

A Vegetable Fly.

One of the most curious natural productions of the West Indies is the famed vegetable fly, an insect about the size and color of a drone bee, but without wings. In the month of May it buries itself in the earth and begins to vegetate. By the beginning of June a sprout has issued from the creature's back and made its appearance above the surface of the ground. By the end of June the tiny tree (known on the island as the fly tree) has attained its full size, being then about three inches high, but a perfect tree in every particular, much resembling a delicate coral branch. Pods appear on its branches as soon as it arrives at its full growth. These ripen and drop off in August. Instead of containing seeds, as one would naturally suppose, these pods have from three to six small, harsh worms upon the interior. —*New York Home Journal.*

Some Peculiarities of Birds and Animals.

"Some animals exhibit a queer lack of sense," says a man who has observed them. "Put a buzzard in a pen about six feet square and open at the top, and it is as much a prisoner as though it were shut up in a box. This is because buzzards always begin their flight by taking a short run, and they either cannot or will not attempt to fly unless they can do so. Again, take a common bumblebee and put it in a goblet. It will remain a prisoner for hours, trying to escape through the sides, without ever thinking of escaping through the top. So also a bat cannot rise from a perfectly level surface. Although it is remarkably nimble in flight when once on the wing and can fly for many hours at a time without taking the least rest, if placed on the floor or on flat ground it is absolutely unable to use its wings. The only thing it can do is to shuffle helplessly and painfully along until it reaches some trifling elevation, from which it can throw itself into the air, when at once it is off like a flash." —*New York Tribune.*

From the Wild West.

A story comes of a thrilling adventure recently occurring to William Johnston, a prospector. On a trip from Alamo to the broken country north of the Trinidad Pass his horse was picking its trail through a dark canon when he was stunned and almost thrown from his horse by a mountain lion that dropped upon him from an overhanging tree. The frightened horse plunged down the canon, and Johnston, twisting in his saddle, managed to wrench the murderous claws of the lion from his shoulder. At this moment the horse saw a Sonora lynx in his pathway, and swerving suddenly aside hurled the lion from his back directly upon the lynx. The two beasts locked throats, and as the horse emerged from the canon Johnston became faint and light-headed from loss of blood, and did not recover his senses until found by his partner two days later on the desert. After he had partly recovered the two men visited the spot, but only a few blood bespattered boulders marked the scene of the fray. The wounded man has a wobbly shoulder to prove his participation in the event. —*Lower Californian.*

A Little Store-keeper.

A little store-keeper only four inches high, and the happiest, friskiest little fellow you ever saw! He lives very near my house, and I see him every morning dressed in a warm, brown coat striped with black—as natty a little squirrel as ever frisked through the wood. In the summer and fall he goes out to gather seeds and nuts, and packs them away in his two little leather bags. These two tiny bags are in his mouth, just back of those sharp teeth that crack the nuts. It is very funny to see him sit up straight and crowd the nuts into his little bags with his fore-feet. When the bag is full he shuts his mouth tight, which closes the bag, and away he scampers home. His home is hidden away under the roots of a tree, and the door is very tiny. First, there is a long, slanting hall, and then comes the coziest room imaginable. It is lined with moss, and has a soft, warm carpet of dry leaves. His store-room is just out of the parlour. It has a sort of earthen shelf, where he packs away the seeds and nuts for winter. When he gets into this little store room he sits up, puts his little-fore feet behind the bags where his nuts are tucked away, and just crowds all the good things out, while he holds his mouth open. Beech nuts are the little fellow's favorite food, and he likes to store away a good quantity of these toothsome, three-sided nuts. When the long, cold days come, he shuts himself up in his cosy home and spends a quiet winter with plenty to eat. —*Phil. Presbyterian.*

The extreme heat in Kansas is causing anxiety among grain men as to the prospect of a crop.

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