

# Juniata Sentinel and Republican.

B. F. SCHWEIER.



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Our regular army is small, but it was made still smaller by 1,578 desertions during the past nine months. This is a costly piece of business, for the deserter costs the Government a good deal of money in one way or another from his enlistment until he skips.

PRINCE BISMARCK continues to supply good interviews for the German papers. He complained to a correspondent recently that "a few months of laziness had added ten years to his life," that he had aged considerably since he left office, &c. This is the season when a good many persons, unlike the ex-chancellor, would take several months of *douce rumeur* without growing, and then feel ten years younger.

MANY cases of sickness from the effects of typhoid are reported from different parts of the country. The poison appears to be developed through some chemical action in milk, and is most frequently found in cheese and ice-cream. It is well known that milk and its manufactured products are peculiarly susceptible to the presence of foreign substances or to contact with them, and a little care in this respect would be only a reasonable precaution.

FIRE could not have invaded a building in the country where more losses of various kinds would have resulted than from the burning of the upper floors of the Western Union building in New York. As it was a nominally fire-proof structure, papers and books were stored there that money could not replace, and there was, besides, a great amount of costly fittings required for the business of the Western Union Company and the Associated Press. Their destruction illustrates anew the practical impossibility of securing inflammable material from dangers of fire by the construction of a casting that will not burn. A furnace is an ideal fire-proof structure and that is what a fire-proof building becomes when flames break out in its furniture, books and papers. Fire-proof or slow-burning construction is, nevertheless, desirable, because it helps to stay the spread of flames, but it should not give rise to a false sense of security. The same precautions against fire are required in a building of this kind as in the flimsiest structure of wood.

CONSIDERABLE interest attaches to the laying of the cable between Bermuda and Halifax, and its completion will make a new era in the history of the island. An American electrician who has just returned from the Bermudas points out how much more paradoxical the absence of telegraphic communication there is from the fact that it is an important British naval and coasting station, with one of the largest floating docks in the world, and a large military garrison, and that the prosperity of the island is mainly dependent on its export of vegetables, which brings in revenue of over \$200,000. The people have become alive to the necessity of knowing what is going on in the world around them; they are putting up better buildings, dredging the harbor channels so as to admit the largest craft, building docks and wharves, and are now placing themselves in a position to reap the full advantage of daily price currents. This evidently is not the end, for it is rumored that plans for an electric road are already under consideration.

A COMPANY has been organized in Pennsylvania for the construction of steel railroad passenger coaches which will neither break, nor go into splinters in case of collision or other accident. The steel car is not an entirely new device; but the companies did not like it—certainly have not taken it—and would not have it, for that reason, yet there is good cause to believe that the steel car is as likely to be the passenger coach of the future as the steel ship is the assured favorite of the present. In it lies apparently the element of safety to the most attainable degree. It may be bent, indented or crushed, even in a collision, but if so built as to exclude the use of wood in material measure, it cannot be smashed and reduced to a mass of tinder or death-dealing timbers and splinters. The question of practical lightness should not be an unanswered one in the construction of steel passenger coaches, as they could certainly be strongly built without being made much heavier than the present palace and sleeping cars.

The best charity is not that which gives alms, whether secretly or with ostentation. The best charity—that which "worketh no evil"—is the charity that prompts us to think and speak well of our neighbors. We are all ashamed to confess that our quickest instincts are to think ill of others to magnify the evil which we hear. The continual straining of shoulders is as much as to say, "Well, I expected as much." "It is just like him," "I had my suspicions," and thus on through an endless chapter, with which every reader will be more or less familiar from his or her own experience.

The charity that makes us "think twice" is better, and it alone is the charity that covers a multitude of sins.

Death and Burial of a Bank Note.

There is a certain ceremony which attends the death and burial of a bank note. It is the custom of the three days to lay it to rest in the Banknote Library. Its first dark day of nothingness is spent in the inspector's office, where severe judges sit in judgment on its virtue. During its second day, it and its thirty or forty thousand brothers, done up into parcels, are counted and sorted out to sit, each parcel containing like a pack of cards, according to date and denominations of value. The third day, they are posted in ledgers, which are kept as indexes to the paid notes; and then, on the evening of their last day in the upper regions of light and air, they are carried down with scant ceremony, in huge bags, to the Banknote Library.

Dolly—Have you ever seen a mistletotoe? Cutso—No; but I've seen a peanut stand.

**NOT A BAIT FOR ROBBERS.**

A Railroad Man Tells Why Pay Trains are Never "Held Up."

"Why is it that train robbers never盗了 pay train?"

"Because they know their reward would be too insignificant."

That is the way an ex-railroad man put it the other night.

"Less money," he added, "is carried on a pay train than any other kind of train. Some folks imagine that the pay of the employees of the two great systems for carrying here, aggregating hundreds of thousands monthly, is paid away in the cars and is hauled over the road."

"Isn't that the case?"

Great Scott! no. Trains would be robbed before they got well out of Savannah. Besides, who would be able to keep with a car full of money? It is largely silver and the ten-cent pieces and the nickels, and the coppers would run away with things."

"How is the business conducted, then?"

"Easily enough. In fact, there is but one way to properly carry it on. That is to pay the banks at each city for enough to pay the expenses of the next city. For instance, in leaving Savannah over either the Savannah, Florida and Western Railroad or the Central Railroad just enough money is taken to pay off employees, including agents, track hands, operators and agent at each of the stations. This amount is paid out in advance. Large amounts are paid out in the cities. For instance, in Macon the engineers, firemen, conductors and yard hands and others of the Savannah and Western Railroad are paid off; in Augusta the employees of the South Carolina division of the Central are paid off; the same is true in the Savannah, Florida and Western Railway. In this manner sums paid out amount to little more than a transfer of money received from the banks through the paymaster of the railroads to the employees. The sums paid out on the line between the headquarters of each division are also compared to the amounts paid out in the cities. Now, in the second place, they frequently adhere to the shell and consequently present one rough side.

The perfect pearl is found loose in the interior of the flesh, and has its beginning in an animal germ. The oyster annually produces a number of eggs, which soon develop into diminutive ova, and are then cast out by the mother. Occasionally, however, an egg remains behind. It is almost impossible in size and is inclosed in a thin capsule.

This capsule now becomes, to all intents and purposes a foreign substance. But it is certain power over all those of the parent, which is the secret of manufacturing, throwing out, and gathering around itself mucus.

The mucus envelope it, and the germ of the animal is soon incased in a beautiful prison, usually spherical in form, but sometimes oval. The capsule is the true pearl.

Its size of course depends on the length of time to which the process is continued, as the pearl is enlarged by constant deposits from year to year.

Considerable ingenuity has been exercised in the manufacture of artificial pearls, but in an entirely different way. They are, however, very difficult to make, except in the glass industry.

From a small fish called the bleak the scales are scraped, washed, and pressed between folds of linen cloth of fine texture.

A fluid then slowly trickles from them, and when it has been filtered often enough to attain the requisite degree of purity is mixed with an alkali substance to arrest the growth of animal matter.

This is the precious "Essence d'Orient," to produce a pound of which several thousand of the fish are required.

The addition of a small quantity of glass completes the preparation for the manufacture of a family.

These imitations are pretty ornaments, but do not make any pretense of competing with the genuine article.

The production of pearls by assisted

method is a curious industry which is conducted by men who are known by the Chinese than by any other people.

They take the mussels from their beds, and, prying open the shells, or boring them, insert small molds or beads that they will lie in the soft flesh.

The animal being unable to

swallow the mold, the shell is

broken and the pearl is formed.

It is a delicate operation, but

the result is a pearl which is

as perfect as any natural pearl.

These pearls, however, are sel-

dom used in jewelry, but

are frequently used in

imitative articles.

The best pearls are those

which are obtained in the streams

of various countries.

Ceylon, however,

stands in the greatest renown for its pearls and pearl-divers.

Ceylon is an island in the Indian Ocean, about 50 miles south of Hindostan.

It presents great contrasts of scenery, from

coastal plains to picture-post rocks to level

plains of sand.

About Charity.

The best charity is not that which gives alms, whether secretly or with ostentation. The best charity—that which "worketh no evil"—is the charity that prompts us to think and speak well of our neighbors. We are all

**PEARLS IN OYSTERS.**

**Facts Concerning Their Origin and Growth.**

The keen eye of science has discovered that the pearl of pearl is anything but a poetical emblem. It is due to an accident, and to one of those provisions of nature by which every living creature resists foreign attack and seeks to protect itself from injury. The oyster pearl springs into existence in two different ways. The first is by the insertion into the animal of a foreign substance. In some instances the oyster would permit a minute grain of sand to slip into its mantle and lodge between the flesh and the shell.

The oyster is powerless to expel the intruding substance, which immediately begins to irritate the animal.

The animal begins to cover the grain of sand with a coat of membrane, followed by a layer of calcareous matter called nacre. This is identical with mother-of-pearl, that beautiful lining of the shell which reflects all the colors of the rainbow as well as the most delicate and subtle shades.

Nacre is constantly exuded from the bodies of the oyster, the cockle, the nautilus, the snail, and other animals of the mollusk order, and forms their outer covering, hard or soft, thick or thin, according to the protection demanded by their surrounding.

Around the intruding grain of sand alternate layers of membrane and nacre until a pearl is formed.

These pearls, however, are not the valuable gems of commerce, because, in the first place, they preserve the form of the grain of sand and hence are irregular in shape; and in the second place, they frequently adhere to the shell and consequently present one rough side.

The perfect pearl is found loose in the interior of the flesh, and has its beginning in an animal germ. The oyster annually produces a number of eggs, which soon develop into diminutive ova, and are then cast out by the mother.

Occasionally, however, an egg remains behind. It is almost impossible in size and is inclosed in a thin capsule.

This capsule now becomes, to all intents and purposes a foreign substance.

But it is certain power over all those of the parent, which is the secret of manufacturing, throwing out, and gathering around itself mucus.

The mucus envelope it, and the germ of the animal is soon incased in a beautiful prison, usually spherical in form, but sometimes oval. The capsule is the true pearl.

Its size of course depends on the length of time to which the process is continued, as the pearl is enlarged by constant deposits from year to year.

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