

## Australian Lyre Is Master Mimic

### Shybird Imitates Cracking of Whip and Buzz of Saw

What is it that makes us all so interested in mimicry? When a child mimics his elders we are instantly amused, and even a poor imitation of a celebrity, so long as it makes the original in some degree recognizable, excites our smiles.

Max Beerholm in one of his essays expressed the opinion that "Mimicry is a form of criticism," and it is barely possible that this implication may be one of the reasons why one person cleverly mimicking another has the same universal appeal as a good caricature.

Dr. Johnson once said to Boswell: "To be a good mimic requires great powers; great acuteness of observation, great retention of what is observed, and great pliancy of organs to represent what is observed."

However, though I do pay homage to many humans who delight their audiences by so accurately impersonating others and express my thorough appreciation of their powers, truth compels me to state without equivocation that they are simply not "in it" when compared to a friend of mine who, in my opinion, is the best mimic in the world.

Let it be accused of introducing an ungracious note of comparison, let me confess that my gifted "friend" happens to be a bird, known to ornithologists as *Menura Superba* and to ordinary folk as the superb lyre bird of New South Wales, South Queensland and Victoria.

Here is one tribute to his prowess quoted by the famous Australian ornithologist, Alec H. Chisholm:

No sound is too difficult for this bird to reproduce. In the case of sweetly musical notes, it is an exact reproduction of the original, while those of a harsh nature it is highly refined imitation. The swish of a coach driver's whip and the sound of saw and axe are perfect deceptions, and the gliding of one bird's notes into those of another and the rending of two or more simultaneously are nothing short of marvelous.

Hearing lyre bird is one thing. Seeing it is another, but unfortunately the stupidity of mankind has caused him to become the shyest birds of all the Australian bush.

It is recorded that when Captain Cook and his men first landed in the Island Continent they were surrounded by hundreds of these glorious creatures. Never having seen white men before the birds saw no reason for trusting them. Alas for their confidence. The sailors clubbed them by the hundreds and pretty soon the curio markets of London were flooded with the beautiful tails of these antipodean "wrens."

However, to quote Mr. Chisholm once more: "In spite of all ghoulish devotion for the sake of its tail feathers, the lyre bird is happily still persisting in New South Wales."

There is a bird in the Australian bush called the kookaburra, the giant member of the kingfisher family. It is affectionately known all over the country as the "laughing jackass," as it is the proud possessor of a wild, free outburst which resembles more nearly the laughter of a human being than anything in the animal kingdom. Many observers of bird life are under the impression that it is a very difficult thing for a lyre bird to imitate the laughter of a kookaburra, but on one occasion direct evidence to the contrary was placed before me.

Somewhat ago I was wandering aimlessly through the thickest part of the scrub one winter's day (mid-July if you please) when I suddenly heard what seemed to be a violent burst of sardonic laughter going on between two kookaburras.

As I crept forward and peered through the tangled undergrowth I saw a much-ruffled and angry kookaburra hopping about on the bare limb of a dead "gum" tree. Now and then he would stop to gaze down at something in the middle of a small clearing and as my glance followed his I saw a magnificent specimen of a lyre bird parading up and down. Then suddenly I saw the lyre bird stand still and give an absolutely perfect imitation of the wild laugh that belongs, strictly speaking only to kookaburras.

The imitation was not at all pleasing to the "jackass," and after a feeble sort of forced laugh himself, he flew down like a dart and attempted to punish his imitator. The lyre bird dodged the attack successfully, and the kookaburra flew back to his perch only to hear himself insulted again a few seconds later.

This little game was repeated several times, and it was easy to see that there was at least one bird in the world who did not believe that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. Alas! just as my excitement was at its height I stepped on a dead twig and the ensuing snap instantly scared both performers in this weird duet into the depths of the bush.

Bird lovers will understand me when I say that what I had been privileged to witness during those few rare moments made me feel as Keats felt when Chapman's Homer first swam into his ken. Surely as Mr. Chisholm says, "There is no bird in the world to rival this lyre-tailed artist of the Australian jungles."—P. W.

## "AND STILL THE WONDER GREW"

25 years ago... when the conquest of the air was in its infancy, Wilson's Bachelor cigars were already finding favour amongst smokers... and, today, there are more Wilson's Bachelors—100% Havana filler—smoked and enjoyed than any other ten cent cigar in Canada.



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### Owl Laughs

#### Always Too Much Pain

There will always be on earth the ancient pain of human birth; And men will always have to pay the toll on nature's perilous way. No progress can evade the urge of earthquake and volcanic surge. Yet why permit war's Judas knife To snap the precious cord of life? Why must our factory-bored slaves Droop cold and ragged to their graves? Why let each bitter acid steal Through wounds that kinder men would heal, Kinder men who clear the sod For the commonwealth of God? —Lucia Trent.

#### Ragson Tatters rises to remark:

"Ever since ma bought one of them



### TAKE NO CHANCES WITH BABY!

#### Cook Her Food in the "Health Ware"

Doctors recommend Enameled Ware for cooking baby's food. It is so simple to clean... so easy to keep sanitary and free from germs. It cannot stain. There is no metal surface exposed to the food. Nothing to absorb moisture, flavors nor odors.

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ISSUE No. 31—'30

newfangled cabinet furnaces. I never know whether I am pouring coal in the phonograph or putting a jazz record in the heatrola.

#### Laundry Work

Everything comes out in the wash—including the buttons. When some girls break off a match they try to make light of it.

Olives—"Why can't lightning strike the front end of a street car?" Oiled—"Because the motorman's a non-conductor."

Maybe the only trouble with business the last few months is that it has forgotten all about Couca.

If you thing to-morrow never comes just make a note at the bank due then and see.

Judge—"Have you any proof he hit you in the eye?" Prisoner—"Why here it is in Black and White."

Another thing no girl should fail to put plenty of in her hope chest is patience. She'll need it badly before she is married three months.

#### Automatically Speaking

You may talk about your "nifty dogs" And cute calves all you please; But me, I am contented with A little peek a' knees.

Him—"My, what a nice mouth you have." His—"Uh huh, and remember it's lip year."

There's nothing good or bad but custom makes it so.

Many a man who says he was driven to drink was headed that way of his own accord.

It was a cold and stormy night. There was no fire in the furnace. They were sitting alone in the living room. She had no coat. Neither did he. They shuddered to think of how cold they might have been.

The world likes a good loser, especially if somebody else sets something out of it.

When a girl tells you you're different, you know she's not.

Some women contrive to look young, others dye in the attempt.

Blessed are the poor. They just keep on working and a cold wears off instead of knocking off for a week.

A woman cured her husband of staying out late at night by going to the door when he came home and whispering through the keyhole, "If that you, Willie?" Her husband's name is John, and he stays at home every night now and sleeps with one eye open and a revolver under his pillow.

A vacation is half anticipation and the other half changing tires.

Minard's Liniment removes Warts.

### To a Bluebell

Even Kings are not immune from traffic accidents, as Alfonso of Spain found in London when a slip of a girl in a two-seater car bumped his auto and kept him late for a luncheon appointment with King George and Queen Mary. No doubt the lady gave his Majesty a piece of her mind for being in her way; the women drivers do that—bless them!

I gaze into your bells of blue So delicate of form and hue, That here within this quiet dell, Bring yearnings that I cannot tell; A yearning deep to feel and know The touch of Him who formed these so. And when the soft wind wakes and swells

The music of their magic bells, Thers springs with this soul of mine A song almost as sweet as thine. And then it is you seem to me A part of God's eternity; A favored flower, thou art by choice A messenger, "the still small voice," That with the song of nature rhymes The morning and the evening chimes That call me from my house of sod To walk upon the hills with God. —William Dovey.

### Summer Complaints Kill Little Ones

At the first sign of illness during the hot weather give the little one Baby's Own Tablets or in a few hours he may be beyond aid. These Tablets will prevent summer complaint if given occasionally to the well child, and will promptly relieve these troubles if they come on suddenly. Baby's Own Tablets should always be kept in every home where there are young children. There is no other medicine as good and the mother has the guarantee that they are absolutely safe. They are sold by all druggists or by mail at 25 cents per box, by The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

### New Office Building to be "Shadowless"

New York—An unusual note in architecture is planned for a new office building by Kenneth Franzheim, architect, by having the window panes even with the exterior surface of the walls and omitting all entablatures, cornices, architraves, pediments and similar ornamental features, according to a recent announcement. The effect will be of an entirely "shadowless" structure of extreme simplicity, depending entirely upon masses and proportion to give an impression of dignity and grace. Contrasts will be attained by the use of white enamel and black brick, alabaster stone and black granite, appropriately relieved with silver metal, and the exterior of the base will be nickel and black up to the third floor. Its height—505 feet—will be emphasized by the use of black spandrels.

A small boy was attending church for the first time. When the collecting plate came round, he said, politely, "No, thank you. I have money of my own."

## French to Prevent Burial of Living

### 35 Doctors Shape Measure Requiring Scientific Proof of Death

Paris.—Thirty-five doctors in the French chamber of Deputies are preparing a law for the verification of death by medical-scientific means before allowing burial. According to these doctors, there have been many cases in the past of the burial of living persons, who only appeared to be dead.

Many French doctors adhere to the theory that it is impossible for at least two days to tell the difference between a dead body and that of a person in a cataleptic state. They suggest that before the burial of any body a poison be injected to make sure.

In introducing the project before the Chamber the Deputies contend that one person in every 500 buried is alive when lowered into the grave. They cited particularly the case of Abbe Prevost, composer and author of "Manon Lescaut," who was about to be buried when one of the burial party saw a slight muscular movement.

Dr. Dedvieux, of the Medical-Legal Institute, chief coroner of France, explained to the Chamber that there are means of telling whether life is extinct. Among the simplest, he suggested:

The injection of a small quantity of ether. If the body is dead the ether will come out. If there is life it will be absorbed. The injection of fluorescein in small doses. It is not toxic, and if life is not extinct the whole body will take a greenish tint.

Another suggestion is that invisible letters written on paper with lead acetate be held close to the nose of the subject. If the hidden letters appear, the body is without life, for the sulphuric gas emanating from the body will have a chemical effect on the lead. There are other means sometimes used to make certain of death, one of them being to hold a flame to the feet. The Chamber may also be asked to make the "coup de grace" obligatory, by which the attending doctor would inject a mortal poison before allowing the body to be placed in the bier.

### Weak and Depressed

The work of the average woman in the home makes greater demands on her vitality than she realizes. Long hours, care of children and home is the daily grind. No wonder she is depressed; that she suffers from headaches and is run down. What is needed is a blood-builder to give her vitality to perform her everyday duties. Such a blood-builder is Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, of which Mrs. Jos. L. Corbin, Moncton, N.B., says: "I was weak; badly run down; housework was a burden and I was greatly depressed. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills were recommended and by the time I had taken half a dozen boxes I was fully restored to health and strength." You can get these Pills through any medicine dealer or by mail at 50 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

#### Pansies

Here they grew, From blue to deeper blue, in midst of each A golden dazzle like a shimmering star. Each broader, bigger than a silver crown; While here the weaver sat, his labor done, Watching his azure pets and rearing them. Until they seemed to know his step and touch, And stir beneath his smile like living things: The very sunshine loved them, and would lie Here happy, coming early, lingering late. Because they were so fair. —Robert Buchanan, in "Hugh Sutherland's Pansies."

A tall man can, according to one expert, stand more intoxicating drink than a short one.

Have Minard's Liniment on your shelf.



## Too Much ACID

Many people, two hours after eating, suffer indigestion as they call it. It is usually excess acid. Correct it with an alkali. The best way, the quick, harmless and efficient way, is Phillips' Milk of Magnesia. It has remained for 50 years the standard with physicians. One spoonful in water neutralizes many times its volume in stomach acids, and at once. The symptoms disappear in five minutes.

You will never use crude methods when you know this better method. And you will never suffer from excess acid when you prove out this easy relief. Please do that—for your own sake—now. Be sure to get the genuine Phillips' Milk of Magnesia prescribed by physicians for 50 years in correcting excess acids. Each bottle contains full directions—any druggist.

# Congratulations to this month's BRIDES & GROOMS

We hope you will be very happy. May we invite you to try Red Rose Tea?

RED ROSE RED LABEL TEA RED ROSE ORANGE PEACH TEA

## RED ROSE TEA "is good tea"

### Classified Advertising FOR SALE

10 IRIS—ALL DIFFERENT. SELECTED from choice varieties only—good healthy stock—\$1.00 postpaid. W. J. F. Ward, Iroquois, Ont.

A SEA SLED FOR SALE. MODEL 16, with new 22 H.P. Evinrude motor, all in perfect condition, very fast, absolutely safe, splendid fishing boat, has special sedan top, owner setting larger model. Now for sale on Georgian Bay. Wilson Publishing Co., 73 Adelaide St. Toronto, Box 27.

### SITUATIONS VACANT

START NOW—YOU CAN EARN money quickly, taking orders for the most beautiful line of Personal Christmas Greeting Cards ever shown in Canada. Write for particulars. Regal Art Co., 312 Spadina Ave., Toronto.

### Feeding Our Wild Birds

For winter feeding of wild birds place suet, sunflower seeds, and grains of corn where they will not be covered with snow.

That child whose mother is a golf widow and its father a bridge widower is like to become a divorce orphan.

"The consumer complains that this sandwich is too small." "Put it on a smaller plate and take it back."

### AEROXON With The Pin

The Honey Fly Catcher

You Must Do Your Bit in the war against the fly, carrier of germs and breeder of disease.

It is proven that AEROXON is one of the most convenient and most efficient means of combating the fly evil. It is convenient, because of the push-pin. It is hygienic; flies never get away when once caught. Each spiral gives three weeks' perfect service.

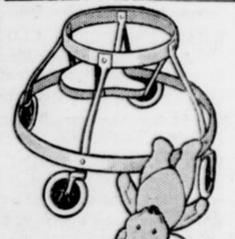
Beware of imitations. Sold at drug, grocery and hardware stores. La Cie C. O. Genest & Fils, Limited, Montreal, Que. (SOLE AGENTS)

### Thinning Hair

Stimulate your scalp and prevent dandruff by massaging with Minard's. It gives hair new lustre.



"A religion, like a nation, is saved not by the wars it wins, but by the children it breeds."—Dr. Will Durant.



### When BABIES are Upset

BABY ills and ailments seem twice as serious at night. A sudden cry may mean colic. Or a sudden attack of diarrhea. How would you meet this emergency—tonight? Have you a bottle of Castoria ready?

For the protection of your own peace of mind—keep this old, reliable preparation always on hand. But don't keep it just for emergencies; let it be an everyday aid. Its gentle influence will ease and soothe the infant who cannot sleep. Its mild regulation will help an older child whose tongue is coated because of sluggish bowels. All druggists have Castoria.



### READ OF A CASE LIKE HER OWN

Decided to take Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

Moncton, New Brunswick—"Before my last baby was born I was very weak, nervous and discouraged. I saw an advertisement in the paper about a woman who had been like me so I bought a bottle of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound. I took three bottles and it cured me safely through that critical time. I have three children to care for and I feel well and strong. I have told two other women about your medicine." MRS. GUS ARSENAULT, 82 Albert Street, Moncton, New Brunswick.

