

DID NOT KNOW HIS BRAND.

And the Result Was That the Man, which was in the wrong, Corral.

It all happened in a church not over a mile from the city post office, says the Washington Star. There was a young people's reception afoot, and there was a programme upon which appeared the name of a tenor soloist who is given to scrambled hair, sombres and neckties that are vociferous. It was getting well along in the evening and the soloist had failed to appear. It so happened that nobody there knew him, and the lady who had engaged him had also failed to appear. Presently one of the men active in greeting the guests noticed a large, picturesquely-dressing man enter the church parlor, and after looking carefully around him slide into a seat, beside which he deposited a big sombrero. It then appeared that his hair quite answered the description, also his tie, which was a screaming scarlet. The young manager approached the stranger, sure of his prey, and, bending over him, said, in his most suave manner: "The audience has been expressing regret at your non-appearance. Will you now favor us with one of your songs?"

The stranger looked up at the young man with rather a startled air, and then blurted out: "Song! Miser, you've rounded up the wrong critter. I don't know G flat from gewhiz. I'm off the reservation, you see, and was wondering what kind of a game was on here, and came in sociable-like. I reckon, mister, these folks ain't got my brand," and he fled into the outer darkness.

RED TAPE IN WASHINGTON.

We Strictly Observed the Carpenter Could Not Clean the Glass Door.

A correspondent passing hurriedly into the room of the committee on rivers and harbors to see Representative Burton pulled the knob of the door, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"How can I get that fixed, do you think?" asked Burton. "Shall I get the carpenter or the locksmith?"

"The locksmith, I suppose."

"No, sir. Were I to send for the locksmith he would tell me to consult the architect of the capitol. He has no authority to fix door knobs. Doorknobs are permanent fixtures and are solely within the jurisdiction of the architect of the capitol."

"Do you see that bookcase there?" said Secretary Ells. "I caused the carpenter to paste some cloth on the inside of the glass doors in order that the books might not show. He did the work, but when he had finished I noted that he had not cleaned the glass before he put the cloth on. The thing looked so disreputable that I asked him why he had not cleaned the glass."

"He told me that the glass was a permanent fixture and that he had no authority to touch it, but that the placing of the cloth upon it was a temporary matter and was entirely within the province of his labor. The whole thing's got to be done all over again."

SAMOAN BELLE'S GOWNS.

They Grow on Trees and Are Almost Ready for Use When Gathered.

Party gowns for Samoan girls grow on the tropical trees and almost ready for wear, says the Indianapolis News. When a native beauty of Samoa decides to go to a special entertainment she enters the forest to look for her gala attire. The native kiki, or skirt, is the only addition to her ordinary costume that the Samoan girl provides for special parties. The material for the kiki grows on the tree. It consists of a ribbon of bark a few inches wide that is stripped from the tree easily. While damp the bark, which is very thin, is wrinkled so as to form wavy outlines, and the ribbons are colored all sorts of bright hues. The Samoan girl then plaita a waistband from the same kind of bark and hangs the ribbons on it. Handmade flowers of the same material are often added also.

When the kiki is completed the dusky belle puts it on over her scanty lavas, or waist cloth, and goes to the dance or other entertainment. The girls thus make their own party dresses, and some of them show great taste and skill in fashioning the old garments, although the captions might allege that they might, without being overdressed, have Samoa on.

FOND OF DUST BATHS.

Birds Like to Play in Ashes Left from a Bonfire—Partridges Prefer Fresh Loam.

Some birds use water only, some water and dust, while others prefer dust and no water in their toilet. Birds are not only nice in the choice of bath water, but also very particular about the quality of their toilet dust.

Wild ducks, though feeding by salt water, prefer to bathe in fresh-water pools, and will fly long distances inland to running brooks and ponds, where they preen and dress their feathers in the early hours of the morning. Sparrows bathe often, both in water and in dust. They are not so particular about the quality of the dust. The city sparrows must take a water bath where he can get it. Road dust, the driest and finest possible, suits him best. Partridges prefer dry loam. They like to scratch out the soil from under the grass, and fill their feathers with cool earth. Most birds are fond of ashes.

Take a walk some early morning across a field where bonfires have burned, and see the numbers of winged creatures that rise suddenly from the ash heaps. A darting form, a small cloud of ashes, and the bathers disappear.

WILL MAKE WAR ON INSECTS.

Plans of Massachusetts Entomologists for the Coming Year to Abate Destruction.

The attacks of injurious insects probably cause the loss of several millions of dollars in Massachusetts alone each year, says the Boston Transcript. This has not always been the case, but insects are becoming more abundant and consequently more destructive. Much of this destruction, however, could be either in part or wholly prevented if the proper methods of treatment were made use of, and that this is not more frequently done is very unfortunate. It is probable that the reason for the apparent negligence in this regard is due to ignorance as to what the insect is in each particular case and what to do to prevent its ravages. It is this very uncertainty which results in nothing being done in most cases.

In order to provide this information for residents of the state the entomological division of the Hatch experiment station at Amherst offers its services without charge to all who may desire them. In order to obtain this assistance write to the entomologist, Hatch experiment station, at Amherst, Mass., describing the trouble, and also, if possible, send samples of the injury and insect causing it, and attention will at once be given to the matter.

At the Hatch experiment station of Massachusetts is supported in part by state appropriation, such a use of its facilities by the people of the state is not only justifiable but desirable, for it was established for just that purpose, and no one who incurs loss by insect ravages can excuse himself for that loss except on the ground of ignorance that such assistance could be obtained.

SOME OVERCOAT SIGNS.

In Which Will Be Seen the Part They Play in Determining a Man's Age.

"Thank you," said Senator Beveridge, of Indiana, as an attack at the white house who offered to assist him in putting on his overcoat. "A young man never refuses to accept help in getting his overcoat on, but the older a man gets the more certain it is to refuse help and say: 'No, thank you, I can get it on all right.' It is a certain indication of old age when a man will not permit another to aid in getting on his overcoat."

Senator Elkins overheard the remark of the young senator from Indiana, says the Washington Star, and said: "Well, if what you say is true, Senator Hawley is one of the youngest men in the senate. He always accepts assistance in putting on his overcoat. But one day he said to me: 'Elkins, when you hear me say that I can get my overcoat on without anyone helping me you may be sure that I am getting old.'"

Next Jerry Smith soliloquized to himself. Jerry has been at every dinner and public and private reception at the white house for years, and his principal business during that time was to artistically aid in putting on overcoats and incidentally to receive a Chesterfieldian manner whatever tips were given him. "I jes' tells ya," said Jerry to himself, "dere's lots of troot in what de senator said, but I jes' knows dat nobody can put on an overcoat like dis here nigger."

PAY DAY IN CHINA.

All Accounts Are Settled on New Year's Day—Present in Red Paper.

New Year is the national pay day in China. All accounts must be squared up at that time, and the man who can't raise money enough to pay his debts has to go into bankruptcy, says the London Mail. The laws are such that the creditor can enter the debtor's house and take what he pleases if there is no settlement. To prevent such action families club together and make all sorts of compromises to keep up the business reputation of the clan. New Year is a great day for the pawnbrokers. Their shops are crowded with people who want to redeem their best clothes before the new year. There are crowds also who want to pawn other things in order to get money enough to pay their debts. Pawnbrokers receive high rates of interest, in which they are protected by the government.

The Chinese paint the whole country red on New Year's day in more senses than one. Red is the color with whom they denote good luck and prosperity, and all the New Year cards and invitations are on paper of that color. Every child gets its New Year present wrapped in red paper, and red inscriptions are pasted over the doors of the houses.

WHERE GOLDFISH ARE PROPAGATED.

About three miles south of St. Joseph, on the King Hill road, is located one of the Missouri state fish hatcheries. Its chief interest lies in the fact that it is the only place in the state or in the country, anywhere where goldfish are propagated and distributed. Here these little aquarium beauties may be obtained for a mere "thank you," and many are they who avail themselves of this privilege. From October until January four goldfish each are given to every citizen of the state until the supply is exhausted.

FIFTEEN MILLION DAYS LOST.

The annual report of the English labor statistician for 1898, which has been recently issued, shows that during the year there were 711 strikes and lock-outs in the United Kingdom, and that the total number of working days lost from this cause was 15,298,478. Altogether 253,907 workmen were involved. Of the strikes settled, those in favor of the workmen involved 45,490 people, while those in favor of the employers involved 120,667.

ANIMAL CHIVALRY.

The Canine Recognition of the Principle That "You Can't Soak a Lady."

The toast of "The Ladies" would be cordially received at any canine banquet, and the courtesy with which the privileges of the sex are respected is a most creditable feature of canine conduct. I do not, of course, refer merely to the elaborate display of politeness and fine manners seen everywhere during the period of courtship.

Courtesy to and respect for the weaker sex goes beyond this. No self-respecting dog will bite a female, except in the extreme need of self-defense; though I am sorry to say that the lady herself, as a rule, has no scruple whatever about punishing to the full extent of her power, any individual of the opposite sex that happens to be inferior to her in size or strength. And, indeed, like the woman in the crowded bus, she is inclined to demand her privileges as rights. A vivacious female will make more trouble in a pack of hounds than any three of the sterner sex, for whenever dissatisfied she hasn't the slightest reserve about speaking out at once, and, as her cause is extremely likely to be championed, upon general principles, by some chivalrous male, a free fight is frequently the result.

So strong is this unwillingness to "strike a female" that it really becomes a most annoying obstacle in attempting to clear a neighborhood of wolves, as few male dogs will attack a she wolf, or in some cases even follow her trail.

I well remember an exasperating experience of this sort in the early days of the Hatch experiment station at Amherst.

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THE YAZOO AND MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.

ARRIVEE.

No 23 local mail..... 10:00 p.m.
No 3 Chicago limited..... 7:35 p.m.
No 4 Louisville & Cincinnati limited..... 7:35 p.m.
No 1 fast mail..... 9:45 a.m.
No 1 Louisville & Cincinnati express..... 9:45 a.m.
Northern Express..... 9:00 a.m.

DÉPART.

No 24 local mail..... 7:00 a.m.

No 4 Chicago limited..... 9:25 a.m.

No 4 Louisville & Cincinnati limited..... 9:25 a.m.

No 2 fast mail..... 7:45 p.m.

No 2 Louisville & Cincinnati 7:45 p.m.
Northern Express..... 4:40 p.m.

DÉPART.

No 25 local mail..... 9:10 a.m.

Vicksburg express..... 5:50 p.m.

Baylor Sara accommodat'n 10:00 a.m.

DÉPART.

Memphis express..... 4:00 p.m.

Vicksburg express..... 8:40 p.m.

Baylor Sara accommodat'n 4:20 p.m.

DÉPART.

Memphis express..... 9:10 a.m.

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