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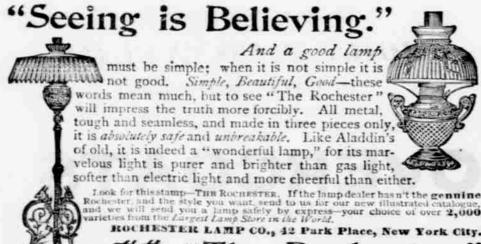
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Scientific American

FEES BROS. Shaving Parlor,

Main Street, Near Post Office as. The undersigned desires to inform the publicures; cannon ball, 21% hours; lic that they have opened a shaving par'or on light, a little over one-tenth of a

et, near the post omce where narpering branches will be carried on in the second; electricity, passing over copper wire, a little less than one-tenth of a FEES BROS. | second.

the western plains," a New York Sun man was informed by a Gothamite who had herded cattle for some seasons in the northwest, "are whitish places on the prairie, sometimes covering many eres. Here the alkali has exuded from

PRAIRIE QUAGMIRES.

Treacherous Alkali Spots in the

Western Plains.

A Wyoming Herder's Thrilling Story of

His Rescue of a Companion

from One of the Dead-

the soil and has the appearance of lime sprinkled over the surface. This appearance is most noticeable where the soil is damp. Some of these places are of a marshy character, and some of them, though this is rare, are veritable quagmires, as delusive and dangerous as the quicksands of the Platte. They can be described only as a network of swamp holes separated by narrow trips of firm soil, the entire surface appearing the same and equally firm. A spongy soil or crust of varying thickness covers the holes, and one might never suspect their existence until, breaking through, he sinks rapidly into

a mushy, clinging, inextricable mire. "Herding cattle in Wyoming, my closest companion for months had been young man twenty-four years of age, handsome fellow with classic features. well-molded figure, a good rider and crack shot. The rougher boys often twitted him about his fair, shapely hands and his care of them, for when on duty he always were heavy buckkin gloves. He was reticent and said ittle about his past life, but expressions he dropped and his knowledge of college sports convinced me he was a college man. Many nights, far from human habitation, in the open air we slept between the same blankets or watched the herd while communing with our thoughts and talking to the

stars, which seemed so much nearer and

brighter than in the far-away eastern

"It came about that one day after a cound-up thirty head of cattle were missing from the herd. There was a that they had been stolen by rustiers, but they might have wandered beyond the usual limits of the range; so the next morning my companion and 1 were instructed by the superintendent to go in search of them. We had ridhen forty miles since the break of day. finding no trace of the lost cattle, and late in the afternoon had decided to return. In a short time we saw in front of us an alkali spot of unusual size. As we started to cross it my companion vas several hundred yards to my right and a short distance ahead of me. In a few moments I heard an exclamation from him, and looking up saw his horse sinking into a quagmire. Riding rapidly forward I felt the surface waver be neath me, and knew that the next mo ment I might myself be engulfed There was but one thing to do. I asked him if his feet were free from the stirrups, and he called back that they were. I told him to clasp his hands above his head, and he did so: I mentaly measured the distance-with a sinking sense of horror and doubt. It was supreme moment. My lariat described the circle above my head, then ent the air, hovered over him for an in stant, descended gracefully and tightened around his chest. It had covered the distance with not an inch to spare. l literally dragged him from his horse o solid ground and safety. He had wheel his hands behind his head, his mekskin gloves protecting them, and hey saved his head and face, so that he prought up with only a few bruises. "It was useless to think of extricating the horse, which had sunk into the aire until nothing but his head and neels were above the surface, and as we

started off he turned his head toward us with eyes so sad and a whinny so mournful it was almost human. I suld not stand it, and, drawing my olt's, aimed and fired. His head propped forward. Poor Pete was saved rom a horrible, lingering death, and he most popular broncho in the camp as no more. 'Now came a new discovery. The

ilkali spot was of oblong shape, and, is we rode round it to avoid another ittempt at crossing, within a space of about five acres, well toward the cener, we counted twenty pairs of horns just above the surface, as if they were rowing out of the ground. We were atisticd that we had fathomed the mystery of the lost cattle. They had attempted to cross the place and had unk into the swamp holes. In their struggles to release themselves they had naturally kept their heads up as ong as possible, and, death overtaking them when the mire reached their months and nostrils, they remained in that position, with only their horns above the surface. The others of the missing cattle had no doubt shared the same fate, but, striking softer and leeper mire, had disappeared entirely

elow the surface." Engagements in Germany. When a maiden is betrothed in Germany she is called bride by her sweetheart, who addresses her thus until it becomes time to call her wife. Imme diately upon betrothal the lovers exchange rings, which, if the course of true love runs smooth, are to be worn ever afterward until death parts them. The woman wears her betrothal ring on the third finger of her left hand until she is married, and then it is transferred to the third finger of her right hand. The husband continues to wear the ring just as the wife wore hers when she was bride, so that one can tell easily at a glance if a man be or be not mortgaged as to his affections. A young German matron on being told of the careless American custom of allowing the man to go unfettered exclaimed 'Oh, how dreadful! How unjust to the roung wives! How could I expose my Wilhelm—so young—only twenty-fiveto the temptations of the world, if he were not to wear a marriage ring. The girls would make love to him. I would not live in America for the world."

Six Ways Around the World. The time required for a journey around the earth by a man walking day and night, without rest, would be 428 days; an express train, forty days; sound, at a medium temperature, 23%

SEVERE PENALTIES.

Punishment Inflicted Upon the Lawless The assembly that convened at Chester December 4, 1682, enacted a code of laws that made the people of the new colony live up to the mark, and while many of the severe penalties of the duke of York's code were softened, vet the unfortunate deemed them harsh enough. The man or woman who used profane language was punished by "What are known as alkali spots upon fine or imprisonment, and more than one person had reason for regret for

> expressing their feelings in public with too much emphasis. The severest punishment was meted out for licentious conduct. A public whipping and one year's imprisonment were the penalty for the graver degrees of this crime, while a second offense was punishable by imprisonment for life. This law was amended in 1705, the first offense being punishable by the infliction of twenty-one lashes and imprisonment for one year or a fine of fifty pounds. A second conviction sublected the culprit to seven years' imprisonment and a letter "A" was branded on his forehead.

The man that had more than one wife, instead of being an object of commiseration, was liable to be sent to jail for life, while the man who broke into a house and stole was sent to jail for four months. He had to work like a beaver, however, and unless he restored four fold to the party the court sent him up for seven years to give him time for reflection.

Murder was punished with death and the forfeiture of half the estate of the Theft was punished with public whip-

ping and various terms of imprisonment. while restitution had to be made from three to four fold. The minor regulations prohibited all persons from taking part in stage plays. revels, masques and kindred worldly pursuits, so that any troupe that had

chanced to drop into Pennsylvania with

the ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay would have been sent higher than Gilderoy's kite. Drinking of health was punishable by a fine of five shillings, or five days' imprisonment, and horse-racing, shooting matches and sports of like character were interdicted. If the offenders happened to be slaves they were whipped and imprisoned instead of fined.

HEREDITARY FOES.

The Intense Hatred of the Pimas for the The memory of the Pima nor do his traditions run so far back that a mortal enmity with the Apaches did not exist. The first thing the Pima child is taught is to hate the Apache, the vandal of the great American desert, and he seldom forgets his teaching. Though it is not so bad now that the Apaches have surrendered to the United States government, still the hatred exists, and when the opportunity is presented the Pima spits at and heaps all kinds of contumely upon the heads of the Apaches.

As is known, the Pimas seldom leave their velley homes, and, as the Apaches are now on the reservation under the surveillance of troops, it is rarely that they meet, though last winter a company of the Apache soldiers were brought through this city under a United States officer. Before they had been here an hour their old enemies. the Pimas and Maricopas, all knew of it, and by the middle of the afternoon fully two thousand were in town to see them. The Apache sentinel had been taught enough military discipline to know that he must not resent the insults heaped upon him by the Indian mlookers, but it must have been a hard trial to his wild nature.

Years ago the Apaches and the Pimas often settled their differences by single combat or pitched battles, and there is now one Pima living who killed six Apaches in one day in single combat near where the Sacaton agency is located. The Pima used his ironwood club, about two feet in length, and the Apaches their spears and war clubs. It is wonderful how skillful these Pimas are in the use of their clubs, fencing with them equal to the exhibition of a French master of the foils.

A STRANGE FRIENDSHIP. Dickens' Account of a Cobbier's Love for

His Dog. "My father's love for dog's led him into a strange friendship during our stay at Boulogne," writes the famous author's daughter in Ladies' Home Journal. "There lived in a cottage on the street which led from our house to the town a cobbler who used to sit at his window working all day with his dog-a Pomeranian-on the table beside him. The cobbler, in whom my father became very much interested because of the intelligence of his poodle, was taken ill and for many months was unable to work. My father writes: 'The cobbler has been ill these many months. The little dog sits at the door so unhappy and anxious to help that I every day expect to see him' beginning a pair of top boots.' Another time father writes in telling the history of this little animal: 'A cobbler at Boulogne, who had the nicest of little dogs that always sat in his sunny window watching him at his work, asked me if I would bring the dog home as he couldn't afford to pay the tax for him. The cobbler and the dog being both my particular friends I complied. The cobbler parted with the dog heartbroken. When the dog got home here my man, like an idiot as he is, tied him up and then untied him. The moment the gate was open, the dog (on the very day after his arrival) ran out. Next day Georgy and I saw him lying all covered with mnd, dead, outside the neighboring church. How am I ever to tell the sobbler? He is too poor to come to England, so I feel that I must lie to him

happy." _ Mexican Sport.

A favorite amusement with the United States army officers on the Rio Grande is the Mexican cock fight. Every Mexican village has its cockpit, and officers on a few hours' leave cross the river to see the fun. There are no better cockfighters in the world than the Mexicans, and, as public opinion sanctions the sport, the enjoyment of everybody is altogether frank. The acme of the sport is reached when the apparently vanquished bird, after having been completely buried in the dust of the arena to staunch his blood, suddenly rises as if from his grave, and with one blow from his spur slays his astonished rival in the act of crowing over his supCONSULAR CURIOSITIES.

Odd Facts Concerning England's Foreign Commerce

Silks Weighted With Flour, and Wines Worth Nine Cents a Bottle Sold for One Dollar-Clever Tricks of Trade.

"The prompt issue of consular reports on British trade is an achievement for which merchants and shippers should be grateful to our foreign office, says Cassell's Saturday Journal. Some of them are, if we accept the cynical definition that gratitude is a lively sense of favors to come; for in the latest batch of reports several consuls complain that enterprising tradesmen have sent them patterns of cloth goods, etc., with 'prices for prompt eash,' and asked them to obtain orders. But these annual returns from our representatives abroad are of interest and value to others besides those engaged in trade. They contain a lot of out-of-the-way facts on imports and exports, the social condition of various peoples, the curious industries of the world and a thousand other subjects. Last year, it appears, there was a decrease in the importation of sandal-wood into Hankow, China. The product is used in incense, burnt mostly by women, and our consul remarks that 'here'-and, surely, elsewhere too-'one of the natural econonies of the working classes is a

reduction of the religious expenses of the family. "Similarly, the statistics of imports and exports bring to light many facts about adulteration. Ladies being great on pongee silk just now, will be interested to know that that material is weighted with a size made from bean flour, and that, when a bale of inferior pongee is opened, the starch in it raises a dust which fills the room. On opium we learn that it is' not only 'faked' in various ways, but largely smuggled into Tainan, China, by being squeezed into large bamboo pipes. In Morocco it is customary to adulterate beeswax with composite candles, considerable quantities of which are imported for this special purpose. We seem to do a little in this line ourselves, or how is it that in Madagascar they can tell Lancashire from American calico from the

"From La Rochelle comes a startling fact about wine, of which no fewer than 25,584 tons were imported seaward last year from Spain, Italy and Africa. This enormoes quantity, 'after being mixed and blended with natural or artificial French wine, is consumed in this country (France), or exported as French wines to other countries.' Thus does art assist nature. Which is the betternatural or artificial 'grape juice?' It seems hard to tell. Our consul at Cadiz relates that he and a friend visited one of the native sherry cellars, and tested two samples which appeared to be of the same wine. They were so much alike that it was with difficulty they deeided which they preferred. One of the partners in the firm then told them that one wine was sold at £50 a butt and the other manufactured 'for one of the largest mail steamship companies in the world at the rate of 41/d per bottle. and retailed to their passengers at 4s a

"Among the suggestions made for opening our trade is one from Dantzig with regard to Newfoundland fish, a great deal of which, our consul thinks, might be sold in the inland towns. He thoughtfully adds, however, that travelers would have to be furnished with printed directions in two languages German and Polish), showing how the fish should be dressed for table or the people would eat it raw, as they do herrings, and then they might not like it. A hint is thrown out, too, that some English houses might do business with the ivory carvers of Dieppe, where the handicraft of carving, established two centuries ago, still flourishes. The work is said to be far superior to that of the Japanese, Chinese and Indians. Ten or twelve workmen do nothing all the year round but carve cracifixes, some of which are worth £30 or £40.

"Quite a new industry is that of Japanese floor matting, as made at Piogo and Osaka. The body of the fabric is a kind of native grass interwoven with fine thread, sometimes 360 to the yard. and the result of this combination is said to be as soft and pliable as cloth. Prices for a roll forty yards long by one yard wide are from \$13 to \$15. An astonishing fact, considering that the trade is in its infancy, is that one firm has sent away more than 4,000 patterns. Firearm making, carried on at Liege, in Belgium, is another industry touched on. Forty thousand men are employed in this trade. Like the English nail and chain makers, these work at home at their domestic forges. The various pieces are put together at the factories. The output of the town in guns, etc., may faintly be imagined from the fact that from 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 cartridges and forty tons of powder are consumed annually in testing them. By the way, there are only five houses for this purpose in Europe-Liege (where there is the largest in the world). Birmingham, London, St. Etienne, in France, and Fellah, in Austria, are the places which possess

AUBREY'S HISTORIC RIDE. dight Miles on Hour on Horseback for

110 Consecutive Hours.

The ride of the German officers from Berlin to Vienna recalls to the Washington Post a much more remarkable one made by F. X. Aubrey, a native of St. Louis, Mo., about thirty-six years ago, in the far west. He bet five thousand dollars that he could ride from Santa Fe, N. M., to Independence, Mo., for life, and say that the dog is fat and within five consecutive days. According to the terms of the wager he was allowed only such remounts as he could procure on route: that is, he was not to arrange for mny in advance. As the country to be traversed was then a perfeet wilderness to within a score or two of miles of the finish the only chance of obtaining fresh horses was from some roving band of wild Indians he might encounter, who were as likely to take Aubrev's scalp as to swap horses with him. But fortune favored him, and he did obtain a fresh horse at the "Crossing of the Arkansas" and at Council Grove, and won his bet in four days and fourteen hours-distance eight hundred and sixty miles-so that he covered an average of nearly eight miles an hour for one hundred and ten consecutive hours, a feat of endurance that seems truly marvelous.

AN ENGLISH JUNE. The Delights of an Early Summer Even-

June evening there:

ing in Cambridge. In a recent paper in the Atlantic on the English Cambridge, Albert Gillette Hyde gives this pleasant picture of a

"Indeed, it is hard to imagine a sight more interesting in its kind than that which the winding, narrow thoroughfares of this ancient academic city present on a fine evening in June, particularly on Saturdays, the Cambridge

market day. "A continuous stream of townsmen, gownsmen and sturdy country folk, with the usual proportion of womankind, passes and repasses with quick, echoing tread, many of them walking in the middle of the clean asphalt streets. The shops are lighted up brilliantly, as in most provincial towns, though twilight at this season lasts nearly all night. In either of the main arteries of travel-Trumpington street. with its clear rivulets flowing at either eurb, which becomes King's parade, Trinity street and St. John's before uniting with the other, Regent street, St. Andrews, Sidney street, etc.—and in the narrow crossway, the Petty Cury, one meets this tide at the full.

"The undergraduate is necessarily conspicuous, walking alone, or two and two, or three or four abreast, the togavirilis lightly depending from his shoulders, sometimes in the last stage of dilapidation, and streaming from his person in tags and ribbons. Mostly he is slight, good looking, youthful and beardless, or perhaps with an incipient mustache; seldom very ruddy, but at

the worst of a healthy paleness. "Naturally it is among the lightly clad groups striding in from the boats or the cricket fields that one sees the best specimens of physique. These, indeed, are often admirable, though hardly so striking in appearance as is commonly supposed; yet if anyone doubts the virility of these young Englishmen a short walk or row with one of them will quickly convince him of his error. "One very pleasant feature of the streets is the decorum usually prevailing among the students, in former times (and in some quarters of the world even now) an unruly and turbulent element of the community. They walk together, conversing almost in audibly in the dulcet 'Cambridge tone,' which 'men' from all parts of the island are said to contract soon after

"Singing, loud talking, or shouting among them is rarely heard out of doors, though sounds of a mildly Bacchanalian type sometimes issue from college or lodging-house windows. This creditable street behavior is doubtless due to 'Cambridge tone' as much as to vigilant proctorizing; yet even in the cricket field and among the boating crews (except the musical 'Well rowed' at the races) the undergraduate is rarely vociferous. The English still take their sports 'sadly,' and silently." STORIES OF HISTORIC DOGS.

Four-Footed Soldier. Which Fought in Many Old World Wars. A French paper has published a roll

of honor of celebrated dogs which have distinguished themselves in war. This is not inappropriate, considering that the dog has been pressed into military service. For instance, there was Bob, the mastiff of the Grenadier guards, which made the Crimean campaign with that gallant corps; and also Whitepaw, "Patte Blanche," a brave French ally of Bob, that made the same campaign with the One Hundred and Sixteenth of the line, and was wounded in lefending the flag. Another, Moustache, was entered on the strength of his regiment as entitled to a grenadier's rations. The barber of his company had orders to clip and comb him once a week. This gallant animal received a bayonet trust at Marenga and recovered a flag at Austerlitz. Marshal Lannes had Moustache decorated with a medal attached to his neck by a red ribbon. Corps de Garde, a Norvel among dogs, followed a soldier to Marengo, was wounded at Austerlitz and perished in the retreat from Russia. The Sixth of the guard had a military mastiff named Misere, which wore three white stripes sewn on his black hair. We have also to name Pompon, of the Forty-eighth Bedouins, the best sentry of the baggage train; Loutoute, a Crimean heroine. Mittrailli, killed at Inkerman by a shell; Moffino, that saved his master in Russia, and was lost or lost himself, but found his way going from Moscow to Milan, his first dwelling place. The most remarkable, however, was the last, an English harrier named Mustapha, which went into action with his English comrades at Fontenov and, we are seriously told "remained alone by a field piece of the gunner, his master, clapped the match to the touch-hole of the cannon and thus killed seventy soldiers," and it is further added that Mustapha was presented to King George II. and rewarded with a pension alimentam.

IT IS HER NOSE THAT SUFFERS. While a Man Goes Along Trying to Warm His Ears.

"Speaking of cold weather, I have discovered that the cold affects men and women differently," says a writer in the New York Herald. "I mean that despite the fact that both sexes are of the human kind they have not the same vulnerable points for Jack Frost to nip.

"You may have noticed as I have, that a woman when outdoors in a cold day goes along apparently comfortable except for her nose. She covers it with her mittened or gloved hand, or if she is very nice she holds her handkerchief up in front of it.

"It is the tip of her nose that the cold takes hold of and won't let go. Her cheeks and her chin never seem to suffer, but her nose always gets red and cold and frostbitten. "I believe that physicians say the

vulnerability of the feminine pose is caused by corsets, or rather by the lacing which the wearing of corsets implies. At any rate it forces the blood to the nose and makes red noses as well as tender noses. "And the only moral I can see in it is that if the girls would shed their corsets

they might not in course of time be forced to the undignified proceeding of holding on to their noses. "Now, with man it touches him on the ears. There's where a man feels the cold first. It's his ears that tingle when the mercury slips down toward the zero notch; it's his ears that freeze when he

enough."

stays out in the winter weather long

SIGNIFICANCE OF DREAMS An Interesting Lecture by a Noted English Scientist

Superstitions About Visions During Sleep Ruthlessly Dealt With - Physical Ills in Most Cases Are to Blame,

"What the actual scientific view of dreaming now is may be inferred from a lecture which was recently delivered on the subject at the royal institution by Dr. B. W. Richardson. In the poet's view." says the London Telegraph, dreams are visitors from the ivory gate, or, as Shakespeare calls them, 'children of an idle brain;' but science is more prosaic and teaches that dreams may be, after all, 'nothing more than the common vibrations of terrestrial media acting upon a corporeal vibratorium,' like the sound heard on a wire intension long after it has been struck by the musician. 'All musical instruments dream,' says Dr. Richardson, 'after we cease to play on them' and if we bring the microphone into use we can hear the dream. This is as near poetry as science will permit us to approach in explaining the phenomena of thought going on during sleep; for the accomplished lecturer proceeded to inform his audience that dreams are all explainable on physical grounds-there is no mystery about them save that which springs from 'blindness to facts.'

"After dividing dreams into subjective and objective, and mixtures of both, he went on to class among the first species dreams produced by indigestion, pain or fever, while objective dreams are those started by noises or other events going on outside the sleeper. This is a fair sample of the ruthless way in which science disposes of 'superstition.' Against the imaginative view of the significance of dreams men of science protest, and will probably continue to protest as long as there are any men of science left. They quote the old lady in the Spectator, who believed that the earthquake at Lisbon had some mysterious but quite unexplained connection with the fact that a ew days before she had happened to spill some salt at table

"Perhaps the most practical lesson taught at the royal institution lecture was one which may assist us to know which of our dreams are signs that something is wrong with our bodily organization. As a rule, said the lecturer, it is better not to dream at all. Dreamlessness is usually a symptom of allround health. A child's dreams are invariably signs of disturbed health, and should be regarded with anxiety. For adults it is a good thing to know that our brains are being overstrained when our nightly dreams relate to events of the day, and if we actually seem in sleep to be continuing our daily work this is a danger signal which never must be disregarded. When we feel wearied in the morning very likely it results from dreams we have forgotten. and then the best thing to do is to take exercise. Without coming to any decided opinion as to the supernatural meaning attributed to dreams, we can at least profit by these practical hints.

"Considered as products of bad digestion dreams cannot be reasonably expected to tell us anything of a useful character or to supply us with any warning, except one directed against the continuation of deprayed dietetic habits. If it is true that the sleep of health is dreamless, then it becomes difficult to believe that the only persons to whom visions in sleep are vouchsafed should be the victims of indigestion. It is always a puzzle for persons of an unimaginative turn of mind to understand how the future, which does not yet exist, can be supposed to have any effeet on the present, and it must be admitted that dreams of warning are much harder to believe in than the 'brain waves' and 'thought transfer ences' which members of the psychical research society take as matters quite in the ordinary course of things. There is a considerable mass of testimony in favor of the power of the mind to produce results at an enormous distance by some system of psychical telegraphy of which nobody has yet discovered the secret. A man who goes to sleep and dreams that his brother being killed by a wild tribe in central Africa, and who afterwards hears that he did meet with that fate at the precise time when the vision occurred, need not fly to any supernatural explanation of the phenomenon. It is quite different when a dream tells of something which is to happen in a few months' time. In the latter case most people will prefer to join with science in attributing the fact either to a law of coincidence or to a simple detusion.

"We must do science the justice to admit that if she increases the gloominess of life in some directions, as by her doctrine of the struggle for existence, she decreases it in other respects, one of which is by aiding in the gradual banishment of any confidence in visions and omens and 'weirdness' generally."

CHINESE FOOD NOVELTIES. Luxuries Which Must Be Ranked as Acquired fastes.

Nowhere have such rare tastes in food been developed as among the Romans in ancient times and the Chinese. There may be found in the bills of fare of the latter people addled eggs, fat grubs, caterpillars, sharks' fins, rats, dogs, Indian birds' nests, and-the finest of all their delicacies-trepang. What is tre-

Trepang, or tripang, is, according to Popular Science Monthly, a collective name by which a considerable number of species of most curious sea animals are designated; they are also known as sea rollers, sea cucumber, in French as . cornichons de mer, and scientifically as holothurias. They are among the most sluggish of animals. Only the fixed or stationary animals are slower than the holothurias. They lie like gray, brown or black leather pipes or cylinders on the bottom of the sea. One might watch them half a day long, if he had nothing better to do, and hardly see them change their position, and they rarely move more than a foot or two in several hours. Their class relatives, the spiny skinned animals, or echinoderms, are much more active. A sea urchin or starfish is able to get away from a spot quite nimbly, and the serpent stars, the most active members of the whole order, are capable of using their long, slender, many jointed arms as legs and are as quick and alert as crabs.

LANDS OF THE CZAR.

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Gradually Growing in the Direction of India.

"If we look at the immense territory Russia has overrun and conquered within the last twenty years, from the Caspian sea to the Afghan frontier, advancing even into Afghanistan itself, it must become patent to the least observant what she is really aiming at. To-day Lord Salisbury would not give any longer the same counsel he formerly gave laughingly to the so-called alarmists namely, that they should 'buy some large maps in order to see how far the czar's empire is still from the confines of India.' Nor would Lord Beaconsfield look to-day with equanimity upon the situation which has been created since he thought it was still a long way

from the Russian to the Indian frontier," writes Karl Blind in Lippincott's. "Almost immediately after the last war against Turkey it came out that a secret envoy of the czar had plied the late ameer of Afghanistan with a proposal of an alliance, in view of a war to be waged some day by Russia against English rule in India. The documentary evidence is printed in a blue book. Nevertheless, the English government has allowed itself, year by year, to be deceived, or appeased in outward semblance, by the diplomatic assurances of the ezar's government. 'Khiva was not to be annexed. Sarakas was not to be touched. Mery was not to be incorporated. Afghanistan was completely outside the sphere in which Russia intended exercising any influence.' All those promises are recorded in so many words. All were successively broken without compunction.

"I have often discussed these matters and the question of the future of India with prominent and intelligent Indians in London-Hindoos, Mohammedans, Parsees, Buddhists-some of them holding high office in native governments of their country, others pursuing various studies in England or exercising their calling as lawyers. Most of them-the Hindoos especially-were free-minded men in religious matters, having fallen away from the creed they had been brought up in. All of them acknowledged that English rule, whatever may have been its origin or the errors of its statesmen in the past, has latterly effected a great deal of good It has done away, by legislation, with some of the worst abuses which were the outgrowth of native superstition. It has conferred upon multitudes the boon of better instruction. It has recently made even some notable concessions in the direction of gradually admitting natives to a share in administrative affairs and in a kind of representative government, however restricted. The difficulties lying in that way, through the existence of so many different races with different languages, creeds and historical traditions. and of castes, some of which will not allow their path to be crossed by the shadow of a member of another caste, are too well known to need here a special description."

ALMANACS IN RUSSIA.

They Play a Prominent Part in the Daily Life of the People.

"What a prominent part the almanac plays in a Russian household! And such aimanaes! There is a recipe for dinner for every day in the year; there are infallible cures for burns and teething and convulsions, for toothache, corns and bald heads. You are told all about the imperial family, and there are portraits of its members-vile caricatures

"The count gravely consulted its vaticinations in his colloquy with the steward to learn when the weather would best suit for sowing mangel, says a writer in the Christian World "I saw the countess hunting in it for an interpretation of a dream she had. Beyond the almanac no one ever reads anything. I exclude, of course, the young count and his tutor.

"There are, however, a few books in the house. In the drawing or sittingroom, one of the few articles of furni ture there is an old-fashioned bookcase, from which the glass has long since vanished. I had the curiosity to examine its contents. There were ten bound volumes of an illustrated weekly paper, a few old-fashioned books on agriculture, two volumes of Nekrasoff's pastoral poems, a number of incomplete works of French belles lettres of Voltaire's time, a Russian translation of Scott's 'Kenilworth,' much bethumbed and greasy. This was all olden-time stuff, and represented the taste of some bygone ancestor of the count.

"I looked for anything that might denote the taste of the rising generation, and found in a corner a Russian version of 'Robinson Crusoc,' and a well-hidden novel of Zola's. Do these latter books signify the beginning of a renaissance in the house of Borisoff! To whom did the Zola belong? To the countess, I suspect. We had a pleasant evening in the drawing-room-the only comfortable room in the house. There were a few easy chairs, a capacions sofa, a grand piano and lots of canebottomed chairs. Over the sofa hung a portrait of the emperor; opposite the emperor a picture of the count when he was a gay dog in the guards. But there was hardly a sign of female occupancy anywhere."

Wealth from the Sea.

Scientific journals in England speak approvingly of a new method of manufacturing caustic soda, chlorine and other chemical products directly from sea water with the aid of electricity. There is an immense saving of time, labor and material in the process. It is readily seen that man gets a fresh grasp on the hoarded treasures of nature through such a discovery. Perhaps the most interesting suggestion made in connection with this new method of manufacturing chemicals is that of Science Gossip to the effect that electricity may yet enable us so to purify sea water as to fit it for drinking pur poses. One of the greatest terrors that confront the shipwrecked would be banished by such a discovery, provided that the electrical apparatus could be made portable enough to be taken off in a boat.

Curiosity Shops in China.

There are two kinds of curiosity shops in the Flowery kingdom. One is intended for guileless globe trotters and the nouveaux riches, the other for collectors and persons of taste. In the former the proprietor asks from two hundred to two thousand per cent. profit on his goods, and in the latter he s satisfied with anything between twenty-five and one hundred per cent.