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The finest draught horses in the world are seen in the streets of English cities.

An estimate of the size of Texas may be obtained by considering that it is fifty-four times as large as Connecticut.

The owner of some once busy shipyards in Waldboro, Me., has been plowing them up for conversion into grass fields.

An evidence of the loneliness of the Pacific Ocean it is stated that the steamer City of Peking on a recent trip sailed 1240 miles without meeting a single vessel.

Homestead farmers in this country earn eight per cent. of the total earnings of the Nation, and their farms and stock represent seven per cent. of the National wealth.

It is reported that the Ghezirah palace, situated on the banks of the Nile, is to be converted into a hotel; that a line of steam ferries is to ply across from Cairo, and that the Nile is to be tunneled.

The United States produce 2220 pounds of grain to each inhabitant; Denmark, 2225; Canada, 1500; Russia, 1200; Roumania, 1150; Spain, 1100; France, 990; Sweden, 980; Argentine Republic, 850; Australia, 760; Germany, 700; Belgium, 600; Portugal, 550; Ireland, 500; Scotland, 490; England, 360.

Henrik Ibsen, the Swedish dramatist, is desirous of visiting England, principally, as he declares, to see the old men. "In all other countries," he says, "the best work is done by men between forty and fifty years of age; in England a man of seventy or eighty is still in his prime. I should like to see such men as Gladstone, Salisbury and Herbert Spencer."

The Japanese Government is said to have demanded that the Hawaiian Government extend the voting franchise to Japanese on the islands, the same as to Europeans and Americans. In the opinion of the San Francisco Chronicle "the demand has no legal backing, for every Nation has an absolute right to regulate the elective franchise for itself, but if Japan shall insist Hawaii will be powerless to resist, unless she be backed up by some strong Nation."

Says the Century Magazine: The United States sells its forest lands at \$2.50 an acre, lumber companies indirectly acquiring a square mile of land for little over \$1600, while the timber on it is often worth \$20,000. The French Government forests return an average profit of \$2.50 an acre annually from timber sales, or two and a half per cent. interest on the value of the land. The United States now owns only enough forest land to provide a continual timber supply to its present population, if forests are managed and used as in Germany. The United States is exactly in the position of a man making large drafts on and using up an immense idle capital, which, if properly invested, would return an interest sufficient for his expenditures. In 1885 the Government of Bavaria sent an expert forester to study the timbers of the United States, who stated: "In fifty years you will have to import your timber, and as you will probably have a preference for American kinds, we shall now begin to grow them, in order to be ready to send them to you at the proper time."

The Boston Advertiser reports an increased demand at the office of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture for its descriptive catalogue of abandoned farms. This fact taken alone would furnish no indication that purchases were contemplated, but, as the Advertiser points out, there was also during the hard times of 1873 a noticeable increase in the demand for farm lands, and reasoning from this analogy it says: "If by any unfortunate possibility the stringency of the past few weeks were to be continued it is very likely that the 'abandoned farms' would be bought up very largely. A not inconsiderable class of mill operatives have saved up money, and if there were any very real prospect that the 'shutdown' of some of the Massachusetts mills was to be long continued, these operatives would go to farming as a better thing than remaining idle in a large city. A number of those who have made good wages as mill operatives are well acquainted with farming methods, and can make at least a living on a farm, while at the same time they would have no rent to pay. The low prices at which the abandoned farms are offered are tempting to many operatives who desire to own a farm of their own."

It is estimated that 119,000,000 copper pennies have been lost to circulation in the century since the United States began to coin money.

It is a fact of curious interest that twenty-four of the 6100 murderers arrested in the United States in 1890 were blind men.

A queer new law in Chihuahua, Mexico, permits any one to shoot at sight a person caught stealing cattle. Such a law seems like a dangerous invitation to the holders of private grudges.

The American mosquito has crossed the Atlantic, is entertaining itself to its heart's content on the blue blood of England, and, according to the New York Ledger, is getting in its fine work most effectively.

The religious census of Australia, just completed, shows 1,485,066 members of the Church of England, 84,118 Catholics, 493,869 Presbyterians and 394,964 Methodists. These are the four most numerous denominations.

A learned German who has devoted himself to the study of physiology and allied sciences makes a startling assertion that mastaches are becoming commoner among women in the present day than in the past. He says that in Constantinople among the unveiled women one out of ten possesses an unmistakable covering of down on the upper lip.

Kerosene oil is rapidly growing in favor as a cheap illuminant in China. The consumption, which was 8,256,000 gallons in 1882, had risen to 49,348,000 gallons in 1891. Of this amount eighty per cent. was imported from America and twenty per cent. from Russia. The illuminant before kerosene was introduced was bean or tea oil. The Chinese have discovered, however, that kerosene is cheaper and gives a much better light. It is called fire oil by them.

It is mentioned as an instance of what the fashionable world has come to that a recent private concert given in London cost the hostess \$12,500. According to this figure entertaining one's guests will soon be impossible, and society must inaugurate some new method of keeping its end up in that line. First-class artists over there ask sums ranging from \$1000 to \$2500 for three or four songs, but, fortunately, the number of these artists is limited, and those who employ them are the painfully rich.

The Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Commons would feel lost if he had to exercise similar functions in one of our American legislatures—say in Kansas or even Illinois, declares the Chicago Herald. He is too easily upset. Mr. Erskine—for that is the gentleman's name—is described as going about during the recent frays "beseeching infuriated legislators who were engaged in the fray to desist, and begging others who were marching around with their hats on, to remove the offending headgear." Imagine an American Sergeant-at-Arms begging and beseeching. He would use a club.

The series of official reports setting forth the material and educational progress of the country, recently issued by the Mexican Government, though not marking so great an advance as expected, is still very encouraging. During the past twenty years, the period covered by the comparisons, the railway mileage has increased twentyfold, and the telegraph mileage eightfold, followed in each case by a proportionate increase of business. Exports and imports have largely increased, as have also manufactures and agriculture, and the appropriations of the Federal and State Governments and municipalities for educational purposes has advanced from \$1,900,000 to \$3,500,000. Peace and prosperity have been secured, especially during the Presidency of General Diaz, who holds the reins of Government with a firm hand, and who is not afraid to suppress the tendency to revolutionary movement by the prompt application of military force. The country still suffers, however, from the lack of esteem for productive industry on the part of the upper classes, whose chief ambition is to hold public offices, imitating in this respect the Argentines, and the absence of trained habits of industry on the part of the Indian and mixed races, which constitute four-fifths of the population. What is most needed is industrious immigrants to develop the vast natural resources of the Republic, a fact clearly perceived by the Government, which has already permitted the establishment of Mormon colonies in Chihuahua and Sonora, and bid for immigration from northern Europe.

SONG OF A HEART.

Dear heart—I love you I all the day I wonder If skies are rich with blue, Or bending black with tempest and with thunder, Dear heart, dear heart, o'er you!

OLD ROSES ROMANCE.

T was a barren country, and Wadgerly was generally shrieved with heat, but he always had roses in his garden, on his window-sill or in his button-hole.

Growing flowers under difficulties was his recreation. That was why he was called Old Roses. It was not otherwise inapt, for there was something antique about him, though he wasn't old; a flavor, an old-fashioned repose and self-possession. He was inspector of tanks from this God-forsaken country.

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out seeing him. He was sitting under a willow at the Billabong, reading over and over to himself the address to be delivered before the Governor in the evening. And as he read his face had a wintry and inhospitable look.

The night came. Old Roses entered the dining room quietly with the crowd, far in the Governor's wake. According to his request, he was given a seat in a distant corner, where he was quite inconspicuous. Most of the men present were in evening dress. He wore a plain tweed suit, but carried a handsome rose in his button-hole. It was impossible to put him at a disadvantage. He looked distinguished as he was. He appeared to be much interested in Lord Malice. The early proceedings were cordial, for the Governor and his suite made them selves most agreeable, and talk flowed amiably.

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This reception and the address just delivered, so am I indebted to Mr.—Adam Sherwood for his admirable language and the unusual sincerity of his speaking; and to both you and him for most notable kindness." Immediately after the Governor's speech Old Roses stole out, but as he passed through the door where Vic stood his hand brushed against hers. Feeling its touch, he grasped it eagerly for an instant, as though he was glad of the friendliness in her eyes.

It was just before dawn of the morning that the Governor knocked at the door of the house by Long Neck Billabong. The door opened at once, and he entered without a word.

He and Old Roses stood face to face. His face was drawn and worn, the other's cold and calm.

"Tom, Tom," Lord Malice said, "we thought you were dead—"

"That is, Edward, having left me to my fate in Burma—you were only half a mile away with a column of stout soldiers and hillmen—you waited till my death was reported, and assured, and then came on to England; for two things, to take the title just made vacant by our father's death, and to marry my intended wife, who, God knows, appeared to have little care which brother was. You got both. I was long a prisoner. When I got free, I knew, I waited. I was waiting till you had a child. Twelve years have gone; you yet have no child. But I shall spare you yet awhile. If your wife shall die, or you should have a child, I shall return."

The Governor lifted his head wearily from the table where he now sat. "Tom," he said, in a low, heavy voice, "I was always something of a scoundrel, but I've repented of that thing every day of my life since. It has been knives—knives all the way. I am glad—I can't tell you how glad—that you are alive."

He stretched out his hand with a motion of great relief. "I was afraid you were going to speak to-night—to tell all, even though I was your brother. You spare me for the sake—"

"For the sake of our name," the other interjected, stonily.

"For the sake of our name. But I would have taken my punishment, taken it in thankfulness, because you are alive."

"Taken it like a man, your Excellency," was the low rejoinder.

"You will not wipe the thing out, Tom?" said the other anxiously.

Tom Hallwood dried the perspiration from his forehead.

"It can never be wiped out, for you shook all my faith in my old world. That's the worst thing that can happen a man. I only believe in the very common people now—those who are not put upon their honor. One doesn't expect it of them, and unlikely as it is, one isn't often deceived in them. I think we'd better talk no more about it."

"You mean I had better go, Tom?"

"I think so. I am going to marry soon. The other started nervously. "You needn't be so shocked. I'll come back one day, but not till your wife dies, or you have had a child, as I said."

The Governor rose to his feet and went to the door. "Whom do you intend marrying?" he asked, in a voice far from regal or vice-regal, only humbled and disturbed. The reply was instant and keen. "A barmaid."

The other's hand dropped from the door. But Old Roses, passing over, opened it, and, mutely waiting for the other to pass through, said: "Good day, my lord!"

The Governor passed out from the pale light of the lamp into the gray and moist morning. He turned at a point where the house would be lost to view, and saw the other still standing there. The voice of Old Roses kept ringing in his ears sardonically. He knew that his punishment must go on and on.

And it did. Old Roses married Victoria Dowling from the Jumping Sandhills, and there was comely issue, and that issue is now at Etou; for Esau came into the birthright, as he hinted he would, at his own time. But he and his wife have a way of being indifferent to the gay, astonished world. And, uncommon as it may seem, he has not tired of her.—London Speaker.

Substitutes a Finger for a Nose.

Fred Darcy, a boy eighteen years old, is at St. Mary's Hospital, Rochester, N. Y., recovering from the first stage of a peculiar surgical operation. When young, necrosis of the nasal bones destroyed his nose, leaving an unsightly depression. Doctor John O. Rowe, a Rochester specialist, undertook to provide an artificial nose. He has done so by amputating the third finger of the left hand at the first joint and taking the bone of the middle finger for the bridge of the artificial nose.

The skin of the face was raised and the finger put in place and stitched to the tissue above the nose. In order to secure circulation and maintain life in the finger the hand has been bound to the face for a week, but will be released on Sunday by an amputation at the finger's second joint, after which new nostrils will be established in connection with the old. Doctor Rowe has had one case of the kind before.—Chicago Record.

Human Skeleton Twenty-five Feet Long.

M. Le Cat, the French scientist, in his monograph on giants says: At Dauphine on January 11, 1613, at a place known as the Giant's Field, a brick tomb thirty feet long, twelve feet wide and eight feet high was discovered. When opened it was found to contain a human skeleton entire twenty-five feet and a half long, ten feet wide across the shoulders and eight feet thick from the breast bone to the back. His teeth were each about the size of an ox's foot and his shinbones each measured four feet in length.—St. Louis Republic.

RATS, MICE AND ROACHES.

THEY SWARM AT THE DEPARTMENTS IN WASHINGTON.

Vermin Are Destroying Many Valuable Papers—Students Cleaned Out of the White House.

VERMIN make much trouble for the Government at Washington. Until recently the White House has been infested by myriads of rats. They were cleaned out at the beginning of the Harrison administration by an expert with ferrets. The wooden floors in the basement of the Executive Mansion were taken up and concrete was laid down instead. This was done mainly for the purpose of keeping out such four-footed foes in the future. The mice in the building are few, by reason of the efficiency of a black and white cat that strayed in and settled down in the kitchen four years ago. When Grant became President for the first time the rats were so aggressive that Mrs. Grant demanded the removal of the stable, which then adjoined the building on the east. But the destruction of the stable did not remove the rodent pests. In fact, they were so bold that one of them tripped up the fat colored cook as she walked across the kitchen, and she killed it by sitting down upon it. The animals made a network of tunnels under the brick pavements and in the walls. They were not content with ordinary food, but preferred the remnants of state dinners. Crump, steward of the White House under Hayes, swore that a banquet committee of the older rats used to examine his books each night for the purpose of finding out what would be served for dinner the next day.

The Pension Office is the chosen haunt of rats. Swarms of them adopted the building as their home while it was as yet in process of construction. At present the walls are alive with them, and the floors are full of their droppings. They feed on the remnants of 2000 daily lunches eaten in the building. Such scraps commonly find their way to the waste paper room, which serves the rodents as a breeding place. In the same building sparrows are almost as great a nuisance as the predatory quadrupeds described. They make their nests by hundreds among the timbers beneath the lofty roof. In summer pigeons fly in through the open windows and raise families on the premises. Some of these are "homers" lost on journeys with messages.

Rats used to do a great deal of damage at the Postoffice Department. They ate quantities of money orders and postal notes, as well as blank books. Much damage was done by them to "dead" packages in the storeroom for such goods. So, two years ago, a rat catcher was employed. He brought ferrets and cleared out the building. Incidentally he astonished the officials by crawling all around the structure, a distance of four blocks, making his way beneath the flooring of the sub-basement, where there was no space to wriggle through save such as had been left in putting down the sewer and gas pipes. This ferret-like proceeding is very destructive to health, on account of the bad air and m