

There are fewer deaths by railway accidents in Persia than in any other country.

The French have invented an occult science of arithmetic which they call "arithmomancy."

If the United States had as great a relative population as Japan it would have a population of 960,000,000 people.

When civilization reaches a higher standard than has yet been attained, the New York Advertiser is convinced that there will be a law making it a penal offense to fry instead of broil a chop.

The number of American horses in Italy, England, France, Germany and Russia is already quite large, is rapidly increasing, and the result of crossing them with the native stock has already proved far more satisfactory than almost any one anticipated.

From a tabular statement published in the Japan Gazette it appears that Japan has altogether 39,601 doctors, of whom only 10,553 are qualified on modern principles; the rest, over two-thirds of the total, being old stages of the purely native school, the champions of frogs' toenails and burnt joss paper.

There are 20,000 woman cycle riders in New York and New England alone. If possible, the latter staid and conservative locality is more wheel mad than New York, maintains the Dispatch. The enthusiasm has spread to the tiniest towns, and a little mountain hamlet of 300 or 500 souls will have its quota of wheel women.

It is said that horses are cheaper in Idaho, just now, than anywhere else in the world. Ordinary unbroken, ranch-bred horses have been sold at auction, in Boise City, during the last summer at seventy-five cents a head, and horses broken to harness and the saddle as low as \$2.50, although, as a farmer remarked, "if you want a good team they are surprisingly scarce."

To reach the north pole, an architect, M. Haunin, has proposed to the Geographical Society of Paris the construction of wooden huts one or two days' journey apart. He considers Greenland the most favorable locality for an experiment of this kind. Each of the huts would become in its turn a base of supplies for the construction of the next. As the distance to be covered is about 900 miles, a score of huts would be necessary to establish a route to the pole.

The sacred cattle of India take more readily to American ways than do the people of that land, according to the caretakers of the National quarantine for cattle at Garfield, N. J., where there is a small herd of the animals, imported for Oliver H. P. Belmont. Said one of these men: "Mr. Belmont sent over for the cattle some of the native feed. It is a grain or berry which when ground up resembles ground chieory. The cattle ate it all right, but after a few days here they became sickly. The superintendent gave them some Yankee feed, on which they immediately began to thrive, and now they won't touch the feed sent over with them."

Among the reasons for the almost uninterrupted success of Japan in prosecuting the present war with China is the spirit of sacrifice and generosity exhibited by her people. Voluntary contributions amounting to almost \$15,000,000 have been received by the Government. The Bank of the Nobility, which has given \$1,000,000 outright, has also placed \$15,000,000, interest free, at the disposal of the authorities. The nobles and wealthy merchants have been most patriotic, and a number of them have contributed more than \$100,000 each. Victory under such conditions is comparatively easy and certain. Public spirit in China with reference to the unfortunate conflict presents a melancholy contrast. Unhappily for the Chinese, the same spirit of indifference—to use no stronger word—seems to pervade a great part of the army and navy. Admiral Ting himself had to report that seven of his ships remained concealed during the fight on the Yaloo; that several officers had to be court-martialed for cowardice, and that it was deemed essential to behead Captain Fong, who fled before the beginning of the battle. It appears to be a hopeless task for the Chinese to fight the demoralization in their forces.

The 250,000 Indians in the United States hold 90,000,000 acres of land, exclusive of Alaska.

Home and Farm believes that the greatest aid to success in farming is sheep production. This means that the crops should be increased by the use of fertilizers in order to decrease the cost of the labor. The larger the crop the lower the expense and the greater the profit.

There are enormous profits on typewriting machines, learns the Chicago Herald. It costs about \$15 to manufacture most machines that sell for \$100. Now that all the essential patents have expired on the standard machines and anyone can manufacture a writing machine, there is a fortune awaiting the man who will put on the market a good typewriter to be sold at \$50.

Reports to the New York Advertiser from all parts of the South show a steady tendency toward improvement in business circles. Net earnings of Southern railroads are showing an increase over the corresponding time last year. The stockholders of a leading New England cotton mill company having voted to spend \$300,000 in building a new cotton mill in the South; several other New England companies are expected to follow suit.

The following table, showing the average railway charges for freight transportation per mile for different countries, has been carefully arranged for the United States authorities:

Table with 2 columns: Country, Cents. Includes United States (1.22), Germany (1.70), Austria (2.10), Belgium (1.84), Denmark (2.70), France (2.14), Italy (2.44), Luxembourg (1.90), Norway (3.00), Holland (1.50), Roumania (2.60), Russia (2.30), Finland (1.90), Switzerland (3.30). Also includes average for Europe (2.05) and average in United States (1.22).

"Jumping beans," says the Philadelphia Record, "threaten to become as great a fad with those who admire odd pets as chameleons were about a year ago. As most people know by this time, the movements of the beans are caused by a little worm inside. They come from Mexico, where a Chicago man has collected large numbers of them, and has cornered the market. The worms are said to be a species of chrysalis, and in time develop into butterflies. If the craze doesn't die out before the Indians and the jumping bean agents have collected all the worms, Mexico may be minus a species of butterfly at a certain season. The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals prohibited the sale of the chameleons, but has not yet taken any action for the protection of the acrobatic worm of the embryonic butterfly."

THE WHITE CZAR DEAD. THE AUTOCRAT OF ALL RUSSIA EXPIRES PEACEFULLY.

The Only Emperor of Russia Who Has Died a Natural Death Since Peter the Great—Sketch of His Career—The New Czar and His Betrothed.

The long struggle is over, and Alexander III., Czar of Russia, lies dead in his palace at Livadia.

The Czar died very peacefully at 2.15 p. m., surrounded by the members of his family. He was fully conscious up to the time of his death. The Czarina was at his bedside to the end.

When all was over the Czar's Grand Duke Nicholas, the new Czar, was crowned.



THE LATE ALEXANDER III., EMPEROR OF RUSSIA.

He loved so well as to earn for himself the appellation of the "Peasant Czar." The night passed with an aggravation of all the symptoms and a continuous distressing cough. The doctors and the Czarina remained in attendance upon him throughout the night, only snatching brief intervals of sleep in the ante-rooms.

The morning broke with rain and wind and heavy clouds and the weather much colder. As the day advanced the weakness increased so rapidly that the Czar himself, still conscious, recognized that he could only live a few hours.

He expressed a desire to receive the sacrament, which was administered to him by Court Chaplain Yanisheff and Father Ivan in the presence of the whole family.

The Czar then conversed long and earnestly with Father Ivan, concluding by asking his family to again gather round him. He spoke to each member separately and at the greatest length with the Czarina. He blessed all his children present.

The scene was one of deep pathos, all being in tears. At this time His Majesty was sitting up in an armchair. After taking leave of his family he grew gradually weaker, until his public coronation.

Among his earliest acts were the substitution of Count Ignatieff for General Loris-Melikoff as Minister of the Interior, and the elevation of his old tutor, Fiedonostoff, to his present position. He also appointed M. de Giers Minister of Foreign Affairs, upon the retirement of the veteran Gortebakoff.

His policy in Asia was more aggressive and he entered into negotiations with China, which resulted in his obtaining important mercantile concessions and the extension of his frontiers to the boundaries of Afghanistan and Tibet. He exerted vigor and apprehension in Great Britain, but the threatened danger of a conflict was averted by the appointment of special commissioners to settle all frontier questions.

As regards the interior affairs of his empire his reign was marked by great activity on the part of the Nihilists and the adoption of a vigorous policy of repression, not only against open revolutionists, but students and all young men exhibiting any traces of the modern progressive spirit. The natural consequence of all this was a succession of plots against his life, resulting in a condition of nervous strain which finally proved too much for his gigantic strength and iron constitution.

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MARIE FEODOROVNA, THE CZARINA.

Shortly after 4 o'clock the members of the Palace Guard were marshaled in the square in front of the palace chapel for the ceremony of swearing allegiance to the new Czar. They were the first to take the oath.

The Grand Dukes were the next to swear allegiance, and they were followed in the order of precedence by the high court functionaries, court officials, military officers and civil officials.

The Grand Duke Nicholas, now ill in the south of Russia; the Grand Duchesses Xenia and Olga and the Grand Duke Michael, a boy in his teens. In the ordinary course of events the Crown Prince Nicholas would succeed to the throne. In view of his physical weakness and other peculiarities, there has been much talk of a regency.

Alexander III.'s Successor. The question is, "Who will succeed Alexander III. on the throne?" Russian history presents numerous instances of the Czar's wife being set aside for another. It is known that the late Czar had grave doubts, shared by many, as to the Czar's abilities and stamina.

Nicholas Alexandrovitch is said to be short in stature, insignificant in appearance, generally supposed to be an idiot, but nevertheless is possessed of many amiable and generous qualities and a kind heart, besides a very strong will.

In 1868, he developed so slowly and showed so few mental gifts, that his parents called in a specialist to pronounce upon his health. This scientific gentleman pronounced the youth a congenital idiot, and was nearly killed for his frankness by the irascible Czar, who gave him a swinging blow on the ear.

SMOTHERED TO DEATH. A FATAL TENEMENT FIRE IN NEW YORK CITY.

Seven Persons Suffocated and an Eighth Mortally Burned—The Destruction Caused by an Inflammatory—Scores Rescued by Heroes—Panic-Stricken Tenants.

Seven people were smothered to death by smoke in a tenement house fire at 215 West Thirty-second street, New York City. At 4.30 a. m. a fire broke out in a third-story window and was fatally injured. The fire came suddenly and cut off all escape on the stairways.

The intense excitement all who were aroused looked only to their own safety and plunged down the fire escapes. Those who were not awakened were smothered as they slept. The dead are: George Friedman, four years; Loll Friedman, three years; Annie Appleblatt, two years; Lena Mitchell, twenty-four years; Mrs. Margaret Killian, seventy years; Jacob Killian, her son, forty years; George Lovey, Mrs. Killian's grandson, twenty years.

Lena Friedman, mother of the dead children, jumped from the third-story window. She was badly crushed and mangled, being fatally injured.

Just what caused the fire to start up so suddenly at this hour, and how the tenants of the house were all asleep, only Fire Marshal Mitchell's assistant declares that it was of incendiary origin. The house contained seven families, two on each floor, except the top story, where the janitress, Mrs. Eberwein, lived alone. In all there were probably forty persons asleep in the house when the fire started in the cellar and prompt rescue alone saved them from death.

The smoke penetrated the rooms on every floor in less than five minutes after the flames began to climb roofward, and in two minutes after Policemen Powers reached the house the little narrow fire escape, that ran like a slender iron ladder from the front of the house, was swarming with half clad figures of men, women and children, half crazed with fear. Volumes of smoke now rolled from the front windows, and the cries of the people anxious for safety combined with the noise of arriving fire engines and the shouts of the people in the street caused a confusion of sounds indescribable.

The flames had not gained access to any of the front rooms, but the smoke was simply stifling. Standing on dry goods boxes, Policemen Powers received the fear-stricken tenants and passed them down from the first floor escape to Policemen Hahn and Donovon.

All of those in the front of the house escaped, but while they were being rescued a tragedy was being enacted in the rear apartments on the second floor, where Nathan Friedman, a poor furrier, was making a mad fight to save his family and himself from death.

He awoke to find his bed room full of smoke, and picking up Esther, the youngest of the three children, a babe of four months, Friedman made his way to the hall door. The flames had reached the floor, and the fire drove him blistered and fainting from the intense heat to the kitchen. He aroused his wife and bade her follow him, but the woman became hysterical, and when she saw the flames made his way to a corner window, near which a slender iron ladder ran from the yard to the roof. He rapidly descended this ladder, expecting that his wife would follow, but hard as he had reached the ground when he heard her screams.

The poor man turned around just in time to see the form of his wife shoot downward from a window on the second floor. Mrs. Friedman struck the bottom of the cellar area, just outside of the point where the fire is supposed to have started.

Strange to say, she had sustained no broken bones, and she ran up the area stairs to the rear of the yard. Her clothing, however, was ablaze, and before it could be extinguished the poor woman was fatally burned. As to Friedman, he handed his infant daughter, the only one of the family save himself who escaped unscathed, through the window of an adjacent house, and then started back to get his two other children.

It was too late, the dense smoke would not permit it, and in a agony of spirit the crazed husband helped his suffering wife into a near-by house, where oil was applied to her burns. Her heart-rending cries for her children were pitiful. She was removed to Roosevelt Hospital, and there swathed in oil-soaked bandages.

Meantime the engines had been flooding the house with water under Deputy Chief Purroy's direction and hook and ladder trucks had lined the front of the building with scaling ladders and in an hour's time the last spark had been extinguished and the house cleared of smoke.

The two Friedman children, George and Levy, were found lying dead on the side of their little bed just as they had fallen asleep the night before. Not a hair of their heads had been singed, and none of the bodies had been touched by the flames. In a bedroom in the Friedman apartment were the bodies of Lena Mitchell, a cousin of Mrs. Friedman, and of Annie Appleblatt, who boarded with the family. Neither of the girls had moved apparently, and their faces looked peaceful enough through death had evidently come to them painlessly.

LYNCHED BY A MOB.

Eddy Martin Died to Save His Friend Goode.

A special from Princeton, Ky., reports the lynching of Eddy Martin in Crittenden County by a mob of Kentuckians.

It is claimed that Martin was called upon at his home after midnight and asked to get up. Opening the door, he was seized and asked for information of Ben Goode, the mob leader. He told him that if he would turn State's evidence upon Goode he would be spared.

"If these are the only terms, gentlemen," said he, "let the hanging proceed. Bill Goode has been my friend and I will shield him."

The mob quickly did its work and left the body swaying from a limb upon a lone country road. The hanging is the result of Goode-Rich lawlessness in Crittenden County.

PROMINENT PEOPLE.

JOHN WAXMAKER had saved only \$100 at the age of twenty-three.

The last book read to Dr. Holmes was "Alice in Wonderland."

The Empress of Germany rises at six and makes her husband's coffee with her own hands.

PRIME MINISTER ROBERTS declared for the curtailment or abolition of hereditary legislative privileges in an address at Bradford, England.

It is said President Cleveland did not register in New York because he was told by his advisers that he had lost his right to vote there.

By removal of extract Gladstone's right eye is good for the finest print, but upon his left an immature cataract prevents his using that eye in reading ordinary type.

GENERAL ELI S. PARKER, a full blooded Seneca, is the only Indian who held a commission in the Union Army during the war. He is a direct descendant of the great Chief, Red Jacket.

DURHAM WHITE STEVENS, the American Secretary of the Japanese legation at Washington, was appointed Secretary of the American legation at Tokyo when he was twenty years old.

112 DROWNED AT SEA.

Dashed on the Rocks Off the New Zealand Coast. The Union Line steamer Wairarapa, bound from Sidney, New South Wales, for Auckland, New Zealand, was wrecked on Great Barrier Island, off the northeast coast of New Zealand. The steamer had a large number of passengers, and 112 of them were drowned.