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The political situation in Europe continues to grow darker.

The Japanese eat more fish than any other people in the world.

The farmer who is feeding his wheat to his horses should, in the opinion of the Courier-Journal, hold both his wheat and his horses until he digests the fact that wheat will be wheat in the world's markets during the year ahead of us.

The new warships are a credit to the Nation. Recently the Philadelphia made the run from Rio de Janeiro to Callao, a distance of 5000 miles, in twenty days and eighteen hours, without stopping anywhere for coal.

A poor old man, who once was a well-to-do merchant in Wisconsin, and likewise was of much State renown as a public speaker of force and persuasiveness, has been taken to the almshouse in Baraboo, weak in mind and poverty-stricken, and past eighty years of age.

Doctor J. T. Boyd, of Indianapolis, has added his voice to that of Lieutenant Totten, and declares that the end of the world is at hand.

Some idea of the enormous proportions the business of hotel keeping has assumed in this country may be gained, declares the New Orleans Picayune, from the fact that there are in the United States upward of 50,000 hotels, exclusive of what may properly be termed inns and taverns, and what are commonly known as apartment-houses.

Deer and bears are reported to be more plentiful now in the "great woods" of Oxford County, Maine, than at any other time during the present generation.

The New York News observes: Now the surgeons have cut out a man's spleen, and yet he lives and has red blood, and will, it is said, recover.

George Vanderbilt is one of nature's queer freaks. He is the least known of any of the enormously wealthy men of New York.

The creation of money order offices in the small postoffices is advocated by the Springfield (Mass.) Union on the ground that such offices would greatly facilitate the transaction of business in rural neighborhoods.

A business man of Canada, of an enterprising nature, has established a "floating bank" on Kootenai Lake, Canada. It is in a steamer which journeys from place to place along the lake; thus enabling its owner to supply the inhabitants of the lake villages with banking facilities.

Doctor Oliver Wendell Holmes says that the largest elm he ever saw was in Oxford, England, and measured twenty-five feet in circumference.

The method of harvesting wheat on the great bonanza ranches of the Dakotas is said to have amazed the foreign Agricultural Commissioners at the World's Fair.

Life insurance companies are becoming the holders of enormous masses of capital, notes the New York Tribune. Statistics made public at the last meeting of the National Association of Life Underwriters show that the companies taking no account of assessment corporations and societies, hold assets to the value of \$850,000,000, that they receive from policy holders about \$175,000,000 a year, that their gross income is nearly \$220,000,000 annually, and that they pay about \$100,000,000 annually to the insured in the form of death losses, surrenders and dividends.

Though most people are equipped with thirty-two teeth only, the Shah of Persia appears to be more amply provided for, as we are told that he has just had his fortieth molar extracted. The phenomenon is thus explained. The first time his Eastern Majesty suffered from a decayed tooth and had to have it removed his loyal subjects offered him as a solatium a number of presents amounting in all to ten thousand gold sequins.

Great Britain has undertaken another great enterprise in Africa, which will probably have an immense effect in the extension of its empire and the civilization of the dark continent. It is to erect a telegraph line from Alexandria, in Egypt, directly through the heart of the continent to Cape Town.

The Atlanta Constitution says: Congressman Bronius, of Pennsylvania, is a man who has a vivid recollection of his experience during the war. He came near losing his life in the fight with Pickett's forces at Green Plains. He was one of the 300 men who charged across a wheat-field, a third of a mile in width upon a Confederate rifle pit and of the number only 125 came out alive.

HACK AND HEW.

Hack and Hew were the sons of God. In the earlier earth, now at His right hand, one at His left, to obey as He taught them how.

EVERYBODY'S GOOD FRIEND.

BY JOHNSON BURE.

HAT was the name by which he was most frequently designated, a name which all his acquaintances knew very well that his visiting card bore the words, "Mr. Robert Brune."

As to business, his desk was in the office of a private banking house near Wall street, and he was supposed to be a silent partner of the bankers themselves.

From that day Brune's fortune was made, as he himself boasted when his bankers told him of Mrs. Moorhart's visit, for a woman of strong will and abundant leisure will expend a lot of both for the bliss of fathoming a mystery.

"Mr. Brune," said Mrs. Moorhart one evening, after her daughter had entertained Brune greatly by telling of dashing horseback rides through the wild country—a sport she longed to enjoy again, she said, yet dared not hope for until she could go back again to look over the family property.

No one ever seemed to find reason to complain of Brune; he never took his male acquaintances to gambling houses or got them drunk, and he never made love to the young ladies of their families that came to the city.

and we are so desirous of feeling at ease about it that we would be glad to give a competent person a third of the entire income for his services.

The truth was, that Brune had started in life with a firm determination to marry rich or not at all, and he was keeping himself faithful to that purpose.

But the god of love and the goddess of plenty kept their eye upon him, and there came a time when they seemed to join forces.

"I have never known just what your business was, but—"

The wedding was a splendid affair, according to the newspapers; the bridegroom alone had so many friends and well-wishers that not all of the invited could get into the church.

"I'm more than ever satisfied that you're just the man for the place—and dear Adah will agree with me."

Looking Glasses in Coffins.

One of the ancient customs connected with Swedish funerals was to place a small looking glass in the coffin of an unmarried female, so that when the last trump sounds she might be able to arrange her tresses.

AN ANIMAL'S EDUCATION.

HOW FOUR-FOOTED CIRCUS PERFORMERS ARE TAUGHT TRICKS.

A Ring Master Describes the Way in Which Horses, Elephants, Dogs and Pigs are Trained.

PEOPLE who go to circuses and see horses, elephants and dogs perform wonderful tricks must often ask themselves how the animals are taught to do them.

"The first thing to do is to accustom your horse to the ring, to make him run round regularly, and then to stop at a given signal.

With respect to dogs, a celebrated trainer, who is now exhibiting a troupe of them, says their education is a work of time and patience.

"I read an account of how a girl fell over forty feet without killing herself."

Hostess—"So you are going to be married, Ethel?"

Mrs. Fangle—"Have you secured a lodger for your second floor yet, Mr. Goslin?"

Her friend—"I thought you were going to marry a man with a title or forever remain single."

Using Cameras to Check Cruelty.

FORTITUDE.

The soul that suffers and for pain is stronger.

Though years be brief, or though forever longer.

They wax in pain that knows no end or date.

Though Time be woeful; though Time's god's are cruel.

His heart is still for love and truth a shrine.

Where, unconsumed of fire, the altar fire Burns ever with a light and life divine.

—William Vincent Myers.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

Every man with a bright son believes in heredity.

There are always some rare bargains at the meat market.

If you want to know a woman's faults, ask her dearest female friend.

When the dealers put down the prices on peaches the women put them up.

"What are you wearing glasses for?"

"For my eyes, stupid. Spose I'm wearing them for corns?"

When the colleges open it will be brawn versus brain, and may the best man win.

He wore a wide hat and a saab.

And started in a way that was bold, But the girls every one adored him.

For you see he was four years old.

—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Many a girl makes a bad blunder in not taking a man at his word when he says, "I am not worthy of your love."

—Puck.

"The pleasantest way to take cod-liver oil," says an old gourmand, "is to fatten pigeons with it, and then eat the pigeons."

"I am told that Carson always heaps coals on his enemies' heads."

"Well, he is rich and can afford to do such things."—Truth.

Friend—"Well, Tommy, now that you've started to school, what do you like best?"

Tommy—"Recess."—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Hark from the tomb a doleful sound.

Comes to the surface of the ground.

It is a maiden down the street.

Who sings, "After the Ball."

—Detroit Free Press.

Jiggs—"The last I saw of Gayboy he said he was out for a time. I wonder if he got it?"

Jiggs—"Yes, the judge gave him ten days."—Buffalo Courier.

Everything American goes in France. They even want American servants there, and have not yet learned that there is no such thing.

—Boston Journal.

Mother—"Children, have you said your prayers?"

Tilly—"Yes, ma'am."

"You were very quick about it."

"I prayed one-half and Daisy the other."—Texas Siftings.

The Debanté (aside)—"How many verses shall I sing?"

The Professor—"Do you want an encore?"

The Debanté—"Of course." The Professor—"One."—Boston Budget.

She was airy As a fairy, And no man shall ever led Of heaviness, Until she took to taking bread.

—Buffalo Courier.

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