

The Festive Hopper.

For a mathematical genius commend us to the grasshopper, especially if he be in a healthy condition and disposed to do his duty by his prosperity. The following from the *Peggs Falls Journal* describes the insect and its method of multiplying:

The grasshopper as a champion multiplier has no equal. He lays (speaking generically and not to put too fine a point upon it) an egg which is about the size and shape of a long primer 0. In fact he lays several of them. From Aug. 1st until winter he is actuated by a reckless desire to bore holes in the ground, of the size of a pipe stem, and then to fill these holes with cream-colored oo. And though he is small he attends to his biz, and is a triumphant success. In stature he is about a match for a sixpenny stub nail, in form he is like a lynchpin, and he wears a green sealing-wax head on him and a pair of glass eyes, so that with his long tailed duster on he looks like an unsophisticated and near-sighted schoolmaster. But unsophisticated isn't what's the matter with him. And numeration is his best mathematical hold. He will stand himself bolt upright like a peg in one of those holes aforesaid, and view the heavens with an air of sublime serenity and wooden-headed unconsciousness. Don't you fool yourself—he knows just what he is about. He prefixes himself like a figure 1 in the business, and, adopting the decimal system of notation calmly places an 0 where it will do the most good. This stands for 10, and before you can dot and carry one he has added another cipher to that, and he now reads 100. About this time you begin to discover what sort of a rooster he is, and you entertain a degree of awe for him not inspired by a front view of his green goggles. Reasoning *a posteriori* you discover that he is a dangerous neighbor. But while you stand amazed he rapidly suffixes fifteen or twenty 000, carrying his problem into the million millions, and has sealed and cemented it up ready to be fired at you next spring. In two minutes and quarter he has given you a problem that with all your powers of multiplication cannot be solved or equated. He compounds his interest at 100 per cent. every five seconds, puts a snap judgment on your cornfield, and forecloses before you can say Jack Robinson.

Peculiarities of the Mocking Bird.

The mocking-bird of Florida is described as rather a dissipated character. He forages about, singing in his neighbor's vineyard while he robs him, until the berries of the Pride-of-China are ripe, then he proceeds to have a regular frolic; acquires a habit of intoxication, and gets as drunk as a lord. It is curious to see a flock of these birds at this time. They become perfectly tipsy, and fly round in the most comical manner, hiccupping and staggering just like men, mixing up all sorts of songs, and interrupting each other in the most impudent manner, without any regard to the politeness and decorum that usually mark the intercourse of all well-bred society, whether of birds or men. They will fly about promiscuously, intrude on domestic relations, forget the way home, and get into each other's nests, and families, just like the lords of creation. After the berries are gone, and the yearly frolic is over, they look very penitent, make many good resolutions and join the temperance society.

A Connecticut paper offers "a very handsome two-bladed pocket knife" as a premium to subscribers. This is rough on the chromo dealers.

The heart seldom grows better by age. A young liar will generally be an old one; a young knave only a greater knave.

Sunday-school teacher—"Annie, what must one do to be forgiven?" Annie—"He must sin."

When the sun of virtue is set, the blush of shame is the twilight. When that dies, all is darkness.

The American rifle team beat the Irish team at Creedmoor on the 21st ult. by 11 points.

A foolish fellow, having a house to sell, took a brick from the wall to exhibit it as a sample.

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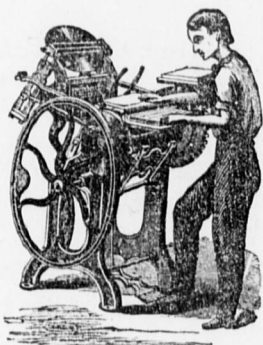
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