## A STUPENDOUS RIFT.

THE CANON OF THE COLORADO, FIVE HUNDRED MILES LONG.

A Maximum Depth of 6,500 Feet, and an Average That Exceed: 3,000-A Muddy Ribbon in the Depths.

#### [Cor. Boston Transcript.]

Probably few rivers are less generally known than the "Colorado of the West. Rising in Colorado and Wyoming, it runs through a country of peerless beautythrough pleasant valleys, rocky maun-tains, high plateaus and arid desets. finally debouching into the california gulf, nearly : ,000 miles from its starting place. It drains an area of nearly 00,000 square miles. It is the river of canons, From the junction of the Green and Grand rivers to Col ille it has but few breaks in what forms probably the most stupendous rift in the world. Five hundred miles in length is the cut, with a maximum depth of 6,000 feet, and an average that exceeds 3,00%. . mericans are too apt to overlook their own coun-try and travel to other lauds in search of the pictures ue. To the geologist, the earnest student of nature the artist, or to the mere sight-seer, this country offers inducements unparalleled.

Looking south across the House Lock valley, in northern Arizona, one notices a few broken bluffs, about ten miles distant, apparently about twenty feet high. Only five or six of these occ it scattered at irregular intervals. There lies the canon. Riding across the level plain toward the bluffs, one finds it hard to conceive how such a canon can exist, with so few signs of existence. Here and there we are obliged to make long detours, to avoid yawning crevasses that streams have worn on their downward rush to the colorado. The country here, probably, escaped the grand glacial epoch that elsewhere harrowed this continent level, and tilled up the post-tertiary wash outs. Until we come within half a mile of the canon we get no hint of its existence. Gradually it unfolds to nearer advance, until on its brink its awful sublimity burgts upon us. As we walk out upon a projecting tongue of rock, we gradually, dimly, begin to appreciate the chasm. Great rock walls around us on every side stretch down-ward, seemingly fathomless.

Far below, looking like a muddy ribbon, lies the river. At first sight the mind is incapable of grasping the di-mensions of this gorge. Men whom I have seen declared stoutly, "That can't be the Colorado, for the Colorado is a good 200 yards across, and that creek isn't over six feet at most." Far below us floats lazily a bald eagle; so far that he resembles a mere speck, and yet he isn't half-way down. A stone about as large as one's fist turns the course of the river at a certain point. Were we down there, we should find that stone to be about three times as large as the Boston postoffice.

On the loose soil of the banks grow thousands of century plants, with tall stalks, reminding me of the pictures of the Jewish candlesticks I used to see in the big Bible at home when a youngster. Pulling up one of these, we send it whistling down into the abyss. It grows smaller and smaller until it vanishes, and presently a puff of dust announces it has struck. And yet these "yant" often measure six feet across.

Opposite where we stand is the mouth of the Colorado Chiquito. Where it en-ters the parent canon it is of the same veined marble, sandstone from vermillion to light gray, and sturdy old granite, blend their many strata in colors no painter dare imitate. At sunset and sunrise, when the sunbeams strike slantingly across the rocky face, the effect is inde-scribable. It is as if the gates of heaven were thrown open, and the city, with its jasper walls and dazzling gateways, shone before us. Probably long before the earliest date of human history this river freited and chafed its rocky banks. While Europe was plunged in ignorant night, this coun-try saw the growth of a civilization second only to that of to-day. While the Old World nations were yet in their infancy, the dwellers on the banks of this stream were adepts in casting metals, in archi-tecture, in sculpture, in gold and silver smithery, and in mosaic painting. Their paintings have never feather been equalled. The river witnessed their southern migration and saw the sacred fire die from the estufas on its banks. It saw the whirlwind of northern tribes, that swung like a whip upon the Moquis and Zunis and forced them to dwell in forts: that chased the mild Coconinas until, in despair, they found refuge in the deepest canons and breaks, where a wretched remnant still exist.

#### Gordon's Queer Religious Views. [Foreign Letter.]

Gen. Gordon had queer religious views. He held that the fruit of the original ap-ple eaten by Eve still affected the blood, and contended that the virus could only be subdued and counteracted by frequent participation in the bread and wine of the acrament. But so material a view did he take of this rite that he thought the more a man could ingest, in quantity, of the consecrated food the better would be his chances of expurgating from his physical organism the poisonous corpuscles of the forbidden apple. Having foreseen that there would be

little or no opportunities of receiving the sacrament in the Soudan, Gordon resolved to take as much as possible of the sacred elements before starting. He therefore occupied himself the saturday before his last Sunday in England in ascertaining the hours at which communion would be administered in the various churches within reach of the place where he then was, and, rising early Sunday morning, he went from church to church in turn, partaking of the sa rament in each, and thus received the elements some half-dozen times in succession, beginning at 6 o'clock a. m. and ending at midday.

#### A Cr. b | ac . [New Yo k Sun.]

"I saw a crab race once." put in one of the listeners. "It was on the west coast of ingland. There had been a good deal of discussion in Lon lon as to whether crabs had any sense and some one suggested that a trial be made, and a good deal of cash changed hands on the resu t. The trial was to test the homing instinct. A man by the name of Carew, a sport ing character, made a wager that crabs dropped overboard ten miles from where they were caught would and their way back within five days. I heard after ward that he won over \$500 on it, and it was tested in this way: Five bushels of crabs were caught at a certain place and all marked and dropped over ten miles down the coast. In three days some of the marked crabs were back, and in less than a week they were caught every day, showing that they could find their way back with just the same case as a pigeon I heard later that the sporting man had a sure thing, as he had hired some crabbers to try the same thing a month before."

The Key of Death.

## (\ outh's Compa don.)

In the arsenal at Venice there is still preserved a small golden key, which bears the name of the "key of Death." It was an instrument invented in the fiftcenth century by an Algerine named Tebaldo. It hung at his girdle and while toying care lessly with it, he would turn the handle. when a needle of exquisite fineness was shot from it, which would bury it-self unfelt in the tesh of the person whom he wished to kill. The needle was tipped with a deadly poison. It was not until Tebaldo's vic-tims could be counted by the score that his secret was discovered.

The young man who sets out in life with a keen wit, a poor opinion of human nature, and a delight in saying a good thing at anybody's cost, will soon find that he wields as cruel and deadly a weapon as this famous "Key of Death, which will not only wound others, but poison his own life, and leave him to a solitary, miserable old age.

#### Chinese "White Wax" Industry. [Arkansa Traveler.]

The British consular agent at Chung King, Mr. Hosie, has made a tour through certa n districts of China for the purpose of gaining information concerning insect white wax. He has found the substance to be the product of minute brown, liceusually a stump from which rises numer-ous sprouts. The creatures soon deposit a white coating on the boughs and twigs, which often reaches a thickness of a quarter of an inch in ninety or a hundred The branches are then lopped off, and the wax is carefully removed by scraping and boiling. The material is then poured into molds, and becomes the white wax of commerce, used chiefly for candl.

# THE SWELL AND THE WAITER.

### Cutting a Ridiculous Figure-Trying to Catch the Eye of the Waiter.

[Brooklyn Eagle.] Of all the curious fashions, that which

encourages you g men to wear high silk hats and shooting blouses in the streets of New York is the most absurd. The av erage cigarette smoking and spindle legged young clerk is apparently never so happy as when he can get on a plaited blouse and bind it by a belt around his The blouses are of dark blue, pep waist. while. The biolace are of unix once, pep per and salt, drab and sometimes almost white in color, and are the most ridicu-lous garments for city use imaginable. They are accepted as the proper acket for shooting and touring in England, but the Ang omaniac dudes believe that they are fit for anything here. A high hat and a short coat is bad enough in any instance, but when a man wauders around to business hours in a heaver bat and blouse he cuts about as ridiculous a figure as he well

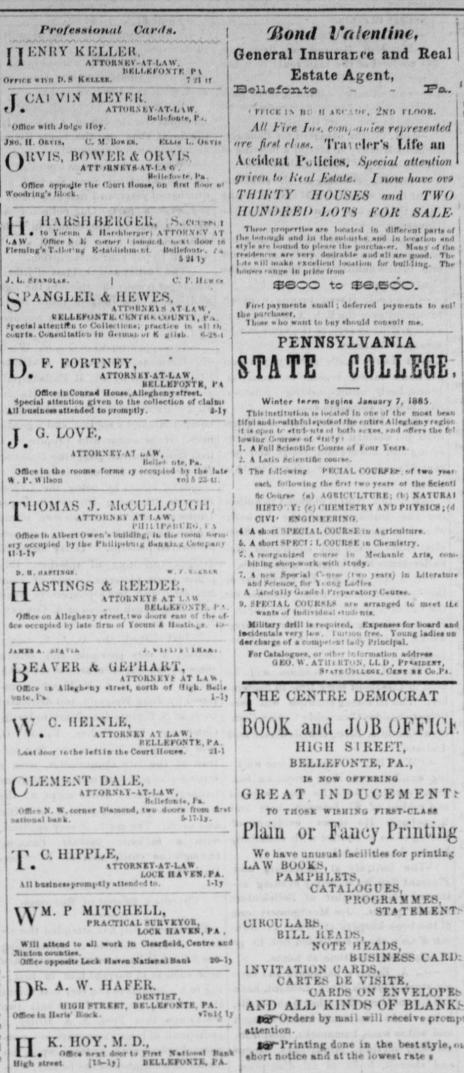
can. One man who is particularly fond of this style of attice is in the dry goods busines in Worth street. I'e has a suit made of very light drab material, patent leather pumps, red hose, plaited blouse and silk hat. i'e thus goes about attend-ing to business wearing ball room slippers, a lat inte ded for mourning wear and a shooting 'acket He is a pudgy, fat and wabbly young erson with a scowl that is intended to be intensel, haughty and ends by being weakly peevish He came into the Actor house dining-room on the second toor and strolled down between the tables with an a'r of inel"able contentment. His usual toilet was variegated by the acquisition of large red gloves His mustache was wa ed and an eyegla's daugled over the front of his shooting blouse. After staring at every-body in the roum he sat down at one of the tables near the window, apparently unmoved by the carciess and contemptu ous cers which greeted his arrival on every side.

He serewed the sing'e glass to his eye. picked up the bill of fare and read it by the eye that was unincumbered by the glass. The walter was a tall surve, bald, dexterous and police Alsatian. He bent with an assumption of the most profound respect over the young man, who awaited his order. He waited a long while, while the guest scanned the prices marked opthe various dishes, and then rosite straightening up moved to a distance about ten feet away and stood looking at the howling swell be ore him. The swell -for such he evidently thought himselfmotioned with his finger to the waiter. but that functionary appeared not to see him. He was looking about ten feet over the guest's head. Then the guest tried to catch some other waiter's eye. In vain. They, too. all pretended not to see him. Then he whistled as one would to a dog. but though it attracted the attention of everybody in the room not a waiter answered.

Presently the big Alsatian moved over to the table where the dry goods man sat, smoothed the cloth and stepped away again just as the "swell" began to tell him what he wanted There is no cues tion that a waiter can make it very un-comfortable for a diver if he wishes to. This particular waiter had laid himself out to annoy the fat man in the shooting jacket, and he met with e. treme success He excited the admirat on of all the other waiters by the deft ess with which he bung around the man's table and yet never gave him an opportunity to tell him what he wanted, and when the conglomerate specimen of swelldom rose, dis gusted, and stamped out of the room, the business men who were dining there smiled indulgently on the tall waiter and did not feel like censuring him in the least for his impertinence.

## A Lost Art Thought To Be Found.

Ut'ca Observe .. ] A Utica gentleman of leisure believes has discovered the making violins, that probably originated in England in the twelfth century, and which has immortalized the names of Amatis at Breschia, Stradivari and the Guarneris at Cremona, and Steiner in the Tyrol. He has made sixteen violins and over 200 experiments, and can now con-struct a violin with the tones of a flute or any other that may be desired. He discards all former theories that attribute the excellence of old instruments to the lac-quer, varnish, singing woods, etc., and finds that scientific principles and sound wood are the lasis of all perfect instruments. A prominent manufacturer has already offered him \$10,000 for the secret, but he is not quite ready to sell it.



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Miscellaneous.

### Swayne's Pills-Comforting to the Sick.

Thousands die from neglect to properly trest Impure Blood, Constipation, Dys-

#### Cashmere's Capital and Its People. [Chicago Herald.]

Cashmere, which has just been de-vastated by an earthquake, is a kingdom in the northwest part of India, including the vale of Cashmere, made famous by the poet Moore. Feringur, the capital, has a population of about 135,000. It ex-tends about four miles along both sides of a deep and placid stream. about 300 feet wide. From its delightful situation and innumerable canals, Feringur has been called the Veni e of Asia; but the city is. for the most part, extremely filthy. The houses, which are generally dilapidated, are built of thin bricks, with timber frames, many of them three stories high. Sixty thousand persons can worship in the second the stories of the mosque. The capital is the center of the shawl manufacture of Cashmere.

The men are tall, robust, well-form and industrious; the women famous for their beauty and fine complexions. They are a gay people, fond of pleasure, litera-ture and poetry, but are represented by many travelers as peerless in cunning and avarice, and notoriously addicted to ly-ing. Notwithstanding the beauty of their va'e, the population, since the be-ginning of the present century, has been reduced from 800,000 to 200,000 by pestilence, famine and earthquakes. the treaty of Lahore, in 1846, the British government came into control, but imme iately sold the country for \$3,750,000. The present ruler, by a compact made at the time of the purchase, is to be assisted the British in defending himself against his enemies.

#### Nearest the Pole.

The farthest point north ever reached by man was by Lieut. Lockwood, a mem-ber of the Greely expedition, who went 83 degrees 24 minutes, or within 458 miles of the pole.

Calcutta is now the second largest tea exporting city in the world, the leader being Foochow.

#### G d Found Everywhere. [Scientific American.]

It has long been well understood that gold is the most universally distributed of metals, being found in all parts of the world, but most readers will probably be surprised at a statement recently made by Professor A. E. Foote, of Philadelphia, to the effect that there is more gold in the clay under the city of Philadelphia than would equal the entire valuation of the In 1812 men made 60 cents a day city. washing the sands near Chester, on the Delaware river, where William Penn first landed, and quite recently several dollars' worth of gold in grains were taken from a well 150 feet deep within twenty miles of Philadelphia.

#### A Perfect Thief-Proof Fence. (Chicago Times.)

A large landholder in England has planted an immense fruit farm, 40,000 plum trees being one of the items set out. In order to make a perfect thief proof fence he has surrounded the farm with cotton wood poplars set only a foot and a half apart. By the time the fruit trees are in bearing the trunks of the trees will touch each other. Then he proposes to head off eighteen feet from the ground, and keep the sprouts cut back to this point every two or three years thereafter. In this way he expects to have a living wall eighteen feet high, that will at least last as long as the fruit trees in the orchard last.

### Cork Plantations.

## [Chicago Herald.]

[Chicago Herald.] In Sardinia, Skilly, and the region around Naples, large cork plantations are being destroyed in the improvident haste of their owners to realize profit from the superior quality of tannin afforded by the bark and from the wood. The French have planted this valuable oak largely in Algiers, where there is now over 500,000 acres in good condition. The number of trees in Spain is also increasing. It contrees in Spain is also increasing. It continues to grow for 150 years, and reaches the height of some fifty feet. The wood is not valuable except for fuel. It is thought that the tree would thrive in California.

### Still an Open Question.

(Chica to Journal.) (Chicago Johnsel) As they left the church he resolved that he would put the important question on the way home. "Shall we cross the square, Miss Clara," he asked with infin-ite tenderness, "or shall we go round it?" "Oh, I think we had better cut across it," said Miss Clara; "it's much nearer that way." The important ques-tion is still an open question." tion is still an open question.

#### Teachers of Bee Keeping.

In Germany teachers employed by the government travel from place to place and give instruction in bee keeping.

### Safety and Danger.

(Philadelphia Call.) First Hen-There comes the woman to drive us out of her garden.

Second Hen-Yes, and she's picking up stone, too! Let's fly out, quick! First Hen-No, no, stay here.

Second Hen-But she's aiming right for us.

First Hen-Yes, and if we shou'd move we might get hit.

## An Uncertain Boundary Line.

[Exchange.] The treaty between England and Russia, made in 1825, for the purpose of de-fining the boundary between Alaska and the Northwest territory, is reported by an officer of the coast survey to be so faulty in scientific precision that there are grave doubts whether a considerable extent of border territory beloags to England or the United States.

#### A Good Fire-Escape Idea.

[Exchange.]

A fire escape dides, and a good one, is seen in Massachusetts hotels. All the staircases and landings are marked out pisinly by red lights. The bewildered travelet, in case of alarm, has not to grope about or lose precious time in taking the wrong turning for the stairs. They are always to be discovered by the red lanterns.

### Italian Coral. [Chicago Herald.]

The Italian coral fisheries employ 4,200 fishermen, who annually secure 56,000 kilograms of coral, valued at \$840,000. The manufacture of this coral into beads and crosses, in which form it finds its way to every part of the world, adds mill-ions every year to the wealth of the Italian people

#### An Old Astronomical Chart.

In the largest library in the world, in Paris, there is a Chicese chart of the heavens made about 600 years before Christ. In this chart 1,460 stars are found to be correctly inserted, as corroborated by the scientists of the present day.

## Healthy Troops.

The Dominion Sanitary Journal says that in forty days there were only three deaths from disease among the Dominion troops, numbering 5,000, engaged in put-ting down the rebellion.

Josh Billings: Opinyuns kant be worth mutch; if they waz, people wouldn't all-wuss be so anxious to give them away.

