

ANOTHER brave Philadelphia fireman lost his life while in the discharge of his duty recently. The firemen are seldom thought of until a great conflagration calls attention to their efforts, and altogether too often causes a vacancy in their ranks.

ANOTHER attempt to find oil in Berks county is about to be made, and a local report says that "the outcome will be awaited with interest." The "logs," if the well should be deep and costly, likely to be much more important than the outcome.

MANY people are almost inclined to believe that wool is easier to thread a lead needle with fat cotton, in the dark, than it is to get a few millions for the World's Fair fund out of the plethoric purses of the New York millionaires.

DOWN in Alabama it is the Coroner who decides when doctors disagree. Two young physicians having disputed as to the proper treatment of disease of the kidneys, one shot the other, fatally wounding him. There should be no dispute as to the proper treatment of the man who did the shooting.

It is scarcely possible that the cold weather now prevailing in the West can be much longer stayed in its eastward path; and he is a wise man who prepares for frosts and snow. It will be a relief when clear skies and dry and bracing weather shall take the place of humidity, weeping clouds and general discomfort. Not only health, but business also, would feel the beneficent influence of the change.

NEWS comes from Corea that since the dismissal of the American adviser of the King the native troops have been drilled according to Russian tactics. The quasi-sovereignty which China exercises over Corea has become galling to the people, and Russia is never slow to take advantage of dissatisfaction outside of her own dominions. The friendship of the Korean peninsula would be valuable to her schemes of expansion in Asia.

ACCORDING to an Australian, now in this country, the United States of Australia is likely to be founded in a few years with as little friction or excitement as attended the organization of the United States of Brazil. The Australian colonies are all interests and purposes independent. They enjoy practical freedom, and have little to gain from independence. But, if united in one Republic, they would at once take command of the Pacific.

PORTUGAL has expressed a willingness to arbitrate on the question of her territorial rights in Africa. That is an evidence of advancing civilization. When the last great colonization movement was in progress nobody ever thought of any arbitration save that of the sword. The strong took possession of everything within reach and the little fellows had to content themselves with old and out of the way corners if they wanted to be left in possession.

A DESCRIPTION of the new Croton aqueduct, given in the Century, helps to give some idea of the magnitude of the work by comparing it with railroad tunnels. It is slightly smaller in diameter than these tunnels, but very much longer. The Hoac tunnel is 24,000 feet long; the Mont Cenis 8 miles long; the St. Gothard, 9 1/2 miles; while the new Croton aqueduct will be nearly 30 miles long. It is a very much greater work in every way than the old Roman aqueducts, about which so much has been written, but less is heard of it because it has been built in this day of great things.

THE city of Wheeling owns its own gas works, and furnishes gas to consumers at 70 cents per 1000 feet. The cost of making and distributing the gas is 37 cents per 1000 feet. One of the public buildings and the streets are lighted without charge, and last year \$27,000 was turned into the City Treasury. In the light of this showing two things are made apparent: (1) The possibilities of honest and competent municipal management, and (2) the comparative cost of incapacity and mismanagement as illustrated in the general average of city bills.

UNCOMPLIMENTARY though it be to Philadelphia masculinity, the theory of the Postmaster that women who go to the Post Office are subjected to intrusion and insult by men does not lack corroborative proof. At the same time it must be admitted that there are women and women; and that Phryne and Aspasia are quite as likely to haunt the corridors of the Post Office as Penelope or Lucretia. Postmaster Fields' special officer would have his hands full, indeed, if he should undertake to regulate either specially or officially the actions who find the lobby of the great building a convenient trying-place.

THE Paris Exhibition, recently closed, had the largest number of visitors on record for any of the great shows. The total number of paying visitors is estimated at 25,000,000. On the last day 370,000 people entered the gates. These figures are far in excess of those of the Centennial, or indeed of any other exhibition. According to police estimates five million provincials sat a million and a half foreigners visited the show. This would indicate very liberal support on the part of the Parisians themselves. The revenues of the Eiffel tower have exceeded a million and a quarter dollars, so that it may be counted a financial as well as an engineering success.

LETTER FROM STANLEY.

His Journey Across Africa and His Discoveries.

A SERIES OF THRILLING EXPERIENCES.

NEW YORK, Dec. 4.—The Herald has a letter from Henry M. Stanley, dated Muswah, November 29, which was written to the editor at the request of Bennett Lewis, correspondent, who is now with the explorer. Mr. Stanley says: "First of all I am in perfect health and feel like a laborer of a Saturday evening returning home with a goodly amount of money in his pocket and glad that to-morrow is the Sabbath."

Just about three years ago, while lecturing in New England, a message came from under the sea bidding me to hasten and take a commission to relieve Emin Pasha at Wadalea; and as I was a man of letters, I had to go. I had a small party of men, and a few pack horses, numbers of little truffles, odd and ends are piled on over and above the proper burden. Twenty various things were added to my baggage, and I set out on my journey. I had a good deal of good will, aided by steady effort, enabled us to complete every little job as well as circumstances permitted.

Over and above the happy ending of our appointed journey we have not been unfortunate in geographical discoveries. The Aruwimi is now known from its source to its mouth. The great Congo forest is being mapped, and we can now certify to be an absolute fact. The mountains of the Moon this time, beyond the least doubt, have been located, and the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the Indian Ocean, and some of its shoulders ascended, Mounts Gomer and Mounts Sion, and some of its peaks being giant sentinels, warding off the approach to the inner area of the Cloud King.

On the southwest of the range the connection between the Albert Edward Nyanza and the Albert Nyanza has been discovered, and the extent of the former lake is now known for the first time. The range of mountains which have been traversed, separated by such tracts of pasture land as would make our cowboys out West mad with envy.

And right under the burning equator we have fed on blackberries, and quenched our thirst with crystal water fresh from snow beds. We have also been able to add nearly 6000 square miles of water to the Nile. Our naturalist will expatiate upon the new species of animals, birds and plants he had discovered. Our surgeon will tell what he knows of malaria and its cure, and what he will take us all to know now to say what new store of knowledge has been gathered from this unexpected field of discoveries.

A regular divinity seems to have bedged us while we journeyed. I say it was a divinity, because it has not, whether it would, effected its own will, but nevertheless guided us and protected us.

What can you make of this, for instance, in the Amazon, 1887, all the others of the rear column are united at Yambuya. They have my letter of instructions before them, but instead of preparing for the motor to start, they are all in a state of confusion. I have to go and see them, and find them all in a state of confusion. I have to go and see them, and find them all in a state of confusion.

On the same day, 60 miles west of this camp, Jameson, worn out with fatigue, sickness and sorrow, breathes his last.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

Some scoundrel at Ventura, Cal., has shot the noble Irish setter that went through the surf to the wreck of the Monitor, and has saved and brought a life-line ashore, thus saving every one on the vessel.

—Mary Anderson's brother Joseph Barrett, has left the stage and gone into the publishing business in London.

—One curious result of the French Exhibition is that the hansom cabs London sent over there have had a singular success, a greater success than was expected. Great numbers have been bought up by private individuals.

—The Rev. Warren Goddard, of Brockton, Mass., who died recently, was next to the oldest graduate of Harvard. He was a member of the class of 1818. His father, the historian, who is the oldest graduate, received his diploma in 1817.

—The author of the well-known hymn, "There is a Happy Land, Far, Far Away," Andrew Young, is still living in agonizing pain at the age of eighty. He wrote the hymn in 1838, and it has been translated into nineteen languages.

—A Southern lottery company, which is looked upon as a regular distributor of good luck, has been declared bankrupt, for it offers to pay the entire debt of \$12,000,000 of the State from which it gets its charter rather than forgo the latter.

—An ever-blooming rose of dwarf habit, with bright pink semi-double flowers, called "Hosa semperparviflora," has been discovered in Berlin for the decoration of flower-beds in public squares and private gardens.

—A young woman created a scene in the railroad ticket office at Zanesville, O., recently. She laid a six-shooter on the counter and proceeded to search for her native town to enjoy it, but she was told that she had no ticket for Seattle, W. T. She showed the weapon in her pocket and then departed.

—An ancient and remarkable clock has been set up in the reading-room of the municipal library at Boston. It was constructed in 1682, and underwent alterations in 1782 and 1852. It was repaired and set going.

—The English language is undoubtedly destined to prevail throughout the world, and may, a few hundred years hence, become the universal language. It is seriously proposed to adopt it as the national language of Japan. It is the tongue already most widely spoken, excepting, possibly, the Chinese, and has become the language of commerce. It can never have, on account of the lack of energy and civilization of that people.

—The first living skeleton was Claude Sewart, born in France in 1769. He was tall and would have been well-slated had there been any flesh on his body, as it was every inch a Herculean language. His arms were compared to two ivory flutes, and his abdomen seemed to cling to the vertebrae. He made a fortune by exhibiting himself and returned to his native town to enjoy it, but he died in a hospital after his retirement.

—In the lower house of the State Legislature at Atlanta, Ga., the gallery was crowded with visitors, and the speaker was loudly applauded. The speaker was a man of the House and a member of the Senate, and he was a man of the House and a member of the Senate.

—A merchant in Birmingham, N. Y., saw a strange combat. He heard a squeaking noise under one of his feet, and he went to see it. He found three gray rats engaged in a pugilistic encounter. They clawed and bit at each other savagely and were so much absorbed in the fight that they forgot to eat. He saw the victor, a small white rat, strike away and scattered off into the air.

—Enoch Pratt, the millionaire, who put \$250,000 of his wealth into establishing in Baltimore the best library in the United States, has become a well-known in literary and philanthropic circles as he previously was in the business world. He is short and slight in figure, but his eyes are keen and his mind is clear. He is a man of the House and a member of the Senate.