

One of its advantages is that the Marconi ocean telegraph can't get fouled with Davy Jones's locker.

In Germany teachers are forbidden by law to pull the ears of their pupils, it having been shown that many cases of deafness had resulted from the practice.

South American countries could derive a good revenue and greatly systematize affairs by not allowing any one to start a revolution without having first taken out a license.

The butcher who has been ordered to pay \$1000 for calling a neighbor a "blister" probably does not share the proverbial view of the relative value of silence and speech. At \$1000 a word speech is golden indeed.

The Philadelphia Inquirer remarks that if the truth were known, there is more real enjoyment, more real happiness, in the humble home than under the roof of the millionaire, who is harassed by business cares and who must fight his way.

The latest suggestion touching the keeping of a house free from flies is to establish a colony of wasps in the kitchen, allowing them free egress into the dining room. If the flies do not go the family will, so that's a solution to the fly nuisance anyhow.

It is three years since Russia took possession of Port Arthur, at the head of Liao-Tung gulf; yet the other day there was launched from a shipyard there a 27-12 knot torpedo boat. Quick work, indeed, and calculated to create shivers of apprehension among the "Yankees of the East."

The energy in the quantity of coal mined in 1900 is estimated by a writer in Cassier's Magazine as equivalent to the work of 3,000,000,000 men during the year. This triples the natural energy of the race—in fact, more than triples it, for it is as if the work of two able bodied men were added to the sum of human energy for every man woman and child. And these additional workers—the coal units—make no demands for food or clothing.

Cleveland, Ohio, has abandoned the old system of prosecution and fines for the abatement of the smoke nuisance, because it did not seem to lessen the evil, and it has adopted instead an educational and persuasive plan. Under the latter there are now said to be 200 improved furnaces in operation, and all new boiler-houses which are being erected are equipped with smoke consumers. The railroads entering the city have also been persuaded to attach similar appliances to their locomotives, which are proving economical and helping to purify the city's atmosphere.

The Alfred Millenary suggests to the London Standard a connection between the work of the great king and the traits of the American people. It says "Alfred was one of the first rulers to embody in concrete acts the thought that the common people have a right to be consulted about the great business of government. When foreign force threatened his country with destruction, when lawlessness threatened to sweep away civilization, he appealed to the people, and they heard and followed him gladly. He was one of the first rulers to reduce to everyday practice that conception of liberty regulated by law which the American nation has so conspicuously and successfully applied to human affairs. He saw that human rights were greater than the will of kings, and in the light of that truth he lived and acted."

The doing away with the cutting of the hair of convicts is a gratifying proof that those in charge of New York state prisons are open to the arguments of progressive penologists. To the average citizen such a change may seem of the slightest significance, or, if anything, only the disuse of a time-honored measure of discipline. It is, however, as striking an action as the abolition of the lock-step last spring, and both arise from the desire to make each prison a reformatory, and not an institution for branding men who have made missteps. The hair-cutting process was a relic of seventeenth or eighteenth century prison methods, when actual branding of prisoners was also the vogue. Its abolition will make it easier for convicts to obtain employment on discharge, as well as help them to retain their self-respect during their confinement. The aim of the modern prison is to correct by discipline, to strengthen physically, to train intellectually, and to awaken morally, exclaims the New York Post. Hair-cutting, the lock-step and striped suits are all hindrances, and not helps, in this undertaking.

The American papa who has let a foreign title into his family is very likely to be prouder of the baby than of his son-in-law.

As the Chinaman does not desire to be assimilated, and as the American population does not desire to assimilate him, there is no real reason for philanthropic worry.

Twenty years ago hardly 20 percent of our man-of-war's men were native born, and not 50 percent even naturalized citizens. Today fully 90 percent are American citizens, and nearly 70 percent are American born.

It would be a good thing in many ways for the King of Siam to visit this country. It would broaden popular intelligence and compel recognition that Siam is entitled to something more than the mere remembrance as the country of the celebrated twins.

Few people have any idea of the quantities of valuable articles which annually find their way to the dead letter office in Washington. At the annual sale of dead letter goods the purchases included watches, rings bracelets, spoons, coins books, clothing, fancy work and too many other things to name.

It is asserted by the Municipal Journal of England that there is no country in the world where the loss of life by fire is more frequent than in the United States. Law enforcement of fire escape and building regulations is blamed for this deplorable state of affairs. The force of the argument is better appreciated when it is remembered that American fire departments are the best equipped and trained in the world.

From May to November there is to be held at Cork, under the patronage of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and under the management of many of the most influential men, an international exhibition. The project has already received widespread support. The exhibition will occupy 40 acres within the limits of the city of Cork, and its aim will be to "present a full illustration of the produce and manufactures of the present age."

Ground has been broken for the St. Louis exposition. It was frozen ground the air bit shrewdly. May ill omens be absent! Philadelphia, Chicago, Omaha and Buffalo suffered so serious reactions after their big fairs that many of the residents of those cities were sorry after the "booms" had passed that they had ever undertaken the colossal tasks of such exhibitions. May St. Louis be more fortunate! But it cannot be denied that after an enormous show a dreary reaction is practically inevitable.

Surely this is the century of evolution. According to the Butchers' and Packers' Gazette, a large bologna and sausage manufacturing concern in the United States has received a consignment of the new paper envelope designed to supersede the ordinary casing used for bolognas and sausages. The consignment came from Germany. It is claimed that the envelopes are preferable in every way to skins, are cheaper and much more satisfactory from a hygienic standpoint.

Black as the outlook in Germany is there is nothing to justify the belief that it will terminate in a general collapse, three or six months hence. Many interests have reached a point beyond which a further decline is impossible. The worst feature of the situation is that it promises to endure at least a year, exclaims the Berlin Zentravue. Meantime extreme conservatism is the watchword. Loans are granted with reluctance. Operations of all kinds are brought to a halt. Corporate and private business enterprise keeps close to shore, investing and spending only where necessity demands.

The Children's Aid society of New York has entered its fiftieth year. This society is the parent from which all kindred organizations of the country have sprung. It maintains nineteen day and night schools and has distributed \$10,000,000 during its career of philanthropy. The society seeks out the children who are not attending the public schools because of the poverty, shiftlessness or ignorance of parents, and when it gets them trained to cleanliness and some measure of regularity it transfers them to the public schools when possible. Its schools are all of an industrial character. They have at present an enrollment of over 15,000 children and an average attendance of one-half that number. To make it possible for these children to attend it has been compelled during the past year to extend relief to 7883 persons.

CLOUDS.

By W. X.

The whole scene was drear and desolate, and a pale face pressed against the window pane looked out upon it with sorrowful eyes, seeing in the gloom of the landscape and shadowy skies the symbol of her future life. The face itself was not remarkable; there was no special beauty-of outline, no dazzling complexion, no soft-colored wavy hair. It was white and slender, and would have been spritless only for the restless eyes and blood-red lips. The forehead was broad and thought-impressed, with brown hair brushed back and closely braided from the face which happiness might have beautified, but which was now undeniably plain, and tinged with the cold gray hue which pervaded earth, air and sky.

Annie Raymond stood for an hour looking persistently out, not on the dreary landscape alone, but into her drearier future. Since her mother's death, which occurred during her childhood, she had experienced no bitter trials; but little, trifling troubles had made her daily life unlovely and unpleasant.

The family was large and in very moderate circumstances, and, like all poor people of the present day, struggling to make one dollar show for two, and so appear richer than they really are. Jane, the elder sister, took charge of the house and ruled the younger children with a rod of iron. The two girls who came next were both married, and struggling with large families and poverty. A brother next younger had left home and was seeking his fortune—a hopeless task. Then came Annie, age 21, and then sisters younger still. The father was a grave, hard-working man, who usually dozed away the time he spent at home.

Annie's life had been monotonous enough thus far. There was housework in the mornings, and in the afternoons the sisters sewed for a furnishing store in the village, barely earning a sufficient sum to clothe them in the plainest apparel. But they were sprightly, intelligent girls, and were received in the society of the village upon an equal footing with those who were better supplied with this world's goods.

There had been a time when Annie indulged in rosy dreams of the future, but her life was too monotonous, so lacking in incident, these were soon dispelled. Her older sisters furnished striking examples of what her own life would be.

Should she choose single-blessedness and become a cross, unhappy old maid like Jane? or follow in the footsteps of Sarah and Sue, and be a sickly, task-burdened wife, with scarcely an hour's peace and quiet?

Neither picture looked inviting to a young girl who had a passionate longing for the luxurious and beautiful things of this life. So she grew graver as she went about the same simple, homely tasks day after day, and Jane's reproving voice grated more and more harshly upon her sensitive ear, until it seemed as if she must cry out like a hurt child under the pain of her life burden, and she was only dumb for very shame.

For her sisters seemed happy in a certain degree, and was her life harder to bear than theirs?

"They never think," she said; "I do; so much the worse for me; but I cannot make them understand how terrible a life like theirs seems to me, it is so utterly devoid of beauty, and even comfort."

But during the previous winter a change came over the spirit of her dreams. George Hastings came to Glenville, and from her first acquaintance with him her life brightened. He was only a merchant's clerk, but capable and energetic, and a favorite with his employer.

When Annie met him first she only saw a rather small and uninteresting-looking young man, who conversed agreeably. When she saw him for the second time she thought he had fine eyes, and before the evening was over she confessed that his smile was beautiful. Then, as their acquaintance progressed, she found their tastes were very similar in many things.

After this he often called upon her evenings, and read aloud to her while she was busy with her sewing. Numberless little attentions followed, rendered in a tender, delicate way, and for a time was supremely happy.

George was slowly but surely approaching a declaration—she was certain of this—and as she thought it over in her mind, doubts began to creep in where contentment had reigned.

She loved him so well, she could have died for him, and without him life would be utterly desolate. But he was very poor, with only a small sum as yet laid aside for a rainy day. Would her life, after all her tender dreams, be different from Sue's or Sarah's, if she married him?

felt that her sister really cared more for her than she had ever known. They took her home, a shadow of her former self, but more contented in mind than she had been in years before.

But it was not until she was quite as well as ever, and had fallen readily into the old routine of daily labor, that George spoke again of love. He came to see her the same as before, and brought her trifles in the way of flowers and books; and one evening, when they were sitting in the dusk and gloom of the twilight, with the cloudy November skies frowning without George said:

"Do you think, Annie, you could marry a poor man, after all?"

"Oh, George!" deprecatingly.

"And do you think you are brave enough to bind yourself to be a lifelong slave like your sister Sarah?"

"Not to a husband I did not love, and who cared but little for me. That would be a fearful bondage for me, or to any other woman."

"But I love you and you love me. Don't you think that makes a great difference?"

"All the difference in the world, George."

"Then do you not think you could make up your mind to marry me?"

"I think I could if you asked me."

"Oh!" with a laugh, and that was all.

Not a word was spoken by either for some time, but he took her hand and drew her silently to his side. At last he spoke:

"Confess, Annie," he said, "that you are disappointed. I am not the hero you expected as a husband, am I?"

"No," she answered, "but you are a true, noble-hearted man, and that is better. I forgot in all my senseless day-dreams and plans for the future that I was only a woman, and a very foolish one at that. You have excellent judgement and sense, but you are just my age, and not so wise, I am afraid of you. I know you have faults, but so have I; and if you will have patience with mine, I can bear yours without a word."

THE GREAT DESTROYER

SOME STARTLING FACTS ABOUT THE VICE OF INTEMPERANCE.

Six Powerful Indictments Against the Use of Beer by Soldiers—It Impairs His Mental and Physical Strength—Predisposes to Disease.

Our first indictment against beer is that it lowers the soldier's moral nature and thus weakens his efficiency to meet the demands of his high calling.

Modern warfare demands intelligent alertness, coolness, self-restraint, strength and precision of muscle and protracted endurance in action. Among the experiments performed in Professor Kraepelin's laboratory was one which shows how alcohol affects that precision of muscle which is an essential requisite in the man behind the guns. The subject held down, with a finger of each hand, two Morse keys, one of which he was to release on a given signal, the right hand upon one signal, the left upon another. After taking alcohol the subject would often release the keys a little sooner than he would in his normal state, but he released oftener the wrong key. Muscular movement was precipitated without proper control. The cool head and steady eye and nerve necessary to the unerring marksman are sacrificed by the use of alcohol.

Our second indictment against beer for the soldier, therefore, is that it impairs his physical strength. For a modern military authority to ignore this testimony of science that alcohol weakens physical strength is utterly folly.

A famous military authority said: "The army moves upon its stomach." That being true, it is very important to learn how the alcohol in beer will affect the process of digestion and its organs. In the very elaborate experiments on the effect of alcohol and digestion reported by Chittenden and Mendel, in the American Journal of Physiology, they found that the digestive process took from one-half to three-quarters of an hour longer when alcohol was given with meals than it did when it was not.

Recent experiments made by G. Rosenfeld, of Germany, to ascertain the effect of alcohol on the liver, showed that alcohol caused an accumulation of fat in the liver which may appear as fatty degeneration or fatty infiltration and that it also diminished the amount of glycogen in the liver. Since glycogen is reported by Chittenden and Mendel, in the American Journal of Physiology, they found that the digestive process took from one-half to three-quarters of an hour longer when alcohol was given with meals than it did when it was not.

Other vital organs affected by the strain of military life are the heart, kidneys, lungs, etc.

Fourth indictment against beer in the tannet—Science and experience show that alcohol instead of helping any organ of the soldier's body to do its best work has the power to injure any one of them, although not necessarily every organ at the same time.

Military statistics show that the proportion of men killed or fatally wounded in battle during the war is only a small fraction of the large number of soldiers who die of diseases, largely epidemic diseases. Experimenters have found that alcohol greatly increases susceptibility to disease and diminishes the ability to resist disease germs. This is true not only of large amounts of alcohol, but of what is called its moderate use. The most recent experimenter on this point, Laitinen, says:

"Alcohol, under all circumstances, increases the susceptibility of the animal body for infection, whether it be given before or after the inoculation and whether in a few large doses or in numerous small ones extending over a long time."

Fifth indictment against beer for the soldier—Alcohol predisposes to the diseases that are more to be feared by the soldier than bullets or bayonets.

All this, perhaps you say, may be true of taking too much, but the limited amount of beer the soldier is allowed to drink in a post exchange or canteen ought not to be forbidden him, because some one else has drunk too much.

Under the most careful regulations there is no guarantee that the men who patronize the canteen will confine themselves to small amounts, and even if they should scientific research to-day shows small amounts to be harmful.

Sixth indictment—The little alcohol in beer has the power to create an uncontrollable and destructive appetite for more.—New York Voice.

Madness-Producing Drink.

The coal region foreigner has a reputation for lawlessness which comes from stories of murders and assaults committed by him, of fights at wedding celebrations and at christenings and of rioting on pay-day nights. For all these performances "polinky" is to blame. It is necessary in order to enjoy the pay-day night carousal properly for the foreign coal miner to be drunk and he achieves this condition with polinky. The men who invented polinky were too short of cash to buy whisky alone, and beer did not have sufficient effect on them. So polinky was invented, and it has served its purpose, producing about the most devilish fighting drunk that was ever possessed by man.

The receipt is simple. First is needed a wash tub. Sometimes this is not so clean as it might be, but that is a trivial matter.

Half a keg of beer is emptied into it, and into the beer is put about a gallon of whisky, rank, raw whisky. Some spices are added to taste, and the mixture is thoroughly stirred. Serve in anything, and replenish to suit the thirst.

Given a proper quantity of polinky, a chastening or a cautionary word which at 8 will become lively and will produce a fight at 11, and with little effort, a murder at 12. If not the murder then there will be a general free fight in which all sorts of weapons are used except the polinky tub.

So demoralizing are these pay-day fights and the consequent murders and injuries that the police now stop them in the incipient stage wherever possible, and in the last year or so they have become less frequent. But they still prevail in many of the smaller coal villages.—New York Sun.

Makes the Senses Fail.

Inebriety is a condition of diminished and defective consciousness of the relations of time and surroundings. The memory is unable to accurately record events, and the senses fail to give correct impressions; the brain cannot coordinate and discriminate such impressions, and a state of anaesthesia is present which often deepens into imbecility. The inebriate is thrown out of harmony with his surroundings and the organism is both mentally and physically enfeebled, and he becomes unfit for normal life and living.—Journal of Inebriety.

The Crusade in Brief.

Potter County, Texas, has voted out its saloons.

As well add wood to fire to extinguish fire so to drink alcohol to quench thirst.

Are you not interested in the downfall? If you are, see what you can do to uplift those that are down.

Alcohol deadens the mind striving after accomplishment, and in the end destroys the brain's capacity for real activity.

Five hundred young women of Trenton, N. J., have joined a society and pledged themselves not to marry a man who drinks.