

Suddenly a shot struck the coop in which a few fowls had been confined. One cock alone was still alive, and, finding himself at liberty, he flapped his wings mightily and, fluttering upward, perched on the stump of the mainmast, and surveyed the scene of carnage about him.

Then, raising his head defiantly, he began a long, strident crow. The crew answered with three cheers, and even the wounded smiled. With renewed spirits the men worked the few remaining guns, and soon a favoring turn of battle drove away the last thought of surrender.

### AN ARTIST'S JOKE

Holman Hunt, who began life as a clerk to an auctioneer and estate agent, was constantly drawing portraits when he should have been drawing up leases, and in his chosen profession he was never slow to seize the flying moment.

The window in his room were made of ground glass, and as he had little to do he spent much of his time in drawing flies upon its roughened surface. A blot of ink sufficed for the body and some delicate pencil strokes for the wings, and at a distance the deception was perfect.

Day by day the number increased, and one morning his employer came in, stopped before the window, and exclaimed: 'I can't make out how it is. Every day that I come into this room there seems to be more and more flies. And taking out his handkerchief, he attempted to brush them away.'

### NOT GOOD LATIN!

Jack returned home from college, where he had won high honors as a student of ancient languages, but he pleaded ignorance one day when his young sister asked him to translate a sign she had seen at an optician's which read thus: 'Con sultu sabo utyo urrey es.'

Jack struggled manfully with it for several minutes and gave it up.

'It isn't good Latin,' he said. 'There are some words in it that are Latin; the others aren't anyhow. It doesn't make sense.'

'That is what I said,' replied his sister; 'but cook translates it without any trouble. She says it means "Consult us about your eyes."'

### LETTING OFF EXCESSIVE NERVOUS ENERGY

A cat never actually wags its tail. Why should it when it can purr? But, nevertheless, it seems to serve the same purpose in permitting a temporary expenditure of excessive nervous energy when the animal is under great strain. For instance, when carefully stalking a bird or man, and in the case of a kitten or a lion, the tip of the tail is never still for a moment—ever curling and uncurling. We may compare this to the nervous tapping of the foot or fingers in a man. When an angry lion is roaring his tail will frequently lash from side to side, giving rise among the ancients to the belief that he scourged his body with a hook or thorn which grew from the end of the tail.

### THE POLICEMAN AT FAULT

A Dublin eccentric a short time ago entered a purveyor's shop and bought a ham. Having paid for his purchase, he requested that it should be hung outside the shop-door, saying that he would call back for it.

The customer then paced up and down outside the shop till a policeman came in sight, and just as the man in blue caught his eye he grabbed the ham and bolted.

The constable, however, soon collared the thief, as he thought, and hauled him back to the shop. Having explained the nature of the alleged crime to the shop-assistant, he asked the latter to charge the offender.

'But,' said the assistant, as he realised the joke, 'it's his own ham! He was quite at liberty to take it in any circumstances he chose.'

### FAMILY FUN

An egg encircled by a wedding ring.—Soak an egg in vinegar till the shell is flexible. Pull it half through a ring, and leave it to get hard in cold water. If varnished, it will make an interesting exhibit.

Warmth of Different Colours.—Place upon the surface of snow, when the sun is shining brightly, pieces of cloth of the same size and texture, but of different colors; say, black, blue, green, yellow, and white. The black cloth will soon melt the snow beneath it, and sink downwards; the next the blue, and then the green; the yellow but slightly; but the snow beneath the white cloth will be as firm as at first.

To Make an Egg Stand Upright.—Shake it violently, so that the mixed yolk and white will make the centre of gravity of the egg lie in the line of direction; and set it on its small end on a plane surface such as a looking glass.

## On the Land

There is evidence that mankind has made use of horses for more than 5000 years, and we shall not be able to do without them.

If there is anything a sow with a litter of pigs dislikes thoroughly it is undue interference with, and disturbance of her habits.

The pregnant sow is not nearly such a gross feeder as is the sow that has a litter of pigs sucking her, but in both of these periods in the existence of the breeding sow economical feeding is bound up in the supplying to this animal of food that is calculated to sustain her in condition and the demand on her own substance.—*Australasian*.

The exceptionally heavy grain traffic of Southland is shown by the fact that up to the present time nearly 70,000 more sacks have been carried than in the corresponding period of last year, the returns being 523,313 and 470,762 sacks respectively, states the *Southland Times*. For last week the returns were given at 50,345 (only 190 fewer than in the preceding week) as against 42,243 for the corresponding week of last year (which was 7200 fewer than in its preceding week).

Before purchasing manures a farmer should know the requirements of his crop and soil, and then buy only such as will supply them. The dealer or manufacturer should be asked the following questions:—How much soluble phosphate of lime do you guarantee? How much reverted phosphate of lime do you guarantee? How much nitrogen or ammonia do you guarantee? How much potash do you guarantee? With a reply to these questions it is easy to calculate the approximate commercial value of a ton of the goods desired. The foregoing is from a bulletin of the Louisiana Agricultural Experiment Station, and it is good advice.

There was a large yarding of stock, especially of fat sheep, and a good attendance at Addington last week. Fat cattle sold at the previous week's rates for ordinary quality, but there was an advance in prime beef. Store sheep were a little easier, as were fat lambs. Fat sheep, despite an exceptionally large entry, sold well, aged ewes only being easier. Pigs showed no change in values. There was a good entry of store sheep, which consisted chiefly of equal numbers of ewes and lambs, with a few lines of wethers, all of ordinary quality. There was not a very active demand. The entry of fat lambs totalled 8416, the yarding including some exceptionally good lines. There were 7984 taken for export at 9s 1d to 18s 4d, and 432 by butchers at 8s 6d to 16s. There was an exceptionally heavy entry of fat sheep. Notwithstanding the large supply there was an active demand throughout the sale. The range of prices was: Prime wethers, 17s to 20s 5d; extra, to 23s 9d; others, 12s 10d to 16s 6d; prime ewes, 14s. The supply of beef totalled 262 head. Included in the entry were some lines of very prime quality, but the general average was below that of the previous sale. There was practically no change in prices except for very prime steers, these showing an advance in values. Steers made £7 2s 6d to £11; extra, to £14; heifers, £5 to £10. There was practically no change in the price of pigs. Choppers sold up to £4 15s; large baconers, £2 7s 6d to £2 15s; lighter, £1 17s to £2 5s (equal to 4d per lb); large porkers, £1 7s 6d to £1 13s; small, £1 to £1 5s (equal to 4½d per lb).

The yarding of sheep and cattle at Burnside last week was larger than has been the case for some time past, and it is now becoming evident that stocks held in the country, particularly in regard to cattle, are larger than was generally supposed some months ago, and, further, that prices are not going to be so high as was anticipated, although it is quite possible the market may show an upward movement in the early spring (says the *Otago Daily Times*). About 6200 sheep and lambs were yarded, and freezing buyers were operating fairly heavily for wethers and ewes. About 250 head of cattle were penned, this being the largest offering at Burnside for some time. Owing to the increased yarding and the fact that several of the local butchers have recently been purchasing fairly heavily outside of Dunedin, and at prices which are a good deal above those ruling now, values receded to the extent of about 15s per head. A consignment of cattle came forward from Southland, but the ideas of values prevailing there are evidently above those held here, for the price placed on them was not reached, and they were not disposed of, and will probably be railed back. Generally speaking, the cattle market has taken a more favorable turn, consequent upon the splendid growing weather experienced over the past several weeks, and the evidence afforded of the fact that supplies are by no means limited, and while it is maintained that present prices are quite high enough, they certainly have not reached the level that was expected.

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