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Prospectus.

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Unintentional.

Customer (entering poultry shop)—I should like to see a nice fat goose. Small Boy—Yes, sir. Father will be down directly. How long will Christian nations look unmoved upon the slaughter of their people by the Moslem hordes? Constantinople was the scene of the latest outrage.

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., Sep. 11, 1896.

Western Salt Rains.

Such Showers are Quite Common in Utah and Wyoming. One of the curious phenomena of Utah and Wyoming is an occasional rainfall of salt water. Recently there was reported, throughout a belt of country extending from Ogden, Utah, to Evanston, Wyo., a shower of rain so strongly impregnated with salt that the clothes of persons upon whom it fell were, when dried, thinly crusted with a white powder, which was nothing but common salt. Umbrellas were quite white with it, and panes of glass in the windows were rendered for the time opaque.

According to a local account, the whole town of Evanston looked as if it had been white-washed. When the sky cleared, the roofs glistened in the sun as if with frozen snow. A local man of science estimated that in the city of Evanston an amount of salt equivalent to 25 tons had fallen. The shower lasted about two hours, and during all this time the rain which fell was saline.

This phenomenon is far from being a new one. The wind was from the west, and all the rains which are impregnated with salt, in that region, come from that quarter. The cause of them is not hard to find. It is simply the Great Salt Lake of Utah—the vast body of intensely salt water, out of which, under favorable conditions, a considerable quantity of salt may be taken up into the atmosphere, to be precipitated later upon the surrounding country.

Evanston is about 55 miles from the nearest waters of Great Salt Lake, and it is regarded as somewhat remarkable that so great a quantity of salt should have been borne so far.

There is, however, other opportunity than that presented by Great Salt Lake itself for the impregnation of the air with water in the Central Basin. There are countless depressions all through the vast region between the Rocky and Sierra Nevada mountains, which are nothing less than great salt lakes now dried up. Great Salt Lake itself is becoming more and more salt from year to year; the same process has taken place in other depressions until the water was literally turned to salt.

Compared with Mono Lake, or Owen's Lake, the waters of Great Salt Lake seem limpid. Owen's Lake, in a sense, supplies showers of soda water instead of salt water; for its waters, in addition to being salt, are most strongly impregnated with soda of any lacustrine basin in the United States. It is estimated that the quantity of soda deposited in the basin of Owen's Lake is no less than 220,000,000 tons.

So common is salt in some form, in the closed basins of the west, that peaks and hills of salt, like those which line the slopes of Death Valley, are not rare. Here and there fine salt is driven before the wind like drifting snow in certain desert depressions.

The United States is not the only country in which salt showers occur. In Paris itself, when rains straight from the Atlantic have been borne so far inward perceptible quantities of sodium chloride have been found in the rain water. In England and Ireland coatings of fine salt have been found on the trees many miles inland after heavy rain from the sea; and showers no less saline than that of Evanston have fallen in the neighborhood of the Caspian Sea.—Youth's Companion.

War is Not Needed.

At this stage of human civilization the cause necessitating war should be very few, indeed. At the present time the condition of affairs in the Turkish empire is very much disturbed. Some judges believe that as a result of the situation war will be precipitated and they think that hostilities cannot be much longer avoided. These rumors of bloodshed are certainly not gratifying at this period of human progress. It is true, we have no doubt, that the condition of affairs in Turkey is such that the dissolution of the empire in the very near future is practically assured. It is in a moribund state and has been in such a condition for years past. It would have ceased to exist before now were it not for the mutual jealousies of the powers. But all the efforts to keep the Turkish empire in existence have shown themselves to be futile, it will probably soon be permitted to go to pieces and its rottenness will effect its disintegration very rapidly, it may be assured, if nothing more is done to keep the parts together. As such a government as that of Turkey is antagonistic to all our ideas of progress, there is no reason why its downfall should be delayed a year longer. But, while the Turkish empire will probably soon cease to be, its dismemberment need not necessarily produce a war. Like at the collapse of a great building, however, there is fear of some damage being done when it falls. But there is no reason why Europe should fight for pieces of the Turkish possessions. The European powers would probably find it much more profitable to have a peaceful division of the Sick Man's effects than to have a bloody war about their disposition.

Date of Noah's Flood.

The great deluge mentioned in the Bible was first threatened in the year 1756 B. C. The flood finally began on December 7, 1656 B. C., and the water continued on the earth for a period of 377 days, or 337 days after the rain ceased to fall. The ark rested on Mt. Ararat on May 5, 1665 B. C., but Noah and his family did not leave it until the 18th of the following December. Any reader who imagines that it is an easy task to figure these details from the Biblical account can find a basis for his calculations in the seventh and eighth chapters of Genesis.—St. Louis Republic.

Take a Vacation.

It does not cost a small fortune as it used to, to have a pleasant trip. Fares and hotel rates, except at extremely fashionable resorts, which ought to be dodged by tired people, are very reasonable. Business is slack and won't miss its boss or any of his assistants, high or low, very severely, and each and every one will do more work and better work through having had a little recreation. Take a vacation, whether you are employer or employe, if you can. Even a dromedary is entitled to a little rest.—Birmingham News.

She—"You may say what you will. I think you will find that women are less wicked than men. I expect that heaven will be inhabited principally by women." He—"Very likely. The men, of course, will generally be found in the smoking room below."

G. A. R. Chooses a Commander.

He is Major Thaddeus Stevens Clarkson, of Omaha But a Native Pennsylvanian.—Has a Brilliant War Record.—Keystone State Not Represented in the New Council.—Ladies Elect Their Officers.

The thirtieth annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic came to an end in St. Paul, Minn., last Friday after one of the most successful meetings since the organization was established in Illinois a few months after the close of the war. The weather was the best that could have been desired, the rain that early in the week threatened at times just enough to make marching and sightseeing more endurable, holding off till after adjournment. The treatment received by the visitors, both veterans and others, was all that could have been asked or desired, and all left full of good feeling for their host the Sainly city. The railroads, of course, were crowded, for on the largest day the number of out-of-town people reached almost, if not fully 200,000, nearly 50,000 of whom, however, came over from Minneapolis to see the Grand Army parade. Still, the railroads did very well with such an enormous crowd, and got off with only one or two minor accidents that could not very well have been avoided under any circumstances.

When nominations for commander-in-chief were declared in order D. R. Ballou, of Providence, R. I., was nominated by his comrades, Spooner, of the same state; Judge M. L. Haywood, of Nebraska, presented the name of Major Thaddeus S. Clarkson, of Omaha. The name of E. H. Hobson, of Kentucky, was endorsed by General Case, of Tennessee; John C. Linehan, of New Hampshire, was brought forward by Daniel Cogswell, of that state. Rear Admiral Meade was presented by a Dakota delegate.

Seconds for the nomination of Clarkson came quickly from all over the hall, but one of the first men up was Admiral Meade, on the third day of his own name. It once became evident that Major Clarkson would win, and all the other names were withdrawn and he was nominated by acclamation.

MAJOR CLARKSON A PENNSYLVANIAN.

Major Thaddeus Stevens Clarkson, the new commander-in-chief of the G. A. R., is a Pennsylvanian by birth, though now a resident of Omaha, Neb. He was born at Gettysburg in 1840, and was educated three miles from the great battle of Antietam, was enlisted April 16, 1861, within two hours after the appearance of President Lincoln's call for 85,000 men for three months, in Company A, First Illinois artillery. He went to Cairo, served under General Grant there, re-enlisted for the war July 16, 1861; was promoted December 1, 1861, to adjutant of the Thirtieth Illinois cavalry, and served with that regiment and on the staff of General John V. Davidson, participants in the battles with that commander on the march to Helena and Little Rock, Ark., and was assigned to its command during the campaign. In August, 1863, he assisted in raising the Third Arkansas cavalry of Union white men of that state, and was promoted to major, and commanded the regiment until nearly the close of the war, participating in nearly all of the battles in Arkansas under General Steele.

On November 11, 1862, he was married to Mary Beecher Matterson, and to-day has five children. He went to Nebraska, settling in Omaha with his brother, the late Bishop Clarkson, in March of 1866, and has lived in the state for 30 years. He was postmaster of Omaha under President Harrison's administration.

Major Clarkson was on the executive committee of the national council of administration, G. A. R. for three consecutive years, and was elected department commander of Nebraska by acclamation at the encampment in February, 1896. He has also been commander of the Loyal Legion of Nebraska.

Justice Overtakes Him.

Ira Marsh, the 16-year old daughter of William Marsh, a photographer of Honesdale, Pa., awoke about 9 o'clock Friday morning, feeling a hand clutching at her throat. She opened her eyes and saw a negro standing over her. He told her that if she made an outcry he would knock her brains out, but despite the threat the young girl managed to shake off the hand on her throat and screamed. Her father, who was sleeping in the next room, went to her assistance with a revolver.

The intruder leaped from a second story window. His foot caught on an electric wire and he fell headlong to the ground. Both his arms were broken, his right leg injured, his head cut, and he is now in the county jail along with three others, charged with being accomplices. A fifth man escaped.

Canada Thistle Reminder.

PERSONS OWNING LAND ARE IN DUTY BOUND TO CUT AND DESTROY ALL CANADA THISTLES FOUND GROWING UPON THEIR PREMISES. THE LEGAL PENALTY FOR NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PROVISION OF LAWS IS FROM FIVE TO TWENTY DOLLARS. IT IS THE DUTY OF THE CONSTABLES, ROAD SUPERVISORS AND STREET COMMISSIONERS TO SEE THAT ALL CANADA THISTLES ARE DESTROYED, OR TO ENFORCE THE PENALTY AGAINST THE OWNERS OF THE LAND.

Hamilton.

Alexander Hamilton, in advocating the mint act of 1792, assigned two reasons for not attaching the unit of money exclusively to one metal, the first being that to do so would "destroy the office and character of one of them as money and reduce it to the situation of a mere merchandise," and the second, that "to annul the use of either of the metals as money is to abridge the quantity of the circulating medium and is liable to all the objections which arise from a comparison of the benefits of a full with the evil of a scanty circulation."

Colorado has a new millionaire in the person of a Mr. Stoiber, who has expectations of rivaling the famous Mr. Stratton, of the Independence mine. Mr. Stoiber is a mining engineer by profession and for a long time lived very humbly with his wife, who is his partner in business, in a little cabin near Silverton. He now has an income of \$800,000 a year, and has one of the handsomest homes in Colorado.

We wish a man could preserve joy in cans, like tomatoes, and use it when scarce. When a man does find joy, he usually finds more than he can use all at once.

Notes from the Pennsylvania Experiment Station.

NEW WEEDS IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Prickly Lettuce (Lactuca scariola), this plant has recently attracted the attention of many farmers and gardeners and seems to be spreading rapidly into regions where it had not formerly been known. It is an European species, recorded as being in America as early as 1868. It is closely related to the common garden lettuce, and resembles it very much when in seed. The leaves are long and narrow, clasping the stem with an auricled base; they are prickly along the margins and midrib on the back. The stem is from 2 to 6 feet high, and the plant in good soil, under a little neglect, may become very troublesome. It is an annual and bears a great quantity of seed; therefore, to control it, it should not be allowed to seed anywhere.

Bracted Plantain (Plantago aristata), this weed was discovered on the College grounds this summer limited to about 2 dozen plants in a small section where bluegrass and clover were sown two years ago. Being reported to Prof. L. H. Dewey, of the Dept. of Agr., at Washington, D. C., he replied it was the first notice of this plant in Pennsylvania. It has since been reported from Easton and West Bethlehem, Pa. It belongs to the Mississippi Valley, but in 1894 Prof. Dewey states it appeared in abundance in meadows, pastures and lawns in many localities from Maryland to Illinois. The weed resembles the Buckhorn or Ribgrass, (Plantago lanceolata), the most noticeable difference being in the inflorescence, in which the bracts are 1/2 to 1 inch long and extend from the spike of flowers at right angles. The leaves also are narrow and grasslike, therefore the plant will usually escape detection until the flowers appear. It is likely to be disseminated in clover seed, and according to its behavior in some places it may become as troublesome as the Ribgrass. When the plants are few they should be pulled by hand and burned.

Geo. C. Butz, Horticulturist.

About Drunkenness.

In the Cosmopolitan Dr. Norman Kerr furnishes a paper which has a tendency to lift the hair on the reader's scalp, so frightful are the facts and possibilities it sets forth with regard to inebriety—in plain English drunkenness. The drunken habit, Dr. Kerr pronounces a disease to which he gives the name of narcomania, as if a poor, tortured reading world had not already had names enough to wrestle with. The person who is subject to this disease is seized with what the doctor calls explosions of drunkenness, during which he must be laid hold of and cared for till the fit is over. It is a disease of the nervous system. Dr. Kerr also calls attention to the curious fact, not noted by many physicians, that often the drunkard not only does not like the intoxicant which steals away his brains, but even hates it with bitter aversion. Nevertheless, when the nervous explosion is coming on, he must have it, although it is the dynamite which makes the explosion still wilder and more destructive.

The drunken fit is analyzed stage by stage in this graphic description: The redness that suffuses the inebriate's face is nothing less than palsy. A progressive paralysis of the organs of the body takes place, ending in the coma of a drunken sleep, into which in the course of time the doomed drunkard sinks and does not wake.

Beer and wine are worse than whiskey and rum in one respect. Their destruction is slower in its course, but they bring with them a long train of diseases, among which may be numbered rheumatism, gout, rheumatic gout, indigestion, labored breathing, diseased kidneys and liver, dropsical swellings, stupor and insanity. The worst alcoholic poisons are those from whiskey made of corn or potatoes.

She Earned the Ring.

A young woman has been sued for breaking an engagement and refusing to give up the ring. The claim is that she trifled with many affections and made handsome profit out of the wreck. The young woman claims she retains the ring as a compensation for affections expended upon what, as she claims, proved to be a poor investment and what is more, there is, she asserts, a valid expense account for gas, coal and other material. The court sustained her position, and so another terror is added to the pursuit of a wife.—Boston Globe.

Silver in the West.

The enthusiasm for Bryan and Sewall is greater than ever in the Northwest. Advocates from Duluth says that 6,000 people took part in a street parade and 15,000 listened to speeches by John Lind, a former Republican, and Congressman Towne when the Bryan campaign was opened in Minnesota. Among the banners were, "We let Europe follow," "Minnesota and Wisconsin join hands, 16 to 1," and "The people, not money, shall rule."

Style in the Alley.

Petrie—Say, Chimmie, do 'tink Swipsey McDougall is in love? Chimmie—What's eatin' you? Petrie—Why, it's de style he's t'rowin' on. If he ain't in love, say, why would he go onet a month an' take a collar an' a pair o' cuffs to de Chiny man?

Not Guilty.

Superior Officer—You are accused of sleeping on your watch. Sentinel—Impossible sir! "Impossible? What do you mean?" "My watch has been at the pawn-broker's for six months."—Amusing Journal.

A Modern Need.

"What dis country wants," said Uncle Moses, "is some sort of patent contraption whar a man can dmp a nickel in de slot an git religion."—Indianapolis Journal.

"With fresh and unlimited coinage of gold and silver, we will clear away our public debt before the close of the century."—U. S. Grant in 1873.

Jaglets—"Who invented work, Bill?" Raglets—"I doan' know; but he ought to stayed and finished it." In 1801 there were only 5,000 Italian speaking people in the United States; now there are 460,000.

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