

**Twain's Dilemma.**  
Mark Twain once expressed a desire to attend the annual dinner of the Gridiron Club of correspondents in Washington; but when an invitation was sent him, his regrets were received by return mail. Meeting a member of the club later, he complained that he had been neglected. When informed that an invitation had been sent him and his regrets received, Mr. Clemens scratched his head, as though in perplexity for a moment, and then said: "Those were Isaac's regrets." "Who is Isaac?" "He's my keeper. He's the man my wife hired to prevent me having any more fun." Mark then explained that Isaac opened all his letters and invitations, wrote answers, which in the case of invitations always consisted of regrets, and then burned them. When asked what Isaac's other name, the humorist replied, sadly: "I don't know. My wife hired him, and she told me what his name is, but I have forgotten. I call him Isaac, as he is doomed to the fate that nearly befell the favorite son of Abraham. When I get well I intend to cut him up in chunks and burn him on the altar, and I don't care if the angels holler till they get diphtheria." "Doesn't he ever consult you about the answers to your invitations?" "Never. He always sends my regrets and says I'm sick, and that's going to get me into trouble. I told him so the other day. Said I: 'Isaac, when I die and go to heaven, St. Peter is likely to take up some morning and remind me about those polite falsehoods you're telling in my name, and then I'll have to look all over Tophet for you to prove an alibi!'"

**In China.**  
The Chinese have a remarkable superstition about the Chu River, which is the local name on the border for the Chiating. A considerable trade in druzs is borne along this river, for which a special class of boats, composed of very light boards fastened with wooden nails, is built. The natives say that the magnetic attraction of the bed of the river is so strong that were ordinary boats used the iron nails would be pulled out. Along the banks iron is mined in primitive fashion, and from geological evidence it is believed that the ore is very rich.

**Nicotinized Nerves.**  
Men old at thirty. Chew and chew, eat little, drink or want to, all the time. Nerves tingling, never satisfied, nothing's beautiful, happiness gone, a tobacco-saturated system tells the story. There's an easy way out. No-to-bac will kill the nerve-craving effects for tobacco and make you strong, vigorous and manly. Sold and guaranteed to cure by Druggists everywhere. Book, "Don't Tobacco Spit or Smoke Your Life Away," free. Ad. Sterling Remedy Co., New York City or Chicago.

Every week, says a London theatrical manager, every great theater rejects from 25 to 100 manuscripts.

**You Think It Is Something Else.**  
The "why" of the bad feeling is what puzzles you. It is easy to imagine so many causes, when the real one is indistinct. You think it's something else. The cure is in Epans Tablets. A single tablet gives relief. Ask the druggist.

Apple trees should be planted far enough apart so that when full grown they will not touch each other.

**Dr. Kilham's Swamp-Root** cures all kidney and bladder troubles. Pamphlet and consultation free. Laboratory Birmingham, N.Y.

It is stated as an interesting sociological fact that in London about 100 widowers who marry again 12 marry their housekeepers.

**Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup** for children teething, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, always pain, cures wind colic, 25c a bottle.

**E. B. Walcott & Co., Druggists, Horse Cave, Ky.** say: "Hall's Caserach Cure cures every one that takes it." Sold by druggists, 75c.

More than half the exports of farm products from the United States are absorbed by Great Britain.

Wife used "MOTHER'S FRIEND" before first child—was quickly relieved; suffered but little recovery rapid. E. E. JOHNSON, Eureka, Ala.

The people of Great Britain consume less tobacco per head than those of any other civilized country.

I believe Pico's Cure for Consumption saved my boy's life last summer.—Mrs. ALICE DOUGLASS, Le Roy, Mich., October 20, 1904.

**All Out of Sorts**  
Tired, weak and weary. If this is your condition, stop and think. You are suffering from dyspepsia and great misery awaits you if you do not check it now. Hood's Sarsaparilla is the best medicine you can take. It has peculiar power to tone and strengthen the stomach. Remember

**Hood's Sarsaparilla**  
Is the only true blood purifier prominently in the public eye today. 51c six for \$5.

**Hood's Pills** act harmoniously with Hood's Sarsaparilla. P. N. U.

**Rheumatism.**  
\$300 SAVED.

Mr. L. L. Cochran, of 2243 E. and Clark Ave., St. Louis, Mo., says: "About 3 months ago I was laid up with bad rheumatism with which I had suffered for several years. I sent to Chicago for 3 bottles of 'CHRYSLER'S RHEUMATISM CURE,' and I was out of bed in 3 days. I am cured and I certainly saved me over \$300. I was just going to Hot Springs." Refer also to H. A. Sawyer, Lynn, Mass.; Sister Martha, Childs Home, Albany, N. Y.; Hon. Henry C. Rice, Ex-Mayor, Rock Island, Ill. Highest endorsements on earth. Pure, rare. After failure, write to—**Advice Free. SWANSON M. C. Co., 157 Dearborn St., Chicago.**

**ASK YOUR DRUGGIST FOR**  
**IMPERIAL GRANUM**  
IT IS  
**THE BEST**  
**FOOD**  
FOR  
**NURSING MOTHERS, INFANTS,**  
**CHILDREN**  
★ JOHN CARLE & SONS, New York. ★

## DAHOMEY.

### Land of Amazon Warriors and Human Sacrifices.

#### Until Recently Most Important Of African Monarchies.

Dahomey was until recently the most important native monarchy in Africa. It was especially famous for two things—its corps of Amazon warriors and its human sacrifices. Both these institutions are at an end since the French conquest of Dahomey.

The Amazons were the only instance in the modern world of a body of female warriors. They formed the bodyguard of the king, and were as remarkable for their fidelity as for their courage.

Every Dahomeyan was bound to present his daughters to a sort of a board, which selected those suitable for the King's service. Little girls taken in war were also trained to be Amazons.

The Amazons were ordinarily compelled to remain celibate all their lives, but the King occasionally permitted one to marry a deserving male soldier. They were always very well formed, and some of them were handsome, in figure at least. The number of them was about 1,000, and they formed only a small part of the army.

In addition to being brave on the battlefield it is said that they were more cruel than the men soldiers and very hard drinkers. Woman suffragists should find much food for thought and possibly encouragement in these facts.

The human sacrifices were first instituted in 1,600. They were based on religious beliefs. Man is believed to be subject to the same wants in the next world as in this; so he must be buried not only with food and weapons but provided with wives and servants if he is an important person.

The burial of a King was always attended by an immense slaughter. When King Guizo died more than five hundred human lives were sacrificed, including chiefs, musicians and slaves. He was buried in a big cave. His wives seated themselves round him in the order of their rank and poisoned themselves. Basketsful of heads and calabashes full of blood were piled on his tomb.

Wholesale sacrifices were also held at fixed periods. A traveller describing them, says that during the night of these sacrifices everybody found in the street was clubbed to death. Companies of musicians walked about playing painful music. At midnight a volley of musketry announced the beginning of the executions. The victims were brought into the square by thirties. Sometimes death was produced by filling up the breathing apertures. Some of the dead bodies were arranged in life-like attitudes.

The Dahomeyan coast is favored with some remarkable sea creatures. Among them is the manatee, or sea cow, an animal of the seal family, which has some resemblance to a human being. It is suggested that this animal is responsible for the legends of mermaids and sirens.

Whales are common, and as they are not hunted they are very bold and roll themselves up high and dry on the beach in order to rub themselves free of weeds and parasites.

**Hawaii's Population and Wealth.**  
The Hawaiian legation has received the annual blue book of Hawaii and the reports of the various Government branches. The blue book gives interesting tables of the latest statistics available. The population of the islands is \$3,930, of which there are natives, 34,000; half-casts, 6,186; Hawaiian born foreigners, 7,500; Americans, 2,000; British, 1,300; Portuguese, 8,600; Chinese, 15,300; Japanese, 12,300. Several nationalities represented in small numbers make up the remaining.

While the American population is small, its interests are great. There is \$18,500,000 of American capital invested in sugar corporations, out of a total of \$28,000,000. There is an investment of \$25,000,000 of American capital in various enterprises, in a total of \$36,000,000. The Hawaiian export last year was almost entirely sugar, of which there was a third of a billion pounds, valued at \$10,200,000. All of this, except an insignificant amount, came to the United States.

The public debt of Hawaii is given at \$3,417,459, and the assets from Government land, etc., \$7,594,601.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

The Eastern Hemisphere, on which dwell ninety-two per cent of the population of the world, has 170,792 miles of railroad, or forty-six per cent of all railroads.

## AGRICULTURAL ANTS.

Professor W. J. McGee, of the government scientific corps, recently paid a visit to some very remarkable farmers in Sonora, Mexico. These are the so-called agricultural ants, which plant fields of grain and regularly harvest their crops, upon which they depend wholly for food. In fact, should the crops fail, they would perish of famine. On the other hand, the cereals that they grow have been specialized by cultivation, like the wheat and other grains of the human husbandman, and would quickly disappear if the attention of the insects was withdrawn.

The fields of the farmer ants cover scores of square miles in Sonora, at large part of which is quite densely populated by them. The home of a colony is marked ordinarily by a circular clearing from five to thirty feet in diameter, on which nothing is permitted to grow. This serves as a sort of parade and exercise ground. Around the clearing is a ring of luxuriant grass from three to twenty-three feet wide. On the seeds of this grass the insects subsist, planting it every spring and gathering the crop in the autumn. Across the rings which surround formicaries run turnpikes a few inches wide, connecting farm with farm for many furlongs.

In the region described there is practically no vegetation except the grasses cultivated by these ants. The latter appear to keep down and exterminate all other plants, such as cacti, greasewood and mesquite. The plants naturally prevailing in that part of the country are entirely absent from the most thickly settled farming districts. In short these insects have developed an art of agriculture peculiar to themselves, have made conquest of the land for their needs and have artificialized certain cereals as thoroughly as maize and barley have been artificialized by man. "Thus," says Professor McGee, "the rigorous environment of the desert has developed one of the most remarkable intelligences; and, incidentally, an animal and a plant have come to be mutually dependent upon each other for existence." The favorite cultivated plant of these ants is the familiar buffalo grass.—Scientific American.

## The Mole a Swift Tunneller.

Desiring to learn just how much tunnelling a mole can do in a number of hours, we caught a good large specimen, and immediately turned it loose in the middle of a five-acre field of clover. Five seconds after the mole received its freedom it had burrowed out of sight. This may seem past believe, but the fact is vouched for by the official time-keeper. Sticking a stake at the starting point, we retired and left the digger hard at work.

The start was made at 11 a. m., and the direction taken was eastward. By 5 p. m. the mole had dug twenty-three feet in a zigzag line, but keeping the same general direction all the time, and without digging any side galleries. By 11 a. m. of the following day the tunnel had been driven thirty-one feet further, with numerous side galleries, and four feet had been added at the end next to the starting point.

In another hour ten feet had been added to the extremity, making sixty-eight feet of main line and thirty-six and a half feet of branches, or a total of 104 1/2 feet of tunnels dug in twenty-five hours. The bottom of the tunnels ran evenly about four inches below the surface. Sometimes the whole was elliptical in shape, measuring one and a half inches in width by two inches in height, and sometimes it was circular, measuring two inches in diameter. The surface of the ground was usually cracked and raised about an inch along the course of the tunnel.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

## Some Bible Facts.

A prisoner in solitary confinement was given a copy of the Bible, and after three years' careful study he obtained these facts: The Bible contains 3,586,489 letters, 773,692 words, 31,174 verses, 1,139 chapters and 66 books. The word "and" occurs 46,277 times, the word "Lord" 1,355 times, the word "reverend" but once, which is in Psalms xli, verse nine. The most readable chapter he counted Acts xxvi. The longest verse in the book is Esther viii. nine. The shortest verse John xi. 35.

## To Clean Straw Hats.

Wash them with soap and water, rinse in clean water, dry in the air, and then wash them over with the white of an egg beaten to a froth. Another method is to rub the straw with cut lemon dipped in sulphur and wash the juice off carefully with water. Then stiffen with the white of an egg.—New York Dispatch.

## THE LABOR WORLD.

### CONTINUED IMPROVEMENT.

#### Further Advances in Wages—Notes From the Industrial Field.

It is no longer a question whether or not there has been a general and widespread industrial, commercial and business improvement throughout the country during the past few weeks, but such signs have shown themselves that all doubts in the minds of the most skeptical have been put to flight. One week follows after the other in such a rapid succession of evidence of a nearer approach to the complete and unqualified restoration of former prosperity, and while the movement is and has been exceedingly slow, it is all the more valuable because it possesses a permanency the value of which cannot be estimated. Labor, it cannot be successfully gainsaid, is to-day more universally employed throughout the entire country than at any time for more than three years.

The national labor organizations have united in a plan of campaign against the system of wholesale injunctions, the federal courts in the case of labor strikes. They propose to agitate for a law by the next congress prohibiting such exercise of judicial power. As the next congress will be in session in a presidential year, the labor leaders have selected a good time. Congressmen and platform will be eloquent the coming year on the rights and wrongs of labor.

## At Homestead.

While all other departments of the Homestead steel works are being pushed to the utmost capacity to keep up with the orders, the armor plate department is closing. The Harveyizing and forging shops closed Saturday, 250 men being suspended indefinitely. The machine and press shops will operate for several weeks yet, finishing some work on hand. It is not probable that any other kind of work will be done in these mills, as they are not fitted for any other product. The company has some contracts for armor, but they will not be filled for several months yet, the plans not having been received. The 25-inch mill has started on an order for 5,000 tons of the heaviest structural steel ever rolled in the department. It is for elevated railway use in New York City, and will keep the mill going to its fullest capacity. The company has so many orders on hand now that some additions to the mills are contemplated. Fifty car loads of beams are shipped from the plant daily now, and still the firm is falling behind in filling orders.

## Prosperity at Scranton.

The notice of an advance of 10 per cent in the wages of all the employees except foreman superintendents and salaried employees, to go into effect July 1, which was posted Saturday at the mills of the Lackawanna Iron & Steel company, at Scranton, will effect about 9,500 to 10,000 men, and will increase the pay roll of the concern by \$2,500,000 per month. The South works of the company are engaged on an order which, it is said, will keep it working night and day for the remainder of the year. At the present time the outlook for the steel trade in this city is very bright. The increase of wages just announced is to recompense the employees for the cut made in September, 1893.

## Roll Turners Organized.

The roll turners of Pittsburg are busy perfecting an organization preparatory to demanding an increase in their wages. This branch of the rolling mill industry, generally speaking, has never had an organization. The number of men employed at this trade in Pittsburg is larger than in any other city in the United States, and during the recent business depression has been compelled to accept reductions which have never been restored.

## Boom at Youngstown.

The Lloyd Bath company of Youngstown, O., has notified its employees, both machinists and foundrymen, that wages will be advanced 10 per cent from the 1st of July. The company is crowded with orders to an extent unequalled in the history of the plant, many heavy orders being received for structural iron.

## Fifteen Per Cent. Raise.

The Johnson steel company of Lorain, O., posted notices of a 15 per cent. increase in wages to the men in the converting mill, dry houses and machine shops, in all about 200. The men in the shape mill had their wages raised last week. The increase is entirely voluntary on the part of the company.

## Twenty Per Cent. Increase.

J. Morton Bros., managers of the Woodstock woolen mills at Norristown, Pa., notified his loom weavers that an increase of 20 per cent. had been made in their wages.

## LABOR NOTES.

The tendency of wages continues upward, and restorations and increases having been made during the past week, ranging from 5 to 30 per cent., and placing in circulation several thousand dollars every week. The railroad companies have been in the market well again and the indications are that they will soon be placing heavy orders, which will give a new impetus to all lines of industry.

Following closely upon the decision of the Illinois Court declaring the eight-hour law recently enacted in the state to be unconstitutional, the Missouri Supreme court has declared unconstitutional the law forbidding the discharge by corporations of employees who refuse to sever their connection with labor organizations.

The Schoen Manufacturing Company of Wood River, Mo., have purchased considerable property adjoining that of their works and is making extensive improvements. The company has already commenced the erection of additional buildings, and when completed they will give employment to a large number of men.

A new coal field is about to be developed about one mile south of Leetonia. Several hundred acres of coal land has been secured and arrangements are now being made to run a switch from Leetonia to the new field. From 250 to 500 men will be given employment.

The tobacco workers of the country have organized a national union, the same having its birth in St. Louis. Its membership is composed of strippers, boxers and other branches of the business. The new organization has applied for and will receive a charter from the American Federation of Labor.

The meeting of the puddlers of the Ohio Valley and Youngstown Saturday was fairly well attended. A resolution was adopted condemning the \$4 rate for puddling, and urging the Amalgamated committee to make better terms with the manufacturers.

**Paid \$10 to Kill her Husband.**  
Mrs. Wm. Nobles, her daughter and two negroes have been arrested at Jeffersonville, Ga., on a charge of killing the husband of Mrs. Nobles. The woman and her husband had quarreled a good deal and she, it is charged, paid a negro, named Gus Johnson, \$10 for the killing of the old man by striking him in the back of the head with a hatchet. Mrs. Nobles struck one of the blows which killed her husband.

**Standing of the League Clubs.**  
W. L. P. C.      W. L. P. C.  
Boston.....22 640      Philadelphia.....25 348  
Baltimore.....20 19      Brooklyn.....25 25 242  
Pittsburg.....24 22      New York.....26 27 491  
Cleveland.....23 28      Washington.....23 21 415  
Chicago.....22 85 583      St. Louis.....17 43 516  
Cincinnati.....29 25      Louisville.....24 44 154

Highest of all in Leavening Power.—Latcut U. S. Gov't Report

# Royal Baking Powder

## ABSOLUTELY PURE

**Russian Traits.**  
The Russians are lazy and effeminate: in the winter they seldom walk, and when they do so they crawl along, muffled up in furs. One sees a great many military officers in Moscow, and their want of smartness is noticeable. They are always to be seen lounging about the boulevards with their hands in the pockets of their gray overcoats. These boulevard warriors do not appear very formidable. The Cossacks are dirty-looking ruffians, badly dressed, and mounted on small horses, which are said to be excellent animals, gifted with wonderful staying power. I was told by an officer that the Cossacks have degenerated very much, and have been spoiled by being turned into regulars. The Cossacks of the Don, especially, have deteriorated, but those of the Caucasian regions are fine soldiers.

One of the worst characteristics of the Russians is their dishonesty in trade. In Moscow, even in many of the best shops, one has to bargain for purchases, as a much higher price than is expected is always asked. In this way foreigners in Moscow no doubt frequently pay three or four times the proper price for articles. In the same way one has to bargain for everything, and this constitutes one of the most disagreeable things connected with life in Russia.

That the Russians are a dirty people is well known; very few houses have even a footpath in them, and though there are fine public baths the Russians, even of the upper circles, seldom make use of them. Indeed, the lower orders are said to be cleaner in this respect.

**Only Way to Escape Microbes.**  
Parent—Why do you advise against my boy Willie using a slate and pencil in school?

Dabster in Science—Because they are covered with deadly microbes, that would undoubtedly kill your boy if he lived long enough.

Parent (much impressed)—Then I suppose I had better get him a paper pad to do his sums on?

Dabster in Science—My dear sir, do you want to commit deliberate murder? There are millions of bacilli in every page of paper made.

Parent (anxiously)—Well, how will he do his sums then? In his mind?

Dabster in Science—Worse yet. It has been found that abstract introspective thought over imaginary problems stimulates the growth of lethal bacteria in the brain cells. If you want your Willie to live, you had better keep him in a room sprayed with antiseptic vapor.—New York Tribune.

**Forewarned.**  
Dashaway—Did you tell the Bridersleys that I was going to call there last night?

Clevertown—Yes. How did you know? Dashaway—The wedding present I gave them was in the front parlor.—Brooklyn Life.

**On a Lucky Day.**  
The Defender will sail her first race in the Larchmont Club's annual regatta on July 4. She will begin her career on an auspicious day.

# Dr. PIERCE'S Golden Medical DISCOVERY

Cures Ninety-eight per cent. of all cases of Consumption, in all its Earlier Stages.

Although by many believed to be incurable, there is the evidence of hundreds of living witnesses to the fact that, in all its earlier stages, consumption is a curable disease. Not every case, but a large percentage of cases, and we believe, fully 98 per cent. are cured by Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, even after the disease has progressed so far as to induce repeated bleedings from the lungs, severe lingering cough with copious expectoration (including tubercular matter), great loss of flesh and extreme emaciation and weakness.



**"Wash us with Pearline!**  
"That's all we ask. Save us from that dreadful rubbing—It's wearing us out!"

"We want Pearline—the original washing-compound—the one that has proved that it can't hurt us—Pearline! Don't experiment on us with imitations! We'd rather be rubbed to pieces than eaten up."

**Millions of Pearline**

**"To Save Time is to Lengthen Life." Do You Value Life? Then Use**

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