

Sixty thousand people on the Emerald Isle speak Irish only.

The Empires of Europe possess nearly 13,000 cities, towns and villages, in which 40,000,000 people live.

It is announced officially that 40,000 persons were converted to Christianity during the first six months of 1882.

To the exclusive use of white bread Sir James Crichton-Brown attributes, in the London Lancet, the prevailing decay in teeth.

The Odessa correspondent of the London News says that during 1891 109,515 persons emigrated from Russia to America. In 1890 89,543 Russians emigrated thither.

A miner who long ago studied shorthand by tracing the characters with a pin on a stone blackened by the smoke of a lamp, is now a Member of the House of Representatives.

I have just carefully compared notes with a prominent Philadelphian of fortune," says Ward McAllister, the famous society leader, "and from his statements am satisfied that for \$21,000 a year one lives as well in Philadelphia as one does in New York on \$9,000."

A well-known agricultural writer estimates in the Chicago Sun that good roads would save the farmers of the United States \$900,000,000 per year in the cost of getting their produce to market, or nearly \$8 to each inhabitant of the country, which is a fair estimate when you consider the whole sum will be divided among the farmers alone.

Eight States claim the territory north of the National law, and the preliminary steps toward such organization have been taken in two States. In view of this growth Secretary Tracy will ask Congress to increase from \$25,000 to \$50,000 the amount appropriated for the equipment of the naval militia.

The Regents of State University of Michigan, the New York Independent, and a suggestion made by President Angell that the salaries of professors be raised to prevent other colleges from constantly robbing him of his best assistants. The rise is from \$800 to \$500 annually in each case, in accordance with the length of the term of service.

Professor John Harvard Biles, designer of the Inman steamers City of Paris and City of New York, who came over here to consult with the Cramps, the Philadelphia ship builders, has been taking a glance at our new navy, and this has led him to observe that "with such vessels as are now in the service of the Government the United States Navy need not take a back seat for any power on the globe."

It begins to look to the New Orleans Picayune as though a large and increasing market had been opened in Germany for the great staple of the Mississippi Valley, corn. Reports say that it is very rapidly becoming a favorite article of food. A sale of 45,000 bushels was made in Berlin the other day, and mills for the exclusive grinding of corn are in course of erection at Dresden, Leipzig, Hanover and Hamburg.

Contributions have been received in Berlin of the rumor that the German Minister in China has become engaged to Miss Hart, the daughter of his American colleague, and it is equally true that the Emperor William has made bold to forbid the bans, on the ground that a German diplomat, when in active service, cannot wed an alien woman without incurring the risk of prejudicing the true and undivided service of his Government. But love in this case, states the Boston Transcript, has also been a powerful influence.

Experiments with cyclists and carrier-pigeons for transmitting messages are being made by the gymnastic society of Rome in the interest of the Italian army. The rider carries a small cage attached to his machine, in which are several well-trained pigeons. When important observations have been taken and jotted down they are placed in envelopes and affixed to the birds, which are liberated. In every instance thus far the birds have flown promptly and in a straight line back to headquarters over distances of from ten to twenty kilometers. It is thought that this combination of bicycle and pigeon service can be very profitably used in military observations, and the Italian army office proposes to continue the experiment.

WINTRY CHEER.

Three hundred years ago, or so, The best that could be had for gold, To eat before that golden herald, Might make a carving-knife run cold. A peacock striped and roared. Then, Served in its feathered skin and crest, And glorious in the amethyst, Emerald, and sapphire of its breast, With curving throat of azure lights, And in its gilded beak a flame, Held high by some fair lady's hands. O, a great siver-dish it came, And Cleopatra's purple sail Was under that that steaming tail. When that great gorgeous bird was fit, I wonder how was lifted it!

Talk of the good old times! Just think Of the feathers that the fust! The times we have are best of all— The best is good enough for us! Look at this phoenix, crackling hot, Done to a turn of its brown breast— From just yest's ashes here again— And never mind the peacock's crest! What will I have? An outside bit Whose praises others might bring— The wisdom, thank you, or perhaps The luscious pickling of a wing! Come, let a royal feast begin When Mary brings the turkey in! For all their crests, and peacocks, too, I wouldn't change with them—would you?

MISS GAMBIA.

HAVE fought the battles of life for- ahem, let me see— fifty years and upward, and I have never yet been worsted in a fair struggle. I do not see why I should permit myself to be attacked, routed, and pursued in a matter like this. No, decidedly no! I think I have the key to the situation!"

Although the Colonel's words and manner were indeed bellicose when he delivered this ultimatum, the occasion which prompted the outburst, like the gentleman's title, had no actual military foundation. The affair was purely civil in its nature, and the Colonel had only as much license to speak after the fashion of a field officer as belongs to a man who has once been a loyal and enthusiastic member of the militia. It was quite true, however, that he had suffered less than most men from the cruel perverseness of things which con- sidered to be his. He richly, healthily, and vigorously enjoyed his charming capacity for summing up agreeable things, and had lived his life thus far in the most optimistic manner possible.

Just now, however, his stronghold of dignity was threatened with vigorous assault. His only son had sent word from a remote Yorkshire parish that he was on the point of marrying the eldest of a family of seven daughters, the property of the vicar, a clergyman whose peculiar theological preferences had relegated him to obscurity and a stipend of £100 per annum. "She's the sweetest thing imaginable," Geoffrey had written, with the fine discrimination of a lover. "Just wait until we reach New York and she shows on the avenue."

The Colonel lost no time in cabling his assent, and received almost immediately a reply to the effect that the marriage had taken place. This intelligence put him into a state that was exceedingly uncomfortable while it lasted, but it did not endure. Perhaps the time-worn expedient of dis- inheriting his son and daughter-in-law did not occur to him, for his indignation ex- pended itself in a message devoid of congratulation in which he requested his son and Mrs. Geoffrey to forget definitely at the vicarage. He intimated that an early applica- tion for his parental blessing would prove to be for them a real ignis fatuus, but he tempered the severity of the statement by sending a check for a sum which should have done wonders in allaying the sting of paternal displeasure.

It was a real grief for the Colonel—the most poignant he had known since the death of his estimable wife, which had happened long before Geo- frey was capable of inflicting any serious domestic wound; but he had much to console him, and, most fortunate of all, he had a hobby; it was the most deligh- tfully and absorbing and self-engrossing distraction that a man can have—he was an amateur organist.

It must not for an instant be believed that he was a mere wanton trifler with the noblest of musical instruments. His whole soul was in it, and he was be- lieved by his friends to be a virtuoso. His musical suppers were the talk of the town; to be bidden to them was tuncel- surff, and not to know them uncom- plions gnashing of teeth. It was a de- light as well as an apparent necessity for the appeasing of the constant yearning of his musical nature for him to direct the music in a large and fashionable church. He was at this particular moment in charge of the music at St. Nero's where he assumed the entire expense of the undertaking, and supplemented his gen- erosity by having the organ rebuilt to meet his particular requirements. The music was quite as elaborate as any in town, and the diversion went far toward assuaging the pang of Geoffrey's unalloyed conduct.

resolved to eschew personal appearance and to let merit win the test.

The candidate who played last was the one that best met his ideas of what was required. Entering the organ loft by a side door he saw a rather fragi- looking young woman perched upon the bench. "Pardon me," he began, with a good deal of astonishment in his voice and manner. "Are you the person who has just been playing the Bach fugue so well?"

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with a hand on each shoulder, holding him at arm's length and looking him full in the face.

"I did not know—I did not think?" he choked, reaction setting in. "I never once dreamed of this!"

"Nor did I!" she declared, rapturously. "I never for a moment suspected that it could be brought about so easily. But I had faith in myself to believe that I could do it in time. Geoffrey has lost his water!"

A sickening light broke in upon the Colonel's racked comprehension; this, then, was the young woman, whom he had advised to remain in Yorkshire.

With the effort of his lifetime he held himself erect and in a true military tone said: "Madame, permit me to escort you to my house."

"But—Geoffrey—I must go to him—at the Victoria," she said.

"Never mind Geoff," he replied, loftily; "I will send the carriage for him."—New York Topics.

Uses of a Monster Search Light. A. C. Shaw gives some interesting details concerning the operation of the Mount Washington search light. Thousands of copies of the code by which the transmission of signals to different points is effected, have been distributed in the country around Mount Washington, and the flashing of the light at night affords entertainment to the whole country side, especially to visitors at the hotels, who gather in knots in the piazzas, and discuss the all-absorbing topic of "search light" and endeavor to read the messages signalled from the mountain. Mr. Shaw was at Maplewood, twenty miles from the top of the mountain by air line, when the projector was turned on to the hotel for about twenty minutes one clear night. The light, even at that distance, was too bright to be looked upon comfortably, and by the time on a watch could be distinctly told and the type of an ordinary headline could be read with ease. On white surfaces, such as the front of the hotel, a curious shimmering effect was produced. Small, dark patches seemed to float constantly over the surface, caused possibly by the magnifying of minute particles of vapor in the atmosphere, or by some other phe- nomena not yet explained. The signal- ing is accomplished by a metal damper in the inside of the projector, which can be lowered between the air and the lens by a lever extending to the outside and by means of which flashes of short or long duration can be made. While the projector is in operation, the lens is kept under constant conditions of temperature, and the study of the method of communication will doubtless be made to supplement that already in operation. —Chicago News-Record.

The California Turret. On the Pacific Coast there is a turret which builds its house so to speak in a very peculiar manner, and is, therefore, styled the California turret. It rises into the ground more or less perpendicularly to the depth of eight or ten inches, and from a quarter to a half inch in diameter. The size of the house varies, according to the sex and maturity. This burrow is lined with silk throughout, and the nest of a full grown female will have a turret three inches in height above the surface of the ground. The material of the turret is made of whatever vegetation may be in the vicinity, woven together with silk. It has a wide range over California, the turrets presenting a pleasing variation on account of the different materials with which they are made. In the rainy season they dig and enlarge these tubes; but they do not then carry off or scatter the earth, but utilize it, by building another earthen turret, resembling one, when finished, of a miniature vase in terra cotta, without a lid or covering of any kind. The sexes occupy different nests; but the newly-hatched young are always found with the mother at the bottom of the burrow, which is more roomy at the base than at the opening. It is closely allied to the trap-door spider of other regions, but is smaller and differs in other respects. It is some- times confused with the California tarantula; but Professor Rivers, from whose paper the above facts are gathered, states that all the larger spiders, in various parts of the Union, go popularly as tarantulas. The California turret building spider does not make a nest with a trap-door.—New York Inde- pendent.

UNCLE SAM'S FELINE AIDS.

THREE HUNDREDCATS EMPLOYED BY THE GOVERNMENT.

Kept at the Postoffice to Protect the Mails—Fishes of the White House and the Capitol.

MORE than three hundred cats are maintained by the United States Government, the cost of their support being carried on a regular item on the accounts of the Postoffice Department. They are distributed among about fifty postoffices, and their duty is to keep rats and mice from eating postal matter and mail sacks. Their work is of the utmost importance wherever large quantities of mail are collected—as, for example, at the New York postoffice, where from 2000 to 3000 bags of such material are commonly stored away in the basement. Formerly great damage was often done by mischievous rodents, which chewed holes in the sacks and thought nothing of boring clear through bags of letters in a night. Troubles of this sort no longer occur now that the official post- stand guard. Each city postmaster is allowed from \$8 to \$40 a year for the keeping of his feline staff, sending his estimate for "cat meat" to Washington at the beginning of each quarter. Care is taken not to feed the animals too high in order that their appetite for live game may be keen. It is laid down as a rule that no meat shall be given when there is a mouse or a rat to be caught.

Cats are kept in all the Government buildings at Washington. In that of the State, War and Navy Departments they are employed not only to protect the priceless papers stored there, but to guard against fire. Twice the War Department has been set on fire by rats gnawing matches—on one of these occasions in the office of the Secretary of War, in the middle of the night. A year ago the Treasury had nine cats, but they made themselves obnoxious and all were given away but two. These are as wild as possible, getting a living by foraging for themselves. Mice are notoriously fond of chewing up money, but they have no chance of getting at Uncle Sam's paper cash, which is kept in rooms with iron walls that defy their teeth. Rats occupied the Pension Of- fice in great numbers while it was in process of building, taking up their residence in the walls and floors as fast as they were put up. Two years ago four cats were introduced there to guard the records of the old soldiers and they have driven most of the vermin away. The best rat killer of the quartette not long ago, being frightened at something fell from the second gallery fifty feet to the tiled floor and was killed.

His new cat, one a black and white female, kept in the kitchen, and the other a black Tom, which belongs in the stable. Mrs. Harrison had four lovely Maltese pussies, but they all disappeared—stolen most likely.

But the Capitol is the greatest place in Washington for cats. The huge structure is fairly swarmed with them, and at night they scamper about in troops. Nobody knows how many of them there are, but the watchmen reckon them by scores. They are all vagrants and wild as hawks. In summer they are scattered about the neighborhood to some extent, but in winter they gather within the building. About 10 o'clock every night they begin a mad race through the empty corridors, which are made to resound with their cries. The acoustic effects produced are astonish- ing. Let a single grimaltin lift up its voice in stately hall, famous for its echoes, and the silence of the night is broken by a yell like that of a damned soul, as loud as a locomotive whistle. A favorite place for cat concerts is the whispering gallery down below, known as the "crypt," where the feeble sound is magnified into a roar. Imagine the demoniacal ensemble of half a dozen feline songsters in such a spot.

The British Government pays certain sums, regularly passed through the accounts quarterly, for providing and keeping cats in public offices, dock yards and store houses. Rats and mice used to do great damage to paper in the imperial printing office of France, but now a sum is appropriated yearly for maintaining a staff of cats there, which are fed twice a day and carefully looked after by a man who is paid for that service. In Vienna four cats are employed by the authorities to catch mice on the premises of the municipality. A regular allowance is voted for their keep, and after a reasonable period of active service they are placed on the retired list with comfortable pensions. The Midland Railway of England supports eight cats at Trent, which are borne on the company's pay rolls for milk and meat. Their duty is to guard hundreds of thousands of empty corn sacks, and the importance of their work may be estimated from the fact that twelve women are engaged all the year around in darning holes eaten by rats in the sacks.—Washington Star.

The Dog Knew His Master. A good dog story comes from Hungary. It seems that an itinerant knife-grinder came to town and reported to the police that a certain ragpicker had stolen his dog, a valuable Dane. The parties were brought before the court, and as the testimony was very unsatis- factory the judge, a sort of Solomon, decided that the dog should be allowed to choose between the claimants. The two were placed on opposite sides of the street and the dog was set at liberty mid- way between them. Both began calling him in the most seductive tones. He looked first at one and then at the other in an uncertain way, and then, jumping over the table, made for the door and disappeared. It was found that he had gone straight to the house of a gentle- man from whom he had been stolen by the knife-grinder.—New York News.

Great Britain has eighty-eight war- ships of which twenty are battle ships of the first class.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Celluloid is said to have been discovered by Hyatt as long ago as 1869.

Water in which salt is dissolved boils at a slight higher temperature than pure water.

The Great Dipper revolves around the North star in twenty-three hours, fifty-six minutes, four seconds.

Spiders are solitary in their habits. The tradition that they are weather prophets is not credited by scientists.

Sugar fifteen times sweeter than that produced from the cane is being made from cotton seed grown at Wit.

German scientists will use the Em- peror's donation in the construction of a large balloon for scientific purposes.

Liquid carbonic acid is now sold in Paris at about five cents a pound, most of it being used for making acetylic acid by reaction on sodium phenol.

Tarlatan has superseded calico, for bandages in Paris hospitals, where 1188 miles of the former material were used in 1891, at a cost of nearly \$39,000.

Recently the police force of certain parts of London were provided with electric lamps in place of the usual "bull's-eye" lanterns, and the change was much commended.

Professor G. A. Young announces that the fifth satellite of Jupiter has been seen by his assistant, Mr. Hees, with the twenty-three inch equatorial, at Princeton, N. J.

Crested wood has been found to have such excellent lasting qualities that its economical properties have suggested its use for permanent halitages, roads, shafts, etc., in collieries.

Fish, flies and caterpillars, though frozen solid, retain life because their construction admits of frost expansion without disruption; a freezing tempera- ture only results to them in torpor.

It has been found by J. Wiesner that, while gas-light only slightly yellows and weakens wood-paper, the influence of the electric light is still less, and he pro- nounces the latter the best illuminant for libraries.

A recent scientific expedition shows the existence of terraces in Palestine, showing that at one time the Dead Sea had risen to the level of the Mediter- ranean, the Jordan in the glacial period forming a lake 200 miles long.

Two Italian physiologists have found that inoculations for securing immunity from infectious disease have no effect if the spleen has been removed, no other organ being able to carry on the particu- lar function upon which immunity de- pends.

A Genoese electrician has adopted electric heating to conservatories. The current is sent into receivers of special composition, which become heated with- out, however, exceeding a certain tem- perature. The advantages claimed are the absence of all unwholesome gases or vapor that might injure the plants, the perfect safety as regards heat, and the cleanliness of the system.

Effect of Cold and Heat on Food. The necessity of cooking food to de- velop or create a palatable taste is im- portant. The flesh of fowl is soft enough to masticate, but only a person on the verge of starvation could eat it before heat has changed its taste, and thus made it one of the most savory and ac- ceptable of meats. Coffee also well illustrates this point. When coffee is green, that is unbrewed, it is acrid in taste, very tough, even horny in consistency, and a dejection made from it is altogether unpleasant. But when, for a certain time, it is sub- jected to a degree of heat it loses its toughness, becomes brittle, changes color and there is developed in it a most agreeable flavor. This flavoring prop- erty is an actual product of the heat which causes chemical changes in an essential oil contained in the bean. Heat, not only develops but creates flavors, changing the odor and taste as well as the digestibility of foods. Some foods are better for being cold. Sweet dishes as a rule are improved by a low temperature. The flavor of butter is very different and very much finer when cold than when warm; it is absolutely necessary to keep it cool in order to pre- serve the flavor.—Atlanta Constitution.

THE MODERN KNIGHT.

His shield was bright, that Knight of old, His sword was keen, his courage high: In shining steel on charger bold, He bravely rode to win or die. In battle fierce he sought his fame, Or in the tourney sword to sword Discourtesy his greatest shame— His lady's smile his best reward. He bears no shield, our modern Knight, No glittering sword or lance he wields, Yet well he knows the keen delight That outrage finds in warring fields: To bear the ball beyond the goal, To check the rush, to tackle free, In flames as much the striving soul As in a joust or combat used to do. And who shall say that courage high Has not its place in modern life, When "bringing thousands teary?" The manly love for manly strife? Our Knights that nobly play their part, Know the stern joys that warriors feel, And even as yeeping cowboys yell, As brave as ever beat in steel! —Outing.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

A soft answer will kill where a club would fail.—Ram's Horn.

There are men who tire themselves almost to death looking for an easy place.—Ram's Horn.

It isn't the "light" poet who is the responsible for all the fugitive verses.—Boston Courier.

The humorists of this country seem to have made a butt of the goat.—Phila- delphia Record.

Broom.—So you're off your wedding toner, eh? Groom (sadly).—No, a locu- ture, tou!—Truth.

In his moments of abstraction even the pickpocket thinks time is money.—Philadelphia Times.

The trouble is that you never know when you've got enough until you've got too much.—Pack.

People who are always looking for trouble generally run when it looks for them.—Milwaukee Journal.

A man who lives fast cannot expect that enjoyment will keep up with him.—Binghamton Republican.

Coasting is very excellent sport, but, like some other amusements, it has its drawbacks.—Somerville Journal.

Gay.—The Widow Weed wears every heavy mourning. Day.—Yes, but she doesn't feel as black as she is dressed.—Pack.

All sorts of vexations attend the par- lor matrimonial match. Even the lamp is frequently put out over it.—Bingham- ton Leader.

There are some men who can't take home a breakfast without believing they are taking their wife a present.—Atchison Globe.

More people with patent leather shoes on borrow money they never pay back than men who wear shoes that are patched.—Atchison Globe.

The next thing a long-suffering public learns will be the fact that gas compa- nies are putting pneumatic tires on their gas meters.—Ohio State Journal.

Man goes to law to get his right. Of common sense. Ignoring that in such a light, All others have got left.—Boston Herald.

What coat of arms is this of the panel of your carriage? "A horse is up, had to have it stuck on before we could engage a footman."—New York Her- ald.

Men are a good deal better edifica- tively than they are individually. Many a man will do that privately which he will denounce in a crowd.—Atchison Globe.

As a rule, a man who has a mustache he can't do, or whiskers he can't stroke, is three times as long making up his mind as one who hasn't.—Atchison Globe.

Appearance Not Deceptive. This vil- lain.—When Charlie proposed to me the poor fellow did look so silly.—Brun- cilla.—Well, no wonder.—New York Herald.

There's plenty of 'em on the top, but you shouldn't tell 'em ambitious artist so just as he is on the point of sending his picture to the exhibition.—Somerville Journal.

Mr. New.—On the stage they always have such dull, woody actors to re- present dukes and kings.—Mr. Know- yes; that's so to have them true to life.—Pack.

Boggs.—Hello there, Jiggs. What are you going to do with that keg of powder? Jiggs.—I am going to try to blow myself away from a porous plaster that is on my back.—Harvard Lampoon.

Admiring Neighbor.—Do you think the pretty pre is going to be like his father? Fond Mother.—I shouldn't be at all surprised. He keeps me up every night, as it is, and is fractious in the morning.—

Mr. Bronson.—Did you have an in- teresting subject presented for your con- sideration this morning at church. Mr. Bronson.—Very. But I couldn't make out whether the lace trimmings were real or imitation?—

New York Drummer.—How do you account for the gradual decrease in time between New York and Chicago? Chi- cago Drummer (disdainfully).—Chi- cago, sir, is rapidly growing in an easterly direction.—Jewelers' Weekly.

Professor (to class in surgery).—The right leg of the patient, as you see, is shorter than the left, in consequence of which he limps. Now, what would you do in a case of this kind? Bright Student.—Limp, too.—Chicago News Record.

Charles James Fox, when canvassing Westminster, applied to a shopkeeper for his vote and interest. The man produced a halber, with which, he said, he was ready to oblige him. "Thank you," replied Fox, "for your kind offer, but I should be sorry to deprive you of so valuable a family relic."—Argonaut.