

ing Mr. Benson, the owner of the dog) thought the monkey would worry the rats in the same manner as a dog does; but the conditions said to kill, and the monkey killed with a vengeance, and won the £5, besides a lot of bets for his owner.

**THE GOLDEN EAGLE.**

One of the finest of birds, says Wood's "Natural History," is the well known golden eagle. This magnificent bird is spread over a large portion of the world, being found in the British Islands, and in various parts of Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. The color of this bird is a rich blackish-brown on the greater part of the body, the head and neck being covered with feathers of a rich golden red, which have earned for the bird its popular name. The legs and sides of the thighs are gray-brown, and the tail is a deep gray, diversified with several regular dark-brown bars. The cere and the feet are yellow. In its immature state the plumage of the golden eagle is differently tinged, the whole of the feathers being reddish-brown, the legs and sides of the thighs nearly white, and the tail white for the first three-quarters of its length. So different an aspect does the immature bird present that it has been often reckoned as a separate species, and named accordingly. It is a truly magnificent bird in point of size, for an adult female measures about three feet six inches in length, and the expanse of her wings is nine feet. The male is less by nearly six inches.

In England the golden eagle has long been extinct; but it

sportsman-like manner. One of the eagles conceals itself near the cover which is to be beaten, and its companion then dashes among the bushes, screaming and making such a disturbance that the terrified inmates rush out in hopes of escape, and are immediately pounced upon by the watchful confederate.

The prey is immediately taken to the nest, and distributed to the young, if there should be any eaglets in the lofty cradle. It is a rather remarkable fact, that whereas the vultures feed their young by disgorging the food which they have taken into their crops, the eagles carry the prey to their nests and there tear it to pieces, and feed the eaglets with the morsels.

When in pursuit of its prey it is a most audacious bird, having been seen to carry off a hare from before the noses of the hounds. It is a keen fisherman, catching and securing salmon and various sea fish with singular skill. Sometimes it has met with more than its match, and has seized upon a fish that was too heavy for its powers, thus falling a victim to its sporting propensities. Mr. Lloyd mentions several instances where eagles have been drowned by pouncing upon large pike, which carried their assailant under water and fairly drowned them. In more than one instance the feet of an eagle have been seen firmly clinched in the pike's back, the bird having decayed and fallen away.

**Packing Fruit for Conveyance.**

The various packages of specimens which we receive from a distance show the defects of imperfect packing on one

pressure of the head holding all firmly together. But a single mistake spoiled the whole; the packer placed a handsome but soft pear among the rest in filling, and this soon giving way on the journey, and becoming a shapeless mass, left a vacancy in the barrel, loosening the rest and causing all to rattle, bruise, and spoil. There are some skillful cultivators of fruit from whom we occasionally receive specimens, which, through good packing, always come in perfect condition.

In this connection the premiums offered this year for the best packed boxes of fruit at Covent Garden, London, are worthy of mention. The competing specimens were to be delivered from a distance not less than twenty miles. In this country of long distances this should be greatly extended. The first prize was awarded for a box of grapes, the box being lined with soft, dry moss at the bottom, covered with a sheet of tissue paper; on this the grapes, which weighed 18 pounds, were placed. The sides were similarly treated. Two and a half dozen peaches were packed in a shallow box, the fruit first wrapped separately in paper, and then packed firmly with wadding. Strawberries were packed in mulberry leaves, a mode adopted by all the competitors. In the package of grapes which received the second prize, they were tied to the sides of the box with tissue paper and a layer of wadding beneath; but it strikes us this treatment would not be a guard against the tumbling over which occurs on railroads. The second prize peaches were firmly packed in wadding only. We obtain this information from the *Garden*. If prizes were offered in this country at our



**GOLDEN EAGLE.**—*Aquila chrysaetos*.

is still found in some plenty in the highlands of Scotland and Ireland, where it is observed to frequent certain favorite haunts, and to breed regularly in the same spot for a long series of years. Their nest is always made upon some elevated spot, generally upon a ledge of rock, and is most artistically constructed of sticks, which are thrown apparently at random, and rudely arranged for the purpose of containing the eggs and young. A neighboring ledge of rock is generally reserved for a larder, where the parent eagles store up the food which they bring from the plains below. The contents of this larder are generally of a most miscellaneous description, consisting of hares, partridges, and game of all kinds, lambs, rabbits, young pigs, fish, and other similar articles of food. An eagle's nest might therefore be supposed to be an unpleasant neighbor to the farmers, but it is said that the birds respect the laws of hospitality, and, provided that they are left unmolested, will spare the flocks of their immediate neighbors and forage for food at a considerable distance.

In hunting for their prey, the eagle and his mate mutually assist each other. It may here be mentioned that the eagles are all monogamous, keeping themselves to a single mate, and living together in perfect harmony through their lives. Should, however, one of them die or be killed, the survivor is not long left in a state of widowhood, but vanishes from the spot for a few days, and then returns with a new mate. As the rabbits and hares are generally under cover during the day, the eagle is forced to drive them from their place of concealment, and manages the matter in a very clever and

hand, and the perfection to which it may be carried on the other. The essential requisite for successful conveyance is to have the fruit incased so tight in the box that no shaking or jarring will cause it to rattle. A box of grapes was sent us; the bunches had been neatly placed in it, and some unoccupied space left in the box above the fruit. In a few hundred miles transit, it had been shaken or turned over perhaps a thousand times, or at least often enough to reduce all the grapes to a shapeless mass of pulp. If a number of bunches or specimens are sent, each should be wrapped separately with cotton or other suitable material, so that every jar and motion will carry fruit and packing all together. We received lately a small box of grapes. The bunches had been placed in the bottom, and the space in the box above compactly filled with newspaper. Here the packing and fruit were separate, and the berries were all more or less beaten and injured. If the bunches had been incased inside the packing, no trouble would have occurred. In another instance, the value of good packing was shown on the receipt of a few specimens of peaches from a distance of a thousand miles. Each peach was first wrapped in a few thicknesses of soft paper; then with cotton half an inch thick; this again with paper, and the whole placed in a box with a compact lining of paper, half an inch or more thick on each side. The fruit has doubtless had many tumbles in the mail bags, but it came without any injury whatever.

Soft fruit will of course fare worse than hard, but the latter may be easily spoiled in packages of much size. An instance—a half barrel of Bartlett pears were well put up, the

fairs for the best specimens of packing extra fine fruit for market, it would unquestionably be the means of effecting important improvements, and such exhibitions would be examined with great interest by fruit growers.—*Country Gentleman*.

**Dangerous Toys.**

A Brooklyn chemist was fatally poisoned recently while preparing the ingredients for the well known "serpent's eggs." Usually he mixed the ingredients of this dangerous plaything in the open air, knowing the poisonous nature of the vapors of mercury liable to be given off during the work, as well as when the eggs are burning. On the fatal day he melted the ingredients in his house. The retort cracked in the process, and knowing the consequence he warned his wife and children to run for the yard. He followed, crying that it was all over with him, as he had breathed enough of the fumes to kill him. He died the next day.

**Natural Gas in Quebec, Canada.**

The natural gas well in Maskinonge County, Quebec, is attracting considerable attention. Recently quite a gathering of prominent Canadians assembled at St. Pierre to witness tests of the illuminating power of the gas and to hear the report of a chemist who had been commissioned to examine the well. He reported the gas to be protocarburet of hydrogen, easily and cheaply convertible into the best illuminating gas. The capacity of the well is considerable—from 35,000 to 40,000 cubic feet a day.