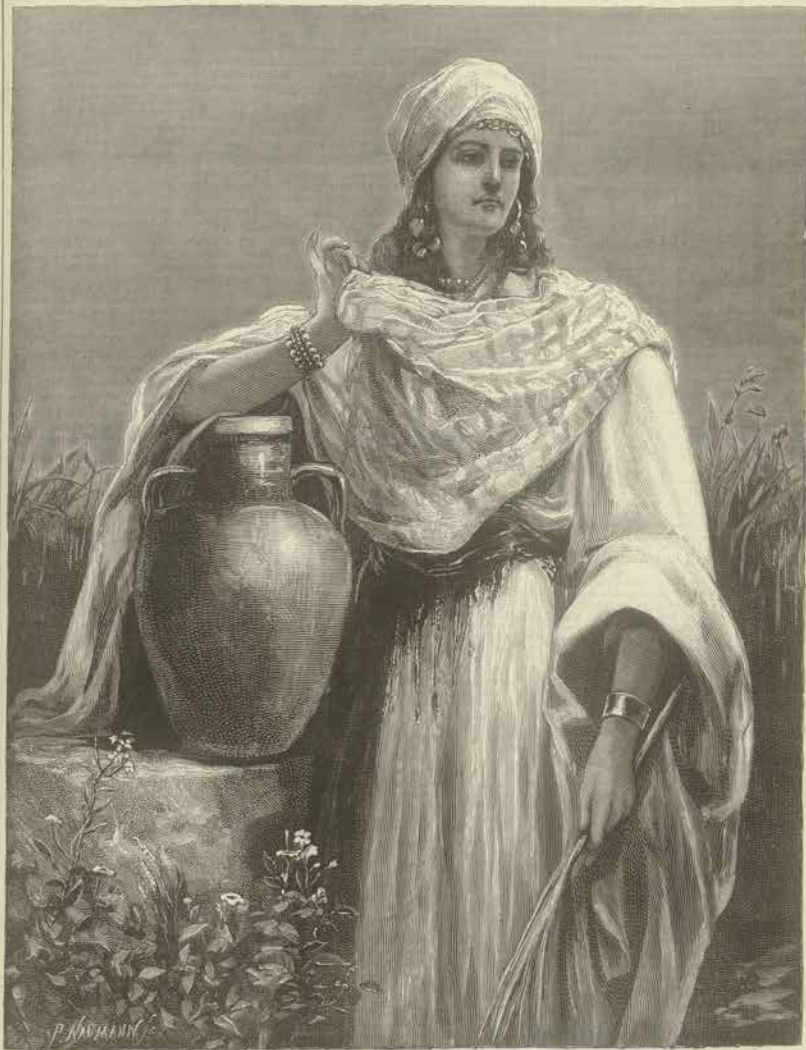


THE BRITISH WORKWOMAN.



would live and do as they liked. They determined to make a god that could be seen. The golden calf was the result of *idolatry*. It is sad to see the part that Aaron took in this matter. It was he who asked for the golden ornaments worn by the people that he might fashion the calf, and yet he was God's Priest, solemnly set apart for His service. It was probably fear of man that led to Aaron's sin, even as in the case of Peter's fall. He did not "dare to be a Daniel, dare to stand alone!"

The calf was one among the many idols of Egypt. The children of Israel would have seen it woodcutted there, yet how wonderful it was that they should turn aside to such idolatry. This, too, however, seemed bound up in the heart of the children of Israel. Over and over again, notwithstanding suffering and chastisement, they fell into this snare. God tells His servant Moses, in the Mount, what was going on down below. Moses was ignorant of the people's sin, but God saw it all, for we can never deceive Him. God's anger was greatly kindled against Israel, so that He said He would destroy them from being a nation. But Moses brought the Lord, reminded Him of His promises, stood in the gap, and cried for the pardon of the people. His prayer was heard; it had power with God. It is only because Christ's prayer rises up for us that we are saved. "We have an Advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the Righteous." (1 John ii. 1). Moses is a striking type here of Christ. He had been God's messenger to the people, and now he was an advocate for them. In the time of their sin, what would they have done without Moses? If a prisoner is brought up before the judge, and he has no counsel, and there is none to speak a word for him, must he not be condemned? If Christ were not, our Advocate, we should stand in a deplorable position—accused and undefended. Heavy charges are laid against us, but we are brought against us by our great enemy, Satan, from this solemn altar, the "altar of the testimony" (Heb. xii. 10). He may, alas! bring from charges against us. Have we accepted Christ as our Saviour? If not, we have no Advocate, and must stand before our Judge guilty and undefended! There are many golden calves set up in the heart. Many—this world's business and this world's pleasure—its idols of the heart. Will God, St. John, know how gross the human heart is? He set up an idol when he wrote, as the last words of his *Epistle*, "little children keep yourselves from idols." How are idols to be cast out from the heart? It can only be done by letting Christ in. When the Ark of God was brought into Dagon's house, the idol fell before it (1 Sam. v. 2, 4). For Christ and an idol cannot dwell together. With the coming of the Lord, the children of Israel so quickly turning aside, let us ask ourselves seriously if our hearts are free from idols, and if we are walking steadily with God? MARGARET EVANS.

NEVER be sorry because you cannot make others as you wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be.

"Light."

On! God our righteousness. Who sendeth forth
The glorious sun to cheer earth's gloomy day,
Which shines upon each tiny wayside flower,
And on the ocean's silver-crested spray—
O Light! which shineth on the million souls,
Who tread life's stony pathway stern and rough,
God has so freely given thee to man,
That were there millions more "would be enough!"
Great gift of God, Redemption, fall for all,
Firm as the air and boundless as the light,
Illuminate our hearts with thine ever radiant power,
Healing our blinded souls with faith's true sight.

LOUISA BROCKMAN.

two feet only; these may be said to form its weapons of defence, since they are used with such vigor that one blow from them has been known to kill a man. The wings are useless for actual purposes of flight, but are a slight aid to the bird when running. In its wild state, it constantly carries long distances in search of food, and when alarmed strikes over the ground at so rapid a pace that Dr. Livingstone calculated its speed when fully extended to thirty miles an hour, each stride measuring from twenty to twenty-four feet.

For the most part there have not, been any specimens in the London Zoological Gardens. In the Jardin d'Acclimatation at Paris is a big, fall-grown bird, that it is used as a beast of burden for the carriage of children, small and large, and, in consequence, is a most indispensable state. The American Gardens contain a very fine pair, which, when seen by the writer a short time since, were in capital condition, with feathers good and strong, while the legs of the male were tinged with a delicate pink colour similar to those of the flamingo.

By the ancient the ostrich was considered rather timid and partly tame, while from its resemblance to the animal which inhabited the same desert places, they gave it the name of Camelopard—*a designation still used by the Arabs*. This similarity has been noticed by several modern writers. Mr. Palgrave, the traveller, mentions meeting a flock in Arabia (continuing to follow him, so that "we almost took them for a string of camels"). Another author says: "Both bird and quadruped have the same profile; both hold their heads very forward, with necks elevated and stretched out; both are possessed of long legs, and at a distance are easily mistaken for each other."

In ancient times the ostrich extended to India and Central Asia, but at the present day it is only to be met with on this continent in Syria and Arabia. Africa is now the home of the bird, it especially favours the desert portions from the Sahara in the north to the Kalahari in the south. Fifty years ago flocks of ostriches were to be seen in all parts of the Cape Colony, on the east inland Karoo and near the Baikal, where they would find the alkalies necessary to their health.

They were to be found in the South African port Pringle depicts the bird and her young as—

"The fleet-footed ostrich over the waste
Speels like a horseman who travels in haste,
Hasting away to the home of his rest,
Where die and her mate have reposed their nest,
For hid from the pilfering plunderer's view,
In the pathless depths of the parched Karoo."

The birds still existing in the Syrian and Arabian deserts are the most perfect in plumage, but they are gradually disappearing. Next to those in size and perfection of form are the North African birds, especially from Barbary.

Prior to the last twenty-five years, the feathers in use were exclusively those of the wild bird which



Ostriches and their Feathers.



HE ostrich is distinguished among existing birds as being the largest and strongest, and as possessing the most valuable plumage. With its general appearance we are all familiar. It has several striking characteristics peculiar to the few members of the family *Struthionidae*, especially noticeable among these are the thick, elongated neck, so formed as to enable the bird to turn the head completely round, and the long, powerful legs, which terminate in feet divided into

two toes only; these may be said to form its weapons of defence, since they are used with such vigor that one blow from them has been known to kill a man. The wings are useless for actual purposes of flight, but are a slight aid to the bird when running. In its wild state, it constantly carries long distances in search of food, and when alarmed strikes over the ground at so rapid a pace that Dr. Livingstone calculated its speed when fully extended to thirty miles an hour, each stride measuring from twenty to twenty-four feet.

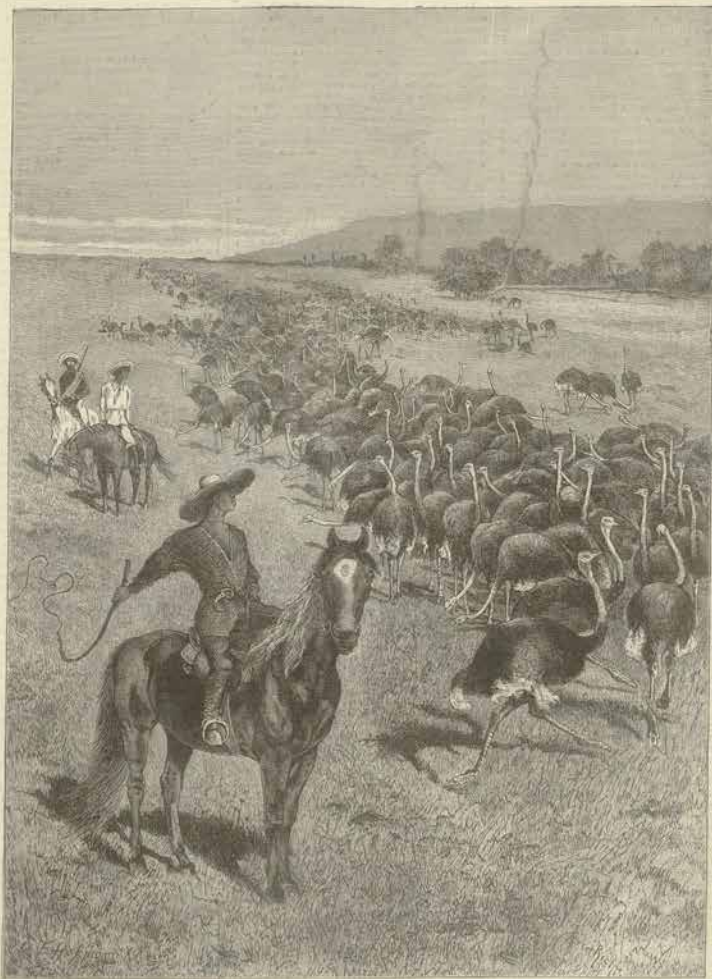
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THE FARMING OF BIRDS FOR THEIR FEATHER CROPS.—See page 46.

were being hunted down everywhere, both by natives and by the white men. Year by year they were more difficult to catch, and the extermination of the species seemed within a measurable distance of time. The choicest feathers now obtained are those of wild birds, and are brought from the Sahara, the Soudan,

and the remote interior of Northern Africa, by the caravans which annually penetrate to these desert places, returning laden with ivory, hides, and feathers, in Benghazi and other parts of Tripoli. Egypt itself recently was a large exporter of feathers; these were brought to Khartoum from the Eastern Soudan,

the Ghasalla country, and the interior; they were good quality feathers, but so badly packed that they fetched lower prices than they otherwise would have done.

The sleekness and extreme shyness of the ostrich is met by ingenious devices on the part of the natives.

