

### News in Brief.

—Belgian workmen train roosters to grow against each other.

—The canals of the United States are 4,468 miles in length.

—Scissors most frequently occur between the ages of 20 and 30.

—Evidence of sun worship are found in the mythology of every land.

—The assessed valuation of the United States is \$65,000,000,000.

—Iceland has fewer cases of phthisis than any other country on the globe.

—In the Paris hospitals over 20 per cent of the typhoid cases prove fatal.

—Scarlatina is most fatal in London, where 480 deaths in 10,000 occur from it.

—During the Franco-German war the French lost 23,499 men from small pox.

—In England the aristocracy yearly spends several million dollars on jewelry.

—In 1346, 500,000 persons died of the plague at Bagdad in less than ninety days.

—The United States army is said to have over 2800 cases of scurvy every year.

—In Damascus, drunken men are called victims of "the English disease."

—Over fifty per cent. of the cases of small pox in Sweden and Norway are fatal.

—Of every 100 cases of cataract, fifty-one are males and forty-six are females.

—The outstripping of a single fly in one summer, if none are destroyed, may number 2,800,000.

—The first paper ever made in the world was made by egyptians. They used it for building nests.

—Several large finds of the old silver coins have been recently made near Bayreuth, in Bavaria.

—Over ninety-three million pounds of licorice root were imported into this country during the year.

—A railway tunnel under the English Channel was projected in 1829; charter refused by Parliament.

—The "digue," or breakwater of Cherbourg is one of the boldest engineering feats ever performed.

—The average weight of fleeces produced in the United States has doubled within the last twenty five years.

—A Parisian lady has been fined \$10 and condemned to pay \$10 damages to a lodger for calling him an anarchist.

—Swords equally as fine as the famous blades of Damascus are manufactured in Butuan, a State in the Himalayas.

—Jonathan Hells in 1736 made a small steamboat. It failed to work, but had all the germs of Fulton's later invention.

—At an auction sale in Chicago a few days ago an ivory table, which sold \$1,000 in China fifteen years ago, sold for \$17.

—Cymbals are believed to be among the earliest musical inventions. They were used in Egypt at least 4,000 years before Christ.

—Over 160,000,000 copies of the Bible have been printed in 350 different languages and dialects during this century.

—James Watt was an inventor from the moment he was entrusted with the repair of a piece of costly and intricate machinery.

—A flag carried in the war of 1812 is a relic preserved by Mrs. E. C. Blount of Waynesboro, Ga. The flag bears only fifteen stars.

—The germ of the guitar is found in the warrior's bow, the string of which gave a sonorous twang as the arrow sped to the mark.

—Coconuts and the nuts of the mango tree are often cast ashore on the coast of England, unimpaired by their long journey.

—Alaska is large enough to contain Great Britain and Ireland, Germany, France, Greece, and Switzerland with some room to spare.

—The oldest architectural ruins in the world are believed to be the rock cut temples at Ipsambul, on the left bank of the Nile, in Nubia.

—The hand-spinning, with spindle and wheel, is the same the world over and identical with that shown in Egyptian paintings 3,500 years old.

—A British clergyman's wife has performed the philosophical feat of compiling a grammar and dictionary of the Congo dialect of African speech.

—There is a remarkable "burning spring" in Lincoln County, Kentucky, which regularly overflows its banks every afternoon at 4:30 o'clock precisely.

—Waynesville, Pulaski County, Mo., has only 150 people, but it is one of the most important cities in the west, and towns in America. It takes thirty-nine daily newspapers.

—A bear weighing 300 pounds was captured near Mount Pleasant, Mich. It had a trap weighing twenty-five pounds attached to one foot. The trap was very old and very rusty.

—Indianapolis [Ind.] health officers have been ordered by the State Board to vaccinate all persons who have not been vaccinated within seven years, to prevent the spread of smallpox.

—The largest of painting in the world, a one of the Titianes, entitled "Paradise," is in a crowd watching the arrival of the United States at the Queen's drawing room at Buckingham Palace, London, was overcome by faintness. Some of the crowd thought he was drunk, but Miss Mary Burch, of Ashford, Kent, saw that he was ill and helped him to a bench in the park. She sent a boy for a cup of water, which quickly revived the old man, until nothing more of the occurrence had been reported when a London solicitor informed her that the old gentleman had died and left \$750,000 to the lady who had given him aid and sympathy nearly five years before.—New York Advertiser.

### A HAPPY PHILOSOPHER

Some folks, they're complainin' 'Cause it ain't rainin'.

An' some 'cause the weather is dry; But I kinder count on me With all that is sent me, An' don't go to askin' 'em "why."

There's lots of good fun in The world the Lord's makin', Though it's sometimes a son of a sinner, But when troubles are rilin' I jes' keep a smilin'.

An' don't go to askin' 'em "why."

Jes' hear the birds singin' When death-bills are ringin' An' thrillin' the world an' the sky They'll sing so a while hence When I'm in the silence— But don't go to askin' 'em "why."

If life has one flower— One beautiful hour, One song that comes after a sigh, For me there'll be fun In the world the Lord's makin'— An' I won't go to askin' 'em "why."

—Atlanta Constitution.

### HUMOR OF THE DAY.

Long may it wave—The ocean— Truth.

Nothing less than a strike arouses a bass drum to action.—Detroit Free Press.

Let it be understood that there are popular facts as well as popular fallacies.—Truth.

"I'm feeling dead rocky," as the petrified fish remarked to itself.—Harvard Lampoon.

Love is frequently satisfied with quantity; but friendship demands quality.—Puck.

A girl's conversation must appear dowry when she "talks through her hat."—Statesman.

A man may itch for office, but it is his voter's right to do the scratching.—Boston Courier.

"I'm in a pretty pickle," as the fly said when he fell into a jar of red cabbage.—Texas Siftings.

The only bright spot left by some men is the scoured place on the chair.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Since the introduction of electricity the street car horse has been gradually losing his pull.—Buffalo Courier.

There is something wrong with the man's head who falls down on the same banana skin twice.—Ran's Horn.

They can disinfect and quarantine, And work as hard as a quarrier, To make those who understand it, But they can't keep out spring fever.—Kansas City Journal.

In the summer perhaps we can turn the big postage stamps wrong side up and use them for fly paper.—Washington Star.

When a crate of crockery falls through an elevator shaft it's a little the worse for the ware.—Binghamton Leader.

They make the man in charge of a team for signal do considerable whistling for his pay before he gets it.—Buffalo Courier.

"It's a wise monarch," said the man who abdicated a precarious throne, "who knows enough to come in out of the rain."—Washington Star.

"It's pretty hard on a man of my age to have to depend on his looks," said the astronomer as he put his eye to the telescope.—Washington Star.

Charlie: "Why did they bury poor Siller at night?" Archie: "He had no decent clothes but a dress suit."—The Clothier and Haberdashery Weekly.

She: "So you're fully determined to marry her, are you?" He: "Absolutely." She: "H'm! Don't you ever feel sorry for her?"—Detroit Tribune.

Clara: "Did you know that Mrs. Dan had gone on a trip to Bermuda?" Maude: "No, I must call on her before she gets back."—Vogue.

Whenever the piano ceased There was a great uproar, And those who understood it best Were loath to care.—Kansas City Journal.

Mrs. Goodwin: "You shouldn't eat so many peaches, Johnny; you'll be having dyspepsia." Johnny: "I marked the policeman have dyspepsia, mamma?"—Life.

She: "A poor painter! Why, he says that he is wedded to his art." He: "Perhaps that is the reason, then, that he dreads to treat her so badly."—Truth.

A woman is keeping in a book a list of things she ought to purchase, but cannot afford to buy. She calls the book her ought-to-buyography.—New York Clipper.

About the most discouraging thing that comes to a man in this life is the desire to whip an enemy, coupled with the very regular coins that come and go all the time.

Extract From Love Letter:—"Should you fail to reciprocate my affection, please return this letter, in order that I may use it on another occasion."—Flegende Blätter.

Customer: "What's the price of your tallow candles?" Dealer: "Five cents apiece; fifty cents a dozen." Customer: "Well, let me have a twelfth of a dozen." "I don't know which is worst," anxiously remarked the European monarch as he read of another attempt on his life, "my people's disloyalty or their marksmanship."—Washington Star.

Miss Elder: "I think it was reasonable in you to tell Mr. Spatts I was twenty-eight years old." Miss Fostick: "Why, you surely didn't want me to tell him how old you really were?"—Vogue.

Little Beth (in the country):—"Grandpa, you must have kept an awful lot of policemen out here!" Grandpa:—"Why, Beth?" Beth:—"Oh, here's such a lot of grass to keep off it."—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Price of a Horse's Hair Cut. Three dollars is a good price to pay for a hair cut, but that is what it costs a horse to have his hair just trimmed. Three men are required to do the work, one to hold the horse, another to run the machine, and a third to do the clipping. It takes a solid hour's work.

It matters not how woolly a horse looks when he gets in the clipper's hands he looks as trim as a racer whose hair has been clipped.—Atlanta Journal.

### HOW TO PACK COTTON.

Tabular and Illustrated Reasons for the Demand for Foreign Produce.

Recent reports from J. C. Monahan, United States Consul at Chittagong, give the reason for the demand for certain foreign productions over American, as for instance cotton. He says:

"The packing of American raw cotton causes a deal of anxiety and complaint here. The jute cloth covering it is so torn before the bales



reach Chittagong that the cotton is exposed to mud, water, fire, and theft. Of the original six or eight iron bands, two, three, four, and sometimes more are loose or broken; the cotton bulges out, takes up dirt and dust when in a dry place, mud in the docks, sea water when in the ships, and rain water when on land, on wharves, or in transportation by boat, rail or wagon. In transport every gust of wind tears away pieces of the valuable commodity. The custom-house floors, wharves, and freight



cars are usually covered with pieces torn or dropped from such bales, and the danger from fire is great, for cotton ignites easily, and sparks from cigars or locomotives, fanned by the winds, even those caused by the movement of a train or wagon, could cause not only the burning of the cotton, but of other valuable property.



"Contrasted with the packing of Egyptian and Indian cotton, the American must be regarded as very bad. Both Egyptian and Indian bales have close and smooth coverings, are rather long and smooth, and leave little or none of the cotton exposed. The Indian and Egyptian bales are so tightly pressed, so well covered and bound, that injury from

### MONEY IN RAISING PARROTS.

Imported Birds Are Delectable, but When Trained Fetch High Prices.

An industry which invites the attention of enterprising Americans is the breeding of parrots. Dr. Stejneger says that it would be entirely practical to propagate and rear them in hot-houses. The best talkers among these birds, according to the Washington Star, are the African parrot variety with the red tail. They are very delicate and make risky stock for the importer. If one parrot in an invoice dies, all of them may be expected to succumb almost immediately. It is suspected that the water in this country does not agree with them. They are worth from \$10 to \$12 untrained, and when trained they fetch almost any price. They come from Liberia and Montserrat, where they are caught in great numbers by the blacks. The latter make a business of catching parrots, and have regular parrot farms in their villages. At the breeding season the African parrots are scattered in the wilderness and roosts. They wait until the young are nearly ready to leave the nest, and then they take them. Trading vessels buy them in quantities and carry them to ports where steamers from Africa stop for cargo. Thus they are forwarded to Europe. The talking powers of a parrot depend to a great extent on its being taken in hand at a very early age. This would be one advantage of rearing these birds in confinement. Under such conditions also it would be practicable to vastly improve the speaking faculty by mating the best talkers together for generations. Thus would be produced such feathered conversationalists as are unknown up to date. It would certainly be profitable to breed and raise the parrots known as Carolina parakeets. These are rare now and bring high prices, though they used to be

### CAPTAIN KIDD.

#### TRUE HISTORY OF THE NOTORIOUS PRIVATEER.

Employed by a Syndicate to Sail Against the French and Pirates—His Treasure Chest Seized—His Acts and Trial.

### WILLIAM KIDD WAS BORN

in Scotland and married Sarah Wort, of New York. Several men of London, England, subscribed money, formed a joint stock company, bought the Adventure Galley, fitted her with proper armament, and provisioned her at a cost of \$3000. They employed Mr. Kidd as commander, and furnished him with a commission to act against the French, the pirates, and other wrongdoers as a privateer. The king was to receive one-tenth of whatever the vessel brought home.

On the way down from London his vessel was boarded by an impressment crew, his crew killed, and he was taken to London, and secured such ransom as he could who were well fitted to act as privateersmen. He sailed, and after being absent a year it began to be talked that his acts savored of piracy. When his vessel was in the harbor of New York, he was arrested by the British authorities. He was taken to the Long Island shore, and sent to the prison at Boston, where he was held for some time. He was then taken to the prison at New York, where he was held for some time. He was then taken to the prison at New York, where he was held for some time.

On July 3, 1699, he was summoned before his Excellency and Council to give an account of his proceedings in his late voyage. He was ordered to produce a list of his doings, of the cargo on the vessel, and of the treasure chest. He was then taken to the prison at New York, where he was held for some time. He was then taken to the prison at New York, where he was held for some time.

- No. 1, one bag of gold dust, 635 ounces.
- No. 2, one bag of gold dust, 124 ounces.
- No. 3, one bag of gold dust, 245 ounces.
- No. 4, one bag of gold dust, 124 ounces.
- No. 5, one bag of gold dust, 124 ounces.
- No. 6, one bag of unpolished precious stones.
- No. 7, one bag of pieces of crystal.
- No. 8, one bag of silver buttons and lamps.
- No. 9, one bag of broken silver, 1735 ounces.
- No. 10, one bag of gold bars, 253 1/2 ounces.
- No. 11, one bag of gold bars, 253 1/2 ounces.
- No. 12, one bag of silver, 309 ounces.
- No. 13, one bag of silver, 309 ounces.

The Earl of Belmont was evidently anxious to get possession of the ship and treasure, and preferred negotiation to immediate hostile measures. Mr. Kidd seemed to have been willing to surrender ship and treasure, and was doing so to have an insurance or guarantee of his own protection. Captain Kidd requested that he should be taken as a prisoner to Hispaniola to bring back the treasure chest. He was then taken to the prison at New York, where he was held for some time. He was then taken to the prison at New York, where he was held for some time.

A sudden mighty blow, bursting the side of the building, hidous noise, which was the sound of an angry cyclone, as if the heavens had fallen, inky blackness blotting out everything, and the rending of wood and iron, the shrieks of victims, and the wild rumbling of the storm, the cyclone swept over the scene, and the court house had stood.

### Wonderful Progress in Electricity.

Twelve years ago electricity, as applied to street cars, for power purposes of all kinds, for house and street illumination, was a new thing. In fact, electric street railroads have only been in successful operation about half a century. The electrical age was practically just commencing, and the aggregate capital invested, outside of telegraphy, was small. Now, almost any town of any size has its electric railroad, streets everywhere are being lighted by electricity, and electricity furnishes power for factories, for run elevators and for many other purposes; still we have scarcely seen the beginning of electrical development. Already, however, the capital invested in all branches of this industry—estimated at \$80,000,000.—Engineering Magazine.

the shuffling of feet, all ceased as the clerk arose to read the indictments. "Violation of the liquor laws, violation of the gambling laws, horse stealing, robbery, burglary, and, last of all, murder. One by one the black record was spread before the Court, the result of a series of years of iniquities, the work of his deeds and after years, and now, for the first time, the much-indicted man was in the hands of the law to answer its repeated summons. Judge Gary looked towards Brownell.

"How does the prisoner plead?" "Not guilty to every count in every indictment," replied his attorney, one of the younger lawyers in the city; "and we demand a separate trial upon each charge."

A murmur of disapproval ran through the room. Was this notorious desperado to escape through the very technicalities and delays of the laws he had set at defiance. "Then it becomes the right of the District Attorney to move whichever of the indictments he may choose, against the prisoner," Mr. Arnold, who is the desire on the part of the people.

The gray haired prosecutor for the county arose, and in a deliberate and dignified manner announced that he would object to try under the principal indictment.

"The greater might be said in this case, Your Honor, to include the less. Should the prisoner be convicted of murder, it will relieve both him and the commonwealth from the weariness and expense of trials for the lesser crimes; should he be acquitted I shall move an immediate trial under the indictment for burglary."

The crowd breathed more easily. Brownell, who had been looking on with a disinterested eye, now stood silent, looking down the rolling plain toward the sunset, watched by a single guard.

The others, seven in number, in a group half a dozen rods away, were casting votes for life or death. "The leader of the posse, christened fifty years ago in some quaint English village John Robinson, but far better known in his New Mexican home as 'Sheriff Jack,' held the ballot-box, a worn wooden one.

"Now, gentlemen, let us understand this question, so that no trouble arise hereafter," said he, glancing about at his companions. "We have, at the call of our city, made a successful effort to capture James Brownell, and other wise known as Red Jim, who to-day stands indicted for more than half the crimes that have been committed in Juniata County during the past five years. Time was, and not so far in the past either, a general opinion was held by the people, that a man who had committed so many crimes should be put to death. It is now, however, in long, our horses tired and the man desperate, and some of you believe it better to conclude the matter here and let all this thing pass as a seemingly convenient, and as he pined, his eye unconsciously turned toward the single stunted pine that with sturdy, outstretched limbs stood near. "In order, therefore, as it were, to pull the jury on the question of what to do with our prisoner, I have proposed the casting of ballots. Draw up, gentlemen, and make your will known; a pistol cartridge means Judge Lynch, a Winchester, the court at home, and the majority shall rule. Prepare your ballots."

### ASPIRATION.

I am the bluish of the summer rose  
The flush of the morn,  
The smile on the face of the dead,  
The song newly born  
From heart of the poet, from shell of the sea,  
From rush of the river that oozes and flows.

I am immortal. Who knows me he glads  
Men give me the name  
Of passions that kindle the soul—  
Love, faith, beauty, fame,  
I dwell with all these, yet am higher than all  
Without me the angels of heaven were sad.  
—Edith Willis Linn, in the Country.

### THE SUSPENDED JUDGMENT.

HEY were casting votes for life or death. The day had been warm for spring, even in that southern latitude, and the grateful breeze from the coming night was unconsciously welcomed by both men and the little bird.

The animals had been gathered in, head to head, and all the bridges were held by one of the party, the prisoner, still handcuffed, had been allowed to dismount, and now stood silent, looking down the rolling plain toward the sunset, watched by a single guard.

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There was a certain grim humor about both the speaker and his address, but the others did not notice it. They busied themselves in selecting, primed cartridge, and then, with all the solemn decorum of a New England school meeting, one by one they advanced and dropped the leaden messengers of their desires into the hat.

There was no other sound, no cheering to influence the vote, and when Sheriff Jack had passed his sombrero to the two who watched the prisoner and held the horses, with the same official dignity he declared the polls closed, and in the course of a few minutes the ground, separated them, large and small, into two noisy parties, counting them as he did so.