

HITS OF INFORMATION.

China claims to have made the first sugar. Clocks are regarded as curiosities by the Hindus. There are nearly 85,000 Germans in Kansas. From 90,000 to 120,000 hairs grow in a human scalp. A silk-worm's thread is one-thousandth part of an inch. The number of Jews in Russia to-day is about 5,250,000. The Australian dog and the Egyptian shepherd dog never bark. A child of three years old is half the height it will ever reach. A good sewing machine is supposed to do the work of twelve women. An ornithologist says that birds frequently commit suicide. The earth is the greatest distance from the sun on the morning of July 6. The average age at which women marry in civilized countries is set down at 23.5 years. The combined debt of all the nations in the world amount to more than \$30,000,000,000. Kansas is one of five States in which the mother has absolute control of her children. Lake Erie produces more fish to the square mile than any body of water in the world. The hottest place in the United States is in Arizona, along the line of the Southern Pacific. Two-thirds of the Chiefs of Police of American cities are Irishmen by birth or extraction. During the last ten years there have been 558 negroes and 378 whites lynched in the South. The Jerusalem artichoke, a native of Brazil, was introduced into this country in the seventeenth century. London existed long before the Romans visited England. Its name is derived from Llyn-Din, "The Town on the Lake." In the Chinese language the same word may be either a noun, adjective, verb or adverb. The language is monosyllabic. A photographic chart of the heavens is in preparation. Within four years it is thought that 25,000,000 stars will be mapped. It is estimated that over 100,000,000 of people now speak the English language; over 69,000,000 German, and over 41,000,000 French. Professor Marshall tells us that the oak in a general way requires to grow from 120 to 200 years before it is fit to cut for large timber. The earth at the equator moves at the rate of a mile in 3.6 seconds, four-tenths of a second slower than the velocity of a cannon ball. The frog, owing to its peculiar structure, cannot breathe with the mouth open; and if it were forcibly kept open the creature would die of suffocation. The editor of this department owns a copy of a geography which was published in 1542. One of the main plates is a mermaid with a double tail.—St. Louis Republic. The Red Sea is for the most part blue. It gets its name from the fact that portions of it are covered by minute animalcules which dye the surface of the water red where they float. Mount St. Elias, in Alaska, was put down ten years ago as being something over 14,000 feet high. The very latest reports show it to be between 18,000 and 19,000 feet in height. The Steinways are making a sounding-board for a piano of aluminum as an experiment. If successful, this will greatly reduce the weight of the ponderous household articles. The custom of kissing hands as a mark of respect is said to be the most ancient and the most universal. From the remotest times, through the ages of Greece and Rome to the present day, it has existed. Forks were not introduced into England before the reign of James I. The English derived this piece of refinement from the Italians. The use of forks was at first much ridiculed in England as an effeminate piece of luxury. A gentleman in Ireland recently, on cutting open a potato at dinner, found in the center a half sovereign, around which the vegetable had grown. Though discolored, it was in a good state of preservation, and is now a pretty ornament to a watch chain. Nearly all the royal personages of Europe are cousins, and not very far removed, as it has been laid down by a German genealogist that every crowned head of Europe, barring Turkey, is descended from one of two sisters who lived about 150 years ago. There are many people now living who will have only one birthday to celebrate for nearly twelve years to come. This strange circumstance is due to the fact that they were born on February 29th, and to the further fact that the year 1900 will not be a leap year.—New York Tribune. It now turns out that the Atlantic, and not the Pacific, is the higher of the two oceans, and that in place of the difference in level being hundreds of feet, as has been affirmed, the surface of the water on the east side of the Isthmus is exactly six and one-half feet higher than it is on the western side. The sun gives six hundred thousand times as much light as the moon; seven thousand million as much as the brightest star, and thirty-six million as much as all the stars combined. In size the sun equals one million three hundred thousand earths, but, owing to its smaller density, its weight equals only three hundred thousand earths. The length of the ancient cubit was the distance from the elbow to the tip of the middle finger. Recent investigation proves that the Roman cubit was 18.47 inches in length. The Greek 18.20, the Hebrew varied from 24.34 to 22.08, the variations being due to age and locality. Some Biblical scholars believe that Noah's Ark measurements were cubits of about three feet.

The Grand Lama's Palace.

IT IS REACHED BY FIVE LADDERS AND HOLDS A HUGE IDOL. From Murray's Magazine. Potala, precipitous in many places, rises within the confines of the outer city of Lhasa in the northwestern quarter. It is heaped up in the most fantastic style with halls and storied temples and monster tombs; but, on looking up from the foot of these heights, the whole series seems conjoined into one vast structure, surmounted by five gold-plated rectangular domes of great size. The chief erection is the P'o-dang Marpo, or "Red Palace," a building carried up to the height of eleven stories and which is ascended from story to story by means of wooden ladders with broad but difficult steps. This is the central edifice round which the others climb and cluster. The lower stories are built against the sheer face of the activity. After passing up a steep path, the principal or eastern doorway of the whole establishment. Here first is a long hall, up which you may ride on pony back if you choose. The hall is garnished on either hand by long rows of massive prayer cylinders, which, placed like barrels on end on well-oiled pivots, can easily be made to revolve with a touch as you pass along. Each barrel has within it wound compactly on the iron axle passing from top to bottom, innumerable lengths of paper, on which has been stamped many thousands of times the well known formula, "Om Mani Padme Hum"—the special invocation to the Bodhisattva Chenraisi, and therefore to the Grand Lama, who visibly impersonates him. At the end of the hall are broad stone steps, which mounts to a paved landing where stands an obeisical. You are now again in the open air, and two long flights of steps, hemmed in by the outer walls of other buildings, ascend up the face of the hill to the ground floor of the Red Palace. Thence the ladder climbing commences. Five long ladders, one after the other, have to be scaled, passing up through dark and mysterious vaults—really vestibules to the neighboring buildings—some with weird-looking passages conducting who shall know whither? At the top of the fifth ladder things seem brighter, since now you enter the more habitable portion of the palace comprising suites of rooms, set above set. On this floor, in an adjoining apartment, are the lower limbs of an elephantine image of Jhampa, the Buddha-to-come. He is seated on a platform in this room, and his figure is of such colossal proportions that it passes up through the floors of the two other stories above this one. Altogether the image is said to be about seventy feet high. When you have reached the third floor of the upper portion of the palace you may walk around and gaze upon the monster head and shoulders of the gilded Buddha. All orthodox visitors on their way up perform solemn circumambulation around the legs, the body and the shoulders respectively, once on each of the three floors through which this effigy has been reared. Ayer's Sarsaparilla is recommended by physicians as the only sure blood purifier. The Depth of Unwisdom. From the Indianapolis Journal. "I am afraid that young Cadgley is not as bright as he might be." "Bright? He doesn't even know enough to know that he doesn't know anything." Take good care of your beard and keep it clear of gray hairs so as to retain a young look by using Buckingham's Dye for the whiskers. "Tired All the Time." Is the complaint of many poor mortals, who know not where to find relief. Hood's Sarsaparilla possesses just those elements of strength which you so earnestly crave, it will build you up, give you an appetite, strengthen your stomach and nerves. Try it. Hood's PILLS act especially upon the liver, rousing it from torpidity to its natural duties, cure constipation and assist digestion. Ought to Be Grateful. From the Washington Star. "Come to think of it," said Willie Washington. "I saved my fathah a great deal of money." "How?" "By not being twins." I have been a great sufferer from dry catarrh for many years. I tried many remedies, but none did me so much benefit as Ely's Cream Balm. It completely cured me. M. J. Lally, 39 Woodward Ave., Boston Highlands, Mass. After using Ely's Cream Balm two months I was surprised to find that the right nostril, which was closed for over twenty years, was open and free as the other, and can use it now as I could not do for many years. I feel very thankful.—R. H. Cressingham, 273 18th St Brooklyn. 7-22-21.

TAKEN IN.

How a Rich Baron Purchased a Handsome Porcelain Service. Among the various admirable productions of taste which the guests of Baron Rothschild never fail to admire is a magnificent service of porcelain of singular beauty, elegance of shape and finish, and remarkable for the artistic richness of its paintings. The way in which the baron became possessed of it is worth relating. One day an old man, careworn, wrinkled, feeble, and apparently tottering on the verge of the grave, presented himself before Baron Rothschild, soliciting the honor of an interview with the famous banker. The old man was so aged, so poor, and had altogether so dejected an aspect, that the baron was immediately impressed with a compassionate feeling toward him, which feeling became one of lively interest on learning that he was a Jew. It is well known that the Israelites are very charitably disposed toward all their brethren. The aged visitor took from his bag a rich and beautiful plate, so splendidly wrought that the baron admired it exceedingly and became greatly delighted with it. "Sir," said the patriarch, "will you buy this of me? I have the whole set, and it has struck me that a service so beautiful cannot find a more fitting place than in the mansion of the prince of financiers." "It is indeed very fine," said the baron. "How much do you want for the service?" "Look you," said the old man, "I am bowed down with many years and have not long to live. I am poor, and wish to end my days in comparative comfort. Will you, in exchange for this valuable set of porcelain, give me an income for life of one hundred francs a month? It is not much money for you, and I am so old." The baron looked at the poor man, examined the plate again, and after a few minutes' reflection said: "Well, be it so. Here is the first payment. Send me the service and give me your name, that I may have it entered in my treasurer's books." The splendid set of porcelain was delivered the same day to the baron, and in a month afterward, while he was seated in the counting-house, a man entered and asked for the second payment of the promised income. But the man was young, scarcely thirty years of age, of a vigorous constitution and great muscular development, and looked as if he would live for a hundred years. "But you are not the man?" exclaimed the astonished banker. "Excuse me, baron," said he, "I am indeed the man." "But you appeared at least eighty years old," said the baron. "But, sir, I am only thirty." "In fact, I thought your venerable appearance did not belie your assertion." "I have wonderfully recovered, thanks to your generosity." The baron laughed heartily and gave orders for the payment of the money, exclaiming,—"Ah, you are an excellent comedian, and have taken me in thoroughly." "I am probably the first who has done so," answered the Jew, politely bowing to the millionaire. For several years Baron Rothschild paid the monthly allowance, but then this porcelain service is so exquisite that he saw no reason to complain. Tremendous Power of Roots. The tremendous power of a pushing root is a subject for marvel. It will lift tons by the swelling of its slender trunk, or read rocks with the power of dynamite, but silently and invisibly. The pertinacity and force of plants is occasionally shown in the great cities in this wise. Some old residences have vines many years old, climbing up their weather beaten brown fronts. Their roots are deep in the tiny front garden plot, and their tendrils were at first trained up slender cords to the iron balconies on the first floor. These slender green things twined in and out of the iron railings of the balcony like little serpents, till they reached the vertical wall which, nothing daunted, they began to climb. Little by little the tender green stems changed to hard woody tissues which swelled into flat plaits to accommodate itself to the bars of the iron railing through which it had woven itself. But the accommodation was only formal, for, swelling steadily, the vine trunks appear to day to have become as large as a man's arm, and the iron rails which were its earliest support, have been broken in twain by their ungrateful dependents. Another singular example of the pertinacity of the roots is heard from a neighboring State. A drain pipe seemed to be choked. Investigation showed that a threadlike shoot of a tree root had penetrated one of the minute pores of the clay pipe; once inside the drain the tender found such luxurious nourishment that it grew and divided into branches which wound themselves in coil on coil until finally passage in the drain was completely choked up. It is said that bucketful of tangled filaments were taken out of this pipe, which measured only eight inches in diameter, while the stems originated in a single threadlike filament, back through which coursed the abundant nourishment to push on the growth of the maple tree above ground. Suez Canal 3,000 Years Ago. The idea of a canal along the present route of the great Suez was considered practicable and excavations were actually commenced upward of 2,500 years ago, and in the time of the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus, 278 years before Christ, the union of the two seas was perfected. The canal was a small affair, of course, compared with the present waterway, but was sufficient for the war galleys of the time. It is a historical fact that Cleopatra, after Actium, tried to escape by that route, but was prevented by the fierce Arabs.—St. Louis Republic.

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A CONVINCING ARGUMENT.

The Tariff Lesson at Homestead Must Open the Eyes of Workmen. The Homestead affair is the most powerful and convincing argument that can be made to disprove the assertion that there is no relation whatever between tariffs and wages. The Homestead argument is so plain that he who runs can read and readily discover that the tariff tax enables the manufacturer to receive a higher price for his product, ostensibly for the purpose of paying high wages to employees. Having had the price of his articles increased by legislation, does the manufacturer sit down to figure out his excess of profits by reason of this special legislation, and then divide it with his workmen? No, of course not. The manufacturer goes into the market and employs his labor at the lowest possible price. That price is fixed by the law of supply and demand and labor unions, without any regard to the tariff, and every employer of labor in this country does the same thing because it is good business management. When men offer to work for two dollars per day, what manufacturer pays them three dollars because he is receiving special benefits? The spectacle of a mass meeting of workmen, such as was held at the east front of the capitol, passing unanimously a set of resolutions calling attention to the fact that in the face of an increasing tariff tax the wages of employees have been reduced 50 per cent., shows plainly that many workmen are opening their eyes and ready to condemn what they heretofore accepted as a blessing.—Columbus Post. The Infant Industry and the Workingman. Common Sense About Protection. The benefits of protection are something like the sea serpent—they are always somewhere else. The average protectionist believes that the tariff raises wages. If you ask him how it raises his wages he will reply that it does so in an indirect way by improving the condition of some other person. Now there is a widely accepted principle to the effect that the tail cannot wag the dog. If the persons whose wages are directly affected by the tariff very greatly outnumber those who have nothing to do with tariff taxes, except to pay them, they may set the standard for the whole community; but if the direct protected classes form an insignificant minority of the total population it is clearly impossible for them to fix the rate of wages for the majority. It is of the first importance, therefore, to know how many people are engaged in producing the things that are supposed to be protected by the tariff as compared to the number of people whom the tariff does not and cannot affect except to their injury.—San Francisco Examiner. Harrison Using Taffy. Ben Harrison has evidently been looking over Ohio and is alarmed at the unsatisfactory condition of the party machinery and the lack of harmony among those who should be his party friends. In a conversation with Hon. W. H. Enoch on the situation in Ohio, he said he "recognized Governor Foraker as a brilliant, able man, for whom he entertained only feelings of respect and the warmest regard. He made similar remarks in regard to others who had actively opposed his nomination." This would seem to indicate a change of heart on the part of the president.—Columbus Post. "And So It Will Continue." In their efforts to return that distinguished corporation attorney and "political" greaser, John C. Spooner, to the United States senate, the Republicans of Wisconsin are apparently determined to Mexicanize that hitherto peaceful and orderly commonwealth. Ever since Spooner's involuntary retirement to private life, a little more than a year ago, the earth has been, in the opinion of the average Wisconsin Republican, out of its orbit. The wind has blown steadily from the wrong direction and the sun has failed to rise at the right point.—Chicago Herald. The Despicable Force Bill. A force bill emanating from the Republican party is simply a declaration of war upon the white people of the south. Fortunately such oppressive measures against the liberties of the people are not endorsed or approved by a great body of the people of the other states of the Union, and the most of them will vote against it and for Cleveland.—New Orleans Picayune. "Two Good Men." Heretofore Mr. Wyanmaker has been considered the only truly good man of Mr. Harrison's administration, but since Mr. Quay's World's fair Sabbath amendment we are bound to count two good men.—Louisville Courier-Journal. "A Fair Exchange," Etc. Steve Elkins should run for governor of West Virginia and trade himself off for Harrison votes. The West Virginia Democrats would do most anything rather than have Steve for their governor.—St. Louis Republic. A "Personally Conducted" Campaign. By the selection of Mr. Carter to be chairman of the national committee it has become more than ever evident that Mr. Harrison intends to superintend his own campaign through personal agents.—Buffalo Courier.



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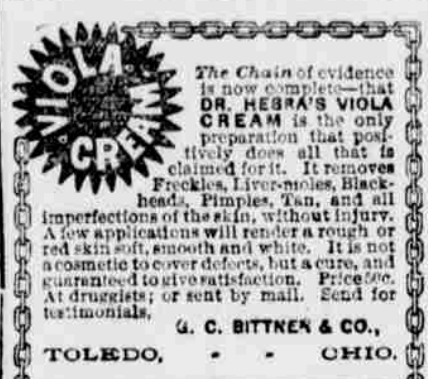
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