

## A FRIGHTFUL FOE.

### "THE DEVIL'S SOLDIER," YUCATAN'S DEADLY SPIDER.

It is a Monster of Its Kind, and Annually Kills a Great Many Natives.

"If there is a fiercer or more deadly animal on earth than the one that makes life precarious in certain districts in Yucatan I wouldn't take the country if I lives in a gift if I had to spend my days there, not if there was a gold mine to every acre," said a Chicago man, who returned recently from a prospecting tour in Yucatan. "This animal is small for an animal, but for the family to which it belongs it is a monster. It is a spider, and the natives know it by the cheerful name of the 'devil's soldier.' If his Satanic Majesty really had warriors of this kind in his service, he wouldn't march more than one company of them to reach forth and gather in the world. I suppose this spider is a great thing for the country at large down there, though, for it keeps the native Indian population within bounds. I have seen estimates of the average number of these interesting people from whom the devil's soldier burdens the State during each year, but I don't remember the exact figure now. It is not so large as the number of natives the cobra and other warm-toothed snakes invade India of annually, but I know it is quite a respectable amount.

"This giant spider doesn't weave a web to deter its victims from proceeding further. It seems such tricks, and sallies forth boldly and takes its victim by the neck openly and above board. It likes parrots, monkeys, snakes, all kinds of birds, and dots on Indians. The way one of these big spiders can glide up a native and clench him in the jugular, would make a red squirrel ashamed of the way he can climb a tree. If an Indian sees the spider in time, and a good wind, he can get away from it, for a devil's soldier won't chase an Indian more than a mile. If Indians were scarce, the spider might keep on, and run its victim down, but they are abundant, and the spider doesn't see any use in making itself tired just chasing an Indian when there will be another one coming its way pretty soon. The devil's soldier will tackle a white man just the same as he will an Indian, but white men seldom go into the interior where the interesting animal lives. I ventured about forty miles inland once, having heard dazzling rumors of a rich gold mine that was lying helpless in there, waiting for some one to come and take it away. Stories of this spider increased in interest as I went further into the country, and I kept my eye out for the monster.

"One day I was surprised to see what I at first supposed was an animated but miniature American flag coming swiftly from a bunch of garly-colored vines to greet me. My half-breed guide saw it at the same time, and yelling something about the devil's soldier, drew his feet up and stood erect on his mule. The supposed American flag was one of these spiders, and it was at the horn of my saddle before I could draw my revolver and put a hole through its variegated body. After I had shot six of these ferocious spiders, and we had overtaken three Indians carrying another Indian who was dead, having been tapped by a devil's soldier an hour before, my guide muttered, 'He would go no further, and turned his mule's head in the direction we had come. I agreed with him. I guess there's no doubt about that gold mine being in there somewhere. I'll give it to any one who will go and get it.

"The devil's soldier has a scope of body seven inches wide and about the same in length. This is, among spiders we are used to seeing, just about the same as a fifty-foot bear would be among bears. Its head is an inch and a half across and is fitted with a frightful pair of lateral jaws. It has two rows of legs. The legs are two inches long and as big around as a lead pencil. Two big, bright eyes stand out on each side of the head, and even when the spider is dead these eyes glare like a rattlesnake's. The devil's soldier climbs trees and catches parrots and monkeys, or he can run like a hound and overtake his prey. The most curious thing about this spider is the marking of its body. Narrow red bands extend diagonally in both directions across the body, crossing each other in the center and so on around the under side of the body. The rest of the spider is exactly the color of the ground where it may be domiciled. The purpose of the red stripes is to counterfeits the colored vines that creep and cross each other on the ground and in the trees of that country, so that the spider may lurk among them and almost defy detection. This formidable and deadly creature abounds in great numbers in the interior and the Indians live in constant terror of it. It is on record down there that only one person ever survived the bite of a devil's soldier, and he was a raving maniac all his life. I may as well say that I was actually scared out of Yucatan by this spider. It was a country of too much terror for me."—[New York Sun.

### A Marvellous Clock.

The Warschwijk Dujewnik, a paper published in Warsaw, Poland, describes a wonderful clock which will be exhibited in Chicago. The clock is the result of six years of earnest work by a watchmaker named Goldfaden in Warsaw. It represents a railroad station, with waiting rooms for travellers, telegraph and ticket offices, an outside promenade and a fountain in operation; alongside of the station are seen the tracks, with signal booths, switches and water reservoirs—in fact, everything belonging to a European railroad depot. In the dome of the central tower of the building is a clock showing the local time, while in each of the two other towers there is a clock giving the time respectively of New York and Pekin. In both of the towers above mentioned a calendar and barometer are seen.

Every quarter of an hour it gets lively at the station. First the telegraph operator does his work; issues the telegram to signify that the track is clear. Then the doors of the building are open, the station keeper and his assistant appear on the platform, at the ticket office the cashier is noticeable and the guards leave the signal booths and hoist the barriers, a long row of passengers is observable in front of the ticket office, baggage is hauled, one of the guards rings the bell and the train runs into the station. While the whistle of the locomotive is blown the train stops, a workman goes along the row of coaches and hits the axle with a hammer, while another one pumps water into the water tank of the locomotive. After a third signal with the station bell the train starts and disappears in a tunnel on the opposite side. The station keeper and his assistant leave the platform and the doors of the depot and building are closed, the guards enter their booths and quiet reigns. After fifteen minutes the same trouble commences again.—[New York Commercial Advertiser.

### Queer Facts About a Watch.

Open your watch and look at the little wheels, springs and screws, each an indispensable part of the whole wonderful machine. Notice the busy little balance wheel as it flies to and fro unceasingly, day and night, year in and year out. This wonderful little machine is the result of hundreds of years of study and experiment. The watch carried by the average man is composed of ninety-eight pieces and its manufacture embraces more than 2,000 distinct and separate operations. Some of the smallest screws are so minute that the unaided eye cannot distinguish them from steel filings or specks of dirt. Under a powerful magnifying glass a perfect screw is revealed. The slit in the head is 2-1000 of an inch wide. It takes 308,000 of these screws to weigh a pound, and a pound is worth \$1,785. The hair-spring is a strip of the finest steel about 9 1/2 inches long, 1-100 of an inch wide and 27-10,000 of an inch thick. It is coiled up in spiral form and is finely tempered. The process of tempering these springs was long held as a secret by the few fortunate ones possessing it, and even now is not generally known. Their manufacture requires great skill and care. The strip is gauged to 20,000ths of an inch, but no measuring instrument has been devised capable of fine enough gauging to determine beforehand by the size of the strip what the strength of the finished spring will be. A 20,000th part of an inch difference in the thickness of the strip makes a difference in the running of a watch of about six minutes per hour.

The value of these springs, when finished and placed in watches, is enormous in proportion to the material from which they are made. A comparison will give a good idea. A ton of steel made up into hair-springs when in watches is worth more than twelve and one-half times the value of the same weight in pure gold. Hair-spring wire weighs one-tenth of a grain to the inch. One mile of wire weighs less than half a pound. The balance gives five vibrations every second, 300 every minute, 18,000 every hour, 432,000 every day and 157,680,000 every year. At each vibration it rotates about one and one-fourth times, which makes 197,100,000 revolutions every year. In order that we may better understand the stupendous amount of labor performed by these tiny works, let us make a few comparisons. Take, for illustration, a locomotive with six foot driving wheels. Let its wheels be run until it has given the same number of revolutions that a watch does in one year and they will have covered a distance equal to twenty-eight complete circuits of the earth. All this a watch does without other attention than winding once every twenty-four hours.—[Jeweler's Review.

### Horse Training.

One peculiarity of the economy of the training stable is that, except when it exercise, the horses are brought up on the "solitary system." Each box is isolated from the rest, and though there is a connecting door, it is only opened at the hours when grooming and cleaning are going on; thus the inmates cannot "converse," as every horse likes to do, with their neighbors, and so derive that relief from ennui which the mere presence of another of its kind seems to give to these sympathetic though undemonstrative creatures.

Routine is the essence of the system. The work set them may be varied, but the horses are like an "eight" in training; so much so, indeed, that each horse has its particular place in the string when at exercise. Sunday is the only day that differs from the others; for then the horses do not go out. One result is that they become exceedingly "bored" with training and its consequent isolation. This probably accounts for the extraordinary fondness for which some of them develop for other animals which are allowed to share their box. Lanercost, who was poisoned at Ascot, in 1842, had a dog for his inseparable companion, and there is a story that this dog was once stolen as a precaution preliminary to "nubbing" the horse, but that the dog escaped and found its way back to the horse's box.

Roughly speaking, work in the stable begins at daybreak, earlier in winter, and later in summer, when the horses are groomed and fed, and the boys get their breakfast. The "first string" are then ridden out to exercise, and made to walk, gallop, or canter for two and a half or three hours. They are then thoroughly groomed and fed again, after which they are left perfectly quiet and alone, while the second string go out. These horses are generally neither so numerous nor so important as the first set, and at 5 o'clock all are for the third time groomed and fed.—[The Spectator.

### Housekeeping Aboard Ship.

"Women complain of the troubles of housekeeping," said a naval officer the other day. "We in the service have as much to contend with at times as any woman. When the ship went into commission three months ago I had the ill-luck to be chosen mess caterer. All commissioned officers above the rank of ensign, except the captain, a belonging to the wardroom mess, and I had a fine time of it for a while. Like keeping house you get good servants, but it takes a deal of worry and effort to reach that peaceful condition, if you ever do.

"Competent service is as hard to get aboard ship as anywhere else, although good wages are paid. It is the steward and cooks which bother. A steward gets \$37 and a cook \$32 a month, with their 'rations' of thirty cents a day and a bonus of from \$7 to \$10 additional from the

mess fund. It is hard work to get good ones, however, dishonesty and drunkenness being their attributes if they know anything about their business, and if they are sober and won't steal they probably can't cook and have little idea about providing.

"The only comfort I took as caterer was in the 'boys,' the Japanese and Chinese who wait at table and pick up about. They get \$16 a month and are admirable fellows. Nothing, indeed, can equal aboardship a well-trained Chinese 'boy'—sober, industrious, intelligent. He takes complete charge of one's stateroom and its contents, puts it in order, and woe betide the hardy occupant who goes in search of something—John reverts it as an interference not to be tolerated. He has even been known to take charge of one's finances so well that the improvident one is forced to check his prodigal hand through his servant's careful forethought in supplying only a part of his available funds. And I never heard of a lady's maid hiding her mistress's purse so that she couldn't go shopping."—[New York Times.

### POSITIVE PEOPLE.

Obstinacy vs. Strength—Characteristics of Leaders of Men.

There is a certain merit, and even charm, about positive people, though they are sometimes merely obstinate. Positive people have at least the merit of having opinions of their own; they may not be the best opinions, founded on knowledge and guided by reason, but they are opinions, and as such are to be preferred to the uncertain, vacillating and weak expressions of mind of the good-natured folks who escape the charge of obstinacy by agreeing with everybody. The joke about the eleven obstinate jurymen is not all a joke.

Sometimes the twelfth jurymen who disagrees is right and the eleven are without real opinions, and are obstinate on that account. It is a fact that obstinacy does not accompany strength and clearness of opinion; it is more often characteristic of those who accept the opinions of others, and being incapable of reason cannot be convinced of their error. Positive people belong to another class. They are positive because they reason and settle in their own minds what is right. Even positive people can have their opinions changed, but the merely obstinate are immovable. There are, however, various classes of dispositions of positive people. Those who are most generally recognized are aggressive.

They express their opinions on slight provocation and in very positive terms, very often making themselves disagreeable to others by the way in which they shoulder against all kinds of opposition, much after the manner of aggressive men pushing themselves to a front place through a crowd. Contrasted with these are the positive people, gentle of manner, who avoid controversy, listen in silence to opinions with which they do not agree, can scarcely be provoked to a defense of their own position, and yet, nevertheless, maintain themselves against the world.

The quiet force of this latter class often prevails where the more offensive tactics of their aggressive brethren fails because it arouses opposition. The martyrs of the world who have established reforms or promoted reforms have seldom been noisy or aggressive. They have been content to have commanded attention by their coolness and self-confidence. Nearly all people act like sheep following a lead-wether. Only a small proportion think for themselves and become leaders of men. Those who have opinions and aspire to leadership should cultivate the grace of leadership.

A party organized with great care by men of distinction, careful to humor the prejudices of the members, though carrying the principles bravely forward, may be stampeded in a day by the inconsiderate utterances of a positive man, with the same ends in view, who has not learned to bridle his tongue and is ready at all times to give expression to his radical views. Positiveness must be united with discretion, if it is to be a real force. Obstinacy, as distinguished from positiveness, may be considered the fruit of ignorance. It is not always easy to draw the line of distinction, but it may be traced by considering whether the fixed opinion is or is not founded upon reason. The positive man may be in error, but he has knowledge of some kind and judgment to support his views.

The obstinate man has nothing stronger than prejudice. He thinks this or that because he thinks it, and that settles it. It is an injustice to the positive man to consider or treat him as obstinate merely because one disagrees with his views. He is worth talking to because he is, on the one hand, open to conviction, though not easily convinced of his error, and on the other may be convincing. And even though argument should fail and leave both controversialists of the same opinion, each will be strengthened by the necessity of making a defense. It is a good thing to associate with people whose opinions accord with one's own; such intercourse adds positive strength to one's belief. But it is also a good thing to meet an opponent, for the defense of one's belief adds to its strength or develops its weakness. The man who looks at only one side of a question is never as strong in his faith as he who is obliged to combat opposing views.—[Baltimore Sun.

### A Remarkable Stone House.

The remarkable stone houses of Easter Island were thoroughly explored by an expedition from the United States steamer Mohican, and have been described in the report of the United States National Museum for 1889. These houses are built against a terrace of earth or rock, which in some cases forms the back wall of the dwelling. They are built of small slabs of stratified basaltic rock, piled together without cement. No regularity of plan is shown in the construction of a majority of them. The average measurement is as follows: Height from floor to ceiling, four feet six inches; thickness of walls, four feet to ten inches; width of rooms, four feet six inches; length of rooms, twelve feet nine inches; average size of doorways, height twenty inches; width, nineteen inches.—[Boston Transcript.

### NOTES AND COMMENTS.

A CONNECTICUT scientist calculates that there are 43,560,000 mosquito larvae in an acre of swamp land. Rather than haggle over a few thousand mosquitoes we are willing to accept his count.

There are less than 10,000 paupers in Japan's population of 237,000,000. It is extremely difficult to become poor enough to be a pauper in Oriental countries. The man who gets down to his last dollar can live a nabob on that for several months more or less.

MR. WILLIAM M. SINGELEY, proprietor of the Philadelphia Record, intends to make an exhibit of a steer in the Agricultural Department of the World's Fair, which for weight and generally fine condition will excel anything in the record of steers if exhibited. The steer is to weigh at least 4,000 pounds, and will probably weigh over that.

The Republicans have nominated candidates for the Presidency at the following places: Fremont, Philadelphia, 1856; Lincoln, Chicago, 1860; Lincoln, Baltimore, 1864; Grant, Chicago, 1868; Grant, Philadelphia, 1872; Hayes, Cincinnati, 1876; Garfield, Chicago, 1880; Blaine, Chicago, 1884; Harrison, Chicago, 1888; Harrison, Minneapolis, 1892.

A RECENT estimate places the number of women acting as postmistresses in the United States at 6,335, of which number 463 are in Pennsylvania and 460 in Virginia. North Carolina stands third with 322. Only five other States have over 200 each, 256 in Ohio, 243 in New York, 216 in Georgia, 210 in Texas and 209 in Kentucky. Alaska has only 1, and Rhode Island and Oklahoma have 10 each.

REPORTS from Russia indicate that unless there is an early change for the better the crops will be worse this year than they were last. This alarming condition of affairs is due partly to bad weather, partly to insect pests and partly to the apathy and indifference of farmers in the famine stricken districts. The outlook is discouraging in the extreme, and in many neighborhoods it means either starvation, government aid or an exodus.

The Empire of China, according to the "Ostasiatischer Lloyd," covering an area of 4,000,000 square kilometers, now has a population of 350,000,000, or about 88 inhabitants to the square kilometer. Ho-Nan, it declares, is the most thickly populated province of the country, having about 210 persons to the square kilometer. Shan-Tung follows Ho-Nan, with 173 to the square kilometer. The boundary territory of Tibet numbers the least people of any district of the Empire, there being only three persons to the square kilometer.

In England they have what are called jumble sales for charitable purposes. A jumble sale is made up of all sorts of odds and ends that people contribute out of their household stores, whether of clothes, bed linen, pots, kettles of furniture, whence the name. But as it happens these jumble sales are often called American sales under the impression that they have been borrowed from America. This will be news to this country, where no such means of raising money was ever practiced. However, there is merit in the idea, and a jumble sale would be an amusing innovation and doubtless profitable.

"When the editor of Fibre and Fabric was a boy," he writes, "there was not a single article of goods made that was slighted. The object was to make the best possible article that could be made, regardless of cost. I have known boots to be worn five years and remain good. I remember a good honest Irishman in Waterford who had worn his Sunday coat seven years, and it was then apparently as good as new. Poor Jimmie, the N. Y. & N. E. Railroad, through Welles, N. Y., swallowed up all his savings while wearing that 'grand' old coat. How things have changed. Then we made the best we could; now we make the cheapest we can."

A SUMMARY of figures presented in five census bulletins shows that for the decade ending with 1890 the property of citizens of the United States was protected against loss by fire and accident on oceans, lakes and rivers to the amount of over \$120,000,000. This protection costs \$1,156,000,000, or a trifle less than one per cent. The companies returned \$847,726,000 to the insurers to indemnify them for losses sustained. That is, the companies paid 56 per cent of the premiums to pay expenses, profits, and as compensation for taking the risk of greater loss. The cost of insurance has always been too expensive, and there should be some better systems wrought out by mutual plans, or by fireproofing the buildings, which would in the long run work toward greater economy, than by submitting to the exactions of the great corporate companies now in existence. In fact the farmers, by their mutual plan, have solved the problem by reducing the cost of fire insurance to the minimum.

### Origin of the Name America.

Mr. Jules Marcon of the Paris Geographical Society has lately spent a great deal of time in making researches into the origin of the name "America." The popular notion that America was so called from the Christian name of Amerigo Vespucci is, he says, wholly unfounded, the name really being taken from "Amerrique," the Indian name of the mountains between Jungalpa and Libertad in the provinces of Chontales, which separate Lake Nicaragua from the Mosquito coast.

The name in the Maya language signifies "the windy country," or "the country where the wind blows always." The Christian name of Vespucci was Albericus in Italian and Spanish, and Albericus in Latin, but it is subject to a great number of variations, and consequently M. Marcon suggests that the name Amerigo is an adaptation of Amerrique, added to Vespucci's name to distinguish it (Amerrique being a name already known and applied to the New World) in the same way as we say now "Chinese Gordon" to distinguish this particular Gordon by suggesting one of his heroic feats. Vespucci's claim to the discovery of America is put out of court by the fact

that he was in Seville when Columbus made his voyage. He did, however, make two or three voyages to the New World later on, and being a vain man and acquainted with map-makers, he would be nothing loath to see his name associated with the vague splendors of the new continent.—[Pearson's Weekly.

### The Number of the Stars.

When one looks upward at the "star-spangled" canopy of blue on a fine evening he unconsciously thinks that the number of bright specks which shine so such a fine advantage against their azure background are beyond computation. Such, however, is not the case. Bring the eye to bear upon a certain section of the sky, with some first magnitude star as a starting point, and see what an easy task it is to count all those within a large circle. You will not count more than half a thousand before you find out that you have covered a goodly part of the visible firmament; in fact there are seldom more than 6,000 stars visible to the naked eye from any one point of observation. A rare atmosphere may add a thousand to this number, but a slight haziness is more likely to reduce the visible number by one-fifth or one-fourth. There are probably another 2,000 which are never visible (those lying around the poles), which gives us 8,000 in all that would possibly be visible to the naked eye. With an opera-glass or cheap telescope the number may be increased to 300,000, while with a large-sized instrument like that of Lord Rosse or the one at the Lick Observatory 70,000,000 of these worlds of greater or lesser magnitude may be counted. The variance in the number to be seen with the naked eye, the opera-glass and the more perfect astronomical instruments arises from the fact that some are larger, some are further away, while others, yet are more brilliant than their fellows. There are only twenty of the entire lot known as stars of the first magnitude; thirty-five are "second magnitude stars," 140 are third, 327 are fourth, 960 of the fifth, 4,400 of the sixth, and about 14,000 of the seventh magnitude. At present our sun with his train of planets is rushing through space, the stars before the train making way, while those behind close up after it has passed.—[St. Louis Republic.

### Natural History Notes.

A man purchased a piece of land at Aspinwall, Central America, on which there were a number of trees. These were cut down a few days ago, and in one, a white oak more than two feet in diameter, was found a large size seven-inch horseshoe. The shoe was in the center of the tree some distance below the main fork, and twenty-four feet from the ground.

The Brazil nut contains from fifteen to twenty-four seeds, which all germinate at one time. The most vigorous one gets first through a small hole at the top to the open air, and thereupon it strangles and feeds upon the rest.

One of the largest Camelia trees in Europe is now in full bloom at Pilitz, near Dresden. It was taken from Japan 150 years ago, is 50 feet high, and has an annual average of 40,000 blossoms.

Six pairs of white swans from the Thames river have arrived in Philadelphia for distribution in public and private parks.

Prof. Swift's new nine-tail comet travels at the rate of fifty miles a second.

Burlington, N. J., has a horse that has been declared insane.—[Baltimore Herald.

### He's a Jolly Good Fellow.

The tune to which this song is sung is "Marlbrouck," which was once a national air in France. In "Marlbrouck" the death and burial of Queen Anne's great captain are burlesqued, and in what some French critics have considered its scathing satire the disasters of Blenheim and Ramillies are believed to have been avenged. But the fact is really the reverse; but if read appreciatively, "Marlbrouck" expresses the widespread terror occasioned by the mere name of Blenheim's hero, and the exultation of the French when they heard of his death. The "Complainte" is supposed to have come from the Walloon country and it was unknown in the French capital until fifty years after Marlborough's death, when a Picardy peasant woman, coming up to Versailles to nurse the baby daughter, brought it with her, and sang her little baby charge to sleep with the old jingling rhyme. From this "Marlbrouck" became popular in Paris, and ultimately it reached England. The tune being a catchy one, the French words were discarded and wedded once and for all to the Bacchanalian chant of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow;" and so a song written in ridicule of England, and one of her greatest generals became one of the most popular airs to which the latter's countrymen pledge jovial cups.

### Bottom of a Sea Falling Out.

Scientists tell us that, counting from the sea level, the lowest body of water on the globe is the Caspian Sea. For centuries its surface has been gradually settling down, until now it is eighty-five feet lower than that of its near neighbor, the Black Sea, which also lies far below the level of oceans. The common conclusion all along has been that the Caspian was simply losing its waters by evaporation, but recent investigation shows that this is not the case. Soundings made and compared with the records of soundings made over 100 years ago reveal the astounding fact that there is even a greater depth of water now than then. This leaves but one hypothesis that would seem at all tenable: That the bottom of the sea is actually sinking.

There is much speculation in scientific circles as to what will be the final outcome.—[St. Louis Republic.

### A Double Lamb.

Talking about freaks of nature, a ewe belonging to William Pickens, near this city, performed a feat the other day that takes the wool. She gave birth to a lamb that had eight legs and two tails. From the navel forward it was a perfectly formed lamb, but the hind end doubled up on nature.—[Louisiana (Mo.) Press.

### PENNSYLVANIA ITEMS.

#### EPITOME OF NEWS GLEANED FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF THE STATE.

A MOB of armed Italians visited Reading in search of the contractor for the new Reading and Lancaster Railroad. The contractor owes them \$400 in wages. The men were finally induced to retire after a promise that they would be notified of the arrival of the contractor.

By a fall of coal, in South Wilkes-Barre shaft of the Lehigh & Wilkes-Barre Company John Williams, age 26, a recent graduate of Lehigh University; John McCafferty, age 1 of Philadelphia, a civil engineer, and William Evans, age 45, a timberman, were instantly killed.

JOHN BITZER, aged 26 years, of Easton, committed suicide by shooting himself in the head, at the house of E. L. Madie. Bitzer was a friend of the Madie woman, and her husband had sent him legal notice to quit calling.

LIZETTE THOMAS, age 10, of Shenandoah, was shot a torpedo in her mouth. It exploded blowing out some of her teeth and injuring her head.

DER NG a quarrel at Erie over a game of cards Dominique Deplacnet shot at his cousin, but the bullet struck Michael Ches, fatally injuring him.

THE National holiday was fittingly observed by the veterans of the Pennsylvania G. A. R. in Camp McClelland at Gettysburg.

WHILE on a moon near Wilkes-Barre Mrs. Polinsky was attacked by an immense rattlesnake. A fierce struggle ensued. The reptile was finally killed but not before it had fatally bitten the woman.

THE Kely brothers, accused of killing Policeman Merget, of Tamaqua, were in Pottsville found guilty of murder in the second degree.

A GENERAL fight took place at Pottsville at Christmas near Hazleton, Lawrence Rice and his brother attacked John Pifer with stilettes and killed him.

CHARLES DOUGLASS a Steelton moulder, was talking to a friend when a large fire-cracker was exploded at his feet. Hot words ensued and a gang of ruffians as suited him Douglass was knocked down and his head striking the hard pavement he was seriously injured.

A CABLE attached to a dummy used to steady electric cars going down Potts Hill, east of Lancaster broke. The cable squirmed up the hill like an immense snake, and at great velocity and wound itself around the arm of Frank Muser, a young man, tearing the limb from his body. His condition is serious.

JOHN COOPER, aged 26, had both his legs shot off by a cannon, during a celebration in Pottsville, near Wilkes-Barre.

DURING a drunken quarrel Frank Helms, brother of Pittsburgh, was fatally stabbed by his brother-in-law Andrew Zap and Joseph Spade.

THE Fourth was a quiet day at Homestead. The Amalgamated Association officers ordered the unions to close for half the day, and there was little drinking.

FRANK HOLLAND, aged 13, of Wilkes-Barre, had his head blown off by the explosion of a cannon.

E. J. RYAN, who robbed the United States Express Company at Washington D. C., of \$4,500 was arrested in Pittsburgh and returned \$4,815 of the money.

DURING a quarrel near Johnstown, Fred Werber fatally shot Adolph Moschist, his brother-in-law.

A PARTY of Lebanon young men celebrated the Fourth by driving through neighboring towns exploding dynamite cartridges. In Stroudsburg many windows were shattered by an explosion. The men threatened to throw a cartridge at approaching officers.

SEVERAL pieces of dynamite in the stockyards of Henry Neuser at Pottsville. The dynamite wrecked Mr. Neuser's house and the family had a narrow escape.

A CHARTER was granted at the State Department to the Central Railroad of Pennsylvania, capital \$1,000,000, the line of which will run from a point of junction with the Middletown & Hummelstown Railroad, in Middletown, to a point in the borough of Steelton, six miles. The president is Wm. H. Ulrich, of Hummelstown.

WALLIE CONNERS, the noted New York lank sneak thief, was sentenced by Judge Keefer, in Easton, to three years and nine months imprisonment in the Northampton county prison, for stealing \$4,000 from the Easton Bank. He was arrested at Cynthiana, Ky.

WHILE shooting at a snapper at Myerstown Dr. Steen, of that place accidentally shot Harry Kozlitz, aged 37, son of Dr. Kreitzer, of Philadelphia, in the leg. He may lose his limb, as the bone was badly shattered.

JOHN G. KING, a shoemaker of Lancaster city, hanged himself in his garret. He was in financial difficulty.

THE conference between the manufacturers and the Wage Committee of the Amalgamated Association ended without agreement. The big mills at Homestead are idle and the mechanics have joined the association men. Another of Carnegie's Pittsburgh mills signed the scale.

CHAR. McCABE and Theodore Kinney, two Easton lads, were drowned while bathing in the Lehigh River.

A BROKEN axle on a Philadelphia & Reading freight train near Douglassville piled five coal cars on top of each other. Another freight derailed into the wreck, throwing the locomotive down the embankment and wrecking about twenty cars. No one was injured.

CONDUCTOR ROHMER, of the Jenkintown shifting engine, which, it is alleged, caused the recent wreck of the Doylestown express, was released on bail at Norristown. He is charged with criminal negligence.

THE situation at Centralia is growing serious. Four more large cracks have been discovered in the surface of the earth and people are abandoning their homes.

HON. JAS. FRUIT has been nominated for the State Senate by the Lawrence-Mercer district.

PHILADELPHIA capitalists are negotiating for the erection of a tin-plate mill in Coatsville.

### More Like It.

Snaggs—It is claimed now that Deeming is a moral idiot. Shingias—He's an immortal idiot, more like.—Exchange.