

Lunar Calculations.

In England the Astronomer Royal has laid before the Astronomical Society the details of an investigation by him into the most important yet most difficult questions of theoretical astronomy, viz, the motion of the moon. This is of all celestial bodies, the one whose movements are most important to the march of geography. It is to the study of the moon's motion that longitude is calculated by travelers on land or sea; by these times and places of the occurrence of eclipses are foretold; and by an inversion of the problem it has been endeavored to determine the exact date of these events in ancient history that have, by the historians of the time, been associated with solar and lunar eclipses. It is, therefore, with some regret that we read the conclusion of one of the highest authorities on this subject, "I express my opinion that there is still some serious defect in the lunar theory." And again, "My confidence in the certainty of chronological results derived from lunar calculations is in some manner shaken."

How Two Chinamen Met.

The Detroit Free Press says: Chinese settlers in Detroit have not been numerous. At no time since the first migration was thrown to the breeze in this city has the number counted over six, and of late Tungsee and Lung-Sing have been the sole representatives of the Celestial Empire to be found in the City of the Straits. No doubt these two strangers in a strange land have their lonesome hours and their spells of homesickness, and no doubt the silent tear has fallen from their almond-shaped eyes and mingled with the laundry starch as they thought of ma and pa and the great ocean rolling between. A large steamer, the "Saratoga," recently coming direct from San Francisco, and as it rambled up Jefferson avenue with a satchel in the other hand and a cold bite in the other he encountered Lung Sing. It was like a meeting between two long-lost brothers in the great Sahara Desert.

The Pennsylvania Germans as Considered by an Outsider.

The New York Times of Wednesday, in an editorial reviewing Mrs. Gibbon's book, says: A second and enlarged edition of a volume entitled "Pennsylvania Dutch," has recently been published. The work is principally composed of a number of essays on different topics relating to the class of persons indicated by this title, and contains much valuable information, though it does not attempt to present a full and systematic view of the entire subject. In fact, that which would have been scarcely practicable except in a book of a good deal larger size. The word "Dutch," in the title, is, as the author explains, employed on account of its being popularly used even by the people themselves. The word, properly, should be "German."

Mr. Fulton in the Blue-Grass Region.

Mr. Fulton, in his paper, the Baltimore American, says: Henry Clay was accustomed to call this portion of Kentucky through which he is traveling "God's own land," and there can be no doubt that it is a highly favored belt of country. The Blue Grass region is famous for its stalwart and beautiful women. The soil is rich, the landscapes attractive, the variety of the trees unsurpassed. God has done much for the country, but it does not seem that man has improved his opportunities to the extent that he ought to have. There are many fine mansions, and some well cultivated estates, but the general aspect of the country is that of improvidence and careless husbandry. The cabins of the working people have none of the air of thrift and freedom about them; the stable doors hang on one hinge, the gates are down and the fences patched up or tumbling over. The difference is so great compared with the other side of the Ohio, that it is impossible to fail to note it. On the railroads there are but few station-houses and seldom are there platform notices to alight. The people are, however, most kind, generous and hospitable and make the stranger feel at home and welcome without requiring personal introductions or endorsements. Every one is proud of Kentucky, and immense resources are the first theme of conversation. I listened to this afternoon for a half hour to an enumeration of the natural advantages that Kentucky possessed over the rest of creation by the Hon. Zeb Ward, formerly representative in Congress from Frankfort. The state he said had more coal and iron than all Europe and instead of flagging down half way to China to find it, as they were compelled to do in the old countries, it cropped out of the hillsides and rolled down from the mountains. I could not refrain from asking what Kentucky was doing to develop this great wealth, when the devol Colonel responded, "There, d—n it, I was afraid you were going to ask that question." The flood of eloquence ceased, and he suddenly changed the subject.

Do Not Complain.

A merchant was one day returning from market. He was on horseback, and behind his saddle was a valise filled with money. The rain fell with violence, and the good man was wet to the skin. At this time he was quite vexed, and murmured because heaven had given him such hard weather for his journey. He soon reached the border of a thick forest. What was his terror on beholding on one side of the road a robber, who, with leveled gun, was aiming at him and attempting to fire! But the robber being wet with the rain, he did not go off, and the merchant, finding spurs to his horse, fortunately had time to escape. As soon as he found himself safe, he said to himself, "How wrong was I not to endure the rain patiently, as sent by Providence! If the weather had been dry and fair, I should not probably have been alive at this hour. The rain, which caused me to murmur, came at a fortunate moment to save my life, and preserve to me my property."

The Law of Accumulation.

Everybody knows that money makes money, but it is not everybody that pays attention to the *modus operandi* by which this is brought about, and the practical consequences which follow. Schoolboys are taught the rule of compound interest, but nine out of ten of them forget all about it for the remainder of their lives. Yet this principle has more to do with the accumulation of large fortunes than any other cause whatever; and it has bearings on the ratio of expenditure, both personal and national, of which the practical character cannot be overrated.

One Hundred and Ten Years Ago.

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New Mexican Pie-Bitters.

The people of New Mexico originate some curious societies. In Mesilla and Las Cruces they have—or it is said they have—what are known as "Pie-bitters," composed of persons as passionately fond of pies. So strong has the rivalry grown between the two societies that a challenge resulted. The contest is reported to have been as follows: "The pies were to be nine and one inch thick, Mesilla to bite first, and no bite to count unless it reached the center of the pie. Mesilla piled up nine pies and shut down on them without an instant's delay. Los Cruces elected the top of his head and closed his jaws over eleven. (Great enthusiasm among his friends.) Mesilla came to the scratch, or bite, manfully, and fopped his lip over a dozen successfully. (Odds offered on Mesilla.) Las Cruces, at this point, said, "Well, it is time to stop this nonsense; hand me fifteen. They were given him; he smiled, laid the back of his head on his shoulders, and came down on the bundle of pies like an alligator on a mouthful of flies. He struggled and jerked but it was no use. Three of his teeth broke, and his hold gave way. On examining a dog-collar was found in the center pie, and Las Cruces had got his teeth tangled in the buckle. Jack Martin, the referee, decided in favor of Mesilla, on the ground that everything was fair in a picnic pie."

Attention.

How much more we might make of our family life, of our friendships, if every secret thought of love blossomed into a deed! We are not now speaking merely of the most common of these may, or may not be, the best language of affection. But there are words and looks and little observances, thoughtful, watchful little attentions, which make it manifest, and there is scarcely a family that might not be richer in heart wealth for more of them. It is a mistake to suppose that relations must of course love each other because they are relations. Love must be cultivated, and can be increased by judicious culture, as wild fruits may double their bearing under the hand of the gardener; and love can dwindle and die out by neglect, as choice flower-seeds planted in poor soil dwindle and grow single.—Atlantic.

Forest Trees.

Many of the failures in the attempt to raise our more common forest trees from the seed, are caused by improper care of the seed previous to planting. If such seeds as the chestnut, the horse-chestnut, etc. are allowed to become dry, their hard varnished shell is impervious to moisture, and this alone causes a majority of the attempts at raising such trees from the seed to fail. If they can be planted so as to be secure from mice, it is best to sow them in the autumn, so that autumn snow after they fall from the trees. If they cannot be planted in their proper position, they may be mixed with earth and kept moist until spring. Freezing will not hurt them. The elm and one or two other trees, when they are sown early in the season, that they may be planted immediately, and will make considerable growth before winter sets in. In all cases where the seed-beds are so situated that it cannot be worked up in the spring, it will usually be found best to plant all kinds in the fall, as they will sprout very early in the spring, and will make root and growth much in advance of those not planted until late in the spring. Almost any kind of forest trees may be successfully transplanted by cutting the tap root a year before the attempt is made. If one or two of the larger roots are cut at the same time, it will be more certain to prove successful.

A Word to Mothers.

Consider if your religious duty to take outdoor exercise without fail each day. Sweeping and trotting around the house will not take its place; the exhilaration of the open air and change of scene is absolutely necessary. Oh, I know all about Lucy's gown that is not finished and Tommy's jacket, and even his coat—his buttonless coat thrown into your lap, as if to add the last ounce to the camel's back; still I say, up! It is not more important that your children in their teens should be left motherless and that they should not be born to that feeble constitution of body which will blight every blessing! Let buttons and strings go. You will take him with you more vigor and patience when you return, bright and refreshed; and if every stick is not finished at such a moment—and it is discouraging not to be able to sympathize in your best effort—still remember that "she who hath done well" is entitled to no credit. Your husband is undoubtedly the best man that there are; but he is a malicious person who might answer that that was not saying much for him. Still, he would never, to the end of time, dream of what we are doing for. So accept my advice and take the matter in hand yourself.

Freely Forgive.

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