

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 "legs," 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 it 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, veiling clouds and general discomfort. Not only health, but business also, would feel the beneficial 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 disaffection 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 a little friction or excitement as attended the organization of the United States of Brazil. The Australian people are not at all interested 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 an arbitrator 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 Contis 8 miles long; the St. Gothard, 9 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. Out of the profits 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 possibility of honest and competent municipal management, and (2) the comparative cost of incapacity and mismanagement as illustrated in the general average of gas 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 condemnatory 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 provincialists paid 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 my week's work done, his week's wages 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 Wadaleh; and as I had no objection to the fact, I accepted the commission and set out on my journey. It was a long and arduous one, and I have faced dangers every day, and my diet has been all through out of the most inferior quality. I have seen the most atrocious things I have ever seen, and I have seen the most beautiful things I have ever seen. I have seen the most magnificent things I have ever seen, and I have seen the most horrible things I have ever seen. I have seen the most wonderful things I have ever seen, and I have seen the most terrible things I have ever seen.

"I must be brief. Numbers of people have been killed and injured by the cholera, and I have seen the most terrible things I have ever seen. I have seen the most wonderful things I have ever seen, and I have seen the most terrible things I have ever seen. I have seen the most magnificent things I have ever seen, and I have seen the most horrible things I have ever seen. I have seen the most wonderful things I have ever seen, and I have seen the most terrible things I have ever seen.

"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. It has been found that the two lakes have been traversed, separated by first tracts and pasture land as would make our cowboys out West mad with envy.

"I had right under the burning equator we had fed on blackberries, and quenched our thirst with crystal water fresh from snow beds. We have also been able to add nearly 5000 square miles of water to the Congo. Our naturalist will expatiate upon the new species of animals, birds and plants he has discovered. Our surgeon will tell what he knows of malaria and its cure, which will take us all our time now to say what new store of knowledge has been gathered from this unexpected field of discovery.

"I always suspected that in the central African continent the equatorial lakes something worth seeing would be found, but I was not prepared for such a harvest of new facts. The Nile has been the most extraordinary expedition I have ever led into Africa. A regular divinity seems to have bedged us while we journeyed. I say it was the divinity that led me, and whether it would, effected its own will, but nevertheless guided us and protected us.

"What can you make of this, for instance, in August, 1887, all the officers of the rear column are united at Yambuga. They have my letter of instructions before them, but instead of preparing for the march they go to Yambuga, which decision initiates the most awful season any community of men ever endured in Africa or elsewhere.

"On the results are that three-quarters of their force die of slow poison. The commander is murdered and the second officer dies soon after of sickness and grief. Another officer is killed, and the remainder return home. A fourth is sent to wander aimlessly up and down the Congo, and the survivor I dare not discuss. I have seen the officer of the day leads 333 men of the advanced column into the bush, loses the path and all consciousness of his whereabouts, and never returns. He is seen by him further astray. His people become frantic; his white companions, vexed and irritated by the same of the evil around them, cannot advise any means to relieve their pain. He is surrounded by cannibals, and put on-tipped arrows thin their numbers.

"Meaning, I, in command of the river column, am advancing rapidly on the river in four different directions; through forests my scouts are seeking for them, but not until the sixth day was I successful in finding them. Making the same month and the same date in 1888, a year later, on August 17th, I listen, horror-stricken, to the tale of a scout at Bangui, who has returned with a tale of death and disaster. I see nothing but horrible forms of men smitten with disease. I see nothing but horror-stricken men, and I see nothing but the murder of poor Bartollet Barth, four weeks before, is suddenly sickening."

CLERK CUSTOMER.

How a Clerk Kept His Temper and Thereby Succeeded in Life.

One of the most prosperous merchants in New York had his life changed by a simple performance of duty, says the *Evening Wisconsin*. He was clerk in a big Boston dry goods house at a small salary. One day a customer appeared out of my mind. I was particularly anxious to please. I was so nervous that I made a mistake in my calculations. The customer said to a reporter:

"I thought I have a quick temper, and that I was not doing with the man yet. I wanted to tell him more, but I thought I would send his wife around to look at some dress goods. I promised to send samples of new patterns to her. The customer thanked me and said: 'It has taken you a long time to sell me a few goods. Are all your customers like this?' 'No, sir, they are not. It takes some customers but a short time to make their selections, while others wish to be slower; we are bound to please them all, I answered.

"Does it pay your house to grow so much time to so small a sale?' he inquired again. 'Yes, I replied, 'I have taken pains to do what you want. I know you will find the goods as good as I say. You will have confidence and come again, and the next time it will not take so long.' After getting his package he walked out of the store. In three days I mailed samples of the new dress goods to his wife, and the circumstance passed entirely out of my mind. I was promoted in a few days, much to my astonishment. One morning I was informed that Mr. B. wished to see me. I went to the office with surprise and found that the man I had seen when I was sitting beside my employer my customer of a few months back. He proved to be the moneyed partner of a more important customer. He interested me by his fine dress, and I thought he knew that I was a new man in the store. He was a man of few words, and liked me of the same sort. He was sitting in your line one of my country clients has consulted me about. You, I know, can keep your tongue between your teeth, or you never have had anything to do with it. You know, I suppose, that I have a customer who has not one knows about this affair but my client, you, and the clerk. The Moreton Bank is being sold. How, nobody knows this for you to find out. Here's your note of introduction to Mr. Dale, the manager. Go so soon as you can. Do credit to my introduction. Good morning.

It was Joseph Lawrence, otherwise J. L. Van Tassel, who made the fatal parachute drop on the 10th ultimo, and not Professor P. V. Van Tassel. The Honolulu papers have nothing to say about it, in some degree being devoted by sharks, but say that he was drowned and the body not recovered. Joseph Lawrence (professionally Professor J. L. Van Tassel) was a native of New York, and came to Honolulu with Professor P. A. Van Tassel for six months past, during which time he has made several parachute jumps and made several high descents. On one occasion, in San Francisco, while he was ascending for a parachute jump, the rope became twisted, and he could not jump. The balloon ascended, and he was blown to the over-inflation caused a split in the balloon and it descended with the balloon from a height of 8000 feet; he fell with such force as to be stunned. The next day he was again in a height of three years of age, and leaves a mother, two brothers and three sisters. The *Honolulu Commercial Gazette* says, in reference to the Honolulu accident: 'The balloon was blown up at a height of 8000 feet, and it descended with the balloon from a height of 8000 feet; he fell with such force as to be stunned. The next day he was again in a height of three years of age, and leaves a mother, two brothers and three sisters.

"So you want to be recommended some good house property, Mr. Stanley?" I was rattled by the job, so by six that evening I was in the town of Moreton, a big but dull place, though I should say there is a good deal of cash and property in the place. I saw Mr. Dale as soon as I could. He was a man of few words, with bright eyes, quick voice, and iron-grey moustache and beard; over fifty; wife pretty and young, two children. They made me welcome, asked me to take refreshments, and so on. Mr. Dale had evidently, like a sensible man, told no one of my errand, for, in reading the note from Mr. Sherris, he merely said: 'So you want to be recommended some good house property, Mr. Stanley?' I said yes, of course. He was a wise man. Even your wife will talk to her maid, and in our line perfect secrecy as to what our business is the first thing to be done. I was sitting at the dining table, and my wife was sitting at the table, and my children were sitting at the table. I was sitting at the dining table, and my wife was sitting at the table, and my children were sitting at the table.

"Well, I had my first talk with her maid, and in our line perfect secrecy as to what our business is the first thing to be done. I was sitting at the dining table, and my wife was sitting at the table, and my children were sitting at the table. I was sitting at the dining table, and my wife was sitting at the table, and my children were sitting at the table.

As for the staff, there were his two boys, a young clerk, and an old head cashier, Mr. Mitley. His nephews were cousins, sons of his brother and sister respectively, named Adolphus and Drake and Hugh. The clerks were all respectable and quiet, especially one Mason, who was considered a most excellent young man. I immediately resolved in my own mind to keep a special eye on the young man, in consequence of his admirable reputation. As for the notes, they were taken one at a time, and never a larger than a twenty-five pound one. I listened to all Mr. Dale's statements and notes; that is, I had much faith in him, and he was a man of few words, and he was a man of few words, and he was a man of few words.

A Royal baby's first toilet in Arabia, consists in winding a bandage about its form, after it has been bathed and perfume. The little creature is then placed on its back, its arms and feet are straightened, and the entire body is swathed in the shoulders. In this position it remains motionless until the next day, when the bandage is removed. A bath is given, and the child may have a bath. The Arabs believe that this process will make the body straight for life. If the child is a girl, on the sixth day after her birth, holes, usually six in number, are pricked in her ears, and when she is two months old heavy gold rings are attached to them, except during periods of mourning for relatives.

On the fortieth day the baby's head is shaved. This operation is considered a very important one, and thirty or forty persons are witnesses of it, for the performance of certain rites. The disposal of the first hair is regarded as a most important matter, and is either buried or thrown away, but buried, thrown into the sea, or hidden in some crevice or wall. This fortieth day marks the end of the first period of the child's life. The child is then given a bath, and is thereafter to be seen by its parents, the slaves on duty, and a few intimate friends of the family; but it is never to be seen by anyone else until it is fairly launched on the tide of existence.

Several charms are attached to its body for protection against the evil eye, boys wearing about its neck, and girls still longer. The favorite charm consists of a gold or silver locket worn on a chain.

The phoenix, the fabulous bird of antiquity, in form is described as somewhat resembling the eagle. It was said to live five hundred years in the wilderness, and then to return into Egypt, where, having built itself a nest, of gum, and lighting it by the fanning of its wings, was consumed to ashes, out of which rose a new phoenix.

REAR.

Let us rest ourselves a bit. We've got your hand to— Kiss your finger tips and smile It is a little while.

Wearily of the weary way We have come since yesterday. Let us rest us not, in dread Of the green home of the grave.

Where no wilder storm shall beat Than that which waves the wheat, In the winds that rustle above The old landscape, nightingales.

Let us rest ourselves a bit, We've got your hand to— Kiss your finger tips and smile It is a little while.

CAUGHT IN THE ACT.

The Moreton Bank was a joint-stock affair in the North, with several branches. Each branch was under a separate manager, with high pay, good social position, and liberty to do very much as they pleased. Mr. Dale, the manager of the Moreton branch, had great confidence in their men, and everything worked very smoothly and successfully. All the managers were men who had been boys in the bank employ, and were very well paid and thought much of by the surrounding country.

Well, business was slack, and I was sitting in my little office on October 10th when my head and only clerk showed in a visitor. This was Mr. Sherris, a solicitor of good standing in the city, much in favor with commercial men, and worth two or three times before him. He was a man of few words, and liked me of the same sort. He was sitting in your line one of my country clients has consulted me about. You, I know, can keep your tongue between your teeth, or you never have had anything to do with it. You know, I suppose, that I have a customer who has not one knows about this affair but my client, you, and the clerk. The Moreton Bank is being sold. How, nobody knows this for you to find out. Here's your note of introduction to Mr. Dale, the manager. Go so soon as you can. Do credit to my introduction. Good morning.

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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 steamer *Wessex*, 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 in 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 four cents and a money business profitable, for it offers to pay the entire debt of \$12,000,000 of the State from which it gets its charter rather than for the latter.

—An ever-blooming rose of dwarf habit, with bright pink and white flowers, called "Hosa semperflorens Fieberberg," is used largely 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 Seaside, W. T. She showed the weapon in her pocket and then departed.

—An ancient and remarkable clock has been set up in the waiting-room of the municipal library at Bonn, Germany. A single winding keeps it running for fourteen years and some months. It was constructed in 1682; underwent alterations in 1754, and is now in the City of Rome in 1838, and has been recently 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 being the language of the greatest power 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 1799. He was tall and would have been well-slated had there been any flesh on his body, as it was every inch a strong and healthy man. 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 suddenly expired soon after his retirement.

—In the lower house of the State Legislature at Atlanta, Ga., the gallery was crowded with visitors, and the members of the House and Senate were crowded with visitors, and the members of the House and Senate were crowded with visitors, and the members of the House and Senate were crowded with visitors.

—A merchant in Birmingham, N. Y., saw a strange combat. He heard a squeaking noise under one of his barrels in the library, and he went to see what was going on. He saw 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 paid no attention to the lookers-on. A cat walked leisurely up and stood by watching the row. After a few minutes the rodents realized their position, broke away and scattered off into holes.

—Enoch Pratt, the millionaire, who put \$1,250,000 of his wealth into establishing in Baltimore the best library in the United States, has become a well-known in literary and philological circles as he previously was in the business world. He is short and slight in figure, has lively eyes, a smiling face, and a ready wit. He is a man of great energy and a man of great energy and a man of great energy.