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South Africa will again essay cotton manufacture.

The fitness of things is happily illustrated, the Chicago Herald thinks, in the name of Mr. Chinook Whiskers, of Oregon.

M. Berry asks the French Chamber to give Parisians the right to vote by mail, when they are out of town, or too ill to come to the polls.

A Kentucky woman recently brought suit against a railroad for killing her horse and her husband. She got \$150 for the horse and one cent for the husband.

The ex-President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of England condemns public drinking troughs for horses on the ground that they propagate certain diseases peculiar to horses.

Justice Wheeler, of Chicago, holds that a bicycle rider has as much right of way on public streets as the driver of any vehicle. F. G. Nelson sued the owners of a truck which ran into him while he was riding his bicycle, and has gained a judgment for \$50 and costs.

It has been estimated that 25,000 horses are employed in the London carrying trade, that their value is a million and a quarter, and that the cost is for food alone \$4,000,000. A rule prevails of foraging the horses on threepence an inch per week—that is, a horse costs as many shillings a week as it stands hands high.

Letters just published, written during the siege of Paris, show what high prices were paid for curious meals. A certain M. Deboos bought up the Zoological Garden and sold the animals at a profit. The cassowary was sold for \$40 and the kangaroo for only \$20. Two camels brought \$1000 and a wild bear \$440. Elephants' flesh was a luxury, and the two were sold as steaks for \$5400.

In Ireland vaccination was made compulsory in 1863. Since that time the Irish Poor Law Commissioners have carried out the law and the whole population has been vaccinated. From 1830 to 1840 the yearly average of deaths from smallpox was 5800, in the next decade it was 3287 and in the next 1272. In the year 1867 they were twenty, in 1868 they were nineteen and in the next year six.

The largest balloon in the world has just been constructed at Holloway, near London, England. It is a sphere of 57.24 feet diameter, has a capacity of over 100,000 cubic feet, weighs one and a quarter tons, and will lift an additional weight of a ton. It is to be used for the purpose of obtaining continuous meteorological observations for a period of six days without descending. It has been successfully tested.

The annual report of the State Geological Survey of Iowa shows that the belt of coal extending across Missouri from Keokuk to Kansas City is more productive than any other portion of "the great interior coal field of the American continent." This field includes a large portion of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas, Indian Territory, Arkansas and Texas. Coal beds are found in most other States also, but they belong to other fields and strata.

The St. Louis Republic says: Secretary Herbert is the only member of the Cabinet who can be called a specialist in his own department. Mr. Herbert is fitted to be Secretary of the Navy, and for no other place around Mr. Cleveland's council board. He is a sailor, every inch of him; he knows a ship from masthead to keel; he can box the compass like an old salt, and could walk the deck as an Admiral or climb the rigging as a sailor. He has sailed before the mast, and has been taught the art of seamanship in the school of experience.

Though the Chinese have been in this country so long a time and have become numerous, it is said of them that they do not and cannot comprehend the status of the police, remarks the New York Sun. Their first idea is that a policeman is a sort of feudal ruler, with the right to chop off their heads or levy on their property or do as he pleases with them. They have no fault to find with such rulers. In fact, as soon as they find out that the police are mere watchmen on salary set to guard the public peace they become disturbed and confused and end the strain on their minds by deciding that the policemen must be soldiers, and that is what nearly every Chinaman thinks they are to-day.

The Dakota River, with an estimated length of 600 miles, is believed by many to be the longest unnavigable stream in the world.

If all the people of the United States were placed in Kansas, California and Nebraska, those States would not be so thickly settled as England is now.

Every member of the British cabinet acts in three capacities—as administrator of a department of state, as a member of a legislative chamber and a confidential adviser to the crown.

An agricultural writer figures that the loss to the farmers of the country by the use of narrow wagon tires, through the wear and tear of horseflesh and the loss of time, amounts to the enormous sum of \$300,000,000 a year.

Jonathan Hutchinson, to the astonishment of the New York Mail and Express, is devoting the best years of his life to studying the question, "Do the sick ever sneeze?" He believes it to be fully as important as the determination of the problem, "Why are black cats black?"

It appears as if the people of the United States were steadily reducing their consumption of quinine and other cinchona alkaloids. Year after year since 1887 the importations of cinchona bark have been diminished. In 1893 the amount imported was less than half that of 1887.

Fine carriages with rubber tires are said to be coming into use in the city of New York. These tires cost about \$100 for a set of four, and rarely last more than one season, but they are a great comfort to those who can afford them, making the motion of the carriage easy and noiseless.

This is an age of specialties, exclaims the Boston Cultivator. The successful men of the world to-day are those who devote themselves to special work. Every man has some liking or possibility which is greater than any other, and which is in some way different from those of other men. This is his vocation, and he should devote to it his best thought and endeavor. In this way he will concentrate his energies and secure larger results.

A Philadelphia physician thinks that a great deal of nonsense has been written about hypnotism. "Any one," he says, "may hypnotize himself in a few minutes by closing his eyes, directing them inward and downward, and then, imagining his breath to be vapor, watching its inhalation and expulsion from the nostrils. Babies invariably look cross-eyed before going to sleep, in this way producing what hypnotists call 'transfixion.' Fishermen often hypnotize themselves watching a cork on a surface of shining water. An hour passes by as if it were a few minutes."

The Swiss Government has, for the last twenty years, caused observations to be made through its forestry stations on the temperature of the air, of the trees and the soil in the forests. These observations show that the temperature in the forests is always below the temperature outside. The temperature also varies according to the trees composing the forests. A beech forest is always cooler than a forest of larch. As to the trunks of the trees, they are always colder than the surrounding air. Regarding the temperature of the soil, it is found that in the forest the temperature is invariably below that of the air. Outside the forest the soil is always warmer than the air in summer and colder in winter.

The popular idea of Siberia, according to the Chicago Record, is that it is a barren desert extending from the frozen ocean of the north to the burning sands of the tropics, but this is a great mistake. The population of Russia in Asia is nearly 18,000,000. There are several cities with a population exceeding 50,000. The agricultural products reported, which constitute only a very small portion of the whole, are valued at an average of \$30,000,000 a year, the output of the mines exported is valued at upward of \$20,000,000 annually, and the furs, fish, skins and other products that come into European Russia from Siberia are worth \$5,000,000 or \$6,000,000 more. But this population is scattered over an enormous area; it is only partially civilized; the greater portion of the country does not expect or aspire to the production of anything more than is necessary for local consumption; the means of communication and transportation are lacking, and, as productive industry is measured in the European countries and America, it may be said that two-thirds of the people are habitually idle.

THE SOLDIERS OF THE SUN. Along the margin of the world They march with their bright banners...

MISS TIMBROOK'S OPENING. 'T wasn't the first time by any means Miss Timbrook had read her niece's letter; nor was it the first time that Miss Cynthia Stone had...

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But it seemed that Miss Cynthia was on the other side of the fence. So, after much persuasion, and the assurance that Ruth would extend her visit, Miss Timbrook limply resigned herself to be made ready for an eight days' sojourn at Pembroke Corners.

Behind the blinds Ruth and Miss Cynthia worked like bees. The money which Ruth had previously consecrated to art had been expended in millinery goods. She had visited the leading shops in New York, and her quick eyes had taken in every new wrinkle and fold.

The rug, lace curtains, and a few other trinkets she had been hoarding for the adornment of that artistic apartment in New York now transformed the ugly little shop into an attractive bower where bonnets budged and bloomed as if by magic under Ruth's skillful fingers.

Saturday morning, bright and early, Miss Timbrook was driven in from Pembroke Corners by a neighbor of Ruth's, who was a milk peddler. The cans jingled merrily as they drove up to the door.

"Good land!" exclaimed Miss Timbrook, fearfully. "The shutters are shut!" and she cast a tragic look at the wooden blinds that had never remained open after seven o'clock in the morning since she had been in the business. And now it was quite eight.

Just then Ruth rushed out and dragged the bewildered old lady into the little shop where she sat down, her knees "all of a shake," as she expressed it, too astonished to speak.

"You see," explained Ruth, "we were determined that nobody should get a peep at the 'Opening' until you did, yourself. I've given up painting, you know, and invested my capital in millinery. How do you like your new partner, Anty Tim?"

"Bless you, child!" quavered the old lady, tenderly. "You're the Bible Ruth over again—'easy to be entreated'; though I didn't mean you should know how hard it was to give up. But I expect an old woman's eyes are full of entreaty, and though it isn't mentioned in the Beatitudes, still I believe that those that see and yield to be truly blessed."

Then she dried her eyes and took another delighted look around. Such shapes, such curious combinations of color and material, such dazzling, indescribable millinery—well, the like of it she had never even dreamed of before!

The "Opening" was a great success. Miss Timbrook's little shop soon acquired a fame which traveled far and wide, and everybody who was anybody, according to Miss Cynthia, "bought bonnets of Sybilla Tim."

As for Ruth, her heart's desire died hard. She would never paint a picture, maybe, but she had touched with glowing colors the grayness of two human lives.

And she would sometimes say to herself, whimsically: "Have I not roused 'Mrs. Do-as-you-would-be-done-by,' and made it quite impossible for that less-amiable person, 'Mrs. Be-done-by-asyou-did,' even to show her face? Besides, it must be higher art to trim a bonnet beautifully than to paint a poor picture, which I might have done."

Gigantic Leaves. What trees bear the largest leaves? An English botanist tells us that it is those that belong to the palm family. First must be mentioned the Inaja palm, of the banks of the Amazon, the leaves of which are no less than fifty feet in length by ten to twelve in width.

Yell County, Arkansas, bears the name of a hero. It was named after Archibald Yell, who was once a Federal Judge in the Territory of Arkansas, says the Arkansas Gazette, and was elected to Congress the year the Territory was admitted into the Union as a State.

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HOUSEKEEPING IN CHINA. CHINESE SERVANTS, MALE AND FEMALE, AND HOW THEY WORK. Their Ways Are Peculiar, But, After All, They Make Ideal Servants—One Woman's Experience.

HOUSEKEEPING IN CHINA, or rather in Hong Kong, differs materially from housekeeping in Japan. A multiplicity of servants must be employed in the one as in the other country, but the great difference consists in the fact that in Hong Kong nothing can be bought for the house save through the compradore. A compradore, generally speaking, in places of business is the cashier; in this case he is the middleman, and it is useless to rebel against his rule; nothing can be done without him.

"Master" himself occasionally grows weary of the compradore's yoke, and declares he will market for himself; it would be worse than useless for the mistress to do so, for the Celestials have no sort of respect for their own or other women folk, says the Pall Mall Gazette.

To market "master" goes; he finds the shops full of meats and vegetables, but not a penny worth can be bought. No amount of expostulation avails him; a thousand and one polite but diaphanous excuses are given him why the goods cannot be sold, and he is perforce obliged to have recourse to the compradore again.

Usually an amah is kept who waits upon her mistress and does the household mending; her pay averages from ten to twelve dollars. If there are children one or more nurses are employed, according to the number. At least four chair coolies are kept, at from six to seven dollars a month; if the household is a large one, and off the line of the tram, a double number must be employed.

Some families who are very particular keep a "washman," others send all of the linen out of the house to be done; this costs but little compared to London or New York prices. The ordinary laundry work done in Hong Kong is very poor; shirts and collars are passably laundered, but other things are badly done compared with the work of the Chinese out of China.

Chinese servants are peculiar, and one must spend some time in learning their ways and habits, for they imitate many things without trouble, and, as a rule, do exactly as they are told; still they will persist in doing some things in their own way. They can never be persuaded to do a thing which they do not wish to; they will always take refuge in the laconic answer, "no savvy," which means they do not understand; and, having seen that they do not understand, nothing will ever make them confess they do.

As in all Eastern countries, the lines of caste are strongly drawn, and the European women—all white women are called Europeans—who asks one of her servants to perform a bit of work not belonging to him soon discovers this fact. "This no blong my pidgin" is a refusal as unalterable as the laws of the Medes and Persians.

An amah will refuse to carry even a small parcel for a block, and lose her place rather than do it. The chair coolies will carry "chits" and parcels, but it is beneath the dignity of a boy or an amah to do so.

As a race the Chinese have no respect for women in general, and an unmitigated contempt for any one in particular who chooses to stand upon herself. They much more admire a woman who lies on the veranda all day reading novels and occasionally calls, "Boy, bring me my handkerchief," or, "Boy, pick up my book," than they have for one who does these things for herself.

A Very Rare Whale. Some days ago there was found stranded on the beach near Corson's Inlet, N. J., a large mammal, which was at first supposed to be a porpoise, but has since been found to be something more rare. Dr. Greenman, of the University of Pennsylvania, went down to look at the luckless monster, and after examination pronounced it a pygmy, or Japanese whale. He was very much surprised to see this specimen in the Atlantic, as those whales are rare even in their natural habitat, the sea of Japan.

The "four o'clocks" open regularly at 4 o'clock, rain or shine.

MIDNIGHT SONG.

The star that in the midnight sky Above the heaving foam Shines brightly when the storm is nigh To guide the sailor home;

Star of my heart, O dreaming star, From balmy sleep arise! Shed on my brow The dew of thy smiles; Before the darkness flies.

Rose of my heart, O burning Rose, In song my love I pour! O come and rest Upon my breast White Rose that I adore.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

The burglar's friend—His faithful Jimmy. A host in himself—The cannibal who devours his entertainer.—Grip.

The good measure of the vegetable peddler always appears at the top.—Puck. One of the most striking things you can place in a parlor is a clock.—Hartford Journal.

When you lose the power to enjoy yourself, people no longer like you.—Aitchison Globe. "He has no more influence," said a Hartford wit, "than 'p' in pneumonia."—Hartford Courant.

Many people would be more truthful but for their uncontrollable desire to talk.—Aitchison Globe. We dream great things of to-morrow; but all it ever becomes is another yesterday.—Aitchison Globe.

The only objectionable feature about the violet is that so many people write poetry about it.—Aitchison Globe. The popular idea of a good business man is one who can meet and beat a scoundrel at his own game.—Puck.

Some men have such confidence in their ability that they would start a sun-umbrella business in London.—Puck. There would be no great objection to the anarchist if his exploded bombs were only as harmless as his exploded theories.—Washington Star.

There's nothing like the wedding! For to make a fellow lairy; For he thinks that she is his'n, But finds out that he is her'n.—Indianapolis Journal. Passenger — "I say, conductor, there's an old gentleman falling off the 'bus.' Conductor.—"That's all right; he's paid his fare."—Pearson's Weekly.

"Are you sure Miss Oldtime keeps up the study of ancient history?" Madge.—"Oh, dear me, yes. I saw her reading in her diary to-day."—Inter-Ocean.

"Are there any more jurymen who have a prejudice against you?" inquired the lawyer. "No, sah, do jury am all right, but I want to challenge the judge."—The Green Bag.

La Fiancee—"I am awfully sorry, Jack, but those roses you sent me don't match my gown." Le Fiance (who paid \$9 a dozen)—"Can't you change your gown, dear?"—Vogue. "I think I understand now," said Higgs, "why they speak of Miss Wellaby's new Paris-made gown as a 'creation.' It looks almost as if it were made of nothing."—Chicago Tribune.

Men cannot consistently deride women for wasting so much cloth in making their sleeves, so long as they themselves are wearing the long-tailed coats that are in fashion.—Somerville Journal.

Author—"I am troubled with insomnia. I lie awake at night, hour after hour, thinking about my literary work." Friend—"Why don't you get up and read portions of it?"—Brooklyn Life.

"If, as the Bible says, 'all flesh is grass,'" said the star boarder at the breakfast table yesterday, "this steak must be the kind of stuff those tough Mexican hammoocks are made of."—Philadelphia Record.

Jess—"Miss Fitz gives her age as twenty-nine, but she means thirty." Bess—"Then why don't she say thirty?" Jess—"Oh, that's the way merchants mark their goods, nowadays."—Kate Field's Washington.

Duel Up to Date: "I challenge you to a duel." "Accepted." "Your choice of weapons—dagger or pistols?" "Neither. Winter accent of Mont Blanc—rotten rope—three feet distance."—Fliegende Blätter.

"I don't know whether I like those pictures or not," said the young woman. "They seem rather indistinct." "But you must remember, ma'am," said the wily photographer, "that your face is not at all plain."—Indianapolis Journal.

"I need a new umbrella, and I'm going to buy one," declared Mrs. McBride. "Let me give you a piece of advice about buying umbrellas," added her husband. "Never buy on a rainy day." "I'd like to know why not?" "Because they are always up then."—Detroit Free Press. "Dear," asked Mrs. Wickwire, looking up from her paper, "what does this paper mean by referring to 'the superfluous woman?'" "What is the superfluous woman?" "In our engagement days," answered Mr. Wickwire, "the superfluous woman was your younger sister."—Indianapolis Journal.