

THE MIDDLEBURGH POST.

T. H. HARTER, EDITOR AND PROP. MIDDLEBURGH, PA., JAN. 2, 1904.

It is believed in India, China, and Indo-China that a cobra that escapes an attack from a man will eventually revenge itself upon its assailant, whatever he may do or wherever he may go.

A Spanish steamer brought to New York recently eighteen Portuguese who were on their way to California, where they intend to make wine after Spanish methods. They were well supplied with money.

The experiment of amalgamating the Indians with the surrounding population in Canada and inducing them to adopt a settled life has been most successful in Ontario, and in all cases the tribes show an increase in numbers. There are 124,589 Indians in the Dominion.

A well-known London journalist, realizing the fact that the ordinary professions in England are greatly overcrowded, is having his eldest son educated to be a cook. The boy has been trained by a famous chef of the Grand Hotel, Paris, and later served for three years to M. Charpentier, chef of the Savoy Hotel, London.

The Inman steamship City of Paris, which sailed from New York for Liverpool recently, carried more than 900 passengers, including those in the stowage. The agents of the vessel said that this was the largest number of passengers to leave New York on any one vessel. A great many of the passengers were persons who went to England to spend the holidays.

The Atlanta Constitution thinks Private Secretary Halford a very sensible reformer. At a meeting recently held in the Washington Mount Vernon Place Methodist Church, Mr. Halford asked aid for the street waifs. He said that he had been a newsboy himself, and wanted to do something to help and elevate the boys. He did not believe in the theory that God permitted poverty and crime as a sort of gradstone for men, and so long as the poorer classes remained with us he thought it was our duty to aid them.

Florida will soon be the greatest lemon growing country in the world. Lemons weighing a pound each are common in Florida, and along the banks of Caloosahatchie River there is a single tree which bears 3000 lemons, many of which weigh a pound each. But, except for show, such large lemons are of little value, as they are coarse-grained and pulpy. The best lemons are grown on poor soil, and for that reason they are a very profitable crop. This country consumes more lemons every year than all other countries combined, and the consumption is constantly increasing.

A great outcry has been raised in the Swiss Canton Tessin against the prevalence there of bribery at elections. The political workers are constantly racking their brains to devise new means of buying votes. The Mayor of a small city near Locarno recently, while running for re-election, invited every man who would promise to vote for him to eat and drink at his expense for three months at certain specified taverns. The success of his plan is shown by the fact that he was re-elected and that his bills at the taverns in question amounted to \$2800. Votes bought in the old-fashioned way cost from twenty cents to \$5 each. Even the clergy are said to bribe electors right and left.

Questions are often asked about the relative strength of the various religious bodies. Here is a table of statistics gathered by the Independent from the denominational year books and other authoritative sources:

Table with 2 columns: Denomination and Number. Includes Adventists, Baptists, Christian Union, Congregationalists, Friends, G'n'n K'n'gdomal'n, Lutherans, Methodists, etc.

The increase, as shown by these figures, is 876,995. The noteworthy gains were as follows: Baptists, 105,904; Congregationalists, 48,024; Methodists, 24,352; Presbyterians, 43,428; Episcopalians, 12,857; Roman Catholic population, 655,294. The Society of Friends is the only one reporting a decrease in membership, but in several others there was little change.

WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN.

Though the morning may be dreary, And the day be long and weary, Though the clouds may darkly lower And the tempest fiercely frown We shall quite forget the shadows That have lingered in the mow When there be a golden hour When the sun goes down.

POLLY'S GHOST.

Pretty Polly Paschall sat bolt upright, her red-brown curls falling in rich confusion about her bare white throat, her brown eyes as wide as if she had not been in bed and asleep for hours. The lamp was turned low, as she had left it, and shone with a dim, soft radiance over all the richly furnished room.

Polly stared about her. The chairs, the tables, the little quaintly carved stand by the window, and which held her precious pilgrim bottle, were all just as she had left them. What could the noise have been? Suddenly her eyes fell upon the little square door in the wall high above the bookcase.

"My ghost at last!" said Polly, clasping her pretty little palms together. She waited a moment in breathless silence, but, hearing no repetition of the noise which had awakened her, she sprang out of bed, put on her slippers and dressing gown, threw some bits of wood upon the still glowing embers, and turning out the lamp she sat down before the fire to wait the ghost, whose coming she had been expecting for so many days.

The Paschalls, father, mother and daughter, had moved into their present abode to await the erection of their own house, and upon the very first day of their coming Polly had spied the little "secret door," as she called it, and selected this for her room.

"Just think of the possibilities for a romance," she said to her father, and he had gotten upon the housecleaner's step, huddled and found the door fastened hard and fast.

"It is all safe," he said. "I want it to be safe from mortal hands," Polly said; "but ghosts stand not back for bolts and bars."

"If it is a ghost you want," said her father, "you may get it. This house belongs to one of the oldest, and at one time the wealthiest, families in the State. It has stood here for years, and has known many changes, and, I presume, could tell many stories and perhaps give up a good many ghosts. I rented it from a sweet-faced, grand-looking old lady, who lives somehow and somewhere in those dark apartments next door to us. I think she is the only surviving member of the noble family whose glory and wealth have departed. No, I believe she told me that there was a boy, her grandson, who is working at—she told me what he does, but I don't remember."

"How interesting!" exclaimed Polly. "I am sure I shall find a ghost." But so many uneventful months had passed since she enclosed herself in the rooms that she had almost forgotten to expect a ghost until to-night, when a noise as of slippers led walking over a hard, bare floor had awakened her.

She sat for a long time, her eyes fixed upon the little door, expecting every moment that a ghostly hand would undo the hidden lock, and a ghostly form would emerge from the darkness beyond. But—her maid found her still sitting and fast asleep the next morning when she came to awaken her.

ink. The chair was sitting before the table as if some one had just been writing, and upon the hearth were fresh embers.

"My ghost is certainly a sensible creature—humanly so," said Polly, as she seated herself in the chair and began to look over the papers on the table.

There were many notes and scraps, meaningless and disjointed, but finally she came to a packet containing quite a lengthy manuscript, closely written, much folded and fingered.

"The ghost is an author," said Polly, "and his manuscript has been rejected. 'Proved unavailable to our columns.' Poor fellow! Well, I shall read his story if it be one. The plot thickens. Think of being able to read a ghost's story! One that the eye of mortal has never beheld!"

She began to read, turning the leaves over slowly at first, but gradually her eyes flew over the closely-written pages, the words and thoughts were filling her with an interest that she had seldom felt in printed pages.

The mystery of it all, the strangeness of her position impressed themselves upon her, wrapped themselves about the story she was reading and intensified her interest in it.

The rain beat upon the roof that was just above, the light shown but dimly through the one small window that opened upon a long array of house-tops. Hour after hour passed, and still Polly sat reading. She finished at last with a sigh of relief.

"If only the woman had not been such a stick," she said; "if she had not said such silly things, one could feel that the story was perfect."

She sat a moment in deep thought. "I will do it," she said, at last. "I believe I can do it; at all events I shall try; but not now." She got up, arranged the papers and chair just as she had found them, and crept down through the little door into her own room.

The next day Miss Paschall surprised the fashionable stationer on the corner by ordering a whole ream of "foolscap."

Richard Blount opened the door of his bare little "study," put down the armful of wood he was carrying, and knelt down upon the hearth to kindle a fire. He was what a casual observer would have called an ugly man, but he had a good, well-knit figure, a fine head and strong though irregular features.

took it, and for a moment neither spoke. "I fear I cannot open this little 'trap' door for you from this side," he said at last.

"There is a long hall which leads over your house to the one grandmother and I occupy now. Come, I will take you out that way. I come all the way over here so that my light may not disturb grandmother at night. If your own apartments are near this I fear I have disturbed you," he added, as he held the door open and she passed out into the narrow hallway.

"O, no," she answered; "I think I have only heard you once, and then I was so in hopes you were a ghost."

"So you were caught by that little spring lock," said old Mrs. Blount, when they had found her and Polly's presence was explained.

"I remember being fastened in the little square room once," said the old lady very gently. "It was when I was a young girl and here on a visit to your Aunt Ellen Richards. Your grandfather induced me to climb through the little door, and then he fastened it behind me. He called to me that he would not let me out until I had promised to marry him. I stayed in all night and half the next day before I would promise, though."

But come, Richard, we will take Miss Paschall through the little side door of the library and she will be at home in a moment," said the old lady.

"There was a time when I was in hopes you were a ghost, too," Richard said to Polly, as he held the door open for her to pass through.

"Why?" asked the girl. "So that I might hope for further assistance in writing my stories," he answered, with a smile.

Not many months had passed, however, before he was telling her that he could not live without her—that he could not live without her.

"Well, I suppose I must make the sacrifice and marry you, Richard, dear," Polly answered, "if for nothing but to preserve you from manufacturing such heroines as your first before I redeemed her."—Philadelphia Times.

Seven ladies and eleven gentlemen were landed from a Pullman palace car in Cincinnati a few mornings since without shoes to their feet, and this is how it happened. On the Pennsylvania west-bound express out of Pittsburgh in the evening there was an unusually heavy travel from New York, and at Pittsburgh it was necessary to attach an extra sleeper. The porter selected for the run was an eastern route man, and he discovered soon after the train left the depot that an old friend of his was running on one of the regular cars ahead. The porters met, exchanged salutations and agreed, after getting all their people to bed, that it would be a good scheme to polish the passengers' shoes together in the forward car and spend the balance of the night in a social chat with intervals devoted to libation from a pocket flask.

POPULAR SCIENCE.

The average human life in Rome, under Caesar, was eighteen years; now it is forty.

A Russian mineralogist, K. D. Christ-schoff, claims to have discovered a new metal, which he proposes to name "Rusium."

The largest inebriated circuit in the world is forty-five miles in length. The company working it is situated at Ottawa, Canada.

No fewer than 1810 patients bitten by dogs were treated at the Pasteur institute in the year ending October 31. There were thirteen deaths.

According to the eminent physiologist, M. Sappey, the stomach contains 5,000,000 glands by which the gastric juice is secreted, and a few others which secrete only mucus.

To the perfumes of flowers M. Ungerer ascribes the power of protecting against, and even arresting, consumption. In the perfume distilling town of La Grasse lung troubles are but little known.

The elephant skeleton set up in the front hall of the Madras (India) museum is ten feet six inches high, and it has been stated that this is the skeleton of the largest elephant ever killed in that country.

Oil for locomotives in place of coal will, it is stated, be largely introduced on one of the English railways soon. It is probable also that petroleum refuse will be used for fuel in consequence of the high price of coal.

A complete list of the flora of Newfoundland and Labrador, in preparation by Rev. A. C. Waghorne, will contain about nine hundred species of flowering plants, fifty ferns and over two hundred and fifty mosses and lichens.

Surgeons are finding constantly increasing opportunities for making use of electricity in the service of their profession. It is said to be admirably adapted for the treatment of neuralgia pain, and its applications in chronic cases is very beneficial.

Among those who have worked out the problem of procuring aluminum by electrolysis M. Minet is one of the most successful. The electrolyte used by him is a mixture of from thirty to forty per cent. of cryolite with from sixty to seventy per cent. of common salt.

Dr. Burdon Sanderson foresees another division in science. He observes, in a biological paper in the British Association, that morphology and physiology have now diverged so widely, as regards subject and method, that there seems to be danger of a complete separation of one from the other.

A new style of horseshoe has been patented by two Wisconsin men. The shoe is made in sections, with elastic cushions between and rivets connecting the sections, making a shoe in which there will be a vertical yielding of spring, avoiding shocks or jar to the horse while traveling over hard pavements or roads.

A new mode of teaching music has been proposed in France, based on the periodicity of the octave. A radical reform is aimed at, the system being expounded in a series of fundamental propositions—such as musical effect; there can be no physical gamut, a major and minor, but only one, that of the white notes of the piano called the major and so on.

After the lamentable experience of this country, it is interesting to know that there is a part of the world where the buffalo is not only not dying out, but increasing in numbers. Vast herds of these animals are now running wild over certain districts of northern Australia. The animals are said to be massive and well grown, with splendid horns. The first buffaloes were landed at Port Essington, Queensland, about the year 1829.

Counterfeiters, unlike most other classes of "crooks," are drawn from all ranks of society. Many persons of worthy antecedents drift into crime almost by accident. A fine engraver, for instance, in a moment of thoughtlessness, tries his hand at an imitation of a Government note as a mere test of skill. Success in deceiving his friends, perhaps by way of jest, gives him a dangerous impulse onward, and in an hour of weakness the temptation to use his powers for bad, and finds him a ready victim. The same may be true of a die-cutter or metal-worker who makes a matrix for a coin even for the adornment of a bit of jewelry or as an advertising device. The policy of the Secret Service has been uniformly to discourage everything of the sort. The statutes of the United States on the subject are very sweeping, and their interpretation by the courts correspondingly broad. Where there is plainly no fraudulent intent a person discovered making anything which could possibly be mistaken for a Government coin, or note, or bond, or stamp, or, indeed, for any part of one, is quietly warned from headquarters to cease. If the work is finished it is ordered destroyed, and on non-compliance declared contraband, and confiscated. This often seems like a serious hardship to innocent makers of fancy goods, but the majority of them yield gracefully enough when the principle underlying the rule is explained to them.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

Barnum Opposed to Baby Shows. Barnum has been successful in everything he undertook, except baby shows. He ingeniously confesses that "baby shows" were the least satisfactory. When he announced that a committee of ladies had decided upon the baby of so-and-so, he was invariably received with a storm of indignation from ninety-nine disappointed mothers, who (making common cause) pronounced the successful little one the meanest, ugliest baby of the lot, and he and the committee got roundly abused for their stupidity and partiality. Barnum could stand a great deal, but not the tears and reproaches of ninety-nine disappointed mothers—and so he will not have a baby show in London.—London Court Journal.

Electrical Frands. Those electrical machines at which you test your strength on the sidewalk are frauds. The moving of the hand on the dial has no connection at all with the measurement of the amount of electricity which is sent into the system of the patron by the withdrawal of the core from the soil. The hand on the dial is moved by a spring inside the core which the fakir works as he draws out the core, so that all bets paid on the relative amount of electricity people can stand from these machine are off. This is a piece of news contributed confidentially by an electrical expert.—St. Louis Star-Sayings.

CURIOUS FACTS.

John Rink, of Jenner Township, Penn., has a colt, which from six months of age received by the injury struck in the back with an apple.

The camel is used successfully as a pack animal in Australia, and is considered superior to the mule for that region.

The Government at present is coinining \$3 gold piece, but it generally commands a premium of between thirty-five and fifty cents.

There is advertised for sale in Worcester, England, a piece of property of a lease which has 1711 years yet to run. It was made for 2000 years in 1600.

Frank Crone, a wealthy merchant of Erie County, Ohio, has been married to his sister's granddaughter. The groom is sixty-five and the bride twenty-four.

There has been discovered near Visalia, Cal., the stump of a sequoia which, four feet from the ground, measures forty feet in diameter and 135 feet in circumference.

The operator of an electric car at Pittsburgh reversed the current very suddenly and the iron work became so highly charged that two passengers received severe shocks.

John Slago, of Audenried, Penn., is thought to have been married, but on his wedding day he was accidentally shot in the eye and badly hurt while hunting wild keys for the wedding feast.

The soil of Bradford County, Pa., is said to impart a peculiar gloss to strawberries, making them look as if varnished, and giving the berries a beautiful appearance. It is due to the silica in the soil.

A Pocahontas County (W. Va.) woman is in the shape of a woman in white, wearing a belt stuck full of revolvers, and out to be nothing but the shadow of a tree as thrown against a wall by a steam lamp.

A farmer, driving from Northampton to Akron, Ohio, was attracted by what appeared to be a large tree all in a blaze of fire. Investigation revealed the fact that the phenomenon was simply a brilliant phosphorescent display.

A line drawn from the centre of the heel to the centre of the great toe is called the "Meyer's line." It shows the range of the feet is scarcely ever the same in two individuals, and, therefore, to expect a fit from uniform lasts is to expect the impossible.

Martin Erierson, of North Dakota, stumbled and fell while walking across a piece of land from which some water-brush had just been cut. In falling he opened his mouth and fell on a sharp grub ten inches high. The point entered his brain and he died almost instantly.

John Peyton, of Maine, was apparently as healthy a man as there was in the State. He was sitting in a chair when a friend came up, spoke to him, and slapped him familiarly on the shoulder. He died instantly. The autopsy showed no evidence of heart failure or apoplexy, and the cause of his death is a mystery.

C. L. Alexander has on exhibition at his store in Madison, N. D., a very perfect little specimen of the finer kind of foot artesian well twenty miles southeast of Howard. This well, it is said, flows with a wonderful force, and throws small fish freely during the spring and summer.

About two years ago a seven-foot tree burst the bark of an orange tree in the town of Burn, Cal., all around near the ground, and it subsequently fell off, leaving a space of from eight to twelve inches in the tree without any bark. Still the upper part of the tree lived and bore and thrived to-day, bearing fruit. The fact of a tree living after being completely girdled is probably unparaleled.

Why 1900 Is Not a Leap Year. The following explanation will show you why the year 1900 will not be counted among leap years: The year is 365 days 5 hours and 49 minutes long; eleven minutes are taken every year to make the year 365 1/4 days long, and every fourth year we have an extra day. This is Julius Caesar's arrangement. You may ask: "Where do these eleven minutes come from?" They come from the fact that the earth is not a perfect sphere, and are paid by omitting leap years every 100 years. But if leap years were omitted regularly every 100 years, the course of 400 years it is found that the eleven minutes taken each year will only have been paid back, but that a whole day will have been given up. Pope Gregory XIII., who improved Caesar's calendar in 1582, decreed that every centennial year divisible by 100 should be a leap year after all. So every borrow eleven minutes each year, more than paying our borrowings back, is omitting three leap years in three centennial years, and square matters by having a leap year in the fourth centennial year. Pope Gregory's arrangement is so exact and the borrowing and paying back balanced so nicely, that we have more than we pay back to the extent of only one day in 3866 years.—St. Louis Republic.

A Remarkable War History. It cost Thomas S. Townsend 100,000 eight years of labor and \$25,000 money to compile from newspapers and periodicals, and from national, State, and biographical records, a history of the late Civil War. It covers the period from 1860 to 1865; comprises about 100 volumes, and contains 60,000 pages. Mr. Townsend paid \$5000 solely for the newspapers and periodicals from which he made his clippings. The complete places the value of the collection at \$45,000, and among the men who testified to its worth were General George General Beauregard, William C. Bryant and the Comte de Paris. The last Congress Senator Hawley introduced a bill for the purchase of a library.—New York Post.