

General Sutter Discovered the Precious Metal in California.

"It is not generally known," said a mineralogist, "that the discoverer of gold in California was a Pennsylvania and at one time a resident of Philadelphia.

"General Sutter was born in 1803 in Baden, Germany, near the borders of Switzerland. Upon his arrival in this country he spent some time in Philadelphia, subsequently removing to the vicinity of Lititz, where, in the midst of relatives, he engaged in farming.

"General Sutter amassed a considerable fortune through his gold diggings, but lost most of it through unfortunate speculations. He returned to Pennsylvania in 1871 and spent his declining years in retirement, living on the pension of \$250 a month voted him by the California legislature.

FATTED SHEEP.

Tails of the Syrian Breed Weigh Ten to Fifteen Pounds.

It has been suggested that in the sheep fattening process, which is common in the vicinity of Damascus, one might be able to trace the original meaning of the Biblical phrase, "the fatted calf."

"The sheep differ from ours. When we show pictures of the latter to the natives they ask what animals they are. They miss the enormous tails of the Syrian sheep, in which the fat of the body seems to concentrate and which, after skinning and preparing, often weigh ten to fifteen pounds.

"Early in the summer the head of each family buys or sets apart one, two or three sheep, according to his rank in life or his wealth. The women and children devote themselves with great zeal to fattening these sheep. The children fill large baskets with mulberry leaves and carry them to their mothers. These several times a day and also in the night take little wooden stools and sit by the sheep. With one hand they keep the sheep's mouth open; with the other they cram in the leaves, forcing them down the throat.

"Twice a day the sheep are led to the village fountain to drink, and their coats are frequently washed. About the end of September the work of the women and children comes to an end. The sheep have grown so fat they cannot stand up. They are then killed. Their flesh is boiled with spices and put into pots for winter use. This mince-meat is eaten as a relish at festivities."

It Was His Mistake.

Mr. Newell (the week before his birthday)—Good gracious, here are six boxes of cheap cigars my wife has evidently bought me for a present! I couldn't possibly smoke such cheap things, and still I wouldn't like to hurt her feelings by refusing. I'll just substitute six boxes of my best Havanas and throw these cheap ones away before she returns.

Mrs. Newell (the day after)—Oh, Tom, I bought six boxes of cheap cigars yesterday for my dear Uncle Jonas, the sea captain, who lives in Wales. I have just posted them to him. They only cost me 5 shillings a box, but I'm sure he won't be able to tell them from good ones. Why, how funny you look, dear! Are you ill?

Too Much Appreciation.

A biography of Huxley dwells on the annoyance which he suffered from bores. But the plague had its funny side. Huxley once wrote to a friend: "I had a letter from a fellow yesterday morning who must be a lunatic, to the effect that he had been reading my essays, thought I was the man to spend a month with and was coming down by the 5 o'clock train attended by his seven children and his mother-in-law!"

Defunct, Arithmetically.

"So poor Denny is a dead man." "Oh didn't say that. Oh told you he was half kilt from a blast in the quarry."

"Well, an' wasn't he half kilt only last month fallin' down an elevator? How many halves has he got to be killed?"—Boston Transcript.

Quite the Other Way.

"Does your wife go to services to see what other women wear?" "No," replied Mr. Cumrox. "We are now sufficiently prosperous for her to go in order to let other women see what she wears."—Washington Star.

CREeping CACTUS.

Curious Plants That Will Travel Across a Desert.

"The isolation of the desert lowlands of Lower California, combined with alternations of long continued droughts and heavy rains, has resulted in the development of the richest and most extraordinary desert flora in the world," says E. W. Nelson in the National Geographic Magazine.

"Cactuses of many kinds abound, varying from giants standing with massive fluted trunks fifty to sixty feet tall to little straggling stemmed species too weak to hold themselves upright. The fruit of many of these cactuses is edible and much sought for by birds and mammals. They were once one of the main crops of the Indians who lived in this arid region. The cactus forests often form thorny jungles through which it is impossible to pass.

"After months among these thorny plants we supposed we had seen them in all their eccentric variations of form. One morning, however, while crossing the Llano de Yrais, in front of Magdalena bay, I rode out from a dense growth of bushes into an open area and pulled up my horse in amazement at sight of the most extraordinary of them all. Before me was a great bed of the creeping devil cactus, which appeared like a swarm of gigantic caterpillars creeping in all directions. These plants actually travel away from the common center of the group, and I saw many single sections twenty or thirty yards away from the others. The part of the stem resting on the ground sends down rootlets, and the older stems die in the rear at about the same rate as they grow in front, so they slowly move away from the colony across the flats where they live."

A SECRET LIBRARY.

Important Papers That Were Stored Away by Queen Victoria.

Within the walls of Buckingham palace and constructed on the "strong room" principle is a room known as the "secret library," and in this are stored documents and private letters which were they sent forth to the world would doubtless set the whole universe talking.

From the very commencement of her reign Queen Victoria assiduously stored away in nice order all family and other important papers, her only assistant in this duty being a secretary, who entered her service within fourteen years of her accession to the throne and who retained his place until her majesty's death, though he himself had no access to nine-tenths of the papers which are docketed, the late queen alone retaining the keys of the safes and cabinets in which her "secret library" was contained.

Just before her death her majesty added to the list of her papers a batch of letters of the most private and confidential kind, addressed by the late prince consort to his brother, the Duke Ernest of Coburg, and it is a well ascertained fact that when possible she acquired every scrap written by her late consort to his private friends. It is said by those who are qualified to surmise that the "secret library" not only tells of royal marriages, births and deaths, but that it is virtually the private history of Europe during the last half of the nineteenth century.—London Tit-Bits.

European Civilization.

The first pavements in Paris were laid about the year 1200; in London, about 1417. Berlin was without pavements far into the seventeenth century. No houses had glass windows before the twelfth century, and as late as the fourteenth century anything might be thrown out of the windows of Paris and London after three times calling out, "Look out!" Shirts were not known until the time of the crusaders, and the fine clothes which ladies and gentlemen wore were seldom washed, but only occasionally "scented." So late as 1550 there were to be found in Paris but three carriages, while in England coaches date from 1580. Forks were unknown, and table manners were exceedingly "unsightly."

Occupation of Idols.

Some strange occupations figure on Indian census schedules. At the last census in many villages of Haidarabad and the central provinces enthusiastic and devout enumerators returned the village shrines and temples as "occupied houses." The occupant was the idol, whose occupation was stated as "granting boons and blessings, living on contributions from the tenants." Other callings returned on the schedules include collectors of edible birds' nests, receivers of stolen goods, witches, wizards and cow poisoners.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Stumbled on the Will.

Wills have often proved a stumbling block to the novelist. One flagrant case may be mentioned. A popular writer causes an old aristocrat to have his "last will and testament" witnessed by his butler and his housekeeper, yet he makes them both benefit under it. By so doing he renders the will invalid. But the author does not know it.

Every Woman's Privilege.

Mrs. Byram—That's the kind of a husband to have! Did you hear Mr. Dike tell his wife to go and look at some \$100 hats? Mr. Byram—My dear, have I ever deprived you of the privilege of looking at \$100 hats?—Chicago News.

Venus will not charm so much without her attendant graces as they will without her.—Lord Chesterfield.

NAPOLEON AND SUICIDE.

His Draft of Poison and His Comments on Self Destruction.

It is said that when all seemed lost to Napoleon in 1814—the year before Waterloo—he thought of suicide as an end to his career. He actually took a draft of poison, but the essential element in the concoction had lost its efficacy. He, however, conquered his inclination to self destruction, which he ever afterward held in abhorrence, even during his hopeless exile at St. Helena. When during his first consulship one of his grenadiers killed himself Napoleon issued an order to the guards:

"The Grenadier Gobain has killed himself owing to a love affair. He was otherwise an excellent soldier. The first consul commands that the guards should be informed that a soldier ought to conquer the grief and bitterness of his passions; that there is the same courage in enduring with patience the pangs of the soul as in facing bravely the fire of a battery. To give oneself up to grief without resistance or to kill oneself to escape is to abandon the field of battle before being beaten."

In a conversation with Goethe, Napoleon blamed the poet for allowing Werther to commit suicide, and in 1816 he said to O'Meara: "Suicide is the act of a gambler who has lost everything or of a ruined prodigal. I have always thought that a man shows more courage in supporting the evils that afflict him than in getting rid of his life."

TRAGIC IN ITS BREVIETY.

The Story of the Duel Between Hamilton and Burr.

The story of the Hamilton-Burr duel is tragic in its brevity. The little party of five—the principals, their seconds and the surgeon—was on the ground not long after sunrise. The preliminaries were soon arranged. As Pendleton, Hamilton's second, gave him his pistol he asked, "Will you have the hairspring set?"

"Not this time," was the significant reply, and then the men faced each other. According to the best authorities upon a disputed subject, Burr fired at the word. At the report Hamilton started forward with a convulsive movement, reeled, involuntarily discharging his pistol into the foliage above him, and fell headlong. Burr, with an expression of pain upon his face, sprang toward him, but Van Ness, his second, seized him by the arm and hurried him down the bank and into their boat.

Hamilton, being lifted up, revived for a moment and gasped, "This is a mortal wound, doctor." Relapsing again into unconsciousness, he was again revived by the fresh air of the river. "Pendleton knows," he said, trying to turn toward his friends, "that I did not intend to fire at him." At 2 the afternoon following he had breathed his last.

The Snake Stone.

In most accounts of snake charming in India the snake stone plays an important part. When the charmer is bitten the stone is applied to the bite and is supposed to aid in his recovery. Writing in the London Field, Lieutenant L. Mackenzie gives some notes on two of these stones, which he had the opportunity of seeing. They were triangular in shape, flat and rounded, with smooth polished black surfaces. They are said to come from the hills of Tibet and to be the solidified saliva of the markhor. This animal is spoken of in Lieutenant Mackenzie's note as the "Persian snake eater." Its saliva is thought to contain an antidote to snake poison. The markhor is a species of wild goat found in India, Tibet and Kashmir.

Jean Arc's Bell.

In the cathedral church of Notre Dame, Paris, there is a bell which dates from the days of Joan of Arc—the "blessed bell" which sounded the tocsin when the Maid of Orleans appeared in August, 1429, and Paris was besieged by the English. This historic bell, referred to by Victor Hugo in "Notre Dame de Paris," was given to the cathedral in 1400 by Jean de Montaigne. It was refounded in 1686 and then re-baptized under the name of Emmanuel Louise Therese in honor of Louis XIV. and Marie Therese of Austria.—London Globe.

He Knew Jim.

Jim had made an unsuccessful attempt to conquer the world and came back to the Tennessee town dirty, worn out and hungry. "Uncle John," he said melodramatically, "I came home to die." "No, dod gast you," said unsympathetic Uncle Jim, "you came home to eat!"—Success Magazine.

It Surely Will.

"And you like chicken, Sam?" "Gee! I certainly does, boss." "And you get 'em once in awhile?" "Oh, sure, boss, I gets 'em." "How do you get 'em, Sam?" "Well, boss, you know dat of sayin', 'Love will find the way.'"—Yonkers Statesman.

Quick Time.

Ada—Men are slow! It took him nearly two hours to propose to me last night. Floss—And how long did it take you to accept him, dear? Ada—Just two seconds.

Censolation.

Binks—Confound it! I've gone and sat down on that chair I varnished this morning. Mrs. Binks—Well, for once you've stuck to your work.—Boston Transcript.

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Travelers Guide.

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READ DOWN STATIONS READ UP.

No 1 No 5 No 3 No 6 No 4 No 2

Table with columns for stations and times. Stations include Bellefonte, Zion, Hecla Park, Dunkles, Hubersburg, Snydertown, Nittany, Huston, Lamar, Clintondale, F. Krider's Siding, Mackeyville, Cedar Spring, Salomona, MILL HALL.

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Schedule to take effect Monday, Jan. 6, 1910.

WESTWARD READDOWN EASTWARD READ UP.

No 1 No 3 No 1 No 2 No 4 No 6

Table with columns for stations and times. Stations include Bellefonte, Coleville, Morris, Stevens, Lime Centre, Hunter's Park, Fillmore, Briarly, Wadley, Kramline, State College, Strubles, Bloomsdorf, Fine Grove.

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