EXPLORERS IN THE PACIFIC.

Spanish Ships Cruised for Years But Discovered Nothing,

Spanish Ships Cruised for Years But Discovered Nothing;

The first European explorer who looked down upon the broad waters of the Pacific saw them stretched away calm and unruffied into the apparently endless distance of the south, and it was from this circumstance that the greatest of the oceans got the two names by which it has ever since been known, of the Pacific and the South sea. We can fancy what visions of wonders hidden behind that vale of sea mist must have floated before the imagination of Balbaa on that peak in Darien when he fell upon his knees and thanked God that it had fallen to his lot to make the great discovery. It is easy to suppose that his imagination pictured new continents rising out of the vast expanse of ocean containing empires greater than Cortez found in Mexico and treasures more rich than were ever dreamed of by the Incas of Peru and whatever these might be they were all the inheritance of Spain. But whatever those dreams may have been, it is certain they were doomed to disappointment. In the first century that followed the discovery of the gread ocean indeed, a good many of the adventurous ships of Spain sailed the waters of the South sea, but their efforts ended in failure for the most part; the reports they brought back from their voyages were for the most part; the reports they brought back from their voyages were for the most part of sea—nothing but sea. One or two, indeed, discovered and landed upon islands, but not one ever reached the shores of the only continent that lay hidden in the unknown waters of the South sea.

It is easy to understand their experimence when we look at a man of that.

hidden in the unknown waters of the South sea.

It is easy to understand their experience when we look at a map of that part of the world. for we shall find that a line drawn around the pole 10 degrees south of the equator would pass through more than 20,000 miles of occan and less than 4,000 of land. South of this line the only large pieces of land are the south point of Africa and the narrowest part of South America and the narrowest part of South America and the island continent of Australia. Except the island of Madagascar, there is no land of any considerable extent in all the great expanse of the Indian ocean, and the still more vast extent of the south Pacific is only dotted here and there by groups of beautiful but widely scattered islands, lovely in form and lavishly endowed with a marvelous variety of natural productions, but so diminutive in size that they must be sought with all the advantages of modern science in the vast wilderness of ocean by which they are urrounded.—Harper's Round Table.

Potatoes.

Potatoes, native to Peru, were discovered by the Spaniards in the neighborhood of Quito, where they were cultivated by the natives. Condor a monk, first introduced them into Spain, whence they passed into Italy and thence to Belgium. Humboldt says that they were cultivated in all the parts of the continent, from Chili to New Grenada, but not in Mexico. In 1585 potatoes were taken from North Carolina and Virginia, on the return of the colonists sent out by Sir Walter Raleigh. and were first cultivated on his estate near Cork. The sweet potatoes, natives of the West Indies, were given to Columbus by the natives of Cuba, they were introduced into England by Sir Francis Drake, who wrote of them in praise, but forgot to send instruction to eat only the root. The gardener of Queen Elizabeth planted them, and ate some of the tops. Being disgusted by the taste, he pulled up his crop, made a fire of the pile, was attracted by the pleasant odor of the burning tubers, picked up a root, ate it, and, being pleased with the taste, continued the cultivation and introduced then to the notice of others.—Lippincott's.

He Prefers the Old Version A story is told of Mr. Gladstone and

A story is told of Mr. Gladstone and a prominent government official, who at one time was the ex-primier's private secretary. They were discussing the revised version of the New Testament, and the official expressed a strong opinion that the new rendering was inferior to the old. "Indeed," said Mr. Gladstone. "do you really think so? Can you give me an example?"
"! certainly can," the official answered, "Look at the first verse of the second chapter of St. Luke. In the old version it ran thus: "There went out a decree from Ceasar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. That, now, was a magnificient idea worthy of a great ecprice—taxing the whole world by a single act. But in the revised version I find: "There went out a decree that all the world should be ensoled—a mere taking of the census, the kind of a thing the local government board could do. Can anyone doubt that the old version is finer than the new?"—Golden Penny.

Quite a Difference.

Quite a Difference The great fire in 1872 in Bestom burned over sixty acres, and entailed a loss of sixty million dollars, or a million an acre. The great fire in London in 1666 swept over four hundred and thirty-six acres, and destroyed property, to the amount of thirty-five million dollars, or eighty thousand dollars an acre. In the latter case the fire raged in the dwelling section as well as the acre. In the latter case the are raged in the dwelling section as well as the mercantile, still the comparison affords an idea of the increase in values in modern cities. A fire covering the same territory in Boston to-day as was burned twenty-five years ago, would cost one hundred million dollars at the minimum. On the two and one-half scree burned over in April, 1893, the less was three million five hundred thousand dollars. antile, still the comparison affords

thousand dollars.

How Big a State Missouri Is.

One of that greatest tier of states reaching from East to West across the country, begining with New York and Pennsylvania, with Ohio, Indiana and Illinois following in order, is the state of Missouri. In the scale of population Missouri is fifth in the Union. In area it much exceeds any of, the states named, the number of square miles standing in this order: Missouri, 69,415; Illinois, 56,650; New York, 49,170; Pennsylvania, 45,215; Ohio, 41,060, and Indiana, 36,350. The most lordly rivers of the continent are geographically part of Missouri. The farms of this state are productive on a vast scale, its minerals are immensely valuable and its manufacturing industries are developing in every direction.

ECHO OF THE PASSION PLAY

Wonderful Realism of James O' Neill's Make Up.

"Fifteen years ago," said an old Cleveland playgoer, "James O'Neill and William Seymour were both members of the famous stock organization at Baldwin's theatre, San Francisco. It was during the third year of Mr. O'-Neill's atzy as leading man at the Baldwin that he appeared as Christ in Saimt Morse's "Possion Play." Seymour who played the part of the 'inspired messenger,' talked the other day about the performance, which was the only time the Oberammergau spectale was imitated in this country. He said:

"Tom Maguire was manager at the Baldwin at the time and requested O'Neill to play the part of Christ. At first O'Neill refused, elthough, according to the terms of the contract, he was compelled to play any part assigned him by the management. O'Neill heard, however, that Salmi Morse's play had been approved by Bishop Allemani of the Catholic church of California, and then consented to impersonate the character. O'Neil was known among the members of the company as a good fellow and one willing to "take and give" in the war of jests and jokes. On the evening of the first performance of the "Passion Play" I approached O'Neill as he came out of his dressing room for the first act to crack a joke with him. The joke died on my lips I thought I stood in the presence of our Savior, so perfect was O'Neill's make-up. Everybody, even the rough stage hands, passed him in silence, paying a forced tribute to the holiness of his appearance. Really, to O'Neill, that performance was not acting, it was devotion. He spoke the lines with all due reverence to their sacred meaning, and the whole performance was in the nature of a great biblical lesson. Rough reverence to their sacred meaning, and the whole performance was in the na-ture of a great bibical lesson. Rough

the whole performance was in the nature of a great bibical lesson. Rough miners in the audience were seen to fall on their knees and pray, while the women were unable to restrain their tears. It was surely the most impressive stage representation I ever took part in or witnessed. On the day after the tenth performance the whole company was arrested and brought before a magistrate. O'Neill was fined \$50, while the 12 apostles were fined only \$5 aplece, that being in the mind of the magistrate, the difference between Christ and his diciples. After the play was taken off in San Francisco, Mr. Stetson decided to produce it in New York at Booth's theatre. But the sentiment of the pulpit and press were against it, and the production was abandoned. After the production in San Francisco, O'Neill exchanged pictures with Mayer, the German actor who played the part in Oberammergau, and it was hardly possifie to tell who was O'Neill and who was Mayer, so much did both resemble the picture with which we are all familiar. The only authentic picture of the whole performance is, I believe, the oil painting owned by Mr. O'Neill, which represents himself and the company in the scene of the Lord's Supper.'"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

land Plain Dealer.

Augers Are Not Horses.

Everybody knew Mr, Hastings, just as everybody knew Mr, Smith, but the two men were of different report. Mr. Smith was known for the hand that helps and the word that cheers as no other man in the neighborhood; while for crabbed ill nature and closeness that rivalled the clinging of the bark unto the tree, Mr. Hastings bore the palm. In fact, the only neighbor he had anything to do with was Mr. Smith; but then Mr. Smith would have been on friendly terms with any son of Xantippe who had happened to live next door.

next door.

It chanced one day that Mr. Smith needed a certain kind of auger that he didn't have. He knew, however, that Neighbor Hastings had the very thing he wanted, so he went over and asked to borrow it.

to borrow it.

Now, it was a new auger and was carefully cherished in a buckskin bag in the most secret compartment of Mr. Hastings's tool chest, and to consign that glittering sharpness even to the careful hand of his best beloved neighbor was more than he could do. He wouldn't lend it.

Mr. Smith went home with a twinkle in his eye and no malice in his soul and waited.

waited.

A few days later Mr. Hastings had occasion to go to a town ten miles away, and the matter was urgent. His old mare had gone lame, so he went to his accommodating neighbor in his difficulty.

"A horse you want?" said Mr. Smith. while the twinkle in his eye was strangely suggestive of the tool of rankling memory.

"You'd better ride your auger."

But Mr. Hastings got the horse.—

But Mr. Hastings got the horse.— Chicago Chonicle. Clouds You Can't See

Did you ever realize that rain-clouds are sometimes quite invisible? When the bky above is bluest and clearest great masses of rainy vapor may yet be passing over. This is proved by the clouds you may notice round high peaks in mountainous countries. You will often on a clear day see the crest

of a lofty mountain enveloped in a mist like the smoke of a volcano. rain-cloud is invisible until it is cooled beyond a certain point. It is not until it strikes the cold rocks or snows of the mountain that it is chilled suffic-fertly to make it visible. Thus, mountain peaks are the best kind of barom eters, for they announce to the dwellers in the valleys beneath when the atmosphere is getting saturated and rain may be expected.—Answers.

Poor Little Town Some people are as modest about their place of abode as others are vain

of theirs.

An Irishwoman from the country was wandering about in a lost way in a great railway station; presently she ventured to approach a gentleman and to say to him:

"Ah now, sorr—would ye have the goodness to tell me which is me train?" "But where are you going ma'am?" the man asked.

'An' sure, now, why should I be tell-"An' sure, now, why should I be tell-in' ye that, sorr? Sure ye wouldn't know no betther where I'm goin'—the poor little bit of a town that it is, sorr, that the likes of you niver heard of in all your life!"—Northern Ensign. THE RETORT COURTEOUS.

Some Clever Answers to Offensive Remarks. Clever answers to offensive questions or remarks stand in a category of their It is by no means so easy some imagine to reply to an insulting some imagine to reply to an insulting tpeech in such a manner on the spur of the moment so as to carry off the honors of war. But there are some on record which, old as they are, have not been surpassed, and may bear repetition in any age which has an enormous number of merely "up-to-date" readers. Such is the rejoinders of the Swiss guard to the Frenchman who sneeringly remarked that the French fought for honor, the Swiss for gold. "Yes; each, nation fights for what it most needs." Such was that of the wayfarer in the London streets of the early part of the last century, when paving stones were unknown and illthy kennels marked the limit between path and roadway, who met a bully hand on sword hilt and swaggeringly declaring that he never gave the walk to a blackguard, whereupon the other, with a bow, stepped into the roadway, pleasantly remarking: "I always do." And the pert young coxcomb who said to the silent saturnine Swift: "I would have you know Mr. Dean, that I sit upon for a wit." must have been sorry he spoke when the answer came like a rapler thrust: "Do you, sir? Then I advise you to sit down again." As may be supposed, the most difficult answer of all to achieve to perfection is that made to monarchs, especially when the royal question or remark has been a disagreeable one. The physician Zimmerman scored in this respect with Frederick the Great, who remarked sourly to him, "Zimmerman, I suppose you have in your time helped many a man into the other world!" Zimmerman turned with a quick retort, "Not so many as your majesty," The king stared at this freedom, "nor with so much honor to myself," neatly continued the bowing physician.

"Now, young man," said the irate tandowner to an officer from the neighboring garrison, whom he met strolling over his manor, and knocking over n the dost accurate right and left fashion whatever he came acroes, "if you met a man irroth with some a man irropassing on your property, and killing your game, what would you do with him?" and cyldentity thought this was a poser.

A Fortunate Accident.



"Col. Boleybug is one of the luckiest men I know. He was in a railroad accident last week and had the good fortune to lose his right arm," said Gilhooly to Pete Amsterdam.
"Do you call it good luck for a man to lose his right arm?" asked Pete.
"Yes, Boleybug is left-handed."

A Fable.

A Civilized Country was appealed to for Assistance by an Armenian, who was about to meet Death at the Hands of a Savage and Mohammedan Turk.

'You are indeed Unfortunate," said the Civilized Country, "and it makes my Blood Boil to think that you should have to be slaughtered by a Savage and a Mohammedan. I am thinking of sending Gunboats to your Relief, or, at the very least, a Missionary." Within the Hour the Civilized Country was appealed to for Assistance by a Cuban, who was about to be slaughtered by a Savage Christian Spaniard. "I cannot help you," said the Civilized Country, "and your Plight is not so Desperate, after all, as you are about to have the Pleasure of being exterminated by a Co-religionist."

Moral: It hurts less to be murdered by a Christian than by a Mohammedan. -Chicago Journal.

"Yes, "y son," replied the father,
"And will the cannibals go there,
"o?" queried the youthful student.
"No," was the reply.

too;" ageried the youthful student.
"No," was the reply.
After thinking the matter over for come time the little fellow exclaimed:
"Well, I don't see how the missionary can go to heaven if the cannibals don't, when he's inside the cannibals."—Troy

A Resolution Worth Keeping.

The one New Year resolution which ought to be kept above al others is the one which pledges its maker to pay his debts. If every American would in the current week pay off as much of his indebtedness as it is possible for him to pay, times would speedily become so good that calamity howling would expire from sheer shame.—Scranton Tribune.

William Tell—She's had many a young man at her feet.

Miss Spyte—Of course, when she buys a new pair of shees.—Yonkers Statesman.

SOTENTIFIC SCRAPS

All the land above sea level would ot fill up more than one-third of the Atlantic ocean.

Boston's highest tide was April 16, 1851. It rose to 15.66 feet, and was 33 over the coping of navy yard dry dock.

Sweden is about to undertake the measurement of a degree of latitude within the Arctic circle. An expedition will be sent out in May to make a preliminary survey.

It has been recently claimed that iron ships fitted with electric plants suffer rapid deterioration of their pipes having direct connection with

Adding pencils are being made which have a sliding register plate set in the side of the pencil case to be raised by pressing the point of the pencil against the paper or desk and register any number of points.

A Parisian opthalmologist says that the incandescent electric light is the least harmful to the eyes of all artificial light. Next comes the light of a good kerosene lamp, after that candles, and the worst of all ordinary

Two Englishmen have invented a pneumatic tire for wagons and bicycles which will not puncture, as only a solid or cushion tire rests on the ground, two small inflatable tubes being set in the bottom of the Ushaped rim to back the outside tire.

Science announces that the Austrian steamship Pola has gone to the Red sea for scientific explorations, and will this year cover the ground between Dschedda and Aden. Dr. Franz Steindachner, the ichthyologist, has charge of the zoological work, and observations will also be made in physical oceanography.

A Good Remedy for Boils.

"I never knew what a boil was until recently I have been afflicted with a number of these disagreeable erup-tions. I began taking Hood's Sarsa-parilla and in a short time it purified my blood and the boils entirely disappeared and I have not had any trouble with them since." CLARENCE HERTZ, Hazleton, Pa.

Hood's Pills are easy to take, easy to operate. Cure indigestion, head

Home For Williamsport.

Williamsport is to have another industrial institution, to be known as the Boys' Industrial Home, and is to be connected with the Girls' Industrial Home, on East Third street. For some time past T. P. S. Wilson, of the Girls' Industrial Home and the City Mission, and several charitable persons of that city, have had the plan for the new home under consideration.

The new home will be erected in the vicinity of the Girls' Home and will cost \$4000. It will accommodate from twenty-five to one hundred boys. The City Mission Board is at the

head of the movement. The present plan is to turn the new home into a toy factory.

One Corporation Allowed to Go \$6,500, 000 Short on a Debt to the Government.

The administration's dealing with The administration's dealing with the Kansas Pacific, having agreed to settle a thirteen million debt for half that sum, is regarded as a great vic-tory for the jobbers and the corporation. At the last moment, after having stood out for full payment, the attorney general telegraphed from Washington to accept the half-pay proposition. The effect of this is seen in the advance of Kansas Pacific bonds from below par in ten days to 115. There is prospect of an interesting talk over this in Congress during the week. The close alliance of McKinley with the corporation inter est is seen in almost everything that he does in which government finan-cial interests are involved against those of the great corporations that elected him. Gratitude is certainly one of the major's virtues, but the people suffer. There has never been a President in our history who has made such a bold dash for a renomi-A Puzzler.

A little boy read in a Sunday school paper the story of a missionary having been eaten by cannibals. "Papa," he asked, "will the missionary go to heaven?" He believes in protec tion of that kind .- Pittsburg Post.

Heart Spasms

DR. AGNEW'S Cure for the Heart a Worderful Life-Saver.

Guarantees relief in 30 minutes. Sold by C. A. Kleim.

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The Twentieth Century.

There has been considerable news paper discussion as to when the 20th century will begin. The New York Sun settles the question with the following illustration: "The 20th cen-tury will begin at midnight, December 31, 1900, January 1, 1901. If you had 2,000 silver dollars to place in piles containing 100 each, your first ple would end with the number 100; your second pile would begin with 101 and end with 200, and your 20th pile would begin with 1901 and end with 2,000. It is the same way with centuries."

To give you an opportunity of test-ing the great merit of Ely's Cream Balm, the most reliable cure for catarrh and cold in the head, a generous
to cent trial size can be had of your druggist or we mail it for 10 cents. ull size 50 cents.

ELY BROS., 56 Warren St., N. Y.

It is the medicine above all others tor catarrh, and is worth its weight in gold. I can use Ely's Cream Balm with safety and it does all that is claim ed for it.—B. W. Sperry, Hartford, Conn.

The first trial trips on the "electric rack railway up the Corner Grat, near Zermatt, were recently carried out in the presence of the inspectors of the Swiss Railway department. The sec-tion completed has a length of 1600 meters and a gradient of twelve per cent. The tests were satisfactory, both the ascent and descent being effected without the slightest difficulty, the motors holding the locomotive perfectly to its proper upeed. Starting on the maximum gradient with a fully loaded train was also effected with

A Few Useful Hints

Here are some new things we ught to know: That chloride of lime spread around wherever rats frequent will abolish them. That a teaspoonful of vinegar put into the water in which tough meat or fowl is to be boiled will make them tender.

That in cutting warm bread or cake a warm knife should be used. That perfect rest may be had by spreading a small sheet on the floor and lying flat down so that every muscle may relax. That by changing your seat frequently when sewing you will avoid extreme weariness. That a damp cloth will remove dust from furniture far better than a dry duster. That a solu-tion of copperas should be trequently poured through all drain pipes.

SCEPTICS TURN BELIEVERS AND ARE CURED.—"When I read that Dr. Agnew's Catarrhal Powder could relieve Catarrn in 10 minutes I was far front being convinced. I tried it—a single-puff through the blower afforded in-stant relief, stopped pain over the eyes and clearsed the nasal passages. To-day I am free from catarrh," B. L. Eagan's (Easton, Pa.,) experience has been that of thousands of others

and may be yours.—10.
Sold by C. A. Kleim.

Three specimens of the rare white partridge (Perdix cinerea) were recently exhibited at a meeting of the Linnaean society, in London. All were shot early in October by Leonard Lush of Gloucestershire, while hunting in the Berwyn mountains, in Wales. remarkable fact was that of a cover of nine birds scared up by the hunter all but four were albions, the rest being of the normal color.

