

## SOMEWHAT STRANGE.

### ACCIDENTS AND INCIDENTS OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

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

ADVICES just received from Umtali, Africa, say that the two Umtali Hospital sisters belonging to the Bishop of Mashonaland's mission, Miss R. A. Blennerhassett and Miss Lucy Sleeman, have recently had a narrow escape. Both sisters were seriously ill with malarial fever, lying helpless in a hut, waited on by native boys, there being no native women available. One night they were so bad that Doctor Wilson decided on sitting up with them. In the middle of the night a strange sound as of an animal bounding on the roof of the hut was heard. Shortly afterward the door of the hut, the upper half of which was partly open, rattled, and Miss Blennerhassett called out that there was "a great black thing" on the top of the door. The doctor went hastily to the door and slammed the top rather violently. He easily persuaded the sisters that nothing was there, as Miss Sleeman was nearly insensible, and Miss Blennerhassett delirious. A large leopard had tried to get through the roof and not succeeding, had sprung upon the open upper half of the door. The creature's head and claws were on the top of the door, and he was drawing himself up to drop into the hut when the doctor's presence of mind prevented him. The women are recovering.

ONE year ago Charles Roger, of Morrisons, Penn., was married. Nine months later he was a widower. He became crazed with grief eventually, and as a result his affliction produced a dementia pronounced incurable. He raved continually about his wife and entertained the idea that she had been foully dealt with. So strongly did he believe in this that his friends decided to disinter the body. They did so, and the body was found face downwards and all the evidence which goes to show that the woman had been buried alive was plainly apparent. The glass in the lid of the coffin was broken to atoms. The shroud enveloping the form was torn to shreds. The limbs were twisted and distorted, the hair matted, and in her hands she clutched a bunch of it. Those who were engaged in disintering the body fell back, entirely overcome. The most composed man in the party was the demented husband. He assumed an air of complacency and assisted in the work of re-arranging the body. He has shown no signs of mental aberration since, and from all appearance his mental powers have been restored.

LIEUTENANT H. R. SAYCE, of Bristol, has succeeded in crossing the English channel in a miniature boat, which he has patented as the Midgy pneumatic collapsible lifeboat, and is designed for fishing, shooting, or sailing. The weight is under thirty-five pounds, and the length is 8 feet, with thirty-two-inch beam. The boat is decked with canvas, with an opening for the owner's body, and she is fitted with inflated air tubing. The boat is fitted with a topsail about the size of a woman's apron, and a still smaller mizzen. Mr. Sayce was accompanied by a small sailing lugger. There was a light wind and a course was steered straight for Cape Grizsee. Mr. Sayce was provided with a double paddle, which he kept in constant use. The little craft entered Boulogne harbor at 5 p. m., having started at 3 o'clock a. m. Mr. Sayce was somewhat benumbed by sitting so long in one position. The lugger returned to Dover with the little boat folded up on board. The boatmen remarked that she had skimmed over the waves "like a duck."

ALL over the Hawaiian Islands the ladies ride horseback astride, man fashion. And a dashing and charming appearance do the fine ladies and stately dames of Honolulu make as they come at slashing gaits astride of spirited horses riding through the streets of the gay capital city of the isles. They are bold and rapid riders, too, and astride on their sprightly steeds they are the very embodiment of the grace and poetry of motion. They wear bifurcated or divided flowing skirts, and once seen in full motion one wonders and is amazed at how that awkward and inconvenient seat, the side-saddle, ever came to be invented or adopted. The riding habit of the lady in Hawaii is a skirt four yards wide, divided like the Jeness-Miller skirt, now in vogue and sold at all the leading women's dress stores in the large cities. The feet are slipped through a small piece of tape attached to the skirt, which keeps the dress in place when the feet are in the stirrups.

A MOST remarkable story of castaways is told by the captain of the mission vessel Morning Star, which picked up three persons who had been forty days in a boat at sea. They were a father, son and daughter, and were natives of Tapitua Island, one of the Gilbert group. Originally there were four—viz., the father, two sons and the daughter, and they went fishing off the island. Notwithstanding their strenuous efforts, they were carried further and further out to sea. They had neither food nor water, and for forty days they drifted about at the will and mercy of the current. One of the sons could not endure the hardships, and died. The sufferings of the three were dreadful. On the fortieth day their canoe was beached at Ocean Island. The survivors stayed on the island for several days, and were then taken by a vessel to the island of Annonion, where the Morning Star found them, and took them to their homes.

A WEALTHY landed proprietor of Soo Chow, China, curious to know how many roving Buddhist monks—monks who are not attached to any monastery—there were in that city, posted a placard the other day, says the North China Daily News, in one of the principal thoroughfares of Soo Chow, notifying that he would dispense alms to wandering monks in a large and ancient monastery near the Governor's "yamen." On the day named there appeared dirty, ragged, and beggarly-looking votaries of Buddha, to

the number of 2,343, who each came to claim his portion of 100 cash and four "man-t'ao," or meat balls rolled up in steamed dough, as well as a meal of 50 cash per man. The donor's curiosity has now been satisfied, but his thirst after knowledge cost him over \$350.

IN Paris and the provinces there are ten women who are authorized by the Prefect of Police to wear full masculine costumes. Among them are a lady artist, a bearded woman, a female house painter and decorator, a manish-looking directress of a printing office, and several others who have obtained certificates to show that they ought to discard the attire of their own sex for that of the stronger and sterner one. On the other hand, a humble potato merchant in the suburbs has been allowed to wear female garments for reasons which satisfied the Prefecture of Police.

AN offer of 2,500 sheep for nothing being refused is recorded by a Sydney paper. This occurred in the Riverina, New South Wales, where, in consequence of the drought, the land is greatly overstocked. In the case mentioned the sheep had been shorn, and as the selector, to whom they were offered, had no spare feed or water for them, they were killed and their carcasses were burned. In other cases sheep have been skinned, their carcasses being burned, as the skins were worth more than the sheep were when alive. One lot, sent by rail some distance, did not realize enough to pay expenses.

IT is not generally known that several New York shoe factories are now supplying customers with odd shoes. To give thorough satisfaction to a customer it is necessary to insist on his trying on both the shoes in a pair, and it often happens that the right foot is a good fit and the left a poor one. To get over this difficulty two pairs are broken, and when the next order is sent in the stock is made up. Very few custom shoemakers measure both feet, and in this respect the ready-made salesman does more to please the customer than the one who makes to his order.

MR. FRANK FIELDS, who resides at Mount Tabor, Or., reports that a great scheme has been hit on for the extermination of caterpillars in that neighborhood. He says that at the corner of West avenue and the railway a toboggan slide has been fixed from the corner of the fence to the ground, on which is placed a bucket containing kerosene oil. The caterpillars all make for this corner and slide down into the bucket, where they perish. Mr. Fields says over twenty bushels of caterpillars have been trapped and killed in this way, and the work goes on.

THERE is now to be seen in the Midway Plaisance in Chicago Herr Pollak, who claims to be the fastest talker in the world. He has a repertoire of 50,000 words, which he repeats in forty minutes, being at the rate of 500 words a minute. These words are in no way connected and make no sense, the rapidity of their enunciation being the sole feature of Herr Pollak's performance. He places himself under bonds to repeat no words, and offers 40,000 florins, which he carries with him, to any stenographer who can take down what he says.

A SHORTHORN-DEVON steer, eight years old, weighing about 5,000 pounds, and a 2,780-pound Norman gelding are among the curiosities at the Chicago stock yards. The horse stands twenty-one hands high and the steer nineteen hands. The steer is supposed to be the largest in the country, and his owner, W. W. Crandall, of Crandall, Kan., challenges the world on three points: Weight, style and color. He values him at \$1 per pound, or \$5,900.

MOSES WILLIAMS, colored, lives on a farm about five miles east of Fayetteville, Texas. He is 65 years old, but no one would take him to be more than about 50. He was married twice and had ten to him forty-five children. By the first wife he had twenty-three children—three boys and twenty girls—and by the second twenty-two children—two boys and twenty girls. He says he has about forty grandchildren.

AN odd-looking plant and one which is seldom seen except by travelers along the coast of South Africa is now on exhibition in Chief Thorpe's greenhouse at the World's Fair. The name of the plant is Aristolochia Gigas Sturtevantii. Its peculiarity lies in its strange animal-shaped appearance, very closely resembling one of the deep-sea variety, equipped with a heavy coat of mail as a protection and a long thin tail, probably used as a telescope with which to gather food or hold on to its enemies when once within its power.

A SMALL tablet of carved wood, less than 10 inches long by 8 wide, was sold at Christie's, in London, the other day for the enormous sum of \$3,650. The carving represented Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and on the frame were two small medallions showing the devil triumphing and a slain lamb on an altar transfixed with a dagger.

CHARLES BURSON, an employe at the mills of the Andrews Brothers Company, at Youngstown, Ohio, has developed into a veritable curiosity. His hair is naturally white, but after working in the mills a few hours and becoming heated it turns a brilliant red. When Burson leaves the mill and cools off his hair resumes its natural color.

#### An Old Temple Unearthed.

A very important discovery of ruins has just been made near Ixtlan, Mexico. A party of American and English archaeologists, while exploring that remote section, came upon an old building almost buried in the earth. It is located in a dense forest, and must have been undisturbed for several hundred years. The structure is built of stone and is of large dimensions. The roof is now at a level with the ground, and with but little difficulty the stones were removed and the interior explored. A large number of idols, pottery and weapons made of stone were found. In one corner of the main room was found a pile of human bones. It is believed that the building was used as a temple of worship by the Indians or a prehistoric race centuries ago.—[San Francisco Examiner.]

## FOR THE LADIES.

### A QUEEN'S DAIRIES.

The dairies of Queen Victoria are models of exquisite cleanliness, the box-stall being tiled in blue and white and the milking done by maids. When she is at Balmoral not a day passes that the Queen does not personally inspect the farm and often gives advice about the butter and cheese making. It is even said that she prizes the medals won by her butter and cheese and the premiums carried off by her cattle more than the gorgeous tributes of her Oriental subjects or her royal German relations.—[Brooklyn Citizen.]

### TO HARDEN FINGER NAILS.

I hear a good deal about brittle nails, writes a fashion correspondent. Some women toughen them by using nine grains of tar to a half ounce of lard, wearing gloves at night and washing hands in morning with warm water and soap. Hardness of the nail is certainly one of the conditions of its well-being. Here is another receipt. You may like it better, perhaps. Melt over fire eight grammes of nut oil, one and twenty-five centigrammes of white wax, two grammes of resin and a half gramme of alum, whipped while on the fire and used at night.—[St. Louis Star-Sayings.]

### MODISH WOMEN.

Passenterie trimmings never were more magnificent than they are now, and there never was a time when the success of a dress depended more on the trimming. Collar and belt pieces are elaborately ornamented with jet, colored beads and silk embroidery. Nets are covered with spangles, black with jet or gold and white with silver or gold, and these often take the form of some floral design. Besides the great variety of bead trimmings there is a silken embroidery embracing all the daintiest shades of cream, mauve, yellow, green and blue, liberally threaded with gold.—[New York Recorder.]

### GRANDMA'S HIGH SHELL COMB.

Another of grandmamma's old-fashioned ornaments is in great demand among her grandchildren since Empire gowns and hair parted in the middle and combed down over the ears came in style. That's her high shell comb. Those who have no grandmamma to apply to can, of course, purchase one, as everything used at that epoch is now "shown, even a new kind of stay called "The Empire." This last mentioned is made in the form of a common corset, but is so small as to be merely a waist supporter, and has straps over the shoulders. Rather an unsatisfactory description is mine, I'm afraid, but this corset is one of the things that must be seen to be appreciated.—[New York Journal.]

### THE DRESSMAKING DUMMY.

Many are aware that some fashionable ladies have wooden figurines made like themselves at the dressmaker's upon which dresses can be fitted and draped. Something newer still are dolls, veritable dolls with movable heads, arms, etc., made on the scale of dimensions of the belle or matron. With this at hand she goes to a pattern establishment in Philadelphia which makes a specialty of this thing and has a suit cut out and made of tissue paper and fitted on the doll. The shape, style and color she desires are all there. Then, if it suits her, she takes it to the dressmaker and has it made according to the doll pattern. Sometimes a fine colored fashion plate is taken to the pattern maker with directions to reproduce it on the doll. With perhaps some change, a modification to suit the wearer's complexion or figure, the costume is then "built" by the dressmaker.—[New York Commercial Advertiser.]

### MAY PREFER BONNETS TO HATS.

THERE seems to be a reaction just now in favor of bonnets among girls and young married women. It has been attributed to the Prince George's bride's predilection for pretty little bonnets in preference to hats, and indeed it is true that Princess May is seldom seen wearing a hat. In her usual and presumably favorite style of headgear she resembles in many ways the Princess of Wales, not in feature so much as in shape and poise of the head and the dressing of the hair. At a distance Princess May is often taken for the Princess of Wales, though it would be impossible for any one to err in this way on close inspection. Bonnets are prettier than hats, or if not absolutely prettier, they are smarter and more dressy looking. This season they are quite on the small side again, and in some instances "bonnet" is merely a courtesy title for them, since they frequently consist of a few chains of jet or jewelry over the hair, with a jeweled sprig of feathers and antennae, and with very narrow strings.—[Chicago Herald.]

### SKIRTS OF A LATE DATE.

One of the handsomest skirts, a new Empire in shape, is of three widths of material at least forty-four inches wide, writes Emma M. Hooper in the Ladies' Home Journal. The front and back widths are gored slightly on the sides, and the third width forms a gore for each side, gored on both edges and twenty-five inches wide at the bottom and five at the top. Short skirts for street gowns and summer party gowns are now a settled fact. Haircloth linings or facings to the knees are worn by those wishing the very much flared skirt, while others use soft crinoline or only the ordinary canvas bias facing from ten to twelve inches deep; all depends upon the amount of "flare" desired, but the exclusive modistes of New York do not predict a long season of wide and flared skirts. A new lining for waists and skirts is of peraline having a moire effect, which presents much of the appearance, feeling and rustling of silk at a third of its price. The flat fronts are too much admired to give them up, but they are now fitted in a looser fashion, and a few tabliers are seen on home and imported costumes. The most popular lining is shaped just like the outside material, though Dame Rumor has it that the regular foundation skirts will return to impede easy walking and flap against the ankles. A French shape for a demi-train has a front breadth gored

on each side, twelve inches wide at the top, twenty inches at the bottom and fitted closer with two or four darts at the top; each side gore is sloped up either side, and is twenty inches on the lower edge and nine at the top with a dart on either side; the back is of five breadths, each twenty inches and gored up both sides to three inches in width at the top. The fullness at the back is laid in six or eight large gathers that give the effect of organ plaits.

All of the full skirts have round effects in the trimmings, though many of the gored designs made for short or stout figures are trimmed lengthwise by covering each seam with narrow gimp, or piping with a tiny double bias fold or cord each seam of the front and sides.

### FASHION NOTES.

Eulalia hats, bonnets, slippers, jackets and capes are now temptingly set forth. Fifty-two founces from skirt hem to bodice blue by actual count are on a recent Paris gown seen in New York.

Beautiful loving cups are now to be had in crystal and in emerald glass, embossed and etched with gold. As the color of the wine poured into the cup glows through the glass the cup of glass is preferred by some to that of silver.

A serpent with a head curved for a handle had its tail smoothed out and polished to open envelopes.

The new silver bracelets are charming in design and workmanship. One variety is made up of woven wire and ends in tassels.

Swords are enriched with flowers, and the last produced are the most magnificent. One seen has for the guard a flower design in gold set with rubies and emeralds.

Do not wear a mourning veil with a tulle. A small mouset is the only proper thing and may be made to rest against the top of the head, but the back should be cut out.

Do not wear large hats at entertainments as they are only a burden to yourself and a nuisance to many.

Among the new and pretty things in the shops are Dalmatian belts, which are really only half-belts as they merely cover the back—made of imitation silver or gilt in open scroll design, and sewed on a belt ribbon of satin that is tied in front with long hanging ends. These are to be worn with any round waist, and will be particularly effective with summer gowns of organdie or batiste, or with thin black dresses of crepon or grenadine.

The cotton chevrons come in all the dainty shades of blue and pink for little boys' clothes, and the piques are brightly striped with scarlet or blue. All manner of little shirt waist are worn by the boys, with collars and cuffs of the bright French laws, polka-spotted with white. Reefers of scarlet or of soft old blue brighten up their more somber suits on cool days, and all the dainty shades of brown and gray, in tiny checks and twills, are used in their tiny trousers and jaunty coats.

Ginghams are now usually made with unlined skirts and simple, full bodices, finished with bertha or inconceivable revers of Russian purple or of Genoa lace, with a high collar and short cuffs also covered plainly with lace. Or they are trimmed with the heavy open embroideries so much used this season.

Ribbons have become as important factors in dressmaking as in millinery, and both the plain and fancy varieties are fashionable. They are arranged in bands, folds, frills, box-plaits, flowing ends and flat or creton bows or ears.

Bonbon dishes of gold are made more beautiful by the little Dresden panels with copies of celebrated paintings upon them. They can be almost a monopoly only for the rich, as they are worth their weight in precious metal.

A new tray for an invalid is silver plated, with underneath reservoir for hot water. Each dish, cup and bowl has a corresponding depression, thus keeping it in its place, and hot until used.

A Parisian fad is to use fur as if it were cloth or velvet for shoulder plaits, cuffs, gathered frills and Watteau puffs. Some Eton and Russian jackets are finished at the edge with a frill or puff of seal, otter or astrakhan.

Some very pretty baby toilets are being shown throughout the country in many of the principal stores. The frames are of enamelled iron in white and gold, blue and gold, and in some instances a combination of purple and gold. The various articles which go to make up the outfit are of fibre ware, ornamented with Kate Greenaway designs, which render them very attractive.

A favorite ornament of the moment is a buckle in silver, gold flagree, jet or jewels of some sort. Buckles of this sort are used on any portion of the costume which affords an excuse for them.

### RELIABLE RECIPES.

PLAIN OMELET.—Take six eggs, leaving out the whites of two. Beat them very light, and strain them through a sieve. Add pepper and salt to your taste. Divide two ounces of fresh butter into little bits, and put it into the egg. Have ready a quarter of a pound of butter in a frying pan, or a flat stew pan. Place it on the stove, and have the butter boiling when you put in the beaten egg. Fry it gently till of a light brown on the under side. Do not turn it while cooking as it will do better without. You may brown the top by holding a hot shovel over it. When done, lay it in the dish, double it in half, and stick sprigs of curled parsley over it. You may flavor the omelet by mixing with the beaten egg some parsley or sweet herbs minced fine, some chopped celery, or chopped onion, allowing two moderate sized onions to an omelet of six eggs. Or what is still better, it may be seasoned with veal kidney or sweet bread minced; with cold ham shred as fine as possible; or with minced oysters (the hard part omitted), with tops of asparagus (that has been previously boiled) cut into small pieces.

While the elevator man gives many a fellow a lift, he doesn't hesitate to run a chap down.—[Philadelphia Record.]

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

DISCUSSING tall men and short men a writer in the Boston Transcript says: "It is an interesting study, by the way, to see a handsome man of very great height enter the company of a miscellaneous lot of men, such as one will find at a club sometimes, or a dinner party where the guests are conversing and not yet at table, or under other circumstances where the newly arrived giant will naturally pass from one to another, conversing. It is the invariable rule, so far as The Listener has observed, that the men of middle size treat the big man with deference and admiration, while the little men shy away from him, or affect not to see him. The little men naturally avoid the contrast, from which they will suffer, or else they fancy that by showing admiration they will be thought to be toadying to a big man because he is big. The men of average height, on the other hand, are acting perfectly instinctively; for it is still as natural for men to admire a man of great and noble stature as it is for animals to show deference toward a giant of their kind. A spectacle of this sort takes us through civilization, in which a pygmy is exactly as well off as a giant, directly back to barbarous times, or the cave dwellings. In a way the thing is impressive; in another it is very funny. Men's ways are after all so extremely amusing!"

A CURIOUS method was recently used in Illinois to take the foul air out of a well. The well was to be cleaned, but the man that took the job was afraid to go down until he had ascertained the quality of the air at the bottom. He let down a lighted candle, and when it descended to about six feet of the bottom it went out as suddenly as though extinguished by a whiff of air. That was all he wanted to know. He was then sure that the well had poisonous gas in it, and took a small umbrella, tied a string to the handle and lowered it open into the well. Having let it go nearly to the bottom, he drew it up, carried it a few feet from the well and upset it. He repeated this operation twenty or thirty times, with all the bystanders laughing at him, then again lowered the light, which burned clear and bright even at the bottom. He then condescended to explain that the gas in the well was carbonic acid gas, which is heavier than air, and therefore could be brought in an umbrella just as though it were so much water. It was a simple trick, yet perfectly effective.

A PHILADELPHIA war veteran has patented a device for protecting soldiers to a considerable extent from an enemy's fire. It is a folding shield of bullet-proof material, circular in form, which can be fixed to the barrel of a rifle. Its diameter is eighteen inches, and the surface is corrugated for the purpose of deflecting bullets. The inventor does not pretend that it furnishes a complete protection, but he believes that it would be found indispensable by skirmishers, and in a general engagement would be the means of greatly reducing the casualties. When not in use it can be folded into portable compass and worn at the side like a bayonet. When expanded and fastened to the rifle-barrel, an aperture on the line of sight is shown, which enables the soldier to take aim and use his piece effectively. The idea of the invention is already applied to large rifled guns on vessels of war. The inventor has brought his device to the attention of military experts, and they have endorsed it as practicable in operation.

THAT the earth's motion has an appreciable effect upon artillery fire, deflecting the projectiles from a straight course, has been known to many, and as such would probably seem a novel notion. It has, and the exact nature and extent of the effect is an important point of study with artillery experts. An English army expert told of the results of many interesting experiments along this line in a paper read before the Royal Artillery Institution the other day. Firing from north to south there is a divergence of projectiles to the left due to the earth's rotation, and firing due north the divergence is to the right. The extent of the "pull" varies at different points on the earth's surface, and with projectiles fired at different speeds and elevations. In England a deflection of five inches is found to occur with the projectile of a 12-pounder in a 4,000 yard range.

ONE of the few novel ideas that have come to light as the result of the recent advertisement for plans for a submarine naval boat involves the construction of a craft that can be sunk by admitting a limited quantity of water, and will then run around on the bottom of the ocean on wheels. The inventor thinks that his boat can move more directly in a straight path than a boat subject to deflection by currents and waves, and therefore claims for her the ability to pick her position with accuracy beneath the iron-clad she wishes to destroy. He has made provision for reaching the surface when desired by means of a set of pumps to expel the water admitted to the hull.

AN Indiana man named Dobbins has invented a voting machine which is said to be more simple and accurate than any similar machine. "The Indianapolis News" thus describes it: "The tickets are printed on one continuous roll, which is locked in the machine. Beneath a glass-covered table the ticket passes from this roll to another roll fitted into a ballot-box. The glass cover is divided into four sections, and between each section is a row of keys similar to the typewriter. The upper key is larger, and is called the straight ticket key, and when this is struck it locks the other keys, thus preventing mistakes."

A DEMAND is made in Maine for the reenactment of the law permitting the killing of crows, as these birds are becoming a great nuisance again. A Damariscotta farmer says he is obliged "to sit up most of the night and watch all day to fight crows." Another asserts that of 1,200 hills of potatoes which he planted the crows have spoiled all but 125. They are also destroying young chickens and ducks. As one suffers from their raids says: "You can't make folks believe that crows don't keep posted on the Maine revised statutes." The next Legislature will no doubt be asked to revive the old law, and if the crows know what is good for them they will read it and give the State a wide berth.

THESE are four systems now in force for the grant of patents: 1, the American, in which the patent is granted after rigid examination into novelty; 2, the British, in which the invention is advertised and the grant is subject to opposition; 3, the German, which is a sort of compromise between the American and British, involving both an examination, and an appeal to opposition; and 4, the French, which involves neither an examination nor public opposition, but is a registration merely. All the patent laws of the world can be included in some one of these systems, or partake of their features.

A NOVEL contrivance to restrain runaway and pulling horses has recently been patented. The inventor claims that, when in operation, it will bring to an immediate standstill the most powerful and refractory horse. It is fixed under the box seat, the buckled end of the reins being passed through an aperture for the purpose, and the driver, while guiding the animal with his left hand, can with his right, if need be, instantly raise the machine, and by putting a revolving process in motion tighten the reins to any extent required.

THERE are treasures at the bottom of the sea, in the wrecks of the countless galleons, transports, merchantmen, steamships, and other vessels that have sunk thereto the ages through. The inventor who has laid before the Navy Department his design for a submarine punt on wheels, that shall traverse the sea's bed with a crew in the hold of it, can, in the opinion of the New York Sun, engage in more profitable business than that of sinking the enemy's cruisers.

THE fastest time on record for the delivery of American mails in England was made a few weeks ago with the mails arriving from New York by the Teutonic. The Teutonic made a passage of six days four hours to Queenstown, and the mail was delivered in London in exactly six days and twenty-two hours from the time the ship had left New York.

GEORGIA paid \$181,235 to crippled veterans of the Confederacy last year. There has been great mortality among these old soldiers during the last ten years. In 1883 the number of pensioners on the Georgia rolls was 1,000, while now there are only 773.

THE greatest depth under water ever reached by a diver is believed to have been attained by Capt. John Christian, who went down 195 feet below the surface at Elliot Bay, Wash., recently. He remained at that depth in his armor for twenty minutes, without inconvenience.

### The Rise of the Cat.

It seems hard to believe that during all the long ages which passed between the dawn of civilization and the Christian era the Romans and the Greeks should have been ignorant of the most familiar pet of our homes—the common cat. Yet no fact seems established more clearly than this. Hahn, in his "Wanderings of Plants and Animals," insisted upon it, and it has since been established by the united efforts of scholars and zoologists. We know that our domestic favorite—with its winning, coy ways, uneasy when removed from man's society, and yet never completely trusting it, with its mysterious old-world air—was unknown to the chief nations of antiquity till after the Christian era. It was the patient and gifted nation of the Nile Valley who built the Hall of Columns at Karnak, and who reared such colossal statues as that of Rameses II. at Memphis, that first tamed the cat. Hereditary animosity as deep as that which reigns between the feline race and mankind does not die out in a generation. Countless years and many dynasties must have passed ere the wildest members of creation became the most faithful servants of mankind. In Egypt we know that cats were regarded with veneration, and embalmed and buried after their death. Herodotus alleges that all cats on their decease were taken to the city of Bubastis, where they were embalmed; but their mummies are found, as a matter of fact, in Thebes and other Egyptian towns. Elian refers to them as remarkable for their tameness. He describes the way in which (according to Eudemus) the cats were used to hunt in packs, the quarry being the ape, which tried to escape by climbing to the end of a bough and hanging there.—[London Academy.]

### Danger in Insect Bites.

"THE cases of severe poisoning by insect bites which have appeared in Washington lately are decidedly mysterious," said a Government entomologist to a Star reporter. "There is a kind of fly, scarcely distinguishable from the common house fly, which infests stables. It bites as the musca domestica never does. It is easy to conceive that its bite might be dangerous under certain conditions. For example, suppose that it should bite a horse that was diseased with glanders, and that immediately afterward it should attack a human being. The latter might easily contract the complaint, which in human beings is one of the most horrible known.

"Though for some time it was disputed, the ordinary house fly has come to be well recognized as an agent for conveying diseases. The same is alleged of the mosquito, particularly in respect to yellow fever, but the charge has not been proved. Doubtless other insects help to spread contagious ailments. The patients treated lately in the hospitals for supposed fly bites are so positive in their testimony as to the cause of the trouble that there seems to be no reason for doubting that some sort of fly was responsible. For instance, one truck driver saw the fly bite his hand, which swelled greatly immediately after. It would be most desirable to find out just what species did the mischief.

"There is plenty of room for mistakes in such matters. People often wake up with swellings on their faces or other parts of their bodies, which are supposed to be due to spider bites. It is true that all spiders are poisonous. Nevertheless, I believe that most of these bites are inflicted by an insect nearly related to the bed bug, which is often found in houses. Its bite is very irritating."—[Washington Star.]