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The stationary condition of France's population in point of numbers may be in part accounted for, explains the New York Sun, by the fact that among 38,000 communes there are 29,000 without medical men.

Ten years ago Maryland and Virginia supplied three-fifths of all the oysters of the country at a price easily within reach of ordinary means.

The salary of an Excise Commissioner of New York City is \$5000 a year and a term of office three years. There is also a lot of valuable patronage.

The Spanish Columbian Exposition, to be held next September in Madrid, has been very rarely mentioned in this country.

By direction of the Secretary of War the following is published for the information of all concerned: It having been represented to the War Department that especially exists for offering prompt and safe facilities to persons who desire to make contributions for the intellectual and moral welfare of the enlisted men of the army.

The boundary line between Mexico and the United States is so illy patrolled that bandits in the guise of revolutionists have very little difficulty in raising a row in Mexico, and when closely pressed, retreating over the border.

The National Board of Fire Underwriters, which is formed of the leading fire insurance companies doing business in the United States, has seen an official letter to President Harrison, calling his attention to the great waste of values by fire in this country.

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A SPRING POEM FROM BION.

"Toll me, Myron, toll me true, What's the season pleaseth you? Is it summer suits you best, When from harvest toil we rest? Is it autumn with its glory Of all-sufficed desires? Is it winter, when with story And with song we hug our fires? Or is it spring most fair to you— Come, good Myron, toll me true?"

A STROKE FOR LIBERTY.

BY FREDERICK M. COLBY.



THE 9th of May, 1775. The day was serenely fair, and the warm sunbeams of spring shone pleasantly upon a beautiful scene.

"I think he is coming now; yes, that is his boat. You can just see it in the glare of the sun. Well, I suppose you'll be ready when he gets here."

AN AMERICAN LANGUAGE.

INTERESTING WAY IN WHICH AN INDIAN SYMBOLIZED SOUND.

A New System of Recording Speech, and How It Was Invented by an Illiterate Native American.

ETHNOLOGIST PILLING, of the Bureau of Ethnology, said to the Washington Star reporter: "As a work of ingenuity the alphabet of the Cherokee syllabary. The syllabary I speak of was invented by a half-breed Indian named Se-quo-yah.

"The remarkable point about this syllabary was the rapidity with which it could be learned and utilized for writing and reading. After the English alphabet has been learned a considerable period of schooling is required before the most intelligent person can read or write the language composed with it.

"The British Consul at Mozambique mentions that there exists on the east coast, south of the Zambezi River, a reef of pearl oysters. The greater portion of the reef is within enclosed waters, and as it has never been regularly worked, the pearls which could be found there must be of considerable dimensions.

"The bacillus of diphtheria is believed to develop with special rapidity in the presence of warmth, moisture and darkness, several outbreaks of the disease have been traced to cesspools or sewers into which steam and hot water were discharged. The artificial heat seems to have weakened into active germs which, if undisturbed, would have remained dormant.

Metals Dearer Than Gold.

Many of the elementary metals are more valuable than gold. To speak of them as being mined is, however, hardly precise. They are extracted by tedious and expensive processes in chemical laboratories in infinitesimal quantities.

Lived and Died Together.

There died in Ward's Island Hospital on Friday afternoon, of consumption, in the same room and on adjoining beds, two men who were inseparable companions for over forty years.

The Great Sword City.

Lieutenant Clarke, of the United States Army, in writing from Germany to a friend in Baltimore mentions a visit to Solingen, Germany, the famous sword manufacturing town. He states the sword blades, bayonets and knives are manufactured on a large scale, but that all the machines used in the factories are made in America.

THE BEGGARS AND LOAFERS OF NAPLES.

A century ago there were 30,000 "lazzaroni" in Naples. Neither disease nor want had diminished their number. Their children die at a fearful rate, but there are many hospitals for the survivors, and neither board nor lodging costs them much when, at a mature age, they are turned loose into the world to become "lazzaroni" in their turn.

Cure for Prominent Ears.

When a boy's or girl's ears are abnormally large, or stick out from the head in an ugly fashion, it may be accepted as a distinct misfortune. Nobody admires cabbage leaves in lieu of the pretty pink shell-shaped organs of hearing that all would like to have, if allowed to give a few points to mother nature while she was engaged in the task of making up a job lot of auricular appendages.

It is estimated that 6,000,000 pounds of maple sugar, manufactured in Vermont, will receive the Government bounty, the aggregate of which will amount to \$100,000.

The Largest Hoop Yard in the World is in Sacramento, California.

The largest hoop yard in the world is in Sacramento, California, \$50,000 worth having been sold from fifty acres.

THREE.

Set out trees! adorn the homestead, Make it pleasant all round, Let the elms and oaks and maples With the evergreen abound; Let the hedges be so attractive, That the boy that is to-day When he shall arrive at manhood And in foreign lands may stray, Then with longing heart and loving To his home those hills among, Thinking how the trees are thriving Which he helped to plant when young.

Set out trees! yes, plant an orchard; Dear, good farmers, do you know Of the wealth there is in fruit trees For the laborer you bestow? How the apples turn to money, With the peaches, plums and pears, And the luscious, bright red cherries, All the fruits the orchard bears? Little children love the fruit trees, How they wait, with wistful delight, For the coming of their blossoms, In their lovely pink and white; Never flowers were half so pretty, Never such profusion shown, As Dame Nature gives the fruit trees, With a glory all their own.

Set out trees! along the highway, Place them thick on either side, In the present joyous springtime, Every one his part provide; Set out walnuts, chestnuts, beeches, Where the playful squirrels coo; In hickories, firs and spruces, Shall the song birds find a home, Let their branches growing twining, Forming arches o'er the way, Shield the horse and screen the rider Through the long, hot summer day, Thick green leaves the golden sunshine Hiding while the dogstar reigns; Then when autumn paints them gayly Carpeting the hills and plains.

Set out trees! upon the common, Ashes, limes, poplars, birch; Set them out around the school house, Place them thick about the church, Have the children's play ground shaded And the public walks as well, And the joys from these arising Coming ages glad will tell. These shall live and grow and gladden While we moulder 'neath their leaves, Let us then improve the present, Leave behind us priceless trees.—Mrs. Annie G. Marshall, in N. E. Farmer.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

The line of beauty—Aquiline. Always making brakes—Wasting house.—Life. The deaf-mute is always ready to take a hand in conversation.—Pack. The stamp of truth won't take a letter through the mails.—Chicago Blade.

The wing shot ought to be a bang-up marksman.—Binghamton Republican. The hungry boy is the first to realize when he is too big for half-fare.—Truth. The thief who made a break for liberty forgot that brakes were made to restrain.—Truth. Why shouldn't we speak of the driving clouds? Don't they hold the rains?—Lowell Courier.

A live wire is so called because it is frequently the cause of sudden death.—Pittsburg Dispatch. Man is not merely the architect of his own fortune, but he must by the bricks himself.—Galveston News. Little Edith gives expression to the thought that poetry is prose with its gloves on.—Boston Transcript. "I think I'll give the country the shake," remarked the malaria as it prepared for business.—Texas Siftings. The road-reform movement is becoming a land-slide. The country is fast getting ready to mend its ways.—Chicago Tribune. Said a— "You wife doesn't look a minute older than she did ten years ago." "Heck!—According to her statistics she isn't."—Tid-Bits. "So Gooey has married Miss Ruler and formed a partnership for life!" "Yes, and he's the silent partner, too."—Boston News. An honest man is so jealous of his honor that he is indignant if he is not instantly believed when he tells the truth—and also when he lies.—Pack. "Did you know Harry's father was a Congressman?" "Boss—No; he never mentioned it; but I saw his three was a skeleton in the family closet."—New York Herald. "Gooey—'Think I'll change me boot-maker.' Chappie—'How?'—'How. The best awaked me if I would water have me shoes well-shaped or did I puffer a bit.'"—Indianapolis Journal. "I don't think," said Clara, "that these flowers match my complexion, do you?" "No, they don't," said Maude, "and you mustn't go out that way. But I wouldn't bother to change the flowers if I were you."—Cloak Review. Rector Black—"I was glad to see you in church yesterday morning. What did you think of my exordium and peroration?" Mr. Easy—"Pretty good, but—" Rector Black—"But what?" Mr. Easy—"But they were just a little too far apart."—Boston Beacon. Sorry we haven't this Washington girl's name. An attaché of the British legation in addressing her said, "I am sorry that the Berlin girl's name is looking so serious, because with her splendid naval equipment Great Britain would wipe you off the face of the earth." The young lady retorted, "What, again?" And then came a thick silence.—Utica Observer. One of the most ingenious and expensive novelties of the day is a gun metal watch, keyless, and showing upon its face, through small apertures, the day, date, month and state of the moon. The watch requires only to be wound in the usual way, and when the hour of twelve o'clock, midnight, arrives, with a slight click the day and date change in a magic, although automatic, manner.—New York Journal.