

FROM THE FOUR CORNERS.

A loss of two million dollars was sustained by Nebraska last year through the cattle fever.

A prize of one hundred thousand dollars is being raised by the business men of Buffalo to be awarded for the best device of utilizing the water-power of Niagara.

MINNESOTA has one of the richest iron ore deposits on the continent. Numerous companies are organizing to develop the reputed great mineral wealth located in the Vermilion range.

A GAS-BEARING district has been discovered in Canada on the north shore of the river St. Lawrence, not far from Montreal. Companies are forming for the purpose of putting in wells.

FRANCE is undoubtedly the wine-drinking nation of the world. Reliable statistics place its annual consumption per capita at thirty-four gallons against less than one-half gallon per capita of other nations.

The city of New York has about twenty large steam bakeries, giving employment to several hundred men. These, it is estimated, turn out daily over seventy-five thousand loaves, consuming for the purpose nearly three hundred barrels of flour.

THERE were 600,000 bushels of cranberries raised in the United States last year. The leading States in their growth are Massachusetts, New Jersey, Wisconsin and Connecticut. New Jersey alone has over five thousand acres under cultivation.

In Algeria there is a small stream which the chemistry of nature has converted into turpentine. It is formed by the union of two rivulets, one of which is very strongly impregnated with iron, while the other, meandering through a peat marsh, imbibes gallic acid, another ingredient in the formation of ink. Letters and other manuscript matters are satisfactorily written with this singular natural compound of iron and gallic acid.

Key West is a peculiar city, and differs very little from a West Indian town. Half of the population is composed of negroes, not the Southern variety, but negroes from the Bahamas, who speak a cockney dialect. Another quarter is composed of whites from the Bahamas, who also speak like cockneys, and are generally known as "Conchs." The remaining quarter is composed of Cubans, and the total population is nearly 20,000.

In the city museum at Nuremberg is a vehicle thought to be the prototype of the tricycle of the present. It was built in the early part of the seventeenth century by the inventor, a lame watchmaker of Altdorf, for the purpose of wheeling himself about the country. The machine was at first constructed with three wheels, but was transformed into a four-wheeled vehicle and was propelled by hand-cranks, with a rotary motion, turning cog-wheels on the forward axle.

The description of a very strange being is related in a recent issue of the *Atlanta Constitution*, who, when the breath of summer is at its fiercest, remains clothed in woollens and experiences no inconvenience unless it be through lack of warmth; while in the most frigid winter weather he becomes heated and oppressed as though suffering the effects of a torrid wave. According to the account this peculiarity has been in his infancy, and scientific investigation has utterly failed to develop the cause of his strange condition.

The superintendent of telegraphs at Rome has just issued an order forbidding the employment of women in the office. The reasons for this backward step are not given, and are unknown. There has been no complaint against the female employees of the telegraph stations. On the contrary they have acquitted themselves to the general satisfaction, showing great capacity and assiduity. In fact they have proved themselves model administrators, not justifying a single one of the malign predictions made when this innovation was adopted. It would seem that the Italian Government has by no means freed itself of the elements of old-foginess.

"Fads" and "Faddists."

A word that is often heard in English political talk is "fad." It has hardly yet found its way into the dictionaries, but "fads" is many, and "faddists" and "faddmongs" abound. Mr. Sala has suggested that the word is a corruption of "fiddle," to dandle—in French, *dorloter*. A "faddist" is continually dandling and caressing his "fad." It is more probably a contraction of "fidfid," a word that has been long in use with much the same meaning as "fad." Edward Moore, writing in *The World* in 1754, applies the word to a very precise person—"The youngest, who thinks in her heart that her sister is no better than a slattern, runs into the contrary extreme, and is, in everything she does, an absolute fidfid." From "fidfid" in this sense to the modern "fad" and "faddist" is not a very violent transition. The tendency to abbreviation is very general. — *Home Journal*.

Essaying the Knock Out Blow.

The reason why so many pugilists are breaking their arms in fights," said a local boxer, "is found in their crazy rock-ness to get in a knock out blow. This blow is aimed at the jugular vein, and the pugilist, in attempting to accomplish this feat, often strikes too high, driving his hand with terrific force against his opponent's skull and snapping the big bone in his wrist as though it were a pipe stem. It often happens, too, that the pugilist essaying the knock out blow drives his hand against his opponent's elbow, which has been thrown up as a guard. This proves almost as disastrous to the aggressor as the cranium hit. It is time that this swinging knock out blow was discarded. A straight punch from the shoulder was good enough for the old timers. It ought to be good enough now."

Sir Henry Thompson, an eminent English physician, says: "I have no hesitation in attributing a large portion of the most painful and dangerous maladies which come under my notice, as well as those which every medical man has to treat, to the ordinary and daily use of fermented drinks taken moderately."

In Washington city, according to the *American*, there are 71 houses of prostitution that are licensed to sell liquor. Beside these there are many such houses not licensed. One of the theaters of the city has become the lowest kind of a dance house. There are seven colored gambling houses with saloons connected. All these houses and their character are known to the police yet the President's orders to close them are not obeyed.

NAPHA-KLANG.

Manner in Which Tombs are Built and Interments Made.

A striking feature about Napha-Klang is the number of tombs surrounding it. These are built in the sides of the hills, and are of a horseshoe shape. They are in the form of vaults, and are constructed of solid masonry. In these vaults the dead are placed and left for seven years, after which the remains are collected and placed in urns. Those who can not afford to build a tomb for the use of their loved ones combine with others, so as to have a common place of sepulture of respectable appearance. The finest, however, are interred in holes cut in the sea cliffs. After burial supplies of food and rice spirit are placed in the tomb for the use of the deceased, which the relatives come and consume after a decent interval. The combings of the hair are collected by the priests, and by them burnt on certain occasions as offerings for some purpose or other; but the meaning of the rite has not yet been disclosed.

A Sea Flower.

One of the most exquisite wonders of the sea is called the opulet, about the size of the Gorman aster, and looking, indeed very much like one. Imagine a very large double aster, with a great many long petals, of a light green color, glossy as satin, and each tipped with the color of a bluish rose. These lovely petals do not lie in their places quietly, however, but wave about in the water, while the white opulet clings to a rock. You have no idea how pretty and innocent it looks on its immovable bed. Would you suspect that it would feast upon anything grosser than dew and sunbeams? Let us watch the opulet plant—for it is a devil of a flower—and see what it will do with those pretty, graceful arms. You will see in a moment—for here comes a foolish little fish—do you see that little fish wriggling and sinking?—ah, it has disappeared! Yes, it was struck dead by the poison in those pretty arms, which was as fatal as the rattlesnake's bite, and in an instant a tremendous mouth opened and the victim was swallowed whole by the innocent looking opulet—a scaly thing for a flower to do, surely.

Fame.

Hawthorne used to write up and down in his later years, he tells us, with plenty of people who knew him well as the exact surveyor of the port of Salem, but who never knew that he had written anything, and had never heard of the "Scarlet Letter." In Samuel Longfellow's memoir of his brother there is an entry from the poet's diary in which he tells how a "society woman," at whose table he was dining one day, asked him, "Oh, Mr. Longfellow, have you ever published a book?" This was after two-thirds of his life work was done. The other day, a gentleman came into a barber's shop just as Dr. Holmes was going out, and occupied the chair that the autocar had vacated. "Do you know who that man is that just went out?" said the barber. The visitor was curious to see what account of Dr. Holmes the barber would give and shook his head. "Why," said the barber, "that's old Dr. Holmes." "And who, pray, is Dr. Holmes?" "Oh, he's been a doctor here a great many years. I believe he ain't practicin' any more, but he's thought a great deal of."

A Frenchman's Museum of Death.

Among the numerous collectors of curiosities of every kind who abound in Paris there is one wealthy virtuoso who amuses himself by collecting deaths' heads and skeletons fantastically carved or modeled in marble, earthenware, wood or precious stones. These he has gathered together in a kind of museum of death, which at first sight seems hideous and macabre, but, on closer inspection, proves highly interesting. Some of the heads have been detached from those old mediaeval rosary beads, which were usually ornamented on one side with the profile of a king or a saint and on the other with the grinning face of a skeleton. One of the most hideous, yet at the same time most artistically executed, of the figures is that of a skeleton engaged in taking from off his bones the "conqueror worms," which have been claiming him as their own. The collector has given a lugubrious reality to the objects in his museum by placing here and there among them the skulls of dead women.

Dogs with Cat-like Habits.

Mr. Romanes, in his book on "Mental Evolution in Animals," gives some curious illustrations of modified instincts due to early association or training. A terrier pup, brought up with a kitten, began to bound like a cat, played with mice by letting them run for a distance and pouncing on them, licked his paws and rubbed them over his ears. Miss Mitford, in her Letters, records similar habits in a King Charles terrier, which belonged to no less a personage than the venerable Dr. Kouth, President of Magdalen College, Oxford. This dog had been suckled and reared by a cat, having lost its own mother. He always showed the proverbial cat-like dread of wet feet, and never went out in rain; licked his paws several times in the day for the purpose of washing his face, sitting the while upon his tail in the true catfish position; and had, in short, all the ways, manners, and dispositions of his feline foster-mother.

The Emperor of China and His Wives.

The young Emperor of China has just been engaged in the occupation of selecting three ladies as brides from amongst thirty-two assembled at his palace. These are collected from all over Manchuria from certain noble Manchu families, and have travelled some of them for hundreds and even a thousand miles to Peking to undergo review. The future Empress is first selected, and then two assistants, called the Eastern and Western Empresses. This is the ancient custom of the Empire since the Manchus became its rulers. The Emperor will take over the reins of power next year.

The temperance people of Missouri City, Mo., bought up all the liquor in the town and vicinity, and had a grand mass-meeting and bonfire on a recent evening.

There is reported to be a growing feeling among officers of the English Naval Medical Service that their interests are not studied as they should be, and that they are at a distinct disadvantage as compared with their brethren in the Army.

SCRIPS AND SCRAPS.

LAST year's gross receipts of the mail service are placed at forty-eight million dollars.

An Eastern steel company has contracted to supply the navy with sixty-five tons of steel gun forgings, to cost nearly fifty-four thousand dollars.

It has been estimated that the power exerted by the tail of a whale eighty feet long and twenty feet across the flukes of the tail, in propelling it at the rate of twelve miles an hour, is equal to the power of 145 horses.

A PARROT belonging to a gentleman of Chicago is said by him to be one hundred years old. The owner has letters dated in 1790, referring to "Old Putnam," the bird, and commenting on his many accomplishments. The bird is an agile and talkative as a young one.

The cent which, until recently, was unknown in the South, is gradually finding favor. A scheme was put into practice at one time for the flooding of the country with the copper currency, but it was in vain. Later, however, the desired object is steadily being accomplished.

The largest freight bill ever paid by one shipper is said to have been that on thirty-one car loads of granite shipped from New England to the Pacific Coast, the cost of which was ten thousand dollars. It was to be used in the construction of a mechanical school in San Francisco, an endowment by the public benefactor, Dr. H. D. Cogswell, of drinking-fountain fame in the West.

The want of accuracy in shooting, owing to the imperfect construction of the cannon in early times is well illustrated by the fact that in 1812 at the battle of Salamanca 3,500,000 cartridges and 6,000 cannon balls were fired, with the result of only 8,000 men being put hors de combat. And as late as 1857, during the Kafir war, 80,000 cartridges were fired in a single engagement in which only twenty-five of the enemy were killed.

A NEW YORK firm of wine merchants have in their possession two casks made of what is thought to be the oldest and best preserved wool in existence. This wool was, formerly part of the foundation of a bridge, over the Rhine at Mainz, in the time of Trajan, ninety-nine years before Christ. In later years fire destroyed the bridge and it was not until 1881, while excavations for a stone bridge were being made, that portions of the ancient timbers were brought to light. The casks in question are artistically carved and ornamented.

In the manufacture of swords and bayonets for use in the German army, severe tests are employed to insure reliable weapons. With respect to swords and sabres the testing process is the following: The blades are brought in mounted, examined for length and thickness, then bent according to certain fixed rules; two heavy right and left cuts are then struck at a wooden block with the edge and two blows with the flat of each blade. Having passed these tests, the blades are stamped and laid aside to be again tested for solidity of connection between blade and hilt. The testing of bayonets is equally severe and exhaustive. No inferior material or defective workmanship escapes the cognizance of the inspecting officers, who are specially chosen by the ministry of war for their knowledge of all the physical and technical details connected with the material and fabrication of steel weapons.

Where Woman is Queen.

In Ohio, a married woman's rights are co-equal with her husband's. Whatever a man may do a wife may do also. She owns separate real estate which she can sell and convey. If she wants to mortgage or lease her farm or house or lot she is at perfect liberty to do so. If she possesses personal property it is her own, and it will pass to her husband only by her consent. The law regarding man and wife has been completely revolutionized by a mere act of simplification. She can buy and sell, sue and be sued, in her own name, without any intervention of her husband or "next friend." If she is in debt when she marries her husband is not bound to pay the indebtedness, unless he chooses. The creditor must collect from the real debtor. In other words, the rights of man and wife are made exactly identical. Whatever right the man possesses under the marriage relation, the same right is possessed by the wife without modification or abridgment. According to the law of Ohio today, husband and wife are not one person, but two separate and distinct individuals as far as their independent right to acquire and dispose of personal, real and mixed property is concerned. If she calls her next-door neighbor an ungrateful scoundrel and no better than the hypothenus of a right-angle triangle, her unfortunate husband is not bound to go into the court and be mulcted ten thousand dollars, more or less, for slander. Some of the most complicated and vexatious litigation which has ever lumbered up the dockets of the Ohio courts, enriched lawyers, and impoverished widows and orphans, will be prevented and hereafter rendered impossible by this law.

Delusions About Snakes.

Much of the popular delusion concerning snakes is contradicted by Mr. Rhelm, of the Smithsonian Institution. The enormous hoop-snake, which takes its tail in its mouth and rolls along like a hoop, and the blow snake, the breath of which is deadly, exist only in the imagination. The idea that serpents sting with the tongue is erroneous. An impression prevails that the number of poisonous snakes is great, but in North America there are but three species—rattle-snake, the copper-head or moccasin, and the coral. Snakes do not jump; they reach suddenly forward—perhaps half the length of their bodies.

Edison has a remarkable memento of Deader at his house in Llewellyn Park. His photograph for impressing on a soft metal sheet the utterance of the human voice, and then emitting it again by the turning of a crank, has never been put to any very practical use, but he has utilized it to make a collection of famous voices. Instead of asking his visitors for their autographs or photographs, he has, in two or three hundred instances, requested them to speak a few sentences into a phonograph. He has kept the plates in a cabinet, and occasionally he runs some of them through the machine, which sends out the words as at first uttered.

HOW NECKTIES ARE MADE.

A Manufacturer Tells of the Trade and Its Peculiarities.

The designing of silks and satins for neckties is a profession in itself. "There are special grades and designs of silks and satins made exclusively for the necktie trade," said a manufacturer to a New York *Mail* reporter. "These materials are made from patterns designed by men who do nothing but study new things in this line. There are from fifty to seventy-five factories in the country and ten or twelve first-class makers. The latter usually secure exclusive rights to use certain styles of goods offered to the American market, or a large portion of it. But the success of making up such goods is just like a lottery. Perhaps one season I hit upon a design that will become so popular that all the other makers are forced to adopt it, but the next season some one in Boston or Philadelphia will make a hit, and I am forced to copy that. There's never any telling how a necktie is going to take until it is fairly on the market. Then it depends upon success on who adopts it first. If he happens to be a swell, that particular kind of necktie will sell well."

"Are the styles of making up neckties originated abroad?"

"Not now. They were until about three years ago, but now our styles are superior to the European, and they are coming over here for patterns. However, there is a tendency toward English patterns for this season."

"There are more than 1,200 girls employed in this city alone. They work by the piece and make money more or less according to their experience. A good finisher can make \$5 or \$7 a week. She takes a necktie after it is put together and finishes each detail perfectly so that it is ready to box. Three different colors of the same design and same style are twisted together to give the dealer an assortment in the one make. The finisher must see that all of this kind are exactly alike in point of finish and make-up. We have one girl who does nothing but turn bands of neckties, and she makes \$15 a week. She turns twenty-five or thirty dozen bands a day."

Wonderful Feats with a Saw.

I have often read of the wonderful feats performed by skilled workmen with tools, such as engraving the Lord's prayer on the back of a silver 3 cent piece or making a steam engine that would stand on a silver quarter, but I saw some wonders performed the other night that surpassed them all. All the minute articles manufactured heretofore have been made with small tools, and in some cases with the aid of a microscope, but there is a man in the Sea Beach Palace, in position on Coney Island, who works out the most delicate articles with a hand-saw nineteen feet long and revolving at the rate of over a mile a minute. Upon this immense machine the skilled operator in my presence sawed out four chairs, all complete with legs and backs, but so small that the four were placed on the end of a lead pencil at one time. Then a dozen knives and forks of the most diminutive size were made and placed around the lead pencil. So small were they that although the entire dozen were placed round the lead pencil, not one of them touched the other. Then the operator trimmed his finger nails on the huge saw as cleverly and easily as we could do it with a penknife. Wetting his thumb, he pressed the ball of it into some sawdust and then sawed the sawdust of the thumb without scratching the skin, yet a single nervous twitch of the arm would have cost him a hand. All sorts of curious puzzles are turned out with astonishing rapidity from all sorts of miscellaneous blocks of wood. Even articles of clothing, as thin and flexible as cloth, are worked out by this magician from little pieces of wood with his big saw. The cap he works in was sawed out of over 1,000 pieces of wood, no two of which are the same size or shape.— *Brooklyn Eagle*.

Russian Tea Drinking.

The Russians are a nation of tea-drinkers; coffee is rare; tea is universal, and universally good. The best tea I ever drank was in Russia; they drink it at all hours, and without regard to quantity—sometimes ten cups at a sitting, and yet, apparently, with impunity.

Brass urns, in which tea-water is boiled by means of a charcoal fire, are found over all the Empire. They are called samovars, and I found it important to include in my Russian vocabulary the word "samovar." Their method of making and drinking tea has been noticed by all travelers in their country.

They claim that water at the boiling point is destructive to the good qualities of tea, so they draw their tea with water just below that point. They use thin glass tumblers, with ordinary saucers; sometimes the women use cups, but the men never; the tea is poured into the saucers, which are held on the upturned ends of the thumb and fingers of the right hand; milk and cream are rarely used; a block of cut sugar is held in the left hand, from which they nibble pieces, as they slowly sip their delicious, wine-colored tea.

The Terrier and the Coyote.

We have a dog—a yaller dog—and the way we have bragged on that dog and his fighting qualities will, we fear, prove a bar to our passage through the pearly gates. We have told his pedigree and offered to back him against any other pup in the valley; in fact, our assurance has staved off many a battle; but, alas, our pride in that direction has vanished.

While riding forth in the sage-brush country the other day we noticed a small coyote dogging our tracks; we proceeded to dog him, when something peculiar happened. The yellow terrier commenced to pivot around a large, low bush with the coyote in hard pursuit. Well, now, you see, a coyote can beat a clycone in speed, so it only took about two rounds before he gained on the dog enough to take a piece of meat out of his hind leg. To say that the terrier was astonished is to put it light. He fell over himself several times, hauled down the flag, and sought the shelter of the horse. That blamed coyote followed us for two miles, intent on a fight, but he did not get it. Bids will be received at our office for the terrier.

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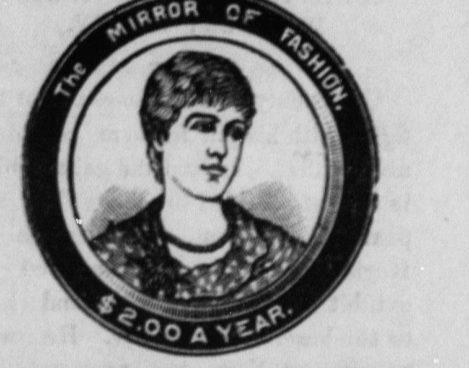
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