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PROGRESS, SATURDAY MARCH 28, 1896,

PEARLS IN AUSTRALASIA.

Pursuing the System That Has Been Known to the Chinese For Centuries.

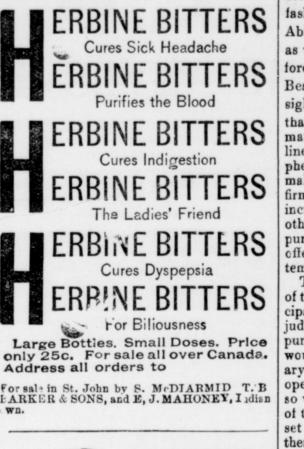
It took us eleven days from Brisbane to reach Thursday Island, a distance of about two thousand miles. The island is about thirty miles long and about twenty wide, and is about ten degrees south of the equator; so you can imagine how hot it is in December, when the sun is south. Here the great pearl fisheries are carried on, not only on a gigantic, but also on a scientific scale, Mr. James Clarke, with whom I had the pleasure of travelling to the island, 18 at the head of a company who are interested in pearl fishing. It seems that they have discovered that the bivalve forms the pearl only when he is compelled to; that is, he either swallows or imbibes something or when the shells are open something get in which he cannot digest, and, not being able to digest it, he tries another method of ridding himself of the object ; that is, by cjecting it, and as he cannot eject it, he falls back on his last resort; that is, by commencing to form the pearl over the object. With a peculiar saliva that he emits, he builds layer after layer until the pearl is formed.

- Pearl farming is now carried on by this company very scientifically. They have laid out immense pearl beds, just like oysters beds, divided into four quarters, where the shells are graded, and when the shells attain a certain age they are partially opened and something put in, which is a secret. This irritates the bivalve, which commences to form the pearl at once. It seems that the Chinese are the original inventors of this system of pearl farming, for that industry has been in vogue in China hundreds of years. The percentage of pearls that are found in the shells is very small; as in 100,000 shells you will only find from three to five pearls of any consequence, but as there are millions and millions of shells, the company does very well. Some of the pearls get to be of enormous size, and bring fabulous prices. I saw a pearl as large as a large filbert, perfect in shape and with a beautiful lustre. It was valued at £1,000. Mr. Clarke told me that just before the world's Fair a chicago man came out to buy pearls. Mr. Clarke, hearing of him, came to Sydney to see him. They made an appointment for meeting next day at the Australian Hotel, where the pearls were to be exhibited. When the Chicago man saw the pearls he was astonished, for he never had seen such large ones and so perfect. He at first thought they were imitations, but on closely examining them and hearing the prices he was convinced about their genuineness, as one pearl alone would have been enough to have "broke" him. He could not see a single pearl that was worth less than £100, and as he only wanted to buy a few thousand dollars' worth, and he would have only got about one pearl and a half, he concluded not to buy. Pearl fishing is very difficult and experive. This company has between forty and fity boats, which alone represent \$150.000. As it costs about \$3,000 to fit out a boat, including diving apparatus, and as the fishing is done in very deep water, they have to go a long way out and necessarily need large boats. The divers, who are mostly Japanese, go down a depth of between twenty and thirty fathoms, but, owing to the tremendous pressure of the water, they stay there only a very short time, and very often have to be pulled up, as they become completely exhausted, and sometimes die frcm paralysis of the heart, as the pressure of the water stops the circulation of the blood. Some of the divers carry a small vial with them, and through an ingenious invention they can take a drink of brandy while at the bottom of the ocean, 150 feet below the surface. The shells are most y sent to Europe for the manufacture of buttons, buckles, opera glass ornaments, knite handles, &c. They vary in price according to the size of the shell. Young shells are not allowed to be exported, and all shipments are inspected by government inspectors. The price of shells range from £300 to £500 per ton. I have secured two of the largest pearl shells. They have quite a history, as they are the shells in which the twin pearls were found about a year ago. The pearls were tormed together like two large peas, perfect shape and match, but the most wonderful thing about them was a peculiar freak in the formation of the two gems. Although they were thoroughly joined to gether, one was black jet, with a beautiful lustre, and the other silvery white. The pearls were once sold for \$400, then again for £750, then an offer was made from a London pearl merchant of £1,500, but the owner telegraphed to stop the sale .-- Cor. Morning Oregonian.



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WORLD'S FAIR.



BUYERS WITH BIG SALARIES. Trust Placed in Heads of Departments in the Big Dry Goods Stores.

The buyer in one of the departments of a big Sixth avenue dry goods store gave up himself to another big store in Twentythird street. It was said that he made the change because he saw opportunities of increasing his income by doing so, yet rumor had it that he received a salary of \$16,000 a year in the Sixth avenue establishment, in addition to a percentage of the profits of the department of which he had charge. At the time he was said to be worth \$250,000, all of which he had accumulated as a salaried employee in dry goods stores.

His case may surprise people who judge of the money making possibilities of all employees in department stores by the low earnings of most salesmen and saleswomen. It is true that his case is an exceptional one. He is rather noted in the trade for his knowledge of the materials dealt in by his department, and for his instinctive and correct judgment of the directions which fashions of the moment may be taking. Ability to gauge the future of styles is as valuable and rare a quality as ability to foresee the fluctuations of the stock market. Besides his special knowledge and foresight, he has good business capacity, so that altogether he is an exceptionally able man, and would have succeeded in any line. Nevertheless his case is not phenomenal for the amount of money he makes. Some time ago, when a dry goods firm wanted to make a special effort to increase its business, it cast about in the other stores for the men best suited for its purposes. The men is fixed upon received offers \$8,000, \$10,000, 12,000 a year to tempt them to accept places. These amounts are all above the average

of the salaries paid to buyers in the principal dry goods stores; but the best taste, judgment, and business capacity cannot be purchased for much less, and a big firm would not be apt to hesitate about the salary if it found a man that suited it. The operations of a great department store are so varied and complicated, and the details of the business are so innumerable, that no set of partners could begin to attend to them all. So subordinates are endowed with full control of their respective departments, and are held to strict responsibility and accountability. The latitude allowed them differs with various firms. In one old-established house the head of the firm requires a statement to be presented to him every morning showing the purchases, the sales, and the stock on hand in each department. Should the sales fall greatly below the purchases in any department he makes an investigation and consults with the buyer as to how business may be stimulated, instructing him in the mean time to curtail his purchases of stock. The tendency in the bigger, newer, and more succesful houses is to allow the buyer to have absolute control, and to manage the business as if it were his own. A certain amount of capital is put at his disposal; he is charged with interest upon it, and with his share of the rental, expenses, and cost of help, and at the end of the year he is required to show a profit of a certain amount upon the operations of the department, He buys his goods, advertises them, offers bargains, and invents his devices for attracting people, and is under only the most general supervision of the firm. Naturally men in whom confidence to such a degree that may be placed are rare, and command a high salary. Such a man would have an assistant buyer, or maybe several buyers, under his orders. Before the day of big department stores such buyers would have been merchants in business for themselves. Several big stores in this city have been established by men who learned the dry goods business as buyers and incidentally gained the confidence of wholesale merchants who furnished the credit and capital that enabled them to begin business .--- N. Y Sun.

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People who casually glance into nat on 1] history stories run up against facts v hish they laugh at as being the creation of som :body's fevered imagination. Even spcrt :men's papers have scoffed editorial'y at truthful accounts of doings of a bird or animal. An article from the popular Science News, tells about a bird that herdedisheep and tended towls like a shepherd dog.

"Well, that's the steepest !" said a Brooklynite man when he had read it. 3111 "How so ?" was asked. B.T.F. "Why, the idea of a fool bird's tending a flock of sheep. What everlasting lies they do print, don't they ?" if - -----

"Dogs tend sheep, don't they ?" was asked.

"Why, yes, of course, but dogs have brains and birds haven't."

As a matter of fact, there is nothing a dog can do which birds do not do, and there are a good many things birds do naturally which dogs have to be taught to do. The reason [dog stories are believed, a naturalist says, is that dogs are familiar companions and well observed, while birds, because of lack of observation, are much less known, and the things they do seem impossible to the novice.

There are three varieties of water birds and one land bird. at least, which are natural herders. Swans, cormorants, and pelicans gather in flocks in their own kind, have a confab, then stretch out in a line across the mouth of a bayou with their bill all pointing up the bayou. Once marshalled in proper form the birds flap their wings and tails till the water flies, and make all sorts of vocal sounds, swimming up the bayou all the time The first observers of this habit thought the birds were certainly crazy, but after a while method was observed in the apparent madness. Then it was called "marvellous instinct." The splashing scared the fish and they fled up the bayou into the shallow water, followed closely by the birds. While most of the flock he'd the fish in the shallow water by a continuous splashing, two or three of the birds went in among the fish and gathered into the pouches or craws, enough for a mess, when they joined the driving line and their places were taken by other birds till all were well fed. Turkeys, both tame and wild, go along in a curved line, one deep and just clear of each other, scaring up the grass hoppers, which fly to right or left and are struck quickly by the turkeys in front of which they alight.



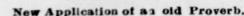
consulted doctors who prescribed for "I consulted doctors who prescribed for me, but to no purpose. I suffered in agony seven long years. Finally, I began taking Ayer's Sarsaparilla. In a week or two I noticed a decided improvement. Encour-aged by this result, I persevered, until in 2 month or so the sore began to heal, and, after using the Sarsaparilla for six months, the last trace of the cancer disappeared."— JAMES E. NICHOLSON, Florenceville, N. B.

parilla



She Cut the Gull's Wings.

A woman photographer at Buxton owns a seagull, which, after being tamed, proved to be so docile and clever as in some way to be used in the lady's business. To prevent it flying away, the bird's wing was clipped, and the owner was proceeded against for cruelty. The magistrates refused to convict, on the ground that a seagull, not being a domestic animal, did not come within the statute. This view was upheld by a divisional court. Mr. Justice Vaughan Williams remarked that he wished the law was different, but they had no right to extend its scope.





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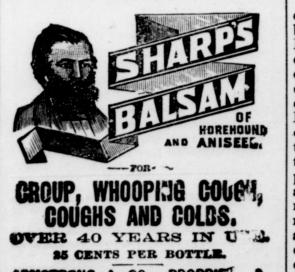


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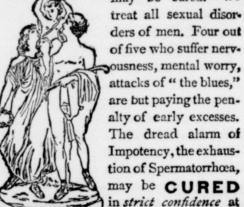


Matrimony Made Easy.

Yankee hustle has perhaps rarely been better exemplified than in the case of a sewing machine agent who is exploiting the vicinity of Dover, Me. A week or so ago he tackled a house in which lived an old bachelor who hadn't a sewing machine The agent was persistent and the bachelor obdurate until finally the latter said be positively, wouldn't buy a machine unless a woman to run it was also provided. Then the agent hunted around, and in six weeks had found an elderly but excellent maiden lady, who had been waiting for some good man to speak out to her, and actually suc-ceeded in getting her married to the bachelor. Then he made a sale of a machine, though it might seem that he ought to have given one to the bride as a present. This story is vouched for by the Maine papers.

A Wonderful Clock.

One of the most extraordinary mechanical wonders of the world is a clock built by a Russian Pole named Goldfadon. He was at work upon it six years. The clock represents a railway station, with all of its appointments and details carefully carried out. On the central tower is a dial which shows the time at New York, London, Warsaw and Pekin. Every quarter of an hour the station begins to bustle, telegraph operators click their machines, the station master and his assistants appear, porters bustle about with luggage, and a miniature train dashes out of a tunnel cn one side of the platform. All the routine of a railway station is gone through, after which the train disappears into another tunnel, to reappear at the next quarter of an hour.-Popular Science

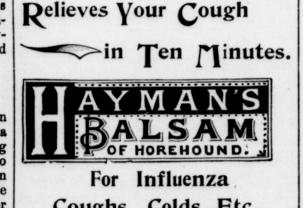


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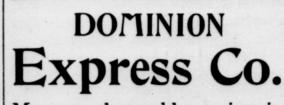
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REDUCTION IN EXPRESS RATES Ств

One or two instances are reported where sandhill cranes have done likewise out on the prairies, so probably they, too, are herders.

In this line probably the most extraordinary feat is that of several hawks near Las Animas, N. M., reported by F. T. Webber to the Forest and Stream in March, 1892. A telephone line had been run from the town to a ranch some distance away. In that locality the hawks are unusually abundant, and are also numerous flocks of small birds there. Getting ley and a large flock of small birds the hawks come sweeping toward them in such a fierce way as to cause the small birds to rise and flee in terror before them. In their excitement the small birds do not notice the wire, and many a one is driven against it and killed or crippled, to become food for the hawks. That the hawks know what they are about is shown by the fact that they do not pursue the birds further than the telephone wire, or if they do' it is only when none falls. In this case the hawks endeavor to get beyond the fleeing birds to turn them back toward the wire, much as cowboys turn stampeding cattle .- N Y. Sun.

Woman's Privileges in Finland. Finland is not large, just a mere speck on the map of nations, but no country offers more privileges to women, says The American. For some time women have been employed in situations formerly occupied by men only. They have women as clerks, managers of companies, doctors, dentists, bank cashiers, and even as house builders. It is said these women workers are more honest than men, too. The emancipation is not confined to the so-called wer classes. The Baroness Alexander openburg, edits and publishes a paper in

Charlette Corday's Skull.

the interestof women.

Charlotte Corday's skull is believed to be in the possession of Prince Roland Bonaparte, who obtained it from M. Duruy, the person who established the authenticity of Richelieu's skull, which some time ago was replaced in the tomb in the Sorbonne, from which it was stolen during the revolution. The Corday skull was probably procured from Sanson, the executioner; it was with documents establishing its authenticity.

Japanese Collections.

In this day of overdecoration, says an exchange, we might get a needed art lesson from the rich Japanes. They are avaricious collectors of all manner of beautiful things, yet never lumber •their houses in our fashion. Instead they have each a warehouse- go-down is the native name, and there they hoard their precious things, taking out, now one, now another, and feasting their eyes upon the beauty of each for say a week, when it is put back, and something else set its up instead.

What Woman Says of Man.

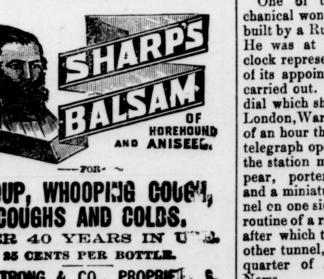
No man is altogether evil; there is latent good in him.-Edna Lyall. One connet has

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Little Carl while playing had torn his frock very badly and was about to receive a severe scolding from his mother. when he interrupted her with, "Don't scold, mama; the least said the soonest mended, you know."	CAFE ROYAL, Domville Building, Corner King and Prince Wm. Streets.	News. I was curred of Acute Bronchitis by MINARD'S LINIMENT. Bay of Islands. I was curred of Facial Neuralgia by MINARD'S LINIMENT. Springhill, N. S. I was curred of Chronic Rheumatism by MIN- ARD'S LINIMENT. Albert Co., N. B. GEORGE TINGLEY.	1 animax, Dartmouth and intermediate points, 2 lbs, and under 15 3 lbs, and under 20 Over 3 to 5 lbs. 25 Over 5 to 7 lbs. 30 Over 5 to 7 lbs. 30 Over 7 to 10 lbs. 35 To St. Leonard's, Edmundston and intermediate pointa, 2 lbs and under. 15 Over 2 lbs and not over 3 lbs. 25 Over 3nd not over 6 lbs 30 Over 7and not over 7 lb 35 Over 7and not over 10 lbs. 40 96 Prince Wm., St. E.N. ABBOTT.	by the end of a fortnight.—Jane Austen. A man must be able to support his family, or else remain a bachelor.— Georges Sand. No man ever distinguished himself who could not bear to be laughed at.—Maria Edgeworth. Vanity never leads a man toward the error of sacrificing himself for another.— Mme. de Stael. Men, the very best of men, can only suffer while woman can endure — Dinab	Express weekly to and from Europe via Canadian Line (f Mail Steamers. Agency in Liverpool in connection with the for- warding system of Great Britain and the continent. Shipping Agents in Liverpool, Montreal, Quebec and Portland, Maine. Goods in bond promptly attended to and forward- ed with despatch. Invoices required for goods from Canada.' United
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