

PEARLS AND PEARL SHELLS.

Treasures That Are Taken from the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf.

In St. Nicholas Capt. H. D. Smith of the United States revenue cutter service tells of his experiences. "Hunting for Shells," from the Island of Ceylon to the Dry Tortugas. Capt. Smith says:

Pearl shells are valuable, and fine specimens are hard to obtain. They are found in the Treamotee, Gamber and Trihal groups of islands. The choicest come from Macassar; these are the white-edged shells, worth \$800 a ton, and from these the finest pearl buttons are manufactured.

The most celebrated pearl fisheries lie near the coast of Ceylon, the Persian Gulf and in the waters of Java and Sumatra. The Australian coast in the neighborhood of Shank's bay and at Roebuck bay furnishes some very large shells, some of them weighing from two to three pounds each. The fisheries of Baja, Gulf of California, are very rich, France controlling the gems procured there. The meat of the pearl oyster is readily bought by the Chinamen, who dry the leathery little bivalves or seal them up in cans and ship them to their countrymen in San Francisco. The pearl shells readily sell upon the spot at from \$1.50 to \$5 per pound.

Pearls are of various colors, and in India the red pearls were highly prized by the Buddhists, who used them in adorning their temples. Pearls are formed to protect the shell fish. They are due to a secretion of a shelly substance around some irritating particle, and their composition is the same as that of mother-of-pearl.

A FISH STORY.

It Was Homesick for Old Friends and Moped Without Them.

Among a lot of golden trout from Sunapee Lake received at the New York Aquarium in December last, there was one fine big brook trout taken from the same water. At the Aquarium the golden trout were placed in a tank by themselves; the brook trout was put into a tank of lake trout from the interior of New York state.

The golden trout from Sunapee thrived; the brook trout that came with them, now in with the lake trout, did not. It held aloof from the other fish in the tank, and never fed well, and was not interested in anything.

Two or three weeks ago the tank that the lake trout were in was needed for something else, and the fish in it were shifted. The brook trout from Sunapee was put into the tank with the golden trout with which it had been received. From that day it was another fish. It no longer moped away the time off in one corner by itself, but it lined up with the golden trout, and slashed around the tank with them, and pranced around on its own account quite at home. It fed well, and was as chipper as a fish could be, and has been so ever since.

A New Subscriber.

"Say, kernel," he said, as he walked into the editor's office and stamped about forty pounds of mud off his boots against the legs of the stove, "I sorter thought I'd take your paper of you'd do the square thing."

"Why, of course; we are always glad to accommodate our subscribers."

"Well, here's a little obituary of Aunt Kalline—hit's jes' ten pages o' foolscap, an' won't make much, I reckon."

"We'll print it."

"An' you'll send forty copies of the paper to this 'ere list o' relatives, won't you?"

"Yes."

"An' next week my daughter Serilly is goin' to get married, I reckon you'll print a hull lot about that."

"Of course; that's news."

"An' say, I've got one of the finest young shotes you ever have saw. I want you to come out some day and write up hit."

"I shall be glad to do so."

"You hain't got a dozen or two old magazines what you's done read a-lyin' around handy, hev you?"

"Yes; here's three or four."

"Thanky, Jes' put me down for three months, an' I'll hand you the quarter 'long this fall some time."

Oriental Pile Driving.

In Japan and China, women drive piles for houses and bridges. Their method is interesting. Attached to the hammer block are twenty-seven ropes, carried up to the top of the frame and on the outside looking very much like the old-fashioned May-pole. Twenty-seven women hold the ends of the ropes, and with a sing-song all together pull down; up travels the hammer until at a scream, all let go, and down it comes on top of the pile, which is unprotected by a band or ring. This May-pole driver is in general use throughout Japan and China.

Equal to the Occasion.

An old lawyer in Paris had instructed his client to weep every time he struck the desk with his hand, but forgot and struck the desk at the wrong moment. She promptly fell to sobbing and crying.

"What is the matter with you?" asked the judge.

"Well, he told me to cry as often as he struck the table."

"Gentlemen of the jury," cried the unabashed lawyer, "let me ask you how you can reconcile the idea of crime in connection with such candor and simplicity?"—Illustration.

Her Specialty.

Mrs. Tompkins—Why don't you make a name for yourself?

Mr. Tomkins—who is the fourth)—That's your specialty; you've already made three.—New York Herald.

A VALUABLE SERVANT.



Mistress—Didn't I tell you, Norah, that I should be at home to no one? Norah—Yis, ma'am; but the lady has on just the finest new hat yez iver laid eyes on, an' I t'ought it me Christian jooty to have yez see it.

NOT TROUBLED WITH INSOMNIA.



Officer O'Toole—Here, yez git a move an' yerself; yez can't sleep there! Peaceful Powers—That's al'right, Cap! Don't yer worry about me; I kin sleep anywhere!—Pick-Me-Up.

MERE SPEAKING ACQUAINTANCE



Nell—Who's your friend? Belle—He's no friend of mine. "But he spoke to you as he passed." "Yes! He's my husband."—Philadelphia Record.

A NARROW ESCAPE.



She—Charlie, the engagement ring you gave me has "E. C." marked on it. I hope you were never engaged before. He—Never, darling. "E. C." stands for eighteen carat.

MONEY TALKS.



Brother James—Harriet, Jimmy loves yer, but he's too bashful to tell yer so; he's willin' to devote himself to you if you'll on'y say the word.

Jimmy (aside)—Speak to her of my wealth; tell her I've got a quarter saved up. Money talks.—Truth.

IN THE FUTURE.



Professor Sproutini in his daring act of riding bareback on a horseless carriage.—Fizaro.

LONG-HEADED LINCOLN.

An Anecdote Showing How He Looked Into the Future.

Perhaps no anecdote ever told of Mr. Lincoln illustrates more forcibly his "long-headedness" in laying plans, not even that incident when he asked the "Judge" a question in his debate with Mr. Douglas, which may be told as follows:

One afternoon during that joint debate Mr. Lincoln was sitting with his friends, planning the programme, when he was observed to go off in a kind of reverie, and for some time appeared totally oblivious to everything around him. Then, slowly bringing his right hand up, holding it a moment in the air, and then letting it fall with a quick snap upon his thigh, he said:

"There I'm going to ask the 'Judge' (he always called him 'the Judge') a question to-night, and I don't care the ghost of a continental which way he answers it. If he answers it one way it will lose him the Senatorship. If he answers it the other way, it will lose him the Presidency."

No one asked him what the question was; but that evening it was the turn for Mr. Douglas to speak first, and right in the midst of his address, all at once Mr. Lincoln roused up, as if a new thought had suddenly struck him, and said:

"Judge, will you allow me to ask you one question?"

"Certainly," says Mr. Douglas.

"Suppose, Judge, there was a new town or colony just started in some Western territory; and suppose there were precisely 100 house-holders—voters—there; and suppose, Judge, that ninety-nine did not want slavery, and one did. What would be done about it?"

Judge Douglas beat about the bush, but failed to give a direct answer.

"No, no, Judge; that won't do. Tell us plainly what will be done about it?"

Again Douglas tried to evade; but Lincoln would not be put off, and he insisted that a direct answer should be given. At last Douglas admitted that the majority would have their way, by some means or other.

Mr. Lincoln said no more. Douglas had answered the question as Illinois people would have answered it, and he got the Senatorship. But that answer was not satisfactory to the people of the South. In 1860 the Charleston convention split in two factions, and "It lost him the Presidency," and it made Abraham Lincoln President.—New York Independent.

HOW A SPIDER DISAPPEARS.

A Wiley Little Creature That Understands the Science of Revolution.

On the borders of the Everglades you often see a large yellow spider. He swings a strong web from two pliant twigs on each side of a path of clear space of ground and waits for his prey. The web is in the shape of a hammock, and tapers at each end to a fine point, though quite broad in the middle. The bright color of the owner seems to mark him out for destruction—he is clearly defined against the white sand or dead leaves, and you wonder what he would do for defense in case of attack. Approach quietly and he watches you intently. Now raise your hand suddenly and he will disappear. While you are wondering what became of him you see first a blur where he had been, then several spiders, then you catch sight again of the yellow ball you noticed at first. Repeat the performance and the stage effect is renewed. The disappearance is absolute—there can be no doubt about it, and the little magician trusts to it entirely for his protection. How is it done? As soon as he is threatened he starts the vibrations of his airy hammock; these become too rapid for the eye to follow, and he vanishes. As these become slower you see a blur, and then several spiders as the eyes catches him at different points of his swing, until finally he rests before you.—Florida Citizen.

A Locomotive's Health.

Locomotives, like human beings, have their ailments, many of which defy the skill of those deputed to look after them. We hear of tired razors, a simple complaint which vanishes after a brief period of repose, but locomotives are apt to betray indisposition even after a day's rest and much oiling of the various parts. Two good engines may be made on the most approved principle. They may each cost—as those of the London and Northwestern railway do—£2,200, and yet one will exhibit from the first a hardness of constitution altogether wanting in its companion. A first-class locomotive, of 300 horse-power, costing £2,000, is expected to travel during its life 200,000 miles, or, say, 13,000 miles per annum for fifteen years; yet now and then an engine is found so impervious to the assaults of time as to be able in its old age to do its daily work with all the zest and vigor of a youngster.—Toronto Mail.

Electricity and Singing.

M. Granter reports to the Paris Academie de Medicine that a singing voice may be made more full and clear, less rapidly tired and the quality much more agreeable by the singer sitting upon an isolated stool coupled to the negative pole of a static electric machine and breathing the atmosphere electrified by means of a brush electrode for a short time.—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Mother—What did your father say when he saw his broken pipe? Innocent—Shall I leave out the wicked words, mamma? Mother—Certainly. Innocent—Then I don't believe there is anything to tell you, mamma.—Answers.

DOGS FOR THE KLONDIKE.

Agents Buying the Canines to Send to the Gold Fields.

TRAINED TO DRAW HEAVY SLEDS.

One of the most unique and interesting projects to which the discovery of the Alaskan gold fields has given birth came to light Thursday when it was learned that the Philadelphia agents of a Seattle firm are purchasing and training dogs in that city for use next spring in the Klondike region. Seventy-two canines suitable for the purpose have been quietly bought up during the past three weeks, and are now in training quarters at Gray's lane and the Pennsylvania Railroad, where they are being taught to drive in harness and to pull heavy loads. Negotiations have been closed for 100 more from parties in New York and Boston and for a car load of another hundred from a source which has not yet been divulged. Altogether, the agents expect to have 300 well broken dogs ready for shipment from Philadelphia by March.

Those who are interested in the enterprise as representatives of the western concern are J. L. Buck, of No. 331 South Second street, and Fred A. Robinson, of No. 2316 South Trent street. While they are engaged in buying and training dogs at Philadelphia, other agents are operating in Chicago and elsewhere in a similar manner, for it was found that a sufficient number of canines of suitable character could not be secured in the west.

THE KIND OF DOGS REQUIRED.

None but large long-haired animals are being used, as small dogs would not have the strength necessary to drag the sleds and outfits of the miners who will leave for the Klondike next spring, and those with short hair could not stand the cold weather of the Alaskan region. The 72 already secured are principally Newfoundland, St. Bernards, shepherds, mastiffs, and other big dogs. Their average weight when ready for delivery after graduating from the "Point Breeze Training School" will be about 75 pounds. All of those used will have to be between 1 1/2 and 3 years of age, for younger animals are not sufficiently strong, and older ones have not sufficiently good teeth to masticate the raw meat upon which they will be fed upon arrival at their destination.

The building in which the canines are being trained was formerly used as the winter stable for horses belonging to Adam Forepaugh's circus. The present occupants are kept in a big room, 50 by 60 feet, on the second floor, where they are chained about the sides and to posts in the center. They sleep on beds of hay, and are fed twice a day; once in the morning, and again after their day's work is done.

JEALOUS RIVALS—Cannot turn back the tide. The demand for Dr. Agnew's little Pills is a marvel. Cheap to buy, but diamonds in quality—banish nausea, coated tongue, water brash, pain after eating, sick headache, never gripe, operate pleasantly. 10 cents.—44.

Sold by C. A. Klein.

Lippincott's Magazine for December, 1897.

The complete novel in the December issue of Lippincott's is "Poor Chola," by Julia P. Dabney. The scene is an unfamiliar one—Tineriffe, in the Canary Islands; the story is full of local color, interest and pathos; the plot is far from commonplace.

"The Consolation of Gamaliel," by Marion Manville Pope, is the quaint tale of a Missouri farmer whose humanity extended even to "bugs." Joseph A. Altscheler, in "The Red Light," deals with a supposed episode of the war of 1812. The "Dr. Feix" of whom Francis Lynde writes rose from obscurity to local fame and fortune by prescribing for cats and dogs, not knowing that his patients were not human.

A timely article on "Gold-mining in North America," from California to the Klondike, comes from George Ethelbert Walsh. Charles Dudley Rhodes, U. S. A., writes with knowledge and affection of "Uncle Sam's Four-Footed Friends," i. e., cavalry horses and pack-mules.

W. A. Curtis inquires, "Who are the Greeks?" and shows reason for believing that they are really descendants of the Greeks of old. A yet more ancient theme, "Egyptians Queens," is handled by Leigh North.

"A Forgotten Grace," described by Annie Steger Winston, is that which used to be called Sensibility. Emily Tolman writes on "The Club Movement among Women," and Francis J. Ziegler on "Beards and Barbers."

The second of Theodore F. Wolfe's papers on "Some Literary Shrines of Manhattan" deals with those "About and Above City Hall Park."

The poetry of the number is by Martha T. Tyler, Emma C. Dowd, Calvin Dill Wilson and Madison Cawein.

Just try a 10c. box of Cascarets, the finest liver and bowel regulator ever made. 4-17

REASONS FOR USING Walter Baker & Co.'s Breakfast Cocoa. 1. Because it is absolutely pure. 2. Because it is not made by the so-called Dutch Process in which chemicals are used. 3. Because beans of the finest quality are used. 4. Because it is made by a method which preserves unimpaired the exquisite natural flavor and odor of the beans. 5. Because it is the most economical, costing less than one cent a cup. Be sure that you get the genuine article made by WALTER BAKER & CO. LTD., DORCHESTER, MASS. ESTABLISHED 1780.

ALEXANDER BROTHERS & CO. DEALERS IN Cigars, Tobacco, Candies, Fruits and Nuts. SOLE AGENTS FOR Henry Maillard's Fine Candies. Fresh Every Week. PENNY GOODS A SPECIALTY. SOLE AGENTS FOR F. F. Adams & Co's Fine Cut Chewing Tobacco. Sole agents for the following brands of Cigars: Henry Clay, Londres, Normal, Indian Princess, Samson, Silver Ash. Bloomsburg Pa.

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF CARPET, MATTING, or OIL CLOTH, YOU WILL FIND A NICE LINE AT W. H. BROWER'S 2nd Door above Court House. A large lot of Window Curtains in stock.

National Guard Reservation. Recommendations Contained in the Report of Captain Paxton. Captain Alexis R. Paxton, Fifteenth Infantry, U. S. A., attached to the headquarters of the National Guard of Pennsylvania, has forwarded to Secretary of War Alger a statement showing the condition of the Guard. The Captain states that the officers have reached out to a character of exercises which demand annual divisional encampments. Captain Paxton thinks Pennsylvania is rich enough to own a military reservation large enough and of sufficient topographical features, adapted to formation, for marches of large bodies of troops, to maneuver for taking up a position for battle and to the development and following up of an attack by the whole division. He reports that the department of instruction in rifle practice has undergone great improvement in the last few years, and that Colonel Asher Miner, of Wilkesbarre, inspector general of rifle practice, has established a standard of honest work, which is looked up to with respect by the Guard in general.

ONE SHORT PUFF CLEARS THE HEAD—Does your head ache? Have you pains over your eyes? Is there a constant dropping in the throat? Is the breath offensive. These are certain symptoms of Catarrh. Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder will cure most stubborn cases in a marvellously short time. If you've had Catarrh a week it's a sure cure. If it's of fifty years standing it's just as effective.—42. Sold by C. A. Klein.

And now a company has been organized, with an immense capital, to extract gold from the waters in the ocean. Probably it was the yellow metal that attracted McGinty when he went to the bottom. Rev. Prescott F. Jernegan, of Middletown, Ct. professes to have invented a process whereby he can extract gold and silver from sea water. So far he has kept the process a profound secret, but it is claimed that in 150 tests made there was no appreciable difference in the quantitative presence of gold and silver in the deep sea brine. The tests so far have shown, it is claimed, from one-half to one grain of gold to a ton of water, or 75,000,000,000 tons of gold in all the waters of the ocean. The amount of silver is from one to two grains per ton of water. What next?

Who are injured by the use of coffee. Recently there has been placed in all the grocery stores a new preparation called GRAIN O, made of pure grains, that takes the place of coffee. The most delicate stomach receives it without distress, and but few can tell it from coffee. It does not cost over 1/4 as much. Children may drink it with great benefit. 15c and 25c per package. Try it. Ask for GRAIN O. 11-11-4td

Some people marry bad luck, and others inherit it.

FROM INGENIOUS BRAINS. Hat pins are prevented from slipping out of the hat by means of a spiral portion near the head of the pin to screw into the hat after the pin is pushed in. Fountain brushes for painting are made with a socket in place of a handle, and screw over the neck of a paint can, from which paint feeds through an orifice into the bristles. Bicycle pedals are being made with an adjustable extension at the rear to slide into the hollow of the shoe next to the heel and prevent the foot from slipping forward on the pedal. To prevent the freezing of running water in pipes globules of heated air are forced into the pipe at short intervals to warm the pipes and keep the temperature above the freezing point. A new center board for yachts is hinged to the keel of the boat and controlled by a lever to counteract the tendency of the boat to keel over under the wind pressure acting upon the sails. In a new combined cane and umbrella the stick is made hollow to contain the framework and cover of the umbrella, which are of such shape that they can be closed into a very small space. To prevent the overflow of water in a new gravity filter a rod runs downward through the valve and ends in a hollow ball, which rises and shuts off the supply as soon as the lower chamber is full. To assist in mending the punctures on the road a spirit lamp is attached to a rod for burning out the puncture holes so the plug will fit, the bicycle pump being used to blow the flame and heat the rod. A new cooking utensil has slots in opposite sides of the interior to support a semi-circular vessel having a ball and cover, thus permitting its use for cooking meat and vegetables at the same time without mixing. A combined fountain pen and clinic thermometer has been invented for doctor's use, consisting of a double cylinder with a place for the thermometer in the inner one and a reservoir between the two to contain ink. To indicate that the contents have been tampered with or that it has been refilled a new bottle has a double neck forming a chamber, in which is placed a paper or other material which will change color as soon as the liquid touches it. Two Pennsylvanians have patented a fruit picker, consisting of a pole with a steel loop at the top, having the upper edge sharpened and bent inward to cut the fruit from the limb. A loosely woven tube made of cords is attached to the under side of the loop and extends down to the lower end of the pole to break the fall of the fruit.

DR. AGNEW'S OINTMENT CURES PILES.—Itching, Bleeding, and Blind Piles. Comfort in one application. It cures in three to six nights. It cures all skin diseases in young and old. A remedy beyond compare, and it never fails. 35 cents.—43. Sold by C. A. Klein.