

CATCHING CRUSTACEANS.

The Ways of Crabs and Those Who Thrive by Them.
(New York Star.)

Many are the delicacies which tempt and please the palate of man, but no one who has ever eaten a fat soft crab, cooked while alive in butter and cracker crumbs, will ever forget the flavor, and I will always make affidavit that the soft-shell crabs rank with the diamond back terrapin and the canvas back duck. It is in August and September that the festive crab is the most plentiful. During those months the stalls at the markets are loaded down with the creeping, plump little morsels, and about the streets of the city they are sold as cheap as two cents apiece. Crab stands, like hot corn and frankfurter stands, have their season.

A "crabbing" outfit costs little. To go a "crabbing" one requires but a good hand-net, made of stout cord, painted green, with a short handle of about four feet in length, a skiff, and plenty of patience and some degree of skill.

"Crabs begin to swarm in from the ocean about the middle of July," said a fisherman. "Myriads of hard crabs swarm at that time along the shores of Maryland, or of Northern New Jersey at Sarswary Inlet, or upon Long Island Sound. The little creeks and streams which run into the Sound seem to have been placed there and fitted with every conformation by Dame Nature for the especial benefit of the crab.

Just now the crabs are settling down in their summer homes in the places I have mentioned. Soon they will begin moving nearer to the shore, selecting a spot suited to their taste. An individual having chosen his place, becomes perfectly quiet, and soon the upper edge of his hard shell shows signs of swelling at the outer edge. After a week or so the edge becomes wholly disengaged, and the crab has the difficult task before it of freeing its claws and legs from their covering, which it is enabled to do by an opportune softening of the muscles.

"The crab now stands nude and settles down in the soft bottom, into which it gradually sinks till it is covered so as to escape observation, for it is at present in a perfectly helpless condition. Twelve hours after it has cast the shell the soft skin with which it was then covered has now become like fine writing paper, cracking like it when compressed. Twelve or more hours later this skin is now a stiffer composition, and on account of this the crab is called the 'buckram,' as before it was called a 'paper crab.' In these stages the crab is helpless, but within 48 hours its pugnacious instinct asserts itself once more, and it is restored to the exercise of all its functions. Crab stomachs are fitted up with a splendid set of teeth, and they have ten or twelve pairs of jaws in addition, so it is no wonder they are such great fighters.

"Being such ready fighters they are, of course, quick of ear and eye, and especially as regards their eyesight, and in catching them the net must be lowered into the water some distance from the bait and then moved very slowly and carefully under the crab, the instinct of which leads it on the approach of danger, to seek the bottom, and of course if falls right into the net underneath.

"I think the coming crab season will be a great one."

Mother Tongue.

A writer in "Wide-Awake" remarks upon the pathetic way in which a subjugated people cling to their native tongue. And it is true that a people can never be said to be truly conquered so long as they refuse to speak the language of the conqueror. The Welsh—that subdued yet unsubduable people—have never ceased to speak Welsh. You will be told that they have already ceased to speak it; that the use of the language is fast dying out; but directly you draw near the boundaries of that portion of Great Britain, you begin to hear it. It is a formidable language in print, but easily managed by the tongue.

In many Welsh families, especially in remote districts, it is the only language spoken. And when, a few years since, the decree went out from London that in the Board Schools in Wales only English should be spoken, it fell hard upon the little folk who knew no other tongue. Try as hard as they might to express themselves in unfamiliar English, the familiar household words would drop from their lips.

So a plan was hit upon to make them cease to speak Welsh. If a child spoke a Welsh word, a "token" was given him. What shape this "token" took varied according to the school. It might be a fool's cap, it might be a printed slip attached to the clothing, or it might be simply a stick that was to lie on the desk.

Whatever it was, he kept it until a Welsh word dropped from the lips of a second child, when it was passed on to the latter. And so on through the session for the day. Whoever was so unfortunate as to hold it when school closed at night, was flagged—poor little fellow!

However, the system, as might have been expected, did not work; it was better suited to the Dark Ages than to modern England. And so it was dropped, and the small Welshman now chatters and recites in his own familiar tongue.

The Best Elixir.

The elixir is turning out an elixir of death rather than of life. It stimulates in some cases, but in others it has produced evils from which its victims will not speedily recover. A prominent physician says the best elixir is absolute rest for mind and body. He continues:—"The bright eye and clear skin that characterize youth can only be retained by rest. It is a fact that few people know what it is to rest well. Many believe they do rest well, and frequently I hear people remark that nothing in the world disturbs them after they have gotten into their beds. Yet these same people get up drowsy in the morning. Many of them are noticeably languid all the time. Some of them are irritable and nervous, and all of them now and then complain of being so 'lazy' or tired that they are incapable of displaying any energy whatever. Now the direct cause of these things is a want of rest, and of this they are robbed by a host of readily cured ailments and petty disturbances. The causes of restlessness are bad ventilation, indigestion, excessive mental labour prior to retiring for the night, too heavy a meal before retiring, or neglect to take a light supper when hungry. If people would take the precautions necessary to secure perfect rest they will live as long as nature will allow, and will look as young as is desirable until their term of office in this world has expired.

PERSONAUS.

Graham R. Tomson, favourably known as a poet, is a woman. She is an Englishwoman, Mrs. Sharp by name, and is described as tall, lithe, with Spanish complexion and Greek profile, and "with the blackest hair, that falls nearly to her feet, and which she wears in great rope-like coils."

At a social function where Mr. Gladstone was one of the guests somebody told the Persian monarch that the distinguished statesman was about to celebrate his golden wedding. "His golden wedding!" exclaimed the dusky potentate. "What is that?" It was pointed out to his Majesty that when a man had lived with one wife for fifty years he was said to have celebrated his golden wedding. "Ah," observed Nasr-ed-Din, evidently thinking of his own home establishment, "it is better to live with one wife for fifty years than with fifty wives for one!"

Professor Edward P. Crowell, of Amherst College, dean of the faculty and professor of Latin language and of literature, is stone blind. He is about fifty years old and had perfect eyesight until about five years ago, when he lost his sight by sickness. A strange species of inflammation which the doctors did not understand and were powerless to check attacked Professor Crowell's eyes and ruined them both. Professor Crowell suffered excruciatingly. He is a very able man, and was talked of for the presidency of the college before the election of the present incumbent, Julius H. Saelve. When he became blind Professor Crowell tendered his resignation to the trustees of the college, but they refused to accept it.

The richest man probably in the British House of Commons is Mr. Isaac Holden, member of the Kesteven Division of Yorkshire. He was born in Paisley, and was for some time an ill-paid schoolmaster. While teaching his pupils chemistry he discovered the principle on which lucifer matches are made. But out of this great invention Mr. Holden made no money. Later on he began to devote his mind to the study of machinery for the carding of wool, and a machine was invented which revolutionized the whole system of wool-carding, and in that way revolutionized the whole manufacturing history of England and the world. Possessed of the patent-rights in these valuable machines, fortune poured in upon Mr. Holden. He has mills not only in Yorkshire but also in several parts of France.

An amusing anecdote is told of Lord Chesterfield. When staying at Bath, relates Mr. T. F. Dyer, he amused himself sometimes at billiards with a well-known gamester of the name of Lookup. On one occasion, by an artful ruse, Lookup, after winning a game or two, asked his lordship how many he would give if he were to put a patch over one eye. His lordship agreed to give him five, and Lookup having won several games in succession, Lord Chesterfield threw down his mace, declaring that he considered his antagonist played as well with one eye as with two. "I don't wonder at it, my lord," replied Lookup; "for I have seen only out of one of these ten years." It is not surprising that Lord Chesterfield was deceived; for the eye of which Lookup had lost the use appeared as perfect as the other, even to a near observer.

The Duke of Fife, although a respectable member of English society, has the misfortune of possessing near relatives whose behavior has given rise to much scandal. The character of his three sisters has been such that it was found absolutely impossible to invite them to attend their only brother's wedding at Buckingham Palace. The eldest, married to the eccentric Marquis of Townshend, lives separated from her husband, from whom she eloped in years gone by. The second, Lady Ida, who conferred her hand on the well-known turfite, Adrian Hope, likewise eloped and became the heroine of one of the most remarkable divorce trials ever heard in the London courts. The youngest, Lady Agnes, deserted her husband, the late Lord Dupplin, and eloped with his best friend, the handsome Herbert Flower. Both the former and the latter are now dead, and have thus enabled Lady Agnes to contract a third marriage with the famous London surgeon, Alfred Cooper.

The Coming War.

Here and there on the European Continent are still to be heard mutterings about the war that is coming, but they are not considered at all alarming. Preparations for eventualities are still going on, but there is a manifest lull in the storm-clouds. The likelihoods are that they will blow over again, and that the world will settle down on it less again for another winter, with the usual ever-renewed talk about the terrible things that may be looked for in the spring. There is manifest determination, however, on the part of all the Power not to allow themselves to be lulled into any false security by these numerous alarms of war which end in nothing. There has never been a time when the nations were more admirably equipped for a struggle. The explanation perhaps is that they universally regard thorough preparedness as the best insurance against the horrors of that for which they are so thoroughly prepared. It seems a long way off yet the time when men will be willing to beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. To be sure they are all willing to do that now, only each one is waiting for his neighbour to begin.

Uncle Sam's Pension Roll.

Every day increases the distance between the present period and the American Civil War. Yet every day multiplies the number of war veterans for whom Uncle Sam has to provide. There are 400,000 names on the pension roll now, and \$80,000,000 annually is the sum that these names represent. It is calculated that the pensions will shortly reach a hundred million dollar. The great increase is a result of the political influence of a powerful organization—the Grand Army of the Republic, or the G. A. R. This body exercises control within the Republican party, and can force upon the Pension Bureau or should the Bureau object, upon Congress, just such pensioners as it chooses to reward with the light of its countenance for political services rendered. Mr. Cleveland used to veto the pension bills as advanced through Congress via the G. A. R.; but Mr. Harrison is not in that business. His heart softens towards the most desiant relative of the man who saw a battle. In a few years every American will be a pensioner.

WHY FLOWERS SLEEP.

One of The Most Curious Phenomena of Plant Life.

That flowers sleep is evident to the most casual observer. The beautiful daisy opens at sunrise and closes at sunset, whence its name—"days eye." The morning glory opens its flower with the day. The "John go to bed at noon" awakes at four in the morning but closes its eyes in the middle of the day, and the dandelion is in full bloom only during the hours of strong light. This habit of some flowers is certainly very curious, and furnishes one of the many instances which prove the singular adaptability of every thing in nature. The reason is found in the method by which this class of flowers is fertilized. It is obvious, says Sir John Lubbock, that flowers which are fertilized by night-flying insects would get no advantage, being open by day; and, on the other hand, that those which are fertilized by bees would gain nothing by being open at night. Nay, it would be a disadvantage, because it would render them liable to be robbed of their honey and pollen by insects which are incapable of fertilizing them. I would venture to suggest, then, that the closing of flowers may have reference to habits of insects, and it may be observed, also, in support of this, that wind-fertilizing flowers never sleep.—[Christian at Work.]

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has been going up from the far west for a good many years. But the cry is not for pale, haggard, debilitated women. The pushing western men are not anxious for beauty, but they need healthy wives. A great cry for health is continually going up from thousands of women, young and old, all over the earth. Countless remedies have appeared in answer. A few have succeeded, and more hold a higher place than Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, a sure cure for all those peculiar "weaknesses" and distressing ailments peculiar to the sex.

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The blossom for the Wall street lamb is not often mint.

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Listen my friend, and the secret I'll tell, Though, for that matter, there's no secret to it.

As many a man understands very well, If you're low-spirited, gloomy, depressed, If nothing tastes good and your nights brings no rest,

If your stomach is foul and your mouth seems much fouler, And so across you become that they call you a "growler,"

Be sure that the trouble is due to your liver, And the blood is as sluggish as sometimes a river

Becomes when it's filled with all manner of stuff, Clear it out and the current runs smoothly enough.

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A. P. 465.

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