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China's resistance to foreign aggression seems to be limited to wrapping her pigtail about her devoted head...

Says the Indianapolis News, the live stock of the country is worth today \$236,000,000, or fourteen per cent. more than last year...

The fact that South American countries and at least one European Power are willing to sell their new warships to the United States rather than to Spain...

A British investigator, provoked at hearing his country repeatedly referred to as a "tight little island"...

Fifty years London was five times larger than New York. At the present time it is barely more than two-thirds larger...

Table with 3 columns: Year, New York, London. Rows for 1840, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1890, 1900.

From 1840 to 1850 London's population increased 31 per cent. and New York's 75 per cent. Since that time the percentages of increase have been as follows...

From the military viewpoint the most interesting story of the Cuban war is told by Frederick Funston, late chief of the insurgent artillery...

Then there was further conference, held in hot haste, and lasting like the other. The sun went down upon the misery of that doomed host...

THE GAME OF LIFE.

The prize for which you're playing may not be a costly one; But you are indulging just for pastime or for fun...

THE STRANGEST EVENT IN THE WORLD.

By C. SYLVESTER HORNE, M. A.

I CANNOT tell the story as he used to tell it, the dear old man, short of stature, with those pale blue eyes...

heads. Others, scorning any exhibition, strode away to the right of the ranks with impassive countenances. Further and further down the line moved the officer with the bag...

At last, some after noon, there was a murmur of excitement. The soldiers on guard drew themselves up in military fashion and roughly constrained their prisoners into line.

The scene that followed this frightful proclamation baffles description. Some of the male prisoners who had awaited it with most apparent unconcern broke into wild volleys of oaths and curses.

Then there was further conference, held in hot haste, and lasting like the other. The sun went down upon the misery of that doomed host...

At the appointed hour an officer galloped up with the bag, shaking it as he went, that the tokens of Life and Death were fairly mixed.

"Sir," he said, "it cannot matter to you whom you shoot. I will draw instead of this woman's husband. Let him take my place and I will take his."

There was a murmur of admiration among the soldiers. The woman ceased her hysterical cries to look at the author of this strange interruption. There was a whispered consultation among the officers.

"So far, so good," he said, quietly, "the man is free, and I am free also. Now, by your leave, I will draw for the man's wife."

"Well, your life is your own to throw away if you will." "Oh, but it's not thrown away yet," said the man, "Where is the bag?"

The officer took his bag aside, and made an examination by which he satisfied himself that the papers with the red cross on them were actually lying with the rest, and that it was impossible to distinguish them by the feel.

"You will have your children," he said to the woman; "for if I fail this time, it will only be my life they will require. And I have no friends!"

It was a white one. Then indeed such a cheer arose as has seldom been heard on this old earth. The officer carried back the bag to the generals' tent...

Freinet, the French sculptor, has completed the model for the colossal statue of Ferdinand de Lesseps, which the Suez Canal Company is to erect at Suez in memory of the French engineer.

THE MERRY SIDE OF LIFE.

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

Romance and Reality—Landed on His Feet—The One to Go—Some Differences—Their First Quarrel—Hard-Pressed—Appreciative—Not a Party Matter, Etc.

Timmy—"Pop, if there's a war, are you going?" "Pop—"No, sir. Your mother has been the man of the house for the past year."—Life.

Miss Passie—"Did he refer to me as fair, fat and forty?" "No," he referred to you as homely, fat and forty-five."—Syracuse Herald.

Bobby—"What does the fiscal year mean?" "Pa—"I'er—guess it relates to er—the months—er—we're allowed to catch fish without being fined."—Syracuse Herald.

Briggs—"What did she say when she rejected you?" "Griggs—"She said it wasn't necessarily due to lack of merit, but on account of the great pressure of other material."—Life.

She—"Why is a girl said to be of age when she's eighteen, when a man reaches his majority at twenty-one?" "He—"Perhaps it's because girls born in 1877 are celebrating their eighteenth birthday this year."—Chicago News.

"Maude," he said, bashfully, "I am a silver man, I must tell you that." "What care I for your metal?" she cried. "As long as you are a Populist who can pop—and has popped—I am happy."—Harper's Bazar.

Mrs. X (reproachfully)—"I am beginning to believe with Bryon that 'Man's love is of man's life a thing apart.'" "Mr. X—"Well, I can't say that I ever found out yet that 'was 'Woman's whole existence.'"—Harlem Life.

"What a beautiful specimen of in-laying!" exclaimed the guest. "Yes," replied Mr. Cumrox, as he put his hands behind and tiptoed complacently; "but that isn't anything. You ought to have seen the outlay it represents."—Washington Star.

"I suppose," said the village assessor to the minister, "that your constant prayer is that you may ever be poor and humble." "Not exactly," replied the minister. "I pray that I may remain humble, but my congregation attends to the other part of it."—Chicago Record.

"Willie," said the little girl who listens attentively to the conversation of her elders, "does your mother belong to the smart set?" "I think she does," was the answer of the lad with a cold. "She has started to raise me on mustard plasters and ginger tea."—Washington Star.

Helen—"How do you like my engagement ring?" "Mattie—"Oh, I like it much better now than formerly." Helen—"What do you mean by that?" "Mattie—"Why, dear, it's the same one I wore for three weeks last summer."—Chicago News.

Said a member of a household economic association to a lady of society, "The city water is so full of animalcules I wonder you dare to drink it as it is. We always boil ours." "Dear me!" returned Mrs. Mundane; "what a distressing thought. I'd rather be an aquarium than a graveyard, so I drink mine raw."—Judge.

"Now, look here, Thompson," remarked Brown; "it has been six months since you borrowed that \$5 from me." "Seven," corrected Thompson gravely. "Well, then, seven months," snorted Brown, "and you promised to give it back to me in a week. Promised faithfully, you did, to return me it in seven days, instead of months." "I know it," answered Thompson, sadly, drawing a memorandum book from his pocket. "That bill was 'Series F, No. 672,929, issue of 1887.' I made the note, and then I spent the money. Since then I've been trying to recover it." "But," howled Brown, "any other would do as well." "No," responded Thompson, shaking his head, "I'm a man of my word. When you gave me the bill I said 'I will return this to you,' and I meant it. Brown, old man, just as soon as I come across No. 672,929, Series F, issue of 1887, I'll see that you get it. For I am not the one to go back on my promise."—Harper's Magazine.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

All the land above sea level would not fill up more than one-third of the Atlantic Ocean.

An eminent oculist announces that there is twice as much blindness among men as among women.

Dr. Zambaco states that more than forty lepers circulate freely in the streets of Constantinople, Turkey, and are engaged in all kinds of trades, yet they do not appear to give the disease to the inhabitants of that city.

At a meeting of the Torrey Botanical Club, recently, the President described some remarkably small pine trees which he had found growing on the top of a precipice in the Sierras.

High prices are paid for butterflies, and some private collections, such as that of the Hon. W. Rothschild at Tring, Heris, are said to be worth \$300,000 more or less.

A Cornell professor makes an interesting announcement about brains. The main portion of the human brain is composed of the cerebrum, and the portion anterior to it, devoted to smell, and known as the olfactory bulb, is sometimes treated as a mere appendix to the cerebrum.

Shrapnel's Terrific Force. In fighting at close range one of the deadly things that will be brought into use will be the shrapnel. Experiments extending over a long period have brought this terrible projectile to great perfection.

Shrapnel is made of all sizes up to seven-inch. Tests show that when they explode 1000 yards from the muzzle of the gun the bullets and fragments will cover a circle at least twenty feet in diameter.

Professor Gus Stinsky, the well-known taxidermist of Colorado Springs, is now engaged in mounting what is conceded to be the finest and largest moose head in the world.

During the old days of Sweden there were several best men, and the term was applied in its full literal sense. The duty of the best men in those times was to defend the groom and his prospective bride from a rival, who, accompanied by several retainers, was sure to appear while the wedding procession was on its way to church and make a stubborn fight for possession of the woman.

The Scandinavian warrior considered it beneath his dignity to court a maiden's favor by gallantry and submission, and therefore generally preferred to wait until she was on her way to be married to another man, when the attempt was made to carry her off by main strength.

"May I ask which of the city's political factions you belong to?" said the stranger? The boss looked at him sternly and then responded: "What you doubtless mean to ask, sir, is what political faction belongs to me."—Washington Star.

Post—"I sent a poem to a morning paper last week, but for some reason it has failed to appear." Friend—"Did you enclose a stamp?" Post—"Of course not." Friend—"Well, there's where you made a mistake. Had you done so it would no doubt have appeared in the mail next morning."—Chicago News.

CONSOLATION.

When Molly comes home from the party to-night— The party was out at nine— There were traces of tears in her bright blue eyes.

For some one had said, she whispered to me, With her face on my shoulder hid, Some one had said (there were sobs in her voice) That they didn't like something she did.

"This world is a difficult world, indeed, I, And people are hard to suit, And the man who plays on the violin Is a bore to the man with the flute.

"What made you go on so about the moon last night? It is the same old moon." "I know; but I was with a new girl."—Chicago Record.

Jack—"Yes, ancestors certainly help to give a person social prestige." Tom—"Especially when they are wealthy and one lives with them."—Life.

Brief Peace of Mind.—"Clara, I love to be with you." "Why, Edith?" "When I'm with you I know you are not gossiping about me."—Chicago Record.

Mrs. Bainbridge—"The girls of today should be taught to say 'No.'" Mrs. Hemphill—"That's what I think. The pert things all say 'Nix.'"—Harper's Bazar.

She—"There are people who use religion as a cloak." He—"I know it." "What will they do in the next world, do you think?" "Oh, they won't need any cloak there."

He—"There are at least a dozen women who would be glad to get me if you were to die." She—"I don't doubt it. They know I have got you pretty well trained."—Indianapolis Journal.

Old Farmer—"That's a fine lot of pigs over there. What do you feed them?" Amateur—"Whey, corn of course." Old Farmer—"In the ear?" Amateur—"Certainly not, in the month."—Chicago News.

Arden Young Frenchman—"Pardonnez-moi, vat you call zat?" She—"A guitar." He—"Ah, zen I was right. I tell my landlady zat you do sing to me vuz you gartere on you knee, and she laugh. Vyz?"—Standard.

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