

have recently given an option until June 1 on the property to the well-known practical mining operator, John Paulson of Minneapolis. He has placed Charles Me-Gregor, who has had 20 years' experience in the Michigan mines, upon the ground in charge as mining captain, and operations are being pushed as rapidly as possible. It is stated by prominent parties that the op-tion is upon the basis of \$50,000 in cash and GRAND BAPIDS POSTOFFICE AND ITS INDIANS. the privilege of working the mines for 20

ribon, bear, wolves and foxes in abund- I not ance, together with a great variety of other wing to the water being held back by three game. The Indians have killed an un-Government dams above to await the open-ing of navigation. It is expected that there usual number of silver grav foxes this win ter. A young man was telling me of seeing five big timber wolves one evening last will be an iron drawbridge thrown across the river at La Prairie this season. River winter about dusk, some two miles out of steamers, up to 175 tons burden, come up to Grand Rapids. The Andy Gibson, a 120town, and of his whipping up his horses and ton boat, was tied up at La Prairie over

pastor.

\$5,000. It came in the cheapest of manilla envelopes, wrapped up in one-fourth of a sheet of dirty note paper, upon which was written the following: HON. HUGH MCCULLOCH-The inclosed

money that rightfully belongs to the United States, though the world would say I came hon-estly by it. I count, however, a clear conscience of more value than money can represent or ex-The money sent was in Treasury notes of

\$1,000 and under. CONSCIENCE-STRICKEN OFFICERS.

favors with which they meant to reward the knights who were to contend in their honor. Presently a band of knights dressed in an-cient habits of white and red silk, and mounted on gray horses richly caparisoned, entered the lists attended by their 'squires on foot in suitable apparel. Lord Cathcart was chief of the knights, and rode with great pomp. THE CHALLENGE AND ANSWER.

After they had made the circuit of the

and she paid the man out of her few remain-ing shillings—seeing that she was a stranger, he insisted upon receiving half a crown. Then, disregarding the astonished stare of the night porter, she found her way to the waiting room, and sat down. First she took the letter from her breast and added some the letter from her breast and added some lines to it in pencil, but she did not post it selfish; she did not thick that a man could

yet; she knew that if she did so it would reach its destination too soon. Then she laid her head back against the wall, and, utterly outworn, dropped to sleep—her last sleep upon this earth, before the longest

spondence was received from all parts of the country containing small amounts contributed by citizens unanimously to the pay-ment of the national debt. These contribu-tions were called out by the following letter:

ter: BALTIMORE, October 15, 1967. B Hon. Hugh McColloch, Secretary of Treasury: I see it stated in a newspaper that 2 cents placed at interest for 2,000 years will pay off the national debt. It is not stated at what in-terest and I have not the time to enter into a calculation to test the truth or falsity of the assertion, even if the rate per cent were given, nor can lwatt to muras means an universe the

years at 40 cents a ton rovaity Lately their pump broke down, and the large amount of water prevalent at this season has delayed the work in some particplars. Captain McGregor says that, with the railroad branch completed, needed heavy machinery could be brought in and they would be shipping 250,000 to 300,000 tons inside of the next two or three years.

PLENTY OF CONFIDENCE.

Mr. Richardson stated to me that if Paulson didn't accept the option and take the mine and push it, he had other parties standing ready to do so. It may be said that Messrs. Richardson, Smith and Warner



The New Diamond Mines.

own 7,000 acres of mining property here, and that numerous other parties are also busily engaged in prospecting for mines. Five new ones are now completing their arrangements to begin work there early in

The work done at the Diamond mines proper by the owners and under the option, is said to have been pretty expensive and to represent an outlay of \$15,000 or \$20,000. Among other things it includes the sinking of nine shafts at from 12 to 80 feet deep, several being about 65 feet down, and many test pits; also the erection of extensive camp buildings, barns, cellars for stores and provisious, boiler and engine houses, a blacksmith shop and the outlay for labor and machinery.

Accompanying this article are illustrations made from photographs which I took on the spot, and which will give a good idea of the principal mine, camp and surroundings.

A GREAT BOOM PROMISED.

The immediate effects of this mine's progress, especially as soon as it is officially declared that the railroad branch will be built in, will be of momentous character. It will conclusively settle the already widespread belief that here is another rich and extensive iron territory, which is probably but a continuation of the Vermilion and Mesabi ranges. Large shipments will quickly begin and the entire area will bustle with

The owners and lestees and the mining captain unite in saving that they already have ores on their stock piles, taken from their shafts which are not yet down to the true vein at any point, that are fit to ship, and will run, rough and ready as it comes, at over 53 per cent of metalic iron and within the Bessemer limit of phosporus. I am reliably informed that out of three samples the following analyses resulted: One from the stock piles ran 54 per cent metalic iron, .037 phosphorus and 16.25 silica; an-other and special sample ran 67 iron, .042 phosphorus and 10.14 silica; another, which was a rough and ready sample, just as it came, ran 53.38 iron, .038 phosphorus and 17.78 silica.

THEY EXPECT EVEN MORE.

It is the confident belief of the mining captain that later, when they get down to the true vein, the ore will certainly run at an average of 62 to 63, and will be within the Bessemer limit of phosphorus. There is the Bessemer limit of phosphorus. There is considerable lime and not much magnesia, the silica runs high and the phosphorus ex-ceptionally low. The diamond drill, which was being operated here last fall, after being driven through 16 feet of surface drift and 65 feet into the ledge, penetrated 17 feet into blue hematite ore and then unfortanately the rods broke off and lett the bit with \$400 worth of diamonds or carbons in the halts worth of diamonds or carbons in the hole. and prosperous. About 11 years ago a

cetting into the village as soon as possible, with his hair fairly litting his cap off his head. The fish stories I hear would, it sent East, destroy my reputation ever here atter for veracity.

after for veracity. The pretty village of La Prairie is advan-tageously situated. Last Christmas it had a half-dozen buildings, which included a hotel, store and hospital. To-day it possesses above forty, and the number is rapidly increasing. At a census taken the other evening, with a view to incorporation, it numbered about 300 souls. Not half of along the river bluff to the quaint village of Grand Rapids, with its ancient looking log

feet.

houses. It is a considerably older place than La Prairie, and has a more picturesque them, however, were actual residents. It has a very large floating population, as it is situation. It is hilly and nearer the river, over which a new iron drawbridge was the distributing point for supplies to a lum ber district which this season cut 125,000,000 thrown last summer. Almost all the buildings are log houses, except the new school LA PRAIRIE'S FLOATING POPULATION. house, which is a striking exception, and I am told cost about \$5,000. A large United There are frequently several hundred lum bermen in town, sometimes 500, and there States flag was floating from its tower and have been as high as 700. When they crowd in like that they come for a "blow in" at the end of the season's work, and

"make Rome howl." Over 4.000 lumbermen pass through here in a season. The leading hotels here have at times "accommodated" 250 each. The largest store at La Prairie is said to have done a business of \$200,000 since las September. The town has six saloons and

two dance houses. The latter are hidden in the woods to one side. There is often a pretty rough and drinking element in town, and a stranger around after dark had best be a little careful. Mr. James Smith is the original platter of the town, to which, how-ever, tour other plats have been added by different parties, in one of which Governor Pilisbury is largely interested; but as to these Mr. Smith says he is the central sum and they the outer sattellites.

A good idea of La Prairie, in particular, may be gained from Mr. Smith's house and surroundings. It is a log house, and the oldest and warmest house in town, in token of which latter point thrifty house-plants were shown me that had lived therein all winter. The others are of unpainted boards The streets don't appear distinctly to the eve, although on the plots they are plain



The Diamond Mine Camp.

down anywhere, and the streets are-well, somewhere, between just where is uncertain, especially after dark. In the main part of town I stooped down and found wintergreen berries, arbutus buds and low buckleberry bushes. A Duluth real estate man bought some property here last fall, put up several small stores, sold off enough iand to pay for the buildings, gets a large monthly rental, considers himself \$1,500 ahead, and is well pleased with pretty La

Prairie. THE CHIPPEWA INDIANS. Thirteen years ago this place had more actual residents than it has to-day, but they

Some of the letters received from the army officers are interesting, and they show the war:

TROY, N. Y., 1867. Inclosed find \$112 which I was paid for a horse lost in the service of the United States, but which was lost partly through my fault. I have never feit fully satisfied when thinking of this affair, and I shall ever hereafter feel better in mind to have refunded this amount to the Government. I find the way of religion narrow and the gate strait. Yours truly. Government, I find the way truly, and the gate strait. Yours truly, RESTITUTION.

Another officer writes at about the same time stating that he was an officer in the

United States Army and was entitled to two servants, but that he used only one while drawing the salary for two. He says this custom was known to the paymasters, and it was a regular thing with thousands of officers. He incloses \$190 in his letter, and states that he entered the army poor and left it poor and sick, "too poor in fact to get along without a clear conscience, which he cannot have as long as he retains this extra money." His letter is not signed.

Hon. Hugh McCulloch, Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.:

winter, and was just being gone over pre-

There are no schoolhouses or churches at

La Prairie yet, although there is a Presby-

ing, and they are now endeavoring to get a

terian organization and occasional preach

ANOTHER QUAINT VILLAGE.

It is a beautiful walk of about two miles

paratory to the new season.

Grave of a Chippewa Chief.

made quite a pretty spectacle. A church fund of \$5,000 has been secured here and the people hope soon to build. I took a pho-tograph of the bridge and the Mississippi at this point. It seemed scarcely possible that the gravelly creek before me was the great Father of Waters. I also took a picture of a group of Indian women and children seated in front of the postoffice.

There is a great deal of country up here and much of it is rich in vast resources and possibilities. To look ahead and picture its progress after it has had the time and chances which the East has, is to dream of wonders past all present belief. Especially is this true of that marvelous region about the head of Lake Superior. OBLIN M. SANFORD.

PROFITS IN BEER.

pretty much everywhere, the houses dropped plain, he said the saloons which had a monopoly of the business last year had not been satisfied with their enormously increased profits but had reduced the size of their beer glasses,

adays," said he, "but these new saloons are doing better. There's one over there that sets up the old-inshioned glasses and besides that the barkeeper will ask whether you won't have a 'schooner.' That sounds like old

times. Glasses have been growing smaller ever since we drank beer in America out of the old-fashioned mugs we know now only from old pictures."

THE pleasure of a trip to New York depends largely upon the way you are taken care of. By stopping at the Sturtevant House, Tweoty-ninth street and Broadway, you insure the maximum of comfort for the minimum cost.

that the soldier's conscience is well developed. Here is one received at the close of

The following came from Hartford, Conn.

DRAR SIR-Inclosed please find a check for fifty dollars (\$50), which is honestly due the Government by me. About three years ago Government by me. About three years ago the paymaster gave me over my just pay eighty dollars (\$80). Since that time I have never had an opportunity to make any restitution. I was a soldier at the time. I assure you, dear sir, it has troubled me more than a little. I still owe thirty dollars (\$30), which I intend paying this summer. After it is paid I shall feel that I have done nothing but what I ought to have have done nothing but what I ought to have done. Not a soul save God and myself knows that I kept the money or that it was ever paid me. I am a Catholic, and as such it is my duty to pay back what is justly due. I do not wish to sign my name to this, and, sir, I beg of you that you will do me the favor of not speaking of it to any person whereby it might get into the public press. he public press. Hoping, dear sir, that you will look favor-bly on this, I remain, yours respectfully, SOLDIER,

LETTERS FROM SMUGGLERS.

There are hundreds of such letters, and there are numeros of such letters, and those received from smugglers are quite as numerous. Ladies who have smug-gled jewelry, gloves and Paris dresses past the customs officers at New York on their re-turn from Europe become conscience stricken and inclose money to the Treasurer of the United States. Here is one containing 55 50 which sements the durit of the states.

\$5 50, which represents the duty on the kid gloves of a New York lady, who says she is sorry to trouble the Secretary of the Treas-

ury about the matter but she does not know there else to send it. Here are \$500 irom Chicago, which represents extra tariff duties unlawfully evaded, and here is a Baltimore hardware man who savs he has cheated Uncle Sam out of \$270 in duties and incloses the amount in gold. The letter, which is unsigned, states that the writer "is anxious to deal fairly with all men, and wishes to be at peace with God and his country." Not a few of these conscience-stricken

people pay back the money they have taken from the Government in piecemeal. One The Size of the Glasses Has Steadily Diminished of Late.

"I'm awfully glad we have more drinking States. He says: ME. PRESIDENT-Inclosed you will find \$10. I defrauded the Government out of this and more, but I have repented and beg your pardon. The amount inclosed is only a very small part places now," remarked a hale and hearty old gentleman who has been thriving on beer for lo, these many years. Asked to exof what I would give if it lay in my power.

A Boston man, whose letter is signed with a dash, wrote to Secretary McCulloch in-closing \$1,500 in three \$500 hotes. As he originally wrote the letter in ink he says he "You only get a thimble full of beer now incloses \$2,500 and the "25" in the ink is stricken out and the word "fifteen" in pencil written above it. This letter was re-ceived in May, 1866. A few weeks later a letter in the same handwriting came to the Treasury Department inclosing another \$1,000, and stating that the amount was the balance of the writer's indebtedgess to the Internal Revenue Department. This letter was also signed with a dash, and its envelope

bore the Boston postmark. Some of the letters are evidently brought out by religious revivals, and one or two urge the officers of the Treasury Depart-ment to repent and seek the Lord. Here is

nor can I wait to nurse such an investment, bu taking for granted that the statement is correct I will not begrudge the amount and so inclose it, to be applied by you according to your besi it, to be applied by you according to your best judgment. When you have done this how idle will be all the talk of repudiation and the world will learn that after all the national debt is but a 2-cent affair. Yours truly, BALTIMORE WOMAN. P. S.-I do not wish you to put this contribu-tion to the Conscience Fund, but to apply is to the payment of the national debt.

TROUBLE FOR ANDREW JOHNSON.

During the latter years of Andrew John son's administration a number of the conscience letters contained a criticism of the President's policy. One letter inclosing 5 cents reads as follows: FRANKLIN, PA., December 23, 1867. Hon. Hugh McCulloch:

Hon. Hugh McCulloch: MY DEAR SCHOOL MATE-I send you in-closed a 5-cent piece. Please apply it to wip-ing out the national debt, and this is not con-science money. My conscience is insolvent. Send my love to Andy, Mrs. Andy and all the little Andies. In order that you may accept this I will state that I indorse the policy of An-drew Johnson, and in fact every sneak up our way indorses him. Yours truly. A mean GOODBELL.

A great many of these letters relate to the unpaid income taxes. Some inclose coun-terfeit money and a good many of the contributions are sent through the Catholic priests. In these cases the letters are signed by the priests and a receipt is sent to them for the money whenever they request it. One man incloses \$20 and asks that it be credited to the Union defenders and that, if possible, the amount be applied to the im-peachment of Andrew Johnson. A printed letter incloses \$170 and says it is the theit of

a former controller, and a yellow envelope postmarked Chicago brings \$500, with only these words penned in blue ink on a short strip of paper: "The inclosed money be-longs to the Treasury Department." And so it is throughout these thousands of letters. Each one represents a greater or less amount of money stolen from the Government, and each is the index of the story

of a crime. FRANK G. CARPENTER.

THE CULTURE OF PEARLS.

How the Chinese Bore Holes Into Musse and Drop Pellets Into Them. The production of pearls by assisted propa gation is a curious industry, which has been carried on more successfully by the

Chinese than by any other people. They take the mussels from their beds, and, prying open the shells, or boring holes through them, insert small molds or beads so that they will lie in the soft flesh. The animals, being unable to expel these foreign bodies, immediately begin to cover them with nacre, as described in the natural pearl making process. In a year a complete coat ing is formed, but the beauty of the pearl is greatly enhanced by allowing it to remain undisturbed for two or three years.

These pearls, however, are seldom perfect in shape, because it is almost impossible to obtain or manufacture kernels of flawless spherical form. The deposit of nacre, of

THE FIRST STEEL PENS.

Considerable Mystery as to Their Invention and Manufacture.

Twenty years ago there were three men living who could have answered the question. When and by whom were steel pens invented? These three were Josiah Mason, John Mitchell and Joseph Gillot. Of these the two later died and left no word. The other, Sir Josiah Mason, left on record that his friend and patron, Mr. Samuel Harri-son, made a steel pen for Dr. Priestly about the year 1780. But though Mr. Harrison may have good

right to what glory there is in this fact, it does not appear that he had anything to do with the manufacture of steel pens by me-chanical appliances—that is, by machinery. This question is involved in as much obscur-ity as is the invention of printing, and, like that invention, has been surrounded with an atmosphere of myth.

square, their herald after a flourish of trumpets proclaimed: "The Knights of the Blended Rose by me, their herald, proclaim nd assert that the ladies of the Blended Rose excel in wit, beauty and every accom-

plishment those of the whole world, and should any knight or knights be so hardy as to dispute or deny it, they are ready to enter the lists with them, and maintain their assertions by deeds of arms according

to the laws of ancient chivalry." At the third repetition of the challenge, the sound of trumpets was heard from opposite side of the square, and another her-ald, with four attendants dressed in black and orange, galloped into the lists. The black herald ordered his trumpeters to sound, and then proclaimed defiance to the chalenge in the following words: "The Knights of the Burning Mountain present themselves here not to contend by words, but to disprove by deeds, the vainglorious assertions of the Knights of the Blended Rose, and enter the lists to maintain that the ladies of the Burning Mountain are not excelled in eauty, virtue or accomplishments by any in the universe.

Shortly after the Black Knights entered. Then followed the tourney, in which the warriors gallantly strove until a certain time previously fixed when the ladies signified their satisfaction at their knights' endeavors, when the combat ceased, ending in what nowadays might be called a draw. AFTER THE TOURNEY.

Among the ladies favored were Peggy and Sophie Chew, of the famous Chew House in Germantown, and Williamina Bard, afterward the wife of General Cadwalader of the Continental army, and mother of Lady Erskine, and connected with the bluest blood of England. The Ladies of the Blended Rose each wore white silk polonaise which formed a flowing robe, a pink sash, six inches wide, filled in with spangles, six inches wide, filled in with spangles veils edged with lace and high head dresses The Ladies of the Burning Mountain attired in the same general way.

After the tourney the whole company moved over the sward to the Wharton mansion, where they were regaled with tea and lemonade, while the knights were decorated by their ladies fair. How can one tell of the ball that followed, or of the fireworks,

or the supper served in a magnificent apart-ment, 200x40 feet; of the two dozen slaves with silver collars and bracelets who to the floor as the guests entered; of the sullen booming of cannon, which the gallant campaigners assured the ladies were of no consequence, even while knowing that the Americans led by Captain McLane were making a desperate attack on their redoubts, or how the fun waxed tast and furious until until the ball broke up at 4 o'clock in the morning, and how in 24 hours after, not a single red coat was left in Philadelphia, the victorious colonists, wild with joy, taking possession of the city.

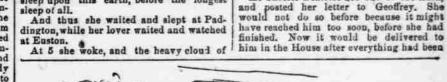
WORKING THE CHANGE RACKET.

QUAKER.

The Corner Grocers Selected as Victims by a Rather Clever Artist.

Occasional reports, mostly from corner groceries, have been coming in the past week or two of attempts to defraud by means of the change racket. A tall and means of the change racket. A tail and rather neat-looking individual, perhaps 25 years of age, will step in and buy some trifling article, perhaps a cigar or a banana. He offers a \$10 or \$20 bill in payment. The grocer skirmishes in his money drawer for the change and lays it before his customer. The latter starts to pick it up, selecting the largest bill' in the pile, when he suddenly remembers that he has smaller change himself.

He fumbles about in his pockets, keeping up a running fire of delightful conversation, meanwhile disposing of the grocer's bill and producing, say a \$5 bill. In the confusion nine grocers out of ten forget the missing bill, and are not enlightened until missing bill, and are not enightened until the accounts of the day are figured up at night. The fellow ran across one grocer last week who was up to the trick and he only got his legitimate change. Four or five hours later, when the grocer was out, the fellow returned and tried the same the fellow returned and tried the same game on the clerk, but the latter had been posted and wasn't caught.



and posted her letter to would not do so before because it might have reached him too soon, before she had finished. Now it would be delivered to



WITH GEOFFREY'S NAME UPON HER LIPS.

sorrow, past, present and to come, rushed in accomplianed in its order. She looked at upon her heart. Taking her bag, she made herself as tidy as she could. Then she the letter. It was, she thought, the last token that could ever pass between them on stepped outside the station into the deserted this earth. Once she pressed it to her heart, once she touched it with her lips, and then street, and, finding a space between the houses, watched the sun rise over the wakshe put it from her beyond recall. It was ing world. It was her last sunrise, she re-

ane put it from her bevond recall. It was done; there was no going back now. And even as she stood the postman came up whistling, and opening the box carelessly swept its contents into his canvas bag. Could he have known what lay among them She came back filled with such thoughts as might well strike the heart of a woman about to do the thing she had decreed. The refreshment bar was open now, and she went to it and bought a cup of coffee and he would have whistled no more that day. Beatrice continued her journey, and by 3 o'clock arrived sately at the little station some bread and butter. Then she took her ticket, not to Bryngelly or to Coed, but to next to Bryngeliy. There was a fair at Coed that day, and many people of the the station on this side of Bryngelly and peasant class got in here. Amidst the con-fusion she gave up her ticket to a small boy, who was looking the other way at the time, and escaped without being noticed by a soul. Indeed, things so happened that three miles from it. She would run less shunted up; she took her seat in it. Just as it was starting, an early newspaper boy came along, yawning. Beatrice bought a copy of the Standard out of the one and nobody in the neighborhood of Bryngelly ever knew that Beatrice had been to Lonthreepence that was left of her money, and opened it at the sheet containing the lead-ing articles. The first one began, "The most powerful, closely reasoned and eloqueat speech made last night by Mr. Bingham,

don and back upon those dreadful days. Beatrice walked along the cliff, and in an hour was at the door of the Vicarage, from which she seemed to have been away for years. She unlocked it and entered. In the member for Pillham, will, we feel certain, produce as great an effect on the coun-try as it did in the House of Commons. We the letterbox was a postal card from her father, stating that he and Elizabeth had welcome it, not only on account of its value as a contribution to the polemics of the Irish changed their plans and would not be back till the train which arrived at 8:30 on the question, but as a positive proof of what has already been suspected, that the Unionist party has in Mr. Bingham a young states-man of a very high order indeed, and one following morning. So much the better, she thought. Then she disarranged the clothes upon her bed to make it seem as though it had been slept in, lit the kitchen whom remarkable and rapid success at the fire, and put the kettle on to boil, and as bar has not hampered, as is too often the soon as it was ready she took some food. She wanted all her nerve, and that could not be kept up without food.

case, in the larger and less technical field of And so on. Beatrice put the paper down Shortly after this the girl Betty returned. with a smile of triumph. Geoffrey's success Her sister was much better, she said, in an-swer to Beatrice's inquiries, and she went about her duties in the house quite unconwas splendid and unquestioned. Nothing could stop him now. During all the long journey she pleased her imagination by cohjuring up picture after picture of that scious that Beatrice had been away from it for the whole night. When she had eaten what she could-it

was not much-Beatrice went to her room, undressed herself, bathed, and put on clean, fresh things. Then she unbound her lovely hair, and did it up in a coronet upon her hend. It was a fashion that she did not often adopt, because it took too much time, would have been could she be present to record his triumphs. Alasi she did not re-

poor man sends \$14, and says he will send more by-and-by. Another writes and sends the letter to the President of the United course, follows every inequality of surface in the artificial molds.

IN TWO INSTALLMENTS.