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Before the end of this year every one of the 168 towns in Connecticut will be connected by telephone.

The Peruvian oil region is said to cover 72,000 square miles. That of Pennsylvania is about 350 square miles.

A correspondent asks the Chicago Times-Herald to "describe the Greek cross." It would be much easier to describe what has made the Greek cross.

According to the London Labor Gazette, there were 1037 strikes last year, as against only 876 in 1895; but the number of laborers involved was 263,758 in the latter year, and only 199,600 in 1895.

A curious illustration of the diverse conditions that may exist in this country is the fact that while so many people in the Mississippi Valley are suffering from floods the New Orleans papers are raising money for sufferers from the drouth in Louisiana.

A woman's bicycle club was organized in Detroit the other day, but the Free Press says that it collapsed within a week because no two members could agree as to the uniform to be worn.

While a marriage ceremony was being performed near Danville, Va., a kerosene lamp flamed up and was about to explode when the bride seized it and hurled it through a window.

Promotions are coming rapidly these days in the upper official circles of the regular army. What few veterans of the Civil War are left find the age of retirement close at hand in the youngest cases.

For the first time in twenty-eight years the State of Ohio is without Democratic representation in the United States Senate. The long period of divided representation began in 1869, with the election of Allen G. Thurman as the colleague of John Sherman.

One of the new dictionaries is in it a pretty big and yet perhaps a useable word, "politicalization," of which it seems to be itself somewhat in doubt, although it half-supports it with a quotation from the Brooklyn Eagle, which coined the phrase.

Illinois women are making a strong effort to lift the compulsory education law of their State into activity. At present the law only remains that every child shall attend school for sixteen weeks each year.

A newspaper artist has been telling some of the woes of the men who make pictures for the daily papers. He says: "It makes me tired sometimes when I see some smart Aleck who couldn't tell the difference between art and a side of sole leather criticise newspaper illustrations."

THE SAME OLD SONG.

Mothers, out of the mother-heart, Fashion a song both soft and low. Always the same, dear mother art, Rocking the baby to and fro.

TALE OF TWO RINGS.

ARSON," I said involuntarily, stooping to knock the ash from my cigar, "perhaps I ought not to ask, although I have known you for nearly three years, but is it usual for a wife to wear two wedding rings?"

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Munich, Bavaria, reports bottled liquefied air. Some comets have more than one tail. The great comet of 1744 had six tails spread fan shape.

THE MERRY SIDE OF LIFE.

STORIES THAT ARE TOLD BY THE FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS. He does it Alone Now—Determined—Novel Writing—Deafening—Thrown In—A New Tack—His Explanation—The True Test—A Glimpse of the Future.

LIFE'S JOURNEY.

If I went to seek his fortune With light and joyous tread, And all his bag and baggage Was just a crust of bread.



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