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China's Emperor has got tired of counting with the abacus and is now studying English arithmetic.

The six new States, Idaho, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Washington and Wyoming, will have, collectively, twenty votes in the next Electoral College.

A New York preacher, who preaches among the most ignorant of the city's population, employs many devices to enforce his meaning—using rats, frogs, pumps, snakes, electricity, and chemicals in object sermons.

The Australian city of Melbourne, which was founded less than fifty years ago, has already a population of nearly half a million, and stands fifth among the cities of the British empire. It is now a great shipping port, and its slum quarter is small.

Slavery still exists in Portuguese India. A Brahmin, at Kalloda, possesses a village of thirty-two hut, where every soul is as truly his slave and property as in the olden days; and recently a Portuguese, traveling from Goa, spoke openly of the slaves on his estate.

No colors can be "nailed to the mast-head" of a new steel warship. Doubtless, suggests the Chicago Herald, Secretary Tracy and Clark Russell and the gallant jack tars of naval tradition may feel one pang of regret at this impenetrability of a metallic mast. Fortunately the metallic bulwarks are equally impenable.

Aconite seems to be the favorite poison of physicians who seek to take their lives. The death by this means of Dr. Douglas, in Kansas City, Mo., will recall to the memory of newspaper readers the fact that within the last six months there have been four or five cases reported of medical men who have committed suicide by the use of this same drug.

A curious fact revealed by the figures of the recent census is that while there are in the United States three cities of over 1,000,000 inhabitants each, one of between 800,000 and 900,000, three of between 400,000 and 500,000 each, and nine of between 200,000 and 300,000 each, there is not a single one having between 300,000 and 400,000 inhabitants.

A Russian journal reports an interesting case of a philanthropic physician. Visiting the patients of his district, the doctor found that in many instances their sickness was caused by hunger. To the most needy he prescribed six pounds of pure rye flour in doses of two pounds a day. He ordered his patient to get the medicine at the drug store of the nearest village, where it would be issued free of charge every day. The good doctor made arrangements with the druggists to supply the flour at his expense. In this way his patients will be kept from starvation the whole winter.

According to the Boston Cultivator the wood cutters of England strongly object to the methods of the Salvation Army in interfering in their business. One of the avocations to which General Booth has assigned a part of the outcasts and unfortunates he is reclaiming is that of wood cutters. The enterprise, backed up by benevolent contributions, has been extremely successful, so that General Booth is now one of the largest wood merchants of London. He is, of course, able to undersell those with smaller capital who have no one to set them up in business. What is needed for England is not greater competition, for it is that which has overthrown them. They need a country where competition is less fierce and the chances of success for small capitalists are greater.

An American boatbuilder who has just built a small steamboat for the Magdalena River, in the United States of Colombia, says: "They get \$2.50 per 100 or freight 380 miles, and \$60 for passengers, \$10 extra if they take a room, but there is hardly one who wants a room. They all carry their bed with them. It consists of a straw mat. You fill see them come aboard with beds under their arms. Along this river there some very fine land. Everything grows without aid. They never plow hoe, but just put the seed in the ground and go off and leave it till it gets up. They can raise three crops of corn, and fine potatoes. Vegetation of a kind grows the year round. The soil is just the same, never varies than ten degrees. It is now seven degrees. Mosquitoes and alligators are plentiful on the river. It is to see the monkeys playing on the rocks, and the alligators there no

DREAMING OF HOME.

It comes to me often in silence.
When the fire light sputters low—
When the black uncertain shadows
Seem wreaths of the long ago;
Always with a throb of heartache
That thrills each pulsive vein,
Comes the old, unquiet longing,
For the peace of home again.
I'm sick of the roar of cities,
And of faces cold and strange;
I know where there's warmth of welcome,
And my yearning fancies range
Back to the dear old homestead,
With an aching sense of pain,
But there'll be joy in the coming,
When I go home again.
When I go home again there's music
That never may die away,
And it seems the hands of angels,
On a mystic harp, at play.
Have touched with a yearning madness
On a beautiful broken strain,
To which is my fond heart worshipping—
When I go home again.
Outside of my darkening window
Is the great world's crash and din,
And slowly the autumn shadows
Come drifting, drifting in.
Bobbing, the night wind murmurs
To the splash of the autumn rain;
But I dream of the glorious greeting
When I go home again.
—Eugene Field, in Chicago News.

A WEDDING PRESENT.

BY CLARENCE C. CONVERSE.

ACK BROWNELL and Hugh Morris, two chums of mine, and I were roughing it West. The camp we had selected for our headquarters was far up in the wild-est part of Colorado, and only number a baker's dozen of old, almost tumble-down log cabins. They were stretched along the eastern edge of a deep and picturesque ravine along whose base its sturdy denizens sunk their gloomy-looking shafts. Our cabin stood a little removed from its neighbors, up the ravine. The view from its doorstep was magnificent. The rugged peaks of tall mountains towered at the west, forming an admirable frame for its grand sunsets; at the east lay inviting green valleys broken by oddly winding passes, while here and there rose slighter peaks in fine contrast with their emerald beauty.

We sat about the doorstep one night reading the mail the stage had just brought. I had two letters, Jack and Hugh's, each one. Hugh finished his first, and when I had read mine I saw he was regarding Jack with apparent interest and amusement. Jack's face was brightening more and more, every word he read of his dainty, scented little message. He was a handsome fellow then. His head was crowned with wavy, golden hair; he wore no beard, his eyes were large, dark brown, and his build was almost faultless. "Is it from Dresden?" finally ventured Hugh. Jack nodded. We smiled. Then he turned one of the leaves nearly upside down and kept on reading. The next page, too, had writing up its side, as we told by his tilting it; but that was the end, and he exclaimed: "Boys, I am the happiest fellow in the glorious United States! Do you congratulate me?" "I never knew you two cared for each other," cried Hugh, jumping at the conclusion Jack's words hinted. "And now you say you are open to congratulations! Do you really mean it?" I also stammered something, I forgot just what.

"Yes, the heart of sterner Papa Hastings was melted by my fervid supplications," cried Jack, tossing his hat into the air, boyishly. "Now you two know the secret reason why I have lost ten pounds avoirdupois in the last three weeks. It was not my climbing these perpendicular hillsides. The old ogre wanted to force Belle into marrying some lout of a lord over there. It is a wonder I have not gone stark, staring mad." He opened the little billet-doux and read: "His name is Claverhouse, and he has two or more castles, and is one of the most illustrious of the nobles of the land, and I put my foot down against marrying him. I would rather die!" Jack stopped there, blushing hotly, and decided not to read further. "I feel as good as I would if I happened on a ton of gold up in the hills," he exclaimed. "If we were in New York I would take you fellows down to Del's and give you the best supper he could serve."

"But as we are not!" queried Hugh. "Come in and burn a pipeful of boot-top tobacco with me," he laughingly exclaimed. He lazily led the way into our little cabin as he spoke, and soon we were sitting around the shaky table puffing our corn-cobs and chatting merrily about Jack's good news, a cloud of blue smoke hanging over our heads. "Somehow this subject suggests one I have intended to broach three or four times before," said Hugh, after a while. "No; it isn't anything like Jack's announcement," he added, as we started to joke him. Slowly he knocked the ashes from his pipe by striking it against the edge of the table, and then tilted his box—that cabin had never known a chair—against the wall. He had an unruly mustache, and he tugged at it as he said: "Monti, I

foolish enough to think only the story book greaser was a villain. Now I place no reliance on one of them." We drilled and blasted the rest of the day, and that rock-pocket yielded enough gold for a really massive solid table-set for a present to Belle Hastings. —Fankle Blade.

The Utilization of Niagara.

It is quite likely that the first large contract the company will take for the delivery of power at a distance from its central station will be to light the city of Buffalo. This will require 3000 horse power. The present value of a horse power generated from steam in Buffalo is \$35 per annum. The company is now willing to contract to furnish on its grounds at Niagara Falls horse power per annum of twenty-four-hour days at these rates: For 5000 horse power, \$10 per horse power; for 4500, \$10.50; for 4000, \$11; and on down to 300 horse power, for which there will be charged \$21 per horse power per annum. If there be not a very great loss of power in the transmission to Buffalo, it seems very likely that the company will have no difficulty in underbidding any concern now using steam as the motive power for the electric lights, as the loss by transmission is considerably less than twenty per cent. About the use of water power of the great falls in Buffalo within a year or so there can be no doubt. When it shall be brought to New York is another matter, but about that there are not so many elements of improbability as to excite men to scoff, for power has already been transmitted electrically a great distance, and that too with reasonable economy. At the recently held electrical exposition at Frankfort-on-the-Main, power to operate some of the machinery was transmitted by electricity from Lauffen-on-the-Neckar, a distance of 108 miles. At Lauffen there was a waterfall from which a turbine was opened, and a dynamo on the shaft of the turbine generated the current which was transmitted to Frankfort over a wire one-sixth of an inch in diameter. It was found here that the loss in transmission was only twenty-five per cent. Therefore it is likely that the power can be transmitted four times the distance without a loss so great as to make the scheme impracticable. When it does reach the great city, and by the water which leaves its natural channel for a brief space in the Niagara River, our streets lighted, our factories run, the machine of the seamstress kept in motion, and the very drill the dentist uses to bore our teeth impelled by it, then we shall more than ever feel that around the earth has been placed a girdle, a living belt that throbs and pulsates at the bidding of science, an encircling band rich in the potentialities of mightily but well regulated movement. —Harper's Weekly.

Fee of \$200 for Advice of One Word.

Not long ago Mr. Morris Butler, son of John M. Butler, who had just arrived home from an evening party at 2 o'clock in the morning, heard a carriage drive up to the house, and a moment later answered a ring at the door bell. A young man of handsome face and energetic manner blurted out without ceremony: "What States can cousins legally marry in?" "I don't know," said Mr. Butler, as soon as he could recover from the effects of his visitor's bluntness, "but I will ask father."

He went up stairs and, after much knocking, aroused his father. "Father," said he, "what States can cousins legally marry in?" "Kansas," was the single word in response, between what sounded suspiciously like snores. Mr. Butler returned down stairs. "Well, what does he say?" asked the visitor. "Kansas," replied young Mr. Butler, laconically. "Thank you!" The door was closed and the young visitor was gone. Nothing further was thought of the incident until yesterday's mail brought Mr. Butler a certified check for \$200 for "legal advice" from his hitherto unknown client. This is probably the highest rate per word ever paid for legal advice. It divides into \$100 per syllable and \$33.33 per letter. —Indianapolis News.

Home-Loving Bees.

It appears, from a letter from one who knows, that the black fellows of Australia knew long ago of the home-loving instincts of the bee, and made use of the knowledge thus: They used to wait till they spied a bee sucking honey from a flower, and then gently dropped upon his back a piece of swansdown. The bee, immediately feeling something was amiss with him, started for home, perhaps to seek a bee doctor's advice as to this strange malady. Owing to the little bit of white upon his back, the keen eyes of the natives were able to follow the insects in his homeward flight, running, of course, their hardest to keep pace with him. At last he reached his desired haven, and then the natives knew where the honey was hidden, and, of course, availed themselves of this knowledge to help themselves to as much as they wished for. —London Pictorial.

Bamboo Cuts Are Painful.

A cut inflicted with a blade of grass or a sheet of writhing paper is bad enough, but the most disagreeable wound that can be inflicted on the human body is that made with a strip of bamboo. The outside of the bamboo contains so much silica that it will cut like a knife; in fact, the Chinese and Japanese do make knives of it, which are cheap and for a time tolerably effective. A cut made with bamboo is exceedingly hard to heal and often results in a permanent scar. —Boston Transcript.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

A cushion car wheel is new. Petroleum block fuel is successful. Germany stands at the front in electrical science. German physicians report several cures of whooping cough by inoculation. A naturalist says that of all animals the horse has the acute sense of hearing.

HABITS OF THE GORILLA.

THE MOST FORMIDABLE ANIMAL IN EXISTENCE. Gorillas Live in Family Groups—Their Appearance and Great Strength—Pierce Fighters. The gorilla is probably the most formidable animal in existence. Imagine a man six feet two inches in height and measuring four feet and a half across the shoulders. Give him a girth about the chest of seventy inches, and arms long enough to reach nearly to his ankles when he stands erect. Make him muscular in proportion, with huge canine tusks and a jaw strong enough to crush a rifle barrel. Suppose him to have no neck, an immense body, very short bow-legs, long black hair all over his body, a flat nose and feet like hands. There you have a fair description of a gorilla of the largest size. Ordinarily these animals do not exceed five feet in height, with a breadth of four feet across the shoulders. Much as they resemble men when grown, they are much more human in appearance during the early stage of their being, having a likeness to babies in many ways that is most striking. Gorillas live in family groups, each consisting of a male, one female and her young. They do not frequent the same sleeping-place often, usually spending the night where they happen to be. Choosing a full-grown tree to build a lodging in, they bend the branches together at a height of twenty feet or more, thus making a sort of bed, which they cover with twigs torn off for the purpose or with leaf-moss. The male spends the night, crouching at the foot of the tree, against which he places his back, in this way remaining on guard to protect the female and young in the nest above from attack by leopards. These powerful carnivora are always ready to devour any species of ape they can capture.

In the daytime the gorilla family roams about the forest seeking food. In walking the animals totter along in a swinging gait, supporting themselves partly by resting the knuckles of the weaker hands upon the ground. Much of their locomotion, however, is accomplished by climbing from tree to tree. They are very skillful climbers, and if one branch does not seem sufficiently strong to bear their weight, they will use three or four at once. As soon as a young male reaches maturity a conflict with the master ensues between himself and his father, which results in a final settlement of the ownership of the family, the weaker one being either killed or driven away. The male gorilla arrogates to himself the same right to labor which is assumed by human savages. His business is fighting, exclusively, and he does not usually condescend even to gather food, his wife and children collecting fruits and other delicacies for him to devour. If they are not sufficiently nimble in this employment he shows his resentment by growling and boxing their ears.

When he fights he stands erect upon his hind legs, the hair on his head and the nape of his neck bristling, his frightful teeth displayed, and his forehead wrinkling with a fearful scowl. At the same time he beats his mighty chest resounding blows with his fists and utters most terrific yells of "K-h-ah, k-h-ah," which makes the forest re-echo. He parries blows with the dexterity of a practiced boxer, and his method of attack is usually to seize his human adversary by the arm, crushing the limb in his teeth; or he throws the man down and rends him with his huge canines. The best thing that the hunter can do at close quarters is to permit the beast to close the barrel of the gun, which will kill at once carry to its mouth. Thus directed, a bullet is likely to be a settler. Otherwise, the gorilla will quickly crush the gun barrel between his teeth and proceed thereupon to wipe out his opponent. To run away is an impossibility in the thick woods.

The course black hair which covers the gorilla becomes gray in age, and this fact formerly caused a mistaken belief to the effect that there were two species. It is said that the animal will assail the elephant and drive it away by striking the latter's trunk with a club, knowing that to be the sensitive point of the proboscidian. Probably the gorilla would be a fair match in strength for a lion, supposing that it came to a match between them; but there are no lions in Gorilla Land. The gorilla has thirteen ribs on each side, whereas a man has only twelve; it has also one more vertebra in its backbone than man has. Philosophers have been disposed to attribute the progress of mankind beyond the anthropoids to his possession of a serviceable thumb, upon which all his ability for manipulation mainly depends. Many of the great apes have most human-like hands, save for the thumb, which is not nearly so well developed, and lacks certain important muscles. For example, a gorilla cannot possibly perform the operation known as "twiddling." His muscular strength, however, equals that of at least half a dozen of the most powerful men. The capacity of his chest cavity is more than one-third greater than that of a man, which contributes enormously to his endurance. The rudimentary tail found in anthropoid apes not infrequently occurs with human beings, and this development is said to be hereditary among the Niam-Niams of Central Africa and also among the southern Malays. As for the prehensile foot, anatomists have called attention to the fact that the foot of a young baby has power to grasp and is often used to pick up and hold objects very firmly. —Boston Transcript.

Patriotism and Earthquakes.

Patriotism in Chile is very highly developed. On September 18, the National Independence day, every house is obliged to fly the National flag and at night a flagstaff for such purposes. The schools are only allowed to use text books by native authors and the bands are required to play compositions of native composers. In Santiago and Valparaiso as fine things can be bought in the shops, many of which are on a superb scale, as can be purchased anywhere in the world. To the foreigners the joy of existence in that country is somewhat diminished by the constant earthquakes. These are of two kinds, designated as the "tsunbar" and "terremoto." The former only shake the ground, while the latter extend the earth to wave like sea and to create, overthrowing cities and burying towns in their ruins. Young women are employed as the car conductor of Valparaiso, and the dudes who insist upon flirting with them are termed "mosquitos," because they are such a nuisance. —Washington Star.

Peculiar Fancies About Meat.

"It is funny what peculiar fancies people have about meat," said a Union Market butcher to the Mau About Town. "Now, most people think that people who have plenty of money get all the choice meat on the market, while those who cannot afford to pay fancy prices do not fare so well. Now, that is not true, but the contrary is and the reason is this, as a rule people who pay fancy prices want a fancy looking piece of meat and in order to get it they have to waste a good deal in the cutting, and, of course, we do not promise to give the losers by the same amount. For example, I do not care for the meat of a pig, but I will give you a pound of it for the price of a pound of beef. —Boston Transcript.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

A soft snap—The woolly dog. A high-toned chap—The fellow with the falsetto voice. Not infrequently the butcher becomes a hare-dresser. —Boston Courier. Running expenses are those which you pay as you go. —Augusta Chronicle. Atlas was the first leading gentleman. He supported Earth in her great role. —Puck. Yelling at a street car for a hastening lady is a sort of charity bowl. —Coca Sitings. There is no particular harm in riding a hobby, if you do not take up the whole road with it. Bachelors young men ought to practice sparring with dumb-bells. —Binghamton Republican. A cut from an incompetent tailor is one of the saddest things that a social aspirant has to bear. The older the man grows, the less he is disposed to see how near he can skate to a danger sign. —The Waterbury. Husband—"We must economize." Wife—"Well, dear, what do you want me to give up." —New York Press. It is quite natural with some men that the thread of their narrative should become badly warped. —Columbus Post. "Oh, yes, I often have to sit on the jury," said the Supreme Court Judge, as he administered a reprimand. —Life. Silence is not golden for the poor maiden who is dumb when a rich suitor asks for her hand. —Morning Journal. When a man starts out to reform himself he has undertaken a job that will keep him busy for life. —Ham's Horn. "Cher!" this month has an article on "Boiled Batters." "Roasted Empires" are more common. —Minneapolis Journal. "Sweet is the bread of industry." It hath been wisely said. And yet by loading it is made The sweetest kind of bread. —Chicago Tribune. Bachelors are creatures who have consulted their female relatives before venturing on matrimony. —Milwaukee Tribune. The trouble with "men of iron" is that they are apt to get rusty without knowing it. —Bismarck for instance. —Puck. Looking too closely at a dollar doesn't make it any bigger, but it very often makes the soul a good deal smaller. —Ham's Horn. "He stole a watch," said the policeman, referring to the prisoner. "Then he shall do time," replied the judge. —The Waterbury. Little Sister (as she catches sight of Clappie's chrysalis)—"Oh, look there! Mr. Van has got sister's powder-puff in his button-hole." —Judge. Weary of Well Doing: Mother—"Gee, why can't you be a good boy?" Wayward Four-Year-Old—"Mamma, it unuses me so tired." —Chicago Tribune. Though legal usage does not will that lawyers plead a special gear in, At court it is common for them still To have a lawsuit to appear in. —Puck. "Is this a fast train?" asked the traveling man of the conductor. "Of course it is," was the reply. "I thought so. Would you mind my getting out to see what it is fast to?" —New York Sun. Ambitious Author—"Naggon, I am obliged to you for not pulling my last story all to pieces." Literary Editor—"Not at all, Borus; I couldn't get hold of the thread of it." —Chicago Tribune. "Are you pretty well acquainted with your mother tongue, my boy?" asked the schoolteacher of the new scholar. "Yes, sir," answered the lad timidly; "ma jaws me a good deal, sir." —The Comic. "There is one great satisfaction I have," remarked the tortoise as he drew in his head and closed his house for the night. "How ever much my social rivals will hate me because I am in the swim, they can't stab me in the back." —Puck. Mrs. B.—"How is the congested illness coming on, Mr. Shimmer?" Mr. Shimmer—"It's all settled and in my favor." Mrs. B.—"I congratulate you. I suppose you'll soon be taking your family to Europe?" Mr. Shimmer—"No; but I'm going to take his."

AT TWENTY-ONE.

A minor yesterday. To-day a man in years. Shall I look far away, Through telescopes of tears? Or gaze with hopeful sight Upon the rising sun? Because its radiance light Has crowned me twenty-one! 'Tis little that I know, The past in vain I scan; But I would wisher grow And be indeed a man, The wisest of the wise, And cease my error run, If he alone relies On "self" at twenty-one. Be this a time to turn A leaf in history; With honest hands I'll earn The bread of industry, And store my mind with thought, When daily tasks are done; Thankful for lessons taught, For I am twenty-one. The banner at my mast, Shall wear no stain of sin; The lesson of the past I write my heart within. I hope for strength and grace, The path of wrong to shun, While I renew the race Of life, at twenty-one. —George W. Bungay, in the Argosy.

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