in the Markets.

Forty-two species of tortoises inhabit the United States and adjacent seas. They furnish nearly all of the reptilian food supply of this country. which is of great aggregate quantity, and represents a value of hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. Amongthem, says the St. Louis Globe-Demoerat, are several gigantic kinds which live in the ocean, and are remarkable in many ways. These marine turtles are specially adapted to an aquatic mode of existence. Their bodies have a specific gravity almost exactly equal to that of the water in which they are immersed, so that they are able to sustain themselves at the surface for any length of time without fatigue. They never go ashore except to lay eggs Their hind feet are used as rudders, while the fore feet, with which they propel themselves, have a motion similar to that of a bird's wings. In fact, all their movements are more those of

flying than of swimming.

These giant turtles are found all along the Atlantic coast, though it is only in southern waters that they occur in great numbers. One of the most powerful of them is the loggerhead, which attains a weight of sixteen hundred pounds. It is a rapid swimmer and is often seen far from land, floating on the waves asleep. Carnivorous by nature, it feeds on crabs and fishes, and especially on a large species of conch, which it breaks with its enormous jaws and devours in large quantities. The flesh of this tortoise is leathery and oily, with a strong smell of musk. In the West Indies formerly it was given to the slaves for food. Young specimens, however, are tolerably palatable, and are frequently sold in the markets. A considerable amount of oil may be obtained from the loggerhead, but its rank odor unfits it for use in cooking. It has been employed to smear on the sides of vessels, which it is said to preserve from shipworms, and to soften certain leathers. The scales forming the shell, though bigger than those of the tortoise-shell turtle, are very thin and apt to be wrinkled and filled with impuri ties. On that account they are not used to any great extent in the arts. The tortoise shell of the Florida and

Gulf coast is found in many other parts of the world. It does not attain a weight of more than three hundred pounds. Its diet is exclusively vegetable, but it is much more fierce than the carnivorous and harmless loggerhead. It bites severely and inflicts painful wounds, so that fishermen have to be on their guard against its attacks. The scales or plates that cover its bony shell form the tortoise shell of commerce. They are arranged in three rows, the central containing five plates and each of the lateral rows four plates. In addition the margin of the shell has twentyfive small plates. The colors preferred are mingled golden yellow, reddish and white or brown. A variet in which much white occurs is highly esteemed, especially by the Chinese. It is known as "blonde shell." The best tortoise shell comes from the Indian archipelago. The material is imitated beautifully in cow's horn, so that only an expert can tell the difference. Combs made from the golden yellow under shell of this tortoise are eagerly sought by Spanish ladies, fetching from fifteen to twenty dollars apiece Another great marine tortoise is the

green turtle, famous in soup. In size it comes between the loggerhead and tortoise-shell, reaching a weight of one thousand pounds. It lives mostly in deep water, feeding on plants, especially on one called "turtle grass." This it cuts off near the roots, to procure the most tender and succulent part, which alone is eaten, while the rest of the plant floats to the surface and is there collected in large fields—a sure indication that the feeding ground of the animals is near. The latter, after browsing for awhile in these pastures of seaweed, seek the mouths of rivers to bathe in fresh water, which seems to be necessary for them from time to time. In Florida the green turtle is said by turtle fishers to enter the creeks which abound on that coast, and, having eaten its fill of the seagrass growing there, to roll together masses of it as big as a man's head which it cements with clay. Then, when the turn of the tide takes the ball out to sea, the turtle follows it, feeding on it. When, therefore, the fishermen find any of these balls floating down a creek, they at once spread a strong net across the mouth and always secure a number of the tortoises The flesh attached to the upper shell is known in cookery as "ealipash," while that attached to the lower shell is called "calipee."
There are a good many families of

edible fresh water tortoises which live in rivers, ponds and marshes. Among these are several species of soft-shelled turtles, which are frequently seen in the markets, their flesh being said to be even superior to the green turtle. They are taken with hook and line. snapping greedily at any kind of fish. They feed on small fishes, snails and a variety of vegetable matter. Most frequently they are seen along the margins of sluggish and shallow streams. wooing sweet repose in the voluptuous and buxom mud-bank. It is said that some of them do much damage in potato fields situated near water courses which they inhabit, since they are very fond of browsing on the stems of this

FRESH FOREIGN FACTS.

THE banjo has now a London organ, the Banjo World.

The princess of Wales was fortynine on December 1. FATHER HYACINTH is preaching in a French Protestant chapel still with the spirit and aim, he says, of a Catholic

Foury thousand francs have already been subscribed in Paris for the Gounod memorial, the municipal coun-

eil giving one thousand. In order to promote the interest of yachting the Cercle des Beaux Arts

has put the use of its elubhouse at the use of the Yacht club of France for

LITERARY goods sold very cheap at the sale of the Hazlitt library. The Hazlitt-Coleridge correspondence, which was very large, brought only sixty dollars, and the original manuscript of "Liber Amoris" one hundred and sixty dollars only, far less than was ex-

Literary Plunderers. Perhaps every club in New York is dered of its newspapers, magazines, and even books by its own members. The offense is usually inadvertent, though sometimes intentional. A highly distinguished public man was seen riding down town one day with a newspaper in his hand bearing the conspicuous stamp of the New York club. A man of wealth was expelled from a fashionable club for persistently carrying off a notoriously dull evening paper. Several clubs usually have posted announcements that one periodical or another is missing. The cutting of newspaper files is a common offense in many clubs.

CLIMAX OF A GREAT EMPIRE. Great Britain Has Now Probably Teached the Limit of Her Expansion. The campaign which is now closing

in the country of the Matabeles, the strongest native people in South Africa, is evidently to end in confirming the sovereignty of England over a wide region hitherto only nominally included in the British empire. There may, says the Cleveland Leader, be a historical interest attached to this event far wider than any business or social changes in South Africa can be felt. It is quite possible that the most extensive empire which the world has ever known is at its stage of greatest expansion. The regions in America, Asia, Africa, Oceanica and Europe which are considered. British territory embrace about twelve million two hundred thousand square miles, or onefourth of the land surface of globe. Russia and China together do not pos sess a much larger part of the earth. The British empire has been growing very fast lately by the acquisition of enormous areas during the partition of Africa. Now, however, the limit must be about reached. There is compara tively little territory to seize in Africa, which can fall into the grasp of Eng land. On the other hand, the time draws nearer and nearer when enor mous losses must be sustained. Canada will surely come under the stars and stripes. The change is only a mat ter of time. Australia will as inevi tably become independent. That breaking of existing relations is like wise merely a question of years. About eight million square miles of land and lakes and arms of the sea are slowly slipping from under the paws of the British lion. India, too, will go some day, but that loss will probably come much farther in the future. Whatever great changes there may be in the next few decades are pretty sure, at any rate, to cut down the size of the world's most prodigious empire, past and present. HIS FACE WAS HIS FORTUNE.

The Ugliest Man in Missouri Gets Out of

Trouble in an Un expected Manner. On the southern edge of Phelps county lives Scott Swartzlander, who is considered the ugliest man in Missouri, and there are some of his neighbors who will bet his equal cannot be produced from any quarter. Swartzlander, who is thirty years old, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, has white hair, eyes like a Chinaman, no eyebrows, a nose of abnormal propor tions, which lops over almost to his cheek bone, and is ornamented at the end with a beautiful comic bulb. He is lank and tall, and there are numerous other imperfections that add to this picture of general and particular ugliness. Swartzlander was arrested about a year ago for cutting timber or government lands in Pulaski county. and when his trial came up at Spring field before the United States court the prisoner was promptly arraigned While the district attorney was reading the judge said, addressing the district attorney: "You may enter nolle prosequi in the prisoner's case. After a careful scrutiny of his physiognomy 1 am convinced that any man who is compelled to carry that face is punished quite enough for the amount of lumber which he is charged with hav ing unlawfully taken from government lands. You are discharged, Mr. Swartzlander. Go as quickly as you can, and don't forget to take your face with

Undoubtedly this decision of the learned and discriminating judge at Springfield, Mo., entitles Scott Swartzlander to the undisputed title: "The Ugliest Man in Missouri."

MISDIRECTED EFFORTS. The Dutiful Intentions of a Conscientious

Male Emu. The museum of natural history at South Kensington, England, has lately received the skin of a very handsome emu, the last of a pair of these strange Australian birds which had been kep as pets for more than twenty-five years by a clergyman of Essex. The deat! of the first bird, a female, left its ma* very de olate, and, as often happens in such cases, he sickened and seemed

His mistress carried him dainties t tempt his appetite, and also a daily jaof water. Again and again this ja disappeared, and the lady was mucincensed against the unknown person who made himself thus troublesome.

Finally the emu retired to his shed folded his long legs and refused utter ly to come out, until his master, in th hope that the sunshine might even ye do him some good, took him up bodil to carry him out. Then the myster was solved. Under the bird were al the missing gallipots!

The conscientious emu, feeling that he ought to be fulfilling his destiny by hatching some eggs, and having no wife to lay for him, had seized upon these smooth round jars as the mospromising substitutes to be had, and perhaps would have perished in the at tempt to hatch them if his master had not "broken him up."

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

RAINDROPS are said to be hollow, as they fail to entirely wet the circle upon which each falls. BEARS in southwestern Washington invade the farms and carry off the

hogs, calves and sheep. WILD geese in Roseburg, Ore., seem to be dazed by the electric street lamps, and dash blindly against them. ELECTRIC ambulances are to be used in St. Louis. They will run, when possible, on the lines of the street rail-

Dr. Ross, a Nova Scotia mining expert, says that Wyoming is richer in minerals than any other state in the country.

Most of the inhabitants of Landers, France, walk constantly on stilts. This is because the soil is either marshy or

An English machinist has discovered a new method of coloring iron. It entirely prevents rust, even though the metal be brought to a red heat. THE largest check ever drawn was for the sum of £5,333,650. It was ac-

diamond mines, and was drawn on the Bank of England.

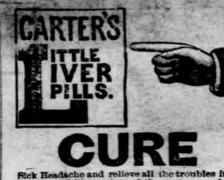
cepted as payment for the Kimberley

SIFTINGS OF SCIENCE. It is proposed to establish in Rich mond a permanent exhibition of the mineral and agricultural productions of Virginia, with which a bureau of

information will be combined. A series of experiments is to be made at Yale college to determine the relation of the nerves to the muscles of the human body and test a new theory that strength depends less upon the size of the muscle than upon the strength of the nerve.

THE Russian government has shown much interest in the meeting place for the twelfth International Medical congress in 1896. It desires that Moscow be selected as the city, and promises to donate 50,000 roubles toward the expenses of the congress. It is stated that there are now in the United States more than 300 mining

companies making use in their operations of electricity for light and power. About one-third of the gross amount of copper refined in this country is now treated by electrolytic processes.-Engineering Magazine.



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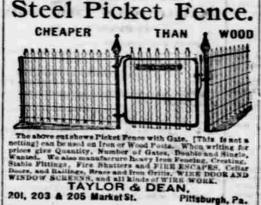
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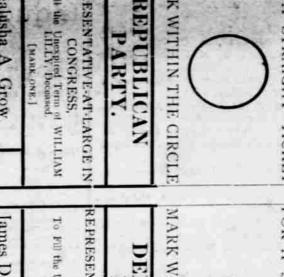
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