

Mongolian Coffins.

The heaviest wooden coffins used in the world are those of the Chinese, and coffin-making is one of the leading industries in every Chinese city.

Grave robbing is so severely punished in China that there is little danger of the coffin being disturbed. In cases where the family is too poor to own a burial mound or to stand the expenses of the funeral, the coffin is kept in the house until they can raise money enough to put it under the ground in good style.

The fact now seems clearly demonstrated that at various spots across the great African continent, within a few degrees north and south of the equator, extending from the Atlantic coast to near the shores of the Albert Nyanza, and perhaps even further to the east, are scattered communities of these small negroes, all much resembling each other in size, appearance and habits, and dwelling mostly apart from their larger neighbors, by whom they are everywhere surrounded.

Humorous. A cat has nine lives and occasionally a kitten. Fan-America—one they try beef-steak in. A swallow tail—the story of Jonah and the whale.

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The Cedars of Lebanon.

The cedars of Mount Lebanon are, perhaps, the best known monuments in the world. Distinguished men have visited them, and their story is told over and over again.

The presentation of an American flag to the grammar school of Bangor reminds me of a similar occurrence which took place in a Maine village in the summer of 1863.

Facts for Farmers.

The Lancetian Examiner says: "Transportation is one of our ever pressing problems to the farmers everywhere; the cost of getting their products to market is a matter of deep concern."

An Elephant's Sagacity.

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How Whisky Was Discovered.

Some quaint characters can be found in odd pieces of this great cosmopolitan city now and then. I met one of them driving a street-car on the Eighth Avenue Line last night.

"What was it?" I asked. "Whisky, how it was made first," he replied, as he pulled his old waterproof through the guardrail in front and bit off a piece of pug.

"Where did I learn that?" said the old man, after he had paused to say something sarcastic about a woman who wanted the car to stop on the wrong side of the crossing.

"Ah," said the Irishman, "be off wid ye. The first time Irishmen ever saw whisky was at the battle of Ballymoe, where the Saxons put up a bad job on 'em."

"An' if an' Englishman offers a man a drink look out for him, he wants to do 'im, mind that," said the Irishman.

"They were both good natured and when they got off it was to take a drink and wait for the next car."

In England, and on many parts of the continent, they have been for a long time using the Yates horse shoe.

A great feature of Mexico is the parks, or plazas, as they call them. No matter how small the town or poor the houses they will have a beautiful plaza and in the evening they will have bands of music and singing.

A SOUTH CAROLINA man who was curious to know just how much stuff an alligator could get away with when he felt wed on the hind quarter of a sow, seven chickens, a sheep, four geese and a hog's head before the reptile backed water.

THE NEWS OF THE DAY HOW TO GET IT

THE PITTSBURGH POST FOR 1900. THE POST DEPARTMENT.

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Gallantry Rewarded.

Billy Emerson, the minstrel, was attending a theatrical performance in London, saw a lady drop her programme from the box she occupied.

"I picked it up," he goes on to relate, "and handed it to her. She was great awfully, I could see, and I thought that she looked at me pretty hard."

"What's this for?" said I. "Ah, you were kind enough to hand me my programme," she said.

"Excuse me madam," said I, pointing the coin on the edge of the box.

Fish From Underground. A fish story comes from Santa Rosa, Cal., that has been doing the rounds of the city.

Wisconsin has a law requiring the extermination of the Canada tick, burdock, ox-eye daisy, foxglove, henbane, sow thistle and dock.

A NOVEL method of determining the temperature of the air at great heights has been proposed by a German physicist.

The growth of racing in the United States has been phenomenal. The year ago, or in 1873, the total money paid for mounted races was \$38,000.

In Algeria every girl born of native parents is tattooed on her forehead between the eyebrows and just at the angle of the nose with a cross formed of several straight lines of small stars running close together.