

THE RESOURCES OF MEXICO.

A meeting was held at Cheltenham Hall... A meeting was held at Cheltenham Hall recently, at which Mr. Alfred R. Conkling read a paper on "Mexico: Her Physical Geography and Resources." Having had occasion to visit Mexico on business during the early part of the current year, the lecturer made a very extensive tour throughout the country, devoting special attention to the mines.

POISONER OF FIFTY-SIX VICTIMS.

To those who believe that the practice of Thuggee has been completely put down in India, the story of Sharfa, whose career of crime has just terminated by his being sentenced to transportation for life, will come as an unpleasant revelation.

HABITS OF AMERICANS.

Many of the habits and customs of these people are very singular. Along with much progress and simplicity, they have a high degree of ingenuity.

THE OLD SODOG WARRIORS.

Travelers over the Yuma branch of the Frisco Railroad will doubtless remember the little village of Seneca, situated on the river bank, about 340 miles southeast of St. Louis.

THE AGE OF OYSTERS.

The natural term of the oyster's life is not known, but there is a belief that it may extend to twenty years or more.

A HOME.

Despite the popular opinion to the contrary, families rarely join the Mutual Admiration Society as to one another.

STATIONERY.

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NOVEL-READING MADE ODIOUS.

A bitter wag, made angry by the over-increasing output of novels, has devised a new and malignant antidote for the appetite for romance.

HOW WOODEN SPOOLS ARE MADE.

The best spools first sawed into sticks four or five feet long and seven-eighths of an inch to three inches square, according to the size of the spools to be produced.

CAIRO BY NIGHT.

At every fifty yards or so blaze huge bonfires of sulphur and tar, some instant lighting up the street clear as day, as a mass of flame shoots into the air, and leaving it dark as pitch in the next.

EARLY RELIGIOUS DISPUTES.

To many of the metaphysical points connected with the Trinitarian controversy and the nature of God are unintelligible, as they are untranslatable into English, or even Latin.

THE COLOR OF WATER.

Two theories are advanced to explain the blue color of water when seen in large masses, one held by Professor Tyndall, being that small solid particles suspended in the water do not reflect the lower or red rays of the spectrum.

METALIZATION OF WOOD.

This process, which has lately been invented by an English chemist in soaking the wood in caustic alkali for two or three days at a temperature of from 167 degrees to 194 degrees Fahrenheit.

COMPANIONABLE PEOPLE.

In every society we find that the people who are called companionable are those who have a knack of making light of their tribulations and vexations, and a habit of putting them out of sight.

RECENT EXPERIMENTS IN GERMAN SCHOOLS.

Recent experiments in German schools have shown that the difficulty of reading that rests on a white ground compares favorably with that resting on a black ground.

WINE FOR BEASTS.

The beverage made in France from raisins and sold as the juice of the grapes has been so lately commended as a poisonous decoction that it is pleasant to be told by a writer in the Republicque Française, who seems to possess accurate knowledge of the subject, that it is in fact a harmless and agreeable beverage.

INCOMES OF GERMAN POETS.

Wieland had reached the middle point of a long life before he received the appointment which made his fortune.

ANCIENT PRICE OF LABOR.

In the year 1682, 25th Edward III., the wages paid to haymakers were a penny a day. A mower of meadows threepence a day, or fivepence an acre.

ANECDOTE OF DORE.

It is said that Gustave Dore, many years ago, while on a tour in Switzerland, happened to lose his passport.

ONE FORGIVES EVERYTHING TO HIM WHO FORGIVES HIMSELF NOTHING.

Although the existence of heremite oil in several provinces of Japan is said to have been known for 1200 years, the Japanese did not know how to refine it until about ten years ago.

THE GREAT MOMENTS OF LIFE ARE BUT MOMENTS LIKE THE OTHERS.

From the observations taken at Colon by the engineers engaged on the Panama Interoceanic Canal, M. de Lesseps finds, according to his paper read before the Academy of Sciences, Paris, on Nov. 26, that the great earthquake was caused by the recent disturbances at Yara would appear to have made its way across the Indian and Atlantic Oceans, to the east coast of Good Hope, to the east coast of Central America in about 30 hours.

"I." SAYS W. MATTHEW WILLIAMS.

"I." says W. Matthew Williams, "I was living in the midst of London, Birmingham, Manchester, or any other large city. I would recklessly disregard my premises by removing a pane of glass from the window of every room, or knocking a hole through the outer wall and placing in the opening there a frame of sash glass, with a glass door for closing, or partially closing, it in extremely cold weather, and I believe that the same of the special life to which residents in large towns are liable."

HEATHEN CHINESE TELEGRAPH.

Owing to the peculiarity of the Chinese characters, each of which represents a word, not a letter, as in our Western languages, the Danish Telegraph Company (the Great Northern) working the Chinese lines have adopted the following device: There are from 5,000 to 6,000 characters in the ordinary Chinese language, and the company have provided a wooden block or type for each of them.

THE ALASKAN VOLCANO.

A gentleman who is greatly interested in science, and who has given considerable attention to the subject of atmospheric phenomena, states that the recent peculiar phenomena, without much doubt, due to the late volcanic eruption in Alaska.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Osner White tells the fair people who listen to his lectures on America that San Francisco was built by the Chinese.

SCIENTIFIC.

A London steam boiler company lights up the interior of boilers in such a way that the little caudex, currents, and whirlpools in the water in the course of steam formation may be all observed.

THE BUILDING YEAH, SPEAKING OF THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCHES OF SHELLMANN.

The Building Year, speaking of the results of the researches of Shellmann, says that the Greek story of Iliad accords with the discoveries at Hisattik, and the conclusion is inevitable that the Homeric Troy could have been on no other site.

Dr. C. H. YELTINGTON ASSERTS THAT THE COPPERHEAD NEVER BITES WHEN COILED UP.

Dr. C. H. Yeltington asserts that the copperhead never bites when coiled up, but will throw the middle of his body into long, almost rectangular curves, and with his head and snout or so of the neck slightly elevated above the ground is ready to defend himself.

As an inducement to the greater utilization of buttermilk in bread making, it is stated that it contains four to five per cent. of milk sugar and 7 per cent. of mineral salts, and that after setting for cheese making it also contains one per cent. of nitrogenous matter and nearly as much of butter fat.

In an article on the protection of iron from rust Van Nostrand's Magazine says that iron to be buried in damp earth may be coated with a mixture of 100 parts of resin, (colophony) 25 parts of glycerine, and 50 parts of paraffine, to which 20 parts of magnesia and some mineral oil have been added.

M. Renard, of the Royal Academy of Brussels, has made a minute examination of the ashes of the great eruption of Krakatoa which fell at Batavia on the 27th of last August. They consist for the most part of glassy particles. The rock which had been blown into this volcano last contained a very large proportion of silica.

A writer of mathematical bent, says the Scientific American, finds from the census returns that there are about 17,000 dentists in the United States, who, he estimates, peek into the teeth of the American people a ton of pure gold annually.

It has been found that cities are really much warmer than the open country near them, and that it is not altogether fashion or the influence of imagination which is causing people to migrate to the sun and pay their tolls, which were collected very carelessly that year.

Lombard street, London, was named in 1299 to lend money to convents, communities and private persons who were not able to pay their tolls, which were collected very carelessly that year.

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