

THEY NEVER SPEAK.

The Most Austere Order of Nuns Now in Existence.

Women Who Have Vowed a Life Silence—An Incident Showing the Relentless Severity of Their Penitential Rules.

An article in the Wide World Magazine tells of the strictest and most austere order of nuns in the world, who dwell far down in the southwestern corner of France, on the borders of Spain, and under the shadow of the Pyrenees.

Over their heads, and arranged so as almost to conceal their faces, they wear long black woolen hoods, which are rendered the more striking by the great white crosses that are affixed to the backs.

It was the Abbe Cestac, a saintly priest of Bayonne, who founded the convent at Anglet in 1829. At first, owing to lack of funds, the nuns went through every sort of suffering, often having absolutely nothing to eat and no prospect of obtaining anything.



BERNARDINE NUNS. (The Morning Procession to the Refectory.)

are not rich, they can at least provide themselves with the necessities of life. Their needs, after all, are very small. They fast constantly, and when they do eat, their food consists of vegetables, dry bread, and, three times a week, a little—a very little—meat.

Every hour of the day is carefully mapped out, for the rules of the order insist that not a moment shall be wasted. There are constant prayers on every occasion. Each time the big clock of the monastery chimes the hour every nun falls on her knees and spends a few moments in prayer.

The cemetery is as austere-looking as the rest of the nunnery. The graves are the simplest little sandy mounds, huddled close together in the most pathetic way, with a rude cross traced in cockle-shells upon them.

Perhaps the following story will illustrate better than any mere description how minutely the penitential rules of this extraordinary order are obeyed.

Two Bernadines lived side by side for five years in two adjoining cells, and so thin a partition divided them that they could even hear the sound of each other's breathing. All this time they ate at the same table and prayed in the same chapel. At last one of them died, and according to the rule of the order, the dead nun was laid in the chapel, her face uncovered, and the Bernadines filed past, throwing holy water upon the remains as they went.

MARTIN L. SWEET.

He Was a Capitalist for Years, But Now Is Working for Ten Dollars Per Week.

Martin L. Sweet, a former mayor of Grand Rapids and ten years ago looked upon as one of the wealthiest men in western Michigan, now holds the position of garbage weigher at the city crematory at a salary of ten dollars a week.



MARTIN L. SWEET. (Once a Capitalist, Now Works for Ten Dollars a Week.)

position demand his presence at the crematory early in the morning, and the sunrise usually finds him at his post, and in the discharge of his duties he is a model of fidelity.

Mr. Sweet is now 80 years old. He was born in New York state, and as a boy worked in his father's flouring mill. In 1842 he came to Michigan, built mills at Ann Arbor, Dexter and Delhi, and finally in 1846 he came to Grand Rapids, where he purchased a mill and engaged in business for himself manufacturing flour and buying and selling grain.

What became of the substantial fortune which years of shrewd management and hard work had accumulated cannot be explained even by Mr. Sweet himself. It is certain, however, that the good luck which had been his constant attendant for half a century suddenly deserted him, and every venture he went into proved a new disaster. He was the chief promoter of what was known as the Lowell & Hastings railroad, and lost money in it.

RATHER UNFORTUNATE.

A Chicago Street Incident Which Plainly Proves the Perversity of the Bicycle.

Doubtless every person who rides a wheel has a very vivid and distinct recollection of the early struggles with the machine and how objects in the path seemed to exercise an uncontrollable



SCREAMED FOR HELP. (Fair Cyclist Attempts to Pass a Sprinkling Cart.)

attraction for the unskilled rider with the result of a collision.

Probably the saddest case of this kind lately recorded was, according to the Chicago Daily News, that of a stout lady who was practicing on Michigan avenue last Friday afternoon.

She was evidently a beginner and more than half afraid of the bicycle, and when in attempting to pass a sprinkling cart the wheel steered itself toward it she yielded to the bike and rode directly against the rear of the cart. Notwithstanding the fact that the sprinkling apparatus was in full play and that she was almost enveloped in the miniature fountain she held on and pedaled, meanwhile screaming loudly for help.

A park policeman divined her predicament and rode to her rescue, but before her bicycle suit and temper had been completely spoiled.

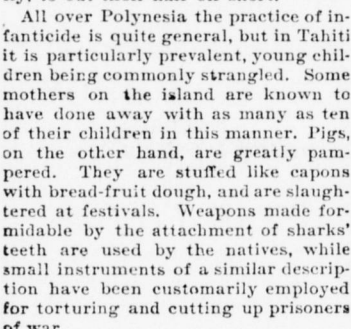
Free Sewing Schools. Free sewing schools will be started by the Prussian government.

SOUTH SEA NATIVES.

To Be Studied by Anthropologists from the United States.

Uncle Sam Deeply Interested in His Ex-Cannibal Neighbors in the Pacific Islands—Tribes to Be Visited.

The United States steamer Albatross, on her scientific trip to the South seas, will take along one or more anthropologists, who will make a special study of the queer and little known peoples which inhabit various groups in Polynesia. A first landing will be made at Tahiti, in the Society islands, where, partly by reason of the extreme fertility of the soil, which furnishes a subsistence without labor, the inhabitants are idle and dissolute.



FIJI ISLAND CANNIBAL. (How He Looks in His Pull Dress Paraphernalia.)

From the Society islands the expedition will go to the Tuamotu archipelago, where studies of the character already indicated will be continued.

Next the Albatross will sail for the Tonga or Friendly islands, far to the west, whose people were ferocious cannibals up to a century ago. On one island of the group the natives until recently used for ornaments the iron nails brought by the famous Capt. Cook for trading purposes, one nail being reckoned as equal in value to a hen.

The natives of Fiji nowadays practice cannibalism only occasionally and on the sly, but in former times they were habitual man-eaters.

The early Tongans were the Phoenicians of Southern Polynesia, being the greatest of savage navigators. The Fijians, whom Prof. Agassiz and his party will visit after leaving Tonga, are great catchers of marine turtles, whose skulls they hang up in their temple as offerings.

The natives of Fiji nowadays practice cannibalism only occasionally and on the sly, but in former times they were habitual man-eaters. They ate prisoners of war as a matter of course, and certain weaker tribes on neighboring islands were compelled to supply a stated number of human victims periodically. Cannibalism was always a feature of every festival, long wooden forks being used at such grisly banquets.

Some of their customs are very curious indeed. The mother-in-law is avoided as much as possible, and custom demands that she shall avoid looking at her son-in-law.

Held a Tiger at Bay. The shah is a mighty hunter, a good shot and an enthusiastic sportsman. Big game is his delight.

Executions in France. In France, when a convict is sentenced to death by the guillotine, the day of his execution is not named in his presence, and he knows not when he is to be led forth until within 15 minutes of the fatal moment.

PRaises FORMER OPPRESSORS.

Aguinaldo Tells His Followers What Good Fellows the Spaniards are and Exhorts Them to Fight Americans.

Manila, July 13.—A copy of the Independence has reached Manila containing the speech which Aguinaldo made during the recent celebration at Farlay of the anniversary of Filipino independence. In substance it is as follows:

"Filipina, beloved daughter of the ardent sun of the tropics, commended by providence to the care of Spain, be not ungrateful to her. Salute her who warmed you with the breath of her own culture and civilization. It is true she sought to crush thy aspiration for independence as a loving mother opposes separation forever from the daughter of her bosom. This but proves the excess of affection Spain feels for thee.

"We shall see at last that the great American nation will acknowledge the right which is on our side. That doctrine of the great Monroe—that America is for Americans—is not forgotten. Just as we affirm that the Philippines are for the Filipinos, some states of the American union have arisen in our favor.

"Let us avoid the example of those natives who, having at one time been colonists, accepted autonomy to enable them to make their work surer once everything was prepared. History has given us an example of this in recent events. Let us persist in our idea which is only the legitimate aspiration of a people which is desirous at all cost to preserve its national honor spotless and pure as a crystal.

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WILL HAVE NO COMPETITOR.

A Score of Tube-Making Plants are Consolidated into One Combine—Employs 25,000 Workmen.

New York, July 13.—Consolidation of the wrought steel, iron and tube industries of the country was effected Wednesday by William N. Cromwell and E. C. Converse, the consolidation purchasers. The new company will be known as the National Tube Co. It is the largest of the kind in the world and is the third in rank as a steel and iron corporation. It is exceeded by only the Krupp and Carnegie interests. The plants controlled are:

- National tube works, McKeesport, Pa. Riverside iron works, blast furnaces, rolling mills and pipe works, Wheeling, W. Va. United States Seamless Tube Co., Christy Park, Va. National rollings mills, McKeesport, Pa. American Tube and Iron Co.'s plants, Youngstown, O., and Middletown, Pa. National Forge and Iron Co., McKeesport, Pa. Pennsylvania tube works, Pittsburg, Pa. Boston Iron and Steel Co., McKeesport, Pa. Allison Manufacturing Co.'s tube mill, Philadelphia. Monongahela furnaces, McKeesport, Pa. Morris Tasker & Co.'s Delaware iron plant, New Castle, Del. Republic iron works, Pittsburg. Oil Well Supply Co.'s Continental tube works and Elba iron works, of Pittsburg. National galvanizing works, Versailles, Pa. Chester Pipe and Tube Co., Chester, Pa. Monongahela steel works, McKeesport, Pa. Hooven plant, Morristown, Pa. Oil City (Pa.) tube works. Syracuse (N. Y.) tube works. Ohio Tube Co., Warren, O., and Western Tube Co. Contract until 1902 and one-third stock ownership, Kewanee, Ill.

Pesides controlling the domestic business the new combine will invade the Russian, Belgian, Japanese and Canadian markets, where it already supplies tubular goods for the oil wells of those countries. It will sell merchant pipes to all the other nations of the world. Twenty-five thousand men are employed.

William N. Cromwell, general counsel for the combine, said last night that the net earnings of the current year will be between six and seven million dollars.

There is no mortgage lien on any of the properties and none can ever be placed upon any realty of the company without the consent of 80 per cent. of the stock, common and preferred.

The executive officers are: President, Edmund C. Converse; first vice president in charge of manufacturing, E. J. Hearn; second vice president in charge of mercantile affairs, Horace Crosby; third vice president, financial, Francis L. Potts; treasurer, Arthur F. Lake.

The official and financial headquarters will be in New York, the manufacturing headquarters are in Pittsburg.

HOME FROM MANILA.

Ships Conveying Oregon Volunteers from Philippine Battlefields Arrive at San Francisco—A Noisy Welcome.

San Francisco, July 13.—The transports Newport and Ohio, bearing the Oregon volunteer regiments from Manila, arrived here last night. The vessels were sighted early in the afternoon and soon the shrieking of steam whistles, the clanging of bells and the firing of cannon announced that the first batch of returning volunteers from Manila were nearing the shore of California. Within a few minutes the streets were thronged with people wending their way to the docks and to the heights overlooking the bay, intent upon catching a glimpse of the transports as they steamed up the harbor under the escort of a score of vessels which had been made ready for the arrival of the steamers.

The roofs of the warehouses were crowded with people and from scores of flagpoles streamed the stars and stripes. Steamers, tugs, yachts and even small row boats were soon making their way toward the Golden Gate. The reception committee boarded their tug boats Sea Queen and Governor Irwin and headed for the ocean. On board the Irwin were the harbor commissioners, the officials of the national guard of California and Gov. Geer, of Oregon, and his staff. On the Sea Queen were the representatives of the press, a band furnished by Mayor Phelan and many invited guests. The revenue cutter Golden Gate, bearing federal officials, was soon under way and she was joined by the federal quarantine boat from Angel Island. Then there were boats at the disposal of the Red Cross and other societies and many chartered by private parties.

As the transports slowly steamed up the harbor the soldiers gathered in excited groups on deck and some climbed into the rigging, where they shouted and cheered like mad. The band on the Sea Queen played patriotic airs and the screaming of many steam sirens created a pandemonium. The health officials boarded the vessels, which changed their course toward the quarantine stations, where the doctors will make a thorough examination of the men. It is yet undecided whether the Oregon volunteers will be allowed to land in San Francisco before returning to their Oregon homes.

Found No Cause for Complaint. Washington, July 13.—The pension committee of the G. A. R., which is here inquiring into pension measures and their administration, at the invitation of Commissioner Evans, practically closed its work yesterday. The committee spent most of the forenoon at the pension bureau, going over the decisions in a number of cases which have been cited in complaints against the pension system. No substantial foundation has been found for the allegations against the work of the bureau and whatever is recommended will probably be changes in the law.

Foundry Supply Trust Assured. Cincinnati, July 13.—The Enquirer says: "Following on the heels of a secret meeting of the foundry supply manufacturers of the United States, held to have been held in Philadelphia last week, the appearance here Wednesday of a pro-rating committee inspecting the three large plants in this city may be taken as an assurance that the projected combine of the seven great foundry supply plants of the United States is a foregone conclusion. The pro-rating of stock to individual members is usually the final work in the formation of a combine."

A BANK JUGGLER.

He Appears to Have Taken a Big Piece of Money.

HE'S IN JAIL AND SORRY.

But that Does Not Bring Back \$125,000 That's Missing.

A PANIC AT PERTH AMBOY.

Residents of a New Jersey Town are Astounded on Learning that a Bank Cashier Had for Months Falsified the Institution's Books.

New York, July 15.—George M. Valentine, cashier of the Middlesex County bank, of Perth Amboy, N. J., which was closed Friday, has surrendered himself and is in jail on a charge of embezzlement. The affair caused dismay among the business men of Perth Amboy, where the Middlesex County bank was considered as strong as the hills. So panic-stricken did the residents of Perth Amboy become that crowds surrounded the Perth Amboy Savings Institution. What made the run on the savings bank appear all the more serious was the fact that the officers of the Middlesex County bank and the officers of the Perth Amboy Savings Institution are identical, the business of both banks being transacted over the same counters.

Though it became necessary to call for the aid of the police for the purpose of maintaining order, U. B. Watson, the president of both banks, says that the funds of the Perth Amboy Savings Institution were not touched, that the \$300,000 deposited to the account of the savings bank is safe and that no matter how badly the Middlesex County bank has been wrecked, the savings bank will be able to meet all demands upon it by the depositors. These words of assurance from the officers of the savings institution had the effect of checking the run on this bank.

On Monday last Cashier Valentine evidently concluded that he could no longer conceal the shortage at the Middlesex County bank. On that morning he telephoned President Watson that he was detained, but that he would appear at noon. The bank had then opened for business and Mr. Watson, who was taking the absent cashier's place, discovered that there should have been \$7,000 in bills on hand to commence operations that morning. These he could not find in the vault. Mr. Watson had been searching for it when Valentine called up. He asked Valentine where this money was and was told that it had been placed in the cashier's private drawer. Mr. Watson remarked that was no place for it, but rang off on the telephone and went to get it. A duplicate key to the drawer was obtained and the drawer opened, but no money could be found.

Robert N. Valentine, the cashier's father, was summoned and aided in the search for the missing money. It could not be found and finally the work of checking began. Then it soon became evident that during the last few months the accounts of the bank had been juggled. The other trustees were summoned and the banking department was notified to send an examiner. Deputy Commissioner of Banking Johnson appeared. On Wednesday Mrs. Valentine, the wife of the cashier, returned from Ocean Grove and called at the bank and wanted to know where her husband was. This was the first intimation she had that he was not on duty and showed the officials that Valentine was not at the sea shore, as at first appeared.

On Monday the Park national bank, of New York, charged the Middlesex bank with checks to the amount of \$4,000, which are said to have been drawn on it against the account of the Middlesex bank by Valentine.

A detailed investigation of matters by President Watson and Robert N. Valentine showed that the cashier's checks and stubs did not correspond; that the checks called for more money than the stubs recorded, and that while taking the stub as the basis of accounting the bank's finances would figure out all right, the checks would show that the bank had been drawing heavily on its New York correspondent, the Park national bank. The cashier in fact carried the accounts on the stubs, and from them to the books correctly, but when the returns from the cashier's checks came he pocketed the difference between the stub and the check. Four or five months of this method of financing depleted the bank's reserve and brought it to the verge of ruin. Then the cashier evidently secured a portion of the ready cash on hand and left Perth Amboy.

Thursday night the determination to close the bank was reached and Mr. Watson notified Chief of Police Burke and asked him to locate the missing cashier. Valentine, who had been in New York City, returned to Perth Amboy from Woodbridge, accompanied by his counsel, Edward Savage. He declined to go into details about the shortage of the bank, except to say that he was very sorry that he had got his friends into trouble, and that he felt very bad about his wife and children.

President Watson is of the opinion that the cashier's defalcation will amount to at least \$125,000. Where the money went to is not known, as the cashier is said to have been moderate in his tastes and habits of life.

The Middlesex county bank was operated under a state charter and had been in operation many years.

Cashier Valentine was for years a clerk in the Park national bank, of New York. In 1893 he was made cashier of the Middlesex County bank. His bond was fixed at \$50,000. His relatives are wealthy, and it is said they will endeavor to make good the shortage.