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L. D. WOODRUFF,  
Editor and Publisher.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 2, 1889.

# FLOODS AND THE END OF THE WORLD

Everything even remotely associated with flood calamities possesses more or less interest at this time, and will continue to do so for months to come. But just how the destruction of the world in 1890 by fire should have any connection with Johnstown's flood is not very apparent—such, however, seems to be the fact in the minds of some people.

At Bellefonte, and surrounding neighborhood, in Center county, there is an organization or society that see in the Johnstown flood one of the sure signs of the total collapse of these "mundane shores" in the year of our Lord 1890; and are living and shaping their affairs accordingly. The number of this new society is placed at one to two thousand; most of all whom belong to some one of the various Christian churches, and all take the Bible as the foundation for "the faith that is in them." Their leader, a Mr. C. D. Miller, a wealthy farmer, in an interview one day last week, said: "I believe the world will come to an end in 1890, and there are hundreds of others—more than a thousand—throughout this country that believe the same thing. \* \* \* Our belief has sprung solely from the teachings of the Bible, and every day it is made plainer and more convincing by the events occurring around us. We anticipated all the startling disasters that have lately occurred, though, of course, we did not know at what time or place they would occur. But all the recent floods, etc., have all been predestinated, and are sure signs of the approaching end."

Well may it be asked, what next? Though not more familiar with the teachings of the Bible than the law allows, we have always been puzzled to know where the numerous believers who have from time to time predicted the end of the world have found anything on which to pin their faith. It seems, however, that ages before the Millerite craze, when large numbers prepared for the end of the world, by putting on white robes on the day fixed for the event, multitudes were made to believe in the silly predictions of Second Adventists and world-destructionists. History shows that ever since the days of the Apostles numerous times have been fixed for the great catastrophe when the heavens should be rolled together as a scroll, mountains rock to and fro, the earth quake from center to circumference, and the firmament and earth burned up with fire. But notwithstanding the several hundreds of miss-hits, the cracks still abound, and are likely to abound, until the end of time.

Just what particular bearing the Johnstown flood has upon the question of the final destruction of the world by fire, it is rather hard to discover. But the latitudinarian mode of interpreting and applying Scriptures is equal to more things and events than are dreamed of in our philosophy. We of little faith in such predictions are left, however, with the comforting thought that, despite the tendency to wind up sublimity things so soon, the old world still wags along in its customary way, without showing any visible signs of dissolution.

## FOOT-TANNER.

Getting into hot water is about the size of Pension Tanner's trouble. It was first hot, then hotter and now hottest. The hot was the result of newspaper criticisms; the hotter was the attitude of the Interior Department toward the Pension Bureau; and the hottest grows out of the formal charges being investigated by a Committee consisting of Dr. George Ewing and H. L. Pruett, of Board of Pension Appeals, and Judge Frank L. Campbell, of the Interior Department.

This Committee are instructed to thoroughly investigate all ratings made by the Pension Bureau within the past year, to ascertain whether any have been made in violation of the law. Up to Monday the Committee found a colored gentleman in the wood pile, in the form of the rating process by which a Mr. Smith, chief of the certificate division, who as a pension beneficiary is now drawing \$30 instead of \$20 per month; which discovery leads to the conviction that other officials within the bureau are faring similarly.

Here is a veritable mare's nest that may bring out the true inwardness of Mr. Tanner's way of conducting his bureau. But his troubles are likely to take in a much wider scope, as Mr. Roosevelt, one of the Civil Service Commissioners is very much dissatisfied with Tanner's policy of administering the affairs of his office.

We have only to say, that where there is so much smoke, there is certainly some fire.

"TEACH the citizen that his home is his castle, and that his sovereignty rests beneath his hat," says Henry W. Grady, the silver-tongued southern orator.

## CLARA BARTON.

A Short History of the Noble Deeds of the Little Woman.

"Relief in war, famine, pestilence and other national calamities." Such, says the New York Press, is the motto of the American Red Cross Association, whose president is Miss Clara Barton, who hastened to Johnstown among the first to afford personal relief to the afflicted Valley of the Conemaugh.

The story of Clara Barton and the Red Cross is familiar in outline to all. It was she who, on the morning after the capitulation of Strasburg, in the Franco-Prussian war, entered the conquered city and—her sole passport the scarlet cross on her sleeve—began that noble ministrations to the sick, the wounded and the afflicted which has made her name famous.

From Strasburg Clara Barton hastened to Paris to continue her ministrations amid the horrors of the Commune.

Clara Barton next appeared upon the scene in the midst of the Mississippi floods of 1884. The terrors of that time are readily recalled, when thousands upon thousands of once thriving inhabitants were left without homes, food or money, and there was no means for them to purchase even the seed for the spring sowing. Then it was that the founder of Red Cross appeared upon a steamer loaded with food and sustenance and money for the seed time.

The ministrations of Clara Barton in our own great war are well known. Her philanthropic spirit ultimately found vent in the Order of the Red Cross. The organization is an association of relief societies in various countries. Its prime aim is ministrations to wounded soldiers.

The idea of the order is said to have been conceived by Henri Dunant, a Swiss gentleman, who at Solferino was impressed with the swift and sudden suffering borne in upon the wounded soldiers and with the need of more rapid and effective relief. Mr. Dunant presented his thought to the Society of Public Utility, which corresponds to the Society of Social Science in this country, and on October 26, 1864, a convention was held at Geneva, composed of delegates from various countries—our own Minister to Switzerland, Mr. Fogt taking an active part—and resolutions were adopted providing that the ambulance and military hospitals in battle should be held as neutral, and relief service likewise, even after the field had been carried and occupied.

Twelve nations at once agreed to the adoption of this international measure, and all civilized nations now recognize it.

Miss Barton is a native of Massachusetts. In early life she was a teacher, and she founded several free schools in New Jersey. In 1857 she became a clerk in the Government's service at Washington. Resigning at the outbreak of the war, she entered the hospital service, and her tender ministrations are still told of by those who suffered on the field of battle and were prisoners at Libby prison, Andersonville and elsewhere.

Congressional Aid for Johnstown.  
Pittsburgh Post.

While we have none but the best wishes for Johnstown, we fear its citizens are likely to be the victims of false hopes if they expected the general Government to make appropriations to widen and dredge the streams about their unfortunate town, so as to prevent an annual overflow, and insure the rebuilding of certain parts of the town, and adjacent boroughs, not likely otherwise to be rebuilt. We don't think the general Government has ever undertaken any work of this kind. The first question asked in Congress will be why does not the great State of Pennsylvania, out of the immensity of its wealth and resources, attend to this matter and give the needed relief. It is solely one of local and State concern. True, there have been abuses in river and harbor appropriations, but the principle has always been kept in view, that the money was for National or inter-State purposes, and to be applied to navigable streams. Harry White raised the laughter of the whole country when he proposed an appropriation to make the Kiskiminetus a navigable water course. If the aid which it is said will be solicited from Congress is a necessity, then it is the duty of the State, in the exercise of its general police powers, which Governor Beaver invokes in clearing away the debris, to provide the needful money. Everyone wishes well to the people of Johnstown, but it is not wise to raise false expectations and hopes on such an important matter. Congress will make no appropriations for the purposes indicated in the dispatches from that place. The precedent would be one that very few Senators and Representatives, unmoved by local or State interests, would care to sanction.

## Patents Granted.

Patents granted to citizens of Pennsylvania during the past week, and reported for this paper by C. A. Snow & Co., patent lawyers, opposite United States Patent Office, Washington, D. C.: J. C. Cantrell, Reading, staple former, etc.; J. G. Downie, Beaver Falls, steam engine; William H. Downing, Goodell, gas governor or regulator; C. F. Hill, Hazleton, lightning protector; T. W. Irwin, Allegheny, shaping sheet metal; J. Jenkins, Harrisburg, ore separator; John M. Klein, Altoona, lathe carrier; G. F. McComb, Allegheny, broom sewing; W. McKinney, Schuylkill Falls, electric meter; A. J. Miller, Sweden, canceling and registering device; J. W. Ramsey, Beaver Falls, hydrant; D. Rawson, Pittsburgh, wire worker; D. Savage, Bloomsburg, washing machine; J. Watts, McKees Rocks, handling coke; F. Wilson, Easton, water heater.

## SWIFT ON THE WING.

The Fastest Railroad Train Slow Compared With the Wild Duck.

"The gadwall—but there; it isn't likely at all that you know what a gadwall is," said an observant wild fowl hunter. "The gadwall is a duck. It is a wild duck that doesn't get easily shot, but is a familiar fowl in the west. I was just about to remark that the gadwall is a bird that can travel nearly 100 miles while the fastest railroad train is going fifty, and yet it is slow on the wing compared with a canvas back duck, the broadbill, or even the wild goose."

"I have held my watch on about every kind of wild fowl there is, and know to a dot just how much space any of them can get over in an hour. The canvas-back can distance the whole wild fowl family, if it lays itself out to do it. If he has business somewhere, and has to get there, he can put two miles behind him every minute, and do it easy."

"The mallard duck is lazy. He seldom cares to cover more than a mile a minute, but he can if he wants to. His ordinary, every-day style of getting along over the country takes him from place to place at about a 45-mile an hour rate. The black duck, up fly-neck-and-neck with the mallard, and neither one can give the other odds. If the pin-tail wide-gon and wood duck should start in to race either a mallard or a black duck it would be safe to bet on either one. But if a redhead duck should enter the race you can give big odds on him, for he can spin off his ninety miles an hour as easy as you can walk around the block, and can do it all day. He would be left far behind, though, by the blue-winged or the green-winged teal."

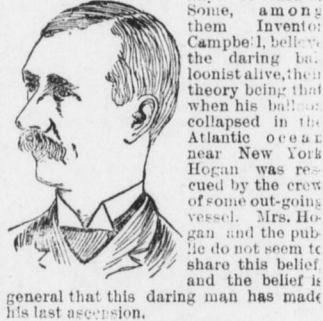
These two fowl can fly side by side for 100 miles and close the race in a dead heat in an hour, and appear to make no hard task of it. The broadbill duck, the only fowl that flies that can push the canvas-back on the wing. Let a broadbill and a canvas-back each do his best for an hour, and the broadbill will only come out about ten miles behind. One hundred and ten miles an hour can be done by the broadbill, and he consequently makes a mark for a shotgun that a pretty good gunner wouldn't be apt to hit once in a lifetime.

"The wild goose is an astonishing on the fly. It has a big heavy body to carry, and to see it waddling on the ground you wouldn't suppose it could get away from you very fast on the wing. But it manages to glide from one feeling place to another with a suddenness that is aggravating to the best of wing shots. To see a flock of honkers moving along, so high up that they seem to be sweeping the cobwebs off of the sky, you probably wouldn't dare to bet that they were traveling at the rate of ninety miles an hour, but that is just what they are doing, any hour in the day. The wild goose never fools any time away. His gait is always a business one."—N. Y. Sun.

Noted Suicides in History.  
The following are some of the more noted suicides of which mention is made in history. These do not savor much of insanity, but rather of stoic philosophy.

Cato stabbed himself rather than live under the despotic reign of Caesar. Themistocles, poisoned himself rather than lead the Persians against his countrymen; Zeno, when 98, hanged himself because he had put his finger out of joint, and Hannibal and Mithridates poisoned themselves to escape being taken prisoners. When we search Scripture we find that Saul, rather than fall into the hands of the Philistines, commanded his armor-bearer to hold his sword that he might plunge upon it; Samson, for the sake of being revenged upon his enemies, pulled down the house in which they were revelling and killed with them; and Judas Iscariot, after selling the Saviour for thirty pieces of silver, was overcome by remorse and went and hanged himself.

Missing Aeronaut Hogan.  
Discussion continues among the friends of Mr. Hogan, the aeronaut, who rode the Campbell air-ship to cloud-land and perhaps to death. Hogan, and among them Inventor Campbell, believe the daring balloonist alive, then theory being that when his balloon collapsed in the Atlantic ocean near New York Hogan was rescued by the crew of some outgoing vessel. Mr. Hogan and the public do not seem to share this belief, and the belief is general that this daring man has made his last ascension.



A Clever Chinese Trick.  
Sergeant Whitman arrested a high-binder the other night, and while searching him found a clever device which explains the phenomenal luck that wily Mongolian has been enjoying at poker.

The device consists of a steel clip, which is fastened inside of a steel clip. Two cords reach up the sleeve, across the breast and down the other sleeve to the hand, where one is fastened to the thumb and the other to one of the fingers.

By a pull of one cord the clip reaches out and takes in a card, which is at once drawn up the sleeve. Pulling the other cord causes the card to be shot out into the hand of the player with lightning rapidity, and without any part of the mechanism being exposed. The fellow who had the machine fought strenuously, against giving it up.—San Francisco Chronicle.

## The Snake Gave Him a Chance.

While Mike James, a boy 14 years of age, was going through the woods near Clarksville, Ga., with his father, one day, he said: "Father, if a snake was to bite me, you just ought to see how quickly would bandage my leg with this rubber strap." The boy spoke coolly and no sooner were the words out of his mouth than he exclaimed: "I am snake bitten."

His father, turning round, saw his son drawing the bandage tightly around his leg just above the bite. The old man killed the snake and found it to be an adder of the most deadly kind. The administration of internal remedies at once commenced. First, one plug, then an old-time twist of home made, went down like food; then one pint of corn whiskey. All this made him very sick, and he vomited freely. He is rapidly recovering.—Atlanta Constitution.

## A Sparrow Routs an Alligator.

An alligator and an English sparrow were seen to engage in a battle near Darien, Ga., the other day. The gator provoked the turn by snapping at the bird, which in turn flew furiously at its ugly antagonist, aiming with precision at the gator's eyes. The gator finally gave up the contest and sought safety from the sparrow's attacks by hiding itself under water.—Savannah News.

## ANTARCTIC KNOWLEDGE.

VARIOUS EXPEDITIONS IN THE SOUTH POLES DISCRETION.

What Balleny and Dinville Saw on their Trips, and what Wilkes Thought He Saw—Sir James Ross' Great Achievements and Discoveries Which are Unsurpassed.

The golden age of Antarctic discovery arrived when Captain, afterwards Sir James, Ross was dispatched from England in 1840 to fix the position of the south magnetic pole, and on any other position he could discover on the way there. Before Ross could reach the scene of his labors, other explorers, English, French and American, were busy forestalling him. Of these the first was the Englishman, Balleny, who, sailing in Enderby's ship the *Eliza Scott*, discovered in 1839 the islands which bear his name, and which lie almost due south from New Zealand, and not far from the islands, but he made sure of their existence, and, afterward, sailing far to the westward, he saw many more signs of land, and suspected the existence of much which he could not certainly vouch for.

What Balleny thought he saw was probably much what the French expedition under Dumont d'Urville actually did see in the following year, several long lines of boats, which might be joined to one another, and might even run on to join Enderby land in the west, and if so might certainly be parts of the Antarctic continent that d'Urville was anxious to find.

Not less anxious was Wilkes, the leader of the United States exploring expedition, who, only a month after the Frenchman, arrived within a degree or two of the Antarctic circle, to the south of New Zealand, and after seeing land where Balleny had certainly seen it before, and, unfortunately where no one has seen it since. For some days, indeed, Wilkes doubted whether what he beheld were mountains or clouds, objects which his crew watched eagerly, to see if with the setting of the sun they would change their color. But after running westward along the edge of the park for a few days, he made sure that he now saw land, and somewhat inconsequently assumed it for certain that what he had seen before was land also.

The discovery of an Antarctic continent was announced as a certainty; a very large land, with a barrier before it, and a range of mountains upon it, was laid down on the map, and a copy of the map was handed by the rash but generous explorer to Ross, who left Tasmania in the autumn of the same year to look for the magnetic pole, with the two ships *Erebus* and *Terror*, which afterward bore Sir John Franklin to his fate at the other end of the world. Ross had so little doubt that the Antarctic continent was discovered already, that he seems to have been almost disappointed when his way to the magnetic pole was barred by an unknown land. Yet this land, which lay south of the seventieth parallel, and eastward of Balleny's islands, was the most southerly hitherto seen in the world, and on it rose mountains thousands of feet high, plain and mountain alike robed in stainless snow, except on the cliffs by the shore, where the black rock came out.

## Eagles Have a Royal Battle.

Alexander Shaw, farmer, Oldtown, Strathclyde, was going his usual rounds to look after his sheep. While going past a small clump of birch wood among very long heather, he fancied he heard a peculiar flutter among the bushes, says the *Red and Gun*. He took little notice, but the noise being repeated, he went to see what was ado. He found two golden eagles fighting, firmly fixed in each other with beak and talons. On his approaching one of the birds noticed the intrusion and let go his hold. The other held his opponent fast in his talons.

Mr. Shaw then got up quite close and got hold of one of them. He put his foot on the other one's neck. He searched for a moment and found a little bit of string, just enough to tie one of the eagles. While he was tying the one he kept he let the other one off. The bird was not able to take flight for considerable time after being set at liberty, being much done out with the fight. The other one, which Mr. Shaw took home, does not seem to be any the worse. What seems most strange is that the eagle, which was never seen so low down the country. The belief is that they must have been fighting for a long time in the skies, the one having been pursuing the other until they fixed in each other and dropped.

## Complimenting a Royal Author.

A Boston lady, knowing that the translation of Dante had just then appeared, and having heard that the aged monarch (the King of Saxony) was a great lover of literature, had a good opportunity of alluding to his chief d'oeuvre, which she immediately seized, says the Boston *Post*. The king addressed her in turn, saying, "You are from America, I believe. I think I have seen you in the Grosse Garten. Why have you not been presented before?"

"I am from America, sire," she replied, "and I have no kings. I have waited for the proper time to be introduced to your majesty, and now may I be permitted, as an American, to say that I feel it less an honor to be presented to the King of Saxony than to 'Philistines,' the translator of Dante, whom I trust I may be allowed to congratulate on the successful achievement of the work."

The king had published the translation, under the above sobriquet. He was much pleased with the compliment thus bestowed, laughed with delight and said the lady had been prompt in examining the new publication.

## Railways in India.

From the railway data for the decade 1878-88 the fact is desirable that for the last five years fresh work has been seen in India the opening of an additional 1,000 miles of line. In the last year of the period the number of miles open was 14,377, and of miles under construction, 2,476; so that before the present year is out the total mileage open for traffic in India ought to reach nearly 17,000 miles. Forty years ago India could not boast of one. The total cost of the English Indian system up to 1888 came to nearly 50 per cent of the receipts and the receipts aggregated in ten years nearly one thousand millions of rupees.—London Enquirer.

## Greenhouse and Window Plants.

Those who remove their window plants to the open air as soon as the weather will allow, make a mistake, as most window plants are at that time in full bloom. Indeed, if the plants can be cared for, it will be better to leave them in the greenhouse as well as the window all summer, taking proper care for shading and watering.

## THE CHEROKEE ALPHABET.

Invention of the "Talking Leaf" by a Half-breed Georgia Indian.

One of the most remarkable achievements of the uncultivated human mind was the invention of a syllabic alphabet for the use of his people by Sequah, alias George Guess, a half-breed Cherokee Indian. Sequah was born in Georgia, probably about the year 1770, though some authorities fix his birth seven years earlier. He never knew his father, grew up a perfect savage and distinguished himself in war and the chase, until a swelling knee rendered him incapable of active pursuits and confined him to his cabin. He knew no language except Cherokee, and, of course, was wholly illiterate, says the Louisville *Courier Journal*.

Sequah's attention seems to have been first attracted to literary matters by a circumstance which occurred while a warrior. His tribe captured a letter from the whites and made repeated efforts to decipher it, but, of course, were not successful. Some discussion arose about the "talking leaf," as the Indians called any specimen of writing, and the question was whether it was an invention of man or the gift of God. All the Indians, except Sequah, maintained the latter position, while he espoused the former. He was, however, unable to convince them that he was right. They believed that the "talking leaf" was a gift from the Great Spirit to the white man alone and cited as proof a legend that had long been current in their tribe.

According to this legend the Great Spirit created We-He-Ye, the Indian, and gave him a book. Afterward he made Yo-We-Na-Go, the white man, and presented him with a bow and arrow. The elder brother was not prompt in devoting himself to the book, but seems rather to have treated it as books are treated by dull schoolboys of all races, and so neglected his character for each word, and it is no small tribute to his perseverance that he invented and recorded over 5,000 characters. It gradually became evident to him that this system would not work, owing to the great number of characters required, and upon much reflection he hit upon the idea of dividing words into syllables and inventing a character for each syllable.

The prosecution of this work Sequah found himself embarrassed by the want of an accurate ear. To remedy this he engaged his daughter in the work and from her derived very valuable assistance. He availed himself of many ingenious methods to make complete his collection of the sounds of the language. He went to hear speeches by members of his tribe, and whenever a sound occurred for which he had no character he at once supplied the deficiency. An English spelling book having fallen accidentally into his hands he used the English letters as far as they would go, to denote the Cherokee syllables. The other characters he invented himself. About the year 1821, or as others say, 1826, he had his system complete. His characters numbered eighty-six. Having completed his alphabet his next task was to get it adopted by his tribe. This was a work of much difficulty. He sent his daughter out of hearing, wrote down a passage and read it to the tribes, then called the girl back and had her read it to them again. They wondered, but still he persisted. Then he persuaded the tribe to select some of the brightest of their boys to learn the new art, and to this they at last agreed.

When the time for examination arrived the pupils passed the ordeal in triumph, and the Cherokees were at last convinced that the "talking leaf" is not the exclusive property of the white man. Sequah then became the principal of the Indian schools and was held in great honor until his death, which occurred in Mexico in August, 1843. This alphabet was cast into a font of type and is still in use. When we consider that the art of writing has usually been attributed to the gods, as being something beyond the reach of finite intelligence, we cannot but admit that the life work of the Sequah was a most extraordinary one.

It is true he had the first suggestion from his knowledge that the "talking leaf" existed among the whites, but his methods were his own, and he wrought out the great problem without other assistance than that obtained from his daughter. While his invention had long been anticipated his work must stand as a monument of the capability of the human intellect when united with unending resolution and tireless perseverance.

## The 1804 Dollar.

"There is something curious about the American silver dollar and half dollar of 1804," said a numismatist to a Philadelphia *Press* reporter. "There were about 20,000 of the dollars coined, but not one of them ever got into circulation. Two of them are in well known coin collections today, however, and they are the most valuable of all American coins. Why the dollar of 1804 was never seen in circulation after having left the mint is one of the unsolved government mysteries."

"It is asserted on good authority that the two 1804 dollars now in circulation, having been made from the original die, were in reality not coined for many years after that year, when they were surreptitiously struck, and it is supposed, issued to a person high in authority, from whom they subsequently passed into the collections referred to."

"The half dollar of 1804 is surrounded by a mystery equally profound. There were over 150,000 of these coined, but not one of these were ever known to be in circulation. On the other hand, but 700 quarter dollars were coined in that year, and specimens of these are in every collection and numismatist's shop."

## Rats Delicious Food.

A correspondent of the Griffin *News* writes: Joe Mitchell, of Blanton's mill, eats all the rats he can catch says that "they are much nicer than squirrel or rabbit." I was passing by the mill Friday afternoon and a large rat, as large as a squirrel, ran out from Stonewall's engine house. Joe on seeing the rat, gave chase and soon killed it. Having noticed the unusual interest manifested in watching the rat, I asked Joe what he was going to do with it. He said, "Eat it, by gosh." Sure enough, he soon had it skinned, cleaned and salted, and looking in all appearances like a squirrel. Smacking his lips over the joyful prospects of a rat supper, Joe went his way, looking for more rats.

## IMPORTATION OF HAIR.

MANY TONS ANNUALLY GATHERED STAND AND SELL THEIR TREASURES—WHAT THE PRICES ARE AND ALSO THE WEIGHT OF EACH HEAD OF HAIR—TOLLING THE COUNTRY OF THE ORIGINAL OWNER.

There are some curious and interesting facts about the human hair as an article of traffic. It will undoubtedly astonish most people to learn to what extent the trade is carried on—to be told, for instance, that London imports annually between seven and eight tons. The supply does not depend on chance clippings, or upon the barbers' scissors, but there is a regular hair harvest, which can confidently be looked forward to by dealers at a particular time. As there are different markets for black tea and green tea, so there is a light-haired market distinct from the dark-haired. Like clothes, the demand for a certain color of hair is regulated according to style, which, without exception, runs in conformity with complexion.

It has been noticed by scientists and doctors that dark hair is more common in the Eastern and middle states than in the west, and it is the prevailing color in our southern states, especially in Louisiana and Mississippi, in which the French element is conspicuously present. It is the same in Cuba, which is peopled by the Spaniards, some of the northern states, where Swedes, Germans, Norwegians and Finns are numerous, fair or light hair prevails, and corresponds with the more exquisite and emotional dispositions susceptible in connection therewith.

The civilized world uses annually over 100,000 pounds yearly, and the question naturally arises, Where does it all come from? To answer this question, and also to learn the minute particulars of the enormous traffic in the beautiful locks, a New York *Star* reporter visited the parlors of a well-known metropolitan hair dealer in New York city.

"You will be surprised, and it will doubtless astonish many people," he said, "to learn the dimensions of the hair trade as it is now carried on. New York merchants annually import from four to five tons, while London exceeds ours in its importation by some three tons. As in other business, there is a hair harvest and a certain time to look forward to for a good crop. This may seem strange, but it is really so. We have our own market for the different shades of hair, as with any other commodity. The light hair is essentially a German product. It is collected by the agents of a Dutch company, who visit New York and other American cities annually for orders. Until fifty years ago light hair was esteemed above all others. One peculiar golden hair was so supremely prized that the dealers only produced it for a few customers, to whom it was sold for 8 shillings an ounce."

"Pure black hair, which now is all the go among fashionable people, is imported chiefly from Brittany and the south of France, where it is yearly collected by the agents of a few wholesale Parisian houses, of whom we buy. The average crop of black hair harvested by these firms amounts yearly to upward of 300 pounds in weight. The price paid for each head of hair ranges from 1 to 5 francs, according to its weight and beauty; the former seldom rises above a pound and seldom falls below twelve ounces. The itinerant dealers are always provided with an extensive assortment of ribbons, silks, laces and cheap jewelry of all kinds, with which they make their purchases as frequently as with money. They attend all the fairs and merry-makings within their circuit, and the singularity and novelty of their operations are apt to strike travelers more than anything else which meets their notice."

"While in Europe recently, I attended one of these fairs simply for the novelty of the thing. I was indeed struck by what I saw. The fairs were for the sale of the commodities present, and the girls actually brought the article to this impromptu market as they would peas or cabbages. They have particularly fine hair and frequently in great abundance. I should have thought at the time that female vanity would have effectually prevented such a traffic among them being carried on to any great extent. But there seemed no difficulty in finding purchasers of beautiful heads of hair perfectly willing to sell. I saw several girls, indeed, one after another, like sheep, and as many more standing ready for the dealers, with their caps in their hands, and their long hair combed out and hanging down to their waists. Some of the operators were men, some women. By the side of the dealers were placed a long basket into which every successive crop of hair, tied up into a wisp by itself, was thrown. As far as personal beauty is concerned the girls do not lose much in their hair, for it has been a custom in Brittany for years to wear a close cap which entirely prevents any part of the chevelure from being seen, and of course as totally conceals the want of it."

"Dark brown hair was the fashion once. It is all imported here from France. It is the opinion of those who have the best right to offer one such a subject that the hair of the people of the English people has deepened in tint within the last half century, and that this change is owing to the more frequent intermarriages since the Napoleonic wars with nations nearer to the sunny south. Whether dark or light, however, the hair purchased by the dealer is so closely scrutinized that he can discriminate between the German and the French article by the smell alone. He even claims the power of distinguishing accurately between the English, the Welsh, the Irish and the American commodities."

"The French dealers are said to be able to detect the difference between the hair raised in two districts in Central France, not many miles apart, by tokens so slight as to baffle the most experienced naturalists and physiologists. I simply cite these little incidents so you can see for yourself what the hair business has got to be. The hair obtained by the different agents is transmitted to the wholesale houses. Here it is run through various processes, dressed and sorted, when it is shipped to this city."

## Paper Pencils.

One of the difficulties which have stood in the way of the substitution of paper pulp for wood in the manufacture of pencils has been the toughness of the paper covering, and its consequent resistance to the action of a knife. By a new process the molecular cohesion of the paper, it is claimed, is modified in such a manner that it can be cut as readily as cedar wood. After the completion of the process the pencils are gradually dried at increasing temperatures during a period of six days, and they are then plunged into a vessel of molten paraffine wax, which has the effect of modifying the texture of the paper pulp in the manner described.—Exchange.