

Daily Eagle

WINGED SCAVENGERS OF THE SOUTH

Fundamental Facts as to the Nature and Utility of the Turkey Buzzard.

The so-called turkey buzzard is not a buzzard, but a vulture. By insisting upon this distinction the buzzard tribe could improve its reputation for cleanliness. It is against the law in almost every southern state to shoot a turkey buzzard. There are two excellent reasons for this prohibition; the buzzards are the scavengers of the south, and there is no telling what sort of a pestilence a dead turkey buzzard would bring on if anybody should kill one.

The turkey buzzard is a knowing bird. He knows he is not good to be eaten—though his knowing this does not imply that he has superior knowledge—and he is not shy of mankind. He hovers over the market places in the southern cities, waiting for business to come, and when the crowd of purchasers has departed the buzzard descends and feasts upon the odds and ends that have fallen from the butchers' and the fishmongers' knives. The scarcity of lard, mince pie and fish chowder in the southern states is something for which the buzzard should have credit. In Charleston there is a big public market down by the water, and the buzzards always clean up after business hours.

The wisdom of the turkey buzzard is known also by one of his expedients for getting rid of work, which is fatiguing in the southern states. He goes to the mouths of rivers, where the conflicting forces of current and tide deposit on the banks a considerable proportion of the cotton and other unwholesome things that are borne toward the sea on the river's flood, and there he accommodates his not very fastidious appetite to the movement of the tides. All animals that perish inland are found by the buzzards. It is even said that flocks of these birds will hover for days and nights over a horse or cow that is on its last legs. A northerner was driven out of southern Georgia last winter by some one telling him that the buzzards were beginning to keep an eye on him. Last summer the sheriff of a county in Florida disappeared in the woods after having loaded up a big revolver, and told his wife he was going to shoot himself. Some little effort was made to learn whether he had kept his promise, but after a day of searching in the cypress swamps the searchers said there in the shade of their houses and said they would wait three days, when the buzzards would find him, and then they would find the buzzards.

The turkey buzzard, despite his formidable look, is a harmless bird. Not only does he never strike a creature till it is down, but he hardly ever strikes it till it is dead.—Georgia Cor. New York Sun.

Curious Experiment in Guernsey.

The history of Guernsey furnishes a curious and perhaps instructive instance of the kind of uses that paper money may serve. It was determined to build a meat market and a fish market in the town of Guernsey. Notes were issued by the authorities for that amount, and were guaranteed on the "wholes of the property of the island, and to be worth four millions." These notes were worthless outside of Guernsey, and so they were never exported. They were one of the first notes, and were numbered from 1 up to 4,000. With them the contractor was paid, he paid his workmen in the same money, and those that supplied him with materials. Tradesmen took them for goods, landlords for rent and the authorities for taxes. "In due season," to quote from Jonathan Duncan, "the market was complete. The butchers' stalls, with some public rooms constructed over them, were let for an annual rent of £500. At the first year of issue the notes called in the first batch of notes, numbered from 1 to 400, and with the £200 of real money received for rent redeemed the £400 of representative money expressed by the most marketable notes. At the end of ten years all the notes were redeemed through the application of ten years' rental, and since that period the market has returned a clear annual revenue to the states and continues to afford accommodation without out having cost a farthing in taxes to any individual.—Cassell's Family Magazine.

Thaddeus Stevens and His Club Foot.

Talking recently with a relative of Thaddeus Stevens, I learned of an act in his youth which resembled the stolen heroism that was taught to the youths of ancient Greece. He was born with a club foot, which was not only malodorous but was twisted on one side. His brother, who afterward sat on the bench in Vermont, was similarly afflicted in both feet. Thaddeus was lame and sickly up to his sixteenth or seventeenth year. His twisted foot was always a great eyesore to him, and one day while the family was living in Pencham, California county, where he was born, his mother heard him groaning and talking to himself just outside the door of the house. Going out she found that he had taken his clubfoot in his lap, and with his penknife had deliberately severed the tendons and was forcing the foot straight, where he bound it with splints on the side, tying them on with his handkerchief which he had torn into shreds, saying meanwhile to himself: "I'll fix you straight if I have to cut you clean off." When his foot healed the club had been somewhat straightened, but the club foot remained as a deformity up to his death.—N. Y. Tribune.

Extensive Business in Drying Tomatoes.

In Italy an extensive business is carried on in drying tomatoes. They are dried in preference to being canned. The tomatoes are allowed to remain on the vines until they are quite ripe, when they are picked and pressed into large masses of coarse cloth, which allows the pulp to press through while the seeds and skins are retained. The pulp is then spread out thinly on cloth, boards or shallow dishes, and exposed to the sun to dry. When it has become quite dry it is broken up into fine or ground and put into boxes or bags and sent to market. It is largely used in soups, but much of it is employed as we do tomatoes preserved in this or other cans. When used, it is soaked for a few hours in warm water, and then cooked in the ordinary manner.—Exchange.

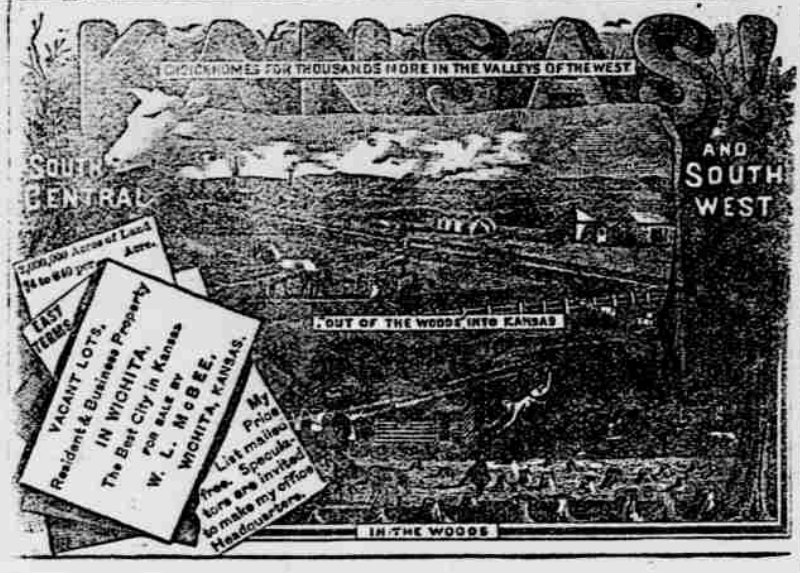
Running Across in Three Days.

London engineers say that, as a matter of theory, it is possible to make steamers to run forty knots an hour and cross the Atlantic in three days. But the vessel could only carry passengers.—Exchange.

Americans at the French Capital.

Many Americans are living here because they find they can arrange the life they like to better advantage in Paris than in New York or Boston or Philadelphia. Living is cheaper than it was, in some ways it is dearer even than it is in America; but the habits of the French are frugal beyond the conception of a New England housekeeper, and there is no demand for idle display. And the unit of currency is small, and this means much. The silver mark, the franc, is but twenty cents, a fourth less than the English shilling or the American quarter, and the gold unit, the louis, is \$4 only, while in Great Britain and the United States it is \$5. Of course, there is the danger, on the opposite side, that one may get a contempt for the petty, tiny franc, and take to spending it too freely.—Brander Mathews' Paris Letter.

W. L. McBEE, Sedgwick County Abstractor.



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