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California has just adopted the golden poppy as the State flower.

On the Belgian State railways fares are lower than anywhere else in Europe.

Seventy-five per cent. of the enlistments in the regular army last year were of Americans.

Something like a boom is reported in the gold region in the North Carolina foothills. The field is like that of Georgia's.

Lord Roseberry thinks that the "new Eastern question" is one of the gravest that England has ever been called to consider.

Professor Frank Parsons asserts that in New York City it costs a man from \$80 to \$100 a year for the same amount of transportation he gets in Berlin for \$4.50.

Cleveland, Ohio, the city of bridges, is to have the first bridge operated by electricity and compressed air.

A league has been formed in France to assert the rights of pedestrians against bicyclists. The members agree never to get out of the way of a bicycle; they think that in case of collision the cyclist is sure to get the worst of it.

A girl baby was born at Kokomo, Ind., the other day who is the fourteenth daughter of a fourteenth daughter of a fourteenth daughter, a record which is thought to be unprecedented.

The big statue of William Penn which surmounts the tower of the Philadelphia City Hall faces the old Penn Treaty Park. This displeases the citizens who get only a rear or profile view of the statue.

The Popular Health Magazine observes: "The desire in a child for candy and sweets is a natural one and should not be stifled. Good candy and sweets in moderation, if that point can be found, not only do no harm, but are actually beneficial."

The hansom cab will, in the opinion of members of the cab fraternity, eventually give place to the bicycle, except that in this case the bicycle is to be a tricycle, states the Chicago Times-Herald.

One of the strangest coffins ever told of is that for which the British War Department is said to be responsible. The story is that a workman engaged in casting metal for the manufacture of ordnance at the Woolwich Arsenal lost his balance and fell into a caldron containing twelve tons of molten steel.

Exit Sir Philip Francis in the role of "Junius," exclaims the New York Independent. Mr. W. Fraser Rae, in a letter to the Athenaeum, introduces new and convincing evidence that Francis could not have been the author of the "Letters of Junius," as he has discovered in the London Morning Chronicle of August 23, 1774, a hitherto unnoticed letter of Junius, published nearly five months after Sir Philip had sailed for India.

MADEL ON THE FOURTH.

"You light two crackers thus," she said. "That's yours, and I'll take this, And now, if yours should go off first, Why, you can claim a kite."

A FRESH AIR FOURTH.

BY TOM P. MORGAN. I was during the hottest hour of the hottest day of the Fourth of July, far of the season that a small boy presented himself at the office of the Secretary of the Fresh Air Fund Society.



A REGULAR PICNIC.

the Secretary answered that nobody wanted boys yet. This boy limped in and out on a crutch, for one of his legs hung withered and useless, but his limb was bristled despite the heat and his evident weariness.

willingness to entertain a girl or boy for a week. The society paid for the transportation of the children to and from the country.

"It's a good notion," commented Mr. Joplin. "But very few of these kind people want boys nowadays," continued Mr. Hallett.

"Here is the jacket back again, sir," he said. "I'm not going." He was outside of the door by this time. Mr. Joplin's tall form arose suddenly from his chair.

"We didn't know," said Knucks. "His pepper an' salt suit looks kinder well, we—we didn't know."

And when Mr. Hallett told the man from Colorado what Knucks had said, Mr. Joplin laughed a big hearty "He-haw!" and then he looked himself over, and then he colored, and then he laughed again.

"I asked Mr. Hallett to make you a speech, but he says I've got to do it. I haven't much to say. This is the Fourth of July. It's the proper thing to read the Declaration of Independence on the Fourth of July, but the only Declaration of Independence we're going to have here is that we're going to do just exactly as we please all day long."

"You'll get well now, old man!" cried Knucks. "An' Jim, you jest remember everything you do an' see an' hear for ter tell me."

"I ain't goin', Knucky," he said. "You are the one that got the ticket; you are to go."

"Course I wouldn't listen to him," said Knucks in telling it. "But it's no use, he says I got the ticket an' I've got to go on it."

"So will we," yelled the boys. "I think I ought to add something to what Mr. Joplin has said," spoke Mr. Hallett.

"There's only one ticket," he faltered, finally. "Hang tickets!" cried Mr. Joplin. "You fellows are goin' with me. Tomorrow's the Fourth of July—I'll give you a potlatch! I—git along with you; tell the other little feller that both of you are goin' to the country with me tomorrow. Say, hold on! Any more sick boys you know of? Invite 'em all."

"John," interrupted the Secretary. "I've just one chance for a boy. You can spend your Fourth of July week in the country. What is your name?" As he spoke he held out a card.

"Hi!" The boy fairly snatched the card and hopped out of the room with a smothered whoop. "That boy has a happy week before him," said the Secretary. "I wish it were in my power to make many more such little fellows happy in the same way."

face, skimpy little fellows—but every face shone with eagerness.

While Mr. Hallett had been issuing the invitations the giver of the potlatch had been equally busy. He had strode hither and thither, made purchases and sent telegrams.

"It was still early in the forenoon when they reached their destination—a pretty green bowered country village that Mr. Hallett had recommended—and there was a brass band at the depot to meet them.

"We're here, fellows!" cried Mr. Joplin to his boys. "This is the place. It's out in the open air, an' to-day's the Fourth of July. Yell all you want to. The band will now play!"

The musicians headed the procession of whooping lads to a pleasant grove just outside the town. The boys who couldn't run, walked, and those who couldn't walk rode in a long wagon on top of the boxes that had come from the city.

"Mebby we oughtn't to eat too much, sir. It costs lots of money an' perhaps Mr. Joplin—"

"Mr. Joplin is the owner of a great cattle ranch out in Colorado," answered Mr. Hallett. "He can afford this."

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At night, after the fireworks had been shot off and it was time to begin the march for the train, the boys cheered for Mr. Joplin till they could have been heard nearly a mile, and when they stopped Mr. Joplin said: "Thank you, fellows!"—New York Press.

THE MERRY SIDE OF LIFE.

STORIES THAT ARE TOLD BY THE FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

Knew When to Keep Silent—No Dissembling—Only One Way—More Deadly—Sarcasm, Etc., Etc. He called her toasty wooty, love And bid, like all men;

ONLY ONE WAY. "Does your wife talk in her sleep?" "Yes; I presume she sleeps."

SARCASTIC. "Tonghau is dead." "Well, he's better off." "So they say. Did you know his wife?"—Life.

NO DISSEMBLING. Amy—"What did you do when he proposed?" Louise—"Oh! I just grappled on to him!"—Puck.

NOT A BARBARIAN. "The entire family refer to Ethel's husband as His Highness." "Yes; I suppose they all know what he cost."—Puck.

REASON ENOUGH. Hall Room—"I've given up boarding, old man." Helen Flitt—"What for?" Hall Room—"Well, the landlady wanted her money."

PREVIOUS. Lawyer—"You will get your third out of the estate, madam." Widow—"Oh, Mr. Bluebags! How can you say such a thing, with my second hardly cold in his grave?"

MORE DEADLY. First Brooklynite—"They say the frolley is to be introduced into France." Second Brooklynite—"To take the place of the guillotine!"—Truth.

TOO DULL A PROSPECT. Impresario (engaging singer)—"We will treat you with every consideration, madam, and I assure you you will have no one to quarrel with." Prima Donna (with decision)—"Then I just won't take the engagement."—Chicago Record.

TAKING THE LESSER EVIL. Moberly—"You look pretty happy for a man who's on his way to the dentist to have two teeth extracted." Hansom (with great joy)—"You see, if I didn't go to the dentist I'd have to stay at home to my wife's five o'clock tea."—Chicago Record.

ABLE TO FLY. The Major (reminiscent)—"At this moment the enemy's heavy artillery opened upon my right wing, creating a diversion, under cover of which his entire division fell upon my left wing." Miss Gushington (rapturously)—"Oh, you dear old angel!"—Judge.

PERFECTLY COOL. Clubfellow—"I have resolved on suicide, James. It is my only recourse." James—"Good gracious, sir—"

OLD TIME COURTESY. "What kind of a man is Judge Bagrox?" "Undoubtedly a gentleman of the old school. Why, when I asked him for his daughter's hand he pulled my nose, a form of insult which has not been in vogue for more than forty years."—Truth.

SARCASTIC. "This hasn't the sign of a clam in it," said the guest who had ordered clam chowder. "It's a swindle; that's what it is." "Excuse me, sir," responded the waiter, who is too good for that business, "but we only undertake to serve a chowder; not an aquarium."—Life.

A DOUBTFUL VINDICATION. "A woman has a wonderfully acute sense of humor," he remarked. "That's contrary to the popular impression." "Yes, they've suffered an injustice in that respect for a long time. And yet everybody knows that only a woman sees anything to laugh at when a man falls down on the street and hurts himself."—Washington Star.

CAUSE FOR COMPLAINT. Educated Pig (decisively)—"This is the last time I'll do my turn right after the snake charmer!" Wrestling Bear—"Why, what's the difference?" Educated Pig—"Well, they always leave that box of constrictors on the stage, and when they cold-blooded reptiles find my set is like with the house they hiss me like thunder!"—Puck.

HEREDITY. "Woman!" he hissed, "give me back the ring." The retired pawnbroker's daughter thought a moment. "I think I ought to keep it. At least until you return to me the affection I have given you in return for this paltry bauble." "Will that suffice?" "Yes." "Sure you don't want ten per cent. a month interest besides?" Then he got the ring, but it must be confessed that she threw it at him.—Cincinnati Tribune.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

German sanitarians have pronounced against American dried apples. The latest achievement in photography is taking a picture 500 feet under water.

An earthquake observatory is to be established by the Turkish Imperial Government at Constantinople. The brain of woman is absolutely smaller than that of man, but is stated to be somewhat larger in proportion to the weight of the body.

A new marking ink pencil has the solid color at one end in the usual manner and at the other end a receptacle for a liquid mordant. The great superiority and flexibility of electricity in transmitting power in the driving of machine tools has been conclusively shown at the rifle factory of the Belgian Government.

Divers now communicate with persons above by means of the telephone. The mouthpiece is placed near the lips, so that a slight turning of the head brings the mouth close to it. A writer in the Chautauquan says that birds are guided in their migration by the stars, and therefore on nights when the stars are hidden by clouds they always lose their way.

A novel mining machine has been patented which combines the advantages of compressed air and electricity. The mechanism consists of a cutter bar drill and an electric motor, connected by suitable gearing. A pair of wrought-iron tongs, or a piece of hoop heated and bent until the ends form a circuit like the feet of tongs, will magnetize a knife-blade laid upon them and rubbed with another piece of steel. The cause is not yet satisfactorily explained.

Explosions in the streets are now in a fair way to be explained. Major Cardew has discovered that there is a remarkable deposit of sodium in some of the insulators in the boxes used for electrical supply in London. Now, sodium is highly inflammable by contact with water, and therefore, probably sets fire to the escape of gas.

It has been learned by experiments made at the gypsy-moth station at Malden, Mass., that the Paris green, London purple, and arsenic with which the trees and bushes have been sprayed does not kill the moths, but, on the contrary, they thrive and grow fat upon it. It would appear from this that the work of the Massachusetts commission during the last years has served to propagate moths instead of exterminating them.

Russian Lead Pencils. An order was received last week from Moscow, Russia, and shortly after a similar order from Warsaw, Poland, for a carload of Sierra Nevada redwood, to be used in the manufacture of lead pencils. The orders in themselves are of no great importance, except as showing that a new use has been found for a certain kind of California redwood, and that this is only the beginning of an export trade which may develop into something worth looking after.

What becomes of the lead pencils is almost as much of a problem as what becomes of the pins. Millions of pencils are used and lost and thrown away and disappear every year, and the demand increases constantly instead of diminishing. Of late years Russia has begun to make use of her vast deposits of plumbago in the manufacture of lead pencils, and while as yet the Russian pencils have not taken rank with the best lead pencils of other nations, the output is on the increase and the quality is sure to improve.

The wood which holds and encases the lead is an important part of the pencil. It must be soft in order to be sharpened easily, and yet it must not be brittle or cross-grained. Cedar is the favorite wood for pencils, but the Russians evidently believe our mountain redwood equally available, as is seen by their demand for it. The supply of Florida cedar being limited has compelled a search for a substitute, and our mountain redwood stands high up in the second rank.

Redwood has already come into favor for other purposes. It is used very largely as an ornamental wood, especially the knotty and curly variety. If to this we can add the export of the straight-grained wood, even for making lead pencils in Russia and Poland, we may congratulate ourselves upon the opening of a new avenue of industry which may broaden and expand in the future.

Cost of Living in Europe's Capitals. An investigation into the comparative cost of living at the various capitals results in the following interesting facts: At Vienna the prices of most articles of food are lowest; at Madrid they are dearer than in any other capital, and such things as bread, meat, sugar and coal are very expensive. At St. Petersburg also the price of bread is so high that white bread is still considered a luxury above the means of the working classes. Next to Vienna, Brussels is an inexpensive city. Paris is a little higher in the scale, but London is "terribly expensive."—Westminster Gazette.

Electric Sterilization of Milk. Two Dutchmen have invented a process of sterilizing milk by subjecting it to the passage of an alternating electric current. All micro-organisms taken up by the milk from the air, etc., are permanently destroyed by the electric current. This germ-killing quality of the electric current does not hurt the milk, but a longer exposure only will teach us whether this system can be applied to large quantities with proper results.—Boston Journal of Commerce.

LOVE.

Love makes the path of duty sweet With roses of the May. Though winter rains around it beat And winter skies are gray.

He gives the rose its white and red; He gives the lamb its fleece; Unto the poor dispenseth bread And bids his hunger cease.

"And all his ways are pleasantness And all his paths are peace!" —Altauta Constitution.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

The great divide—Socialism.—Puck. The acrobat may not always be good at making jokes, but he can always tumble.—Philadelphia Record.

A girl who can't sing, and who doesn't want to sing, shouldn't be made to sing.—Boston Courier. The man who never forgets anything never forgets to boast about it to everyone he meets.—Boston Globe.

"Did you read," he sweetly asked her, "That poem I wrote last week?" "I read it years ago," she said, "And now they do not speak." —Spare Moments. Jasper—"Jones is a man who grows on people." Jumpup—"Well, I consider him a mighty poor crop."—Puck.

He (protestingly)—"Poverty is no crime." She—"Possibly not morally, but it is matrimonially."—Detroit Free Press. In spite of the fact that money talks, there are hundreds of people who are always complaining that they never hear it.—Life.

"Where are you going, my pretty maid?" "I'm going a-moving, kind sir," she said. "I'll move along with you, my pretty maid." "Your motion is not seconded, sir," she said. —Chicago Tribune. Much of the failure in this world may be attributed to the fact that too many people are firing at the bull's-eye of success with blank cartridges.

Swack are the uses of adversity; but it generally happens that while one person gets the adversity some other person corals the adversity.—Boston Transcript. Mother—"You are at the foot of the spelling class again, are you?" Boy—"Yes'm." Mother—"How did that happen?" Boy—"Got too many zs in scissors."—Tid-Bits.

"That's about as crooked a piece of work as I ever saw," mused Uncle Allen Sparks, looking at the track the lightning had made on the body of the big tree.—Chicago Tribune. So devotedly does the Habite love his native city that when he calls to the telephone girl, "Give me Boston," he invariably adds involuntarily, "or give me death."—Boston Transcript.

"Why, she actually cut Mr. Sturffington, and Sturffington, you know, is one of the better sort." "Yes; choice cuts come high now, but we must have 'em."—Boston Transcript. Mr. Dunn (impudible in his hand)—"When shall I call again, Mr. Owens?" Mr. Owens—"Well it would hardly be proper for you to call again until I have returned the present call." —Harper's Bazar.

Student—"Several of my friends are coming to dine here, so I want a big table." Miss Host—"Just look at this one, sir. Fifteen persons could sleep quite comfortably under it."—Fleegende Blatter. "Doesn't Mrs. Noowoman strike you as a person of remarkably decided opinions?" "Nav. She can't make up her mind, apparently, whether she wants to be a gentleman or a lady."—Indianapolis Journal.

Mrs. Hayson—"What is the price of that bonnet over there?" The Milliner—"Just \$18." Mrs. Hayson—"What will it be if you cut that ugly piece of ribbon off the side?" The Milliner—"Only \$30."—Chicago Record. Bicycle Manicurers. Each man retains the peculiarities of his gait on a bicycle to a certain extent. One man, for instance, who limps a little in walking does the same thing on his wheel, emphasizing one stroke more than another. A second, who moves with long strides when his feet are on terra firma, simply translates this motion to meet the new environment when he goes out for a ride. A third, being a bristly, energetic little person, always walking rapidly, keeps his legs going at a relative speed on his safety and couldn't stroll along if he tried.—Chicago Times-Herald.

Crusade Against Street Cries. C. H. Campbell, of the London County Council, has begun a crusade against street cries in the metropolis. He proposes that the council shall regulate them, prohibiting the crying of wares where it can be shown to be a nuisance to residents. Shades of Charles Lumsden!—Chicago Times-Herald.

The Blind May Read Roman Characters. By means of a recent invention the blind are enabled to write with facility, using the ordinary Roman alphabet. The invention is described as a hinged metal plate with square perforations arranged in parallel lines, inside of which the stylus is moved in making the letters.—New York World.

To Foretell Earthquakes. A Mexican professor of physics proposes to foretell earthquakes by connecting telephones to the pipes of deep artesian wells and to metal plates sunk in deep mountain crevices. Any unusual noise in the bowels of the earth would be audible in the telephone, and would indicate trouble.—New York Mail and Express.