

THE CHRISTMAS BIRD.

How to Prepare and Cook a Goose, Old or Young.

A goose is the typical Christmas bird, although most families dine on turkey that day, and some like a pair of ducks and a fine roast of beef. The goose must be young, or what is called a green goose. Yellow and flexible feet are a sign of youth. A goose is dressed and trussed in the same manner as a turkey, but the skin should be thoroughly washed.

Sage and onions are the traditional seasonings, and a very good way to stuff a goose is to boil and mash some white potatoes and season highly with onion juice, sage, also salt and pepper. Dredge the outside lightly with salt and pepper and thicken with flour. Lay the goose on a rack in the baking pan and put a few tablespoonfuls of water in the pan; baste often. Twenty minutes to the pound is the average time to allow for the baking. Garnish with blood oranges cut in sections on parsley, celery tips or any other green garnish.

Make a sauce from the contents of the pan, thickening with flour, and after straining add the giblets, which have been cooked until tender in water and chopped coarsely.

An old goose cannot be cooked satisfactorily in this way. It will need to be parboiled and then braised. —Chicago Inter Ocean.

An Artful Boy.

Among the guests at a fashionable hotel was a maiden lady from the rural districts. The landlord remarked that every night she came downstairs, got a pitcher of water, and returned to her room.

One night he spoke to her, and asked her why she did not ring the bell for a hall boy to bring the water to her.

"But there is no bell in my room," she said.

"No bell in your room, madam? Pray let me show you."

With that he took the pitcher of water in his hand and escorted her to her apartment. Entering the room, he pointed out to her the knob of the electric bell.

She gazed at it with horror, and then exclaimed:—"Dear me, is that a bell? Why, the hall boy told me that it was the fire-alarm signal, and that I must never touch it except in case of fire."

That was how the hall-boy saved himself the trouble of going for water.

If some men would reflect more, they would be brighter; if some women were brighter, they would reflect more.

How Foreigners Trust our Naval Officers.

As a retired officer of the Royal Navy, let me say that up to within a very recent period our naval officers admittedly made very handsome sums by taking charge of valuables when going from one port to another; indeed, there are officers who boast of having made more money by carrying vast sums in securities or jewellery, for private persons introduced by friends, than they ever got out of the Navy otherwise. And the same thing is done nowadays but absolutely as a disinterested favor, and "under the rose" so far as officers of today are concerned.

I served under a captain who brought £300,000 in specie from Cadiz to England, and only gave a note of hand for the receipt of the amount, but I could tell you of scores of similar cases which show that the faith of most foreigners is so great in the integrity of British naval officers that the former will entrust vast sums with the latter without even any word of writing being exchanged. The China station used to be noted for the very large sums that could be made by taking charge of valuables belonging to great native mandarins and statesmen, or conveying such valuables from point to point.

I personally know of one case where a high Chinese official entrusted the captain of a British man-of-war with bar gold and securities worth more than a million sterling. Only a brief receipt on a half-sheet of paper was given, and the Chinaman could not personally even read this.

Up to a comparatively recent date it was looked upon as no dereliction of duty whatever for a man-of-war to carry valuables that were not bulky for bankers and traders, and even down to junior officers the "perks" made in this way were most considerable. As a commander I made over £4,000 in this way on one station, and I never even gave a receipt for the valuables handed over to me. And quite a dozen different races of men are comprised within the number of examples I have seen of this unbounded faith in British officers.

Fashion Hints For Winter.

Velvet, velveteen, and corduroy costumes are among the seasons' smartest modes.

An excellent choice for street attire is a fabric showing a shaggy, hairy texture, such as zibeline or camel's-hair.

The sloping or drop-shoulder effect is seen in many of the newest bodices; and the Duchess closing is a distinctive feature on the newest shirtwaists.

At last a change has come in skirts, which for the streets are noticeably shorter; there

is a marked tendency to give up the furbelows and ruffles and adopt the severer tailor-made models. The hip yoke is a feature of the majority of the new skirts.

The boa is a picturesque style, and cape collars of every shape and depth are prominent among the season's fashions.

Among the innovations in materials are the metallic tints and effects in heavy, rough cloths, zibelines, vigognes, homespuns, etc., and "Coronation cloth," a heavy winter goods suitable for skating, golf, etc.

Long nap plush is being revived this winter, and Pompadour silk as a foundation for net, chiffon and other sheer textiles are established in high favor.

Among the smartest accessories of the toilet are a tall stock-collar, cuffs and belt-girdle, preferably of a contrasting material.

Embroidery is very prominent in all the fashions.

One of the latest novelties employed in trimming for tailor made gowns is suede undressed kid skin.

A unique trimming is the new cloth ribbon embroidered in Oriental colors.—From The Delineator for January.

Two Good Highlanders.

Some years ago a vote was taken among the men of a certain Highland regiment (at that time not wearing the kilt) to find out how many would be in favor of wearing the Highland costume.

In due time the sergeant-major appeared before the commanding officer with the result of the voting.

C. O.: "Well, sergeant-major, how many are in favor of the kilt?"

S. M.: "Two men, sir."

C. O.: "Only two; well, I'm glad there are at least two good Highlanders in the regiment. What are their names, sergeant-major?"

S. M.: "Privates Patrick O'Brien and Michael-Rooney, sir."

An Optimistic View.

The invalid looked out of the window just as a hearse went by, and he smiled happily.

"D'ye mind, Biddy," he said, "it's worth the dyin' to have a ride in a thing like that, with the feathers on top an' a man with a bug on his hat, an' you bein' gr-reater an' more nccessary than the marshall iv a St. Patrick's day parade. There's wanst in ye've life ye're the whole thing, an' that's whin ye're dead."

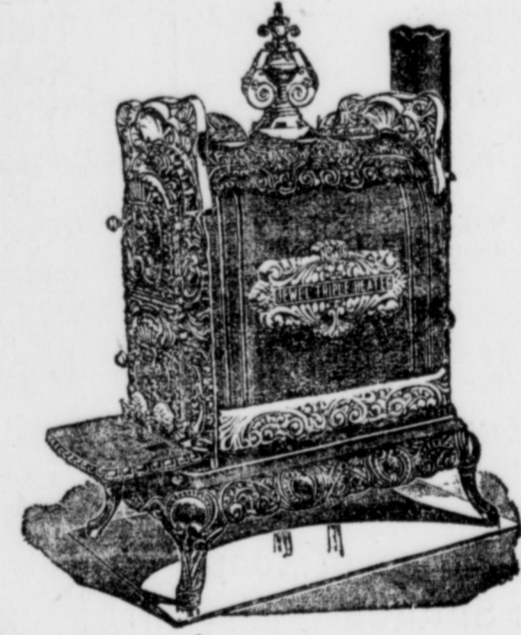
Genius unexerted is no more genius than a bushel of scorns is a forest of oaks.

Press Notice for January Designer.

The art features of The Designer for January, 1903 are effective to a marked degree, and are typical of the professionalness of this popular publication, which is always the herald of up-to-date fashions and interests essentially feminine. Edited by women, it caters especially to womanly tastes. Most charming and original are the fancy costumes, and stylish and seasonable are the millinery designs, the latter being accompanied by a practical article on hat making. "In-door Exercises for Children," by Dr. Sarah A. French-Battey, and "Toilet Table Chat" are of real hygienic value, and the departments of "What Women are Doing" and "Helps Along the Way," both edited by the readers of The Designer, are helpful and decidedly novel. The literary features comprise two short stories, "At Heron's Crag," by Elizabeth Roberts Macdonald, and "Mr. Coyote,"

by L. O. Lennart, "The Domestic Side of the White House," by Waldon Fawcett; "The Feast of the Kings," by G. W. Jacobs; and a parlor comedy, "A Sudden Inspiration," by Mary Dawson. Mary Kilsyth furnishes "Attractive Corners," Josephine Yates "Some Employment for Busy Fingers," and Ila Earle Fowler tells us what to do "When the Stocking Bag is Full," "Pencil and Paper Games," by Mrs. S. P. Carusi, supplies numerous instructive and jolly entertainments for young folks and their elders, all of which may be arranged at trifling cost. "Points on Dressmaking," "Fashions and Fabrics," "Etiquette Hints," "Book Notes," "Floriculture," "In Motherland" and "The Kitchen Kingdom" are departments some one of which will appeal to some one member of the family. The verse in this number is supplied by Florence Gertrude Ruthven.

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