

THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

The Housewife. What has this woman been doing, so long since the morning began? I don't believe she can remember...

TIMELY TOPICS.

It appears by a recent report that 88,000 children are employed in factories in Germany.

The English amateur athletes are much heavier than those of the last generation, a difference which is supposed to be caused by the increased consumption of meat.

The building of the Bartholdi statue for New York harbor is going on steadily in Paris. Nearly all the money required is in the treasurer's hands, and the figure will be completed long before 1881.

A boy in the Ohio house of refuge, cut short at dinner by the guard's command, "Attention," hastily tossed a chunk of beef into his mouth, and tried to swallow it; but it was too big to go down, and he choked to death.

A Naples paper has the following paragraph: "Nicolo Corridi, of Corfu, furnishes in twenty-four hours a complete comedy; in forty-eight hours, a tragedy or the libretto of an opera; in seventy-two hours, an entire poem, in stanzas of six verses, with the exclusion of any particular letter or letters of the alphabet."

What distant objects appear to be unusual in our air may be looked for, because when the air has nearly reached saturation there is a cessation of those vapor movements by which the air is rendered in some degree obscure.

"Last year," says the Iron, "the output of coal in Great Britain and Ireland was 132,000,000 tons. A cubic mile is equal to 147,198,000 cubic feet, and allowing 29 1/2 cubic feet of coal in the solid to weigh a ton, we have 5,000,000,000 tons of coal in a cubic mile, and this is a greater weight than has yet been raised in the British Islands."

Mr. Darwin has carried out a series of successful experiments to test the question whether carnivorous plants really benefit by the insects they capture and kill. About two hundred plants of Drosera rotundifolia were cultivated in plates during most of last summer.

How a Turk's House is Divided.

A Turkish house is divided into two parts—the selamluk for the men, the haremlik for the women; and the latter has as many separate suites of apartments as there are ladies. A Turk who has but one wife may require a large haremlik if his mother and sisters live with him, for each of these ladies must have her private set of rooms and servants for her separate use.

America's Arable Soil.

It is not generally known, even in cultivated circles, that the amount of arable soil in America is greater than in Europe, Asia and Africa put together, and therefore can sustain more lives.

TALLEST PAIR IN THE WORLD.

Captain and Mrs. Bates—How They Live, and Other Interesting Particulars.

In the St. Paul (Minn.) Press is found an interview with the two largest people in the world, which, for the peculiarity of the details and the vividness with which they are given, is quite interesting.

Captain Martin Van Buren Bates was born in Whitesburg, Letcher county, Ky., November 9, 1846. He is seven feet eleven and one-half inches in height and weighs 478 pounds.

Nature, as usual, did not propose to do things by halves, and in 1849 Miss Anna H. Swan was born in Colchester county, Nova Scotia, and, as the sequel shows, she was intended as companion for the big boy.

Both the lady and gentleman are perfectly proportioned, every member corresponding and aiding to produce a symmetrical but colossal figure.

Captain Bates is a perfect Apollo in figure and quite a Chesterfield in manner. He has a frank, pleasant face, giving clear indication of the massive heart within him.

Captain and Mrs. Bates are people of more than ordinary intelligence, and show that they have improved the opportunities they have had for acquiring information of people and places during their extended travels.

"Do you think you have stopped growing, captain?" asked the reporter. "Well, I hope I have, I have reached the height of my ambition and have got things pretty well fixed to enjoy life as I am now."

Reporter—Were you brought up to any business? Captain—I am a thorough granger. I was brought up on a farm and now I own one myself at Seville, Medina county, Ohio. I have 161 acres in fine shape and take great pride in it.

Reporter—You have a giant's castle on it? Captain—Yes, we have a pretty good house; the lower story is twelve and one-half feet in height and the upper one twelve feet; our doorways are eight and one-half feet high, while ordinarily they are seldom over six and one-half feet.

Reporter—In every room you have chairs for my wife and myself, but of course we have our many furniture for our friends and servants. Our own furniture was made expressly for us by Herndon, of Cleveland. The bedstead is eight feet and four inches long and five feet six inches in width.

Reporter—Where you have been since you left the farm? Captain—I served in the Fifth Kentucky in '61 during the war. Confederate, you know; but I was in one of the bravest brigades the world ever saw.

Reporter—The ready-made goods stores are of but little use to you, captain. Captain—Not a bit. There is not a single garment or article I use but what has to be made especially for me.

Reporter—Did you ever hear of any person so large as yourself? Captain—No, sir. I am satisfied that I am the biggest man in the world, and probably as large as ever was born.

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for by the Bible. I claim that we know nothing of their base measurement, and that the standard has increased since those times, so that a cubit might have been a very small measure of length.

Reporter—Excuse my inquisitiveness, but how many yards of silk are there in the dress you wear? Mrs. Bates—Well, this is rather scant—there are only sixty-five yards in it.

On returning to London they found an order from the queen awaiting them, requiring them to present themselves at Buckingham Palace at one o'clock on the 21st.

At the appointed time they were graciously received, there being present the Princesses Louise and Beatrice and the lords and ladies.

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The Social Weaver.

The social weaving-bird of the Orange river region of southern Africa is too remarkable a member of this family to be passed unnoticed, though its extraordinary structure has often been described by African travelers.

Reporter—I presume that you are the tallest lady in the world. Mrs. Bates—While we were abroad the most eminent physicians and scientists assured me that there was never before a lady within eighteen inches of my height.

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