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Some French writers frankly admit that their race is losing vigor.

The subject of lengthening the Presidential term to six or eight years is again being agitated.

The Prohibitionists claim a gain of seventy-five per cent in 1888, as compared with 1881.

"In the soup" is a new phrase which is having a large run in the East. Everything which is unsuccessful is "in the soup."

The number of weddings in this country just at present shows that our young people are determined to find out whether marriage is a failure or not.

The New York World estimates that during the past six months 150 persons have been swallowed up in the great city, leaving not a trace behind them.

Wealth in the South is estimated to have increased fully fifteen per cent during the past eight years, and great industrial development is now in progress.

Some large orders for steel rails have lately been placed, and the Manufacturer's Record ventures the prediction that the demand for rails during 1889 will be active.

Australia is deliberately encouraging the introduction of baseball as a popular sport. "Perhaps," says the Chicago Tribune, "it may assist her to forget her rabbits."

A Vermont legislator has introduced a bill providing for the furnishing at public cost of clothing for children who are unable to attend school for lack thereof. Why, he suggests, not clothing as well as books?

The recent storm destroyed many lives on the Northern Atlantic coast and saved many lives in the South. It wrecked scores of good ships, but it routed the yellow fever. It is an ill wind that blows nobody good.

Cremation is all right in theory, declares the Detroit Free Press, but the advocates go back on it in practice. There have been several cases lately where officers of societies have died and left instructions to be buried in the regular way.

Francis Murphy, who has been laboring in the temperance field for twelve years, estimates that 14,000,000 persons have signed the pledge under his crusade, and that of these eighty-five per cent have remained faithful to their vows.

The Cincinnati Enquirer asserts that Presidents of the United States do not like extraordinary sessions of Congress at the opening of their Administrations. It forces the burden on them too quickly, before they are fairly seated in the saddle.

The Boston Traveller suggests, as a reason why an extra session should be called by the new Administration, provided it has a margin in the House, that many of the Republican Representatives are very old and may die before December of 1889.

"He who wishes to keep abreast with the march of science to-day," recently observed Professor Elisha Gray, "must leave the college and go to the workshop, and into the dark corners of private laboratories, for investigators rarely have time to write, so that text books are years behind the science itself."

Chinamen usually die young, and when one reaches fifty-five or sixty he is conceded to have reached a great age. It is rarely that they reach the age of one hundred; but there was a woman named Lung Sing Pau in China who lived to one hundred and two years old, dying 10 years ago. She was considered the oldest woman in China.

The new law relating to Presidential elections fixes the second Monday in January as the day on which the electors shall meet to cast their ballots for President. Another change requires the Governors of the States to forward to the Secretary of State at Washington the vote cast for each elector certified to by the State Board of Canvassers.

Dumors of war are again cropping up in Europe. The five great powers have 12,000,000 of armed men ready at a moment's notice to fly at one another's throats. And there is absolutely nothing to fight for—there is no great principle involved. The whole thing would assume a ludicrous aspect, were it not so very sad and serious. And this, explains the Epoch, is nineteenth century civilization!

There is much disappointment among Canadian contractors over the award by the Government of the Gallop Rapids contract, amounting to \$500,000, and the failure to award the Canal Contract, \$1,350,000, to a syndicate composed largely of Canadian contractors. It is said a syndicate of American contractors had secured the contract, and the Canadian contractor had been deceived.

THE RANSOM WAS PAID.

On the helpless Finnish village of Alva, a woman and child were held captive. The ransom was paid, and they were freed.

Another instant and Dr. Howard and the child were both down in the mud of the street, and the dangerous creature was at bay.

What were you going when the accident happened? asked the doctor. Odds-and-Ends was silent.

THE OPAL RING.

"If you please, sir, Mrs. Maginnis says she came to wash windows to-day, because she is sick, and wants to know would you be kind enough to come and see her, and please keep the job till she gets well."

"Well, they call me 'Odds-and-Ends' mostly, but my right name is Margaret. 'Odds-and-Ends! Well, I declare! But upon my word, Odds-and-Ends, you are a queer-looking genius. Where do you live?'"

"Down there in Crazy alley, rear of No. 9, second entry, up four flights, through a long entry, to the left." "There, there! That will do, Miss Odds-and-Ends! But now tell me, little one," he asked kindly, "are you impervious to the cold, or do you prefer to go without stockings in December? Do you know that you are inviting croup, diptheria, pneumonia, rheumatism, cramps and what not, by dressing in that fashion?"

"I don't know, sir; but this is all I have. I was never sick in all my life, only once, when I had the measles, and once again, when I had the measles, and I guess the measles had me! Everybody thought I'd die, I was so very sick—but I didn't," she added, archly.

WAS THE RANSOM WAS PAID.

him and stepped into his carriage to make his daily round of calls; but first of all he drove to the squalid abode of Mrs. Maginnis, for Dr. Howard was never known to neglect the humblest child of earth, when such were sick and suffering.

But all that day, and many subsequent days the good doctor was haunted by the wistful eyes of the strange child whose way in life seemed to him so hard and unnatural. He inquired of Mrs. Badger many times to know if she had seen or learned any more of quaint little Odds-and-Ends; but Mrs. B. declared she had not seen hide nor hair of her since the morning she brought the message from Mrs. Maginnis, and that hard working woman had lost the run of her entirely.

It was a whole year from that time when one evening Dr. Howard was hurrying along a crowded thoroughfare. He was startled by a sudden cry and a confusion of voices, as a runaway horse dragging the remnant of a carriage came leaping and plunging along the street.

Another instant and Dr. Howard and the child were both down in the mud of the street, and the dangerous creature was at bay. "Where were you going when the accident happened?" asked the doctor.

"Margaret! Margaret!" he said in a tremulous voice, "take this bank-note to your mother, and leave me the ring." "Haven't you made a mistake, sir? This bill has fifty on it."

Along the Eurasian coast, stretching for hundreds of miles, are the famous beds of nitrate of soda, which purified is saltpetre. These deposits, more profitable than silver or gold, were discovered accidentally by a vagrant named George Smith, but were not operated upon until recent years.

A FOX HUNT IN ENGLAND

A VIVID ACCOUNT OF THE OUTDOOR SPORT OF THE RICH. A pack of hounds was out on a hunt in England, and the scene was described in detail.

Each hound is named and a correct pedigree kept, in some cases running back to six generations. When puppies, they are farmed out to farmers and other living within a six or seven mile radius, where they are kept till a year old.

The regular season opens in October, when a postal from the kennels notifies all subscribers to the pack where the meet will occur for one week ahead.

A Partridge's Language and Reasoning Power. A Bangor (Me.) correspondent of the Lewiston Journal says: There is not a schoolboy of fifteen years of age, who lives in a rural district, but knows that the partridge not only has a language, but has great reasoning power, too.

Deposits of Soda. Along the Eurasian coast, stretching for hundreds of miles, are the famous beds of nitrate of soda, which purified is saltpetre. These deposits, more profitable than silver or gold, were discovered accidentally by a vagrant named George Smith, but were not operated upon until recent years.

There is an unwritten law, which is never violated, that if a fox gets away from its pursuers after any kind of a run, giving the hounds a chance to rest and beat another cover, and they unlearn the same again, the hounds are beaten off and the fox goes free, having earned his life by out-footing, or more likely out-witting, his pursuers.

The total number of European troops in English India in 1888 was 61,015, and the average death rate per 1000 was 15.17. In the province of Bengal there were 39,000 men, and the death rate was 15.5.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

Recipe for Liquid Shoe Blacking. A recipe for making liquid shoe blacking is given, including ingredients like Berax, four ounces; shellac, one and one-half ounces; extract of log-wood, six ounces; bichromate of potash, three drachms; water, two gallons.

Cleaning Furs. Now that the season has arrived for wearing fur garments, some of our readers will doubtless be glad to learn how such garments are cleaned and renovated in Russia, the country of furs.

How Flour Can Be Saved. A more general use of corn meal for the table is a good suggestion in the way of piecing out the food barrel, especially among families and sustaining preparations can be made therefrom.

Apple fritters.—Make a batter of the yolks of three eggs well beaten, one gill of milk, four heaping tablespoons of flour, one teaspoonful of salt, and mix.

English Mutton Broth.—Cut into very small pieces one half a pound of cold mutton and an onion and put them in a saucepan, adding one-half an ounce of butter.

Roast Goose.—Obtain a young, fat goose, clean and prepare it for roasting, putting on top a small portion of butter and a little salt, pouring in the pan a quart of water, and let it remain for an hour.

Young Wife (at a party).—"You are improving wonderfully as a dancer. Don't you remember how you used to tear my dresses?" Young Husband.—"Yes; I wasn't buying 'em then."—P. B. Gilmore.

A SONG TO THE NAMELESS.

There are singers enough for the lofty, On Ambition's exclusive plain, My lay is for the lowly.

Modern Grease.—Lard. Usually dark as pitch. Tar. A play-thing.—The piano. Human gimlets.—Society bores.

Humor of the Day. Modern Grease.—Lard. Usually dark as pitch. Tar. A play-thing.—The piano.

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