

BURGLAR PROOF.

HOW A JEWELLER GUARDS HIS MANY TREASURES.

Safes Within Safes—All Enclosed in Frail but Sensitive Cabinets—Alarm Bells and a Watchman.

Here are 200 feet of show cases, half of them on each side of a long room, and back of them are as many feet of upright cases stood against the wall. In the rear of the room are more cases, and wherever there is room for them are costly music boxes, bronze statues, and other valuable articles of European and American make. All the show cases are full of jewelry and other articles made of gold and silver. For twenty feet near the front the cases hold nothing but real diamonds and other precious stones, for the place is a jeweller's sales room up town, where no imitation articles are sold—nothing but real gold and silver and real stones.

"What do you do with your goods at night?" the reporter asked the proprietor.

"You'll find it easier to get them in the daytime," Mr. Jeweller smilingly responded.

"But you have some system of securing them. Tell me what it is, for the information of the public—if it is no secret."

"There is no secret about it," the jeweller replied. "Do you see those three cabinets, those black walnut cabinets, against the east wall? We put everything in those at night."

"You trust to a black walnut cupboard all these cases of gold and diamonds, do you, valued at—about how much?"

"If you take the entire lot," Mr. Jeweller laughed, "you can have it for \$350,000. But come behind the counter with me and let me show you the cabinets."

The jeweller led the way to the middle of the east side of the room, between cases full of diamonds and costly stones on the one hand and upright cases full of silver teapots and trays and sugar bowls on the other hand.

"Here," he said, when the cabinets were reached, "is where we keep everything at night, except such large articles as would not go in. In our business it is not the big things, but the little ones that are valuable."

They were ordinary looking walnut cabinets, each perhaps seven feet high and five feet wide, and each with folding doors, an upper and a lower panel in each door. A boy might break them all open with a hammer in one minute.

But Mr. Jeweller threw open one of the pairs of folding doors and disclosed inside an immense safe, that seemed to say, "Come on, now, if you're a burglar; let's see what you can do!" It was one of the polished steel sort, with tremendous resistance when all over it.

"These are called burglar-proof safes," said the jeweller; "but I need not tell you that no safe is burglar proof. Nothing has been or can be made that cannot be broken, and an expert burglar can open any safe in the world. However, I think these are as nearly burglar-proof as any safe in New York. It is merely a question of time with a burglar, and these safes are warranted to resist any attack, except with explosives, for twelve hours. There is not much danger from gunpowder or dynamite in such an exposed place, and to operate with tools successfully requires twelve hours."

As he spoke he opened the safe doors. Three-fourths of the interior was divided into shelves, all of the same height and breadth. The other fourth was taken up by another safe, apparently complete in itself.

"There is where we keep our most valuable goods, the diamonds and other very costly articles," the jeweller continued, tapping the small inner safe. "There are one of these inside of each of the large safes, and each small safe is separate and complete in itself, with its own separate combination. If a burglar manages to reach the inside of one of the large safes he still has another safe to open before he can get the most valuable goods."

"But what an immense labor it must be to put all these goods in the safes every night and take them out again every morning," the reporter suggested.

"Not so much as you might think," Mr. Jeweller replied. "I will show you how it is done. Look at this showcase. You see the articles do not lie on the bottom of the case, but on little shallow velvet-lined trays. Those trays are made to fit the showcase, three of them being just the width of the case. The compartments in the safes are made to accommodate the trays, each compartment holding two tiers of six trays each. So before closing we have only to slide the trays into the safes, and everything is secured."

"That is very convenient," the reporter acknowledged, "and it seems to be very secure."

"Ah, but that is only the first step toward security," the jeweller exclaimed. "You have seen that the safes are as strong as they can be made. That is all that steel can do for us. Now we call in electricity to stand guard. Each safe is connected by separate wires with the Burglar Alarm Company. If an explosion or any other jar should move one of them a sixteenth of an inch out of its place, a bell would ring in the headquarters of that company, and within ninety seconds two policemen would be here. If anybody should turn the combination knob a hair's breadth that would have the same effect. I used to have the wires run into my sleeping room, but I found that two or three times a year there would be some trouble with crossing wires, and I would be called out in a hurry in the middle of the night, and it gave me too much worry. So I had the wires connected with the Burglar Alarm Company, and now when I go home I do not give the goods another thought."

Mr. Jeweller here closed the safe doors, and turned the little knob that locks them.

"We can lock or unlock them a hundred times a day," he continued, "but when we once lock them for the night, they are not opened again till next morning. When I set the combination for the night just before going home, I give an electric signal to the burglar alarm people, and that instant the alarm is set. If I should forget anything, and should open

the safe myself after giving the signal, there would be two policemen here in a minute and a half, exactly the same as though a burglar were at work. Now do you think I can go home with an easy mind?"

"Perfectly," the reporter assented; "your goods are certainly safe."

"But that is only the second step toward security," Mr. Jeweller said. "Let me show you the third."

He closed the folding doors of the walnut cabinet.

"Tap one of those panels with your fingers, please," he said.

The sound that followed was muffled and heavy, entirely unlike the sound made by tapping a thin wooden panel.

"These slight cabinets are not as defenceless as they look, the jeweller continued. "Those panels are made of pasteboard, and other parts of the cabinet, although of wood on the outside, have pasteboard within."

"And why pasteboard?" the reporter asked.

"Because pasteboard is a better non-conductor than wood. That panel you tapped is made of three thicknesses of pasteboard and two thicknesses of tin foil. First there is the outer pasteboard panel, which is stained and grained to imitate walnut; then a layer of tin foil; then a second sheet of pasteboard, then a second layer of tin foil; and finally a third sheet of pasteboard, which forms the back of the panel. The first sheet of tin foil is connected with the positive pole of an electric battery; the second sheet of tin foil is connected with the negative pole of a battery. With the sheet of pasteboard between them, the metallic sheets do not touch, and there is no circuit. But let a burglar begin to operate upon the cabinet, and run a knife blade or a gimlet or anything else through the panel, and the metallic foil, touching both sheets of tin foil, instantly completes the circuit, a bell rings in the burglar alarm office, and two policemen come, as before."

"Is that all?" the reporter asked.

"No, not quite," Mr. Jeweller smilingly replied. "Besides these little appliances we have a faithful watchman in the store all night. Part of his work is to press a little electric button every half hour from the time we lock the front door at night till we open it in the morning. Thereby he tells the burglar alarm people that he is awake and on duty. If he lets sixty seconds beyond the half hour pass without pressing the button, the two policemen come to see what is the matter, just as if somebody had tampered with the safes."

There were no more precautions, and the jeweller and the reporter emerged from the inner regions of gold and precious stones.—[New York Sun.]

BIG SAURIANS.

Some Truths About Alligators Which Grow in the United States.

"Did you ever see an alligator catch flies?" asked a naturalist of a Star writer. "I have watched the performance by the hour. The saurian lies on a muddy bank in the sun, with his mouth wide open. Winged insects, attracted by the saliva of the beast, gather in swarms upon its tongue, just as though it were a sheet of fly paper. When a sufficient number has collected it closes its jaws suddenly, and with a gulp the little torments have disappeared, affording at once revenge and an agreeable flavor. You have often heard, I dare say, of the little bird that enters the mouth of the crocodile without fear, in order to pluck therefrom certain parasites which the reptiles could not otherwise get rid of. That is a fact, although it failed to be recognized as such by science for a long time."

"On many occasions I have had opportunities of observing alligators in pursuit of prey. They will eat meat in any shape, from water fowl to fishes. Sometimes they moor themselves by their tails to the shore, with mouths agape, and silently absorb shoals of mullet and other comparatively small fry which pass along through the shallows. But a favorite way of theirs is to lie upon the surface of the water and quietly gobble any ducks or other animals that come within reach. Their heads are so constructed that when they are thus floating only their eyes and the tip end of the nose are above the surface. Thus they are able to breathe and to see at the same time, without exposing themselves to any extent. A snap, and all is over with the victim."

"Perhaps I have seemed to confuse the alligator and the crocodile. In fact, there are two kinds of crocodiles in the United States—the true crocodile and the alligator. The former is very rare, indeed, and it only can be distinguished from the latter by a difference in the shape of the head. Alligators have been found in the rivers and estuaries as far north as North Carolina, though not within recent years. For a long time past hunters have sought them so persistently and have slain them so recklessly that they are rapidly becoming extinct. At present their numbers in Florida and on the Gulf coast are few. In the unexplored Everglades and other great swamps of those regions they still survive in numbers, awaiting the crack of the sportsman's rifle to announce their demise, preliminarily to sending their hides and teeth to northern markets."

"In times past and to this day, according to current tradition, alligators have been credited with being very ferocious; but the fact seems to be that they are sluggish and timid. In South America where they are found in the water where they are and pull them out by the tails. So it is said, at all events. When winter approaches, they embed themselves in the mud of the shallows, where they hibernate and lie dormant until spring. They breed in April and May, when the female seeks a sheltered spot on a bank and constructs a small mound of mud and other material, in which she deposits her eggs, to the number of 100 or 200. First she lays upon the ground a stratum of mud and grass, on which she deposits a layer of eggs; on this she places another stratum of grass and mud, then more eggs, and so on. The eggs are hatched by the sun, assisted by the heat which the decomposing vegetable material generates. As soon as they are hatched the infant alligators scramble for the water."

"Alligator leather is becoming dearer nowadays on account of the increasing rarity of the animals. Good hides are

worth \$10 each. The teeth are of an excellent quality of ivory, from which trinkets are carved. Of late there has arrived a fashion of making the skin of the feet with the claws attached, into pocket books and hand satchels. The leather has the great advantage of being absolutely water proof. From glands in the lower jaw muck is obtained. It is not of very good quality, but it serves as a basis for certain perfumes. Oil obtained from the fat, is supposed to have medicinal qualities. Hundreds of thousands of years ago there were crocodiles which measured as much as fifty feet in length, but there are no such giants in these days.

In the Vale of Cashmere.

No longer does the Vale of Cashmere haunt the imagination of poetical readers, for 'Lalla Rookh' and Tom Moore have little attraction for the present generation. Some visions, however, of the marble palaces, the roses, and the floating gardens of Serinagar, come back to us on reading the accounts sent home of the state visit of Lord and Lady Lansdowne to that city and their reception by the maharajah in his state barge, accompanied by all his ministers. It was about two hours after noon that the scarlet-clad party were described rounding a wide sweep of the river, and slowly the long procession of state house-boats came into view, making a striking picture in the bright sunshine, with a setting of river scenery and a background of snow-capped mountains. After the officials had been presented to the viceroys the procession went on its way amidst the firing of salutes, the sounds of military music and the quaintly picturesque houses lining the banks, which presented an 'unbroken sea of turbaned heads.' The whole population seemed to have turned out, and the broad river, the blue sky, the gay barges, and the bright-liveried crews made up, we are told, a magnificent picture, closed in by the lofty hills beyond the Lake-i-Suliman, lit up by the glow of the evening sun. The procession reached the residency at 5.15, the landing of the viceroys being the signal for the firing of another royal salute.—[London News.]

Bog Butter.

Numerous specimens of bog butter are to be seen in the Irish museums, which were discovered during the past century by peasants engaged in digging peat. Some of them were dug from depths of ten, fifteen and even eighteen feet below the surface of the ground, and considerable antiquity must be allotted to the finds, although no absolute date exists by which the average increase of bog soil may be calculated. Examples of this butter weigh as much as thirty and forty pounds and upwards, and are identified, by the numerous hairs of reddish color, as being the product of the cow. The butter is found packed in hollowed vessels of wood, and in masses of irregular form. The latter are usually surrounded with a layer of moss, and at times have an object of covering of linen cloth. The object of this baring butter in peat or in some other preservative water under circumstances and in districts where salt could not be procured. Chemical examination still demonstrates the presence of those oily acids obtainable from ordinary butter, and the absence of common salt. This is characteristic, for in the County Cork, butter is still made without the subsequent addition of salt. The practice of burying it has long passed into oblivion, and even the tradition is forgotten by the descendants of the race who must in former years have employed it as an ordinary and familiar proceeding.—[Boston Transcript.]

Pretty Winter Ornaments.

A pretty mantel-piece ornament may be obtained by suspending an acorn, by a piece of thread tied around it, within half an inch of the surface of some water contained in a vase, tumbler, or saucer, and allowing it to remain undisturbed for several weeks. It will soon burst open, and small roots will seek the water; a straight and tapering stem, with beautiful glossy green leaves, will shoot upward and present a very pleasing appearance. Chestnut trees may be grown in the same manner, but their leaves are not so beautiful as those of the oak. The water should be changed once a month, taking care to supply water of the same temperature; bits of charcoal added to it will prevent the water from souring. If the little leaves turn yellow, add one drop of ammonia lute to the vessel which holds the water, and they will renew their luxuriance.

Another pretty ornament is made by wetting a sponge and sprinkling it with hemp, grass, canary and other seeds. The sponge should be refreshed with water daily, so as to be kept moist. In a few days the seeds will germinate, and the sponge will soon be covered with masses of green foliage.—[Detroit Free Press.]

A Hospital for Dogs.

To complete its list of varied attractions Chicago now has a hospital and boarding house for dogs—not the mongrels and curs that haunt the alleys, but the high-bred aristocratic St. Bernards, smirking and fussy poodles, bright, intelligent Manchester spaniels and fox-terriers.

L. F. Whitman is warden of the institution and his wife is assistant. Mr. Whitman is a veteran writer for the sportsman journal and has given the greater part of his life to a study of the different breeds of dog, and the peculiarities of each. A few years ago he opened a store on Wabash avenue for the supply of foods and medicines to kennels, but his business increased so rapidly that the hospital was a result. Only a few days ago he took possession of the six-room house on Fifty-sixth street.

The first floor is divided into stalls for the use of the dogs. The warden and his wife occupy the second floor. At present there are forty animals being boarded and doctored. The animals are valued all the way from \$300.—[Chgo News.]

AN INDIAN SCHOOL.

STUDYING AND WORKING AT CARLISLE, PENN.

How the Work of School and Shop is Arranged—Boys and Girls Who Find Employment on Farms.

Twelve years ago Captain R. R. Pratt, tenth cavalry, was detailed to take about eighty Indian children from the west to the old post at Carlisle, Penn., and organize a school. That was the start. The institution has grown steadily and is still under the care of Captain Pratt, as superintendent, who is under the direction of the commissioner of Indian affairs. He is the only army officer on duty there and is aided by a large staff of teachers and matrons. There is a disciplinarian, Mr. Campbell, who has charge of the boys, and an assistant disciplinarian, Mr. Wolf, a young Carlisle man, who recently graduated from a military institute in New York. Mr. Standing is assistant superintendent. There is an office force, a physician, a matron in charge of the little boys, another with two assistants, in charge of the girls' quarters, and a corps of teachers, headed by Miss Fisher, the principal. Nearly all of them live on the grounds, forming a pleasant community.

A large campus is inclosed by the girls' quarters on the north, the houses of the superintendent and his assistant and the office on the east, the school building and the teachers' quarters on the south and the school dining hall on the west. Trees of great age grow in the western half, and at the edge of the grove stands a neat band pavilion for summer evening concerts. Between that and the east walk is a fine stretch of green sward for drilling purposes.

The 340 boys are organized into a battalion of five companies, with Indians for officers. Dennison Wheelock, a full-blooded Oneida, is major. Four of the companies are composed of the large boys and the other one of one hundred little fellows, who are quartered together under the care of a matron. They have no arms, but they drill very well in the foot movements.

All the pupils of the school are uniformed, the boys in a light grayish blue with red trimmings, and neat caps, and the girls in navy blue dresses, set blue felt hats at this season and long blue cloaks.

The main work of the institution, of course, is done in the schoolrooms, which are effectively located in a new building that forms the southern end of the rectangle. It stands on the site of the old cavalry barracks that formed a part of the original military post of years ago. It is a well-designed structure, with stairways both inside and outside of the walls. There are twelve large class rooms, furnished as well as any school room in Washington; an office for the principal, Miss Fisher; a music room and a large chapel or assembly room in the centre of the second floor that will seat fully six hundred people.

There are twelve classes going all the time, each in charge of a teacher who does not change.

The varying qualifications of the pupils when they report, caused by the variety of school conditions in the West, render it impracticable to grade the pupils according to their ages, and it often occurs that a little tot of ten sits next to a great, strapping lad of sixteen and makes the same progress. This is especially true in the case of instruction in English, in which the younger pupils are apt to be far more ready than the elder ones. There is an instance of a lad in one of the lower grades and his father in a room only two years more advanced. The father, after he had been at Carlisle a year, sent for the boy.

The English language is taught by means of objects and lip motions. Two boys are usually allowed a pupil to get hold of the English that is supposed to be required of a citizen, and in the meantime every effort is made to break up the habit of the aboriginal tongue. The means employed is a regulation that forms half of Carlisle's dialogue. There are but two commandments that are insisted upon. One is, Thou shalt not speak Indian; and the other—Thou shalt not use tobacco. These offenses are regarded as equally enormous.

Most of the shops that form the industrial part of the plant are located in a large one-story building built on three sides of a square in the rear of the boys' quarters, forming the extreme northern boundary of the establishment. There are five of them here, where the boys are trained to be tailors, tinners, cobblers, carpenters and harness makers.

The industrial classes of the girls are placed in the dining hall building and are largely utilitarian; that is, they produce goods for home consumption. The sewing room and a tailoring or dress-making establishment are on the second floor; the school kitchen is used for the classes in cooking, while the girls are given courses in the laundry and ironing room. A graduated student has charge of the bakery, with two student apprentices as assistants.

Journymen printers are turned out from the school printing office, which is located in a large and well-lighted room over the boiler plant. Here a couple of dozen boys set type and manage the presses that produce the job work for the school as well as a little weekly news sheet called *The Helper*, and a monthly review entitled *The Redman*.

Small wages are paid in the shops, so as to remove causes for complaint that the pupils are forced to do the labor of the institution, as well as to afford some incentive for earnest work. The compensations range from six to twelve cents for each half-day's attendance in the shops. The money is put to the credit of the pupils in the school bank. The girls get no wages except as waitresses in the dining rooms.

A very creditable band of about twenty pieces furnishes music for the school on all occasions. It is at present led by a bright young Oneida named Dennison Wheelock, who has finished his course at Carlisle and is now attending law lectures at the Dickinson College. He has recently secured a full set of new silver instruments, and by hard and patient work has managed to drill his companions into the production of some very excellent music.

There is a choir of about thirty or thirty-five voices, led by one of the matrons and accompanied by a teacher on the piano and Dennison Wheelock on the cornet. The leading soprano is a little Pueblo girl, who wears glasses, whose voice has an excellent range though somewhat small power.

The foot ball and base ball teams compete with those of the town at frequent intervals, and there is always a great deal of uncertainty as to the results. A few years ago some of the boys played lacrosse, the native Indian game of ball, but it did not grow in favor in competition with base ball and so it died out. This presents an odd spectacle of evolution.

Capt. Pratt's appropriations and accommodations are sufficient to provide for only about 550 pupils, but he has managed to take nearly 800 in altogether by building up his system of farm employment. It was started several years ago, and has become so successful, and so widely known that he is constantly in receipt of letters from well-to-do people all over Pennsylvania and the neighboring states asking for a reliable Indian boy or girl. When such a letter comes he first makes inquiries by correspondence as to the character of the applicant and then he picks out a worthy pupil whom he thinks would be satisfactory and offers him the place. Seldom does he receive a refusal. The wages offered are not very large, but as the boys and girls have seldom before earned any money at all, they are eager for the opportunity. In some cases nothing is paid, but the pupil is assured of a comfortable home, his board and clothes, and a chance to attend school. As high as twelve dollars a month is sometimes paid to an Indian girl.

These pupils are taken directly into the farmers' families and work and associate with their children. It is estimated that the civilizing influence thus spread among the Indians is beyond value. There is a form of contract whereby the pupil agrees to go to the farm and the farmer makes known his terms. A certain period is usually stated for the duration of the agreement, most often six months, but in many cases boys and girls grow so fond of this life that they never return to Carlisle, but remain on the farms or drift into other services. A great many have been thus introduced into white society in this way.

At present there are 142 boys and 84 girls off on farms, a total of 226. They are going and coming all the time, and the greatest care has to be taken with the records to keep them in shape. Last year over \$15,000 was earned by the pupils who were off on farms, most of which was saved. There is a constant increase in this wage figure from year to year. Weekly reports are made by the farmers to Capt. Pratt, giving not only a summary of the pupils' conduct, but also a statement of his money account. In but very few cases the conduct report is excellent. The farmer has the privilege of proper discipline.

There are two farms connected with the institution; one quite near at hand, where most of the cows are kept, and the other about three miles distant, where the general supplies for the school are raised. Capt. Pratt does not depend wholly on the government for the support of the school, as he has quite a fund at his disposal, built up by contributions by charitable individuals.—[Washington Star.]

Mountain Lions Galore.

On the last trip of L. H. Gaskill into the region about San Francisco Bay, on the Gulf coast, he saw lions and lynxes and wildcats enough to stock a menagerie. In one canon, where his party was encamped, the burros wandered off and Mr. Gaskill started to find them. When about half a mile from the camp he heard them come tearing down ahead of him as if the Old Nick himself was after them, and they dashed on down toward camp. He knew that some wild beast had frightened them, and although unarmed he went on in the hope of getting a glimpse.

When he had gone a hundred yards further and had climbed onto a large table rock he was astounded to see four full-grown mountain lions not more than sixty feet ahead of him, and they seemed to have seen him first and were looking straight at him. Mr. Gaskill remembers distinctly that his hair stood on end, if ever a man's did, but he doesn't remember all the minute details of his return to the camp—only he got there very pronto. He and his partner took rifles and went after the lions, but they had gone. That night the burros were tied unusually secure, but their occasional snorts and efforts to break away indicated that the wild animals were after meat. A blazing fire kept them at a distance.

Mr. Gaskill states that the Mexicans and Indians living on that part of the peninsula are in mortal dread of meeting a lion, as the beasts are in a constantly famished condition, and have been known to follow men for hours, awaiting a favorable opportunity to pounce upon them.—[Lower California.]

Seals Jewelry in Florida.

The fish-scale jewelry which appears to be peculiar to Florida, and especially to Jacksonville and St. Augustine, is extremely pretty. It is made of the scales of the bass, which are scraped and cleaned until they assume a fine opaque white. The scales are then folded into the shape of flower petals and are put together and mounted with silver wire.

Flowers are the favorite device, although occasionally buds are fashioned and placed against the plush background of a panel. The prettiest of all are the sprays of flowers in the purest and faintest of white, the veining of leaves and petals formed by silver wire, and with pearls for the heart of the flower. These are used for corsage ornaments and for the hair. Single flowers, generally pansies, in their natural colors, are used for lace pins, and several large ones together often form the top of a high tortoise shell comb. Sweet pea, single and double, white and purple violets, and even the delicate, pink-tipped English daisy are favorites, and hundreds and thousands are every year carried away by tourists as souvenirs of a trip to Florida.—[Jewelers' Circular.]

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Is an address delivered at the Chicago Auditorium under the auspices of the Chicago Press Club, Dr. Leslie E. Keeley, discoverer of the remedy for the alcohol habit, made clear why he so steadfastly refused to give up the secret of cure to the public. In explaining why he did not make his secret public property, he said he was afraid that it would soon be a sobering-up process instead of a cure; that it would be used by liquor dealers themselves to brace their patrons up after a protracted spree, only to get into condition for another debauch. Under such circumstances, the doctor said, to give his cure to the public would be to destroy its efficacy.

EVERYTHING curious found nowadays is, of course, destined to be exhibited at the World's Fair, and this is the case with the medal that was recently dug up on an island in the Columbia River by Dr. N. G. Blalock of Walla Walla. He believes it to be a memento of the Lewis and Clark expedition which was presented to some chiefs of the Cayuse and Walla Walla Indians by the explorers. On one side is a facsimile of the head of Thomas Jefferson, around which, in a circle appear the words, "Th. Jefferson, President of the U. S. A. D. 1801." On the other side is a tomahawk crossed with a pipe, and below are a pair of clasped hands with the inscription, "Peace and Friendship."

AMERICAN doctors should know, lest they should get into trouble, that an American diploma in medicine does not entitle one to call himself a doctor in England. An American doctor tried it recently, and was prosecuted for the offense and convicted. On an appeal being taken, the Lord Chief Justice of England expressed the opinion that within the meaning of the law of England our countryman had falsely represented himself as an M. D., had falsely pretended to be a doctor of medicine, having "only an American degree," said Lord Coleridge. His appeal was dismissed and he will now have the pleasure of paying into the treasury of the Queen the sum of \$100, for using in England a title to which in America he has a legal right.

THERE is a humorous phase to the war on the English sparrow in Illinois. Its great enemy is, of course, the small boy, and his name is legion. He has adopted as a means of extermination every known weapon of offense, from a shotgun to a toy pistol, and from a sling to a brickbat; and he has made himself more of a nuisance than the destructive little bird which he is pursuing. The citizens of Bloomington complain that their business is interrupted and their domestic peace rudely shocked by the constant fusillade of firearms. Moreover, they say it is unsafe to walk the streets, many persons having been wounded by bird-shot intended for the common enemy. The glass conservatories and private houses has also suffered. Unpopular as the sparrow is, the opinion is general that the Bounty Bill was passed in a spirit of misguided zeal. Meanwhile, the sparrow seems to be as ubiquitous as ever.

The Columbia River and Puget Sound have become the steamboat racing waters of the United States, and great is the rivalry among the boats that ply between Seattle and Tacoma. The Hudson steamer, City of Kingston, which was a fast craft in her day and is now one of the Sound fleet, has been easily distanced by the new racing boats. The best of them at present are the Victorian and the Flyer, both of which are screw propellers with powerful engines. Now and then the word goes round that there is to be a race, and the demand for tickets forthwith becomes tremendous. All decks are crowded with people of the rival cities, the boats shoot out from their wharves, and the fun begins. There are no snags to be feared, the water is smooth and deep, and fast time is always made. Two years ago the trip between the cities took many hours; the time has now been reduced to one hour and fifteen minutes.

Most experienced railroad men feel that the possibilities of steam practice are nearly reached, and that much greater speed is not practicable. A maximum of 90 miles an hour, with a running speed of 65 to 70, is all that can be hoped for under the very best conditions. The limitations are numerous, and are well-known to all engineers. The Scientific American says that the maximum speed of which a locomotive is capable has not been materially increased in a number of years. The schedule time has been shortened, principally by reducing gradients, straightening curves, filling up ravines, and replacing wooden structures by permanent ones of iron or stone; by the use of heavy rails, safer switches, improved methods of signaling, the interlocking switch and signal system, the abolition of level crossings; in fact, by improvements in detail and management, which permit a higher speed on a more extended section of road, because of greater safety and the greater degree of confidence inspired in the engine-driver.

The causes of the breaking down of the governmental machinery for the distribution of the relief fund in Russia are doubtless to be found in the corruption of some officials and the inefficiency of many more. There is a popular impression that the administrative systems of despots are more simple, more direct and more effective than those of free countries. The truth is, that despots breed administrative systems so full of jobbery and corruption and inefficiency that the only reform possible is revolution. This was the case with the old Bourbon monarchy in France, and is the case with the Russian Government to-day. Old Czar Nicholas, the grandfather of the present autocrat, used to view the corruption in the public service from the standpoint of the cynic-humorist. He once amused himself by declaring to one high official whom he (the czar) could trust, one man who would not steal his soldier's and sailor's pay or food, nor pull the masts out of his ships to sell. The count smiled and bowed, and in the expectant tone of one who thinks he knows who is meant asked "And that man is?" "That man is myself," responded the czar. This story may not be true, but it is good, which is better.