

THE DARLINGTON HERALD.

IF FOR THE LIBERTY OF THE WORLD WE CAN DO ANYTHING.

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NO. 43.

SHE IMITATES BIRDS.

A Young Woman Who Sings Like Nature's Songsters.

It is straight from the throat that Miss Mabel Stephenson lets loose that wonderful flood of rippling, twittering bird melody.

It is really very remarkable what this modest and gentle faced young girl does. She is such a very quiet and unobtrusive young person at first sight that the surprise when she gives you the first imitation of her gifts is all the greater.

When in her very artless way she begins her little recitation about birds, and they suddenly breaks into it, and from that moment goes weaving and winding all through it, that marvelous linked chain of all the liquid bird melody of an entire forest and meadow bird orchestra, the effect is quite startling.

Shut your eyes, and you are no longer in the frowzy atmosphere of a theater. It is an early morning in June, and you are out in the woods somewhere. There are no electric lights and gas jets. It is blazing summer sunlight. It is the odor of the forest, not of the footlights, that comes to you. Certainly it is a very astonishing thing to be done just by the loosening and contracting of vocal chords, with the valuable aid of bronchial tubes and a thorax.

A REMARKABLE GIFT.

Miss Stephenson says, and after hearing her you are quite prepared to believe it, that she can imitate any bird that wears wings and feathers, and as wings and feathers are part of the anatomical equipment of all birds, it amounts to saying that she can imitate them all. She can give the judicious and nonivolunt "quack, quack" of the conservative and serious minded duck as accurately as she can imitate the giddy, soaring song of the vanishing skylark. It was a very early acquisition with her. She took to talking bird lingo almost as soon as she took to talking the sound commercial English of Michigan, where she was born.

She is a true American girl, Miss Stephenson, and she has mingled in the very best American bird society. Her repertoire is almost exclusively that of our own sweet singing American birds. She was in England recently, and picked up the songs of the thrush, nightingale and skylark just to show these stars of English bird song that their songs were easy enough, and that anybody who had had a course in an American bird music conservatory could do them. But it is the whippoorwill, the yellow breast, the chickadee, the redbird, the catbird, the meadow lark, the swallow, the bobolink and, of course, the robin with the red waistcoat—these are the birds, good Americans all, whose songs she loves best to sing.

Then she can give to perfection the wail, melancholy cry of the loon and can pipe so like the quail that you have only to shut your eyes and fancy that you are out in the brown stubble of the fields. Neither the domestic goose nor the grave and reverend owl can be classed exactly among the merry warbling songsters of the feathered kind, but they each have a method of expressing disapproval.

HOW SHE LEARNED.

It was simply for her own amusement that she first developed her remarkable gifts of imitation, until now she has found that she can turn it to a source of profit, and this she is doing.

Her bird language education was only just begun in the country out in Michigan. When she was a very little girl she came to New York to live, and since then she has had to depend upon bird stores and upon such birds as she and her friends possess for tuition.

Now, come back to the physiological feature of the matter, there is a good many people who will tell you just exactly how Miss Stephenson does these wonderful imitations. It is nothing more than whistling pure and simple, many of them will say. The very keen and knowing ones sneer even at whistling. Nobody could whistle in that way, they say, with just the whistling apparatus furnished by nature. Miss Stephenson, they will tell you, has some ingenious little mechanical device for making the sounds, which she conceals in her mouth.

All this makes the gifted bird soloist laugh. She could not whistle a note if she tried, she says, and as for carrying something in her mouth

THE END OF THE WORLD.

A Calculation as to How Long Before It Will Come.

There is a distinct limit to man's existence on the earth, dictated by the ultimate exhaustion of the sun. It is, of course, a question of much interest for us to speculate on the probable duration of the sun's beams in sufficient abundance for the continued maintenance of life. Perhaps the most reliable determinations are those which have been made by Prof. Langley. They are based on his own experiments upon the intensity of solar radiation, conducted under circumstances that give them special value. I shall endeavor to give a summary of the interesting results at which he has arrived.

The utmost amount of heat that it would ever have been possible for the sun to have contained would supply its radiation for 18,000,000 years at the present rate. Of course, this does not assert that the sun, as a radiant body, may not be much older than the period named. We have already seen that the rate at which the sunbeams are poured forth has gradually increased as the sun rose in temperature. In the early times the quantity of sunbeams dispensed was much less per annum than at present, and it is therefore quite possible that the figures may be so enlarged as to meet the requirements of any reasonable geological demand with regard to past duration of life on the earth.

It seems that the sun has already dissipated about four-fifths of the energy with which it may have originally been endowed. At all events, it seems that, radiating energy at its present rate, the sun may hold out for 4,000,000 years or for 5,000,000 years, but not for 10,000,000 years. Here, then, we discern in the remote future a limit to the duration of life on this globe. We have seen that it does not seem possible for any other source of heat to be available for replenishing the waning stores of the luminary. It may be that the heat was originally imparted to the sun as the result of some great collision between two bodies which were both dark before the collision took place, so that, in fact, the two dark masses coalesced into a vast nebula from which the whole of our system has been evolved. Of course it is always conceivable that the sun may be reinvigorated by a repetition of a similar starting process. It is, however, hardly necessary to observe that so terrific a convulsion would be fatal to life in the solar system. Neither from the heavens above, nor from the earth beneath, does it seem possible to discover any means for the human race to cover any remote end. The race is as mortal as the individual, and so far as we know, its span cannot under any circumstances be run out beyond a number of millions of years which can certainly be told on the fingers of both hands, and probably on the fingers of one.

Lessons for a Young Man's Life.

In the "Young Man," Prof. John Stuart Blacie gives these rules of conduct which have guided him through life:

Never indulge the notion that you have any absolute right to choose the sphere or the circumstances in which you are to put forth your powers of social action, but let your daily wisdom or life be in making a good use of the opportunities given you.

We live in a real and a solid and a truthful world. In such a world only truth, in the long run, can hope to prosper. Therefore avoid lies, mere show and sham, and hollow superficiality of all kinds, which is, at the best, a painted lie. Let whatever you are and whatever you do, grow out of a firm root of truth and a strong soil of reality.

The nobility of life is works. We live in a working world. The lazy and idle man does not count in the plan of campaign. "My Father worketh hither, and I work." Let that text be enough.

4 Never forget St. Paul's sentence, "Love is the fulfilling of the law." This is the steam of the social machine.

5 But the steam requires regulation. It is regulated by intelligence and moderation. Healthy action is always a balance of forces, and all extremes are dangerous, the excess of a good thing being often more dangerous in its social consequences than the excess of what is radically bad.

6 Do one thing well. "Be a whole man," as Chancellor Thurlow said, "do one thing at a time." Make clean work and leave no tags. Allow no delays when you are at a thing; do it and be done with it.

7 Amid miscellaneous reading, read nothing that you do not care to remember, and remember nothing you do not mean to use.

8 Never desire to appear clever and make a show of your talents before men. Be honest, loving, kindly and sympathetic in all you say and do. Cleverness will flow from you naturally if you have it, and applause will come to you unsought from those who know what to applaud but the applause of fools is to be shunned.

Companionship is Healthful.

There is a wise old German saying that "Only a god or a brute can dwell in solitude." Men and women need congenial companionship, both for the sake of health and happiness. Just as your lungs, after using up all the oxygen in a close room, do to be filled with fresh, out-of-door air, so your mind needs contact with other minds to get new ideas. There is such a thing as mental as well as physical hunger. Herders on the large cattle ranches of the West frequently become mad from the isolation they are forced to endure. Women on lonely farms and in small villages grow morbid and mildly insane, and people do not guess the cause is want of companionship.

It is for this reason that a woman's work at home is always more trying than that of her husband, who goes to his office, sees new faces, and has the friction that is produced by meeting other people. Even the farmer has more intercourse with his neighbors at the market, or at the village grocery than his wife, who may not see anyone outside of her own family for weeks. It is a great mistake for young married people to isolate themselves. Even if their tastes lead them to a quiet life, they should make it a point to cultivate a few agreeable friends.

DELINQUENT TAXES.

Comptroller General Ellerbe has issued the following circular letter to the various county treasurers calling their attention to the matter of collecting delinquent taxes.

Dear Sir—You have been presented blanks upon which to report to this office the date that executions against delinquent tax-payers were placed in the hands of the Sheriff. In some cases these blanks have not been filled up and returned. If such is the case with you please attend to it immediately. The sheriffs are requested by law to collect these executions and to make returns to you within ninety (90) days after the date of issue thereof, and you are instructed at the proper time to demand of the sheriff a return of all tax executions placed in his hands, and immediately report the result to this office.

Further, I beg to call your attention to the fact that it is a violation of law for county treasurers to retain money collected for State purposes longer than fifteen (15) days.

Respectfully,
W. H. ELLERBE,
Comptroller Gen. S. C.

Who is a Gentleman?

A gentleman is a person not more acquainted with certain forms and etiquette of life, easy and self-possessed in society, able to speak and act and move in the world without awkwardness, and free from habits which are vulgar and in bad taste. A gentleman is something beyond this—that which lies at the root of every Christian virtue. It is the thoughtful desire of doing in every instance what others should do unto him. He is constantly thinking, not indeed how he may give pleasure to others for the mere sake of pleasing, but how he may avoid hurting their feelings. When he is in society he scrupulously ascertains the position and relations of every one with whom he comes in contact, that he may give to each his due honor, his proper position. He studies how he may avoid touching in conversation on any subject which may abstain from allusions which may call up a disagreeable or offensive allusion. A gentleman never alludes to, never even appears to be conscious of any defect, bodily deformity, inferiority of talent, or rank, of reputation in the person in whose society he is placed.

He never assumes any superiority to himself, never ridicules, never sneers, never boasts, never makes a display of his own power or rank or advantages, such as is implied in habits or tricks or inclinations which may be offensive to others.—Christian Endeavor.

Free Scholarships in Nashville.

A competitive examination for seven scholarships in the Nashville Normal College will be held in Columbia on the 20th day of July, proximo, at 10 o'clock a. m. These scholarships are good for two years and pay \$100. per year and expenses to and from Nashville. The applicant must not be less than 17 nor more than 30 years of age and may be either male or female. He or she must be of good moral character, read fluently; spell correctly; write a fine hand; express thoughts in grammatical English; solve problems of moderate difficulty under all the ordinary rules of arithmetic; solve equation of two unknown quantities; parse the words of an ordinary English sentence; locate the principal towns, cities, rivers and mountains of the world and describe the leading events in the history of the United States.

Any candidate who has any chronic disease, such as weak lungs or weak eyes will be rejected.

The use of tobacco in any form is a disqualification for a scholarship. If it should appear that a candidate intends to use his scholarship chiefly as a means for securing an education or of preparing himself for a profession other than teaching he should not be allowed to compete. The object of this college is to train teachers for the profession of teaching.

This examination is open to every white young man and woman in South Carolina.

Above all things, avoid fault-finding and a habit of criticism. Let your rule in reference to your social sentiments be simply this: Pray for the bad, pity the weak, enjoy the good, and reverence both the great and small, as playing each his part aptly in the divine symphony of the universe.

It is believed that the world's population is increasing at the rate of nearly 6,000 a year.

A FAMOUS CHOIR.

The Exquisite Vocal Music to be Heard in St. Peter's, Rome.

Undoubtedly the finest choir in the world is that of the St. Peter's in Rome, known as the Pope's choir," said Frank Torre, of Baltimore, at the Southern. "There is not a female voice in it, and yet the most difficult oratorios and sacred music written are rendered in such a manner as to make one think that Adeline Patti's high soprano is leading. The choir is composed of sixty boys. They are trained for the work from the time they get control of the vocal chords, and some of the best singers are not over nine years old. At the age of seventeen they are dropped from the choir."

To say that at the Pope's service one hears the grandest church music that the world has ever known sounds common place, so far short does it fall of apt description. I am something of a connoisseur, have been a profound student of music all my life and have heard every great opera produced by the most famous organizations, but until a few months ago, when I heard the Pope's choir, I had no idea that the human voice was capable of such performances. I don't see why the big operatic organizations don't learn a lesson from St. Peter's and have a chorus of boys exclusively. It would not suit the ballheads, but it would please the genuine lovers of music.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Great Bodies of Fresh Water.

Geographers claim that there are twenty five rivers on the globe which have a total length each of over 1,000 miles. Of these, two (the Mississippi in the Rocky Mountains to the Eads jetties, and the Amazon from the source of the Beni to the Isle of Marajó) are over 4,000 miles in length. To be exact, the former is 4,300 and the latter 4,029 miles in length, the source to the place where their waters are mingled with those of the ocean. Four claim a total length of over 3,000 and under 4,000. They are the Yenisei in Asia, length, 3,580; the Kiang, Asia, length, 3,900; the Nile, Africa, 3,240, and the Hoang ho, Asia, which is 2,940 miles. Seven streams on the globe are under 3,000 and over 2,000 miles in length, the Volga in Russia one mile below the surface is one ton to the square inch. Storm waves sometimes travel at a speed of fifty miles an hour, and the distance between the two crests of a wave is fifteen times the height—a five-foot wave, therefore, being seventy five feet long. The force of the sea at some points is said to be equal to seventeen tons to the square rod.—Herald of Gospel Liberty.

Water Purification.

Professor Petterkofer has been drawing attention to the important place occupied by the plant life of our rivers in purifying the water. His view is that the organic matter which floats on our streams is removed by the various forms of plant life growing in the water, and that the water bacteria also take their part in neutralizing the effect of the harmful organisms arising from the presence of sewage and like noxious material discharged into rivers. If, however, the sewage be discharged in a crude state, or the water becomes impregnated with acid or poisonous waste products from industrial establishments, there is resulting diminution of plant life and consequent loss of the purifying power which that life exerts.—Bell's Messenger.

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Everybody Likes Her.

There is a type of a girl that everybody likes. Nobody can tell exactly why, but after you have met her you turn away to some other woman and say: "Don't you like Miss Grosvenor?" Now, the reason you like her is a subtle one; without knowing all about her you feel just the sort of a girl she is.

She is the girl who appreciates the fact that she cannot always have the first choice of everything in the world.

She is the girl who is not aggressive and does not find joy in inciting aggressive people.

She is the girl who has tact enough not to say the very thing that will cause the skeleton in her friend's closet to rattle his house.

She is the girl who, whether it is warm or cold, clear or stormy, finds no fault with the weather.

She is the girl who, when you invite her to any place, compliments you by looking her best.

She is the girl who makes this world a pleasant place because she is so pleasant herself.

And, by and by, when you come to think of it, isn't she the girl who makes you feel she likes you, and therefore you like her?—Boston Globe.

An exchange says that the first comet has appeared in the Northern hemisphere since 1832 can now be seen by those who get up early enough in the morning. It is clearly visible before dawn, and will not disappear until the latter part of June. Its length is about twenty degrees, and it has eight well developed tails. It shines like a star of the fourth magnitude, and can be found just west of the constellation Pleiades.

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Fearlessness free from foolhardiness. The chivalry of nature's knight-hood. That which enables one, when fighting against adverse circumstances and knocked down, to rise and try another round.

The heart of a lion in the body of a man. The best remedy for despair. The force which converts an ordinary man into a hero. Honest daring without caring. The absence of fear in the presence of danger.

The courage to do the right thing at the right moment. Irrepressible stoutheartedness. That which keeps a man up when he is down. The offspring of courage and the mother of success.

A Timely Warning.

Do the people ever stop to think where and how they are being carried? Our judges were elected before partisan strife began among us and were chosen from the soundest lawyers, the purest men, the most faithful democrats that could be found. Now there is a general war against them. If Governor Tillman's speeches mean anything they mean that with legislature to suit him he will turn all these men out and have judges to suit him—judges elected as reward for partisan service.

Do the people want that? Do they want one man to control their laws and the exposition of their laws, their liberties and rights, the power of taxation and life and death? If any man wants to be a slave, if any South Carolinian wishes to throw away the rights for which South Carolinians gave their blood a hundred years ago and for which South Carolinians have stood stoutly through war, desolation and prosecution, let him vote for B. R. Tillman.—Greenville News.

A Year Without a Summer.

In the year 1816, according to the best records, January and February were warm and spring-like. March was cold and stormy. Vegetation had gotten well along in April when fell winter set in. Sleet and snow fell on seventeen different days in May. In June there was either frost or snow every night but three. The snow was five inches deep for several days in succession in the interior of New York State and from ten inches to three feet in Vermont and Maine. July was cold and frosty, ice formed as thick as window panes in every one of the New England States. August was still worse; ice formed nearly an inch in thickness and killed nearly every green thing in the United States and in Europe. In the spring of 1817, corn which had been kept over from the crop of 1815, sold for from \$5 to \$10 a bushel, the buyers purchasing for seed. On May 10, 1835, snow fell to a depth of a foot in Jamestown, Va., and piled up in huge drifts in most of the Northern States. There was snow in many parts of Iowa and Illinois on May 14, 1878, and again as late as May 23, 1882.—Globe Democrat.

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A correspondent tells this interesting snake story: "A few days ago I sent two boys to the spring after water, and in a moment one of them came running back in great fright, saying that he saw a stinging rattlesnake with rattlers on his head and a horn on his tail, and one-half of the snake was black, and the other half spotted. I went there to see the monster, and when we got there a black snake about five feet long was swallowing a rattlesnake about 2½ feet long. The rattlesnake was rattling with all his might the colored brother was swallowing with all his power. We left them, and went back in about an hour and both were dead."—Great Divide.

In Turkey, the disappearance of the sun at night is accounted for by the periodical retirement of that pious luminary for prayer and religious reflection.

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