THE INDUSTRIOUS LIZARD

DEATH TO FLIES AND OTHER INSECTS.

They Act as Scavengers in Philippine Houses — Become Very Tame.

Throughout the Philippines the walls and ceilings of the spacious old Spanish houses are whitewashed, making anything dark upon the surface conspicuous against the white background, writes Bradford K. Daniels.

Once I lived for several months in one of these barn-like structures, and my only company, besides a sullen native servant, were the house lizards that, as soon as darkness came and the lamp was lighted, crawled out of the loosely constructed brickwork to feed upon the numerous insects that the light attracted through the open windows from the swamp beyond.

At first, as they ran over the walls and ceilings, the lizards all looked alike to me; but as the days went by I came to know each one as he appeared in his particular locality, from two tiny baby lizards that lived in a crack which an earthquake had opened in the wall above my table, to a big brown one fully five inches long that occasionally rushed out from behind a window cap upon some unsuspecting moth, lashing his tail furiously if he missed his prey.

Each lizard had a portion of the wall or ceiling over which it worked, and seldom trespassed upon the territory of its neighbor. Regularly after dinner a silvery gray lizard came out of a rathole under the window, and after looking about for a moment, uttered a loud "Chunk! Chunk!" From somewhere in the deep recess of the window came an answering "Chunk! Chunk!" and soon a second lizard appeared and the two scampered off together to the corner behind the kerosene stove, where the blue-bottles had their lodgings.

BATTLE BETWEEN LIZARDS.

The lamp hung in the middle of the room, and one lizard discovered that within the circle of light which it cast upon the ceiling was always a cloud of moths. For some weeks it feasted unmolested; but one night a strange lizard found its way into the room and in the course of its adventures came upon the chosen spot. The little fellow who had already taken possession was so busy eating a big moth that he was not aware of the stranger's presence till he heard an ominous "Chunk! Chunk! Chunk!" just behind him. The stranger not only had taken a fancy to the locality, but to the half-eaten moth, and was preparing to fight for what remained of it. The little lizard ran for his life, but the intruder followed, and for several seconds there was a lively scene enacted upon the ceiling of the old Spanish room.

Presently, I heard a deep-toned "Chunk! Chunk!" from over the window, and looking up, saw the tail of the big brown lizard lashing furiously. The next moment he darted up the wall and across the ceiling, and when peace was once more restored the strange lizard was beating a hasty retreat, minus a tail.

The victor helped himself to a moth as if in recompense for the services rendered the little lizard, and then went back to his territory over the window.

INTERESTING PETS.

One night I was eating my dinner very quietly, when two bright little eyes appeared over the edge of my plate, and gradually the head of a lizard emerged from the shadow, till the silky white throat, puffing out at every breath, and the red forked tongue, flashing in the lamplight like a tiny sword, were plainly visible. The little fellow looked me squarely in the eyes, turned his head from side to side with a half curious, half doubting air, and then scampered away.

The next night my visitor returned and ate a morsel of chicken that I had placed behind a pickle bottle. After that we always dined together, my guest playing hide-and-seek among the dishes until I had finished my meal.

After dinner, when the servant was gone and the room was still, my little friend became bolder, sometimes catching an unwary fly within an inch of my hand. As soon as he spied a fly he would crouch and lash his tail, exactly as a cat does when it sees a mouse. Inch by inch he would creep forward, crouching low and remaining perfectly still if the fly showed any signs of uneasiness, and after a moment raising his head to see if it was wise to make another advance. When about within six inches of his prey he would hurl himself upon it with a rapidity that the eye could not follow. Few, indeed, were the flies that escaped this deadly little hunter.

One night my pet brough a pet with him. They came down the wall with many misgivings, scurrying back to their retreat at the slightest disturbance. Evidently my regular visitor was the male and the newcomer was his mate. He made many trips between the wall and the table before he could persuade his better-half to venture over, but in the end she came and ate her share of chicken.

After considerable practice the two lizards learned to come to me whenever I chirped to them. If I held my hand perfectly still, the male would eat his chicken from my fingers, but I never could persuade his wife to be so indiscreet. While he was nibbling the chicken she would wag her tail slowly, spread her four little bird-like feet in readiness for flight, and watch closely for any show of treachery on my part.

One morning two empty egg shells, each about the size of a hummingbird's egg, dropped upon the table. They were a bluish white, and would have passed for birds' eggs, had they not been joined together.

That night two baby lizards, so tiny and pale that they were scarcely visible, even upon the white wall, came out of the crack with my two friends, and I knew that the family had increased to four. The parents came regularly to dine with me as before, but the babies never ventured so far from home.

THROUGH THE TELESCOPE.

An Incident of the Siege of Ladysmith.

When the Boers besieged Ladysmith they permitted a "camp of refuge" and a field hospital to be established at Intombi, a few miles distant. Here the non-combatants were gathered. And to the hospital, writes George Lynch in the London Daily Express, came every morning the train from Ladysmith, bearing its burden of sick and wounded.

To the dwellers at Intombi that train brought the history of the siege the daily bulletin written in blood and disease. Women who had husbands and brothers and sons in Ladysmith crowded round it always to see what news it brought, and went away with a sigh of respite and relief when it carried nothing for them.

And yet, after a fashion, these women at Intombi were more fortunate than the men in Ladysmith, since they could learn from the new arrivals how their loved ones fared. But men were not allowed to go backward and forward to Intombi; those who went had to remain, and somehow or other little or no news seemed to reach the garrison.

In the dearth of news one man in Ladysmith had arranged that twice a week, when he could get off duty, his wife at Intombi should go at twelve o'clock and stand in front of a big marquee where he could see her through the ship's telescope at the 4.7 battery.

She went there regularly with her child, and straining her eyes toward that sandbagged point above Convent Hill, sometimes fondly imagined that she could see him. And as the months passed her child, like the others in the camp, grew more sickly, thin and pale, till it seemed as if the Erl King spirit of the miasmic fog had wrapped it round and entered it, and made it a changeling of his own.

But delicate as the child was, the mother was the first to fall sick, and the news of her illness reached her husband by his seeing one tiny figure standing alone at the appointed place, waving a handkerchief. And there came a day when it, too, was no longer to be seen. He could not go to them, but had to stay and fight on with bitterness in his heart.

HAIR FAIRS.

In a short time will be held in various towns of the Haute Vienne and the Correze, the two departments in France forming the old Limousin province, the Hair Fairs, or "Foires aux Cheveux." Country girls will be invited to sell their tresses, or to barter them in exchange for cheap finery and trinkets. The fairs are usually held in such places as Tulle, La Roche, Canillac, and Lapleau. When the girls have selected the goods they desire, or received money, they kneel down before their executioners and become transformed into apparently beardless boys in petticoats. The operators hang up their spoils before their booths as an inducement to other girls to part with their black or brown tresses for a trifle. After the fairs are over the spoils are bought up by an agent, who supplies dealers in Paris and elsewhere. It is affirmed that a good deal of the hair from the heads of the Limousin girls is sent to London.

WHAT BOYS AND GIRLS SEE.

An interesting series of experiments has been tried by the school authorities in South Germany to test the faculty of observation as it is exercised by boys and girls. A man dressed as an ordinary workman and with ordinary features was placed in a room by himself. Classes of girls of different ages were sent through the room. All that the teacher told them was that they were to go into the room through one door and out through another. When they returned to their class rooms they were asked to describe the man in the room. Nearly 80 per cent. of the girls confined their attention to the man's clothes; the others described both clothes and features. The same experiments when tried with boys revealed the fact that nearly 70 per cent. of them confined their attention to the man's features, the remainder to both features and clothes.

PRECIOUS BULLETS.

Bullets made of precious stones are rarities in warfare. But during the fighting on the Kashmir frontier, when the British troops defeated the rebellious Hunzas, the natives used bullets of garnets encased in lead. The British preserved many as curiosities.

ELECTED TO THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Constituency.	Cons. Elected.	Lib. Elected.	Maj.	Defeated Candidate.	Majority Last Gen. Election. Cons.	Lib.
Addington	JAMES REID		623	G. A. Aylsworth	301	....
Algoma	W. R. Smyth		10		new	
Brant, N.		W. D. BURT	150	J. H. Fisher	....	102
Brant, S.		T. H. PRESTON	300	D. Z. Fraser	....	417
Brockville		G. P. GRAHAM	376	D. O'Brien	....	188
Bruce, N.		C. M. BOWMAN	280	D. M. Jermyn	....	265
Bruce, S.		R. E. TRUAX	42	Dr. Clapp	....	accl.
Bruce, C.	Hugh Clark		7	Dr. J. M. Stewart	....	234
Cardwell	E. A. LITTLE		....	L. Hutton	459	....
Carleton	GEO. N. KIDD		1200	D. H. Maclean	746	....
Dufferin	JOHN BARR		1200	W. T. Bailey (Pro.)	569	....
Dundas	J. P. WHITNEY, K.C.		413	W. G. Smyth	120	....
Durham, E.	J. J. Preston		995	H. H. Walker	306	....
Durham, W.		N. Rickard	80	W. H. REID	119	....
Elgin, E.	C. A. BROWER		112	Dr. Sinclair	29	....
Elgin, W.	F. G. McDIARMID		545	A. McCrimmon	17	....
Essex, N.	Dr. J. O. Reaume		200	W. J. McKEE	....	95
Essex, S.		JOHN A. AULD	400	A. B. Herring	....	677
Fort William and Lake of the Woods		D. C. Cameron	237	Dr. Smellie	new	
Frontenac	J. S. GALLAGHER		28	W. J. Shibley	269	....
Glengarry	W. D. McLeod		460	D. M. McPherson	466	....
Grenville	R. L. JOYNT		363	W. J. Bissell	611	....
Grey, N.			....	In doubt	137	....
Grey, C.	I. B. LUCAS (accl)		....		1,091	....
Grey, S.	Dr. JAMIESON		700	Geo. Binnie	532	....
Haldimand		J. W. HOLMES	152	Samuel Beck (Ind.)	....	102
Halton		J. R. BARBER	16	Dr. Nixon	....	161
Hamilton, W.	Mayor Hendrie		173	S. F. Washington	278	....
Hamilton, E.	HENRY CARSCALLEN		144	Dr. Griffin	880	....
Hastings, W.	M. B. MORRISON		....	E. G. Sills	201	....
Hastings, E.		S. RUSSELL	100	A. A. Richardson	....	128
Hastings, N.	J. W. Pearce		309	B. O. Lott	252	....
Huron, E.		A. HYSLOP	600	Anson Spotton	....	498
Huron, S.	H. EILBER		53	M. Y. McLean	159	....
Huron, W.		Malcolm G. Cameron	61		....	200
Kent, E.		JOHN LEE	100	John Davidson	....	....
Kent, W.		T. L. PARDO	150	John Fraser	....	....
Kingston		E. J. B. PENSE	167	J. Morgan Shaw	....	290
Lambton, E.		H. J. PETTYPIECE	82	P. D. McCallum	....	40
Lambton, W.	W. J. Hanna		182	F. F. PARDEE	....	500
Lanark, N.		W. C. CALDWELL	87	A. M. Greig	....	161
Lanark, S.	Lt.-Col. MATHESON		892	Jos. Cram	797	....
Leeds	W. BEATTY		289	C. E. Britton	458	....
Lennox		M. S. Madole	2	T. G. Carscallen	....	43
Lincoln	Dr. JESSOP		700	D. J. McKinnon	353	....
London	Adam Beck		131	Col. F. B. LEYS	....	301
Manitoulin	R. R. Gamey		350		new	
Middlesex, E.		Dr. Routledge	28	Capt. T. ROBSON	....	....
Middlesex, N.		W. H. TAYLOR	202		....	92
Middlesex, W.		Hon. G. W. ROSS	350	Thos. English	....	151
Monck		Hon. R. HARCOURT	353	Jas. A. Ross	....	328
Muskoka		Dr. BRIDGLAND	89	A. A. Mahaffy	....	74
Nipissing, E.		Dr. M. James	300	George Smith	new	
Nipissing, W.		Joseph Michaud	730	Frank Cockrane	new	
Norfolk, S.		W. A. CHARLTON	136	J. L. Buck	....	34
Norfolk, N.	Dr. F. S. Snider		30	E. C. CARPENTER	....	250
Northumberland, E.	Dr. Willoughby		349	O. Simmons	....	421
Northumberland, W.		S. CLARKE	119	Geo. Spence	....	124
Ontario, N.	W. H. HOYLE		156	W. J. Kester	431	....
Ontario, S.		Hon. J. DRYDEN	156	C. Calder	....	322
Ottawa	C. B. POWELL		664	A. LUMSDEN	....	145
Ottawa	Dennis Murphy		483	Samuel Bingham	19	....
Oxford, N.		ANDREW PATTULLO	500	Charles A. Muma	....	1,023
Oxford, S.	D. Sutherland		150	Dr. McKAY	....	674
Parry Sound		M. Carr	150	Jos. Edgar	....	1,101
Peel		JOHN SMITH	115	Sam. Charters	....	202
Perth, N.	J. C. Monteith		2	JOHN BROWN	....	160
Perth, S.		V. Stock	69	NELSON MONTEITH	8	....
Peterborough, E.		W. Anderson	159	Dr. S. P. Ford	....	216
Peterborough, W.		Hon. J. R. STRATTON	513	Major W. J. Miller	....	999
Port Arthur and Rainy River		J. CONMEE	....	Joseph G. King	new	
Prescott		F. E. A. EVANTUREL	500	C. R. Poulin	....	accl.
Prince Edward		Dr. Currie	70	L. P. Williams	357	....
Renfrew, S.		Hon. F. R. LATCHFORD	900	Henry Moss	....	314
Renfrew, N.		J. W. MUNRO	350	Peter White, Jr.	....	accl.
Russell		O. GUIBORD	784	Dr. Rochon	....	776
Sault Ste. Marie	A. MISCAMPBELL		275	C. N. Smith	new	
Simcoe, E.		James B. Tudhope	200	R. H. Jupp	69	....
Simcoe, W.	J. S. DUFF		500	A. B. Spencer (Ind. pro.)	435	....
Simcoe, C.		D. Davidson	50	B. A. THOMPSON	57	....
Stormont		W. J. McCart	300	JNO. McLAUGHLIN	179	....
Toronto, W.	THOS. CRAWFORD		1524	Thomas Urquhart	760	....
Toronto, E.	Dr. R. A. PYNE		859	L. V. McBrady	1,620	....
Toronto, N.	Dr. Beattie Nesbitt		232	GEO. F. MARTER (Ind.)	384	....
Toronto, S.	J. J. FOY		755	W. B. Rogers	405	....
Victoria, E.	J. H. CARNEGIE		670	L. F. Heyd	438	....
Victoria, W.	S. J. FOX		110	N. Smale	72	....
Waterloo, N.	Dr. H. G. Lackner		300	L. J. BREITHAUPT	....	119
Waterloo, S.	W. A. KRIBS		125	Dr. Thompson	109	....
Welland		J. F. GROSS	150	Hy. Cronmiller	....	....
Wellington, S.	Jos. Downie		150	JOHN MUTRIE	....	399
Wellington, E.		Hon. J. M. GIBSON	200	W. E. Tookey (Ind.)	....	503
Wellington, W.	J. TUCKER		103	J. McEwing	229	....
Wentworth, N.		R. A. Thompson	29	A. R. Wardell	333	....
Wentworth, S.		JOHN DICKENSON	289	Erland Lee	....	174
York, E.		JOHN RICHARDSON	....	J. W. Moyes	....	423
York, W.	J. W. St. John		500	W. J. HILL	....	35
York, N.		Hon. E. J. DAVIS	184	T. H. Lennox	....	469

The Independent candidates running were:—West Hamilton, E. A. Colquhoun; East Kent, Geo. Johns (Lib.); North Oxford, D. R. Ross (Lib. and Pro.); East York, A. Mills (Lib. and Pro.); Manitoulin, McMillan.

Following are the Prohibitionist candidates who contested the elections:—South Brant, D. M. Lee; South Wellington, S. Carter; London, F. W. Daly; Lincoln, G. B. Wilson; West Simcoe, A. B. Spencer; South Wentworth, J. B. Pettit.

The Socialists in the field were:—West Toronto, W. Wellwood (labor), J. A. Kelly; East Toronto, C. A. V. Kemp (labor), J. Simpson; North Toronto, J. H. Tripp (labor), Miss M. Halle; South Toronto, H. Garner (labor), S. A. Corner; London, F. Hazelgrove; West Hamilton, R. Rodehouse; East Hamilton, Lockhart M. Gordon; Manitoulin, J. H. McMillan; West Elgin, H. Gaylord Wilshire; West Middlesex, R. H. Wade.

The names in capitals are those of the members of the last Legislature.

TWO CORONATIONS.

That of King William IV. and King Edward VII.

Seventy-one years ago, April, 1831 King William IV. went down to dissolve Parliament during the great tumult occasioned by the reform bill. In the robing-room of the House of Lords he said :—

"Lord Hastings, I wear the crown; where is it ?"

The crown was brought to him ; but when Lord Hastings was going to put it on his head he said, "Nobody shall put the crown on my head but myself." He put it on, and then said to Lord Grey, "Now, my lord, the coronation is over." As William had never been crowned, he should not have worn the crown.

George Villiers, who was one of the spectators, said that as the king took his seat upon the throne of the House, with the loose crown upon his head and the tall, gaunt figure of Lord Grey close beside him, the sword of state in his hand, it looked as if the king had his executioner by his side, and the whole might be an augury of the reign.

In the following summer, when it was decided that a public coronation was essential, the king gave orders that it be "short and cheap."

Informality and economy will not characterize the coronation plans of the man next after William to be crowned King of England. Edward VII. intends that the day shall be a fete not only to the favored spectators in Westminster Abbey, but to every inhabitant of his realm. He will himself give a vast dinner to the poor of London, which example will be imitated throughout many cities ; beacon-fires will be lighted on the hills, and illuminations, free concerts and spectacles will make the day memorable.

A further contrast appears between the attitude of the wives of William and of his great-nephew, Edward. Queen Adelaide told Charles Greville that she would have none of their crowns ; she did not like to wear "a hired crown." She had jewels enough of her own, and would have them made up to suit herself.

"You will have to pay for it," said William, slyly, to the young clerk of the privy council.

"No," interrupted Queen Adelaide, "I shall pay for it myself."

In the crown of Queen Alexandra, on the contrary, will sparkle England's chief jewels, the magnificent Kohinoor diamond, which Alexandra will not scorn as "hired." Neither will she pay for the setting of jewels in her coronation crown out of her private pin-money.

HOW I GROW SWEET PEAS.

Some grow sweet peas one way, some another. Some are successful with them. Some are not. An authority says :—I grow mine in this way ; and I always succeed in getting a great many blossoms from them, I consider myself successful with them, even if my treatment may not agree in all respects with that practised by the sweet-pea specialists.

Aim to get the seed into the ground as early as possible in the spring. The growth of the plants will be slow at first; but a better root start is made while the soil is cool and damp than later, when the warm weather encourages a corresponding activity of the top, and the ground is likely to dry out rapidly. Make V-shaped trenches, about five inches in depth. Scatter the seed in these, about an inch apart, Cover the seed with about an inch of soil, and press it down firmly with the foot. When the young plants are about two inches tall, draw in another inch of soil about them, pressing it against them with the hoe. Continue to do this as the plants grow, until you have returned to the trench all the soil taken from it. The value of the trench system is not fully understood. The idea is to get the roots of the plants so deep in the soil that they will not be easily affected by the drought which usually occurs in midsummer. The sweet-pea likes moisture and coolness at its roots, and these we secure in considerable degree by this system of planting.

Nothing in the way of support suits this plant so well as brush. It takes to it readily, and finds in it exactly the kind of trellis its rambling branches need. Next to it, choose coarse-meshed wire netting. But it will generally be found necessary to weave the vines out and in among the meshes before they will cling to it. Strings are of little value as support for sweet-peas unless a great many are used, and they are woven into this network.

Every summer the complaint is made that early in the season an aphis begins work among the foliage at the base of the vines and soon they are naked there, and the ravage of the insect is likely to extend up the plant. Make an infusion of hard soap, a quarter of a pound, melted and added to a pailful of water. Apply this with an ordinary garden sprayer. Begin to use it early in the season. Do not wait for the aphis to appear. It is an easier matter to keep him away than it is to get rid of him after he has put in an appearance. Apply this soap infusion twice a week, taking great pains to have it reach the lower side of the foliage. The result has been extremely satisfactory with me My plants have kept their foliage every year since I have used this insecticide; and the aphis has given me no trouble, while those of my neighbors have been greatly injured or entirely spoiled by it. I consider it very important to begin its application early in the season, and keep it up all through July.

The more you cut the flowers of your sweet-peas the more you will get. If you want them to keep on blooming after the first general crop of flowers, you must not allow seed to form. If you allow this, all the energies of the plants will be devoted to the development of it; and that will mean the end of blossoms.

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE.

Last Words From One of the Condor's Officers.

A Victoria, B. C., despatch says: The steamer Queen City, which reached Alberni on Wednesday, reports that the Indians of Hesquoit, on the Vancouver coast, have found a bottle containing the following message:

"Mid-ocean, Jan. 5, 1902.—H.M. S. Condor, ship sank, all lost except first officer and two middies, who escaped in asmallboat. Weare nn n n escaped in a small boat. We are at the sea's mercy. (Signed) A. S. Rogers."

The signature was blurred, but seems to be Rogers. The message is written on a small piece of brown paper, in ink, and has been forwarded to the Admiralty. It looks like a fraud.

FOR AUSTRIAN WOMEN.

An Effort Will Be Made to Secure the Franchise.

A despatch from Sydney, N. S. W., states that Mr. See, the Premier of New South Wales, has promised the early introduction of a woman's franchise bill. Replying to a deputation, Mr. See announced that the Government would shortly introduce a bill to submit to a referendum the question of reducing the Assembly to 94 members.