

The Song of the Grouse.

Certain birds when the period of courtship comes round repair to particular trysting places and announce their presence there by well known calls or signals.

The ruffed grouse, as every one knows, seeks an old log or other convenient perch and drums with his wings, a hint to any lady grouse within hearing that "Barkis is willin'."

The performance of the grouse is one frequently heard, but comparatively seldom seen, and for many years there were numerous conflicting theories concerning the means by which the drumming was produced. Some said that the sound was vocal, and others declared that the grouse struck the log with its wings. Even today the precise cause of the sound is not known, for, although the bird has been closely watched, its wing movements are so rapid that it is next to impossible to tell exactly what takes place. This much, however, is known: During the performance the grouse stands upon the leg or other perch and strikes the air in front of his body somewhat after the manner of an elated barnyard cock. The first few strokes are measured, but they become faster and faster until the individual thumps are lost, as in the rolling of a drum. Whether the sound is due entirely to beating of the air or whether it is increased by the striking together of the wing tips is a question yet to be settled.

Why Dinah Wept.

Not long ago a lieutenant in the navy was ordered away on a three years' cruise. The order had been dreaded for weeks, and when it came the young wife, who was to be left in a Brooklyn flat with a baby and a colored servant, was in despair.

She controlled her sorrow very well, however, until the actual moment of parting came, and then she wept as though her heart would break. The cruiser was to leave the navy yard early next morning, and the lieutenant had gone to report for duty.

In the midst of her lamentations the young wife heard a sniffling and sobbing in the dining room, and upon glancing through the door she saw Dinah, the colored maid, rocking her body to and fro in a chair and weeping violently.

"Why, D-D-Dinah, what's the matter?" cried the mistress. "You seem to t-t-take Mr. Blank's departure as much to heart as I d-do."

"'Deed I doesn't, Mis' Blank; 'deed I doesn't!" sobbed Dinah. "What am boderin dis chile am de fac' dat a culud gemman friend o' mine am gwine sail hisse'f on dat same ole cruisah!"

She Gave Herself Away.

Judge Davis was one day in his private office when he was president of the senate and acting vice president. A woman came into the room to see him. He turned and said, "Well, madam, what can I do for you?" She was neatly dressed in black, with an air of extreme poverty. She told a wretched tale of sorrow and suffering, winding up with the climax that she and her little family were actually starving and had not tasted food for two days. The judge seemed deeply moved. He excused himself for not attending to the case for the moment, as the senate was nearly ready to open.

He looked at his watch with an air of vexation, as if it were not going, and said, "Can any one tell me what time it is?" His visitor pulled out a gold watch and told him the time. The judge said, "Can it be true that your children have been without food for two days when you have a gold watch in the house?" The woman saw the point of the judge's question and called out, "You are a hateful old thing!" and flounced out of the room. She was a professional dead beat.

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Dosing an Elephant.

A difficult operation was performed the other day at the zoological gardens at Hanover. An elephant was suffering great pain from a growth on the lower part of one of its hind feet, and it was deemed necessary to cut this malformation away. In order to render the animal insensible a dose of 600 grains of morphia in six bottles of rum was administered. This dose took about an hour before any visible effect was produced. The elephant then fell over in a kind of sleep, and the operation was successfully carried out without any further ado. The operation lasted in all three days.—London Globe.

A Pair of Lovers.

Two American men in Venice spent their first evening loafing round the lagoons in a gondola, it being moonlight, of course, and all the rest of the sentimental, charming things it is always in Venice.

"Here comes a gondola," stage whispered one American to the other, "that probably contains a pair of lovers. See how absorbed those two dim figures evidently are in each other. Gondolier, other gondolas, the witchery of the moonlight and the place—to all of it they are oblivious. Oh, what a spot for sentiment! The air is full of it!"

And as the two gondolas glided past each other the Americans heard the unmistakable accents of a fellow countryman, "I'll see your three and raise you five."

Her Resource.

"I recognize the fact, of course," the young man said, "that woman is handicapped in divers ways by her sex. Under stress of emotion a man can relieve the pressure by going out and getting drunk, but there is no such safety valve for woman. She must suffer and do nothing."

"Not necessarily," replied Miss Flype. "She can go and eat a pickle."

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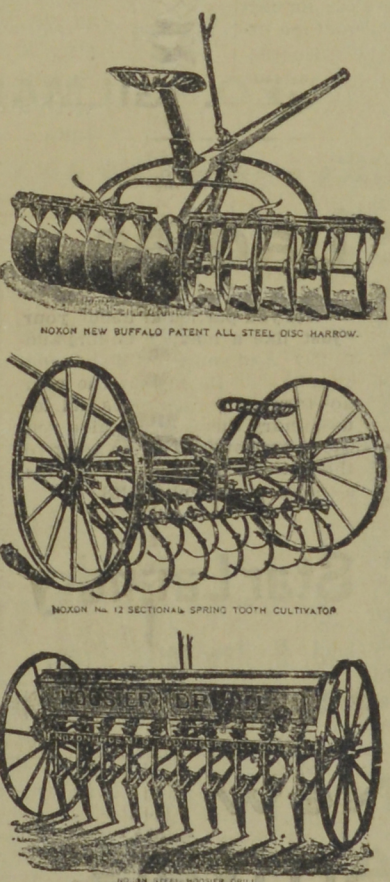
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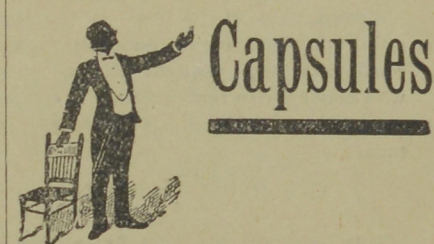
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TRAINS WILL LEAVE ST. JOHN

Suburban Express for Hampton..... 5.20
Express for Halifax and Campbellton... 7.00
Express for Point du Chene, Halifax, and Pictou..... 11.50
Express for Sussex..... 16.30
Suburban Express for Hampton..... 17.45
Express for Quebec, and Montreal..... 19.35
Express for Halifax and Sydney..... 22.45
Accommodation for Moncton and Point du Chene..... 18.00

TRAINS WILL ARRIVE AT ST. JOHN

Express from Halifax and Sydney..... 6.00
Suburban Express from Hampton..... 7.15
Express from Sussex..... 8.35
Express from Montreal and Quebec..... 11.50
Express from Halifax and Pictou..... 17.00
Suburban Express from Hampton..... 21.55
Accommodation from Point du Chene and Moncton..... 14.15

All trains are run by Eastern Standard Time. Twenty-four hour notation.

D. POTTINGER, General Manager Moncton, N. B., March 5, 1901.

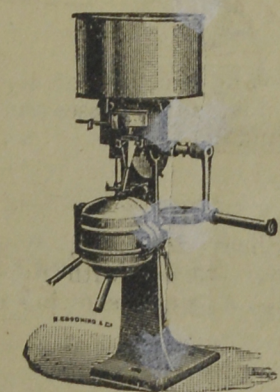
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