

The United States contain more than 1700 distinct and separate railways.

It is now held that there were two distinct epidemics of cholera in Europe last year.

Mortality is greater among the Alaskans than among any other citizens of the United States.

The Congress of Colombia at its late session appropriated \$150,000 a year for the encouragement of foreign immigration.

General Harrison is the only surviving ex-President of the United States; Mr. Morton is the only living person who has occupied the office of Vice-President.

The Courier-Journal learns that Professor Wiggins lays the blame for the cold weather, the cholera and the rest of the ills with which the earth has recently been afflicted on the conjunction between Jupiter and Mars.

Travel from the North to Florida has never been greater than during the present season, declares the Chicago Herald, and the large sums of money that have been invested in railroads and hotels to accommodate this travel are paying good dividends.

The latest legislative break in Missouri, recorded by the Detroit Free Press, is a bill requiring all the butterine sold in that market to be colored pink, this mark being evidence to the purchaser that he is not buying the genuine article.

The St. Louis Star-Sayings is convinced that a little learning is not so dangerous a thing after all. English insurance statistics show that fifty per cent. of the authors and statesmen, forty-two per cent. of the clergymen, thirty per cent. of the lawyers, twenty-seven per cent. of the teachers and twenty-four per cent. of the doctors reach the age of seventy.

With France still in a ferment, Germany looking for some one to tread on the tail of its coat, Italy financially troubled and the Czar of all the Russias hiding in a bomb-proof cellar it was a great sight, exclaims the Washington Star, to see President Cleveland bow and smile to half a million representatives of the happiest and most loyal people in the world.

The Chicago Herald alleges that a French syndicate is buying up all the worn out ponies on the frontier for export to Paris, the intention being to convert them into food for the people of the gay metropolis. Hippophagy in France has evidently become a disease, for a healthy stomach would hardly crave the flesh of spavined horses in preference to the healthful beef from the Chicago abattoirs.

According to the Baltimore American Mr. Cleveland has a middle aged cabinet. Their ages are thus given: Cleveland, fifty-six years; Stevenson, fifty-eight; Gresham, sixty-one; Carlisle, fifty-eight; Bissell, forty-six; Lamont, forty-one; Herbert, fifty; Olney, fifty-eight; Smith, thirty-eight; Morton, sixty. Secretary Herbert's short arm can sympathize with Secretary Gresham's short leg. It was a Federalist in the Wilderness that shortened the former and a Confederate bullet near Atlanta that shortened the latter.

Baron Bleichroeder, the millionaire Berlin banker, is dead. He was one of the syndicate which undertook the adjustment of Austria's currency system for the purpose of restoring specie payments. He was the author of that portion of the movement which so directed the currency of foreign exchanges as to draw the flood of gold from the United States, which now has amounted to nearly \$100,000,000 in two years. There is no reason, however, to suppose that gold shipments will cease on account of Bleichroeder's death.

A mathematician, who evidently has abundant leisure, has been figuring, relates the New York News, on the size of the mortgage we should now be carrying if Columbus had pledged this country for the cost of his outfit. Starting with the assumption that the expenditure cost Isabelle \$40,000, he adds interest compounded every six months. At the present time the amount foots up nearly 271 quadrillion dollars. Taking the population of the United States at 65,000,000, the little obligation reaches nearly 417 million dollars for each inhabitant. It is consequently a great relief to know that Columbus never set foot on North America. It would be very embarrassing to have a monetary mortgage for that dizzy figure presently, with the customary notice of foreclosure.

EASTER.

Easter, smile o' the year! Bringer of music and flowers... Mrs. Sedgwick burst into tears. "It wasn't you, Jotham!" she said. "I always liked the child, though she wasn't no more like our folks than a corn flower is like a squaw blossom."

THE OLD WELL SWEEP.

BY HELEN FORREST GRAVES.



OU ain't goin' to take that well-sweep, away, Jotham—the well sweep that was there when I was a baby? Don't do it, Jotham—don't!"

Mrs. Sedgwick stood in the doorway, with a fat, old-fashioned tumbler and a glass-towel in her hand. Ellen, the daughter, paused in the act of tying up an obstreperous young honey-suckle shoot; and old Grandis Sedgwick, leaning on his staff, with his gray hairs blowing in the fresh spring wind, looking not unlike one of the ancient Druids.

"Why, father, we didn't know you'd care," said the squire. "It's a rickety old thing, anyhow—"

"Well, so'm I a rickety old thing!" quavered the octogenarian. "But you wouldn't go at me with an axe and a mallet, would you? I used to draw water with that well sweep afore I stood as high as the curb."

"It's the only well sweep left in Kendall," muttered she. "Horrid old-fashioned thing! Everybody calls our home 'the place with the well sweep.' It's too bad!"

"Dora," he repeated—"little Dora! My son Adam's daughter, with the black eyes and the real Sedgwick features! There ain't but a few things that I care for left in this world, and Dora was one of 'em. What have you done with Adam's orphan gal—eh, Eunice? The gal that hadn't no one but me to look after her?"

A distressed look crept over Mrs. Sedgwick's kindly face. She hesitated visibly. "It wasn't our fault, father," said she. "Dora was always a restless child, and she somehow couldn't seem to be contented in this quiet place."

went away," said the squire, dejectedly. "And it was she that reconciled him. Eunice—if we could get Dora back again! It's as my old father says—she was the luck of the house."

The veiled and shawl wrapped figure turned suddenly around, so that the flickering gaslight shone full on the dark eyes and mobile lips. "Martin!" she cried out, with an involuntary step forward. "Dora—my Dora! No, you shall not draw your hand!" he cried. "I've got you now, and I mean to keep you—yes, always, Dora!"

"Eh!" cried Grandis Sedgwick, rousing himself from one of the frequent slumbers of extreme old age. "Dora, is it? Adam's little black-eyed gal! Well, I knowed she would come back before the Lord sent out a call for me. Some-thing told me she would. They're fixed up the old well sweep, Dora, and you're back again! I ain't nothin' left to wish for now."

"And she's promised to be my wife," declared Martin, with his arm passed carefully around the girl's slim waist. "And Martin's given up the Western plan," ecstatically cried Mrs. Sedgwick, "and he's going to be content to settle down here for good and all."

Paris is the head-centre of the skeleton trade. The mode of preparation is a very delicate operation. The scalpel is first called into requisition to remove the muscular tissues. Its work being done, the bones are boiled, being carefully watched meanwhile that they may not be overdone. After this cannibalistic procedure they are bleached in the sun. Even then spots of grease are sure to appear when they are exposed to heat.

The important article, however, ranges from \$50 to \$400. The very high-priced ones are valued because of the preservation of the most perfect workmanship of the most successful and life-like movements. Cleverly concealed hooks and eyes render disjunction at pleasure possible. The whole construction plainly indicates the care and skill of an artist and connoisseur.

The Round City's Name. The city having been named in honor of St. Louis many suppose that the pronunciation should be "St. Looie," because that is the correct pronunciation of the name of the saint.

There are no people in Maine in whom the aristocratic instinct is stronger or who have more pride of birth than some of those who live in Oldtown Island. At present the tribe is greatly agitated over the question whether an adopted child shall be admitted to the inner circle of the island's Four Hundred.

Swans are not hard to raise; they sell at \$40 and \$75 per pair. A farmer at Biddeford, Me., is making quite a success at swan breeding, and his profits must be quite large each season.

PRESIDENTS AT DINNER.

HOW THE NATION'S CHIEF EXECUTIVES HAVE DINED.

Washington and the Shad—Entertainments of Early Days—Later Presidents Careless Eaters.

Washington had a special fondness for fish. One February an early Delaware shad, caught in advance of the season, was seized from the market by Fraunces and served up triumphantly at the Presidential table.

Washington's immediate successors, Adams and Jefferson, were light eaters in private, but the former gave stately and magnificent banquets, while the latter kept a generous table in the large free-handed Virginia style.

Madison revived the State dinners of Adams's time with a good deal of the attendant ceremonial, which Jefferson had discarded. Yet Mrs. William Livingston Seaton in her diary rather singles one of the banquets at which she was present.

The enameled iron of various colors which has become such a common article of electrical commerce is made, according to a French industrial paper, by dipping the iron plates in an emulating liquid composed of Borax 24 parts (by weight), soda salts 6, boric acid 15, washed sand 25, feldspar 12.5, saltpeter 2.5, flour spar 3 parts.

There is a conductor on the Euclid avenue street car line who played a clever trick on a passenger the other morning, which has probably taught him to have his fare ready hereafter when he boards a car.

This occurred four mornings in succession. The fifth morning the same \$10 bill came around, but the conductor was prepared. He drew a heavy bag from beneath the seat and handed it to the passenger with the remark: "Here's your change, sir. It's all right. I've counted it."

On the island of Tenerife, one of the largest if not the very largest of the Canaries, about half way between the Porto Santo and the summit of the famous Pico de Tyde, the highest point of land on the island, stands the considerable town of Orotava, famous for its wonderful "Dragon Tree."

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SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Chinese botanists can grow oaks in timbers.

The University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, is to have a building entirely devoted to chemistry.

The Edinburgh Review says that the commonest form of color-blindness is that which thinks green identical with red.

The modern lecturer relies greatly upon the projection of illustrations onto a screen, and the lanterns for this purpose have been so improved that effects and illusions of a most wonderful kind are now obtained in the lecture-room.

M. Van Ryselbergh, who died recently at Antwerp, was the inventor of the meteorograph, an electric weather register, by means of which the conditions prevailing in various localities may be shown at a central station.

Electricians are now considering the feasibility of using potentials up to hundreds of thousands of volts. With the potential of 100,000 volts the power of Niagara could be transmitted to Chicago, with a loss not exceeding twenty per cent., and it could be sold at that place in competition with steam power, probably to commercial advantage.

A large dirigible balloon, intended to make headway against air currents of twenty-eight miles an hour, is being made in France. It will be similar in form to the La France of 1884-1885, but larger—230 feet in length and forty-three feet in its greatest diameter.

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THE PATIENT SEASON.

How patiently the seasons hide their time!

No murmur from the bud that months ago Was ready, where the earth inclined, to bow; The birds are happy in their chosen home. No doubt there are commuings'neath the snow.

Bright periodicals—Comets. The man with a long head is rarely head-long.—Binghamton Leader.

The figurehead of a college is usually the professor of mathematics.—Philadelphia Record.

Many a man who "starts off well" spoils everything by coming back.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Some men are like woodpeckers—they can't send in a bill without making a big noise about it.—Truth.

The Professor—"What is happiness?" The Philosopher—"The condition of forgetting that you are unhappy."—Chicago News.

He's a dealer in rhymes on a lin.'s fool's. An exponent of both vocations. And can furnish quotations of stock. Or supply you with stocks of quotations.

Bluster—"I made a speech to-night at the banquet which will make me immortal." Mrs. B.—"And it was only last month that you got your life insured!"—Boston Transcript.

Johnson—"When I do marry I intend to marry a sensible girl, if I can find one." Tomson—"Now, there's Miss Sharpe; she gave me up." Johnada—"Just the girl I want. Won't you introduce me?"—Tit-Bits.

Little Mabel—"Mamma, don't you think I can teach Fido to talk?" "Mamma—" "No, dear; what made you think you could?" Little Mabel—"Well, when I gave him his dinner he growled just like you say papa does when his meal doesn't please him."—Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Mr. Billus—"Seems to me, Maria; the children don't speak half as good English as they did before they began to go to school." Mrs. Billus—"For mercy's sake, John, how can you expect them to learn anything at school? I wished you would quit harping on that English language fad of yours."—Chicago Tribune.

His Secret of Happiness. "Professor" said a gentleman recently to the famous Professor Blackie, of Edinburgh, "may I ask the secret of your happiness?"

"Yes," replied the genial Professor, who, in his old age is as sprightly and merry as a schoolboy. "Here is the secret. I have no vain regrets for the past, I look forward with hope to the future, and I always strive to do my duty."—New York Herald.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

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