

RATES OF ADVERTISING: One Square, one inch, one insertion... 1 00 One Square, one inch, one month... 8 00

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."

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.

The London Mail says: It is not altogether satisfactory to find that the all-conquering American is not only producing as good armor as England, but producing it cheaper.

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.

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.

Table with 2 columns: Country and Wealth. United States... \$31,750,000,000 Great Britain... 29,300,000,000

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 un-canny elements of a war.

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;

BILLY RILEY AND THE CIRCUS

By FRANCES ALLEN.



THE row of children clung with toes and fingers to the back of Miss Dixon's desk; around her crowded a ring three deep.

There was no mistaking his face. Jimmy was innocent for once, and Miss Dixon flushed as quickly as he had done.

"Did he tell no lie. She never ast me. She just supposed," he was saying while Miss Dixon explained the lesson.

"Why, I never thought you'd—I d-didn't know—I didn't 'pose you'd be so r-r-reasonable about it."

"I'll tell you how I came to understand, Billy. I once ran away to the circus myself."

"I felt mean not to, 'specially after them stories. And you were real—' 'Reasonable, Billy? But could any one have reasonably expected that little Dutch boy to stay alone in the cold and dark all night, with his finger in the dike? And could any one have reasonably blamed the little

messenger-boy if he had given up the key? Would it have been just as well if they had done no more than could be reasonably expected?"

"I sh-shouldn't think it would," said Billy; "and just going to school wasn't anything extra to do, either. I think I acted mean. What shall I do to make it up?"

"What can you do?" "Er—I might make up the time after school. I'm ahead cipherin', and jography is review, and reading and language and those things don't count."

"Very well. If you like to work in the garden just to help the school I shall be glad."

"I'll tell her. She says when I get a p-punishin' at school I'll get one at home; and if I don't get one she'll give me two."

"You may tell her that I think you can be trusted next time, and ask her to excuse you."

"N-no, no, she won't. She's not that kind of a lady."

"N-no, no," said Billy, firmly, looking straight at her. "I ain't. It had to be done. I'm 'seven years old' never went to a circus in my life before. All the boys have been. Every b-baby-boy in the school has been—most of 'em two or three times. My aunt wouldn't ever give me the money, an' what I earn she k-keeps to buy my clothes. 'Bout a week ago, comin' home from pasture, the circus-prot man drove by me."

"I see his horse's girth was hangin' 'n' I hollered, 'Your girth's broke,' and he jumped out and give him a string to mend it 'n' some winter-greens, 'n' he wrote on a card, 'Admit William Riley and lady, 'n' said that would take me inside the circus. Knew I'd never get another chance 'n' I went, and I ain't sorry."

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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.

She said to him, her lover: "I would not hold you—no. If once the dream seemed over, if once you wished to go."

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.

Forcing an Issue. He—"We must devise some plan for getting your father's consent to our marriage."

His Mistake. "That politician is a 'has been,' isn't he?" remarked the observer.

Mr. Green—"They must think a good deal of your husband's comfort to give him a three months' vacation."

Hubby's Salary. Jones—"Oh, yes; regular penholder, as it were."

Inconvenience of Being Poor. Yabsley—"There is no show for the poor man in this country."

Complimenting Him. "I must give you credit for having remarkably light bread," said the housewife.

One on Her. "At last I have discovered it," grinned the young man at the theatre, before his best girl had yet time to remove her hat.

A Dear Girl's Conscience. "Of course," said Mad, thoughtfully, "if somebody steals something from you and then gives it right back again, that doesn't make you a receiver of stolen goods, does it?"

Comforts of Travel. Professional Guide (to palace-car porter)—"I have an English Lord in charge, and I want him to get a good impression of the comforts of travel in this country. Here's five dollars."

An Illustration. Teacher—"Thomas, will you tell me what a conjunction is, and compose a sentence containing a conjunction?"

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.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Straight hairs are nearly cylindrical; curly hairs are elliptical or flat.

The waters of the Grand Falls of Labrador have excavated a chasm thirty miles long.

The relative size of the earth, as compared with the sun, is, approximately, that of a grain of sand to an orange.

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 expresses.

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 Nikol'skoye, 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.

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.

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.

Immense fortunes have been made out of the banana business. Revenues do not accrue alone from the sale of the fruit, for the leaves are used for packing; the juice, being strong in tannin, makes an indelible ink and shoe blacking; the wax found on the underside of the leaves is a valuable article of commerce; manila hemp is made from the stems, and of this hemp are made mats, plaited work and lace handkerchiefs of the finest texture; moreover, the banana is ground into banana flour. The fruit to be sold for dessert is ripened by the dry warmth of flaring gas jets in the storerooms in which it is kept, and intense care has to be taken to prevent softening or overripening. The island of Jamaica yields great crops of this useful and money-making fruit.—Invention.

Government Mines in Prussia. The Prussian Government owns and works seventeen collieries, eight lignite mines, fourteen iron mines, five metalliferous mines other than iron and three rock salt mines, together with five iron works and eight works for smelting the other metals, six salt works and five quarries, which have an output of a total value of more than \$30,000,000 yearly.

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

THE URCHIN'S TALE.

Above the sound of the traffic that roared in the neighborhood of the bulletin board Came the hisping 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, freckle-faced, With a Cuban flag on his tattered waist.

"What stook," 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 stook! What a sturdie stook! What fighting chips 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 lieked 'em, you betcher life! De battery done it; 'n' don't forget Dat battery was onto its job, you bet."

"De under Captain was sand cander 'trot, But he was 'fruid 'o dem cannon balls, too."

"He cheered up his gang, you know—but nit; Dey 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 epic sung by a little child, And his pulses throbbed and his being thrilled— Then he graved 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 it did all 'o de work— Me brudder pitched an' was caught by Burke."

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.

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 'n' not so many roses?"—Chicago Record.

McDougal—"Hoot, mon! ye'll soon be better." McMinus—"It's not the seckness I'm minding; it's the awful waste. I paid attendance for that deemer."—Pick-Me-Up.

Boyjoe—"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 Browns added the 'o's to his name after he inherited his uncle's big fortune." Fostick—"That's quite right. Rich people are entitled to more case than poor people."