

DAILY REFLECTOR.

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After having the matter under consideration for five years the Pope has issued an order forbidding Catholics belonging to secret societies.

Speaker Walser seems to be a mere figure head and moves as the Boss pulls the string. He is probably the first speaker of a North Carolina House of Representatives who was not allowed to appoint his own committees, but Mr. Walser had to submit to having a committee to name them for him, and then he has the pleasure of reading or announcing their names to the House. He pretends to like this way of doing things. The fact is this was the terms upon which the Boss consented that he should be elected Speaker. What a humiliation this would be to any man except the Speaker of the present House of Representatives.

Mr. B. E. Sherrill, of Catawba, exhibited in the Landmark office a piece of bone found imbedded in a black-oak tree 30 or 40 feet from the ground. There was no cavity about the tree but the bone was in the solid wood. How it came there is a mystery.—Statesville Landmark.

Many Marriages.—Eetter Times.

An observant citizen says the incoming year is to be one of great prosperity, and gives as his reason that Providence would never have permitted so many marriages if such had not been the case. Besides, he says that he has noticed that an excess of marriages about Christmas times is always followed by a plentiful harvest of everything. Let's watch and see.—Durham Sun.

About County Government.

A prominent Eastern Republican remarked in the *Yarboro*, says the *News and Observer*, that he looked for some wild legislation here within the next sixty days. He said that the Western Republicans are in the saddle and that they do not fully understand conditions in the East. For this reason he looks for legislation which will be unsatisfactory and injurious to the East. Among the changes which he expects is the substitution of a new system of county government which will put many counties under negro domination. This, he feels sure will create such dissatisfaction as to cause a reversion of sentiment in the East favorable to Democracy. Like Judge Russell, this Republican does not favor negro rule over white people, but unlike the Judge, he thinks that a uniform system of county government must obtain throughout the State.

An Oriental Sofa.

An unused single white iron bed has been put to use and disguised in a very clever way by a friend of mine living in a very small flat, said a writer in an English magazine. In one corner, against the old blue of the wall, has been hung a width of dull red cotton, and into this corner has been thrust the bed. Across the mattress is thrown a curtain of dull embroidery. Against the wall, about a third of the way from the head of the bed, has been fastened an iron crane of curious pattern, from the end of which hangs a quaint eastern lamp. Over the crane is thrown a long piece of richly embroidered silken drapery falling over and concealing either end of the bed. Innumerable pillows of bright hues bestrew this originally planned sofa, and no more desirable suggestion of the orient is to be found anywhere.

As He Saw Himself.

"Gracious," said the artist to the sculptor, "you've made that bust of Swelby outrageously large."

"Yes," was the reply; "I had to do it. He told me to make it life-size, and I couldn't risk insulting him."—Washington Star.

A DUMB ROOSTER.

Some of His Original Ways About the Chicken Park.

Asa Judkins, of Palermo, says that his deaf and dumb rooster just beats creation, and that's right, too, comments the *Lewiston Journal*; he wasn't created that way. Up to the time he was eight months old he could reel off a "cock-a-doodle" as flippantly as any rooster in the neighborhood, and then one unlucky day he got his head caught in a barbed wire fence in such a way as to mangle his neck and probably tear out his vocal cords.

Just what made him deaf, though, is uncertain, but it is likely that when he lost his power to make sounds he evidently forgot how to hear them. At least, now at the age of three years, he gives no evidence of hearing. So this brown Leghorn goes through life crowless and cluckless. He doesn't wake up the neighborhood at four in the morning with an everlasting cock-a-doodle-do.

Every time a cloud passes over the sun he does not scream "kraw-w-w," and send the hens scaling for the barn in fear of hawks. No, but he is just as much lord of the chicken park as ever. There is nothing that he fails to see. He makes eyes answer for ears and voice, too.

When the first glow of sunrise appears he begins the duties of the day by raising the rest of the fowls in the hennery in his own original way. He walks around to each one and kicks it off the perch. There's no resisting such an invitation to get up. It's ever so much more effective than crowing. When he gets a challenge to fight he does not stop to announce what he can do. He goes and does it.

What is most remarkable, however, about this deaf and dumb bird is that he can readily distinguish between an admonition to "shoo" and an invitation to come in and have something to eat. His owner thinks he does it by watching the motions of the lips and the general attitude of the person. At least he knows what it means when a stone is thrown at him.

An exchange observes that "the country is smiling all around." This proves that it didn't swear off New Year's.