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According to the latest statistics there are 100,000 insane persons in the United States—a ratio of one to every 550 inhabitants.

More women in proportion to population are employed in industrial occupation in England than in any other European country. Twelve per cent. of the industrial classes are females.

The King of Italy wants to be Emperor, too, and thinks of making himself "Emperor of Erythraea and Eastern Africa," on the strength of his protectorate of Abyssinia and some colonies on the Red Sea.

Officers in Germany, when complaints are made to them that they have injured some private interest while they are commanding military exercises, announce that "they are responsible to the Emperor only." The citizens are getting very sick of this, as it seems to allow them no recourse whatever.

The extraordinary number of suicides of children in Berlin argues special cruelty, which the Government should investigate. The statistics prove clearly that children do not take their lives except when treated with great and continued harshness. Of course there is an occasional exception in case of a morbid child, but the exception proves the rule that childhood soon forgets any sorrows save those which come every day.

Regularly every six months, it is said, the United States Treasury Department receives either a \$20 or \$50 bill which, from all appearances, instead of being made from a plate, is executed entirely with a pen. The work is of a very high order, and several times these have escaped detection and gone into circulation. The counterfeiters have not yet been discovered. He seems to work for notoriety, as he could not make a living in this manner.

Work is being vigorously pushed on the Nicaragua canal. The large plant used by Slaven, of San Francisco, on the Panama canal, has been purchased, and a new set of powerful dredges have been contracted for in Scotland. Meantime work has been carried on at the mouth of the San Carlos River, the depth of which, at the mouth, is said to have been doubled already. At the rate that work is being advanced, vessels will pass through the canal before 1895, if no unforeseen obstacles occur.

A broker of Chicago, Mr. A. B. Russell, has incorporated an institution known as the National Tonsorial Parlor Company, with a capital stock of \$25,000. Barber shops are to be established in all the large cities of the United States, to be owned and controlled by the company. Tickets of membership will be issued for a sum comparatively small, probably \$15, which will be good for one year and which will entitle the holder to all the service required for that length of time in any city included in the trust.

The increase in railway mileage in this country during the first six months of the year was 1895 miles. This, in the opinion of the Chicago News, is accounted highly creditable. More miles of railroad have been constructed in the Southern States than in any other section of the country. The Northwestern States and Territories, where construction went on rapidly for awhile, have nearly stopped building. Massachusetts laid but a mile and a half of new road, Maine about ten miles; the other New England States stood still. California gained one mile.

In some hospitals in Europe it is customary to allow visitors to converse on certain days by means of a telephone in a waiting room with patients in the wards, and this arrangement has been found to work admirably, as it not infrequently happens that the nervous state of the patient, or the possibility of infection of the visitor renders closer communication inadvisable. It is now suggested by a New York physician that telephones be placed on the islands in the bay used for infectious diseases, so that the patients can be cheered by occasional oral communication with their friends.

There is nothing to be surprised at in the story that an establishment has been discovered in Paris where imitations of the pictures of the great French painter Courbet are turned out by wholesale. It has been the fortune of all the French masters, says the New York Star, to attract the attention of the forgers, and without doubt there are to-day in the galleries of the world more spurious than genuine works of Corot, Daubigny, Diaz, Courbet and Jaques, not to mention any others. Most of the pictures are as excellent, as works of art, as masters could paint, only they are not the real thing. There seems to be no way of preventing these frauds, but the picture business all over the world is being seriously discredited and damaged thereby.

UNSPOKEN WORDS.

The kindly words that rise within the heart And thrill it with their sympathetic tone, But die or spoken, fail to play their part, And claim a merit that is not their own. The kindly word unspoken is a sin, A sin that wraps itself in purest guise, And tells the heart that, doubting, looks within, That not in speech, but thought, the virtues lie. But 'tis not so; another heart may thrum For that kind word, as finger in the wild— Poor banished Hager—prayed a well might burst From out the sand to save her parching child. And loving eyes that cannot see the mind, Will watch the expected movement of the lip: Ah! can you let its cutting silence wind Around that heart and scathe it like a whip? Unspoken words, like treasures in the mine, Are valueless until we give them birth: Like unvalued gold their hidden beauties shine Which God has made to bless and glid the earth. How sad 'twould be to see a master's hand Strike glorious notes upon a voiceless lute! But oh! what pain when, at God's own command, A heart string thrills with kindness, but is mute. Then hide it not, the music of the soul, Dear sympathy, expressed with kindly voice, But let it like a shining river roll To deserts dry,—to hearts that would rejoice. Oh! let the sympathy of kindly words Sound for the poor, the friendless, and the weak; And he will bless you,—he who struck these cords Will strike another when in turn you seek. —John Boyle O'Reilly.

SERGEANT SINGLETON.

BY MRS. GREGORY PRELAT. "Guide me, oh, Thou great Jehovah," sang the powerful chorus of boys as mother played the sweet old tune upon the organ. It was an impressive and pathetic group, for soldiers filled the lower part of the park, and the sound of military music came every now and then to break the harmony of the hymn. Nothing could have daunted those fresh voices, just as nothing could have daunted their brave little hearts. They sang, as they were going to fight by and by, with courage and persistence. Wilton, the eldest, would have a grand bass note, and even now the lower notes were splendid, when they "got there." Rupert, the second, sang with a high, clear tenor, such as used to make the masses splendid in the old cathedrals at Rome. The little boys supplied a rippling treble, and the mother's tender alto made the chorus complete. She did not look like a Spartan mother, but she was trying, and not vainly, to do her part. Her two eldest were going to join in that terrible struggle, which bore so many boys away, to act the part of men, while still in the morning of life. The father was absent with a sabre at his side and epaulettes on his shoulders. All that loving and pious rearing could do had been done for them; her active work must be over for a time; she could only watch and pray! Wilton looked grown and stately in his uniform, for he was the kind of fellow to carry off a prescribed dress of any sort with dignity. Once committed to anything, he regarded himself as the exponent of the whole, and tried to reflect credit upon it. Rupert looked so young and slim and handsome that she could hardly see him through her tears, but he made a great effort to keep his own eyes dry. They were wonderful eyes, of the blue one sees in the sky when the sun is very warm and there are no clouds about. The station sounded the signal of war. The soldiers were waiting for her darlings at the second gate. "Oh! for a last inspiration," was her agonizing thought. Some one final message of love, that should remain with them through all that terrible campaign. Like a flash of answer it came to her. She stood for a moment almost transfixed in the girlish beauty, which maternity had been powerless to change. "Promise me, my sons," she cried, "that every day when the twilight comes,—no matter where you are, you will sing one verse of this hymn: 'Guide me, Oh, Thou great Jehovah.' He will guide you, if you believe and trust in Him." They promised her, and the battle cloud that swept the land bore them from her sheltering arms. The last thing they saw was her slender figure standing upon the portico, with a smile upon her beautiful face which nearly cost her heart's blood. That night they marched out of Maryland. Two years later a dark young man, in a uniform that would have been tattered but for repeated and skillful darning, stood before his commanding officer. "Well, Sergeant Singleton, what do you want?" said the veteran kindly, for the non-commissioned officer was a great favorite. "I want a leave for two days, Major, and no questions asked. I want to get back my brother, who was taken prisoner in the last skirmish. The enemy's camp, you know, is only twenty miles from here." "Do you wish to be taken and hung for a spy?" was the officer's stern answer. "Well, sir, I must run my chances, as many another fellow has done. I can't leave Rupert without making an effort to save him, and I have a scheme which is sure to work." Wilton Singleton was only nineteen, but his pluck and brains had gained for him a great deal of respect. He was a natural soldier, alert, cautious, and above all, uncompromising. "Be careful, Kiddie," called one of the

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

From the oil of grasshoppers a Spanish inventor claims to make the finest soap yet produced. White pine boards are now made by reducing small trees and limbs to pulp and pressing in molds. When galvanized iron is exposed to weather, there soon forms on the surface a coating of the oxide of zinc, which protects it from the further action of the elements. An iron elevated railway, much like the New York pattern, six miles long, is now in process of construction in Liverpool. The cars are to be worked by electricity. Air flows into a vacuum at the rate of 1335 feet per second, and steam at the rate of 2000 feet per second. It would take a column of steam eleven miles high to produce a pressure of fifteen pounds. A large vein of pure white sand, suitable for making glass, has been found near Pittsburg, Penn. The discovery will save the glass manufacturers of that city thousands of dollars annually, as they have hitherto been obliged to send across the Allegheny Mountains for their sand. More or less successful attempts have been made to graft nearly all the different tissues of the body, including skin, bone, teeth, muscle, nerves, eye, mucous membrane, etc. Dr. W. G. Thompson now reports a successful experiment in brain grafting, a small piece of the brain of a cat being made to grow on the brain of a dog. The sleep of Rip Van Winkle, or the hero of "Looking Backward," is but momentary compared with the suspension of vitality known among some of the microscopic organisms. The microscope, according to A. de Barry, may be during active geologic periods in such a rock as chalk and yet retain the power of development. A curious phenomenon is reported by the United States Consul at Maracibo, Venezuela. Near the Rio de Oro, at the base of the Sierra of the Colombian frontier, there is a horizontal cavern, which from time to time ejects huge globules of bitumen, that explode like bombs with considerable noise; and the pitch, forming a black glacier, runs into a kind of pool or lake near the river bank. Crocoite has been successfully applied as a remedy for the potato disease in Scotland. Every eye of the seed potato is touched with crocoite by means of a small camel's hair brush. The product of potatoes so treated is almost totally free from disease. Where the crocoite is not applied to all the eyes of the seed, the result is partial disease. If too much is used the seed will not germinate. It is said that the electric compass is having an excellent effect on the sailors on ships in which it has been adopted, the steering in such cases has markedly improved. The object of this invention is to indicate by an electric bell placed in the captain's cabin any deviation from the course laid down through the carelessness of the man at the wheel. This invention is likely to materially lessen dangers at sea. Hilbert's it has been possible to produce sheet glass only by blowing a hollow cylinder, which was then cut, separated and polished. A glass manufacturer in this country has now succeeded in producing glass plates of great breadth and any desired length by means of rolling. Glass thus produced is stronger, firmer and more transparent, and it has, on the upper surface, a brilliancy which makes it hardly distinguishable from art plate glass. In Germany wood with a mirror polish is coming into use for ornamental purposes in place of metal. The wood is first submitted to a bath of caustic alkali for two or three days at a temperature of about 175 degrees Fahrenheit, then dipped in hydrofluoric acid of calcium for twenty-four to thirty-nine hours, after which a concentrated solution of sulphur is added. After another dip in an aqueous solution at about 100 degrees, a shining metallic surface is given by polishing with dry lead, tin or zinc. About Pearls. Pearls have been rising in value in the European market so long, and threaten to rise so steadily, that they may soon become the costliest, as they have long been among the most elegant, ornaments of a beautiful woman. Many a jewel is more effective. The ruby is richer in color; the diamond is brighter; gold and silver are more plastic, and the latter are as full of possibilities as Reynard's bag of tricks. The pearl has but its mild satin skin, like an angel's shoulder, its rounded curve; yet its shy lustre seems to have a more permanent hold upon dainty fancy than many more vivid and more robust gems. True, it is mere carbonate of lime; its globular form comes but from the sickness of an invertebrate, and its colors are drawn not from the living fish, but from its prettiness after death. An ornament that owes its existence to nothing but disease and decay certainly draws little from sentiment, and perhaps the pearl owes more to its constant association with noble pictures of beautiful women than to its intrinsic glory. For all that, the decorative position of pearls is unassailable. In spite of their grim origin a necklace of fine pearls remains a far more refined and dainty ornament than one of the brilliants.—Chatter. The Moon-Weather Problem. From tables made by the use of synoptic charts, eliminating local disturbances, Dr. G. Meyer believes he has accomplished what other investigators have sought to do without success—show an influence of the moon on the weather. The height of the barometer, in the months of September to January, is lowered at the time of full moon and raised during first quarter. No effect can be traced for other months.

COMBATS IN THE HOUSE.

OLD-TIME FISTICUFFS IN THE LOWER BRANCH OF CONGRESS. Knock-down and Drag-out Hows of Bygone Years—How Temper Has Shown Itself in Debate. The recent "fisticuff" in the House of Representatives has had many precedents. The hand-to-hand encounter, extending back nearly fifty years, were more numerous than is supposed at this day, when political and exciting debate is not so frequent and is generally conducted with more decorum. The code was recognized in those days, and whatever may be said against "that relic of barbarism," as it was called, it made men more careful in bandying epithets, for the responsibility rested on them to accord satisfaction for personal assaults. Mr. John B. Weller, a member from Ohio, then, January, 1844, and subsequent Senator from California, assaulted and beat very severely Mr. Schriver, a reporter of the House. The assault took place in the lobby and it was construed to have been committed on the floor and on an officer of the House, and Mr. Weller was arraigned and censured. In April, 1844, there was a regular fight on the floor of Congress between John White, of Kentucky, afterward Speaker, and Mr. Rathbun, of New York. Mr. White left his seat and, coming to Rathbun's, knocked him down. A general scrimmage ensued, and Mr. Moore, a member, fired a pistol, which severely wounded an officer of the House. They were arraigned before the bar of the House, but as the wounded man was comfortably provided for, mutual apologies were accepted. In 1859 Mr. Gray, of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Branch, of North Carolina, had an altercation which resulted in a challenge, but mutual friends prevented a hostile meeting. About that time Mr. Gray and Mr. Keitt, of South Carolina, indulged in a pugilistic encounter. When they were arraigned Mr. Keitt took all the blame on himself and apologized to the House and Mr. Gray. The Hon. Robert W. Johnson, then a member of the House, came to very close quarters with H. O. B. Ficklin, of Illinois, blows were exchanged and they apologized for a momentary forgetfulness in yielding to the impulse to punish each other before the assembled wisdom of the nation. In the early fifties the Hon. Joshua R. Giddings and Hon. R. W. Meade, of Virginia, had a personal altercation, which involved respective friends. Mr. Meade seized Mr. Giddings by the neck and proceeded to twist it, when Long John Wentworth rushed in to part the belligerents, but Mr. Edmundson, of Virginia, standing on a chair to reach his tall adversary, threw himself on Wentworth, carrying him to the ground, or rather the floor. As early as 1840 Mr. Inge, of Alabama, and Edward Stanley having had on the floor of Congress some very exciting debate, a challenge passed. After the third day a reconciliation was effected. Not long after the difficulty with Mr. Inge Mr. Stanley became involved in a duel with Mr. Pickens, of South Carolina, and after a fire or two a reconciliation took place, and again Mr. Stanley was the principal in a duel with Henry A. Wise. They were on horseback and met at the race course, and Mr. Wise's horse became unmanageable and he rode against Mr. Stanley. The debate that day in the House in which they both took part was very bitter, and Mr. Stanley, supposing Mr. Wise's action was intentional, struck him with his whip. Mr. Wise returned the blow and for some seconds they belabored each other. A challenge ensued and while practicing with Mr. Stanley, the Hon. Beverly Johnson, who was his second, received the injury to his eye, of which he eventually lost the sight. A fragment of a ball rebounded from a tree and struck him in the eye. After the first fire a reconciliation was effected. In 1848 General Clingman was challenged by Yancy. They fought at Beltsville, and after one or two shots a settlement was effected. In 1855, Senator Gwin of California, challenged Henry Wilson and the matter was referred to Mr. Crittenden, Mr. Seward and Jefferson Davis and settled by them. Henry S. Foote drew a pistol on Colonel Benton in the Senate, and some Senator interfered, when Colonel Benton, baring his breast, said "Let the assassin fire." These are only a few of the many exhibitions of temper displayed in both Houses of Congress. Mr. Clay and Mr. Calhoun used most bitter expressions in debate. On one occasion Mr. Clay said, in the course of the debate, "I am the gentleman's master," and Mr. Calhoun in reply said: "My master! my master! I would not own him as a slave." Mr. Seward's intervention prevented a hostile meeting. Dixon H. Lewis, of Alabama, an enormous man in size and strength, stopped a fight on the floor of Congress by holding the belligerents at arms' length and arguing with them in very forcible terms.—Washington Star. A Turnip Seed's Increase. The seed of a globe turnip is exceedingly minute, not larger, perhaps, than the twentieth part of an inch in diameter, and yet, in the course of a few months, this seed will be elaborated by the soil and the atmosphere into twenty-seven millions of times its original bulk, and this is in addition to a considerable bunch of leaves. Dr. Desaguliers has made some experiments proving that, in an average condition, a turnip seed may increase its own weight fifteen times in a minute. By an actual experiment made on peat ground, turnips have been found to increase by growth 15,900 times the weight of their seeds each day as they stood upon it. The late Jefferson Davis, while Secretary of War under the United States Government, recommended the introduction of camels for use on the great plains. The suggestion was carried out and there are still some half-wild camels in Nevada.

BROTHERS.

Spider. At my window spinning, Weaving circles wider, wider, From the left beginning. Running Rings and spokes until you Build your silken death-trap cunning. Shall I catch you, kill you? Sprawling, Nimble, shrewd as Circe, Death's your only aim and calling, Why should you have mercy? Strike those! Not for rapine willful, Man himself is too much like thee, Only not so skillful. Rife in These lives our Creator, Thou'rt a shape to hold a life in, I am nothing greater. —George Horton, in Chicago Herald. HUMOR OF THE DAY. Licked for two cents—A postage stamp. Fancy work—Building castles in the air. Where there is no liquor—In prison bars. "He was a great boy. He was in for everything." "He's in for five years, now."—Chatter. You can generally get a point on insect life by making yourself familiar with the bee.—Texas Siftings. There are a good many things that go without saying, but woman is not one of them.—St. Joseph News. While we have so many lakes in this country, there is only one that is really Superior.—Texas Siftings. In early days the schoolmaster "boarded around" himself, but he slung the boys.—Texas Siftings. "Mamma, let me hold the baby, will you?" "No, dear; mother is afraid you might let him fall on Fido."—Life. It is often impossible to distinguish a silence from wisdom, because they are frequently the same thing.—Dallas News. Don't weep, for animals! Within all moisture squirm; Don't sigh, because your breathing may Communicate a germ. —Toronto Empire. It is an awful strain on a woman's patience to have a husband who thinks he knows how to cook.—Terre Haute Express. Nothing delights a small man so much as to have a chance to call a greater man in public by his first name.—Sourville Journal. Time is the essence of all contracts, except when you endeavor to contract for a suit of clothes on time.—Jeweler's Circular. Impressionable Charlie (to elderly beauty)—"Will you be mine?" Elderly Beauty—"No, Charlie, but I'll be a mother to you."—Lippincott's. A sheriff seized a college for debt some time ago, and an inventory led to the discovery that the assets consisted of a first-class ulster.—Binghamton Leader. Woman may be a trusting creature, and all that, but she isn't apt to be deceived into giving too much credit to another woman.—Elmira Gazette. The man who knows everything labors under a misapprehension. He seems to think that everybody wants to hear everything. He is wrong.—Dallas News. The shortest day is generally believed to be December 21; yet there are many who say that the day before pay day is the shortest day.—Jeweler's Circular. Your faults to others you should never mention. Your friends will give that duty due attention. —Philadelphia Times. She (nervously)—"What do you think of my biscuits, dear?" He—"H'm! I don't care exactly for give an off-hand opinion on weighty subjects."—Bazar. Mrs. Petyer—"Don't you think it is very remarkable that a swan should sing before dying?" Judge Petyer—"Not so much so as I would if they sang after dying."—Texas Siftings. "I don't believe in allowing domestics to get the upper hand. I make my servant keep her place!" "You are lucky. Ours never does for more than three weeks."—American Grocer. Benevolent Person—"I hope you treat your horses well and give them plenty of hay." Driver—"Well, I can't afford to buy 'em much of it, but I say they! to them as often as I can."—Light. "Leave the house," said the irate debtor. "I couldn't hope to take the house with me, with so heavy a mortgage on it," retorted the creditor.—"He did take it later on."—Manny's Backy. "Good intentions are often thwarted in the most mysterious ways." The young man remarked when his best girl succeeded just as he was on the point of kissing her.—Darlington Free Press. "But, sir, to kiss A miss Is wrong, you see." "I do not kiss Any." "When I kiss thee" —Washington Post. "Do you share the common idea that a yel ow clarionet is unlucky?" asked an amateur theatrical performer of a Mr. Blykins. "I do emphatically unless they sound very differently from the other kind."—Washington Post. "Dear me, I hope it ain't serious!" said old Mrs. Bunker. "What's the matter?" "Ethel says in her letter that she and her husband had a row on the lake Saturday afternoon." "Pooh! that ain't no row row. It's row row."—Harper's Bazar. "Do you believe in healing by touch?" asked Miss De Price. "Indeed I do," replied De Blake. "I met Tom Tight-punch to-day limping along and complaining of the gout. I touched him for a few and he skipped off as though he had never been ill a day in his life."—Chicago Times. The collective length of the London streets would reach over 32,000 miles.

HOW WOMEN KILL FLOWERS.

It is a peculiar fact that some women kill flowers within twenty minutes after they are adjusted to the corsage. Others will wear them for hours and they will look as fresh as when they were first pinned on. A florist said: "Women wear flowers sometimes because they are vain, not because they love them. Flowers are alive and it chills them to lay near the heart that has no love for them. They droop and mourn themselves to death, because they know there is nothing in common between them and the wearer. They are like little children; they love those who love them, and their best, brightest beauty is given to the woman who pins the bouquet on through her love for the flowers." A physician said: "Certainly some women can kill flowers within a very few minutes. It is a sure indication that a poisonous vapor is escaping from the body to a great degree. It may be the result of disease, or it may be that bathing and proper care of the skin are neglected. The body that is kept in wholesome cleanliness will give new life to the flowers. A magnetic strength is carried from the wearer to the flower, and long after the woman is weary with an afternoon's shopping or calling the flowers will smile back at her with her own strength. She gives life to the flowers through the sweetness of her own body. There is such a difference in women about the care of the person. Some of our best dressed and wealthiest ladies are the most negligent. They seem to have no pride. There is nothing more discernible than this disregard. They are either ignorant or unconscious of this fact, or else they are without the pride that should go with intelligence. Flowers cannot live in the poisonous vapor and they betray the secret of invisible neglect by soon drooping."—Chicago Herald. An Emperor's Earache. Referring to the chronic earache from which the Emperor of Germany suffers, Harold Frederic says in the New York Times: "Just what the affliction is no one has yet been able to determine. It grows worse in cold and wet weather, and that is about all that is known of it. The physicians disagree as to its character. Will iam himself, though at times suffering acutely from it, has never been alarmed about it, and really believes it to be a local ailment. Its existence naturally enough suffices to create a certain uneasiness in the minds of his friends, and of Germans generally, but I cannot learn that any responsible professional men regard it as necessarily dangerous. This year it is said to be less troublesome than usual." Antidote for a Bee's Sting. A correspondent of the Leeds (Eng land) Mercury writes: As beekeepers experienced and inexperienced, are now operating on their stocks stings will frequently be received. One of the most simple and effective antidotes I am acquainted with is to poison a piece of washing soda and rub the sting part with it. If this is done at once it will remove the pain and prevent swelling. Whenever I go to do anything to the bees, I invariably put a piece of soda in my waistcoat pocket.