CATSKIN MASCOTS.

PUSSY'S HIDE IN GREAT DEMAND WITH THE SUPERSTITIOUS.

Gamblers Believe There Is Great Luck In Catskins — Some Bring Fancy Prices, While Others Are Dirt Cheap—A Chicago Dealer Who Knows All About It.

"What in the world do you do with all of those catskins?" inquired a reporter of a well known dealer in furs in this city.

"Sell 'em," sententiously replied the furrier.

"Yes, true enough, if you can find purchasers."

"Don't fret yourself about that, my son. Buyers are plentiful. All classes of people call for 'em, but they are in demand chiefly among gamblers—a very superstitious class—who wear 'em for good luck."

"Are any colors declared off?"

"Decidedly so. The greatest virtue lies in those of Stygian blackness—nature's own dyeing. Art is deceiving as well as long, and we call in the dyer to meet this demand. He transforms tabbies, tortoise, gray, Maltese and all other off shades into jet black. Still, as you see, we carry all colors, because tastes will vary, you know."

"What use do the sporting gentry find for the pelts?"

"The orthodox and accepted fashion is that of wearing the skin next to the chest, the hair nestling against the man's epidermis."

"Must be charming in summer weather."

"Superstition and fashion take pretty strong hold on people. Seriously, I am telling you the simple truth. I know gamblers whose names are familiar to you who would sooner appear upon the streets in the decollete garb of an African doko than divest themselves of their precious catskin charm. Why should you be surprised?" added the furrier, who is somewhat of an antiquarian. "The Egyptians worshiped the cat, the animal from which our feline is descended, and embalmed it by the million. It wasn't much of a leap from adoration of the creature to faith that virtue lies in its integument. The garments of departed saints, as well as their bones, teeth and nail parings, are declared to have healing in them, and millions of good souls devoutly believe in these relics."

"Oh, Chicago, Chicago, with the twentieth century so near"——

"What is the matter with you? Why, the practice of wearing the skins is by no means local. On the contrary, we supply the trade at New Orleans, Atlanta, Galveston, San Francisco, Portland, New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia and cultured Boston even. My father sold catskins 50 years ago."

"Are their virtues restricted to the realms of dice and cards alone?"

"By no means. All classes of people wear them. Only yesterday a lawyer—a regular sober side of a fellow, who is said to be in training for a judgeship, bought the finest skin in the collection, paying me $3 for it. Yes, he said he wanted it for a friend, and he did—his very dearest friend—himself."

"What becomes of the old ones, for I suppose they finally wear out?"

"Why, to be sure, like all things earthly. Their owners wear out, despite their reputed nine lives. Then they sometimes lose their efficacy. Let a gambler have an uncommon run of ill luck, and he makes a scapegoat of his fetich. With many incantations he consigns it to the flames, for it would never do in the world to let it fall into the hands of another so long as he is living. This would mean the fortune of the new possessor and the irretrievable ruin of the other fellow.

"Many gamblers," continued the furrier, "possess several skins. One I know has one for each day of the week, and he is most careful to make no mistake in the wearing of them. His Monday guard would not avail for Tuesday, and his Saturday wear would cripple his Friday plans. Such blunders could only be corrected by hoodoo doctors of skill."

"You romance well."

"I maintain the truth of all I say. You have your superstitions and I have mine. Shall we torture those who differ with us? The cat has been man's companion from the beginning. Away back in the orient the cat's presence marks man's home. Its virtues are strong enough to win and hold the affection of woman, and that's more than many men can boast. But I do not defend the superstition."

"What are those black ones worth, anyway?" demanded the reporter, feeling in his pockets.

"They range from $1.75 to $2.75. The dyed ones are lower, and I can pick you out a good one for about $1.25 to $1.50. Perhaps a gray or spotted one would suit you. Here's one a bit off that I'd sell you for 75 cents. While it may not have the virtue of a prime black, it might do well as a starter."

"You have no secondhand article?"

"Haven't I said that people guard against that? When an unfortunate gambler dies no one would touch his leavings, but when a rich or lucky one goes off there's a rush among the fraternity for his catskin. It hasn't been so very long ago that a knight of the card table in this city made a journey to New Orleans solely for the purpose of possessing himself of a peculiarly lucky skin left by a gambler who had recently died, and he paid a good round sum for it too. But the demand is steady with us, and prices hold good. To be sure they are tanned, and well tanned too, but the charm lies in preserving intact every hair, which, like those of the head, would seem to be all numbered."—Chicago Tribune.

CARPETS! RUGS!
NEW AND BEAUTIFUL PATTERNS, at P. T. McFEELY'S opposite Voshell House.
n23.

Had Fun With the Policeman.

It is seldom that one of the finest gets such a scare as a member of the force received the other night on Park row in front of the postoffice. This policeman has made himself obnoxious to the newsboys who congregate around the postoffice. He seemed to them to take delight in moving them on. The boys had no redress, but at last they took up a scheme which has afforded pleasure to small boys more than once.

They secured an old pair of trousers, together with a coat and a hat, which they stuffed with straw. Waiting until the policeman was looking in their direction, two of them, with the dummy between them, boldly walked out of Beekman street and started across Park row toward the postoffice. The sight of the two boys in charge of a man who apparently could not take care of himself interested the policeman, and he started to follow them. The boys walked on until they reached the middle of the street, when they threw the figure on the track before an approaching horse car and fled.

With a pale face and an involuntary cry of terror the policeman ran toward the body. He had gone but a few feet when he tripped and fell. The driver of the car put on the brake just as the horses reached the body. Just then two boys rushed from the postoffice, seized the body by the legs, one on each side, and ran down Beekman street with it amid the shouts of their companions, who had been silent but much amused witnesses of the joke. The policeman did not follow.—New York Sun.

The Marriage Line.

An interesting discussion has sprung up among the palmists in regard to the line of the hand known as the marriage line. One recognized authority says that when this line curves upward the possessor is not likely to marry at all. Other experts reply that they know many married and happy people with such a line. It is also alleged that the transverse line on the "hill of Mercury," which one party says is the marriage line, is not so considered by the Chirological society. "Our opinion," says the editor of the party organ, "is that these lines are signs of attachment, and there is scarcely a hand ever seen without at least one in the hand of either married or unmarried people."

Charity Begins at Home.

Wealthy Merchant (at an evening party—Gentlemen, we will not allow this festive occasion to pass away without remembering the poor. In one of my houses there lives a poor clerk whom I shall have to evict tomorrow unless he can pay his arrears of rent by then. Fritz, hand a plate round.—Dorfbarbier.

A cigar smoker, or a cigarette holder, or a new or freshly burned clay pipe, in point of safety and cleanliness, is far superior to putting mouth to weed in smoking, and one's whole mouth and throat should be thoroughly cleansed with water after every smoke.

Hawaii has about 50 miles of railway and 250 miles of telegraph lines, and almost every dwelling and business house in Honolulu has its telephone. The city also has street railways and is lighted by electricity.

So Completely and Quickly.
A COMPLICATED CASE CURED.

Fredonia, N. Y.

writes Dr. Fenner: "I had a heavy pain over my kidneys and cramps in my limbs for a long time. Also backache with scanty and turbid urine, bloating of limbs and a general

DROPSICAL CONDITION

of the system, caused by heart disease, from which I had suffered for years. I have been taking your Kidney and Backache Cure and seem to be entirely relieved. I never had a medicine help me so completely and quickly."

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Cures all diseases of the kidneys, bladder, urinary passages. Female Weaknesses, Bed Wetting in children, Dropsy, Heart Disease, Rheumatism, Skin and Blood Diseases, Swelled Limbs, Bright's Disease, Gravel or Stone in bladder, etc. Satisfaction guaranteed. Sample free.

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Dr. Fenner's German Eye-Salve cures Sore Eyes, Cracked Lips, Piles, Skin Eruptions.

Dr. Fenner's Cough Honey. Relieves any cough, asthma, etc., in an hour.

Dr. Fenner's Golden Relief. A specific in any inflammation. Relieves burns, toothache, neuralgia, rheumatism, or any pain in 1 to 30 minutes. Cures colic, dyspepsia, dysentary and flux; also bronchitis and consumption. One dose cures LaGrippe.

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Overcoat,	$10.00, $7.50 or $ 6.50
Sack or Cutaway Suit,	5.00 or 7.50
Derby Hat,	1.50
Pair of Shoes,	1.98
Half-dozen Collars,	.60
Half-dozen pairs Cuffs,	.90
Two suits Underwear,	2.00
Four pairs of Hosiery,	.50
One Scarf,	.50
Two Shirts,	2.00
One pair Gloves,	1.00
Total,	$24.98

The cheapest tailor would want more than that for the suit and overcoat alone.

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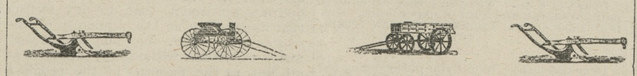

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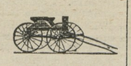

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