

THE CENTRE REPORTER

FRED KURTZ, Editor and Proprietor

TERMS:—One year, \$1.50, when paid in advance. Those in arrears subject to previous rates. \$2 per year.

Advertisements 20 cents per line for 3 insertions, and 5 cents for each subsequent insertion.

CENTRE HALL, PA., THURS, NOV. 7.

Dr. Hammond, who expressed his belief in Brown-Sequard's elixir of life, long ago gave to the public his conclusion that there was no scientific basis for the decay of vitality. If man is really immortal, his life cannot decay. Therefore, disease, decay and death merely happen because we are ignorant of the laws of life. This was Dr. Hammond's reasoning.

For the whalers in the northwest seas the government is building a permanent refuge and life saving station at Point Barrow. Many lives have been lost and horrible sufferings have been endured in the past few years. A number of whaling ships with their crews have been lost and never heard of, swallowed up in the eternal mystery that broods over those far northern regions.

There are those sometimes who commiserate Texas because she has mostly seemed to lack one of the elements of perfect prosperity, and that is large mineral wealth. But now comes word that a valuable petroleum has been found both in the east and west of the state. The oil in western Texas resembles that of Pennsylvania. Texas is a long way from the other oil producing regions, and if a good article of illuminating oil is found there undoubtedly the state will have a great boom. Natural gas in small quantities has also been detected along with the oil deposits.

An old inhabitant, not so very old either, remembers New York city when it had not a single tenement house, and when the daughters of well-to-do citizens swept their own sidewalks and the street itself out nearly to the middle. Now two-thirds of New York's million and a half of people live in tenement houses, and if the daughter of a well-to-do citizen should be seen sweeping a sidewalk she would be thought to be a candidate for the insane asylum. Then the population of the city were nearly all Americans. Now there are whole streets whose inhabitants can scarcely speak a word of English. But the change which strikes the old New Yorker most is what he calls "the rise of squalor line," that is, the increase of poverty. He says: "The squalor line is rising in New York as surely and as mercilessly as the tide rises in the rivers that surround it. I only hope a way may be found to force it to recede."

The Book of Divorce.

Mr. A. Parlett Lloyd has perhaps made it easier for his fellow countrymen to settle their matrimonial woes. He has gathered into one volume the divorce laws of the different states and territories and published them under the name of "A Treatise on the Law of Divorce." It is a queer assortment. Causes for divorce range from almost nothing in one state to the gravest crimes in another. In Washington territory, Connecticut, Utah and Kentucky the grounds for divorce are almost left to the discretion of the judge, while in South Carolina no divorce is granted at all on any ground. From this book a sufferer can find out on what plea he may get a divorce in the state in which he lives or elsewhere. Mr. Parlett Lloyd thinks the strange jumble of laws shows the utter futility of attempting to pass a general United States divorce law.

Useful Apes.

Professor Romanes has been teaching a chimpanzee in the London Zoological garden to count. She succeeded in learning to obey the order to pick up one, two or more straws accurately as far as five. Above that number she was generally accurate as far as seven, though she sometimes made mistakes.

This learned chimpanzee understood spoken language "to a degree which is fully equal to that presented by an infant a few months before emerging from infancy." This, Professor Romanes says, is a higher intelligence than is manifested by any other brute, so far as he has been able to discover.

The ape was indeed almost able to articulate words. She had three distinct sounds to express three different emotions. One kind of a grunt meant yes, another no, while a third sound meant to say "thank you" for gifts or favors. "At times she sings a strange howling note, interrupted at regular intervals." The creature manifests great docility and affection for her keepers, who are very kind to her.

If civilized man inhabited the wilds in which these animals are found, he would long ago have had them trained to be his slaves. Man subjugated to his service the horse, a far stronger, less intelligent animal than the chimpanzee. So why not the chimpanzee and its fierce cousin, the gorilla, which grows to man's size in the wilds of western Africa? The negroes there have, indeed, occasionally broken in the gorilla to pluck coconuts and carry water for them. Why could they not be trained to systematic service? There is no sin in making slaves of gorillas and chimpanzees. There is a story that apes have been trained to do very useful work in tobacco fields.

Pan-America means simply all America. "Pan" is a Greek word signifying all.

The piano and organ manufacturers of the country have united in an association. It is fitting that organ men should organize.

Senator Sherman says he is almost persuaded to become a free trader to the extent of having full reciprocity with our South American neighbors.

The public will be indebted to Michael Davitt for one bit of information. He says the Clan-na-Gael is not a secret society any more than the order of Free Masons is.

John Williams, of Washington, has answered in a practical manner the question whether the negro race is dying out. He is the father of twenty-nine children and grandfather and great grandfather of fifty-eight more—eighty-seven in all.

It is said the best crop raised this year in North Dakota has been mortgages. The crops have failed there three years in succession, and the brave farmers are destitute. They are entitled to help from all their fellow countrymen. They need it, and need it now.

At the Unitarian convention in Philadelphia, the reporting committee confessed they did not know how the foreign missions would pan out. "Nearer home, however," said the report, "there are opportunities we must not allow to pass by." The Unitarians recognize nobly the fact that there is no end of strong, honest missionary work to be done at home.

The Injured Husband Club.

It started in Philadelphia, and it is quite the latest wrinkle. It is, in fact, a sort of cave of Adullam for men with a grievance.

Husbands whose lives are consumed by a secret sorrow, husbands whose wives do not love them, husbands whose wives love them too much—the latter class constituting the far greater number—all these flock to the standard of the abused husband club. Here gather those who have been divorced, those who want to be divorced and can't, those whose married existence is in general a purgatory of incompatibility, and those whose wives cannot or will not cook aright—all these gather around the friendly roof tree of the abused husband club, and in its diversions find surcease of sorrow. A committee examines the candidates privately, and the man who is by common consent the most cruelly abused, battered and put-upon husband is elected president.

The club agrees to pay divorce and alimony expenses for its members, and otherwise comfort them to the extent of its resources. A man who makes friends with his wife is expelled from the club. The organization is growing with marvelous rapidity. It is expected there will in a few weeks be 5,000 members in Philadelphia alone. This is hard on Philadelphia wives.

Farmers and Co-operative Industry.

Two meetings of significant interest were recently in progress on the same day in our wide country, one east, the other west. One was the Interstate Wheatgrowers' association at St. Louis, the other a meeting of delegates from the five states that supply New York city with milk. Both met with the same object—to protect the interests of farmers by co-operation. The name of the western organization is the Farmers' Federation of the Mississippi Valley. The eastern calls itself the Union of Milk Producers for the Supply of the New York Market.

The wheat growing farmers at St. Louis represented a capital of \$20,000,000. The milk farmers intend to start with a capital of \$500,000. Both intend to bind themselves together in fast union and take the fixing of the prices of their products out of the hands of middlemen and regulate them themselves.

Under existing arrangements, 10,000 milk producers are at the mercy of the New York Milk Exchange, a combination of 100 men, hardly one of whom ever milked a cow in his life. The plan is to divide the milk region into districts, with a shipping agent for each. The milk will be forwarded to a central depot just outside of New York; thence it will be distributed under orders of the producers themselves.

At the wheat growers' meeting a Chicago grain speculator told the farmers that the monopolists, selfish as they were, had taught a lesson which would be a blessing to humanity. It was the lesson of co-operation. They had accomplished their ends by hanging together, and farmers could hang together as well as monopolists. The farmers resolved then that they would hang together, and fix the price of grain themselves. The price of bread will not be any higher to consumers, however.

Then the agriculturists resolved to memorialize congress to make reciprocity treaties with the nations that take our products, so that farmers' stuffs can enter those countries free. They also decided to ask congress to break up other trusts and monopolies, and to admit agricultural implements and the iron used in their manufacture free.

It will be deeply interesting to watch the farmers' management of what is undoubtedly the coming system of industry for the world—the system of co-operation.

∴ ROCHESTER ∴

! CLOTHING HOUSE !

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M. FAUBLE,

Proprietor.

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