

WINE SPOILED BY AGE.

Champagne Becomes Unfit to Drink if Stored Away in Cellars Too Long.

"There is such a thing as a wine being too old," said a member of the board of trade, reports the New Orleans Times-Democrat. "I had that illustrated at my house the other day under rather interesting circumstances. Back in 1848 Gen. John M. Lewis, who was then sheriff and afterward mayor of New Orleans, gave my uncle a basket of four-year-old champagne. My uncle afterward moved north, taking that and other wines with him, and on his death, in the early 60's, the basket was still intact. There had possibly been some agreement about opening it at a certain time, and, at any rate, the champagne remained in the family cellar untouched and only last month my cousin, now in New York, broke the lot and sent me down four bottles. I was naturally curious to know how the old wine would look and taste, and a few days ago, on the occasion of a little anniversary at our house, I opened one of the bottles. I had considerable difficulty in removing the cork without breaking it, but it finally gave way. There was not a vestige of pop and the wine ran out perfectly dead and limp. It was pale amber in color and had a faint, pleasant bouquet, but the imprisoned gas that had once given it life and sparkle was gone forever. It was interesting as a relic, but not fit to drink, and some friends who are connoisseurs said that it had evidently been deteriorating since 1870. It's a great pity my northern relatives held it in too much veneration to sample it about that time."

TO STOP BLEEDING.

Electricity Now Declared to Be the Most Efficacious Measure Employed.

The arresting of bleeding in surgical operations has always been one of the difficulties in certain cases, and the electric current has been used before this with a view to bringing about that condition of heat which is necessary in order to cause the blood to clot and so act as a block to the mouth of bleeding vessels, arresting hemorrhage.

This, indeed, has resulted in the utilization of the electric cautery, as it is called, in certain operations, the platinum wire at a red or almost white heat even supplanting the knife, because it burns through the tissues and at the same time prevents the wound bleeding to any great extent. This effect of heat was, indeed, known to our ancestors, who used red-hot irons or boiling pitch to sear the surface of the flesh after their operations, thus causing an immense amount of suffering to the patient, before the days of chloroform.

A new adaptation of this use of electricity for the purpose of stopping bleeding has been devised by inclosing a platinum wire in a pair of forceps or other instrument, the wire being insulated in a bed of burnt pipe clay, and as soon as the bleeding vessel is seized by the forceps and compressed in the ordinary way an electric current is turned on, whose effect is so great that the tissues and the walls of the blood vessels are all agglutinated, so that the blood is no longer able to pass.

WOOD EMITS SWEET TONES.

A South American Tree from Which the Natives Make Instruments.

A Chicagoan recently returned from a protracted visit to South America relates that the Indians in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia make an excellent musical instrument out of the wood of the *hormaguilla*, a tree that grows abundantly in those countries. The instrument is on the principle of the well-known xylophone, only that underneath each piece they construct a sounding box of the same wood, varying in size to the note to be augmented and sustained. Some of these instruments are mounted on stands and have as many as 45 tones. These large instruments are played by four and five operators. The tones are quite unlike those of the xylophone, as they are not short and sharp, but are sustained by the sounding boxes, so that at a short distance they give the impression more of an organ than even a piano. Expert operators play opera pieces and the latest music upon the large instruments with most remarkable effect. This instrument is said to be a very old one, tradition dating it back to the days of the Incas, being one of the few remaining evidences of the old prehistoric civilizations. A party of Peruvians lately traveled through Mexico with one of these large instruments and created quite a sensation among the music-loving Mexicans.

French Romance of To-Day.

People in England are constantly complaining that French novels are not what they were, says a writer in the contemporary. And this is true; the rope is slighter, and the quality has abruptly varied. "Ye cannot gather grapes of thistles." A few months ago one of the first of French novelists told me how impossible he found it to lose himself in an imaginary world while such ominous rumors fill the streets of Paris. The intricate Chinese puzzle of fashionable psychology seems, after all, a trivial thing compared to the tremendous issues of reality. And if the author feels this, judge of the sentiments of the reader! The effect of the *affaire Dreyfus* on literature has been the sudden disappearance of the roman-a-trois, the old provincial theme of the married lady, her husband and her lover. After a brilliant renaissance, after occupying almost the whole area of fiction, this theme has subsided, and if people read and write novels still, so a certain extent, these novels, or at any rate, the best of them, have a wholly different motive, interest, and intent.

FATHER OF MASONRY.

Mr. Christian Frederick Knapp, of Bloomsburg, Pa.—An Almost Unparalleled Record.

One of the foremost figures in Masonic circles in the United States, and the foremost in Pennsylvania, is Mr. Christian Frederick Knapp, of Bloomsburg. None is better versed in the mysteries of Masonry than Mr. Knapp, whose life has been almost entirely devoted to furthering the interests of that ancient order. Beginning with the first step in Masonry he has held almost every office within its jurisdiction, and, in 1870, received the order of Grand Cross, a distinction enjoyed by but 50 living members in any one nation. Socially and fraternally his friends are legion, and during his Masonic career he has been feted and banqueted innumerable times. Many handsome presents of which he has been the recipient bespeak in a small measure the esteem in which he is held Masonically.

Certainly nothing so fittingly expresses Mr. Knapp's standing than the title, "The Father of Masonry," by which he is known throughout the length and breadth of the land. Mr. Knapp is of German parentage, being born in the city of Besigheim, Wurttemberg, Germany, October 12, 1822, the son of John Battas Knapp. When he was but a youth his father came to this country and resided in and near Philadelphia until his death. His father figured quite prominently in the political fortunes of Europe, acting as an aid-de-camp on Napoleon's staff during the memorable Russian campaign, being at the burning of Moscow, and at the battle of Berdine.

Mr. Knapp was well fitted by his father, who was an excellent student, for the prominent part which he has taken during his many years of active work. Prior to establishing himself in the fire insurance business in which he has been engaged for years, he served as deputy revenue collector during Lincoln's administration. Masonically his career began on September 23, 1851, when he received his first degree in Free Masonry in the Danville lodge No. 224, F. & A. M., the second and third degrees following in October and November respectively. He organized the Washington lodge No. 265 of Bloomsburg in January, 1852, resigning from the Danville lodge for that purpose. He was its first junior warden, then worthy master and secretary in quick succession, the latter position being filled by him until the present day. At this time he was appointed by the right worthy grand master as district deputy grand master for the counties of Union, Snyder, Northumberland, Montour, Columbia and Wyoming. After filling this office for eight years he resigned it. The Mark Master degree in Girard Mark lodge, at Philadelphia, was received by him in 1854, those of Most Excellent and Royal Arch degree in the Catawissa chapter No. 178, and of which he served as district deputy grand high priest for six years. In 1869 he obtained a charter for the Bloomsburg chapter No. 218, R.A.W., of which chapter he has served as secretary since its beginning. He was knighted by Charles Blumenthal, grand master, in Park encampment No. 11, K. T., and appendant order on March 6, 1856; in May, 1856, he received a charter for Crusade commandery No. 12, K. T., and was the first eminent command er, serving for three years. In May, 1857, he was elected grand captain general; in 1858, grand generalissimo; in 1859, grand deputy grand commander, and in 1860 grand right eminent grand commander of the Grand commandery of Pennsylvania. From 1862 to 1863, inclusive, he served as grand lecturer of the Knights Templar of Pennsylvania and during 1864 and 1865 he was elected grand division commander of the state.

Mr. Knapp took the Council degrees in Palestine council, No. 9, of R. and S. Masters, at Pottstown, on November 21, 1856, but soon resigned so that he might start a council of S. M. at Bloomsburg. He was made M. P. G. M. of Pennsylvania by Alfred Creigh, L. L. D., and in the same year obtained a charter for Mount Moriah council No. 10. When it was organized he became its second officer, served four years from 1857 as T. I. G. M., and in 1861 was elected recorder, a position which he has since filled. From 1868 until 1876 he served as M. P. G. M. of Pennsylvania, after which he retired.

He took the degrees A. A. S. rite from the fourth to the eighteenth, inclusive, in May, 1856, and at the Harrisburg Consistory the same year from the eighteenth to the thirty-second, inclusive. In May, 1857, he received a charter for Enoch Lodge of Perfection, fourteenth degree, a charter for the Zerrubabel Council, P. of Jer., sixteenth degree, and Evergreen chapter of Rose Croix, eighteenth degree, serving as first officer in each of the bodies for a year, and as secretary for twenty years. He was the first illustrious commander-in-chief, and acted for 26 years for the Caldwell Consistory, T. P. R. T., thirty-second degree. In 1868 he was elected an honorary member of the

Supreme Council and received the thirty third degree at Cincinnati, Ohio, and in 1870 he was elected to the active thirty-third degree and was crowned as such in New York City. For nine years he continued in the active membership and then returned to honorary rank.

Sir Alfred Creigh, L. L. D., of Philadelphia, the Chief Intendant General of the United States, by authority of the imperial council of England, conferred the order of Knights of the Red Cross of Rome and Constantine, Knights of St. John, Viceroy Eusebius, Prince Mason and Holy Sepulcher upon Mr. Knapp in 1870, and gave him a charter for Orient Conclave, No. 1 to be held in Bloomsburg; also enrolling his name on the book of the Imperial Council in London, England. In December, 1872, the Grand Council of Pennsylvania was formed at Reading, and he was elected Grand Viceroy, which position he filled for three years. In 1875 he was elected grand sovereign of the Grand Council of Pennsylvania, and served a year. The Grand Imperial Council of the United States, being formed in June of that year, Mr. Knapp was elected Grand Senior General of that body; was elected Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Imperial Council for the United States in the City of New York, and in 1877 he was elected Grand Master of that body in Rochester, N. Y. In 1874 he received the order of Grand Cross, at the age of 52 years, the distinction which was enjoyed by but 50 living members in the United States. In June, 1877, he was re-elected as the second officer of the Grand Chapter of Grand Crosses, and in 1879 he was elected Grand Master of the Grand Chapter of Grand Crosses. In 1880 he retired from that position.

Such is the almost unparalleled record of one whose life has been so closely and prominently linked with Masonry that he has given Bloomsburg a prestige which she could never otherwise enjoy. Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. Knapp is almost an octogenarian he is as active as a man many years his junior, and no Masonic festive board, wherever it may be, is complete without the genial presence of him who has made Masonry the power that it is in Pennsylvania.—*Williamsport Grit.*

National Export Exposition, Philadelphia.
Reduced Rates Via Pennsylvania Railroad.
The National Export Exposition, which opens at Philadelphia on September 14 and continues until November 30, will be the most interesting and important event occurring in Philadelphia since the Centennial Exhibition of 1876. In addition to its valuable commercial exhibits it will present many features of popular interest and amusement. The United Marine Band, Sousa's Band, the Banda Rosa, Innes' Band, Damrosch's Orchestra, and other celebrated bands will furnish music alternately, and a Midway Pleasance, equal if not superior to the famous World's Fair Midway at Chicago, and comprising a Chinese Village, a Chinese Theatre, acrobats, and customs; an Oriental Village, London Ghost Show, Hagenbecks Wild Animal Show, Blarney Castle; and many other unique presentations, will furnish abundant and diversified amusement. Arrangements have also been made for Mandolin, Guitar, and Banjo Concerts, and for a good chorus from the German Singing Societies.

For this occasion the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will sell excursion tickets from all points on its line, to Philadelphia and return, at rate of a fare and a third for the round trip plus price of admission. These tickets will be sold during the continuance of the Exposition and will be good for return passage until November 30.

For specific rates and additional information apply to nearest Ticket Agent.
8 24 31.
Clement Elected Colonel.
Lieut. Colonel C. M. Clement of Sunbury was on Thursday night elected Colonel of the Twelfth Regiment, defeating Colonel J. B. Coryell who was a candidate for re election. The election was conducted under the supervision of Gen. J. P. S. Gobin the commander of the brigade.

The headquarters of the regiment will now be moved from Williamsport to Sunbury, which fact stirred the residents of the Lumber City into much excitement. The new colony is one of the leading attorneys of Northumberland county. He was born in Sunbury in 1855 and entered the National Guards as a private in 1877. By various and successive promotions he rapidly rose to the command of company in 1882.

In 1896 he became major and in 1898 was elected Lieut. Colonel and as such served with his regiment during the Spanish war.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought

Bears the Signature of *Chas. H. Fletcher*

Old Fashioned Purse.

They Have Come Into Fashion Again and the Homelier the More Popular.

Purses carried by women nowadays are in fancy grains and fancy colors, the grain of the leather giving an appearance of shading, while the edges are bound in a plain shade of the same color or in a contrasting color. These purses are all made in the common patterns, with change and bill compartments.

There is a revival of an old German purse, which is a big flat top pouch when opened and has a flat top frame of steel in four pieces. The sides of the purse are flat and bound with straight pieces of steel, while the leather forms a bag hanging from these side steels. The end steels are half as wide and are hinged to the sidepieces, folding across the top and meeting in the middle with a clasp like a change purse.

When opened wide the whole purse is spread out about eight inches long. There is a place for everything and everything in its place in one big bag. Its bulk, when filled with the usual array of memoranda and samples, must be detrimental to its popularity, as it must be held clasp in the hand, and it makes a pretty good handful.

The popular purse, however, is of the plainest and homeliest type. It is the "finger purse," named from the woman's habit of carrying it with the fingers thrust through the big retaining strap across the front. This purse is made of three plain strips of roughly finished pig skin, making two compartments in the simplest form. One is gusseted for change and the other is a flat pocket for bills. The flap of both compartments slips through a strap across the front piece. The whole is sewed about the edges with harness stitching, with no attempt at ornamentation.

To individualize this purse there are big brass initials, the same as are used in ornamenting brass trimmed sets of harness. These are furnished with retaining pins on the back, which are easily thrust through the leather and pressed down flat.

There is something rich about the appearance of these simple purses, and their oddity has made them most popular among the young folk.—*Chicago Times-Herald.*

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Niagara Falls Excursions.
Low-Rate Vacation Trips via Pennsylvania Railroad.

September 7 and 21 and October 5 and 19 are the dates of the remaining Pennsylvania Railroad popular ten-day excursions to Niagara Falls from Philadelphia, Baltimore, and Washington, and intermediate points.

Excursion tickets, good for return passage on any regular train, exclusive of limited express trains, within ten days, will be sold at \$10.00 from Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, and all points on the Delaware Division; \$11.25 from Atlantic City; \$9.60 from Lancaster; \$8.50 from Altoona and Harrisburg; \$6.90 from Sunbury and Wilkes-Barre; \$5.75 from Williamsport; and at proportionate rates from other points. A stop over will be allowed at Buffalo, Rochester, Canandaigua, and Watkins within the limit returning.

A special train of Pullman parlor cars and day coaches will be run with each excursion. An extra charge will be made for parlor car seats.

An experienced tourist agent and chaperon will accompany each excursion.

Tickets for a side trip to the Thousand Islands (Alexandria Bay) will be sold from Rochester in connection with excursions of September 7 and 21, good to return to Rochester or to Canandaigua via Syracuse within 5 days, at rate \$5.50.

Tickets for a side trip to Toronto will be sold at Niagara Falls for \$1.00 on September 23. In connection with excursion of September 7, tickets will be sold to Toronto and return at reduced rates, account Toronto Fair.

For pamphlets giving full information and hotels, and for time of connecting trains, apply to nearest ticket agent, or address Geo. W. Boyd, Assistant General Passenger Agent, Broad St. Station, Philadelphia. (3t24)

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Why Moths Fly Into Flames.
Moths fly against a flame because their eyes can bear only a small amount of light. When, therefore, they come near a flame their sight is overpowered and their vision confused, and as they cannot distinguish objects they pursue the light itself and fly against the flame.

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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.

It is feared that the work of Clara Barton as President of the Red Cross, is almost at an end. This has been known among her friends and relatives, although they have until now preserved the utmost secrecy relative to the letters they had received from her while she was in Cuba. Letters received from Miss Barton by her nephew, John H. Stafford, of Oxford, her birthplace and home during all her early life, stated that she had returned from Cuba so broken down in health as to be absolutely unfitted for any more active work at present. She had been not only engaged in arduous labor during her stay in Cuba, but had been planning in an elaborate way for educational work among the children of that island, and had cherished ambitious hopes in that direction. She intimates that her disappointment in that direction is far greater than any physical suffering that might come to her. Her sister, Mrs. J. H. Stafford, who has been visiting her in New York since her return, writes that Miss Barton has grown old in appearance to an alarming degree since she last met her, a little over a year ago. Miss Barton herself acknowledges that her work in Cuba during the hot season has been more trying and difficult than any that she has ever before engaged in. If the truth was known she is completely broke down, and will go to her home in Washington under the most careful treatment. Later, unless her physician interferes, she will probably return to her old home to recuperate.

To Cure Constipation Forever.
Take Cascarets Candy Cathartic, 10c or 25c. If C. C. C. fail to cure, druggists refund money.

James Brandon Dead.
James Brandon, aged 84 years, died last Saturday morning, at his home at Bethel Hill, Fairmount Twp. Mr. Brandon was an industrious, honest, well-to-do farmer, who had lived there sixty odd years. He was a faithful Republican and a member of the M. E. Church. He leaves three sons, H. S., of Pittston, and S. G. and D. C., of Fairmount, and seven daughters, Mrs. Wm. Monroe, of Huntington Mills; Mrs. Wm. C. Shell, Mrs. J. W. Sax and Mrs. John E. Smith, of Fairmount; Mrs. Samuel Rosencrans and Mrs. Harvey Wesley, of Ross. He was a man of sterling qualities and will be missed by many friends, neighbors and relatives.—*Shickshinny Echo.*

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