

Table with advertising rates: One Square, one inch, one insertion... One Square, one inch, one month... One Square, one inch, three months... One Square, one inch, one year... One Column, one year... Legal advertisements ten cents per line each insertion.

The 1900 census blanks will have large Dewey and Hobson columns.

All that Germany, France and Russia need know touching the intentions of the United States is that they are honorable.

Since the Franco-Prussian war of 1870 it has been the custom of the nations that win in war to make the nations that lose pay the expense to the last cent.

In 1884 Spain exacted a revenue of \$34,000,000 from Cuba under her extortionate system of taxation; the estimated revenue for 1898 is \$24,775,000, but of course nothing like that amount can be collected.

A society has been formed in England for the removal of "superfluous women from the United Kingdom to those parts of colonies where their presence is doubly welcome," and the Princess of Wales has become a patroness. Happy indeed will be the land that has no "superfluous women."

On account of the requirements growing out of the arrests of women and young children, many cities have found the office of police matron absolutely indispensable. Moreover, they have constantly increased its scope on the idea that while the common properties of life warranted the creation of the office, it was furthermore of untold value on account of the reformatory influence which it exercised. Under proper regulations there is no reason why this office should not become one of the most efficient in the city Government.

The London Mail says: It is not altogether a satisfactory story to find that the all-conquering American is not only producing as good armor as England, but producing it cheaper. Yet, according to a German naval periodical, the British firms of Vickers and Brown were underbitten by the American firms of Carnegie and Bethlehem and by the German firm of Krupp in a tender for the armor of two new Russian battleships. Both American firms were \$10 per ton below the lowest British tender. There is an unpleasant monotony about these failures of Englishmen to hold their own in foreign contracts.

One thing that war always does is to bring merit speedily to the front. The junior lieutenant is likely any day to do a stroke of work that will cause his photograph to crowd his commanding general's out of the illustrated papers. Every day develops some new instance of daring and gallantry in a subordinate officer. And these are the men now destined to quick promotion. As every French private soldier in the old days was said to carry the baton of a Marshal of France in his knapsack, every man in army or navy, no matter how humble, has the chance to rise to any preferment the service affords by distinguishing himself sufficiently.

The United States is the wealthiest nation in the world. This is a fact that is often repeated, but because of the natural disposition of the American people to belittle themselves, which has arisen by a kind of reaction from the old disposition to brag and bluster, it seems to be universally forgotten. The great English statistician, Mulhall, has completed tables showing the wealth of the nations of the world in 1895 as follows (pounds being converted into dollars at the rate of \$5 per pound): United States... \$51,750,000,000 Great Britain... 59,303,000,000 France... 47,960,000,000 Germany... 40,260,000,000 Russia... 32,125,000,000 Austria... 22,560,000,000 Italy... 15,800,000,000 Spain... 11,900,000,000 These figures include everything, such as farms, railways, houses and merchandise.

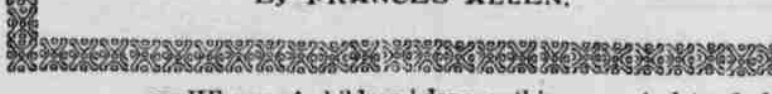
There is one thing which specially frets and teases soldiers in the field. It is the ping of the sharpshooter's bullet. It constitutes one of the uncanny elements of a war. That ounce of lead comes from a source that cannot be discovered. It may come at the most unexpected moment and it causes a nervous tension which no one can appreciate unless he has had the experience. We stay-at-homes imagine that the thick of the fight is what causes solicitude, but it is not so. In the thick of the fight a soldier will be as cool as a piece of ice and go about his duty as indifferent to danger as a machine. But when he is in ambush and the sharpshooter lies in camp and may try his skill at any moment the soldier is naturally restless and excited. We should not forget these things when we begin to pile up the gratitude which is due to the brave fellows at the front.

THE WAR KING.

If you're waking call me early—call me early, Molly, dear; To-morrow'll be the liveliest day of all the war-like year; Of all the war-like year, Molly, for me the happiest day; For I'm to enlist for the war, Molly, and pocket the first month's pay!

BILLY RILEY AND THE CIRCUS

By FRANCES ALLEN.



THE row of children clinging with toes and fingers to the back of Miss Dixon's desk; around her crowded a ring three deep. She enjoyed this morning so-called, with bright faces peering between the mugs of lilacs, and the light, swaying pressure about her shoulders; but thrifty of time, she was accounting for gaps in yesterday's attendance.

There was no mistaking his face. Jimmy was innocent for once, and Miss Dixon flushed as quickly as he had done. "I'm sure you didn't, Jimmy. Billy Riley, I suppose you have some excellent reason for your absence?"

"Er-r—" stammered Billy, trying to wind himself up to the point of speech. Here Dinny Phalen upset one mug of lilacs, and in the scramble to save the register, Billy's attempt at speech was lost.

"Did he have an excellent reason. I'd told her if she'd waited," muttered Billy, going to his seat. Billy was cross that morning. He rubbed out his drawing so furiously as to make a hole in the paper. In marble he broke the rules of the game and quarrelled with the other boys until they put him out of the ring. They resented the more this fit of lawlessness and ill-temper from good-natured Billy.

"I didn't tell no lie. She never ast me. She just supposed," he was saying while Miss Dixon explained the lesson. "She never thought I'd run away. She wouldn't think where I went was any excuse. She'd think it was worst of all. Where did she say the lesson was? It's just as she said, I had an excellent reason, but if I told her she wouldn't think so. I'm goin' to get a week ahead in my cipherin'."

THE MERRY SIDE OF LIFE.

STORIES TOLD BY THE FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

Unreasonable Reason—Occupied—Unpleasant Reflection—The Other Kind—Hubby's Salary—Forcing an Issue—In the Negative—His Mistake, Etc., Etc.

Customer—"Do you suppose you can take a good picture of me?" Photographer—"I shall have to answer you in the negative, sir."—Pick-Me-Up.

Snodgrass—"The world has a place for everybody." Micawber—"Yes; the only trouble is there's generally somebody else in it."—Chicago News.

Pauline, are you one of Fashion's slaves? "Not much; I'm the slave of a man who won't let me follow the fashions at all."—Detroit Free Press.

Forcing an Issue. He—"We must devise some plan for getting your father's consent to our marriage." She—"Well, we—or might put our heads together."—Brooklyn Life.

His Mistake. "That politician is a 'has been,' isn't he?" remarked the observer. "No," replied the captious friend, "he isn't even that. He's merely a 'used-to-think-he-was.'"—Washington Star.

The Parson's Rich Wife. Mrs. Greene—"They must think a good deal of your husband's comfort to give him a three months' vacation." The Parson's Wife—"Or a good deal of their own comfort."—Boston Transcript.

Hubby's Salary. Jones-Brown—"How much does your husband earn a week, Mrs. Brown-Smith?" Mrs. Brown-Smith—"Oh, anywhere from \$10 to \$25 less than we spend."—Brooklyn Life.

The Artist's Error. "Father, are generals brave men?" asked Johnny of his father. "Yes, my son, as a rule," was the answer. "Then why do you artists make pictures of 'em standing on a hill three miles away, looking at a battle through an opera glass?"

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Straight hairs are nearly cylindrical; curly hairs are elliptical or flat. The seacoast line of the globe is computed to be about 136,000 miles. It is said that the castor oil plant is abhorred by nearly all members of the animal kingdom.

The waters of the Grand Falls of Labrador have excavated a chasm thirty miles long. Alcohol is being used with mantle lamps to illuminate parts of Berlin's park, the Thiergarten.

An army physician says that he has discovered that pure olive oil taken internally will cure enteric fever. The relative size of the earth, as compared with the sun, is approximately, that of a grain of sand to an orange.

In a recent test of floor material the most durable turned out to be a tile made of rubber. An English earthen tile came next. The shoe factories use 1,000,000 kangaroo skins yearly. Australians have begun to raise and breed kangaroos as they would sheep.

Liquid (oil) fuel, in combination with coal, is used on thirty-seven engines of the Great Eastern Railway, in England, including fifteen express. The Maldivian Archipelago, west of Ceylon, embraces 14,000 coral islands, few of which are more than six feet above the level of the ocean, and only 175 of which are inhabited.

Krypton will have as its density forty, with a minimum density of 22.51. "Krypton" is the name assigned to the new gas. The word means "hidden" or "concealed," and its scientific symbol will be "Kr."

How Russia is Preparing For War. At Nikolskoye, about seventy miles from the Pacific, I stopped for the night. It is a great military centre, and always has been recognized as a strong strategic point. There are fortifications, ruined and dilapidated, upon the prairie near the town, which have been pronounced to be the handiwork of Tamerlane or Genghis Khan.

Suddenly, with a bump and a jolt, we came abruptly to a standstill, and I followed the izvozchik's whip to where he was pointing to the plain below. It was white with tents. How many there were standing there I shall never know, as the evening closed in, and when I had counted a thousand I lost my count in the dusk; but there were still many, very many, more. It was a summer camp, and there were anywhere from 15,000 to 20,000 soldiers lying here perdu, where their presence was as little suspected, where they were as secluded, as if somewhere in the heart of Africa. I afterwards learned that this was but one of the three entrenched camps around Nikolskoye, and not the largest. The men were leading the life of soldiers on active service, and were ready for mobilization, to the last button.—Stephen Bonsal, in Harper's Magazine.

The Saviors of Kansas and Nebraska. The hens are said to have saved Nebraska. From the stations in the interior of the State were shipped thousands of dozens of eggs every week. The money received for them was about the only clear cash that came into the household, and kept the children fit for school and the wife in presentable clothes. In Kansas the humble cow was more in evidence. Scattered over the plains are the creameries, to which every morning wends a procession of farm wagons, each containing a dozen or more high tin cans filled with milk from the farms. One county has for six years received from the creameries \$250,000 annually in monthly payments. It has been the salvation of the settlers. Others have done nearly as well, and the annual value of the milk products has been from \$4,500,000 to \$5,000,000. This, added to the help of the hen and the returns of the swine yard, has been the resource upon which many a family has depended to tide over their lean years.—Harper's Magazine.

THE URCHIN'S TALE.

Above the sound of the traffic that roared in the neighborhood of the bulletin board came the piping tones of a seven-year-old; And the man gave heed to the tale he told; For the man was a man of a martial air, Though white was the drift of his snowy hair;

And his eyes grew bright and he smiled for joy At the warlike words of the little boy, Who spoke to his comrade, small, fresh-faced, With a Cuban flag on his tattered waist;

"What stock," said the vet, "when grim war's alarms Break out in the speech of the babes in arms?" "When the discourse of children is talk of guns And heroes are praised by the little ones, 'Ay, what a stock! What a sturdy stock! What fighting clips of the fighting block!'"

The seven-year-old by the bulletin board Heard none of all this—or, hearing, ignored— But went right on with his tale of strife—"De battery licked 'em, you betcher life!" "De battery done it; ah, don't forget Dat battery was onto its job, you bet."

"De odder Captain was sand clear 'troo, But he was 'fraid o' dem cannon balls, too. "He cheered up his gang, you know—but try! He tried der best, but dey couldn't hit. 'An' den"—and the old man's eyes grew moist, And deep in his loyal heart he rejoiced; And he bent his head and he proudly smiled.

At the eye sung by a little child, And his pulses throbbed and his being thrilled; Then he gravely thought of the maimed and killed; For he had fought, and he knew no fun's Provoked by a charge on the enemy's guns. He fancied the carnage—the death and smoke Of the battery charge—then the wee boy spoke:

"De battery did all o' de work— Me brudder pitched an' was caught by Burke." —Chicago Record.

HUMOR OF THE DAY. She—"When you married me you said you were well off." He—"I was, but I didn't know it."—Tit-Bits. "Were you a guest at the hotel where you were away, Blodgett?" "Guest? Not much. I paid cash."—Chicago Record.

"Say, what would you do if you had a skeleton in your closet?" "The best thing to do is to make no bones of it."—Indianapolis Journal. A workman was repairing a steeple directly above the big clock and strange to say he charged his employers up with working over time.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

Chemist (to battered female, who is covered with scratches)—"The cat, I suppose?" Battered Female—"No. Another lady."—Punch. "What's the matter, Little Dick?" "Say, Mr. Higby, why don't you bring my sister more candy an' not so many roses?"—Chicago Record.

McDonag—"Hoot, mon! ye'll soon be better." McMinus—"It's not the seckness I'm minding; it's the awful waste. I paid atteneance for that deenner."—Pick-Me-Up. Boyjee—"Why are you consulting the dictionary? I thought you knew how to spell." Chinn—"I do, I am not looking for information, but for corroboration."—Tit-Bits.

Carrie—"Did John come up very close to you when he proposed?" May—"Well, I hope you don't think he went across the street and shouted his love over to me."—Standard. Mistress—"The servants seem to know all about the mortgage on the house." Master—"Yes; they'd naturally look up the title before they took possession."—Detroit Journal.

Keedick—"Young Browne added the 'e' to his name after he inherited his uncle's big fortune." Fosdick—"That's quite right. Rich people are entitled to more ease than poor people." "My dog is almost as intelligent as I am," remarked Squidwig. "Are you going to have him shot, or will you try to give him away?" asked McSwilligen. —Pittsburg Chronicle Telegraph.

"I understand from a careful perusal of history," said a young fellow with an arid upper lip, "that in 1861 the young fellows went to war, and I think it's the old men's turn to go this time."—Denver Times. "Every morning on the way to school," said the little miss, "the boys catch me and kiss me." "Why don't you run from them?" asked her father. "Because," replied the small edition of Eve, "maybe they wouldn't chase me."—Chicago Post.

"So you are going to marry Dummer, Grace?" laughed her best chum. "Pardon my levity, but he's so short and you so tall and stately." "You're wrong, as you often are. A man can't be called short when he's worth over a million."—Detroit Free Press. "So you think it absolutely necessary to have bicycle shoes on when you ride your wheel, do you?" asked the Cheerful Idiot. "Of course," said the youngest boarder. "Then, would your wear horse shoes when you rode a horse?"—Indianapolis Journal.

Her Father—"I am afraid, sir, that my daughter can never be happy with a man who can be engaged to her a month without giving her a ring." The Aspirant—"Sir, I am afraid I can never be happy with a girl whose engagement to me will not induce jewelers to trust me."—Jewelers' Weekly.

Duration of Life. The average duration of human life in European countries is greatest in Sweden and Norway, and lowest in Italy and Austria.

Our Output of Precious Stones. In 1897, while this country's gold production exceeded \$40,000,000, the output of precious stones reached only the modest figure of \$130,675. The principal items of this total were: Turquoise, \$55,000; sapphire, \$25,000; quartz crystal, \$12,000; tourmaline, \$9025; gold quartz, \$5000.