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SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., June 12, 1896.

Mexico's Giant Fireflies.

As Big as Chinese Lanterns, and Sometimes They Explode Like Bombs.

Our party of six (among them Mr. Fred Marsh, the naturalist of Chicago) worked two days chopping a little way into the wood, and there we waited for the coming of night. I shall never forget the first sight I had of the giant Lampyridae. A pair of them flew directly above us,—two fiery globes that glowed in the darkness like suns adame. Then others came within our limited vision, and others and others until tens of thousands of them lit up the forest. We watched through the entire night. It was simply impossible to realize that they were fireflies. They seemed like Chinese lanterns or beautiful globes of light moving majestically through the air. When they would see us the fireflies would glow more brightly and greatly increase in size. This, we were told, was one of nature's provisions for the protection of the reptiles, it being a well-known fact that fireflies and beasts are afraid of fire. The fire of the male is blue and that of the female green, and each changes to a flaming red as the fire ball enlarges. They fly in pairs, and the sight of innumerable blue and green fire globes, changing suddenly to immense spheres of red light, floating hither and thither, amid the muttering of monkeys and the restless moving of tropical birds, is beyond description. Every hour through the night all would come together and rest upon the boughs of the forest. This was marvellously beautiful. Gracefully drooping rows of alternate green and blue lights—and from them as they rested came a humming sound—a sweet musical song. It often happens that other insects attack the fireflies, and the fire globes swell up to such a size that they frequently burst with a report like a pistol. "The uses to which these fireflies may be put are many. Ten thousand had been gathered when I was there for the Cinco de Mayo celebration at Uruapan and Coahuila. The parties having the matter in charge proposed to have them tied by strings, which when pulled would irritate the flies causing them to change from the blue and green lights to red lights as large as cannon balls. Designs were formed of these lights representing the faces of Juarez, Gen. Diaz, and others. These celebrations took place on the 5th inst, and were indescribably beautiful. The illuminations were kept up for several hours, when the fireflies were made excited by violently pulling the strings, when thousands of them burst with a noise like the explosion of a steam boiler. "In Morelia one night upon my return I noticed several young men on bicycles, to which were attached several of the blue and green fireflies that lit up the pathway before them in a glare of beautiful light.

Rural Presidency.

Should the Republicans nominate McKinley and the Democrats select Boies each party would fulfill one part of the unwritten law regulating Presidential succession. It is one of the most singular facts in our political history that all of our Presidents have been from the country rather than from the cities. Washington was from a plantation in Virginia, far removed from a city; Adams lived in the then little village of Quincy, Mass.; Jefferson resided at his country seat at Monticello, Va.; Madison a country gentleman residing at Montpelier in the same State; Monroe was a rural resident; the younger Adams lived in Quincy, as his father had before him; Jackson was a Tennessee farmer, residing at the Hermitage, his country seat; Van Buren was born in the village of Kinderhook on the Hudson and spent nearly his whole life there; the first Harrison lived in a little Ohio village; Polk resided in Nashville, then a small town; Taylor was a retired army officer, who made his home at Baton Rouge, a little place on the Mississippi river, chiefly known as a small military post; Pierce came from the village of Concord, N. H.; Buchanan lived at an obscure place where he had a country residence; Lincoln lived at Springfield, a place of about 9,000 inhabitants in 1860; Grant hailed from Galena; Hayes lived at Fremont, a small town in Ohio; Garfield was from the rural village of Mentor; Cleveland was from Buffalo, a city not of the first class in importance, and Harrison was a lawyer in Indianapolis, the chief importance of which lies in the fact that it is the State capital. Douglas, Seymour, Greeley, Tilden, Cooper and others, who came from the cities, failed to gain the high office to which they aspired.—Chicago News.

Sober American Editor's.

Rev. Dr. Henry M. Field, editor of the New York Evangelist, thus notes an interesting feature of the recent meeting of the National Editorial Association at St. Augustine, Fla., which he attended: "Since the entrance of the hall, and thus seeing from end to end, I did not see a single man touch a glass of wine or mug of lager beer. Father Nugent, from Liverpool, spoke of it in amazement, saying that in England, if over 300 men sat together at a table, they would not rise up before some one of them would show the effects of liberal potations. I confess I was surprised at what I could have hardly believed except for the testimony of my own senses, but which was most gratifying not only for the editorial profession, but for the country they represent."

Selling Their Children.

Famine in Japan Reduces Parents to Awful Straits. Correspondence received by the steamer Alameda from Japan says: Tonkin is suffering from a terrible famine. Last year the rainfall was so meager that this year's harvest is a failure, and as the Annamites are improvident, living from hand to mouth, the distress is now very great. The parents are selling their children for a few cents and pillage is rife. The French Governor General has taken some steps to alleviate the misery, but the resources at his command are inadequate.

An ordinary business man could hardly see how President Cleveland could avoid vetoing the river and harbor bill passed by the present Congress. It covers \$77,000,000, an outrageous expenditure of money under the present conditions of the national treasury. Seventeen millions of this is to be spent at once, and sixty millions is to come out of future revenues. In 1882 President Arthur vetoed a river and harbor bill because it took between \$18,000,000 and \$19,000,000 out of the treasury. What would he think of this bill, carrying nearly four times as much? The bill is all wrong, but the worst thing about it is that it takes this enormous sum when the government can hardly meet its ordinary expenses.

Building a Mud House.

The Simple Architecture of an Adobe in New Mexico.

Architectural engineering, says the Chicago Record, is a branch of the gentle art of making mud pies in the land where the adobe houses grow. In the land of sunshine, where a rainy day is so rare that it is marked with a red cross, the native contractor and builder wastes no time figuring on the strength of material, the crushing limit of tubular columns and the wind pressure per square foot of elevation. He does not pore over blue prints of plans, cross-sections and elevations, nor does he whittle down his figures to the finest point so as to come under some contractor's bid. He simply rolls his trousers up above his knees, digs down in a favored ditch or pond until he strikes the adobe mud, and in a short time he is ready to begin constructive operations.

Adobe houses are brick houses, but the brick is sun-dried and made with straw. The clay or mud of which the brick is made is a natural cement, peculiar to the arid plains of New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada and that belt of States and Territories. It is turned out in the most primitive manner, and the Blue Island brickmaker who might happen upon a half-breed or Mexican 'dobe brickmaker would view the operation with amusement or disgust. Kiln-burned brick, made of blue clay, however, would not meet the requirements imposed by the climatic conditions of those countries where adobe brick is used.

In summer an adobe house is cool; in winter it is warm. Its thick walls absorb the occasional rain, and although the sun-dried articles it does not crumble and it stands for ages. A man who recently traveled through New Mexico was much interested in the 'dobe houses. For weeks he inquired and searched for a 'dobe house in the hands of the builders. At length, in Santa Fe, he stumbled upon a couple of men stamping with their bare feet upon clay in a wooden frame. He inquired and found that he was looking upon two Mexicans making adobe brick. In describing the process he said: "The men actually dug up the 'dobe mud from the bottom of the ditch which skirted the road. They mixed it, or, as we say, 'tempered' it, with water until it was of a stiff, clay consistency. Then they chopped alfalfa hay into short pieces and mixed it with the clay, and their material was ready to make into brick. A wood frame lay on the ground. This frame was filled with the 'dobe mud mixed with hay, and one of the men got into the frame and stamped the mud down with his bare feet, at the same time tamping it with a stick. After the frame was packed hard he scraped the surplus mud off with a stick, so that the top surface was level with the upper edge of the frame, and then lifting the frame from the clay he carried the brick to one side of the road and stood it on its edge. The next brick he made he leaned against the first one, and soon he had a dozen large bricks—each twice as wide and long and thick as an ordinary brick—drying in the sun. One of the men told me that the bricks would be ready to lay in three or four days, and that they use the mud which the bricks are made of for the plaster."

"The walls of an adobe house are very thick, sometimes two or three feet, and in the ordinary one-story adobe house, which is characteristic of that region, they are built up perfectly plain until they reach the roof. The roof is supported on wooden beams, laid edgewise on the walls, and the bricks are built up level with the top of the beams between the timbers, leaving the edge of the rafters exposed. The roof has a slight slant, and is made of adobe bricks. When it rains the water soaks into the roof bricks, but does not begin to drip down into the rooms below until the rain is over. Then the family moves out until the water is through with its dripping. I saw an adobe house in Santa Fe which was built in the sixteenth century, and so far as I could see the walls were as strong and good as any house around there. "Walls are built of stone, plastered with adobe cement, if I may so call it, and such walls are as strong as solid masonry. If that country had half as much rain as falls in Chicago the 'dobe houses would after a time crumble away, but the average year in New Mexico is made up of 187 days of unclouded sky, 139 days when sunshine predominates, and only 30 days of cloud, so that rainfall does not amount to much more than a good-sized fall of dew. "It is estimated that an adobe house costs about \$100 a room, but there are mansions built of this material which cost not less than \$300,000 to construct. When the 'Americans' settled in New Mexico, Utah, Arizona, Nevada and the lower part of California they accepted the treeless condition of the country and built their houses of 'dobe mud.

36th Annual Commencement at The Penna. State College. For the benefit of those of our readers who purpose attending the 36th annual commencement exercises at The Pennsylvania State College we append the condensed program:

SUNDAY, JUNE 14. 10:30 a. m.—Baccalaureate sermon, by the Rev. Russell H. Conwell, of Philadelphia, Pa. MONDAY, JUNE 15. 2 p. m.—Annual inter-class athletic contest. 8 p. m.—Junior oratorical contest. TUESDAY, JUNE 16. 8:30 a. m.—Annual meeting of the alumni association. 9:45 a. m.—Artillery salute. 10 a. m.—Annual meeting of the board of trustees. 12 m.—Alumni dinner (in the armory). 2 p. m.—Meeting (in room No. 121) of delegates and alumni to elect officers. 3 p. m.—Exhibition drill of State College cadets. 8 p. m.—Annual address before the alumni by the Hon. James A. Beaver, of Bellefonte, Pa. WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17. 10 a. m.—Graduation exercises of the class of '96. Commencement address, by the Hon. John Wanamaker, of Philadelphia, Pa.

The Road Hog.

Occasionally we hear of bicycle riders meeting persons on the road with teams who refuse to turn out. This class of persons are known as "road hogs," and think the public thoroughfare was made solely for them. There is a law that protects the riders of bicycles in this State, passed in 1889, is as follows: "Bicycles, tricycles and all vehicles propelled by hand or foot, and all persons by whom bicycles, tricycles and such other vehicles are used, ridden or propelled upon the public highways of this State, shall be entitled to the same rights and subject to the same restrictions, in the use thereof, as prescribed by law in the cases of persons using carriages drawn by horses."

Be Fair.

Everyone should try to be fair. We do not now refer to physical beauty, but to the moral and mental quality of being just. Few can hope for the appreciation by others of their own conduct and motives which they crave unless they receive fair treatment at the hands of those whose good opinions they seek. And this being the case, they should remember to exercise the quality themselves when considering the cases of other people. It is one of the easiest things in the world to become prejudiced, and one of the hardest to be absolved. We all know how we are apt to acquire a certain view of a person we have never met from the remarks of a third party. That view may be either favorable or unfavorable, and it is likely to exercise a considerable influence in preventing our arriving at a proper judgment of the person in question, even after we have met and become fairly well acquainted with him.

In this matter of the remarks of our acquaintances about others it is very important to exercise the quality of fairness toward both parties. We are often startled by hearing of some mean or discreditable thing, which some one, concerning whom we have had a high opinion, is alleged to have done. The earnestness with which the charges are made inclines one to give them credit, and they, at any rate, produce an unfavorable impression hard to efface. Especially is this the case if they come from one for whom we have an esteem. Still, it is most unwise and unfair to accept a verdict so pronounced as final. It will be well to inquire most carefully into the moving cause of the unfriendly remarks and to get the version of the matter of the party assailed. The whole trouble may have arisen from a mutual or one-sided misunderstanding as to the actual position of both or one of the parties. A friend can often set matters right by a fair investigation of the matter, whereas if he blindly accepts the say so of one party, made in the heat of passion, the trouble is never settled. It has happened that after one has imbibed a prejudice against a third party by reason of the representations of a friend, he is surprised later on to find the two he had supposed hostile for life hobnobbing together again. Upon inquiry he discovers that the accuser had upon cooling down and making a fair investigation found that he had been all wrong, and done injustice to his friend.

Newspaper men have especially to cultivate the quality of being fair. It is in fact cultivated for them. They hear so many conflicting stories from interested parties that they would be at sea entirely as to the facts if they did not endeavor most carefully to arrive at the truth. Every day they are confronted with prejudice in its most extreme forms. They meet people with grievances against others who can see nothing but their own side of the case, and who firmly believe that those whom they are opposing cannot possess the slightest good in their makeup. Then they meet the opponents of these people, and find perhaps the same feeling. And again they discover that the people who are the most bitter objects of hatred by others are in fact entirely innocent of having given any adequate cause for such a feeling. But not only newspaper men, but every one, should endeavor to be fair. "For with what judgment ye judge ye shall be judged; and with what measures ye meet it shall be measured to you again."

The New York Herald sadly observes that although we haven't a czar in this country, we have the coal barons, who meet in solemn conclave to put up the price of coal, wonder how much the people will stand and then gleefully resolve to make the experiment. "June first, twenty-five cents; July and August, a like addition—a sort of up grade towards the prices that are to prevail next winter." The Herald wants to know whether "we haven't suffered enough from the thumb-screw devices of this gentlemen." Just about. Let's kick. But how, where, and whom? Shall we use oil and benefit the oil barons or gas and please the gas monopolies, or shall we turn communists and shout for government control of coal and other things that may be thus cornered by foxy capitalists? The dangerous. We are not a mole, and kicking may be a risky business unless it is done with wisdom and forethought. Let us be wise and thoughtful with all speed, for the time is surely approaching when we must kick. The thumb-screws of the barons are becoming unbearable.

LOVE COULD NOT CONQUER.—"Love conquers all things" they say; but we know better. There are some things it cannot conquer. Among them are headache, biliousness, dyspepsia, constipation and piles. But if love cannot conquer them, Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets can. You cannot buy real love at a drug store but no live druggist will be found without Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets. "Love cannot do better than recommend them."

A family that gives a party on Saturday, eats the scraps left over on Sunday and lives on crackers and bologna the balance of the week makes great sacrifices for the sake of society.

"YIELD NOT TO MISFORTUNE."—I was afflicted with catarrh last autumn. During the month of October I could neither taste or smell and could hear but little. Ely's Cream Balm cured it.—Marcus Geo. Shantz, Rahway, N. J. I suffered from catarrh of the worst kind ever since a boy, and I never hoped for cure, but Ely's Cream Balm seems to do even that. Many acquaintances have used it with excellent results.—Oscar Ostrum, 45 Warren Ave., Chicago, Ill.

An eastern specialist claims that early rising is productive of insanity. Most people knew they objected to getting up early but could not think of such a good excuse.

More curative power is contained in Hood's Sarsaparilla than in any other similar preparation. It costs the proprietor and manufacturer more. It costs the laborer more and is worth more to the consumer. More skill is required in its preparation and it combines more remedial qualities than any other medicine. Consequently it has a record of more cures and its sales are more than those of any other preparation. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the best medicine to buy because it is an honest medicine and thousands of testimonials prove that it does actually and permanently cure disease.

Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

Every young man should be possessed of certain information without which millions contract pernicious and most destructive habits—habits which make young men prematurely aged, pale, haggard, listless, devoid of ambition, easily tired, languid, forgetful and incapable; fill mad-houses and swell the lists of suicides; separate husbands and wives; bring untold suffering to millions, even to the third and fourth generations. Parents, guardians and philanthropists can do no better service to the rising generation, than to place in their hands the information and warning contained in a little book carefully prepared by an association of medical men who had vast experience in dealing with the grave maladies here hinted at, and who feel that they owe it to humanity, to warn the young men of the land against certain destructive habits which are far more prevalent than any layman can imagine, and which if persisted in gradually undermine the constitution and health and destroy the future happiness of the victim. Cut out this notice and enclose it with ten cents in stamps (to pay postage) to World's Dispensary Medical Association, Invalid's Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y., and the book will be sent, secure from observation in a plain sealed envelope.

Ohio is a great state. Her chief products are bishops and politicians. It is more than a coincidence that the two new bishops of the Methodist Episcopal church, as well as the retiring Bishop Foster should be natives of the Buckeye state.

NEW YORK HEALTH DEPARTMENT.—Dr. Cyrus Edson, Superintendent of the Sanitary Bureau of New York City, writes the following unsolicited letter regarding Speer's Port Grape Wine. New York, January, 1888.

Mr. Speer: The box of wine has been safely received. I trust that 1888 will do you the justice you deserve. I never lose an opportunity to recommend your good wine, for I know it to be one of the pure brands obtainable. Yours sincerely, CYRUS EDSON.

Knoxville, Tenn., is to span its river with one of the most beautiful bridges in the world, built of pink marble quarried in Knoxville within a few miles of the site. It will be 1,600 feet long with spans of arch 240 feet in length, 40 feet longer, it is claimed, than any existing arch in the world.

If strength is what you want, you should study what causes your weakness. It is practically lack of food. But you eat three meals a day, and all you can eat at a time. Yes, but do you digest it? Food undigested, is not food. It is not nourishment. It doesn't create strength.

To digest your food take Shaker Digestive Cordial at meals. After a while you will digest your food without it. Then you will get well, and strong and healthy. Shaker Digestive Cordial cures indigestion and all its symptoms, such as nausea, headache, eructations, pain in the stomach, giddiness, loss of appetite, etc. It makes your food nourish you, and make you strong, fat and hearty. Druggists sell it. Trial bottle 10 cents.

Cripple Creek, in 1892, had only 1,500 inhabitants and was thought to be a marvelous town for the time it had been in existence. Now it contains 60,000 people, and put out in a year 33 tons of ore to every man, woman, child and baby in the town.

Medical.

MERIT

Made and Merit Maintains the confidence of the people in Hood's Sarsaparilla. If a medicine cures you when sick; if it makes wonderful cures everywhere, then beyond all question that medicine possesses merit.

MADE

That is just the truth about Hood's Sarsaparilla. We know it possesses merit because it cures, not once or twice or a hundred times, but in thousands of cases. We know it cures, absolutely, permanently, when all others fail to do any good whatever. We repeat

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Is the best—in fact the One True Blood Purifier.

HOOD'S PILLS cure nausea, indigestion, biliousness. 25 cents.

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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

Nurseries.

WANTED ENERGETIC MEN

to solicit orders for our hardy Nursery Stock. Expenses and salary to those leaving home, or commission to local agents. Permanent Employment. The business easily learned. Address: R. G. CHASE, Nurseries, CO. 1430, S. Penn Square, Philadelphia. 40 25 1y.

New Advertisements.

A FINE RESIDENCE FOR SALE.—The home of Morris W. Cowdick, on east 11th street, Bellefonte, is offered for sale cheap. A fine 3 story brick house, on a lot 17x200, new frame stable, brick ice house and other out-buildings. The house is in excellent repair, has all modern improvements, bath, hot and cold water on two floors, furnace in cellar and a large cistern. Write or call on M. W. COWDRICK, Niagara Falls, N. Y. 40 43 1y.

GOOD APPLES

FROZEN OUT WHEAT.

Heretofore the farms of Centre county, Penna., have produced the best quality of wheat and usually a crop of poor, wormy apples. As there will be little wheat this year, the farmers can make up the loss by protecting their apple crop. Spraying the apple trees destroys the codling moth or apple worm, after which the trees produce good solid fruit and plenty of it. Spray Pumps and spraying ingredients, with full printed instructions, as well as Bucket Pumps, which purify foul cistern water, are for sale at the very lowest prices at the Agricultural Implement Store of McALMONT & CO., 41-20-3m Bellefonte, Pa.

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

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Prices consistent with the class of work. Call at or communicate with this office.