

SOMEWHAT STRANGE.

ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS OF EVERY DAY LIFE.

Queer Facts and Thrilling Adventures Which Show That Truth is Stranger Than Fiction.

A curious lawsuit is engaging the attention of Ecija, Spain. The object in dispute is a sum of 250,000 pesetas and a baby. Some time ago a stranger, with a half-mask on his face, went to the railroad station-master and handed him a sealed letter and a heavy box, saying he had been commissioned to hand over a costly present. There being a train in the depot waiting to be despatched, the station-master had the box and letter put down, and went to attend to his business. On returning to his office he opened the letter, which said that a good friend, who did not wish his name divulged, was sending to him and his good lady a precious gift. Opening the box, he looked into the face of a little baby. "I will not have the brat," he cried out, and soon had the whole force of servants of the depot around him. A signalman approached and looked lovingly at the little stranger. "Will you have it?" asked the station-master. "Take it, I would not keep it under any circumstances." "If you will give it to me I will take it to my wife," said the signalman. "Take it away," said the station-master; "I do not want to see it any longer." When the signalman and his good-hearted wife undressed the baby to place it in a warm bed they found a quantity of bank notes rolled up under the clothing, which when counted were found to amount to a quarter of a million of pesetas, to be applied, as the paper stated, to the education of the child. When the station-master heard of the find he came and demanded the child to be given back to him. But the signalman refused, holding that it was given to him without reservation. The station-master has appealed to the court to decide the question.

W. R. MONROE, recently from Colorado, had a terrible encounter with a bear recently near Camp Wood, Arizona. Bear tracks had been seen in the vicinity for several days, and Monroe went in search of the animal, accompanied by a dog and armed with a Winchester rifle. He had gone about three miles when he met a large cinnamon bear on the trail, thirty feet away. Two shots brought the bear to the earth. A cub appeared and a well-directed shot killed it also. A large male bear appeared only a few feet away. Monroe fired and knocked the brute down, but the bear was on his feet in an instant and made a rush for the hunter. A rough-and-tumble fight ensued. Monroe's dog deserted him, but finally came back. The bear made a rush for him and Monroe took advantage of this to climb a tree with his left arm, his right arm having been broken in the struggle. He had got only a few feet from the ground when the bear returned and resumed the attack. Catching Monroe by the foot the bear pulled off his shoe and started away with it, but had gone only a few feet when he fell dead. Monroe sustained a fracture of the right arm, his right shoulder was badly lacerated, and there was an ugly gash in his back that had to be sewed up. His left thigh and left foot were badly bitten, and there was a terrible scratch across his stomach and abdomen. He was brought to Prescott for medical treatment.

The champion animal story of the season in Washington comes from Summit, and is vouched for by the Elma Chronicle, a veracious journal published in that neighborhood. Owen Glancy of Summit missed a very valuable cow, and spent several days looking for her, without finding any trace of her whereabouts, and had concluded that she had been stolen, when one of his children discovered the animal not over fifty yards from the house. She had wandered into a hollow cedar log, presumably to get into the shade, and in pushing her way for fifty feet into the log she passed through a place where it had splintered in falling, with the splinters headed in the direction she was going. Of course, when she attempted to back out, her exit was effectually blocked, the splinters having sprung back. And there she was, as securely confined as any prisoner in the penitentiary. When discovered there she had been imprisoned for five days. Mr. Glancy had to cut the log in front of her before she could be taken out, nothing the worse for her experience except for her enforced fast. The cow weighs about 1,500 pounds, so the size of cedar timber in that "neck of the woods" can be imagined.

A WRITER in the Medical Record, who has had much experience as a physician among the Chinese on the Pacific Coast, notes especially the speedy healing of wounds on these people, which, he says, must be due to their diet and habits of bodily cleanliness. From early youth they are constantly in the water, and you find the lowliest washing their bodies twice a day. Their diet is mostly vegetable, in which rice and tea form the foundation, to which are added green vegetables, as young turnip-tops, spinach, kale, or similar garden truck. Occasionally they add to this oysters, fish, pork and fowl, principally chickens or ducks. Beef, mutton and veal they use in no way. Possibly this may explain the quick healing power, which is marvelous. The tissues of their bodies cut differently—that is, they feel differently under the knife—from those of the Caucasian subject. They are more dense and elastic, and not so flabby.

A PORTLAND (Me.) man tells the Transcript a queer story of a young man, a native of a small town in Maine, who tried to be a piano tuner, but failed because he had no ear for music, and who then went to work in a sawmill. Within a year he was struck on the ear by a flying bolt, and when he recovered he found that all sounds were different to him to what they had been before. He went back to Boston, found no difficulty in tuning pianos and is now a tuner for one of the largest piano firms there at a liberal salary. His ears had been taking in sounds differently, making a continual discord, and by his fortunate accident harmony came to him.

An ingenious fraud was recently committed in Victoria, New South Wales. A man claiming to be a telegraph operator ingratiated himself into the favor of the post-mistress in a country district, and took advantage of the opportunity by telegraphing two money-order telegrams to Melbourne to pay two sums of \$100. His accomplice in Melbourne applied at the postoffice and received the money in each case.

At Anotide, Asotin County, Washington, for some time the farmers living in the foothills to the mountains have been suffering from the depredations of a bear that made many successful raids upon the stock feeding along the timber. Carl Kresher was a farmer who was loser by one of the incursions of Bruin, and devised a plan for his capture, in which it appears he was successful. He built a regular frontier bear pen and arranged a shotgun with a set trigger, so that when the intruder meddled with the bait he would receive the contents of both barrels of the gun in his body. The other morning when Farmer Kresher went out to inspect the work of his trap he found it had done well, for there lay a two-year-old grizzly, shut to the heart.

At a recent meeting of the New York Pathological Society Dr. S. Thacher presented a brain as an illustration of how one bullet might cause two wounds. The specimen had been removed from a patient in the hospital service of Dr. McCosh. The man lived eight days after the injury. The bystanders who saw the shooting say that only one shot was fired; there was only one empty chamber in the revolver, only one hole in the skull and only one bullet was found. Although there was only a single external wound, situated just above the bridge of the nose, there were two openings through the dura mater and two cavities. They both contained clotted blood. The bullet was found just inside of the inner plate of the skull.

A MAN who met with shipwreck off the coast of Cuba and had to take to an open boat, tells of the peculiar hallucinations, called by sailors the "Paradise Craze," brought on by exposure to the terrific heat of the sun's rays. He says: "The sea appeared to be transformed into a mighty meadow, bright with flowers and musical with song of birds. Cool springs burst from crystalline rocks and trickled over golden sands, and men and maidens danced beneath the trees. They beckoned me to join them, and I plunged over the side of the boat into forty fathoms of brine. The bath brought me to my senses, and I reached the Cuban coast more dead than alive. The mania is of frequent occurrence in tropical seas and is often referred to by the poets."

"I HAVE BEEN making some calculations on an interesting question," said a well-known physician. "I have come to the conclusion that death claims its victims among sufferers from chronic diseases most frequently between the hours of nine and ten a. m., most rarely between eight and ten p. m. In acute diseases dissolution ensues commonly either early in the morning or late in the evening. The explanation is simple. Vitality is strongest in the latter half of the day, and therefore the sufferer from chronic disease is least able to cope with it in the morning. In acute diseases the fever rages worst towards midnight, and leaves the patient without powers of resistance."

GERMAN paper tells of a certain dyer at Krosin, who was awakened in the night not long ago by some burglars who were working his establishment, and were just ready to get away with a large bundle of valuable dyestuffs. He seized a gun and ran into the dyehouse, where he found two men, whom he compelled to jump into a large vat of indigo dye. By threatening to shoot he forced them to plunge under the liquid several times, when he opened the door and ordered them into the street. He did not notify the police, but he told the story next morning, and nobody had any trouble in identifying the burglars on sight. They are marked men at Krosin.

A QUEER story comes from Hancock, Me. Mr. Luther Springer owns an old horse. Its days of usefulness being over, Mr. Springer engaged a Mr. Bridges to kill the animal. Bridges, taking an axe, started to lead the horse into the woods, but after going a part of the way, the horse, which before had always been kind, suddenly attacked Mr. Bridges, and, throwing him down, trampled upon him and so injured him that it was feared that he might not recover. At last accounts the horse's prospects of living were much better than Mr. Bridge's.

Two Englishmen had rather a shock while shooting last month in Missouri, according to home letters. They sat down to take their lunch on a bit of rough ground near Ironton and laid their guns on a flat rock. Instantly the guns moved from their resting place and leaped up to a huge boulder a few feet distant. At first the men were terrified at this mysterious action, but they soon discovered that the boulder was composed of magnetic iron ore. The guns were only slightly damaged.

THE vendetta is by no means extinct in Corsica. Some time ago a man named Dampierre was sentenced to two months' imprisonment for shooting at a youth named Andrei, aged eighteen. When he came out of prison he repeated the offense, and has been sentenced this time to two years. It came out in evidence that forty years ago the grandfather of the prisoner was condemned to hard labor for life for murdering the grandfather of Andrei.

MUD baths were common among the ancients, the mud on the seashore and the slime of rivers being especially prized for this purpose. The Tartars and Egyptians still use them in certain diseases. They are taken by many people at places on the continent of Europe, among which may be named Driburg, Eilsen, Neundorf, Pymont, Spa, Marienbad, Franzensbrunn, Eger, Kissingen and Teplitz.

A SAN FRANCISCO firm is about to attempt the revival of whaling in the Antarctic Ocean, which has not been carried on for as many as twenty-five years. A quarter of a century ago the catches of sperm and right whales used to be excellent there, and many whalers are now of the opinion that the southern seas will again afford a profitable field for operations.

POPULAR SCIENCE NOTES.

ELECTRICAL DEFINITIONS.—The subject of electrical distribution is commonly illustrated by its analogy to hydraulics, and Mr. R. G. Davis gives these easily understood definitions of electrical terms: Volt, unit of pressure, called electromotive force, corresponding to pounds of steam or water pressure; ampere, unit of quantity, called current, corresponding to gallons of water; ohm, unit of resistance, similar to friction; watt, unit of energy consumed, 746 watts being equal to one horse-power, as is 33,000 foot pounds. Substitute dynamo for pump, wire for pipe, and electricity for water, and conception of electrical phenomena is at once clear as to its elementary phenomena. Bracketing analogous electrical terms, we may say that a certain number of pounds [volts] of pressure are required to overcome the friction [resistance] of the pipe [wire] in order that the water [current] may flow at the rate of so many gallons [amperes] per minute. The larger the pipe [wire] the more water [current] can be carried, and the less will be the friction [resistance]. Manifestly the pipe [wire] might be so small that the friction [resistance] would absorb a very large proportion of the power of the pump [dynamo], leaving but little remaining for useful effect, therefore the two horns of the dilemma are—if the pipe [wire] be too large it will cost too much; if too small, the loss will be too great.

NOVEL MEASURING OF WATER DEPTHS.—Frederick J. Smith, of Trinity College, Oxford, explains a curious way of finding the depth of a piece of water at a distance. "About two years ago," he says, "I wished to know from time to time the rate at which a river was rising after a fall of rain. The river was a considerable distance from the spot where its height was to be known. By means of the combination of two organ pipes and a telephonic circuit described in the following lines I have been able to make the required measurement within rather close limits. At the river station an organ pipe was fixed vertically in an inverted position, so that the water in the river acted as a stopper to the pipe, and the rise or fall of the water determined the note it gave when blown by a small bellows driven by a very spring water wheel. A microphone was attached to the upper end of the organ pipe; this was in circuit with a wire leading to a town station at some distance; at the town station there was an exactly similar organ pipe, which could be lowered into a vessel full of water while it was sounding. By means of the telephone the note given by the pipe at the river was clearly heard at the town station; then the organ pipe at this station was lowered or raised by hand until it gave the same note. The lengths of the organ pipes under water at the two stations were then equal, so that the height of the water in the distant river was known. The determination can be made in less than a minute by any one who can recognize the agreement of two similar notes. The arrangement when first tested was so placed that the height of water at two places near together might be easily compared. I found that a lead with an average ear for musical sounds was able to get the two heights to agree within one-eighth of an inch of each other, while a person with an educated ear adjusted the instrument immediately to almost exact agreement. The total height to be measured was seventeen inches. A difference of temperature at the two stations would make a small difference in the observed heights. For instance, taking a note caused by 250 vibrations per second, a difference of 10 degrees C. between the temperature of the two stations (one not likely to occur) would make a difference of about 0.02 feet in the height, a quantity of no moment in such a class of measurements. The organ pipes were of square section and made of metal to resist the action of the water."—Nature.

HOW NATURE PRODUCES RAIN.—Man may not hope to assist nature in the formation or prevention of rain until he better understands the details of nature's own methods. The ideas most widely accepted, and also the most widely rejected, are that rain is produced by the condensation of vapors from the earth or by the cooling of air by which, however, only a very slight amount of precipitation can be formed; (b) the radiation of heat to the colder earth and air and space by which at first thin layers of fog or stratus clouds are formed which then slowly thicken with time; (c) the rise and expansion of large masses of air; the mechanical work done by the expansion simultaneously of the whole mass may cool it to any extent whatever. This last is the important process on which all our rain depends. II. The second step, namely, condensation, is a molecular process that has been likened to the crystallization of solid salts from liquid solutions, although there is too little known about either process to warrant the belief that they are really similar. Atkinson and others maintain that the condensation of vapor, like the crystallization of salts, demands some nucleus as a starting-point and that every minute droplet of fog or cloud must have a particle of atmospheric dust as its nucleus. III. The third step in the above process of rain and formation is the agglomeration of fog or cloud particles into larger drops. About this there is very little known from actual observation, and the hypotheses are quite various. The hypothesis that among these particles some are larger than others and, by their more rapid descent, overtake the smaller ones and thus grow larger as they descend, seems at first quite natural and is sufficient to explain the fact that the quantity of rainfall is an exceedingly small percentage of the water that is visible as a cloud and of course a still smaller percentage of the water that is present as vapor in the air. On the other hand, microscopic observa-

tions of the sizes of the particles of fogs do not show a variation in the diameters sufficient to allow of one particle falling much faster than its neighbor; therefore, as the air always has a motion sufficient to carry these minute particles with it, it would seem that if they are to come in contact and form larger particles, it must be through a process of jostling together, rather than by a process of falling by gravity. But the contact of two particles, whether by gravitational fall or by the jostling of wind-currents will not necessarily cause their union; it is essential that the surface tensions of the two particles be properly adjusted to each other, and the latter point seems to demand further study.—Agricultural Science.

RELIABLE RECIPES.

It is a great mistake to make a large tea biscuit. Properly speaking, a tea biscuit should not be more than two inches in diameter and proportionately thick when baked. This gives a delicate, moist, flaky biscuit which will be cooked through before the outside crust has become hard or over brown. Many of the muffin-tins are too large to cook thoroughly through before the crust hardens. In such a case it is a good plan to dampen the upper crust while the muffins are hot by laying a wet cloth over them and covering it with a dry cloth. Cookies, on the other hand, may well be of liberal diameter, as they are rolled out so thin that their size does not prevent their cooking through.

The season of apples is at its height, and winter apples are stored away for cold weather. The best way to keep choice apples is to wrap them singly in papers and put them in a light barrel in a cool, dry place till they are needed. Greenings and other hardy winter apples keep well enough in barrels without being wrapped up separately, but all barrels, except the one you are using out of, should be headed up closely, and it is well enough to keep a tight, movable cover over the one from which you are taking your daily supply. No fruit loses flavor from being carelessly handled more quickly than apples. Apples which have been well stored retain their flavor throughout the winter, but those which have been allowed to lie about with decaying specimens, or are stored loosely in barrels, either lose their flavor or acquire a rank taste from the conditions around them.

There are few better pies than the familiar apple-pie, when it is properly baked, flavored and served; yet a more tasteless and unwholesome compound is seldom found on our tables than this familiar dish when it has been carelessly put together and improperly baked. The crust of the apple-pie should be of the daintiest pastry, but whatever it is it should be browned. The pale apple-pie, which speaks of nightmares, is a thing to be avoided by all people who have not the digestive powers of an ostrich. It requires fifty minutes in a quick oven to bake an apple-pie. It should be baked on a tin plate or a plate of some metal which will conduct the heat properly so that the pie will be browned—never in an earthen pie-plate. The apples should be juicy and well flavored. They should be sliced thin, and heaped high in the center of the pie, in order that they may be cooked through and the juice will not run out at the edges. The upper crust must be laid on lightly, if you wish to sweeten and season your pie after it is cooked, as all the old-fashioned housekeepers did. No apple pie baked with the sugar in it is so delicious as one sweetened afterward by removing the crust and adding sugar, a very little butter, and nutmeg or cinnamon as you wish. French and German cooks use cinnamon, but the New England apple pie is usually flavored with nutmeg.

Singapore at the World's Fair.

Consul Rousevelto Wildman, of Singapore, who is coming over as a commissioner to the World's Fair, is a journalist of considerable note. He was editor of the Idaho Statesman, and at one time on the staff of the Kansas City Times. Mr. Wildman has arranged a large exhibit for the fair. It will consist of three palm-leaf bungalows, each about thirty by fifteen feet, eight feet from the ground, enclosed in a square court. The bungalows will be the exhibit. The court will be decorated with palms, and will contain monkeys, and native women wearing sarongs and making Oriental fancy articles. Through Consul Wildman's solicitation the Sultan of Johore will visit the World's Fair. Mr. Wildman is at present visiting the Sultan at this place in Johore. The Sultan is a progressive Oriental, and will light his palace with electricity upon his return from this country. Consul and Mrs. Wildman are expected in Washington in December. The Sultan will arrive in New York July next.—Harper's Weekly.

A Curious Library.

Perhaps the most curious library is that on the corner of Eighth street and University place, New York city. It is known as the Directory Library. "Our library is not so fascinating from a literary standpoint as the ordinary library," said the attendant in charge. "But that is largely because you have no particular interest in the contents of any of the volumes. There are only 600 volumes on the shelf, but they contain the names of millions of people throughout the world." The Directory Library is chiefly patronized by detectives, lawyers and others who wish to get the addresses of people in other cities.—New York Herald.

The Japanese Ivy.

The Japanese ivy has been charged with many serious things, such as injuring the stone and brick work of buildings upon which it grows, and affording a safe harbor for mice. And now comes another. The offending plant covered the walls of a stable and forced an entrance by the window. There one of the horses, in his eagerness for green food, nibbled freely of the leaves within his reach; immediately it fell ill and died soon after from their poisonous effect, as an examination indicated. All of which is doubtless a libel on this lovely creeper.—Washington Post.

FOR THE CHILDREN.

THE MAGIC VINE.

A fairy seed I planted,
So dry and white and old;
There sprang a vine enchanted
With magic flowers of gold.

I watched it, I tended it,
And, truly, by and by
It bore a Jack-o'-lantern
And a great Thanksgiving pie!
—Youth's Companion.

COLUMBUS AND THE EGG.

At a dinner given him soon after his return from his second voyage the conversation turned upon the new world. One of the retainers of the Spanish court endeavored to depreciate the value of the discovery, and said that more had been made of the achievement, in his opinion, than it deserved. In answer Columbus took up an egg and asked if any one could make it stand on end. When the others had tried in vain to accomplish the feat, Columbus struck the egg on the table, breaking its shell, and thus making it stand upright. "Why any one can do that," said the courtiers. "Certainly, when I have shown you the way," replied Columbus.—Detroit Free Press.

LITTLE CHARLIE'S MISSEK TABLE.

Mathematics are Charlie's bug-a-boo. The way he mixed himself up and got lost in the mazes of the multiplication and division tables was probably irritating to his teacher, but it was pathetic to his mamma, whose reminiscences of her own youthful days and agonies over such perfectly nonplussing problems as twelves times eleven were still fresh in her mind. The weights and measures were not much better, although he agreed there was some sense in a fellow's knowing how many ounces went to a pound of candy.

The other night when Charlie sat down to study, for he is an honorable little fellow and doesn't shirk a thing because he doesn't like to do it, he seemed especially gloomy and downcast. "What is the table for to-morrow?" said mamma trying to put a cheerful face on the matter. "Oh, it's the worst one yet. I don't see any sense in it. It's called the Missek Table." "Let me see your book," said mamma, who after groping around in the mathematical archives of her memory could recall no such table. Charlie handed over a little memorandum book in which his teacher had neatly written his tables and there the heading for the miscellaneous table stood thus: "Misc. table."—New York Recorder.

A REAL KNIGHT.

A pleasing sight it was, I do assure you. Not the first part of the scene, for the little maid was crying bitterly. Something very serious must have happened. Wondering, I paused; when, round a corner came my knight. On a prancing steed wearing a glittering helmet and grooves of brass! No, this was a Nineteenth-Century knight, and they are as likely to be on foot as on horseback. Helmets are apt to be straw hats or Derbys; and as for grooves—well, knickerbockers are more common to day. This particular knight was about ten years old—slender, straight, open-eyed. Quickly he spied the damsel in distress. Swiftly he came to her aid. "What's the matter? I heard him say. Alas! the 'matter' was that the bundle she had had 'burst' and its contents were open to view. Probably the small maid expected a hearty scolding for carelessness. And, indeed, whoever put that soiled shirt and collar in her care might reasonably have been vexed. A new piece of wrapping paper also proved too frail. Must the child get her scolding? Poor little soul! No wonder she had sobbed so mournfully. But the boy was not daunted. He tucked the 'burst' bundle under his own arm. "I'll carry it to the laundry for you," he said, in the kindest voice, and off the two trudged together. Soon after I met the small girl again. She was comforted and serene. "Was that boy your brother?" I asked. She shook her head. "Did you know him?" Another shake. "A real gentleman?" said I. "A genuine Nineteenth-Century knight. Bless him."—Farm Field and Stockman.

WHY JOHNNIE DIDN'T LIKE SQUASH.

It was a great, golden squash that looked like a round-faced sun half hidden among green leaves as it lay in the garden. It was a wonderful squash, the largest that had ever been seen in that county, and Grandpa Ferris declared that it must go to the county fair, where he was sure it would take the blue ribbon. Johnnie thought so, too, and he told his best friend Amos about it on one of their daily visits to the squash to see how much it had grown in the night. "Wouldn't it look fine with a flag right in the middle of it?" asked Johnnie. "Yes said Amos, 'but your grandpa might not be willing.'" "Pooh!" replied Johnnie, "I should think he'd be glad to have the squash look pretty. I s'pect he'd do it himself, but he never thought of it."

"The flag was brought and driven into the squash several times before it was in just the right place. Each time it was pulled out it left a jagged hole which Johnnie filled up with dirt. "Now let's build a fence around it like the one around the soldier's monument in the park," he suggested; and Amos, ready to do whatever Johnnie did, helped to drive in a row of little sticks around the flag. "There, that looks beautiful!" said Johnnie, and then ran off. He forgot all about it until Grandpa told him that he had ruined the squash—it could not go to the fair—and for a punishment he must eat it all up. "That's not bad," thought Johnnie, and sat down quite cheerfully to a breakfast of stewed squash. Squash for dinner was not bad either; but a supper of squash was tiresome. He ran down cellar to look at it as it stood on the shelf. Such a very small piece cut out of it too! At that rate it would last for weeks. How could he ever eat it all? At the end of the second day it was such a pale, dejected little boy that as soon as supper of squash that grandpa selected and thought he had been punished

enough. Johnnie was sure he had, and he told Amos over the fence the next day that he never should forget it, even if he was a big man; and he never has. —[Our Little Ones.

AROUND THE HOUSE.

To clean articles of papier-mache, wash them with a little lukewarm water and soap and rub them vigorously with sweet oil.

A useful saucepan for boiling milk is marked with the initials "B. N. O.," which are the initials for "Boil Not Over." By a curious contrivance the saucepan is arranged so that it will not boil over so long as the milk is kept a quarter of an inch below the inside flange. As soon as the milk boils, the cover acts like a safety-valve and lets off the steam.

This is the time of year when rooms are to be repapered. The scraping off the old paper is the most tedious part of the work. It may be much lessened if a boilerful of boiling water is shut up in the room over night. The steam loosens the wallpaper very perceptibly; if then a little hot water is applied with a white-wash brush to the few places where remnants still cling to the wall the task can be very readily accomplished.

A new household implement which will delight those who have suffered the annoyance of putting down a modern carpet at home with the old-time carpet stretcher and tack hammer is a combination stretcher and tacker. By its means the carpet is stretched in place and tacked at the same time. The carpet stretcher itself was deemed a veritable boon some score or more years ago, when it was first invented. It was but a simple contrivance, but it met a decided want and saved the labor of stretching and pulling the carpet by hand. If the new contrivance prove to be a success, it will do away with more than half the present labor of putting down carpet.

The Levee at St. Louis.

The levee along the river-side is worth a visit. It is diametrically different in itself and its atmosphere from the city that lies back of it, and that seems so familiar to a New Yorker. It is a wide and imposing incline of stone paving, perhaps 250 feet broad. It is not Western, it is Southern. Hides, wool, cotton, and tobacco are heaped about on the wharves, which seem to cling to the levee with gangways that are like the antennae of an insect. There is a fine of huge old-time river packges, looking as open and frail as birdcages, but with towering black funnels from which jet smoke curls lazily up. Beyond is the turgid, hurrying river. The street along the top of the levee is a single line of warehouses and shops. The latter recall those of our own water-side in New York. In place of our bronzed or bearded salt-water men, here are shiftless white laborers and negro roustabouts. But the same petty traders are among them, keeping drinking-places and stands for the sale of brass watches, rings, dirks, brass knuckles, pistols, cartridges. Cheap gin, cheap clothing, and still cheaper jewelry are the prime articles all along the thoroughfare, precisely as in New York or Liverpool or Havre.—[Harper's Magazine.

Alert Canoes.

Two firemen who were on the steamer Alice Blanchard on a trip to the Yukon river, says the Seattle Post-Intelligencer, brought back two novel alert canoes. The boats were made of rawhide, supported by horizontal ribs. The only opening is a circular hole in the center, large enough for a man's body so that he can sit down. A flap of rawhide surrounds the hole, and when the occupant plants himself in the bottom of the craft he draws this flap up, fastening it tightly around his body under the arms. This makes the boat practically water-tight, and he can paddle along in the roughest kind of weather without danger of drowning. If his craft rolls over all he has to do is to paw the water until he gets his head to the surface again, and the boat, having stationary ballast, immediately rights itself. Some of them are made with two holes to accommodate two passengers. The two brought down are the single pattern. They are about fourteen feet long, thirty inches across and of a like depth. They are very light and can easily be carried about. The owners are going to keep them at Lake Washington. It is said two men came down from Alaska in some years ago and had been upset on numerous occasions on the way, but they never suffered more serious injury than getting their shoulders wet.

Most Important Theft.

The most important theft ever committed took place in the year 552 A. D., until which date silk of the East could only be obtained by the Western world by importing the manufactured article. Many attempts were made to induce the Chinese and Koreans to part with the secret as to how they were successful, and the origin of the beautiful fabric remained more or less a mystery in the West until, in the year named, two Persian missionaries to Corea stole two or three dozen silkworms' eggs, and after great difficulty managed to convey them to Constantinople concealed in a stick of bamboo. From the stolen eggs thus imported have been derived all the generations of silkworms that have supplied the raw material for the silk manufacturers of Europe from that day to this. The purloining of those few eggs may therefore well be ranked as the most important theft on record.—[Yankee Blade.

Dietary for Children.

It is the opinion of a celebrated doctor that children under five years should not eat meat more than once a day, and that in the morning or at noon. "An almost ideal dietetic schedule for most children," it is said, would include eggs at breakfast, meat at noon, and bread and milk at night, "appropriate cereals" being given with the milk and eggs. For younger children, or those between the ages of two and five, it is not advisable to give eggs and meat at the same time, for fear that the digestive powers may be overtaxed.—[New York Post.