

AN OLD PICTURE.

[Mrs. C. Jewett, in Portland Transcript.]
The sweetest picture that memory brings,
The dearest of all departed things,
Is the old brown house, with its open door,

THIBET'S TWO LAMAS.

A Description of the Principal Temple at Lhasa.
[Chicago Commercial Gazette.]
Politically dependent on China, Thibet's two Lamas are religiously independent, and the veritable popes of a system based on Buddhism, which was introduced early in the fifth century of our era, and mingled with the Christianity of the Nestorian missionaries, serpent worship, and magical superstition.

THE "COON BELT."

A District in Indiana Where Justice Was Quercy Administered.
The state library should secure, if happily it yet exists, the docket of an early Sharpville justice of the peace, by its simple entries: "John Smith vs. Thomas Jones. I heard this case and gave Smith judgment for \$6.75 and costs, as witness my hand, —, J. P."

Oil Upon Troubled Waters.

[Popular Science Monthly]
The time is fast approaching when the now rising generation will wonder at the folly of having ever neglected such a means of salvation; for the mass of evidence on this subject which has recently accumulated has now compelled attention from the most skeptical, and the experiments so successfully carried out on the stormy coast of Aberdeenshire, at the harbor of Peterhead, have borne fruit far and near.

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How Paupers Feed in China.

[Professor Felix L. Oswald.]
A hardy, naked savage is not an object of pity. The self-denial of a hard-working Yankee mechanic is compensated by hope; but the poverty of the Chinese paupers is unqualified, unparalleled and hopeless.

In Canton nobody dreams of cleaning the markets, or, a la Mexico, tolerating vultures for that purpose. The paupers pick the offal in half an hour better than an army of ants could do it in half a year. They make soup out of bone-splinters and shreds of skin, boil cabbage-stalks, turnip-leaves, potato-peels and the refuse roots of chautung trees, scrape the fragments of lamina-skins, and store up every crum and grain of spoiled rice.

The Beginning of Sea Bathing.

[London Lancet.]
It was in England and toward the middle of last century that the sea was first recognized as the mighty sanitary agent the world now acknowledges it to be. At that time western Europe was heavily scourged by scrofula—king's evil, as it was called—and all ranks of society, from peer to peasant, were more or less sufferers.

At the close of last century Germany imitated England, then Belgium, then France, until in the year 1812 Dr. Le-francois, of Dieppe, published a treatise on the internal and external virtues of sea-water, and raised his native town into a much-frequented health resort.

The World's Telegraphs.

[Scientific American.]
The telegraph appears to have made more progress in the United States than in any other country. The number of American telegraph offices in 1882 was 12,917, and the number of telegrams forwarded during the year was 40,581,177. The number of telegraph offices in Great Britain and Ireland in 1882 was 5,747, the number of telegrams forwarded being 32,985,929.

Smallest Engine in the World.

[Philadelphia Ledger.]
An engine, said to be the smallest in the world has been made by a watch-maker now connected with a watch manufacturing company. As described, the engine is of the upright pattern, and is made of steel and gold. It rests on a 25-cent gold-piece, and can be worked either by steam or compressed air.

Out of 270 powder factories started in Europe, 261 have been blown up.

Fishing in Jalisco, Mexico.

[Cincinnati Enquirer.]
Consul Lambert, of San Blas, transmits the following account of the peculiar mode of fishing at that place: The novel method before referred to for catching fish in this vicinity may not be instructive, but it will doubtless prove interesting. There is a small shrub growing wild here called "varbasco." The native fishermen procure the fibrous root of this shrub, and, after mangling it well, place it in the bottoms of their canoes. At high tide they proceed to the mouths of the esteros and drive down a wicker fence.

Systematic Goodness.

[Sidney Smith.]
"When you rise in the morning determine that you will make some persons happy during the day. It is easily done. If you are young it will tell when you are old; and if you are old it will help to smooth the road down to the bottom of the hill. By the most simple arithmetical calculation look at the result. Suppose you live forty years, after you commence this course of medicine, and you make one person a little happier than they would have been every day; that is 365 days in the year, which, multiplied by forty, amounts to 14,600 persons which you have made happy—at all events for a time."

Change of Color of the Hair.

[London Lancet.]
A young girl has just died in the asylum at Hamburg, who possessed the peculiar gift of changing the color of her hair according to the state of her mind. In "periods of sadateness" her hair was its natural dull color; when excited it became red; as her anger was indicated by a blonde color. Three days were generally required for the change to be completed, and her complexion also varied in the same periods and in the same direction.

De Lesseps' Children.

[Chicago Tribune.]
M. de Lesseps allows his ten children to play freely outdoors without wrapping of hands, arms and necks. His neighbors think that he is careless of their health; but only one of the ten is delicate, and he is a twin. The rest never suffer with colds. French fathers and mothers, as a rule, are careful not to expose to the weather their children's arms and necks, and they do not understand the De Lesseps family.

Charles Dickens used to say that he judged the quality of housekeeping by the conditions of the casters on the table.

The London Plane Tree.

[London Times.]
To those who are interested in the arborical decoration of London it must be very gratifying to observe how that truly admirable tree, "the London plane," has triumphed over the adverse influences of the late scorching weather which has left its marks on all other kinds of trees, such as elms, oaks and limes, the foliage of which has been shriveled up and more or less destroyed, while the "London plane" stands out conspicuous in retaining its beautiful foliage in all its charming brightness, as may be seen, not only in its parks and squares, but also in the most dense and confined parts of the city, where it so happily displays its marvelous capabilities in resisting every kind of adverse influence.

A Field of Coral.

[Interview with a Diver.]
"One of the most remarkable sights that I observed," remarked the diver, "were the coral beds. From a boat they present nothing unusual—a brown mass of pointed stems or branches—but one day I had the boat placed on the edge of a channel, and gradually walked down into it until I attained the bottom, and I tell you the scene was impressive. I seemed to be in the streets of a city. The bottom upon which I stood was a pure white sand, hard and firm, and perfectly free from coral; but on either side rose a perpendicular wall of the branch coral nearly forty feet high, all the points extending directly outward or toward me, and presenting a magnificent unbroken surface of a rich olive-brown hue.

Hunting the Wren.

[Detroit Free Press.]
"Hunting the wren" is a custom peculiar to the Isle of Man, near the coast of England. At the Christmas season a wren is caught, and suspended from the center of a hoop which has been decorated with evergreens and ribbons. This unfortunate bird has its feathers plucked and is carried by boys from house to house, at each of which a feather is left as a charm. There is great rejoicing over these charms and no sailor would think of going to sea without having one of them on his person. These charms keep off the evil fairy which this poor bird is thought to impersonate.

Henry Ward Beecher.

There are a great many griefs, springing from various fountains of the human soul, but that by which men feel that they are brought under the derision and contempt of their fellow-men is the most acute and most unbearable of any emotion of the mind.

The British Medical Journal.

A well authenticated case of a canary catching the scarlet fever and dying. Sir Moses Montifore is mentioned as the "Peter Cooper of Europe."

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