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The Baltic Canal is the outcome of a project formulated 500 years ago.

When the Siberian Railway is complete one can go from London to Japan in sixteen days, and girdle the earth in about forty.

In their jubilant delight in their fine crops Western Kansas and Nebraska are already proferring to send "relief" to the effect East.

The mortality among cattle at sea, resulting from cruelty, want of water, etc., was formerly stated at sixteen per cent., while at the present time it is one per cent.

"Health," said Miss Arnold in Boston, to the Chauncey Hall kindergarten graduates, "is the first requisite of success."

A colored man and a Chinese woman were married in Lawrence County, South Dakota, a few days ago. The Clerk of the Court had serious doubts as to whether they were a good legal match, and postponed granting the necessary license until he was fully satisfied that such a union was not forbidden.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch says this year will go into history as bicycle year. The growth of the wheel's popularity has been so amazing that it seems as if all the world had suddenly discovered that the wheel is a good thing and is trying to get on one as soon as possible.

Economy in small things is the rule of life among the poor of France. In this country we waste enough in a week in the way of food to supply a French family for a month.

The common cotton tail rabbit appears to be continually pushing its way northward and replacing the Northern hare. Mr. Bangs finds that the latter is rare in Massachusetts, has almost wholly disappeared from many parts of New Hampshire, though it still abounds in Maine, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

The new impulse lately given to gold mining has brought new life into many deserted towns and abandoned camps in the West. One of the most notable of these resurrections—revival does not accurately describe the situation—is in the case of the camp of Florence, Idaho.

Sheep farmers, the world over, have been very busy during the last thirty-five years. In that period the St. Louis Star-Sayings estimates that the increase has been ten-fold in the Argentine, nine-fold in Australia and five-fold in South Africa and the United States.

GLADNESS.

A warmth of gold, all summer stored, The golden rod gives up; And filled from springtime's scented hoard Shines the sweet buttercup;

THE BICYCLE'S STORY.

AM a bicycle. Not such a swept along by the full tide of power, the conqueror leads to crimson glory and undying fame, but a plain, ordinary—no, not as "sardary," but a "sardary"—bicycle for hire.

True, I am in a good state of repair and am as comfortable as my keepers can make me, but I am not dealer in ribbons and ruffled in commodious quarters and ridden only by the aristocracy over smooth pavements and for short distances.

I never even had such luck when I first came from the factory. I thought I was going to fall into that good fortune, but a man took me on trial—that is to say, he took me on the instalment plan and tried to pay for me, but couldn't, and was forced to return me at the end of a month, and then I was only good enough to go among the hings, and there I have stayed ever since.

That time the man had me on trial, I think it was my most uncomfortable experience, for he was green at the business and so was I, and the result was that both of us got bumps innumerable, and though he came out of it with a twisted knee and sprained ankle and a barked nose and a lame arm and a hurt back and a black eye with a few other incidental casualties, I was nothing to brag of myself.

Of course, I knew this myself and was constantly striving to please, just as any other public servant is, for had I had enough of bang and hatter with that instalment plan party? I guess yes, and I am sure a properly regulated bicycle knows when it has had enough.

Sometimes, though, I couldn't help being a little frisky. Once I remember an athletic sort of a fellow took me out and for six mortal hours he pedaled me all over every road in the suburbs, rough and smooth, and almost drove every bit of breath out of my tires.

All kinds of people hired me, and with most of them I could do very well. Never, though, with a fat woman. There was one of these that thought she could reduce her flesh by riding, and she hit right down on me the first time she came into my place. How I regretted that I had not been born a man's machine, when she settled herself firmly in my saddle, and began paddling like a duck in the water.

of sylvan scenes while I leaned up against a tree and watched her by the hour. One day a handsome young fellow wheeled by, and they nodded pleasantly, she blushing a bit, and he smiling. Several days after that they came to my place together, and she took me away with her for three days.

There were others in the party, but my interest was in these two, and I paid no heed to what the others did or where they went. The third day, and we went bowling homeward, my lady appeared to be ill at ease, and there were times when I had not had all my wits about me as I would surely have gone off the road and over the bank into whatever may have been below to have received us.

Not long ago a Kansas City man stood on one of the principal streets of a bustling town, looking up and down and figuring on the tablet of his mind a future great city, when up the street he heard the report of a gun and saw a crowd of people run in every direction.

"Ah!" he thought, "a tragedy. What luck." For your ordinary peaceful citizen likes nothing better than the stimulus of a shock of that kind when in a country with a reputation for desperate deeds and men.

If the reader will listen to any heated debate, he will almost certainly find that neither of the disputants is making the slightest effort to recognize the force of his opponent's arguments; but each is only watching for something in the other's words that he can criticize, some weak spot that he can assail.

Something entirely new in vessel propulsion has been patented by Lorenzo Julia Y. Ping, a Spanish captain. Two propellers are employed, one at each side of the keel, the propeller having the same weight as the water to be displaced, and being forced outward by steam power and returned by the pressure of the water in its rear.

It is not the most fluent talker, nor the most plausible debater, who gives the greatest proof of intelligence, but the man who is always ready to listen and to learn.

Thumping Through Seas. Western farmers find that individual attempts at fighting the Russian thistle avail nothing, because the plague grows again faster than the individual farmer can find time to hoe it down, so they all unite as often as convenient to have "hoing bees" in designated localities.

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THE MERRY SIDE OF LIFE.

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

The Rose From Her Hair—His Heart—No Longer Aristocratic—Talking Shop, Etc., Etc.

"You ought to see that fellow strike a balance." "I suppose he's a bookkeeper?" "No, he's a professional juggler."—Detroit Free Press.

PROBS—"So you were in the Iowa cyclone. At what point did the storm leave the town?" "Dobbs—"It didn't leave the town—took it along."—Truth.

NO LONGER ARISTOCRATIC. "You're surely not going to have Mrs. Naylor arrested! Don't you remember that she had kleptomania last winter?" "Yes; but her husband has failed since then."—Puck.

HE HAD HIS DOUBTS. "I think a man is a coward who would strike a woman, don't you?" "Perkisy—"Well, I don't know. No coward would dare to strike my mother-in-law."—Brooklyn Eagle.

NOT AN ENCOURAGING EXAMPLE. "Give me the man who sings at his work," quoted the citizen who believes all he reads.

"Well," rejoined the skeptic, "I'm not so sure about that. You know the mosquito does that."—Washington Star.

TALKING SHOP. "Is my proposal accepted?" he asked of the daughter of the naval constructor. "It is received and filed," she responded, "but I expressly reserve the right to reject any or all bids."—Judge.

EASILY EXPLAINED. "I wonder what makes these buttons burst off so?" Dora putulantly exclaimed. David looked at her tight-fitting dress. "Force of habit, probably," he said after a thoughtful pause.

HER METHOD. "Mrs. Brown never sits up to wait for her husband?" "No." "No. When she expects him to be out late, she retires early, sets the alarm at 3 o'clock, and gets up, refreshed and reproachful."—Life.

DIDN'T PHASE HIM. "So you think you can stand the arduous duties of a variety actor? You know in our play we find occasion to throw you down a thirty-foot flight of stairs into a barrel of rain water." "I think I can stand it," said the hungry man. "I was a tax collector for three years."—Tit-Bits.

THE IRONON WHY. New Person—"Which do you like best, Willie, your day school or your Sunday-school?" Willie—"My Sunday-school." New Person—"I am glad to hear that. Why do you like your Sunday-school the best?" Willie—"Because it is only once a week."

TWO VARIETIES IN ONE. Bass—"And of which variety is your wife, the clinging vine or the self-assertive?" "No." Cass—"A little of both. When she wants a new dress or a new bonnet she generally begins in the clinging-vine role; if that doesn't bring the money, then she changes to the self-assertive; and—well—she invariably gets the dress or the bonnet."—Boston Transcript.

THE BLOPPY WORKED. At 7 o'clock in the morning two duellists, who are to fight to the death at a place in the suburbs, met at the ticket office of the railway station. "Give me a return ticket, as usual," says the first duellist to the clerk, in a terrible tone and with a ferocious twist of his monocle.

DEVICES OF THE MILKMAN. "I declare!" Mrs. Wiggin exclaimed, pouring a light blue stream out of the pithler, "if the milk doesn't grow poorer every day! What shall we do with the milkman?" Mr. Wiggin sawed gloomily at his meat.

"I suppose there's no way out of it," he grumbled; "I'll have to pay his bill." And the next morning they had real milk for breakfast.—Rockland Tribune.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Sulphate of zinc is used to render molasses pure amber color.

It would take sound fourteen years to travel from the sun to the earth.

Paper is being used as an insulating agent for three main telephone wires that are being laid in Nottingham, England.

The ptarmigan of the Arctic regions resembles the prairie chicken in size and habits, and in their summer plumage are almost identical in color.

Mesericham in good quality is now mined just like coal near Esli-Shehir, Turkey. The veins are small and the expense of working up the material is considerable.

It is said that the kola nut, so commonly used by the Africans in the Congo country, besides being very refreshing and strengthening, is almost a certain cure for asthma.

By the discovery of helium on our globe, only two permanent lines are left in the chromosphere spectrum of the sun which do not correspond to the lines obtained in terrestrial spectra.

The assistant engineer of the Chicago Drainage Board reports that the drainage canal will not hurt navigation on the lake, nor lower water more than a fraction of an inch, except when it is high.

The summit of Mount Baker, Washington, which is just becoming visible through the melting snows, is said to have changed its shape. A new peak, between the dome and the south peak, is said to be plainly visible from New Whatcom.

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.

Argon and helium have been extracted together from a meteorite, says Professor Ramsey and M. Berthelot, which points to the existence of argon outside of this earth. Professor Hedykinson has found gases, which he believes to be the two new elements, in minerals of the samarskite and curite group.

One of the greatest mistakes about food which people make is to forget that the true value of food to anybody is the measure of its digestibility. Half a pound of cheese is vastly more nourishing, as regards its mere composition, than half a pound of beef; but, while the beef is easily digested, and thus of vast service, the cheese is put out of court altogether for some folk by reason of its difficult digestibility.

Revolution in the Oil Industry. The refined oil, worth \$1 a gallon, is largely used for food. One-half the whole product, or 500,000 barrels, is used in the four great centers of the industry, Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis and Omaha, for making lard; half the remainder is sent to Holland for making bogus butter, and the rest of the product is used at home, or sent abroad to other localities for the same use or for filling cheese. Some of it appears on the tables as refined olive oil for use in salads, and some is used for the preparation of the popular Saratoga potatoes. Thus, for small and great uses this new product is entering into almost every opening that can be made for it by the withdrawal of other oils or fats.

It is curious to note the effect of this new product. It has wholly changed the manner of making pork, from the production of heavy pigs to light, small ones, for thin, lean meat, and no use for the inside fat. It has greatly restricted the sale of butter, especially the lower qualities of it, and changed to a large extent the manner of making cheese, obliterating to a serious degree the market for pure dairy goods, and, in the end, causing what is called in the parlance of the market, the great slump in the value of cheese. It has led to the destruction of the olive groves in great part. It has changed the destination of tallow from its use as a material for soap and a lubricant to its use as butter, and the material for making oleomargarine, and it sheds light upon the studies of the student who is in the habit of burning the midnight oil, formerly derived from the sperm whale. Thus the world changes, and we change with it.

A Lazy Man's Labor Lightened. He can be seen at Longport, near Atlantic City, N. J., and is probably as lazy as any amateur fisherman that ever baited hook or looked bait. He was seen the other day with three lines in the water. He was catching as many fish as the others with considerably less effort. The lines of this ingenious individual were fastened to small pieces of umbrellas ribs about twelve inches long. About one inch from the end of the wires were fastened small sleigh bells. When he cast the line into the water he drew it taut and then stuck the wires into the ground. When a fish would nibble at the bait the bell would jingle and thus draw the attention of the fisherman to the line. It is beautiful. The old man drops his fish a line, and when they call on him they ring a bell. He is not obliged to think, everything is so comfortable about him.

Armed for Emergencies. A whickered Westener from Alma, Kan., was arrested in Kansas City a few days ago for belittling bearing in the public streets, and was found to be carrying in his pockets a pistol, a pair of brass knuckles, and a copy each of the Old and New Testaments. He declared he was a good church member in his own town.

Suit for a Queer Reason. A woman in Atlanta, Ga., is suing a local druggist for \$1000 damages because when she sent to his store for a certain cough cure he sent a substitute, which, she claims, "poisoned her feet, made her suffer from anxiety, and brought her many weary nights."

THE SMOKE.

Dove-winged against a tender, turquoise sky The white smoke flits; or through the lambent air

Quivers to fading violet aprils fair; Or rises to gray, curled upward heavily, It shifts in strong, twisted columns high From grimy funnels, flecked with filial glare;

Or through the planks of creaking bridges bare It sifts a sinuous way to trail and die.

The still, vast skies are background for its strife;

'Tis like man's yearning, mounting from man's pain, Seeking the tranquil heavens, waveringly; Earth's ceaseless clash and clangor give it life;

'Tis like man's prayers, that rise from toil and strain, Trail, and are lost, in God's immensity.

—Hannah Park Kimball, in Scribner.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

A woman is irresistible only when she doesn't know it.—Detroit Free Press.

How much a plumber's kit resembles a burglar's kit of tools!—Atchison Globe.

A thoroughbred is a man who forgets that he has on new clothes.—Atchison Globe.

We speak of some men as all wool, probably because they shrink at nothing.—Boston Transcript.

How by the statesman (inspired) Man's weak side is exposed; He'll shake your hand one minute and He'll pull your leg the next!—Truth.

"What!" exclaimed Robinson Crusoe, as he spied the foot-print on the island, "is Trilby here, too?"—Truth.

The business man who does not advertise is often caught in the act of counterfeiting prosperity.—West Union Gazette.

Citizens—"I wonder how it is that so few women stammer when they talk?" "Writicus—"They haven't time."—Tammany Times.

Johnson—"Why are you so particular with your women?" Mason—"I can't afford to turn out poor work until I've made a reputation."—Truth.

Experience in the world's ways shows That as a general rule The politician who has the push Is the one who has the pull.—Boston Courier.

Don't throw old shoes at a bride. Make a neat package and send them to her three years after her marriage. They may be acceptable.—Atchison Globe.

Sister—"There, you have the candy all over your new suit! What will mamma say?" Little Brother—"Well, mamma won't let me have any fun in these clothes till I get 'em spoiled."—Puck.

She (poutingly)—"Before we were married you used to bring me candy every time you came." He (briskly)—"Yes, my dear, and it cost a good deal less than the meat and potatoes I bring you now."—New York Weekly.

Willie S.—"Mamma says she always likes to call on you." Mrs. Twickenham (highly gratified)—"Does she, Willie?" Willie—"Yes'm. When she goes away she says she feels so satisfied with herself."—Brooklyn Life.

A pupil whispered in the next boy's ear, "Our teacher is a regular duffer." The master, who had just put a question to the whole class, thought that the pupil was framing a reply, and said to him: "Come, my lad, speak up; perhaps you are right."—Chronique.

Her head had dropped upon his shoulder. "If only," he whispered, "thy cheek could remain there forever." Little thought he what was to be. Little thought he until he got home and tried to remove her cheek from the dress coat with ammonia and alcohol.—Detroit Tribune.

"Poor little creature!" exclaimed Uncle Allen to the mosquito that was buzzing about him. "There's room in this great world for both you and me. . . . But you shouldn't try to crowd me," he added, a moment later, as the insect alighted on his nose. And he crushed it remorselessly.—Chicago Tribune.

An Eccentric Empress.

The eccentric Empress of Austria, after wandering in the Grecian islands, has at last returned to Vienna. The court functionaries notice that she has developed several peculiarities. For instance, she always dresses for no matter what ceremony, in a high gown of unrelieved black. Then she absolutely refuses to listen to music, even the music of Strauss. She avers that her nerves are shattered, and unable "to bear the strain of music." Her Majesty's most remarkable eccentricities, however, have to do with her food; she lives almost entirely on milk—the milk from a special sort of cow reared in Corfu.—New York Dispatch.

Brigands of Sicily.

At Aci Reale, in Sicily, two brothers who had sold some cattle and had the money with them were attacked in their farm house by nine masked brigands, and one of them was shot. The carabinieri then came in, and, after a long fight, killed six of the brigands, captured the other three, and found that they were all townspeople, among them the village shoemaker and the barber.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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