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**Democrat Watchman**

Belleville, Pa., May 18, 1894.

**All About Pens.**

An Interesting Account of Their Invention and Evolutions. Philadelphia Times.

Sharp pointed bodkins, made of bronze, of steel or of iron, were the first pens, and they were used for cutting out letters and hieroglyphics in the limestone, sandstone or statue of eastern countries. Such pens were also used for writing on Assyrian tablets. The tablets were made of soft clay, and after receiving inscriptions were dried in the sun or baked in the fire.

In the far east and in Egypt the camel's hair pencil soon took the place of the metal bodkin. With the pencil letters were painted on the skins of animals and the bark of trees, in much the same manner that the Chinese draw them on paper at the present day. In Persia, Greece and Syria wax and leaden tablets came into use, and the stylus became the popular pen. The stylus was made of bone, ivory or metal, with one end pointed and the other flattened. The flattened end was used to erase errors made in writing.

The use of parchment and papyrus, however, called for a more flexible pen than either the bodkin or the stylus, so reed pens were invented. For making these pens a peculiar kind of reed was used, which was shaped to a point and split, similar to the pens now in use.

In A. D. 553 it was discovered that quills made much better pens than reeds. The quills of the goose, the swan and the crow were used principally. Several centuries later, when writing paper was introduced into England, the quill pen was still the favorite writing instrument. However, the quill pens had been greatly improved, and those from Russia and Holland were excellent.

In the early part of the present century there was a demand for something better and more durable than quill pens. Accordingly a great many experiments were made with horn, glass, tortoise shell and finally with steel, silver and gold. It was soon found that pens made of horn and tortoise shell softened under the action of the ink and were not so good as quill pens. Nor were the silver pens very good. They were too elastic and too easily worn at the point.

In 1838 steel was tried in W. B. Barlow's pens, but being poorly made and very expensive they were not a success. At Birmingham, England, in 1820 the manufacture of steel pens began in earnest, and they proved to be excellent. The first gross of steel pens sold in Birmingham brought \$36 at wholesale.

They were soon manufactured in great numbers and have been getting better and cheaper all the time, until now we can buy for a trifle the best pen made. Europe has always excelled in the manufacture of steel pens, and America is noted for the manufacture of gold pens.

**As to Brains and Baldness.**

A writer in the St. James Gazette of London expresses the opinion that the anterior causes of baldness are obscure, but that the immediate process is a degeneration of hair bulbs, which is due to failure of nutrition and implies impaired vitality. In support of his theory that a good head of hair is a sign of physical and mental vigor, he instances such men as Carlyle, Newman, Tennyson, Owen and Liszt.

It is true that these were men of exceptional intellectual force who reached an advanced age while retaining in a marked degree the use of their faculties; and it is also true that every one of them carried "a goodly crown of hair either to the end of his days or far beyond the ordinary span." "Is it possible," asks the Gazette writer, "to match them with an equal number of distinguished men who attained the same length of vigorous days without nature's covering? We may set John Stuart Mill against Carlyle, Darwin against Owen, and Von Bulow against Liszt, Mill and Bulow were certainly bald. Darwin is doubtful; but anyhow they all died earlier by several years than their more illustrious rivals."

All of this may be perfectly true without being at all conclusive on the matter. What is vigor? Are physical and intellectual vigor correlative terms? These are deep questions, not to be settled by half a dozen modern instances. It may be absurd to hold that baldness is a result of too much intellectual activity, but in the present state of human knowledge, and especially in view of the London writer's admission that "the ulterior causes of baldness are obscure," it would be scarcely less absurd to contend that baldness necessarily argues any lack of physical power. If such were the case women would naturally become bald sooner than men, yet as everyone knows the reverse is the truth.

The theorists will have to theorize a little longer if they would discover the source of the evil—if evil it be; for there are those who regard it as a token of the evolution of the race to a state of higher physical perfection.

**The Mexican Clover.**

A beautiful sight that will soon be in evidence in the Southwest, from Texas to California is the broad fields of that exuberant forage plant, the alfalfa, or "Mexican clover," with its pink blossoms, brightening the expanses of densely growing dark green leaves and stalks. The growth of this plant is astonishingly rapid, and a field will yield several crops in a season. Its roots go far down in search of moisture, sometimes to a depth of 18 to 20 feet. The alfalfa is nutritious and palatable to stock, and horses, cattle, sheep and hogs eat it and fatten upon it.—New York Sun.

**Same Way In Iowa.**

"I'd like to go and see them industrial soldiers march through town," said the Pennsylvania farmer, regretfully, "but I can't get enough men to do my spring plowin'." "I'm tryin' to do the work of three men and I ain't got time."

**The Fluctuation of Silver.**

From Harper's Weekly. Kneiph, or the white metal, as it was called by the Hebrews, has known endless fluctuations, yet has never ceased its vain rivalry with gold. Solomon was the first apparently to discredit it, and when silver grew so abundant in the Holy City that it was almost as plentiful as the stones of its streets, he very naturally refused to receive it as currency. He would take nothing but gold, we are told by Josephus, for his merchandise, but paid away his depreciated silver to Egyptian traders for a chariot and a pair of horses. On this he rode out in state in the morning to his country-seat at Ekham, a paradise of rivulets and gardens. Nothing could be bought or sold at Jerusalem for silver, says the historian, and only gold was valued.

The Greeks, when they first visited Spain, made their anchors and common utensils of silver. The white metal lost its value. But this could not continue long, for the richest silver mines at last grew unproductive, and in the seventh century B. C. the metal had once more risen to a higher price. It could once again compete with gold, at least at a distance. The first form of money was in stamped bars or ingots, with the weight certified by an official seal. The earliest known ingots were of gold. But about 700 B. C. Mr. Head tells us money was first coined, and in the British Museum may be seen a Babylonian stater of electrum, a mingling of gold and silver, apparently the oldest coin in existence. Silver was for a time the common currency of the Greeks, but at last they adopted a gold standard. The fine gold pieces of Philip and Alexander have become the models of all later coinage.

At Rome the earliest money was of bronze; then silver came into the standard; and when it grew too abundant, the Roman emperors borrowed the gold coinage of the East. The Roman solidus was worth, in gold, a sovereign or a half-guinea. But nowhere did silver money fluctuate more widely than at Rome; in the Hannibalic war the currency was constantly debased; in moments of danger money was hoarded. But the victories of Caesar and his general robbery made it so plentiful at Rome that land doubled or trebled in price and money sank in value. Under Augustus, in the quiet of peace, it is probable that silver was worth about one-tenth its weight in gold. With the decay of the empire a debased currency filled the world with disaster, and aided in the general destruction of commerce and the arts.

Silver in the Middle Ages rose in value with rarity, and was at times almost on a equality with gold. In Richard the First's time in England four shillings would buy a cow, a bull, or a horse for ploughing, and tenpence a sheep with fine wool. Yet again, with the conquest of Mexico and Peru, money fell, prices of labor and land increased, and the rapid growth of trade and commerce at the same period revived the demand for an honest currency. Silver and gold moved on together, and kept up a certain ratio to each other that was never greatly disturbed. It is only recently that the immense yield of our Western mines has nearly equalled that of ancient Spain when silver sank into discredit. But it will no doubt soon revive its old position.

**Michigan's New Senator.**

John Patton Jr., Native of Pennsylvania, Successor Stockbridge. Governor Rich has appointed John Patton, Jr., United States Senator to succeed Senator Stockbridge, deceased, until a successor is elected by the Legislature next January.

Mr. Patton is considered one of the best lawyers and orators in Grand Rapids. He is a native of Curwensville, Pennsylvania and a lawyer by profession.

**Berwind White Co. Imports Coal.**

New York, May 11.—This city is already feeling the effects of the strike in the coal regions. The scarcity of soft imports of Welsh bituminous coal. Among the companies ordering is the Berwind White Coal Company. It was compelled to order 15,000 tons of bituminous coal from Cardiff, Wales, and 5000 tons from Nova Scotia.

Comparatively few people know how useful ordinary salt is. For weak eyes there is nothing better than salt and water applied night and morning. A cloth wrung out in strong salt water and bound around the neck when going to bed is an effective remedy for sore throats. One of the safest emetics is a teaspoonful of salt dissolved in a tumbler of lukewarm water. Half a tumbler of cold water with a teaspoonful of salt dissolved therein relieves heart burn. Salt, used as a dentifrice, preserves the teeth and keeps them clean, strengthens the gums and purifies the breath. A strong solution of salt and water applied regularly to the head prevents the hair from falling out. A bag filled with very hot salt, and applied to parts affected by neuralgia, gives great relief. Damp salt applied to stings and bites of insects is a cure of the pain. Discolorations may be removed by rubbing in salt. Ink stains may be removed if salt is immediately applied; and a carpet may be thoroughly cleaned by stripping over it, before brushing, salt that has been well dried in the oven.

IRISH SCONES.—Put one pint of white cornmeal into a bowl; put in the center a spoonful of shortening; pour over sufficient boiling water—about one cupful—to scald the meal. Stand aside for an hour. Beat one egg, stir into the mixture, then add sufficient boiling water, about another cupful, to make a soft batter. With an egg-beater beat constantly for five minutes. Drop table-spoonfuls on a greased griddle; bake slowly; turn.

The largest bird's nest is that built by the Australian jungle fowl, usually about 20 feet in diameter and 15 feet high.

**State Sabbath School Convention.**

It will be held in Huntingdon in October. Prominent Personages Will be Present.

The Pennsylvania State Sunday School Convention of the Pennsylvania State Sabbath School association will meet in Huntingdon on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 9, 10 and 11. We have not since 1889 met in one of the central cities of the state, but have been in the more extreme east or west, so that while we have come nearer to certain communities each time, the workers at the other end of the state have been largely debarred by distance from attending the conventions. Huntingdon, as regards accessibility, is the most centrally located city in the state, being about equally distant from Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, on the main line of the Pennsylvania railroad, at the junction of the Pennsylvania and Broad Top railroads, easily reached from the northern and northeastern sections by the Best Eagle Valley railroad from Lock Haven and the Lewistown division from Sunbury.

It is one of the oldest towns west of the Susquehanna, full of historic associations, in the midst of the unsurpassed mountain scenery of Central Pennsylvania, well built, splendidly peopled, and altogether a most delightful place for a convention. As usual, the people will open their homes and give the delegates a warm welcome. Every county should be represented.

Among those who will take active part in the convention are Hon. John Wanamaker, well known to Sabbath school workers, and Mrs. B. F. Jacobs, of Chicago, president of the World's Sabbath School convention.

**Lime Juice for Scurvy.**

Probably few persons outside the industries actually concerned are aware that under the provisions of the British lime juice act the Board of Trade are empowered to compel the ships' captains to serve out to their crew a fluid ounce of lime juice per day, and to hold the masters responsible for the actual swallowing of the dose by the men. Any case of recalcitrancy on the part of one of the crew has to be entered into the official log book, and in case these precautions are neglected the master is liable to a heavy penalty. Thanks to the provisions of the act, scurvy has been almost stamped out.

CONSCIENCE, OR WHAT?—"Conscience doth make cowards of us all," says the poet. But it is just so with the nerves. When a man's nerves are unstrung, through indigestion and torpid liver and impure blood, what wonder that he feels depressed and nervous? He starts at every little unexpected sound, is afraid of his shadow, and feels like a fool. Let such a man go to the drug store and get a bottle of Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, the great Blood Purifier and Liver Invigorator. This is the only blood-purifier and liver invigorator guaranteed to benefit or cure, or money will be promptly refunded. It cures Indigestion, or Dyspepsia, and from its wonderful blood-purifying properties, conquers all Skin and Scalp Diseases, Salt Rheum, Tetter, Eczema and kindred ailments. All blood-poisons, no matter of what name or nature, yield to its remedial influences.

A new series of postage stamps is in process of engraving by the Mexican Government, and will make its appearance for sale in September. This is the first issue of pictorial postage stamps ever issued in Mexico. They will be in the usual denominations, one-cent, two-cent, four-cent, five-cent, and ten-cent, and will represent by cleverly executed drawings the various stages of Mexican mail transportation, showing the motive power of man, burro, stage and steam train.

My wife was confined to her bed for over two months with a very severe attack of rheumatism. We could get nothing that would afford her any relief, and as a last resort gave Chamberlain's pain balm a trial. To our great surprise she began to improve after the first application, and by using it regularly she was soon able to get up and attend to her house work. E. H. Johnson, of C. J. Knutson & Co., Kensington, Minn., 50 cent bottles for sale by F. Potts Green.

May I saw all the saloons of Fitchburg, Mass., closed, the town having last Fall voted by a narrow margin for "no license." The night before the prohibition went into effect was a long wild debauch; the streets and saloons were crowded and there was free bar for every one.

THE SUPERIORITY—Of Hood's Sarsaparilla is due to the tremendous amount of brain work and constant care used in its preparation. Try one bottle and you will be convinced of its superiority. It purifies the blood which, the source of health, cures dyspepsia, overcomes sick headaches and biliousness. It is just the medicine for you.

A recent visitor describes Tolstai, the Russian novelist, as follows: "He wears a full peasant's smock, a belt round his waist; and has melancholy, deep-set eyes, coarse gray hair, and thoughtful wrinkled brows."

Napoleon lost the battle of Leipzig through a fit of indigestion. If the day Bonaparte could for 25 cents, purchase at C. M. Parrish's drug store a box of Ramon's Tonic Liver Pills, and in a week's time he would feel like a new creature. Thus days of great event often depend for their success upon very slight causes.

"Justice," remarked Jupiter, after he had read the morning paper; "you seem to be falling down pretty often these days." "Yes," replied the goddess addressed, regretfully; "I keep losing my balance."—Detroit Tribune.

The historic fresco which to encircle the rotunda of the Capitol has stopped short. The Columbus commemorates the historic work and the Mexican war ends it. The artist finds that he has not enough history to complete the circle. Bramm, the famous artist, whose handiwork adorns almost every portion of the great edifice, died and left his sketches and plans to Costaggini. The killing of Indians, making treaties with them the battle of Lexington and Yorktown, and other prominent features of our Brumidi life were well portrayed before Brumidi died. Now Costaggini finds that he has used up all the Indians, whipped England twice, killed all of the soldiers, discovered gold in California and exhausted himself. Scenes from the war of the rebellion won't do, for some of our people don't like them.

The southern half of the country would not like to be depicted on the run, nor will the time ever come when such a scene must be painted. That period belongs in oblivion. Some one proposed a picture of driving the last spike in the Pacific Railroad, but the virtuous opponents of corporations objected, although Costaggini expressed a willingness to make a good picture of "laying zee cornerstone of zee rail." The assassinations of Lincoln and Garfield have been suggested; but those scenes must not be perpetuated in the rotunda. Poor Costaggini is short of history to go around.

THE HOW OF IT.—How poor, how rich, how abject, how august, how complicated, how wonderful, is man; and it might be added, how "more so" is woman. With her peculiarly delicate and intense organization, she is the superlative degree of man. Even in diseases she excels him, having many that he has not. She has, however, found a grand remedial agent, for the cure of her disease, in Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription; a medicine suited to her nature, made for the express cure of those diseases which affect her. It is especially effective in all weaknesses incidental to motherhood, while it is also a potent restorative tonic for the feeble and debilitated generally.

Happy Bridegroom—"Waiter, I want a dinner for two." Waiter—"Will zee lady and gentleman haf table d'bote or a la carte?" Happy Bridegroom (generous to a fault, but weak in French)—"Bring us some of both, and put lots of gravy on 'em."

**Medical.**

**VERDICT FOR HOOD'S** JUDGE SAUNDERS PRONOUNCES IT TO BE THE BEST.

Judge T. H. Saunders of Osceola, Neb., is well known to thousands of veterans throughout the West and New York state, where he formerly lived. He is commander of J. F. Reynolds Post, G. A. R. He writes:

"Osceola, Neb., March 23, 1894. "My attention having been called to my first letter and portrait in one of the papers, I said 'I stand by that certificate and am ready to

**HOLD UP MY HAND**

and be sworn to it.' Through it I have heard from old friends, one at the Soldiers' Home, Dayton, Ohio, whom I have not seen for 30 years. "I was in the army 4 years, was wounded and contracted sciatica and rheumatism. Have suffered ever since and lost the use of my left leg and side. Tried every medicine I heard of, and the best physicians, but failed to get relief.

**EVERY SPRING.**

I was flat on my back. I must say that of all, Hood's Sarsaparilla is the best medicine I have ever taken. It has done me the most good. I cannot praise it enough; it will do all that you'd expect of it. Hood's Sarsaparilla CURES HOOD'S SARSAPARILLA CURES I claim for it. I do not say that it will raise a fellow from the dead; but it will come the nearest to doing it of any medicine I have ever known or used." T. H. SAUNDERS, Osceola, Neb.

HOOD'S PILLS are prompt and efficient, yet easy in action. Sold by all druggists. 25c.

**CASTORIA** C C C C C A S T O R I A C A S T O R I A C A S T O R I A C C C C FOR INFANTS AND CHILDREN.

CASTORIA PROMOTES DIGESTION, and overcomes Flatulency, Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhoea, and Feverishness. Thus the child is rendered healthy and its sleep natural. Castoria contains no Morphine or other narcotic property.

"Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any prescription known to me." H. A. ASCHER, M. D., 111 South Oxford St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

"I used Castoria in my practice, and find it especially adapted to affections of children." ALEX. KENZERTON, M. D., 1087 2d Ave., New York.

"From personal knowledge and observation I can say that Castoria is an excellent medicine for children, acting as a laxative and relieving the pent up bowels and general system very much. Many mothers have told me of its excellent effect upon their children." Dr. G. C. OSBORN, Lowell, Mass.

THE CENTAUR COMPANY, 39-42m 77 Murray Street, N. Y.

**CANN'S KIDNEY CURE.**—Cures Bright's Disease, Dropsy, Gravel, Nervousness, Heart, Urinary or Liver Diseases. Known by a tired languid feeling. Inaction of the kidneys, weakness and poisons the blood, and unless cause is removed you cannot have health. Cured me over five years ago of Bright's Disease and Dropsy.—Mrs. L. L. Miller, Bethlehem, Pa., 1000 other similar testimonials. Try it. Cured granitic. Cann's Kidney Cure Co., 720 Venango St., Philadelphia, Pa. Sold by all reliable druggists. 38-23-17.

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H. K. HOY, M. D., Oculist and Aurist, No. 23 West High Street, Belleville, Pa. Office hours—7 to 9 a. m., 1 to 3 and 7 to 8 p. m. Defective vision carefully corrected. Spectacles and Eyeglasses furnished. 32 18

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D. R. L. DARTT, of Belleville, Pa., has the Brinkhoff system of Rectal treatment for the cure of Piles, Fistulas and other Rectal diseases. Information furnished upon application. 30 14f

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**Hotels.**

**TO THE PUBLIC.** In consequence of the similarity to the names of the Parker and Potter Hotels the proprietor of the Parker Hotel has changed the name of his hotel to

COAL EXCHANGE HOTEL. He has also repaired, repainted and otherwise improved it and has fitted up a large and tasty parlor and reception room on the first floor. WM. PARKER, Phillipsburg, Pa. 33 17

**CENTRAL HOTEL,** MILESBOUR, PA. A. A. KOHLBECKER, Proprietor.

This new and commodious Hotel, located opposite the depot, Milesburg, Centre county, Pa., has been entirely refitted, repainted and repolished throughout, and is now second in class in the county in the character of accommodations offered to the public. Its table is supplied with the best market affords, its bill contains the purest and choicest liquors, its stable has attentive hostlers, and every comfort and convenience is extended to its guests. Through travelers on the railroad will find this an excellent place to lunch or procure a meal, as all trains stop there about 25 minutes. 24 24

**WATCHMAKING—JEWELRY.** F. C. RICHARD, JEWELER and OPTICIAN, 40

And dealer in CLOCKS, WATCHES, JEWELRY and SILVERWARE.

Special attention given to the Making and Repairing of Watches.

IMPORTANT!—If you cannot read this print distinctly by lamp or gaslight in the evening, at a distance of ten inches, your eyesight is failing, no matter what your age, and your eyes need help. Your sight can be improved and preserved if properly corrected. It is a wrong idea that spectacles should be dispensed with as long as possible. If they assist the vision use them. There is no danger of seeing too well, so long as the print is not magnified; it should look natural size, but plain and distinct. Don't fail to call and have your eyes tested by King's New System, and fitted with Combination spectacles. They will correct and preserve the sight. For sale by

F. C. RICHARD, 42 High St., opp. Arcade, Belleville.

**Fine Job Printing.**

**FINE JOB PRINTING** AT THE WATCHMAN OFFICE

There is no style of work, from the cheapest Dodger to the finest

BOOK WORK, or but you can get done in the most satisfactory manner, and at

Prices consistent with the class of work by calling or communicating with this office