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BY JAMES G. HASSON.

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Cambria Freeman.

JAS. C. HASSON, Editor and Proprietor.

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VOLUME XXX. EBENSBURG, PA., FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 1896. NUMBER 13.

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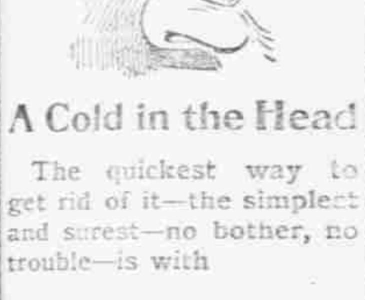

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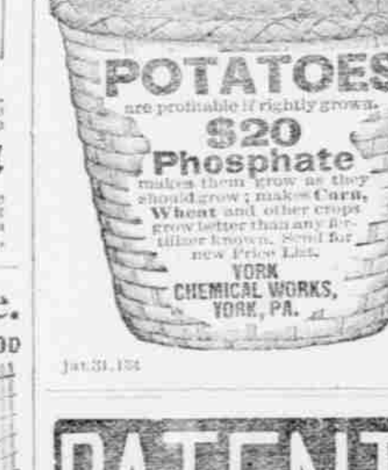

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Also manufacturers of Picket ... Gate. [This is not a ...] When writing for ... Number of Gates, Double and Single, ... Iron Fencing, Cresting, ... FIRE ESCAPES, Cellar ... Iron Grills, WIRE DOOR AND ... WIRE WORK.

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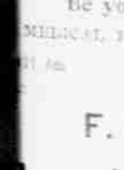
THE ACCIDENTS OF LIFE



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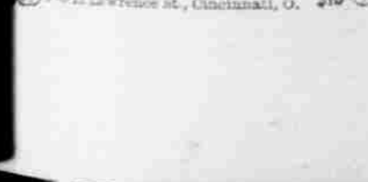

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HOLES IN THE CANVAS.

An Important Discovery Increasing the Efficacy of Sails.

An Italian sea captain, Gio Batta Vasallo, of Genoa, has made a very interesting innovation in the use of sails of ordinary sailing vessels. He claims, says the Philadelphia Record, that the force of wind cannot fully take effect in a sail, since the air in front of it cannot properly circulate in the inflated part, and remains stationary immediately in front of part of the sail proper. He avoids this stagnation of air, as he calls it, by the application of a number of small holes in that part of the sail where the depression is deepest when it is filled; these holes are reinforced like a buttonhole so that they will not tear out. Trials made in various weather have resulted as follows: With a light wind, a boat with ordinary sails made four knots, while the new sail increased the speed to 5½ knots. In a fresh breeze the respective speeds were seven and 8¾ knots; and in a strong wind they were eight and ten knots per hour. It stands to reason that the doing away with a layer of air, which cannot escape past the sides of the sail, must increase the efficiency of the sailboat. Where the wind formerly struck a cushion of air which acted like a spring mattress, decreasing the actual pressure of the wind against the canvas, this current of air now strikes the sail direct, and, of course, has a greater efficiency. Vasallo has received much encouragement from practical sailors as well as theoretical scientists.

Don't Edge Skirts with Fur

One of the distinctive features of the season's dressing is its use of fur and velvet and silk and cloth in combination for the fashioning of gowns. A recent walking costume consists of nut brown, smooth-faced cloth, the bodice decked with a deep yoke formed of alternate strips of fur and emerald green velvet. The high collar is bordered with fur, and so are the cuffs of the velvet sleeves and the full, plain skirt. This sounds odd. A year ago it would have looked so. For a walking costume an edging of fur at the skirt's bottom is objectionable because it wears out so rapidly, gets bedraggled in the mud and stirs up dust to soil the underclothing.—St. Louis Republic.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS and expenditures of Carroll township for the year ending March 9th 1896

FRANK EARHART, Supervisor.

	Dr.	Cr.
To whole amount of Work Duplicate	$1,058 98	
By cash received on work tax		$ 160 88
By amount of exoneration		10 01
By amt worked out by taxable		888 02
Total		$1,058 98
To whole amt of cash duplicate	$ 265 10	
To amt of cash rec'd on work tax	160 88	
To amt cash rec'd from Michael Dishart	75 00	
To amt of cash due at last settlement	92 18	
Total	$ 593 16	
By exoneration		$ 2 5
By amt paid J. C. Darby for road orders		3 80
By amt. paid J. W. Phillipi for road machine		177 28
By amt paid for smithing and repairs		12 76
By amt. paid for plank and timber		51 78
By amt. paid P. J. Deitrick for hardware		5 59
By amt. paid for dynamite, etc.		28 15
By amt. paid Joseph Stiet for water and trough		4 35
By amt. paid for labor		2 00
By amt. paid F. R. Scanlan for services		5 09
By amt. paid Frank Earhart for team hire and labor		75 00
By amt paid for services as supervisor, 130 days at $150 per day		195 00
By amt paid for collecting and disbursing $262 59 at 7 per ct		18 38
By amt paid for collecting and disbursing $327.18 at 2 per ct		6 54
By amt paid Michael Dishart to balance		5 02
		$ 593 16

MICHAEL DISHART, Supervisor.

	Dr.	Cr.
To whole amt. of Work Duplicate		$ 811 36
By amt. of cash rec'd on work tax		$ 106 81
By amt. of exoneration		3 30
By amt. returned to commissioners		15 96
By amt. worked out by taxables		685 29
		$ 811 36
To whole amt. of Cash Duplicate	$ 205 78	
To amt. of cash rec'd. on work tax	106 81	
To amt. of cash rec'd. from license	57 00	
To amt. of cash rec'd from unseated land	169 88	
To amt. rec'd. from F. Earhart	5 02	
	$ 541 49	
By amt. returned to commissioners		3 99
By amt. of exonerations		82
By amt. due him at last settlement		55 79
By amt. paid Frank Earhart		75 00
By amt paid for smithing and repairs		15 90
By amt. paid for plank		31 93
By amt. paid Wm. C. Schroth for oaths		2 00
By amt. paid for hardware, etc.		11 09
By amt. paid for labor		33 88
By amt. paid for damages to fields and house rent		11 20
By amt. paid J. B. Reed for road order		2 00
By amt. paid C. W. Meisel for finger boards		1 25
By amt. paid Wm. Lehmier for mason work		6 00
To amt. paid F. O. Lather for water trough		1 50
To amt. paid for team hire		7 82
To amt paid Dishart Bros. for team hire and labor		50 00
To amt. paid for services as supervisor, 109 days at $1.50 per day		163 50
To amt. paid for collecting and disbursing $202 78 at 7 per ct.		14 19
To amt. paid for collecting and disbursing $338 71 at 2 per ct		6 77
To amt. paid auditor's and clerk service		22 15
To amt in hand of Treasurer M. Dishart		16 71
		$ 541 49

We the undersigned auditors do certify that the foregoing statement is true and correct.

THOMAS ILLIG,
JACOB A. HOOVER, } Auditors.
JAMES T. MILLER.

Attest, C. W. Meisel, Clerk.
March 27th, 1896. 3t.

COMMISSIONER'S NOTICE.

MOLLIE RIPPLE vs JOHN RIPPLE. } In the Court of Common Pleas of Cambria county, No 2, March Term, 1896.

LIBEL IN DIVORCE.

Having on motion of M. B. Stephens, Esq., attorney for libellant, been appointed Commissioner to take testimony and report same in the above stated case. Notice is hereby given that I will sit for the purpose of my said appointment at my office, Room 7 Wood Block, Johnstown, Pa., on Friday, April 17th, 1896, at 10 o'clock, A. M., when and where all persons interested may attend if they see proper.

R. E. CRESSWELL,
Commissioner.

mch. 27, 3t

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Shaving Parlor

Located near the corner of Centre and Sample streets. Shaving, Hair Cutting and Shampooing done in the neatest and best manner. A share of your patronage solicited.
ROBERT CASSIDY.

QUEER SETTLEMENT.

Hornets and Birds Become Friends and the Former Guard the Latter's Nests.

On the broad, brown salt meadows that skirt the Housatonic river, just above its mouth, is a vast colony of marsh wrens, relates the St. Paul Dispatch. In the acres of tangled tules and cat-tails the nests, which are as large as one's head, are so compactly constructed and so thoroughly thatched as to be entirely weather-tight. As a rule the thrifty little chattering wrens prefer not to occupy a last year's nest, so there are every season hundreds of empty ones. They are not allowed to remain vacant long, for there are too many creatures seeking just such snug quarters. One specimen of field or meadow mice take possession of a great many of them. Big spiders, too, love to nest in the abandoned basket-like abodes and live for many seasons in them. The most desirable tenants of all are the big black and white hornets. By far the greater number of the old nests are inhabited by these fiery fellows, and, odd to relate, they are the best of friends with the landlords.

As if by agreement with the wrens, they keep a perpetual guard over the new nests, as well as those where they live. Let a dog, an unconscious rail or snipe-shooter, a bird-egging boy or any creature whatever approach the nests without warning, a cohort of winged warriors will fall on the intruder, and flight is the only safe course. The wrens seem full conscious of the value of such sentinels, for they take care to build their nests always very near to the old. The birds are themselves entirely defenseless, and, their nests being easily located on account of size and the noise made by the wrens, they have been in some localities entirely wiped out by egg collectors. The boys have learned to give this colony a wide berth.

THE SULTAN'S SUNDAY OUT.

It's a Gallant Show When Abdul Hamid Goes to Prayers.

Every Friday—the Moslem Sunday, of course—these moribund sea monsters that comprise the Turkish navy, lying moored stem and stern, moored for a dozen years, impotent as turtles on their backs, within the golden horn, fly the crescent and the star. The marines put on their whitest trousers, and perhaps they give a burnish to their arms; a wild sort of march, well played, sounds from near the Turkish admiralty, and the band and troops come striding up the hill. Everybody in the city, except our own military attache, who, I am told, generally deprives this brilliant ceremony of his presence and the uniform of his queen, is going to the Selamlik, the sultan's drive from his palace to his mosque, a distance of about 200 yards. You pass several regiments of cavalry and infantry, winding up the hill to Yildiz Kiosk, and by the time you are received, in a small pavilion opposite the mosque and just outside the palace gates, by a glittering aid-de-camp, the wide-curving road is filled with troops. The mosque is in front of you, and the palace gates to the left. Hardly have you swallowed your cup of coffee before the bands of more approaching regiments are heard. They are all fine fellows, and they advance with the queer pointed parade-step taught them by their German instructors.

PHRASES THAT STICK TO US.

Curious Figures of Speech That Have Become Incorporated in Our Language.

The queer phrase "My friend and pitcher" was still sometimes heard in Maryland and Virginia—also, I am told, in Pennsylvania, until within recent years, but would seem now to be obsolete hereabouts. Is it still in use elsewhere? "Pitcher" had the meaning of chum, crony or familiar acquaintance—preferably, perhaps, said of, or to, one of the opposite sex. The saying "Little pitchers have long ears," and the briefer Shakespearean "Pitchers have ears" furnish possibly some analogy.

Here in Maryland a long lease of life, or at all events of memory, was secured for the phrase by its use in the name of a patent of land in Baltimore county granted in 1799, the full name of which, "My Sweet Girl, My Friend and Pitcher," has met the amused glance of many a conveyancer searching the indices of our land records. The same day when this patent was issued out of the land office of Maryland the patentee received patents for five other tracts, and the cheerful spirit of an expectant or recent bridegroom is perhaps reflected in the names he chose for them, for three of the others are: "Here is Life Without Care and Love Without Fear," "With Little Am I Content" and "Hug Me Snug." One regrets to learn that within the year our patentee sold all six of the parcels (nearly 500 acres) for "£200 current money," $533.33.

For some years in the earlier part of this century the indices of the land records of Baltimore county give not only the names of granter and grantee, but the names of the tracts conveyed, and very whimsical these often are. Besides many such names as "Meg's Recompense," or "John's Last Chance," or "Repentance," or "Folly," we come across such curious titles as the following: "Bad Roads at Midnight," "Come by Chance," "Cuckold Maker's Palace," "Fingal and Ossin," "Habnab (hobnob) at a Venture," "Harry's Delight in Army Garden," "Poor Jamaica, Man's Plague," "Silent Cyphers of Africa," "Seek No Further, for Better Can't Be Found" and "Gen. Rochambeau, the Friend of Washington, and, Therefore, the Friend of Universal Liberty."

Returning to the phrase "My friend and pitcher," it is interesting to note that although the word "pitcher" in the sense in which it is here used is not to be found—so far as I know—in any dictionary, the expression was certainly not unknown in England some 55 years ago, for it is introduced in one of Barham's Ingoldsby Legends, "The House Warming," in the following characteristic passage:

Room for my lord, proud Leicester's earl,
Retires awhile from courtly cares,
Who took his wife, poor hapless girl,
And pitched her neck and heels down stairs,
Proving, in hopes to wed a richer,
If not her "friend," at least her "pitcher."

—Baltimore News.

CREMATION IN PARIS.

The Number of Incinerations Is Growing Steadily from Year to Year.

The advocates in this country of cremating dead bodies will be somewhat encouraged by the reports that come from Paris of the number of incinerations that took place there during the first four months of 1895, says the New York World. The number of incinerations that occur, either in accordance with a previous request of the person whose body is disposed of or at the instance of the representatives, increases every year with great regularity, though not rapidly. According to the statistics published by the prefect of police, the number of cremations that took place at the Pere la Chaise cemetery from August, 1889, to the end of April, 1895, were as follows: 1889, 49; 1890, 121; 1891, 134; 1892, 159; 1893, 189; 1894, 216, and 1895 (four months), 75.

The furnace would consequently often be idle were it not for the remains from the hospitals, which amount to from 2,000 to 2,500 bodies per annum.

The apparatus employed is that of MM. Toisoul and Fradet and works by means of gas with a recuperator. Incinerations are accomplished in an hour or, at most, an hour and a quarter, and the cost of the combustible never exceeds three francs per operation.

Another apparatus, invented by M. Fichet, has recently been inaugurated. The difference between the two inventions lies chiefly in the application of oxide of carbon. In the contrivance devised by M. Fichet the body is consumed by hot air alone and does not come into contact with gases. According to this method, incineration takes place a little more rapidly than in the Toisoul furnace, but the expense is greater by nearly a quarter as much.

WEBSTER GAVE HIM THE APPLE.

Gov. Doty Planted the Seeds and from Them Grew a Historic Tree.

There is an old apple tree back of the old Doty homestead on Doty island, in Neenah, which has a history, says the Milwaukee Sentinel. It is a tree which grew from apple seeds planted by ex-Gov. James Duane Doty. When Mr. Doty was first appointed territorial judge of Wisconsin by President Fillmore, and was about to leave Washington, the great Daniel Webster shook hands with him and bade him goodby, at the same time handing him a large red apple. Webster then split the apple in two and he took one-half and Doty the other. The seeds from Doty's half were brought to this place and planted, and all there is left now is an old, withered tree, almost ready to fall.

The Doty homestead across the river still remains, and is in a good state of preservation. It is an old log house, and before the new Roberts summer resort was built it was used as a summer hotel. An old registry which was used in this hostelry is still preserved by Mrs. Roberts, and on its title page are the autographs of some of the noted men of the country who used to come here to catch fish in Lake Winnebago. Among them were the names of Gen. Philip H. Sheridan, Gen. Anson Stager, Gen. W. T. Sherman, Walter Q. Gresham, William Pitt Kellogg, George Jay Gould, Emmons Blaine, John B. Foraker, Perry H. Smith, and a score of others not quite so prominent.

RED TABBY CATS IN LONDON.

Entertainingly Described by a Milwaukee Lady Who Saw Them.

A Milwaukee lady who has recently returned from abroad says that one of the most interesting exhibits which she saw in Europe was the National Cat show of England, which was held at the Crystal palace, London, in which about 700 cats were shown, says the Milwaukee Sentinel. "The decided feature of the exhibition," she said, "was the number of superb red tabbies, together with a fine assortment of pure blacks, smoke-colored cats and cats with that peculiar tone of glossy coat known as cat blue. The efforts of the English cat breeders this last year have been blue and black cats. In the opinion of many experts a black cat without any markings whatever of white is the most perfect variety that is known, and it is proof of the appreciation of this that certain dishonest people pluck the white hairs out of a cat one by one. It has been noticed that the classes that are open to workingmen in this national exhibition are particularly strong in fine black cats. Blue-eyed, white-coated cats are getting to be highly valued in England now, and one of these bore off the other day a substantial money prize that was offered by Louis Wain, the great cat artist. Another prize-winner of the show was a brown tabby tom, Champion Xenophon, which its owner values at $5,000."

THE WORLD OF TRADE.

Chicago is the center of the windmill industry of the country—real windmills.

"Carosine, eight cents per gallon" is a sign on a West side store in Chicago where some mysterious commodity is for sale.

Celluloid is being used for eyelets in shoes instead of Japanned brass. The celluloid is dyed in the wool, so to speak, while the base metal soon shows through the black with which it is merely painted.

The builders of depots and other large blocks for the convenience of the public are having more regard for harmony in decoration than they used to have, since the people have become educated up to it by the world's fair?

A big glass jobber says that whiting is rubbed over the plate glass windows of buildings under construction to prevent workmen from running a scantling through the sheet of transparent glass. When it is opaque he can see it and avoid it. The whiting is left on only so long as necessary for protection, as it injures the polish. Sometimes soap is used to render the glass opaque.

Must Not Criticise the Emperor.

Not long ago a Leipsic editor was sentenced to five months' imprisonment for criticising one of Emperor William's speeches. The confiscation of newspapers commenting unfavorably on the sayings and doings of the young potentate, or of his obedient servants, occurs rather often, too.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

—In both Egypt and Assyria porcelain rings were in common use. They were often painted with great delicacy, the painting being burned into the enamel.

—When Alaric besieged Rome, A. D. 408, and was on the point of taking the city, he demanded as its ransom from pillage an immense quantity of gold, silver and jewels, and, among other things, 3,000 pounds of pepper.

—Perhaps the most striking evidence of thrift since that referred to by Hamlet is furnished by a Maine town, where apple trees are to be planted in a grave yard and the proceeds from the sale of the fruit are to be devoted to the repairing of the fences and the cutting of weeds.

—As far as recorded, the loss of life by shipwreck in 1895 was 4,250; by railway accidents, 3,632, and by other casualities over 24,000. Add to these dismal figures the 5,759 reported murders in the United States alone, and we have a total of 37,641 violent deaths, or an average of over 100 for every day in the year.

—The fox's reputation for smartness was well sustained by a member of the tribe near Falmouth, Me., the other day. A couple of hounds and a hunter were after it, and the fox led the hounds to a frozen pond, and out on ice so thin that it just supported the fox, which escaped, while the hounds went through and were drowned.

—Passmore Edwards, editor of the London Echo, a paper which the Spectator describes as "the most honest and most faddy in the world," gives away thousands of pounds every month to philanthropic undertakings of various kinds. These he is said to select with great judgment, but he always takes care to exploit his good deeds at great length in his own paper, and persistently asks other journalists to do the same in their own publications.

—A $150 lawsuit over a $1.25 pig has just been ended in Michigantown, Ind., and the town treasury is out the former amount. A month ago the city marshal impounded a pig belonging to a farmer named Hillis. The farmer refused to pay the $1.50 pound charge and replevined the pig. The town sued him, and after three trials the circuit court gave a verdict for Hillis, with $1.01 damages. More than half the people in town were summoned as witnesses, and the total amount of money lost over the pig runs to a pretty high figure.

—Edison believes that he can solve the problem of air ships either by using balloons or aeroplanes; but, to use his own words: "I would construct actual ships of the air—yachts, schooners and brigantines—which would tack and jibe, and sail before the wind. My idea is that the lifting power for these air ships should be gas stored in the sails. In other words, you apply the balloon principle in such a way that the gas bag, instead of being an impediment, as it at present, would be the actual means of propulsion. I would construct gas bags shaped like the sails of a yacht."

FASHIONS IN RINGS.

In Nero's time there was a fashion prevalent of wearing large rings, the setting of which was carved with the bust of the special divinity who was the wearer's patron.

Paradise rings were greatly worn in Italy three centuries ago. They were very wide and bore on the circumference representations of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

When the tomb of the great Emperor Frederick, who died in 1250, was opened in 1780, his coronation ring, set with a beautiful emerald, was still found upon his finger.

The ring of Edward the Confessor is preserved among the royal regalia of Great Britain. For several centuries it was used in the coronation ceremonies of the English kings.

In the Etruscan tombs of northern Italy gold rings have been found made in the shape of a cord, a large knot of intricate pattern forming the principal part of the ornament.

Mourning rings were greatly used in Europe during the 17th century. After the execution of Charles I. his sympathizers in England wore mourning rings in token of their grief.

The scarabaeus, or sacred beetle of the Egyptians, was a favorite subject for a setting in the early Egyptian rings. It was carved in stone, the work often being exquisitely done.

INGENIOUS BIRD.

Queer Performance of Feathered Resident of Somali Land.

The honey bird, of which we saw several during our travels in Somali Land, is well worthy of mention as a natural curiosity, says a writer in the Nineteenth Century. It is a little gray common-looking bird about the size of a thrush. It first forces itself upon the notice of the traveler by flying across his path uttering a shrill, unlovely cry. It will then sit on a neighboring tree, still calling and waiting for him to follow. By short, rapid flights the bird will lead its guest on and on, till after awhile the traveler notices that the bird has stopped its onward course and is hanging about among a certain half-dozen trees. These being visited one after another, and carefully examined, the search will be rewarded by finding a nest of bees in one of them. The probability is that there will be honey in it. I have never known the bird mistaken. It is a matter of honor with the natives to set aside a good portion of honey for the bird. Although this action of the honey bird is an established fact of natural history, it is none the less unaccountable, and it would be interesting to know whether he ever tries to entice quadrupeds also to assist him in obtaining his much-loved honey.

Australia's Meat Supply.

The flocks and herds of Australia are numbered by many millions, and during the last 15 years the carcasses of some 21,000,000 of sheep alone have found their way into this country from Australia and New Zealand. This does not include over 1,000,000 hundred weight of beef imported from the same sources within the last seven years. For the commencement of this trade was in 1880, when the total shipments amounted to 400 carcasses.

TEXAS RANGERS.

They Give Short Shift to the Wicked People.

There are at present about 200 rangers in Texas. They are separated into companies and are kept on the borders for the most part, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. They live in the open air the year round. Nearly every night in the year, rain or shine, they have only the sky for a roof and the bare ground for a bed. Their pillows are their saddles. They are made up of the flower of Texas manhood. A wild, yelling, cursing cowboy is looked upon with contempt by them. They depend upon their six-shooters and carbines, their coolness and marksmanship, the known courage of their comrades. The governor of Texas is the chief officer of the rangers. What he says is law to them. The sheriff, the police, the militia, must not stand in their way if the rangers have orders from the governor. The rangers hold individually as much power as any sheriff in Texas. They hold more. They are not bounded by county lines.

Whenever a sheriff is unable to cope with lawlessness he calls on the governor and the rangers are sent to take charge. The section which the rangers police is larger in area than all of New England, and it is of such a character that were it not for their work it would be given over to lawlessness and disorder. They are paid $40 a month and their rations and arms and ammunition are furnished by the state. They provide their own horses, the state paying for them if they are killed. They will take the saddle at a moment's notice to go on a scout of a month's duration. They have no uniform. They have no military discipline, as discipline is generally understood, but they obey their officers and will go with them to certain death without a murmur.

QUAIL WERE DRUNK.

Experience of a California Pot Hunter in a Vineyard.

"I was out hunting quail in a big vineyard near Santa Rosa a few days ago," remarked Superior Judge Dougherty, of Sonoma county, according to the San Francisco Post, "and I got the finest bag of birds I ever shot in my life. When I first went into the vineyard I thought I was shooting at tame quail, for they wouldn't fly until I came near stepping on them, and then they would wobble off through the air in the most erratic way. They would only fly a short distance until they would drop into a grapevine as if their wings had given out.

"My dog kept bringing me live quail which I thought I had wounded, but finally, when I had three dozen birds and had fired only about a dozen shots, I knew there was something wrong somewhere.

"Finally I came upon a quail lying on its back and kicking its feet in the air in the most peculiar way. I picked it up and found it uninjured, so far as I could see. Then I set it on its legs and it went staggering and floundering over the clods a few feet further till it fell on its back again and lay kicking helplessly.

"For the first time it occurred to me that the quail was drunk. They had been feeding on the frost-bitten grapes that had fermented on the vines, and were enjoying the wildest kind of a jag. Some could not move, while the soberest couldn't fly fast enough to get out of the way of a clod."

RARE DOLLARS OF 1804.

The Die Was Made But None Were Coined Till the Year 1856.

I was talking to a well-known numismatic the other day about the dollar of 1804, for good specimens of which such fabulous prices are paid by collectors, and he gave me some interesting information, says a Washington correspondent of the New York Commercial Advertiser. The reason the dollars of 1804 are so scarce is that none were coined that year, there being an excess of coins of that denomination in circulation. In 1803, as is always done, the dies were made for the succeeding year, but none were coined until 1856, when Director Pollock of the mint found the old die of 1804 at Philadelphia, and in order to complete his own collection offered to exchange with numismatics. How many were struck off is not known, but one of these belonging to ex-Director Lindeman was sold at auction in New York for $470. Upon the early dollars coined around the rim of the coin was cut the words: "Unit, one hundred cents." This is termed the "collar" by numismatics, and there is no collar upon these restrikes. Hence, it is useless to look among the old dollars that were in circulation for one bearing the date of 1804.

A HISTORY LESSON.

The New Testament in its revised form appeared in 1881, and the Old Testament came out in 1885.

Wall street, in New York, was so named because about 1650 a stockade was built there as protection from the natives.

The American Colonization society did not originate in the slave states, as has been recently stated. The idea was first conceived in 1773 by Rev. Samuel Hopkins and Rev. Ezra Stiles of Rhode Island. But the actual founder of the society was Rev. Robert Finley, of New Jersey.

One of the historical old houses of Philadelphia has just been given to the American Catholic Historical society. It is the Nicholas Biddel mansion at No. 715 Spruce street. The old house was built about the year 1820 by Nicholas Biddle, lawyer, statesman and bank president, the son of Charles Biddle, vice president of the supreme executive council of Pennsylvania under the first constitution.

Common Case.

The Scotchman's disposition to regard his own judgment as the best that can be found is well illustrated in a story once told of the moderator of a Scotch presbytery. This man's opinion differed widely on a certain question relating to church discipline from that of the associates with whom he was ostensibly consulting. At last he said that he would lay the matter before the Lord in prayer and then wait for His guidance. "O Lord," said the moderator, fervently and with perfect sincerity of purpose, "O Lord, grant that we may be right in this matter, for Thou knowest we are very decided."—

INTERESTING MISCELLANY.

A New York electrician has succeeded in sending messages over a telegraph wire at the rate of 1,714 words a minute.

The statement is made that 4,290 bushels of potatoes marketed at Gaylord, Mich., recently brought $343.20, or but eight cents a bushel.

Nijni Novgorod's exhibition next year is to be a national one of Russian products alone. It will be opened soon after the czar's coronation at Moscow.

Diamonds are now engraved very artistically and are even perforated so they can be strung like beads, sometimes being used in alternation with pearls.

Ilka von Palmy, the celebrated Hungarian soubrette, will play a part written in broken English, in Gilbert & Sullivan's new opera, when it is brought out in London.

Princess Marie of Orleans, wife of Prince Waldemar of Denmark, has just startled her relatives by having her photograph taken in a fireman's uniform, helmet and all.

A free school in Dahomey, conducted by an Englishman, has been closed by the French governor on the ground that all languages were taught there except French.

Among Dr. Donaldson Smith's discoveries in the region of Lake Rudolph is that of the existence of 15 new tribes of Africans, one of them dwarfs, none over five feet in height.

Lecocq, the composer of "Le Fille de Mme. Angot," is trying to get a divorce from the wife to whom he has been married for 20 years on the ground of incompatibility of temper.

THIS WORLD OF OURS.

Lord Rosebery is said to be writing a novel.

Electric lights are to be placed in the Sivan Hindoo temple at Kochieadde, on the main road to Mutwal in Ceylon, and it is likely that other wealthy temples will follow this example.

At Accra, on the Gold Coast, the first daily newspaper of West Africa, the Gold Coast Express, has been started. It is a four-page sheet, each page the size of ordinary letter paper.

Spanish imports have decreased by 22,848,689 pesetas in ten months of this year, as compared with 1894. The receipts from customs are 5,000,000 pesetas less than the estimates and nearly 14,000,000 pesetas less than last year's.

Robinson Crusoe's musket, "a fine old specimen, with long barrel, flint lock, and beautifully balanced," is offered for sale in Edinburgh. It came into the possession of the present owner through Alexander Selkirk's grandniece.

Religious bigotry in politics appeals to women in Europe as well as in America. Dr. Lueger and Prince Lichtenstein, the anti-Semitic agitators in Vienna, in conducting their campaign are addressing crowded meetings of excited women.

Prince Christian Victor of Holstein-Schleswig, who has gone to Ashantee, is the first of Queen Victoria's grandchildren to see active service. The duke of Connaught served in the Egyptian campaign, and is the only one of the queen's many descendants who has been engaged in real warfare.

THE ANIMAL KINGDOM.

The legs and tentacles of the common barnacle form an effective net, by which all small animals and insects sufficiently near are entangled.

The principle of the hinge is seen in almost every joint in the animal kingdom. No animal is without a hinge joint somewhere or other in its anatomy.

The first clothmaker was the weaver bird, which, from threads and vegetable filaments, manufactures a fabric quite water-proof and of very dense structure.

Several species of sea anemone can form their jelly-like bodies into boats and float on the surface of the water, propelling themselves with their antennae.

The tusks of the walrus were the first ice anchors. The instruments of this description used by seamen in arctic regions are modeled after the walrus tusks.

THIS AND THAT.

The German government is now proposing to expend upward of 2,000,000 sterling on light railways.

Sir Hubert Maxwell, in his monthly budget of Naturalist Notes, speaks of a single fox fur fetching as much as $850.

Pressed by the builder, and unable to pay his bills, the owner of a boat on the Seine has named it "The Floating Debt."

The "fisherman's ring" is the signet of the pope. Its bezel bears an impression of St. Peter in his boat with fishing nets.

The German emperor has contributed 10,000 marks to the fund for the erection of a monument commemorating the battle of Leipsic in 1813.

A writer in the Frankfurter Zeitung says that horseflesh is the most nourishing of meats and its taste is hardly distinguishable from beef.

SCIENTIFIC GATHERINGS.

Sir John Herschel proved that an icicle 45 miles in diameter and 200,000 miles long would melt in one minute should it fall into the sun.

The skin turns blue when exposed to cold because, by a low temperature, the circulation is impeded at the surface, the arterial blood is partially prevented from flowing beneath the skin, and the venous blood, which is almost purple, gives color to the skin.

Experiments made last summer in Europe show that the amount of radiation received from the sun on the surface of the earth in a clear day is greater with a dark blue than with a light blue sky. In the latter case there is a higher tension of the water vapor in the air.

Keen Senses in Lower Animals.

Experiments indicate that spiders have a long range of vision. It is not always possible to tell, however, whether the lower animals perceive by sight or hearing, or by the action air in motion has on their bodies. It is asserted that mice are sensitive to motions of the air which to human ears create no sound whatever.