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SAVED BY A BLACK ROOSTER

A Mexican Remedy Which Proved Efficacious in a Case of Smallpox.

At a prominent hotel a few days ago was a gentleman hailing from New Mexico. He had been on the frontier since boyhood, and was regaling several friends with choice bits of personal reminiscence, eagerly listened to by his audience. Finally, says the New York Telegram, drawing attention to the pitted condition of his face, which showed the ravages of that dread scourge, smallpox, he said:

"Yes, I had a dose of it in Socorro along about 1881. Everyone gets smallpox down there, from force of example. You hardly ever see a Mexican who is not scarred, and yet they never go out of their way to avoid it. There is a peculiar superstition held by Mexicans regarding the disease. With them it is associated with their religious creed. It is this: Should one of them die of smallpox, there is no grief manifested by his relatives, as the cause of death is regarded as one of open sesame to the kingdom come, the pilgrim avoiding any tiresome wait in purgatory or other stations on the route. Why, they take their children where it is, so that they will catch it when young, the same as American mothers handle the chickenpox or measles problem.

"I have a sister who was taken down with the black smallpox when she was but fourteen years old. The American doctors did everything they could, but finally decided the case was hopeless. It was then that the Mexican nurse, Maria, asked if she could try her hand. She explained the remedy, and we gave assent. What do you suppose she did? She went out and hunted around until she got a black rooster. One with a white feather wouldn't do. It would spoil the charm. This rooster was decapitated in the sickroom, and the warm blood used to bathe my sister. Improvement began at once, and to this day I don't know whether it was the black rooster which saved my sister or the dropping of the case by the doctors."

FAVORITE WORKS OF AUTHORS.

SIR THOMAS MORE was very proud of the "Life of Edward V.," and left no mention of his estimate of the "Utopia."

KEATS seemed to regard "Endymion" as his best, though one of his biographers says that he spoke very well of "Hyperion."

BAILEY, the author of "Festus," said that his book was his life, and contained the whole experience of the human race.

BURKE thought most of his "Vindication of Natural Sciences." His speeches he regarded as means, not as ends in themselves.

FROUDE believed that his "History of England" would better stand the test of criticism than any other of his works.

JEREMY TAYLOR is said by a contemporary to have devoutly believed that no better sermons existed in any language than his own.

ALISON had a stalwart opinion of his own merits. In speaking of his "History of Europe" he said "that work will never die."

WYCLIFFE was one of the most modest of men. After his translation of the Bible was finished he simply said: "I hope it will do good."

MISSING LINKS.

LORD KELVIN maintains that the earth is 100,000,000 years old.

THE skeleton alone of an average whale weighs twenty-five tons.

NANKING is the largest walled city in the world. It is at least 2,500 years old.

SILK is so cheap in Madagascar that the poorest people wear clothing made of it.

THE weight of the earth is calculated by Professor Boys at 5,852,044,000,000,000,000,000,000 tons.

BARRIER reef is a coral reef extending along the northwest coast of Australia for nearly 1,300 miles.

A DUNDEE (Scotland) man is working on a flying machine that is built on the bicycle plan.

A RECENT report shows that 11,520 convicts last year passed through the forwarding prison at Truman, Russia.

MEN attending the pans in salt works are never known to have cholera, smallpox, scarlet fever or influenza.

THE bed of the North Atlantic consists of two valleys, separated by a mountain range that runs from the Azores to Iceland.

MEN OF LETTERS.

MARK TWAIN has been elected a life member of the Lotus club of New York.

THOMAS HARDY, it is said, is dramatizing "Tess, of the D'Urbervilles" for Mrs. Patrick Campbell.

GEN. MARCUS WRIGHT is at work on a historical novel, the scene of which he will lay in Virginia. Gen. Wright is now the head of the war records office of the government.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON'S estate valued at $150,000, derived from profit on his books, goes to show that literature pays its best exponents handsomely.

S. R. CROCKETT, the "Sticket Minister," who was but recently the pastor of a Scotch country church at a salary of $1,200, is now a writer with an assured income of $25,000.

ARCHDUKE FRANCIS FERDINAND, of Austria-Este, the emperor's heir-presumptive, will publish the diary of his voyage round the world, made two years ago. The first volume deals with India, Ceylon and Java.

AROUND OUR OWN LAND.

MOST of the black pearls in existence come from the dark-tipped oyster of Lower California.

A LATE curiosity gleaner claims that there are 500 open caverns in Edmondson county, Kentucky.

THE eucalyptus tree attains a height of fifty feet in three years after the seed is planted. They are grown extensively in California.

A POMPOUS barber in Kansas proclaims himself a "professor of the tonsorial art," and declares that he has just "accepted a chair in a Douglass shaving parlor."

THE number of potential voters in this country in 1890 was 16,940,311. In 1880 the number was 12,830,349. The total presidential vote in 1892 was 12,110,636.

COUNTERFEITING IN ENGLAND.

Losses Through This Means During a Long Term of Years.

The known losses of the bank through counterfeiting mount up, in the 200 years of its history, among the millions. The first forgery of this kind appeared in 1755. A young man named Richard William Vaughan, to show his ladylove how easily he could make money, forged twenty notes, and gave them to her, she thrittily taking them to the bank. * *

In 1784, says McClure's Magazine, Old Patch, the son of an old clothes dealer, and the ex-partner of Foote the comedian in a brewery, took £200,000 from the bank by forgeries, making his own ink, paper and press, and he hung himself when arrested. Astlett, in 1806, embezzled exchequer bills to the value of £12,000. Fauntleroy, a banker, in 1824, obtained £360,000 by forging powers of attorney for sale of consols, and was hung at Newgate. In the general jubilee throughout the city over the proclamation of peace with the American republic, in 1783, fourteen forged £50 notes were cashed unnoticed, and for years in the early party of this century, the bank's annual loss by counterfeits was a figure of many thousands of pounds. Forgeries today are rare. The machinery of detection is perfect, and the system of numbering, as well as the perpetual use by all banks of freshly printed Bank of England notes, presents insurmountable obstacles to "smashers."

BOILED BREECHES.

How a Scotch Soldier Come It Over an Inspecting Officer.

There is an amusing story related regarding a Scotch regiment, in the last century, to whom a money grant was paid for "rations" in lieu of an issue of provisions, with the result that the soldiers spent most of this allowance in "mountain dew" instead of providing themselves with proper meals. The commanding officer, says the London Standard, resolved to check this pernicious practice, took to making unexpected visits of inspection to the cooking quarters at the men's meal times, and, to his wrath, discovered that the kettle which was duly simmering over the first fire which he visited contained nothing but hot water, instead of the regulation piece of beef. But the old sergeant of the next company was a man of resource. Hastily seizing a pair of chamois-leather breeches which were lying before the fire, he popped them into his own cooking-pot, which was, like that of his neighbors, hitherto innocent of aught save water, and to the inquiry: "What have you got in the kettle?" triumphantly responded: "Nice bit of beef, sir," lifting up a portion of the garments with his spoon. The officer glanced at the supposed meat, and passed on with words of commendation; "but the beef was nothing but the major's own old breeches," as the cunning old soldier was wont to remark afterwards in a tone of calm satisfaction.

THE LATEST.

THILBY pies are now sold by a New York baker.

TIPPING is the latest British institution to be threatened. The prince of Wales has declared that he will put it down.

"FULL DINNER" is the latest of the city restaurant signs, and seems an improvement on "regular dinner" and so on. It is pleasantly suggestive of a square meal.

THE boys of Sandwich, Mass., and those of the adjacent town of Bourne, are in clover, engaged in a game called "heads and tails." The first-named town pays twenty-five cents bounty for muskrats' heads, and the other pays the same bounty for the tails.

A HYPNOTIST club is in a bad way in Richmond, Ky. One of its members so hypnotized a majority of its members that they each loaned him money. Now he no longer visits the club, and the other members think hypnotism is extremely silly and only a temporary delusion.

IN A HUMOROUS VEIN.

IT never occurs to a boy that he will some day know as little as his father.—West Union Gazette.

IF a man is big and fat, and keeps his mouth shut, he can bluff nearly anybody.—Atchison Globe.

"My investments," said the speculator in Oklahoma, "depend largely upon my belief in a future state."—Yale Record.

SOME people are afraid of a gun, nevertheless they will trifle with an umbrella which is liable to go off at any time.—Adams Freeman.

YOU can't be sure that a man is lazy simply because he gets another man to do his work for him. He may be only shrewd.—Somerville Journal.

JONES—"I suppose you have a policeman hanging about your kitchen every night." Brown—"No. Our cook is married to one.—Town Topics.

ELECTRICAL SPARKS.

THE trolley has invaded the land of the Pharaohs. Cairo is to have a system.

ALL harm from trolley railroads has been prevented in Budapest, Hungary. There the roads are in cuts below the street surface, where pedestrians never go.

THE first electric light was produced by Humphrey Davy, in 1808. The first practical dynamo was built in 1857, and was first used to run an electric light at the light-house of South Foreland, Eng., December 8, 1858.

A GRATE fire, produced by electricity, is a recent London invention. The "coals" are formed of a combination of fire-clay and chemicals; they are almost instantly made to assume a red-hot glare, and the illusion is perfect.

NOTES FOR WOMEN.

JOHN HUNTER, the famous anatomist, once said that the feminine love of conversation was a consequence of a peculiarity in brain tissue.

AS ARTISTS, women have shown more taste than originality. They paint landscapes and portraits beautifully, but rarely achieve great pictures.

THE brain of woman is absolutely smaller than that of man, but is stated to be somewhat larger in proportion to the weight of the body.

A WOMAN with a military nose and prominent chin is certain to make her mark. All female society leaders have had such facial peculiarities.

BASILICA OF PARIS.

Little Has Been Heard of Late About the Progress of Construction.

Little has been heard of late about the progress of the construction of the Montmartre hill, known as the Basilica of the Sacre Cœur, says the London Daily Telegraph. The vast mass of masonry glistens in the sun, which this afternoon was summer-like in its intensity. The Basilica dominates the metropolis of France by its towering height. It may be seen from various points along the boulevards, but hardly one Parisian in a hundred seems to take any interest in its existence.

Pilgrims and religious people generally flock to it as the sacred landmark of the Mount of Martyrs, but the ordinary citizen does not trouble about it. He is content to know that it is being built and that it will be finished sometime before the day of general judgment, like the Opera Comique, which is also slowly rising on its former site. The building of the Basilica has now been so long in progress that it would be almost a relief to hear that those who are organizing its construction had determined to take the scaffolding away and to let the church stand as an incomplete specimen of ecclesiastical architecture, like the Cathedral of Cologne.

It is useless to tell Parisians, as they are informed to-day, after a long spell of silence, that the works of the Basilica are being pushed forward with activity, and that 500 men are engaged in putting the big dome in position. It was supposed that the dome in question would be ready last week, but now it is stated that it will require many months to complete it. The belfry will not be ready until the year 1896. The committee, down to July of last year, had received 27,594,000 francs, or £1,103,760. The subscription list was opened in July, 1873, but in spite of the large sum collected since that year, further appeals will have to be made to the faithful before they can hope to see the church even near completion.

A MISFIT LIKENESS.

The Historian's Face Was a Hard One to Carve.

James Anthony Froude had a striking face, but it was evidently one which lent itself ill to sculpture. Mrs. Ireland gives in the Contemporary Review an amusing instance of a "misfit likeness" of it. Mrs. Ireland was at his house, and after dinner she and Mr. Froude were just adjourning to the library, when he stopped a moment, and pointed out a bust on a bookcase, the center of three fullsized and dignified representations in marble.

"I must not forget," he said, "to show you the very latest addition to my treasures. What do you think of it?"

I looked up, and with my head full of the galleries and museums I had been visiting answered: "It's a very terrible head and most repellent."

"Yes," he said. "I agree with you. Now who should you say it is?"

Ignorant about these things, I answered vaguely: "Nero, perhaps, or one of the old Borgias."

Mr. Froude laughed. "Try again," he said, "you ought to know it."

"It is a horrid looking thing" said I, "whoever it is!"

"Atrocious!" said Mr. Froude, emphatically. "Is it not? Well, I'm sorry to say it is a bust of myself, just presented to me by Sir Edgar Boehm. Very kind of him, wasn't it? And now of course, I have to stick it up here in a very prominent place, and show it to all my friends. Pleasant, isn't it?"

"Boehm doesn't see you with my eyes," said I. "It doesn't remind me of you in the least."

He laughed heartily.

"That's well!" said he. "I didn't think I was quite such a ruffian as that!"

EUROPEAN PICK-UPS.

IN the British isles during the present century seven instances have been recorded in which the bride has married the best man by mistake.

A LONDON firm, which has manufactured eight of the eleven cables linking the United States to England, makes fifty-five miles of cable each twenty-four hours.

NAPLES is to build permanent sea baths to accommodate 43,000 persons, and to enable them to have hot and cold baths at all seasons of the year. Three points on the shore have been selected for the sites.

THE last miller of Dee is dead, but the Chester Town council has voted to buy and preserve the mills, in order to control the flow of the stream. The original grant of the mills was made by King Edward VI.

PRINCE TOUMANOFF, a student in the University of Odessa, has just been expelled and ordered to leave town within forty-eight hours, because he would not have his hair cut short. There is consternation among the students of Odessa.

IN QUEEN VIC'S DOMAINS.

THE newest thing out in London's world of swelldom is a hand-painted shirt front.

IT is claimed that there are 55 dogs in the United Kingdom to every 1,000 inhabitants.

THE total public debt of the self-governing British colonies amounts to something like £300,000,000.

OUT of every 100 hotels in England, 18 are "White Harts," 10 "King Arms" and 8 "Crowns."

THE national debt of Great Britain amounts to more than £20 for each inhabitant. But very few worry over the matter.

LESS tobacco is consumed in Great Britain, in proportion to the inhabitants, than in any other civilized country. The average is twenty-three ounces per annum for each person.

A POORLY clad woman, who picked up a bag containing £500 in Smithfield, England, the other day, was awarded by the owner, to whom she returned it, with a penny.

FIGS AND THISTLES.

IF you want to do something, find one who believes something.

IT never hurts God's work any for people to get mad at His truth.

OUR lives please God when they make sinners want to know Christ.

AN extravagant man loves to lecture his wife on the beauty of economy.

GOD will give us strength to resist temptation if we will use it to walk away from bad company.—Ram's Horn.

PERSONALS FROM EUROPE.

AMONG the exhibitors at this year's Salon are the countess of Flanders, sister-in-law of the king of the Belgians, and the prince de Joinville, who sends a number of sea views.

EMPEROR WILLIAM has promised a gift of $2,500 and a site for the proposed monument to Helmholtz in Berlin, for which contributions are now being solicited in all countries.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S daily menu is written in French, with the exception of the single item, "roast beef," which is loyally and uncompromisingly English, as befits a national dish.

ON the battlefield of Worth the monument to Emperor Frederick III. will be unveiled by Emperor William on his father's birthday, October 18. Empress Frederick and most of the German sovereigns will be present.

PRINCE BISMARCK'S grand-nephew, a youth of 21, has inherited from his maternal grandfather an estate that contains twenty-three castles and other seats, and is worth a number of millions.

MONSIGNOR BOEGLIN, director of the Nouveau Moniteur de Rome, recently suppressed for an attack on the government, has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment and a fine of two thousand francs on account of an article in that paper against the free masons.

ALL SORTS.

IF you sneeze in a Vienna cafe, even strangers will remove their hats and exclaim: "God bless you."

THE scales used in weighing diamonds are so delicately poised that the weight of a single eyelash will turn the balance.

A CARP taken out of the water may be kept alive for twelve hours by a piece of bread soaked in brandy placed in its mouth.

THERE are five "tasters" in the sultan's kitchen at Constantinople. They taste every dish before it is placed before their royal master.

AVOID the frequent use of soft, sloppy foods and of soft bread. Give the teeth something to do, if you would have them grow strong and keep clean.

IT is said that moths will not attack green fabrics. Arsenic is used in dyeing green, and the moths are wise enough to shun that deadly drug.

THE black ostrich stands seven feet high. The speed is that of a horse, and it can carry a man. The cassowary is as large, but has a shorter neck, and feeds on vegetables.

HINTS FOR HOUSEKEEPERS.

ERFACE scratches on furniture by rubbing on some linseed oil and then following with a little shellac dissolved in alcohol.

NOTHING will give such a polish to glass, even in the finest, as slightly moist newspaper to wash it and dry newspaper to give the finishing touches.

IT will be well when cane-seated chair bottoms have "sagged" to make them as tight as ever by washing them with hot soapsuds and leaving them to dry in the open air.

TO CLEANSE glass bottles that have held oil, place ashes in each bottle and immerse in cold water, then heat the water gradually until it boils; after boiling an hour let them remain till cold. Then wash the bottles in soapsuds and rinse in cold water.

STEEL knives or other articles which have become rusty should be rubbed with a little sweet oil, then left for a day or two in a dry place, and then rubbed with finely-powdered, unslaked lime until every vestige of the rust has disappeared, and kept in a dry place, wrapped up in a bit of flannel.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

MANY women have excelled as executants in music; no woman has ever been a great or even a mediocre composer.

A MANAGER of a large dry goods house in New York once said that not one woman in a million can properly tie up a bundle.

THE papillae on the tips of a lady's fingers are 3-1,000,000ths of an inch smaller than those on the fingers of a man.

THE suttee, or burning of widows on the funeral pyres of their husbands, was inculcated in India as a religious duty.

IT is a singular fact that of the queens who reigned as sovereigns, everyone who reached middle life became quite fleshy.

AN authority on microscopy states that the hair of a woman can be distinguished, by its constitution, from that of a man.

THERE are said to be over a thousand women in New York, who, in one way or another, make their living by their pens.

MUSICAL NOTATIONS.

BOSTON'S Kneisel quartette (Kneisel, Roth, Sweecncki and Schroeder) is to play in London next June.

MASCAGNI, the composer, according to the Milan Corriere della Sera, is going to Paris to challenge Maurice Vignaux at billiards.

MENDELSSOHN was not fond of feasting. He said he could live a week on a sausage and a loaf of bread. His romantic opera of "Lorely" was to some extent inspired by this diet, for he ate little else while composing it.

A CANTATA by Rossini, hitherto unknown, has been discovered in the Rossini museum at Pesaro, and was recently sung there. The subject is the episode of Francesca da Rimini in Dante's "Inferno."

FROM CAMP AND BARRACKS.

EMPEROR WILLIAM of Germany is writing a book on war.

SINCE 1890 Turkey has bought 70,000 improved rifles, and 200,000,000 cartridges made of smokeless powder are stored in different parts of the country.

A RUSSIAN GENERAL named Gregorieff has been sent into penal servitude in Siberia for eight years for selling military secrets to the Austrian government.

AN electric gun, capable of firing 700 to 1,000 shots per minute, without the use of any other power than electricity, has been invented by A. S. Krotz, of Springfield, Ohio.

THE Confederate Veterans' association will send five carloads of the finest flowers of the south to Chicago for Decoration day, most of which will be used in decorating the graves of union soldiers.

LOTTERY HATED HIS JOCKEY.

Strange Antipathy of the Old-Time Steeplechaser for Jem Mason.

The following story is told in the London Field of the famous old English steeplechaser Lottery, foaled in 1830, winner of the Grand National in 1839, carrying one hundred and sixty-eight pounds: Lottery and Jem Mason made up a combination which delighted the eyes of every horseman whose good fortune it was to see the pair across a big country together. Yet, strange to say, Lottery had the greatest antipathy to the man who rode him in nearly all his races and who certainly cannot be accused of any cruelty toward him, for Jem Mason was by no means one of the whip and spur school. He had fine hands, and believed in them, as he was entitled to do. Still he was hated by Lottery, and when the old horse was about twenty years old and was located at Mr. Hall's at Nensden Jem Mason chanced to go down, and naturally enough asked to be allowed to have a look at the old chaser. Just before the doors of the box were opened Lottery heard his jockey's voice and gave him one of his old greetings—that is to say, he flew at him; but Jem, being not unprepared for a reception of this kind, was soon out of harm's way. During Lottery's steeplechasing career Jem Mason often had to hide his colors when he went to mount the horse, but, when the rider was once seated and the horse cantered to the post, the two were apparently on the most friendly terms.

IS A SPANKING GOOD JOKE.

How a State Senator's Blunder Filled a Sleeping-Car with Screams.

A prominent state senator lately gave a dinner at the state capital to several of his colleagues on the condition that they would not make public his name in connection with a little affair that recently occurred on the Albany night train, says the New York Herald.

The senator is of a lively disposition and somewhat inclined to practical joking. He and an assemblyman occupied a section jointly. The senator went into the smoking room about nine o'clock. The assemblyman, who had the lower berth, said that he would retire for a short nap.

The senator about half an hour afterward walked down the aisle of the car and stopped opposite his section. The curtains were tightly drawn. By way of a "good joke" on his colleague the senator carefully lifted aside the curtain, administered a rousing slap on the form in the lower berth and hastily retreated to the smoking room.

A succession of piercing female yells followed. "Great Scott!" ejaculated the senator, attracted by the screams. "Wh—what does this mean?"

"What's the matter?" inquired the assemblyman, peering out of an adjoining upper berth.

"What are you doing in that berth?" asked the senator.

"Why, there was a lady who had this berth and as she did not like an upper one I exchanged with her. I forgot to tell you about it."

SCIENTIFIC GLEANINGS.

EBONY wood is hardened after felling by immersion in water for periods varying from six to eighteen months.

A CURIOUS fact has been noted by Arctic travelers—snow when at a very low temperature absorbs moisture and dries garments.

A CAREFUL observer in Maine finds that one inch of snow in December is the equivalent of 0.15 inches of water, while one inch of snow in March gives 0.22 inch of water.

DR. OLIVER WALCOTT GIBBS, who has been elected president of the National Academy of Science, is seventy-three years of age. He is the only American honorary member of the German Chemical society.

TO THE average eye not more than five thousand stars are visible, to some extraordinarily keen eyes about eight thousand are visible. Through the largest telescopes about fifty million stars are seen, and there is every reason to believe that millions more exist.

INDUSTRIAL AND STATISTICAL.

WE do live in the "banana belt." The country uses 18,000,000 bunches a year.

NEW YORK'S factories turn out every year goods worth over thirty-three times the cost of Central park.

IN France the population averages about 187 to the square mile. In this country the average is twenty-one to the square mile.

AT Kioto, in an exhibition of Japanese manufactures just opened, textiles, leather, machinery, upholstery, hardware, surgical and scientific instruments, glassware, etc., are shown at prices distancing all European competition.

RUSSIA in Europe has an area of 2,095,504 square miles; Brazil an area of 3,209,878 square miles. The continent of Europe does not exceed 3,900,000 square miles in area. South America has an estimated area of 6,800,000 square miles.

NEW NOVELTIES.

THE newest puncture proof band for use on cycles is made of strips of whalebone inserted between the air tube and the outer cover.

THE nursery tricycle has appeared in London. It contains two seats, one for the mistress and one for the maid and her charge, and has two pairs of pedals.

USE has been found for the top cinder made in iron forges, which has hitherto been wasted, and large prices are paid for it. It is needed in the manufacture of basic steel.

POROUS glass is a late novelty in the Paris market. The holes are so small that neither dust nor draft follows its use, and yet the ventilation is said to be excellent.

THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.

TWO CARRIAGES were made in Italy and brought to Paris in 1559.

THE mud baths of Dax, in France, have existed and been more or less celebrated since the time of the Romans.

M. MAURICE BOUCHER has finished his translation into French of all the songs found in Shakespeare's works.

PARIS has 105 branch post offices, to all of which the mails are shot from the general post office, through pneumatic tubes.

M. ZOLA has been elected president of the Societe des Gens de Lettres for the fourth time. The election was unanimous.

IN THE ROCK HOME OF DEATH.

Cheerless Journey Through the Catacombs of Paris.

Down, down, down! All are in the rock. Lame of death. A moment's pause, a silence falls on the chattering crowd, says the Agent' man's Magazine. Then, affrighted with their second's fear, they sway onward through a rocky gallery. Rock on either side of them. Rock above them; here bare and arid, there slimy with oozing water and foul growths. The passage broadens out, it narrows, and ever and ever there is the black line on the roof that marks the road. Suddenly a black shadow on the left or to the right. The eye plunges into the depths of the side roads, and revels aghast at their mysterious gloom. The lights file on. A thin glitter seams a dark gap with a flickering, broken line of light. "Ah!" says the guide. "Yes, a chain."

Still forward, the shadows to right and left grow in size; some have a sentry silently guarding their obscurity from rash obtrusion; where there is no sentry there is a chain.

A sudden check from in front breaks the continuity of the forward movement.

We move on again, and lo! the rocks on either hand contract, change color, break out into the grewsome design of a symmetrically built wall of bones and skulls. From the level of our heads down to the level of our feet skull rests upon skull and leans back against the myriad bones behind. The shivering candlelight falls with unequal rays upon the formal tiers; it flashes coldly upon the grinning teeth, penetrates the mortarless crannies of the wall, and ever shows bone of many shapes and curves. Now it lights up a rent in some skull—a ghastly, jagged wound which haunts one with the thought of foul murder. Anon it shimmers with erratic play on the trickling water that, pursuing its silent way from year to year, has crusted with a smooth gloss the skull beneath.

PEOPLE OF ALL CLASSES.

MR. CLEVELAND'S income is said to be between $80,000 and 100,000 a year.

BILL COOK, the noted desperado, who is under a forty-five year sentence, has been put at work making shirts in the Albany penitentiary.

CAPT. JOSHUA SLOCUM has sailed from East Boston in his forty-foot sloop Spray for an all around the world voyage. Capt. Slocum is a noted adventurer.

MME. YANG, wife of the Chinese minister at Washington, is progressing so finely in English that she is quite able to converse with her many visitors in their native tongue.

MRS. ANN DAFFIN, who died recently at Philadelphia, was present at the coronation of Queen Victoria. Mrs. Daffin was born in Hull, England, in 1806, and came to this country in 1888.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S chief recreation at Woodley is a drive in the afternoon and a game of cards in the evening. The president is a good whist player, and is also fond of pinochle.

J. L. HANS, of Pelham, Ga., is known as the watermelon king. He plants several thousand acres of seed every spring, and in the summer season ships hundreds of carloads of melons north.

PRESIDENT ANGELL of the Humane society offers a prize of $50 for the best collection of instantaneous photographs of docked and over-checked horses, with the names and addresses of their owners.

COMMON EXPRESSIONS.

THE expression to "rain cats and dogs," indicating a severe shower, is found in Dean Swift. It is supposed to be of proverbial origin, and much older than his time.

"FIASCO" means a bottle or flask. When the Italian glassblowers detected flaws in the vase they were blowing they made an ordinary bottle of the failure, and hence the name.

"FAMILIARITY breeds contempt" is a proverb found in one form or another in every English and Asiatic language having a literature. Its earliest form is believed to be the Sanskrit.

TO "TURN the cold shoulder" is probably a very ancient proverb. It first appears in a literary form in Scott's "Antiquary," where it is used with exactly the significance attached to it at present.

"NEVER less alone than when alone" has been traced from one author to another, and many claims have been made to its first employment. No earlier use can be found of it, however, than by Cicero.

THE phrase "almighty dollar" was first used, so far as known, by Washington Irving. It has since passed into general employment to indicate the worship of wealth, both in this country and in England.

ADVICE FOR CYCLISTS.

AN unduly long handle-bar is weak, it spreads the rider out too much, and it unsteadies the steering.

RIDERS should never discontinue cycling for any length of time, because there is no better tonic; but if they are compelled to for some reason, they should immediately adopt some other form of exercise.

TO LEAVE an insufficient length of handle-bar stalk in the tube, though less disastrous to the machine, is more dangerous to the rider, for the handle-bar is apt to come out into his hands, occasioning an awkward spill.

WHEN you hear a grinding, clicking noise at the chain-wheel, don't jump to the conclusion that your chain is slack. Try the main bearings. They may have worked sufficiently loose to throw the wheel out of line and cause the unpleasant noise of the cogs.

CYCLING strengthens the muscles of the ankle immensely, and is nearly always beneficial after a sprain, that is to say, when the ankle is recovered sufficiently to enable the sufferer to hobble about on it. To use it immediately after a sprain is suicidal, and will only prolong the period of convalescence.—Golden Days.

Queer Damage Suit.

A man returning recently to a provincial town from Paris, with a portmanteau containing an urn in which had been placed the ashes of a leading citizen of the town, left the cremated remains in charge, temporarily, of the baggage master at a railroad station. By mistake the portmanteau was handed to another, and the family of the dead man have instituted a suit for damages against the company.