

THE ETERNAL CITY SHOOK.

Explosion of a Large Powder Magazine Near Rome.

Seven Men Killed and Over a Hundred Wounded.

At about 7 o'clock a few mornings ago a tremendous explosion shook the city of Rome, Italy, to its foundations, spreading terror and dismay. The people rushed affrighted from their homes into the streets; houses rocked, pictures fell from the walls, thousands of panes of glass were broken everywhere, crockery was shattered, furniture was overturned, chimneys crashed down upon the roofs, and, in some instances, toppled over into the street below.

The cupola of the Houses of Parliament immediately after the explosion shook violently and then collapsed with a crash, which added still further to the feeling of horror which had spread through Rome. People of all ages and conditions were rushing, pale with fear, about the streets, trying to seek consolation from others, who were as thoroughly terrified as themselves.

In the houses, doors, windows and cupboards were burst open, and the tables, chairs and other pieces of furniture were thrown crashing to the floor. Rents and cracks appeared in the walls, the plaster fell from the ceilings, and general desolation prevailed. In many instances people were thrown from their beds by the shock, and cries of terror filled the air as thousands of families rushed out into the streets. Many of them left their homes in their night clothes.

The opinion prevailed that Rome had been visited by an earthquake shock, and that a second shock might reduce the city to ruins. Many fell upon their knees and prayed aloud.

Finally the real cause of the explosion became known. It was discovered that the immense powder magazine at Pezzo Pantaleone, and that it had caused enormous damage to the neighboring fort, which was filled with soldiers. Happily, the officer in command of the fort heard a rumbling sound previous to the explosion, and hastily ordering the soldiers to leave the fort, he succeeded in averting a terrible disaster. As it was seven peasants who were in the vicinity of the scene of the explosion were killed outright, and a number of others were more or less injured.

King Humbert and his military staff, accompanied by the Italian Premier, the Marquis di Rudini and by all the members of the Italian Cabinet, left the city immediately for the scene of the disaster in the royal train, the train of the Pezzo Pantaleone, and of the fort a cordon of troops was drawn in order to keep back the crowd of people.

All the houses within a radius of a kilometer of the scene of the explosion are seriously damaged, and many are completely destroyed. Two officers were dangerously wounded and fully 130 civilians have been taken to the different hospitals, suffering from wounds or bruises caused by the explosion.

King Humbert, who was heartily cheered whenever his presence became known to the populace and soldiers, used his own carriage to convey wounded people to the hospital, a fact which won him redoubled applause.

The shock which caused Rome to tremble did not spare the Vatican. The venerated shrine of St. Peter's in the Vatican was shaken when the force of the explosion was felt, and several of the famous historical stained glass windows of the old buildings were shattered. The windows in the ancient Raphael chambers and the stained glass in the royal staircase, presented to Pope Pius IX. by the King of Bavaria, were also seriously injured.

All accounts agree that the loss is very severe, the interiors of many of the old palaces and churches having suffered to a greater or lesser extent.

Four small houses have been reduced to heaps of ruins by the shock following the explosion. It has been ascertained that the magazine at Pezzo Pantaleone contained 250 tons of powder.

NEWSY GLEANINGS.

ST. LOUIS has an ice trust.
ITALY'S debt is \$225,000,000.
KANSAS has 10,000 colored voters.
MINNESOTA has a secret ballot law.
BOSTON is to have a \$750,000 church.
AUSTRALIA'S population is 42,600,000.
THERE are 1,500,000 gypsies in Europe.
LYNN, Mass., has an Armenian colony.
THERE were 813 deaths in Boston in March.
THE price of flour is advancing in England.
SAN FRANCISCO gets her coal from Australia.
THERE are about 14,000 miles of railway in Canada.
AN export duty on hides has been imposed by Uruguay.
THE railroad from Jaffa to Jerusalem is nearly finished.
INFLUENZA is raging in the southern portion of Norway.
THE Farmers' Alliance has been introduced in Germany.
RUSSIA'S military activity is still the leading topic of Europe.
CHINESE tobacco is seeking admission to the markets of Europe.
RUSSIAN granaries have been virtually emptied by exportations.
It is said that President Harrison's trip to the Pacific will cost him \$100,000.
VERMONT maple sugar crop is 17,000,000 pounds; value of crop, \$1,300,000.
THE feasting at Pine Ridge, South Dakota, is one of unrest and uncertainty among the Indians.
THERE are six medical colleges for women in the United States and five for colored students.
It cost nearly \$1000 to send Mr. Blaine's reply to Rudini by cable to Rome, and Italy pays the bill.
ITALY desires closer relations with France and will therefore propose modifications in the triple alliance.
THE wheat crop of South Australia and New Zealand is reported to be 3,000,000 bushels short and of poor quality.
It is said that according to population Three Rivers, Mich., has more telephones in use than any other town in the United States.
At Colorado Springs, Col., a few days ago, an operation was performed upon Miss Myra Higbee, who was born blind, which enables her to see perfectly.

THE Ninth Regiment of the New York Volunteers entertained recently in New York City with a reception and dinner the Third Georgia Regiment survivors.
THE number of inhabitants of British India, by the late census, is 230,400,000, an increase of nearly 22,000,000 since 1881. The population of all India amounts to about 288,000,000.
THE Society of Friends of the Rose in Germany will hold an international rose fair at Trier on June 30-31. There will be complete collections of roses from every land where the rose grows.
LIEUTENANT WISE, who has been negotiating with the Colombian Government for an extension of the Panama Canal concessions, reports that it will only take five years and \$150,000,000 to complete the work.
A NORWEGIAN invention for the production of butter from skim milk of a new material, which has been called lactine, or milk-ivory, has just taken practical shape, and a factory for its production is about to start operations in Iceland. This new material bears a close resemblance to real ivory, and, in addition, can be made in black or any color desired.

HEARTRENDING TRAGEDY.

A Boy Accidentally Shot by His Brother, Who Commits Suicide.

Two young sons of ex-Mayor Stafford, of Leicester, England, were playing with a revolver a few days ago in a bed-room. Cecil, the eldest, ignorant that the weapon was loaded, pointed it at his brother Roy and pulled the trigger. The pistol was discharged and the bullet struck the younger boy in the head, inflicting a fatal wound. Cecil, thinking he had killed his brother and overcome with remorse, turned the weapon against himself, fired and fell a victim to the detonations, rushed to the bedroom and found both of her children weeping in their blood upon the floor. Uttering a piercing scream she fell upon their bodies and fainted.

HORRIBLE MASSACRE.

Seventy Persons Murdered and Mutilated in Madagascar.

The latest mails from Madagascar bear a report that the Sakalava of Morombo have massacred the Governor of Tubour and fifty-seven Hova soldiers, after the Sakalava King had promised the Governor an audience. The victims' bodies were horribly mutilated. Thirteen Hova customs officials were also murdered. The inhabitants of Tubour fled in terror to the French colony on the island of Nosy-Bé, near Madagascar. At last accounts a French gunboat was cruising along the Madagascar coast, waiting for Hova reinforcements.

THE MARKETS.

NEW YORK.	
Beaves.....	3 50 @ 5 50
Milk Cow, com. to good.....	18 00 @ 45 00
Calves, common to prime.....	2 00 @ 7 50
Sheep.....	5 25 @ 6 25
Lamb.....	4 50 @ 5 50
Hogs.....	4 60 @ 5 50
Dressed.....	5 50 @ 7 50
Flour—City Mill Extra.....	5 40 @ 6 00
Patents.....	5 75 @ 6 60
Wheat—No. 2 Red.....	1 37 1/2 @ 1 50 1/2
Rye—State.....	45 @ 55
Barley—Two-rowed State.....	— @ 80
Corn—Ungraded Mixed.....	81 @ 84
Oats—No. 1 White.....	— @ 65 1/2
Mixed Western.....	60 @ 65
Hay—Fair to Good.....	18 @ 24
Straw—Long Eye.....	80 @ 85
Lard—City Steam.....	— @ 65 50
Butter—State Creamery.....	24 @ 26
Dairy, fair to good.....	23 @ 26
Wool, Im. Creamery.....	19 @ 24
Cheese—State Factory.....	9 50 @ 12 50
Skims—Light.....	6 @ 9
Western.....	8 50 @ 11 50
Eggs—State and Penn.....	15 50 @ 15 50
BUFFALO.	
Steers—Western.....	2 35 @ 4 00
Sheep—Medium to Good.....	5 50 @ 6 00
Lamb—Fair to Good.....	5 50 @ 6 25
Hogs—Good to Choice Yorks.....	5 50 @ 5 80
Flour—Winter Patent.....	2 80 @ 5 90
Wheat—No. 1 Northern.....	1 95 @ 1 29
Oats—No. 2 Yellow.....	82 1/2 @ 83 1/2
Oats—No. 2 White.....	— @ 64 1/2
Barley—No. 2 Canada.....	— @ 90
BOSTON.	
Egg—Near-by.....	— @ 16
Seeds—Timothy, Northern.....	2 00 @ 2 25
Clover, Northern.....	10 @ 11
Hay—Fair.....	13 00 @ 15 00
Straw—Good to Prime.....	17 00 @ 17 50
Butter—Firsts.....	23 @ 37
WATERTOWN (MASS.) CATTLE MARKET.	
Beef—Dressed weight.....	4 @ 7
Sheep—Live weight.....	5 @ 6 1/2
Lamb.....	6 50 @ 6 50
Hogs—Northern.....	— @ 6 1/2
PHILADELPHIA.	
Flour—Penn. Family.....	— @ 4 65
Wheat—No. 2 Red, April.....	1 24 @ 1 26
Corn—No. 2 Mixed, April.....	83 @ 85
Oats—Ungraded White.....	— @ 65
Potatoes.....	1 10 @ 1 40
Butter—Creamery Extra.....	— @ 28
Cheese—Part skims.....	6 @ 8

VON MOLTKE DEAD.

Germany's Great Field Marshal Expires Suddenly.

A Sketch of His Long and Eventful Career.

A cablegram from Berlin announces that Count Von Moltke is dead. He attended the session of the Reichstag during the last afternoon of his life. His death was extremely sudden, and the physicians who were summoned announced that it was caused by failure of the heart. He died at 9:45 P. M., passing away quietly and painlessly. The news of the Count's unexpected death caused great sorrow in Berlin.

Sketch of His Career.

Bismarck alone remains of the great trio which gave imperial Germany her greatness. And the "iron man" of war and peace rests in the obscurity of a country estate, stripped of his power. In the death of Count von Moltke—the "silent one"—Germany loses her greatest general, and the science of warfare its greatest exponent of strategy. During the threatening days of the terrible struggle with France, Von Moltke was the man upon whom old Emperor William relied, and in whom centered the hopes of the people of the Fatherland. Freiherr von Moltke was born October 26, 1800, in the town of Parchim. Soon after his birth his parents moved to Lubek, where the Von Moltke residence was burned in the year 1806, and the family then went to Augsburg, in Bavaria. There the future famous Field Marshal spent his boyhood and youth. As a youth he loved study, and his father sent him to the Land Cadets' Academy at Copenhagen, and he became an officer at an early age. Through the good offices of the Duke of Holstein he was enabled to go to Berlin, where he passed his examination and was appointed to the infantry. He was dissatisfied with the opportunities of a regiment in the Prussian army, and King Frederick VI. granted him permission to join a foreign army for a season, in order to perfect his military education.

He begged his King to grant him three months pay as "travel money." If His Majesty would concede my request," wrote Von Moltke, "I trust that I shall acquire some knowledge and capacity in the Prussian service as shall hereafter enable me to repay the King and Denmark."

He entered the Prussian service at the age of twenty-two. In 1829 he was appointed to the general staff and in 1833 he was promoted to major. Through the purpose of reorganizing the Prussian army.

In 1839 he took part in the Syrian campaign against Mahomet Ali of Egypt, and at the close of the war he returned to Prussia.

After spending some time in travel he was appointed Chief of the Grand General Staff of the Prussian Army in 1858 and Lieutenant-General in 1859. During the Austro-Italian War in 1859 he spent much time with the Austrians, gaining practical knowledge of the art of war. In 1864, when the war against Denmark broke out, he formed the plan of campaign and assisted in its execution. Two years later, when the movement against Austria began, he directed the movements of the troops and led them to victory.

When war with France was declared against Germany Von Moltke was unmoved. It is said of him that when he first heard the news he was in bed and he roused himself for a moment and said to the messenger: "Oh, very well; the third portfolio on the left." In that portfolio were found all the necessary plans for the impending campaign.

Bismarck tells a characteristic story of Von Moltke. At the decisive battle of Sedan, when victory was dubious for hours, Bismarck, tormented by doubt and fears as to the result, rode to the side of Moltke, who sat silent on his black charger. His mind was intent on the battle and he was unable to attract his attention. The great Chancellor had a little case in his pocket containing two cigars, one of choice and the other of inferior quality. He offered the case to Von Moltke, who, without speaking, carefully examined the cigars. Von Moltke took the good one without a word of thanks. But Bismarck understood him, and putting spurs to his horse, returned to his post. He thought that if Von Moltke could calmly make choice of a cigar at such a moment, it meant that all was going on right.

It is said that no one ever saw Moltke excited. At Sedan he was the coolest man on the entire field, although the whole responsibility rested on him, with the fate of the two great nations in Europe depending on his conduct. He was a man of the greatest calm and scientific, more constructive than creative. Nothing was left to chance or accident. Everything was provided for, and his plans were so flexible that they could be changed in an instant to meet any unforeseen emergency.

For his services in this war with France Von Moltke was created a Count and appointed Chief Marshal of the German Empire, and in 1873 was made a member in the Upper House of the Reichstag. From that time on Von Moltke devoted himself to his studies and to the teaching of military matters to the young officers and soldiers of the German Army. He attended to his duties in matters not connected with military affairs.

His declining years have been spent in the quiet home life which he loved so well, and his surroundings formed the peaceful twilight of a busy life. He was born with a great calmness and a sense of his intellectual character. His memory will live forever in the hearts of his countrymen as one of the greatest of soldiers, a scholar and a statesman.

WRECKING A RAILROAD.

Twenty-five Miles of Track Destroyed in Breathitt County, Ky.

The volcano of discontent and angry protestations of the Kentucky Union Railroad employees who have been unable to get their pay has burst its bounds. Tired of waiting for their money to be paid them, having lost faith in the oft-repeated promises made by the officials of the road, and having heard that Judge Barr had rendered a decision fatal to their interest, a number of the employees committed an act of destruction that will cripple the road more seriously than ever, without bettering their cases in the least. It was ascertained that unpaid employees of the road and mountaineers in Breathitt County, who have never been paid for their timber, wrecked the entire road in Breathitt County for a distance of twenty-five miles. Bridges are burned and cut-overs destroyed. The road will be crippled for weeks and the cost of repairing the damage will amount to fully \$50,000. A local employee discussing the situation said the men who committed the crime were utterly and desperately angry. Many of their families are actually suffering for food and clothing. From another source it was learned that every employee on the road is ready at the least provocation to take a hand in wrecking it.

SABBATH SCHOOL.

INTERNATIONAL LESSON FOR MAY 3.

Lesson Text: "Israel Often Reproved," Amos iv, 4-13—Golden Text: Proverbs xxix, 1.—Commentary.

Amos was a prophet to Israel (the ten tribes) in the days of Uzziah, king of Judah, and Jeroboam, son of Joash, king of Israel. And about the same time lived the prophets Isaiah and Hosea (Amos i, 1; Isa. i, 1; Hos. i, 1). Amos was called to be a prophet while keeping sheep, and the chief place of his prophecy was Bethel (chap. vii, 10-15). He was at ease and indifferent to the claims of God (vi, 1-6); greedy of gain and oppressing the poor (vi, 6, 7; iv, 11, 12; vi, 4-6); heeded not the voice of God, who had spoken to him (vii, 17-18); and despised the word of God (ii, 4; v, 10; vii, 10-18). Yet he loved them, and bore patiently with them, and entreated them, and kept before them the blessings of the sure covenants with Abraham and David. Read very carefully chapter ix, 11-15.

"Come to Bethel and transgress; at Gilgal multiply transgression." With all their sin they were outwardly very religious. At Bethel and at Gilgal they had altars; at Bethel they were as plenty as heaps of stones in the field (Hos. xii, 11; Amos iii, 49). And at Bethel there was a golden calf which Jeroboam, son of Nebat, had set up, saying, "Bendeth thy gods, O Israel!" (Kings i, 22). There was only one altar in all the land where, since the building of the temple, God commanded sacrifice to be offered (Deut. xii, 10, 11; Ps. cxxxiii, 13), so that all sacrifices at Bethel or Gilgal were simply transgression.

"And offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with leaven, for thus liketh you, O ye children of Israel, saith the Lord God." Leaven is everywhere in the Scripture a symbol of evil. With the meal offering there was no leaven (Lev. ii, 11; Ex. xii, 15, 19). The significance of leaven is seen in 1 Cor. v, 6-8, and in the Saviour's teaching in Matt. xvi, 6, 12; I also have given you cleanness of leaven in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places; yet have ye not returned unto Me, saith the Lord." Observe in this verse and in verses 8, 9, 10, the five times repeated and repeated with emphasis, "I have returned unto Me, saith the Lord." This shows the heart of God and His one great longing for His erring people, that they in their penitence return to Him.

"And also I have withholden the rain from you when there were yet three months to the harvest; and I caused it to rain upon one city, and caused it not to rain upon another city." That He would also chasten them is recognized by Solomon in his prayer for the dedication of the temple (1 Kings viii, 35, 36). Who among us ever stops to consider that when it rains in one place and not in another God has anything to do with it, or that when in one place there is a drought and in another much rain, it is He who sends the rain? And yet if we believe His word we must believe that "the balancings of the clouds are the wondrous works of Him who is perfect in knowledge; who saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain and the great rain, His strength."

"So two or three cities wandered into one city to drink water, but they were not satisfied; yet have ye not returned unto Me, saith the Lord." They returned to God, but they did not return to Him, and he sent out cisterns, broken cisterns, that could hold no water (Jer. ii, 13). They turned their backs upon Him who in the wilderness gave them water from the rock, who fed them daily with manna from heaven, and made them know that man is to live upon the Lord, and not upon His gifts (Deut. viii, 3).

"I have smitten you with blasting and mildew." This also He had forewarned them of when He set before them the law and the commandments which would surely follow obedience or disobedience (Deut. xxviii, 22-29). "When your gardens, and your vineyards, and your fig trees, and your olive trees increased, the pinner worm devoured them. And when you brought it home I did blow upon it. Why saith the Lord of Hosts, the God of Israel, because that ye have despised My word, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning." In Zech. iii, 2, Jerusalem is called a brand plucked out of the fire, and in Isa. i, 30, they are called rulers of Sodom and people of Gomorrah, while in Matt. x, 34, Jesus says it will be more tolerable in the day of judgment for Sodom than for disobedient Israel. By famine and sickness and war and by direct judgment He pleads with them to return unto Him, but they refuse, "So all these things works he at oftentimes with man to bring back his soul from the pit, to be enlightened with the light of the living" (Job xxxiii, 29, 30). Why does God chasten His people so much? Just because they are His people (Amos iii, 2), and because He loves them too much to let them stray far from Him and lose His fellowship (Heb. xii, 7).

"Therefore, thus will I do unto thee, O Israel; and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel." The long account of love shown to disobedient Israel by blessings, gifts transferred to other lovers, while all the time keeping up an outward profession of devotion, must some day be settled, and how Israel meet her God, whom she has despised, and who has punished her. The only preparation is true penitence and consequent forgiveness followed by fruits meet for repentance.

"For, lo, He that formeth the mountains and creatheth the wind." He who loves and who creates and who sends us to return to Him, is the Creator of heaven and earth, and the former of our bodies and spirits. "The only proper thing to do is to commit the keeping of our souls to Him in full doing as unto a faithful creator" (1 Pet. iv, 19), remembering Isa. xl, 28-31.

"The Lord, the God of Hosts, is His name." God is mentioned over eighty times in this prophecy, under seven different titles. This one is used just seven times (iii, 13; iv, 13; v, 27; vi, 8, 14). The one who is, and shall be, the righteous one, is found fifty times in this book. He is righteous in all His ways, holy in all His works (Ps. cxlv, 17). The God of Hosts reminds us of the hosts of angels who serve Him, and minister unto Him and His people, and the hosts of Israel and of the saints.—Lesson Helper.

A CURIOUS COMPILATION.

THE AVERAGE DIMENSIONS OF THINGS IN COMMON USE.

Queen Figures Concerning Men and Women—Their Physical Structure, Clothing, Habitations, Etc.

Because the average person and the commonplace things are so ordinary that they get less attention than they deserve, it may strike most readers as a novelty to have placed before them some averages and dimensions that pass before the eye, as a matter of course, in the daily routine of life, but about which people never think of inquiring.

The average man is 5 feet 7 1/2 inches high. He wears a No. 7 hat; his gloves and shoes are No. 8; his collars number 15; his underwear numbers 38 for the upper and 36 for the lower garment; his socks and cuffs No. 10; his coat 38 inches chest measurement; his handkerchief 1/2 yard square.

The average woman stands 5 feet 3 inches. Her crown of hair averages 18 inches long. It takes 16 yards of 22-inch goods to make her a dress. Her gloves are 6 1/2. The gauntlet she wears with full dress is 21 inches long. Those who sell hosiery to her say that the average size is 8 1/2, which a No. 4 shoe snugly fits. A neck that is about right wears a No. 14 collar and with that collar go No. 9 cuffs. Her usable handkerchief is 1/4 of a yard square. An apron 1 yard square is both dainty and sufficient. Dry goods men always order for stock more No. 30 undersuits than any other size, while the stock size for coats is 38 inches bust measurement.

A man's coat and trousers pockets average 8 inches in depth, waistcoat pockets, 4 1/2 inches in depth. A woman's gown pockets average 8 inches in depth. Four buttons for the front of a man's coat are usual and 7 buttons for his waistcoat. A woman's gown requires 2 dozen buttons, her ordinary shoes 11 buttons, street style 18 buttons; men's shoes 8 buttons.

The average public speaker talks to an audience 120 words a minute; private conversation among men averages 150 words a minute. The brain and tongue work faster by from 50 to 100 words a minute in little chats between women. Speed of writing averages 15 words a minute, speed of walking 3 1/2 miles an hour. The average pulse beats 72 times a minute, and the average respiration is 18 a minute, 20 cubic inches of air being received and discharged by the lungs with each respiratory act. The average hours of sleep are 8 for an adult and 12 for a child. The average sense of sight is so acute that an illumination containing forty-billionths of a second is sufficient for distinct vision. Ordinary eyes read print best at a distance of from 12 to 16 inches, and can distinguish readily a white spot 1-400 of an inch in diameter on a black background. The average length of stride of men is 24 inches; 28 inches is the military stride.

Average families live in three-story houses or in seven-room flats. They sleep in beds 3 feet 6 inches long, which is a little longer than the average coffin. They pass through doorways averaging 7 1/2 feet by 3 feet, and look out of windows averaging 6 feet high and 3 feet wide, covered by shades that come 2 1/2 yards long by 1 yard wide, and set off by lace curtains that come 3 1/2 yards long by 1 1/2 yards wide. Madras comes 4 of a yard wide. Portieres average 3 yards by 1 1/2 yards.

Average living room measures 12 1/2 feet by 14 feet. Floor boards average 16 feet long and are 12 inches wide. The average house requires for heating in the cold months half a ton of coal a month. The average family eats half a pound of butter per person per week.

The dial of the average watch has a diameter of 1 1/2 inches, of a French clock 5 inches, of a grandfather's clock 15 1/2 inches. These old-fashioned clocks stand 7 1/2 feet high. The average length of lead pencil and of penholder is 6 inches. Table knives are 9 inches long, standard size; forks 7 inches, spoons 5 1/2 inches, carving knives 13 1/2 inches, carving forks 11 inches, steels 11 inches. Standard cake dishes are 9 inches in diameter and butter dishes 5 1/2 inches in diameter. Old-fashioned candlesticks, used as dining-room ornaments, are 9 inches high. The average umbrella for men is the 28-inch size, for women the 24-inch size. Canes for ordinary use are cut 37 inches long. Ink wells average 1 1/2 inches in diameter.

There are four shelves in the average book-case, three in the average cupboard, two in the average buffet. The average chandelier has four burners, each with an average capacity of 5 feet of gas an hour and with an illuminating power averaging eighteen candles. House stairs average in height 6 1/2 inches and in width across the top 10 inches. Carpet dealers count always upon one-half yard of carpet for each stair. The average flight has twenty-two stairs.

A full set of dishes averages 125 pieces, of which dinner, breakfast, tea, soup, dessert and butter plates come by the dozen. The average breakfast size of plate is 9 inches in diameter, tea size 7 inches, and the average dinner size 12 inches. Coffee cups hold 1/4 of a pint, goblets 1/2 pint. The average tablecloth is 2 yards by 2 1/2 yards, napkins 1 of a yard square, dinner size 1 yard square; doilies, 1/4 of a yard square.

The average coat scuttle measures 11 inches between the handles, the average poker is 22 inches long, and the average kitchen shovel measures 16 inches. Common feather dusters are 11 inches long. Uncommon ones fitted together in sections for ceiling use are often 8 feet inches across, the average barrel 27 inches high and 17 1/2 inches in diameter. Milk jars for quarts are 9 inches high, lamp wicks average 1 inch in width. Coffee pots, small agate size, such as the average family uses, are 7 inches high, Japanese teapots 5 inches high and 17 inches in diameter; preserve jars, quart size, are 7 inches high.

Chamber sets come in ten pieces, so called, the cover, body, and tray of a soap dish counting three. Sheets are 2

SELECT SIFTINGS.

Florida claims a meershaum mine. New York was incorporated a city in 1664. An Indiana girl sneezed 2000 times in four hours. A Frenchman is going to walk on stilts from Paris to Moscow. The German cavalry at present is armed with lance, saber and carbine. The Chilean insurgents have a war ship bearing the name of "O'Higgins." A teg is a sheep or doe in its second year. The term is used in England. Jean Nicot, who introduced tobacco into France, is to have a monument in that country. Two deaf mutes were married at Marion, Ind. A typewriter was used in propounding the questions. A green tree frog in the London Zoological Gardens prefers wasps to other food, despite occasional stings. Kansas City's Chief of Police is looking for an ebezzler who is only fifteen years old, six feet three inches tall, and weighs 100 pounds. The latest New York fad is the collecting of certain kinds of woodwork from dilapidated houses for insertion in expensive dwellings. A man at Athens, Ga., owns an antiquity in the form of a water bucket hewn out of the solid rock. It represents the patient work of some aborigines. Crickets are an article of commerce in some parts of Africa, and people make a business of rearing them. The natives are very fond of their music, thinking that it induces sleep. The term "Sunrise Kingdom" has been applied to Japan, also to Cores, these countries being the earliest, under the arbitrary division of dates, upon which the sun is considered to rise. While W. K. Vanderbilt's Alva was steaming through a Mediterranean storm on her way to Villefranca, an enormous wave deposited a seventy-pound turtle on the deck. It was good to eat, and therefore was eaten. The other day a Windsor (Vt.) farmer on going out to his sheep pen noticed a bunch on one of his long wool sheep, and upon examination found a rat which had got his tail woven into the wool and was unable to get away. The doctors of Berlin have agreed that in future their coachmen shall wear white hats, so that a doctor's carriage may be always immediately distinguishable and the public enabled to summon medical aid from the streets in urgent cases. The water works of Savannah, Ga., consists of twenty-five artesian wells two miles out on the Savannah River, which yield about 8,000,000 gallons in twenty-four hours. The wells are arranged in two rows about 100 yards apart, and are from 450 to 500 feet deep. The water has to be pumped to the surface. From various indications it is evident that it comes from the mountains of Northwest Georgia. Mount Pilatus has heretofore been saved from having a railway built up its side by the perpetual cloud that rests on its top. It has been discovered that this cloud is never more than ninety feet high, so now the company is ready to build the railroad and raise an Eiffel tower 300 feet in diameter at its base, 840 feet in height, with a platform at the top 120 feet square. Krupp is to supply the steel, and the building is hoped for in 1895.

The Naval Force of Italy.

The fleet of Italy consists of 252 vessels of all classes. Of these ships to be feared are the battle-ships Italia, Lepanto, Re Umberto, Duilio, Dandolo, Lauria, Moresini and Doris. These vessels are sheathed in armor from twenty-two to nineteen inches thick, and carry guns of great range and penetrative force. The combined fleet of the Italian navy amounts 628 guns, and is manned by 18,250 men. This summary of guns includes only great guns. The ships all carry besides these strong secondary batteries. The total of all men in the naval service of Italy is 62,910. The Duilio and Dandolo belong to the central citadel type, of which the inflexible, of the British navy, is the most heavily armored, though the two Italian ships are superior to the inflexible in armament and speed. The Italia and Lepanto have a draught of thirty feet, which would of itself make it very dangerous for them to fool around New York harbor. Italy has also fifty ocean-going torpedo boats and seven torpedo cruisers. The naval reserve of Italy is large and most of her maritime population are enrolled in it.—New York Tribune.

A Gem of Great Splendor.

A new diamond has been cut at Amsterdam, which will outrival any in the world. It weighs forty carats, is of remarkable brilliancy, perfectly clear and without the vestige of a flaw. It is called "The Blue Star," from its color, and is a gem of such splendor that enthusiasts declare its owner should be a crowned head, and that, as no monarch in Europe at present would feel that they could spare the little fortune it would cost, it is proposed that it be the gift of a royal people to their sovereign.—New York World.