you—I should be glad if you could not—I—my presence may afford some doubt for you. At all events, our next experiment shall be to that effect. I will try and see how much home comfort we can find while we are both here to enjoy it."

Emma was too happy to express her joy in words; but she expressed it nevertheless, and in a manner, too, not to be mistaken.

The next evening was spent at home by both husband and wife, and it was a season of much enjoyment. In a short time George began to realize how much comfort was to be found in a quiet and peaceful home; and the longer he enjoyed this comfort, the more loudly did he desire to see and understand the simple truth, that it takes two to make a happy home, and that if the wife is one party the husband must be the other.

The People's Temperance Reform Convention, recently held at Columbus, Ohio, adopted resolutions favoring the amendment of the State Constitution so as to prohibit the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, and declaring that if the general political parties of the State fail to nominate candidates favoring temperance, a convention will be called to nominate a State temperance ticket.

The Illinois House of Representatives has passed a bill prohibiting all railroads in that State from giving their rates of freight without first giving sixty days' notice of the change, by posting the change every station along the line, under heavy penalties.

A Virginia mailer a postal card to Senator Vance, with the request, "Please send me your speech on the dog, Mahone," and Mahone had the man arrested for sending scurrilous matter through the mails. The *New York World* thinks the poor fellow only straggled with his pen.

The age of giants has returned. Within six months seven giants, over eight feet in height, have appeared in New York City. The latest addition was Henrik Bsted, a Norwegian, who arrived Monday. He is eight feet tall and weighs 400 pounds.

A political orator, speaking of a certain General whom he admired, said he was always on the field of battle where the bullets were thickest. "Where was that?" "In the ammunition wagon."

At a combination stock sale at the Nashville fair grounds, twenty-one head of Jersey cattle brought \$18,000. One hundred and twenty-three horses sold for \$22,135. "Warrior," sired by Indian Chief, selling for \$875.

The present bull movement has stopped the mouth of every prophet of evil among those who write on financial subjects. Everybody agrees that everything is going up and never coming down, and day by day everything does. Every reaction is quickly wiped out by a flood of money from new buyers, with England, where an offer of money was made two weeks ago at 1 1/2 per cent, standing in the background ready to float every dollar with enormous purchases. There is probably no time more dangerous in every era of prosperity than the period when the last panic is forgotten and present prosperity accepted as eternal, and that is the accepted belief now. A crash is distant, but a crash is certain. Meanwhile, the prudent will save and not spend, invest and not speculate.

## Fish Culture.

From the Illustrated Scientific News for January, 1881.

### THE CARP AND ITS CULTURE.

In the accompanying engraving we reproduce a careful drawing of the mirror carp (*Cyprinus carpio speculatus*), so called on account of the large scales which run along the sides of the body. This is one of the three races of carp recently introduced into this country, the other two being the scale carp and the leather carp; the one entirely covered with scales, the other having few or none.

Three years ago the national carp ponds were established at Washington, in the old swamp and canal near the monument, and many thousand young fish have since been distributed for stocking suitable waters in Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky and New York. Persons desiring them for such purpose can be supplied on application to Prof. S. F. Baird, U. S. Fish Commissioner, Washington, D. C.

In a recent communication, Professor Baird expresses great faith in the future of this fish. He is quite well satisfied that within

throughout the entire summer. The Fish Commission have young fish that spawned from May to September. They are very prolific, yielding from 400,000 to 500,000 eggs, according to size. The eggs adhere tenaciously to whatever they touch, and for that reason it is very important that a new pond should be provided with floating weeds for such attachment. The eggs hatch out in a few days, and the young grow very rapidly. They feed voraciously upon the so-called frog spittle, the green alga scum so common in frog ponds. Consequently, such waters are especially adapted to carp.

Whenever the water becomes chilled down to perhaps 40°, and especially when frozen over at the top, the fish bury themselves in the mud, aggregating in lots of from fifty to one hundred, frequently with their tails projecting, and constituting what is called in Germany, "kettles or roses." It is very important that they should not be disturbed under such circumstances. Of course, while hibernating in this way they are not feeding, although they are said not to lose appreciably in weight. In the more southern regions, where the waters do not freeze, they will probably feed throughout the year, and make more rapid growth.

So far, Prof. Baird says, no waters have proved too warm for carp; indeed, they are said to thrive especially well in reservoirs re-

ceiving the condensed waters of low-pressure steam engines, in Germany, of over 100° temperature.

As regards the best plants for a carp pond, Prof. Baird mentions the ordinary pond weeds (*Potamogeton* and *Sagittaria*), splatter dock, or pond lily, and, indeed, any of the kinds that grow in the water, with leaves floating upon the surface, duckweed among the number. Those which produce seed, like the wild rice, are especially desirable, as the fish feed voraciously upon them.

The great merit of the carp for cultivation, next to its excellent table quality, lies in its adaptation to shallow and warm ponds unsuited for ordinary fish. The country is full of such waters, now useless, which might be made exceedingly productive; and there are thousands of swamps in every State, which might easily be flooded and stocked at small cost in money or trouble. In Germany many villages maintain, at common cost, for the public benefit, carp ponds of a hundred acres.

Mr. Rudolf Hessel, the curator of the government carp ponds at Baltimore, gives the following instructions:

In establishing carp in natural ponds, it is necessary to ascertain the following points:

1st. Is there sufficient water for all purposes all the year round?

2nd. Are the ground, soil, aquatic plants and water favorable for culture?

3rd. It is important to examine the soil minutely in order to ascertain the vegetable and mineral qualities.

If points 1 and 2 have been satisfactorily settled, the ground must be examined as to whether it will allow the collected water to penetrate, and whether the ground is sandy or loamy. Above all, measure the depth of the stratum and be assured that it is sufficiently impermeable to withstand the pressure of the water and to hinder its oozing through and so prevent the drying up of the pond.

A rocky, gravelly ground is not appropriate for carp culture. Sandy ground, with a considerable mixture of loam, clay, and humus, is of small use. I speak here of large ponds of considerable extent. Small ponds, with sandy bottom, may be improved by supplanting them with loam. Loam is a mixture of

worms, larvae, etc., live on the succulent roots and leaves of aquatic plants, seeds as they fall into the water, and other similar substances, and may be fed very readily upon corn, grain, bread, root crops, raw or boiled, and, indeed, any vegetable refuse.

Their rate of growth, too, is something marvelous, and as observed so far in specimens introduced into the United States, is even more remarkable here than in Europe.

Among the original fish imported by the Fish Commission from Europe, and which are now only about three and a half years old, are some from twenty-five to thirty inches in length, weighing from four to eight or nine pounds.

The carp thrives best in artificial or natural ponds with muddy bottoms, and such as abound in vegetation. In large ponds it may not be necessary to furnish any special food, but in restricted inclosures, as, for instance, those of a fraction of an acre, they may be fed with the refuse of the kitchen garden, leaves of cabbage, lettuce, leeks, etc., hominy, or other substances. Grain of any kind is generally bolted before being fed to the

small per cent of sand and a larger quantity of clay. If such ground contains some marl, or better, some element of humus, it is of the greatest advantage.

Too much humus or dissolved peat is injurious. Water which runs through bog meadows, or oak woods, is not of much use, because it contains too much humic acid and tannin, which impart a mouldy flavor to the fish. The most favorable water is that which comes from rivers and brooks.

Rain water, particularly during the winter, when frozen over, takes a mouldy taste, which is communicated to the fish, as does the water from bogs also. Spring water, direct from the ground, ought to be conducted for at least a few hundred yards through wide shallow ditches, in order to obtain more nourishing components from air as well as earth, and above all to be warmed by the action of the sun.

Ponds must not be too deep, as the water will be too cold, and will harbor fewer in-

fishes, but this is probably not absolutely necessary. The refuse of malt from breweries makes excellent food for them.

The Washington ponds are arranged so that they can be drawn off at will, leaving the fish collected in a small basin near the outlet. This is for convenience in assorting the fish, and for selecting such as are needed for other purposes.

It is a prime necessity that there be no predaeous fish in the same pond with carp. Of course, the larger fish will be measurably secure against the attacks of carnivorous species of about the same size, but the eggs and young will become a prey to the rapacity of such associates. As a general rule the fish will thrive best when they are the sole occupants of particular waters, although the association of suckers and chubs would be less objectionable than that of sunfish, perch, or black bass.

The carp spawn in the spring, in May and June, and, indeed, under some circumstances,

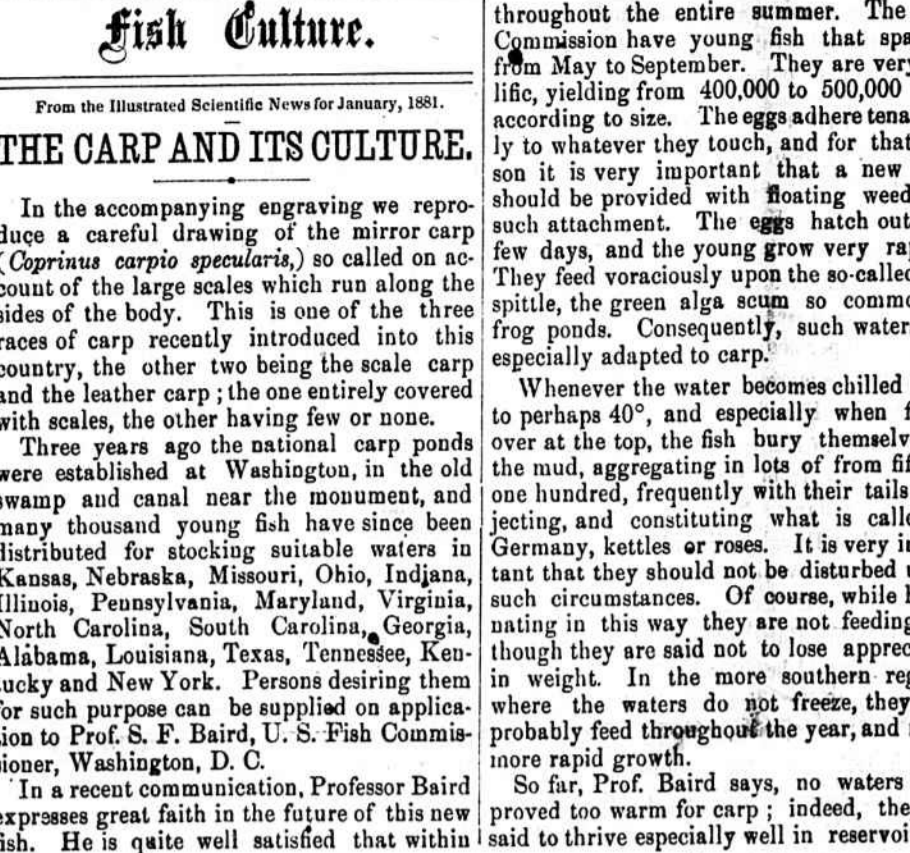


Fig. 1.—Plan of natural pond.

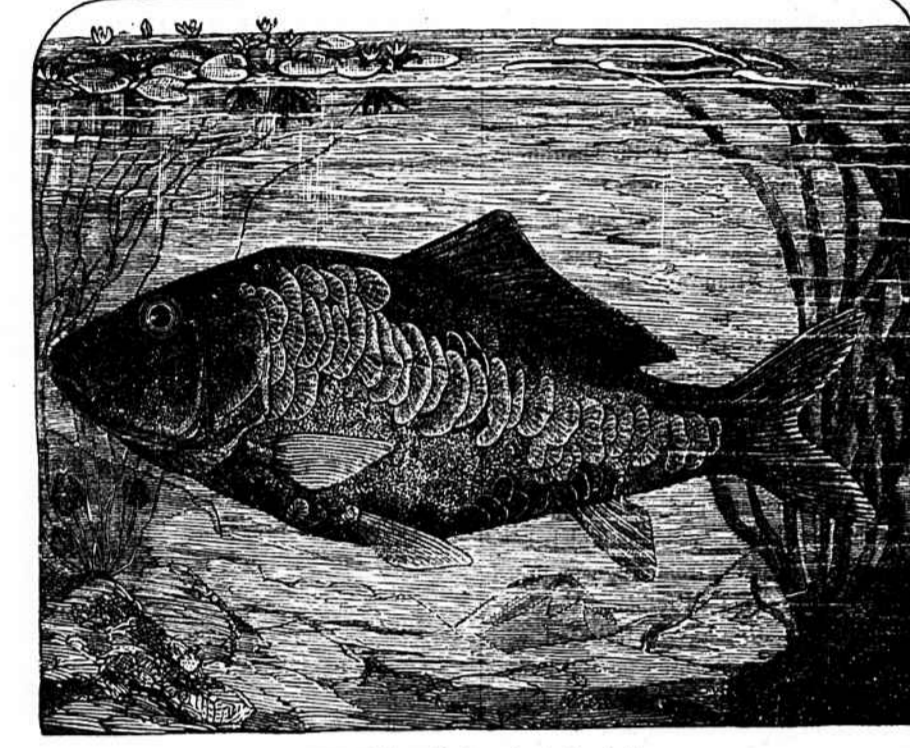


Fig. 2.—Plan of natural pond, showing collector ditches, collectors, and kettle.

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## Miscellaneous Reading.

### INDIAN WIVES.

HOW THE ABORIGINE MAIDENS WED WHITE MEN—THE PRICE OF A GOOD WIFE.

Among the Northwest tribes of Indians, innocency is as marked among the girls as their color. The impression that the red maiden does not entertain a high standard of morality is an error, for she is taught developed ideas of the responsibilities of life and a firm resolution to discharge them. Educated in the faith that she was ordained to work, she trains herself to undergo hard labor, and at sixteen years of age is sturdy and strong, brave against fatigue and a perfect housewife. She may not possess New England notions of cleanliness, but she takes not a little pride in her personal appearance, and in the arrangement of her lodge she displays some crude ideas of taste and a certain amount of neatness. If she marry a white man, she makes a good wife as long as she lives with him. His home is her sole comfort and pleasure, and she makes it her study to please him and make him respect and love her. She recognizes in him one of a superior race, and by her dignity and devotion she dears herself to him and struggles to make him happy.

At the agencies of the upper frontier, thousands of men are employed, and it is not an exaggeration to say that the majority of them have Indian wives and live happily. They are not sought after by the maidens, for the Indian girl's custom is to remain quiet until the marriage contract is made and the marriage portion paid over. The husband must take the dowry, with which he must invest a part, and the price is fixed upon the usual run, and a description may be of interest. The aspiring bridegroom must be well known in the tribe before he can hope to win a wife. Her people want to thoroughly understand him and know if he can support not only her, but also her relatives in the event of a pinch. He must be a kind-hearted man with a temper warranted to keep in any domestic climate, and he must have a good lodge and at least half a dozen horses. If he be, and have all these, he makes a winning offer. 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