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Our export trade is rapidly increasing.

It is estimated that, on an average, gold in circulation wears out in 240 years.

The London Engineer announces that it will give 1000 guineas in prizes for the best forms of horseless vehicles.

The new Salisbury Government has gone into power in England absolutely untrammelled. It published no platform and stated no issues.

And now a chap out in Kansas insists that the Russian thistle is good fodder for milch cows, and declines to desist from raising a nice patch for the purpose.

The system of kindergartens established on some of the Indian reservations has proved to successful that it is to be widely extended, especially in the Southwest, where the Indian children are extremely shy.

For some remarkable reason not made apparent to the New York Sun, Portland, chief commercial city of the Pine Tree State of Maine, is buying clappards in the State of Washington, 3000 miles away.

There are between 600 and 1000 deaf mutes scattered through the city of Chicago, and, according to the Detroit Free Press, they are all industrious and fairly prosperous, earning their living honestly and uncomplainingly.

Texas still does things in a big way, or not at all, admits the New York Mail and Express. For instance, one woman owns 2000 square miles, embracing an entire Congressional District, and, as she controls the votes of all her employees, she practically selects the Congressman. There's a new woman and a half.

A new street railway company in Detroit, which has just begun to operate its lines, is obliged by the conditions of its franchise to sell eight tickets for twenty-five cents. These tickets are good only up to 8 p. m., after which time night tickets, sold for twenty-five cents, are accepted. The holder of a ticket is entitled to general transfer privileges. The company's franchise runs for thirty years, the city reserving the right to purchase the property at the end of that time.

The English idea of speed has been so often illustrated by somewhat disconcerting the examples of American progress in various departments of human endeavor, that it is not surprising to the Washington Star to learn from a London technical journal that it was considered a great feat for certain engineers to replace a section of a great English railway bridge with new materials inside of thirty days. Commenting on this declaration the Engineering Record, published on this side, declares that American railway managers would have had the job done in a few hours and would have considered the loss of a day's traffic as inadmissible.

Says the New York Times: It would probably puzzle most people to tell, off hand, in what shape the Arctic regions have supplied even a quarter of "the products worth \$1,200,000,000" which General Greely told the geographers assembled in London had come out of the frozen North during the past two centuries, and upon which he based his appeal for a vigorous continuance of Arctic exploration. Voyages in that direction are usually regarded as leading to frightful tragedies, rather than to any practical benefit for mankind. These tragedies, indeed, have developed and served to display heroism never surpassed and perhaps never equaled in other parts of the world, but that cannot be measured in money, valuable a possession as it is, and, of course, does not count in the twelve hundred millions. First among the things that do, no doubt, are the whales, vast numbers of which have been captured in the icy seas since the hardy explorers proved that those waters were not impassable; other Arctic products are fossil ivory, the mineral cryolite, rich in aluminium; the furs of seals, bears, foxes and a few other animals; small quantities of gold—and about there the list begins to become difficult to lengthen, though specialists could probably continue it through a line or two more. Some day the North Pole—an object no less, or more, worthy of respect than the equator—will be added, but even then the enormous sum mentioned by General Greely will seem quite beyond the average statistician's power to account for.

LONG AGO.

When opal tints and gray invade The crimson of the west— When daylight's lingering traces fade, And song birds seek the nest— When shadows fall o'er hill and plain, And stars in heaven once again The days of long ago.

DOWN THE CHIMNEY.

BY JAMES C. PURDY.



AGGIE MILLS came out of the woods with her hands full of the pretty things she had gathered there, and ran singing across the field. Sue Murry saw her coming and ran to meet her, with her apron full of daisies. Then for a few minutes they were very busy comparing and dividing their treasures.

It was a timely warning for Sue. Without it, in the darkness of the dismal place she had entered, she might have plunged headlong into the pit that yawned almost under her feet. As it was she checked herself just in time to keep from falling. She held on by one of the bushes and leaned over the opening. She could see nothing but darkness.

"Where's Polly?" Maggie asked suddenly, remembering her little sister, who ought to be claiming her share in all this.

"No, she didn't; she went with you after the daisies."

"I haven't seen her since I came out of the woods."

"Neither have I. Oh, dear! Polly! Polly Mills! Polly-e-e-e!"

"Sue Murray, you run as fast as you can to the village and find some men to come and hunt for my little sister. I'll stay here and look all through the woods and all over the field while you are gone. Don't come back without some men!"

"If it's a hole, it's a hole," said David, as he looked down into the opening. "It's a hole, it's a hole," said David, as he looked down into the opening.

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THE MERRY SIDE OF LIFE.

STORIES THAT ARE TOLD BY THE FUNNY MEN OF THE PRESS.

The Ideal and the Real—A Fashionable Physician—Likely to Win—Anti-Paradoxical, Etc., Etc.

Years and years he spent at college, Filling up his head with knowledge, Learning Hebrew, Latin, Greek, Growing wiser week by week.

He—'They say there's no end to Mrs. De Smyth's jewelry.'

PLACING THE RESPONSIBILITY. He—'Will you be my wife?'

A FASHIONABLE PHYSICIAN. Carson—'What makes Dr. Crumpler so popular?'

LIKELY TO WIN. Dime Museum Manager—'Want a position here, eh? Huh! What are you remarkable for, eh?'

HIS SPECIALTY. Farmer Hayrake—'Did your son learn anything at college?'

ANTI-PARADOXICAL. Frizzer—'That young Doctor Fowalla is a remarkably patient man, isn't he?'

CASH WANTED. Mr. Citiman (who has brought his family to board at a farm house for the summer, as he comes down stairs after his arrival)—'But I am usually never asked to pay my board in advance. Are you afraid to trust me?'

HIS INVESTMENT. 'Mister,' said the man with the suspicious side glance, 'can you tell me where the nearest trolley road is?'

'Good gracious,' roared the policeman, springing upstairs three steps at a jump and dashing with uplifted truncheon into the photographer's studio, 'what are you fighting about up here? Are you all in this row?'

SEE KNEW THE DIFFERENCE. When he came around to the back of the house he found one lone woman shelling peas on the door-step—no other person in sight; no dog. Clearly, this was a time to act boldly.

HE THOUGHT HE'D MADE A MISTAKE and mumbled that he meant nothing by what he'd said, and so forth; but she remarked emphatically that she meant nothing by what she'd said, too; and, as he walked toward the street, she might possibly have been shelling peas a little faster than before, but not much.

"JAPAN AS A MARKET FOR US."

The New York Herald of recent date had a two-column illustrated article with the above heading. Out of the entire forty-one inches of space occupied, exactly two inches, less than five per cent. of the whole, is devoted to the subject of "Japan as a Market for Us."

"Throughout the dinner the conversation turned mainly upon the desire of Japanese merchants and business men to not only increase the traffic between Japan and the United States, but to make, if possible, Japan a better customer of the United States. All present admitted that our country was not only the best friend sentimentally that Japan had, but the best friend commercially. Every gentleman who could speak English conveyed to me personally his appreciation of the just and fair course of the Herald toward Japan, and the advantage it was to have in the United States a journal so influential to advocate Japan's interests.

"The forgoing impression of Colonel Cookerill's, it would appear, was arrived at after dinner when he had been the recipient of a banquet accorded him by some Japanese ladies and gentlemen. Before the dinner the gallant Colonel was presented with a souvenir which he describes as a 'rare beauty.' We should mention that the 'rare beauty' was not a Japanese maiden, as some of the Colonel's friends might perhaps imagine.

"We await with interest, in a subsequent letter, the details and particulars that will show how the Policy of Idiocy advocated by the Herald 'would enable our manufacturers to place their goods in the Japanese markets.' Let us have something more than two inches of balderdash, so that the next article may be worthy of its caption.

Cooked Their Goose. During eleven months of the last fiscal year, up to May 31, 1895, we imported almost \$1,500,000 worth of crude feathers and down. Under the McKinley tariff a protection of 50 per cent ad valorem was accorded to American feathers and down. The free trade slaughterers abolished this protection, placing crude feathers and down upon the free list.

The largest goose growing State in this country is Missouri, where Senator Vest comes from. In Missouri two French breeds of geese, known as the Emden and Toulouse, have been imported and improved upon. The States of Kentucky and Tennessee are the two next largest producers, and the three best markets for geese feathers are at St. Louis, Nashville and Louisville, these three cities receiving and distributing fully two-thirds of all our domestic goose feathers that are grown in the United States.

The protection given to this Southern industry under the McKinley tariff largely stimulated an increase in the number of geese, but not even the boss free trade gander, Senator Vest, raised his voice for protection to a Southern industry, but he was content to pluck the last feather from the goose that lays so many golden eggs for his fellow citizens in his own State.

While the free trade papers jubilate over the restoration voluntarily made in the wage schedules of some factories, they invariably forget to state that such increase does not mean the rate of pay now received by the wage earners equivalent to their earnings in 1892. Another point to which they fail to refer is that, where wages have been advanced, it is very often the case that such an advance was made to far fewer people than were employed in 1892. A firm may then have been employing 500 hands, and even if the same rate of wages should now be paid it is often the case that only 350 hands are employed. What then has become of the other 150? Has some other industry made such marked progress under tariff reform as to be able to absorb these idlers? If so, why have not the free trade editors recorded the fact? It is most likely that the 150 have either left the country or are trampng around still looking for that job which they had before they voted for President Cleveland and tariff reform.

Free Trade in Eggs. Free eggs are of a great assistance to the British farmer. The imports of eggs into the United Kingdom during 1894 were worth \$15,426,118. With a protective tariff upon eggs most of this money would have been retained in the British Isles instead of being sent to France, Germany, Belgium, Denmark and Basala.

FREE WOOL'S WORK.

A MANUFACTURER PREDICTS A SERIOUS STOPPAGE OF MACHINERY.

An English Correspondent's Statistics Confirm the Gloomy Forecasting—Free Wool Gives No Protection to Labor in the Mills—Foreign Factories Reap a Great Harvest.

An illustration of the manner in which American woolen manufacturers are faring with free wool, we have been advised by a manufacturer at Franklin, Mass., that 'had I thought Grover would have allowed such a bill (the Gorman tariff) to become law, I would have stopped and retired. There is nothing in the business today for the worsted maker.'

This manufacturer was in receipt, July 22, of a letter from Bradford, accompanied by samples of serge and fancy worsteds. The serge is sold in gross from the loom by the manufacturer at twenty-eight cents per yard. It is woven, burl and sewn and ready to dye. It is sixty-four inches wide. The American manufacturer cannot buy yarn, or stock, necessary to make similar goods and place it in his loom at the same price, twenty-eight cents per yard, at which the Bradford serge is sold, the stock alone costing here thirty-five cents; yet the Bradford manufacturer can buy his yarn, weave it, sell it at twenty-eight cents per yard and figure out a profit. The same is the case with fancy worsteds, selling at fifty-one cents by the Bradford maker.

As we have free wool and the English manufacturers have free wool, the mills in both countries start upon nearly the same footing as far as their raw material is concerned. What, then, is the difference? It is in the labor of spinning and manufacturing, which in weaving is 112 per cent. higher in the United States than in Bradford.

This simply confirms the argument of protectionists that the bulk of the cost, in this case fully ninety per cent., of a manufactured article is the labor employed in making it. Free wool affords no protection to American labor in the woolen mills.

Our Franklin correspondent states that one importing house has sold for a Bradford firm, this season, to the extent of 10,000 pieces of fine worsted cloth at \$1 a yard, and he anticipates that 'in less than eighteen months there will be more machinery stopped than in 1893, unless the tariff is advanced.'

Confirming this opinion of the manufacturer at Franklin, we append, without any comment, a letter received from a correspondent at Bradford, England:

"Bradford, July 13, 1895. 'The great manufacturing districts of Yorkshire, but more especially Bradford, are full steam ahead. Work is plentiful, competition is keen, wages low. That may seem to be a paradox to some readers of the Economist, but it is nevertheless so and must continue. On every hand, our merchant princes and the press claim, as one of our leading daily papers said last week, that our manufacturers have taken your market by storm. Whether that be so or not I will leave your readers to settle, but it does appear to me that when I consider the amount of exports that are leaving these shores destined to your market, the English operators must be receiving a fair share of patronage, which patronage your own operators and employed have a just right to demand. The few returns which I have hurriedly gathered and put together, showing what we sent across your side in June only, is indeed a splendid object lesson to all truehearted Americans. It should promote thought and reflection in all those who have the power to think, and especially among your own responsible parties. The following are the increased shipments when compared with the corresponding month of July, 1894:

Table with 2 columns: Month, Value. Rows include Bradford, Glasgow, Sheffield, Leeds, Manchester.

Stranded Starling's lot. A starling weighing 200 pounds and measuring eight feet in length was shot recently by the ferryman at East Windsor, Conn. The fish was stranded on a sand bar.

Richest State in Proportion to Size. Rhode Island, in proportion to size and population, is among the richest of the commonwealths, being assessed at \$25,526,675.