

WEDDED EIGHTY-EIGHT YEARS.

Oldest Married Couple in the World—Husband is 108, Wife 106.

Four miles south of Elkton, Mich., there lives perhaps the oldest married couple in the world.

There have been several well authenticated cases of men reaching a



MR. HILLER SAWING WOOD.

greater age than the 108 years which Jacob Hiller has seen completed. There have been many women who have lived longer than Mrs. Jacob Hiller, who is nearly 106. But probably it has never happened to any other youth and maiden, marrying when the former was twenty and the latter eighteen, to pass together eighty-eight years of wedded life; to celebrate their golden wedding and live on; to celebrate their diamond wedding and still have thirteen years of wedded life together after that.

Mr. and Mrs. Hiller were married twenty years before the railroad came, and fourteen years before "Witt Clinton's Ditch" (the Erie Canal, across New York State, was opened. The United States, when they were married, was a puny little nation, on the point of going to war one moment with England, the next with France and insulted and browbeaten by both. Napoleon was at the height of his power, yet unshaken by the disasters in Spain or the retreat from Moscow, the grisly horrors of Waterloo, six years away, and all unforeseen.

Yes, it's a long term of years for man and wife to spend together, but the old couple seem never to have tired of it or of each other. And, sitting in their little house like a veritable Darby and Joan, they received a New York World reporter together as they have lived.

"I'm 108 years old," said Mr. Hiller from the depths of his capacious arm chair. "My birthday was the 20th of last October; so you see I'm pretty well started going on 109. She"—here he nodded toward Mrs. Hiller in her easy chair opposite—"will be 106 next March. I was about twenty-two or twenty-three when the War of 1812 broke out. But we were on the other side, you know. We were born at Jamestown, back of Kingston, in Canada, and lived there till we were old."

"Your children are scattered?"

"We have had eleven children," replied Mr. Hiller, "and seven of them are still alive. The oldest is eighty-five and the youngest is fifty-eight years old. One of our daughters lives about half a mile from here, and once in a while I walk over to call on her."

"You do not seem like so old a man," said the writer. And indeed Mr. Hiller's eye is bright, and though his face is wrinkled, he has the appearance of energy such as one does not attribute to age.

"Me?" said he with a shrill laugh. "Why, I was eighty-eight years old before I lost my first tooth, and I've cut two new ones since then. I've never worn glasses in my life, and I can thread a needle as well as you can, if you are a woman. I don't sleep as well as I used to, though."

"And you, Mrs. Hiller?"

"I've kept house eighty-eight years," piped up the old lady, "but I don't do much work now. I'm pretty feeble, pretty feeble. I can't walk and I'm most blind and can't read; but I dearly love to have people read to me. I get lonesome sitting here so long. Sometimes my grandchildren come and read to me. And things are sent to me for them to read, and I always keep them."

"What kind of reading do you like best?"

"Poetry. Jacob, show them to the dy."

The old man promptly fished out of

and only waiting for the words. It's a long time. Twenty years ago I had my burial clothes made ready, and once a year I have them put in order. Would you like to see them?"

The writer turned the question hastily.

"When did you come to this country, Mr. Hiller?"

"About the time the war began we moved here to Michigan?"

Before the poems were put away some one spoke of hymns, and the couple with shrill, quavering voices sang to the old tune of "China," with its quaint trills and runs, the words:

"Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove,
With all thy quickening powers;
Come shed abroad a Saviour's love
And that shall quicken ours."

Then the old man put away the clippings, moving easily about the room with a firm and fairly quick step. He is small and slight now, though he may have been in his prime a man of average stature.

Mrs. Hiller moves about but little and with difficulty, feeling her way around the room with thin, tremulous fingers. Of their very simple household she does almost none. Generally one of the grandchildren drops in during the day to help with some

of their work. The rest, Mr. Hiller himself does.

There is a little garden about the house, and here, in the season, Mr. Hiller raises a few vegetables and weeds and waters an old-fashioned potting bed, in which grow all the favorite flowers of his wife's youth, and a nosegay of these is generally upon her table. Sometimes he carries her chair out into the garden, and she sits there while he works.

At present, however, the dry and withered stalks of the garden favorites peep melancholy through the snow, as if bidding one to wonder whether Mrs. Hiller will ever see them bloom again. There seems to be no good reason why her more sprightly husband may not live to see them once and again.

The son-in-law plows the garden and arranges for the rougher work about the place. The wood the old couple burn is sawed by horse-power into short lengths, but Mr. Hiller splits it up for firewood, battering away at it with short, pecking strokes

with a dull axe. All Canadians know how to chop wood, but Mr. Hiller no longer has strength for that.

In winter, when the deep snows come, he gets out of doors with a snow shovel and makes neat paths about the house and from the front door to the gate. The labor of shovelling does not seem too much for his muscular strength, but his thin blood

is quickly chilled, and after a few minutes' work in the cold he goes into the house to rest for a few minutes before the kitchen stove.

In this way the old man putters about for half a day over a light fall of snow, but one who has lived 108 years has plenty of time.

So they sit, the old man and woman, in their little house, singing the old hymns and waiting for the messenger who has spared them so long.

THE BIGGEST KITE EVER RAISED.

Soared Aloft Like a School Boy's Toy and Lifted Its Owner Into the Air.

A kite that would have served as a toy for the youthful residents of Gulliver's Brobdingnag has just been constructed by a resident of South Bethlehem, Penn. The kite is a monster. If the world has its equal, no one has ever made the fact known. Imagine a kite as big as a two-story house, capable of raising high in the air an able-bodied man, who tried to hold on to the soaring flyer. William H. Markle, the man who built the great kite and raised it heavenward, says:

"To begin with the dimensions of the kite: It is 25 feet high and 25 feet



A YUKON VILLAGE IN THE DEPTH OF WINTER.

wide, and is of the ordinary triangle pattern. The sticks are made of white pine, 5 1/2 x 2 inches, and are tapered from the cross to 1 1/2 inches at the ends. At each corner of the cross there are two-inch screw-eyes. On these screw-eyes are tied the four corners of the canvas sail, which is made of sail drilling.

The sail is sewed on the bias, and along the edge of the canvas is sewed a rope three-eighths of an inch thick, with loops at the corners. These loops are tied with separate rope in the screw-eyes on the frame, the frame being bolted at the cross with an eye-bolt, making it easy to take the kite to pieces, a very necessary thing, by the way, with a kite as big as a house.

The centre bands are made of rope three-eighths of an inch thick, with heavy harness snaps, which are also hooked in the eye-bolts, in the cross and screw-eyes in the corners.

I used, when I made the first trial of the kite, 2500 feet of silver lake sash cord, but found the strain too great, and had to procure the highest grade of Manila rope three-eighths of an inch thick. This rope stood the strain of a high wind without signs of breaking.

In a strong breeze the pull, according to careful estimates, was from 400 to 600 pounds. I have at different times attached a bar a few hundred feet from the hitching point, and allowed myself to be pulled into the air to a height of a hundred feet. The kite floats at an angle of from fifty to eighty degrees, and my weight is 165 pounds. The weight of the kite, rigged, is seventy pounds.

It is a very easy matter to raise the kite. With the assistance of a few men the sticks and canvas are put together, and the flying rope securely hitched about a tree, the slack in the rope being nearly all taken in. The kite is laid flat on the ground with the top toward the hitching point, and in a fair breeze the monster is lifted up a little so as to catch the breeze. It does this very quickly, straightening up like a thing of life and rising with the wind as though anxious to be as obliging as possible. In order to counteract any tendency that the kite may have for tilting sideways, guide ropes are hung at the wings, and if necessary they can be used to keep the kite straight while it is rising from earth to the clouds.

Sixty Russian Languages.

Sixty languages are spoken in the empire governed by the Czar of Russia.

Indian Bicyclist.

Hole-in-the-Day, a wild Sioux Indian chief, is one of the most expert bicycle riders in Montana.

MINERAL WEALTH OF THE YUKON.

A Correspondent Tells of Possibilities in the Klondike Gold Region.

Owing to the peculiar climate and other conditions, nearly all places mining in the Yukon country must be conducted by new methods or modifications of old methods. So far nothing but the crudest of mining, with the simplest of tools, has been done, and there are splendid opportunities for capital and engineering skill, writes John D. McGillivray in a Dawson City letter to the New York Herald.

This is not so much of a "poor man's country" as is generally reported, for no one can come here and accomplish anything without the expenditure of considerable money before expecting any return. Even prospecting cannot be done with any degree of satisfaction except at considerable expense.

The introduction of capital properly directed, with appropriate machinery and tools, will mean not only the rapid opening up of new districts, but the working at large profits of hundreds of miles or even thousands of miles of creeks which have been located and are now abandoned.

At present, it is true, there is little aside from placer deposits proven to be of profitable value, but coal, copper and other minerals have been found in deposits that are worth examination. That quartz mines will be discovered and opened up in this immense territory there can be no doubt.

Under present conditions not more than one out of fifty of the gravel mines which have been located will pay to be worked, yet, as costs are reduced and improved methods are introduced, most of them should yield good profits.

There have been located in the Klondike district nearly three thousand claims. A small proportion—not over one-tenth, or, at most, one-fifth of these, it is now believed by the best informed miners—will pay to work by the methods now in vogue and with wages and other costs anywhere near the prevailing rates.

It should be remembered that the value of this immense territory—the Yukon country—lies not so much in the rich claims in the Klondike district, but in the fact that gold is much more evenly distributed over an immense area than in any other known mining district in the world.

The world's attention to-day is directed, whenever the Yukon is mentioned, to the Klondike district, yet it is quite probable that the Birch Creek district, on the American side, nearly three hundred miles below here, will in time produce as much if not more gold. It is so far as is known more extensive, and, while the placers discovered are of lower grade, they all contain considerable gold.

Dangerous Carbolic Acid.

A Board of Health warning has been sent out in regard to the danger of using carbolic acid, either as a disinfectant or as a cleansing wash for simple wounds. Even in an ointment it is not safe. Local gangrene is said to be the penalty of too strong an application, or of a weak application too long applied. Another point of information advanced by the board is that carbolic acid is used in surgery as a germicide and disinfectant, and not as a means of healing wounds; on the contrary it would retard or prevent their healing if used in improper strength.—St. Louis Globe Democrat.

The Difference.

"A man," observed the student of social phenomena, "is never satisfied so long as there is anything he wants; a woman is never satisfied so long as there is anything she can get."—Chicago Journal.

A Chicken With Rabbit Feet.

The London Strand has a picture of a chicken with rabbit feet. The photograph of the curiosity was sent in

By Mr. Sleight, of Peshtigo, Wis. The chicken was one of a family of nine, all of which had rabbit feet.

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Nearly every English racer rides a machine weighing under twenty-four pounds than twenty pounds, and most are convinced that a little extra weight by no means diminishes the speed.

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Wholesalers generally are watching the chainless wheel question closely.

The bicycle, it is expected, will play a prominent part at the Paris Exposition of 1900.

Four years ago bicycles weighing thirty-five pounds were considered to be light enough.

One of the magistrates in New York has decided that a bicycle is a necessity, not a luxury.

The man who makes guesses places the number of cyclists in the United States at 2,000,000.

The Boston Bicycle Club is the oldest cycling organization in the country.

Massachusetts good roads men are agitating the passage of a wide tire law.

If you keep your bicycle in a warm room all winter you are certain to need new tires in the spring.

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CONGRESS.

Senate.

Washington, Jan. 25.—The pension bill was passed after an amendment offered by Mr. Allen, Populist, Nebraska, to increase the appropriation to \$148,000,000 had been rejected. Mr. Butler, Populist, North Carolina, offered an amendment to the postoffice appropriation bill providing for an extension of the experiment of rural free delivery to every State and Territory of the Union, and to as many sections of those States and Territories as possible.

Then followed a long and occasionally bitter debate upon the Teller resolution declaring the government bonds payable in silver.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 27.—After transacting some minor business the Teller resolution was laid before the senate, and after considerable discussion it was agreed that the vote should be taken to-morrow at 6 o'clock and the last four hours of debate to be under the fifteen-minute rule.

In the senate the conference report on the urgency deficiency bill was presented and agreed to. A bill to increase the efficiency of the navy by combining the line and engineer corps was introduced by Mr. Teller.

When the routine morning business was finished the Teller resolution declaring United States bonds payable in standard silver dollars at the option of the government was taken up, and Mr. Teller addressed the senate.

Senator Wolcott's bill conferring additional jurisdiction on the court of insolvency of Cuyahoga county, was up for passage in the senate Thursday, and was the subject of considerable discussion. The bill provided that the court of insolvency shall have original jurisdiction of all proceedings and actions in divorce and alimony as now possessed by the common pleas court and like jurisdiction of an appeal from the decision of justices of the peace, including error thereto in all civil cases. Senator Wolcott explained the congested conditions of the common pleas courts of Cuyahoga county; how far behind they were with the docket, and that this bill was to relieve the pressure. The bill was passed.

Washington, Jan. 28.—In the senate the Teller resolution, which provides for the payment of bonds in silver, was passed by a vote of 47 to 32.

House.

Washington, Jan. 25.—Mr. Smith, Democrat, Arizona, made an attack on the present system of educating the Indians. He declared that the Carlisle and Hampton schools were a mistake that an Indian could not be civilized by teaching him to read and write and sing a psalm. The Indian, he said, must receive an industrial education, but it must be given him in the vicinity of his home, not in the East. In this bill he said, \$2,500,000 was wasted. Mr. Walker, Republican, Massachusetts, moved to strike out the appropriation for the Carlisle school. Without voting on the amendment the House adjourned.

Washington, Jan. 26.—The house at once went into committee of the whole for further consideration of the Indian appropriation bill. Mr. Sherman, of New York, speaking in opposition to the motion eliminating the appropriation for the support of the Carlisle Indian school refuted the charges made yesterday that it was not an industrial school. Mr. Cannon, of Illinois, concluded the great system of educating Indians at schools, and then sending them back to the reservation to relapse into the former state. This he characterized as refined cruelty. His remedy was breaking up the tribal relations and allotting the Indians their land in severalty.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 27.—The house to-day finally succeeded in passing the Indian appropriation bill and the political debate which has been pending since Monday was transferred to the District of Columbia bill, which followed it. Only two important changes made in the Indian bill, as passed, were the elimination of the provisions for the leasing of the tribal lands of the Kiowa, Comanche, Apache and Wichita reservations, both of which went out on points of order.

The house bill of Mr. Jones, of Stark, providing for swabbing and before the session occupied the attention of the house of representatives Thursday for a considerable length of time and it passed without a dissenting vote.

The miners have long contended for such a law, and with it in operation will work for a lower rate of mining, and that as Pennsylvania and Illinois have such laws the passage of it here will tend to uniformity.

The house passed Mr. Davis' house bill No. 11 to give the state inspector of workshops and factories more power to enforce his orders for changes in public buildings and shops in the interest of safety. There is a time limit allowed owners of such buildings, and this bill gives the inspector authority to enforce his orders immediately in cases where so much time is not considered necessary.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 28.—The bill to pay the book publishing company of the Methodist Episcopal Church \$100,000 for damages sustained by the corporation during the war, after encountering an obstinate filibuster which staved off a vote on two previous private bill days, was piloted to its passage in the house to-day by Mr. Cooper.

Mr. Yeas, who was in charge of the measure. The friends of the measure proved themselves in an overwhelming majority and the opposition to-day, led by Mr. Daisell, finding it could hold out no longer, reluctantly yielded. The vote on the bill was 188-67.

Cycling Notes.

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KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED.

RAILWAY MUST PAY.

A Youthful Pair of Hands Valued at \$10,000.

Elmer J. Walbridge, aged 8 years, obtained a verdict for \$10,000 against the Schuykill Electric Railway Company, of Pottsville, recently. The boy was run over by a trolley car in Pottsville over two years ago and had both hands cut off. The lad is an inmate of the House of the Merciful Saviour, Philadelphia. Arbitrators awarded \$5,000, and the company appealed it to court.

Harry Hindman, of Butler, aged 15, died the other morning from blood poisoning. Three weeks ago he had a decayed tooth treated by a dentist preparatory to having it filled. In a few days a sore place appeared under his tongue which developed into blood poisoning and caused death.

Eva, the daughter of Mrs. Charles Weiss, of Brodheadville, was burned to death during the mother's absence from the kitchen last Monday. Eva, who is a little child, played with the fire. Her dress caught and her screams brought her mother and grandmother to her assistance, but too late. The child was frightfully burned from the knees up over her whole body.

A can of kerosene oil exploded in the boiler house of the Beensville cement mill at Rosedale the other day setting fire to the mill and stored goods. Burns were destroyed, together with 4,000 bags and 600 barrels of cement and 300 tons of coal. The loss is estimated at \$100,000; fully insured.

Burglars forced an entrance into the residence of James Gartz, near Millbrook, the other night and made a point of revolvers held him up and then bound him with a rope. They searched the premises and secured a sum of money. Gartz freed himself, but the thieves had made their escape.

A concert was given at the Harrisburg opera house recently for the benefit of the Cuban sufferers. About \$500 was realized. Gov. Hastings presided and made a brief address in which he expressed the hope that the people of Pennsylvania would contribute liberally for the relief of the starving Cubans.

In attempting to stop a runaway team of horses recently George Schreder, of Rockefeller township, aged 24, was struck by a passenger train on the Northern Central Railroad and instantly killed, his body being scattered along the track for half a mile.

S. W. Scott & Son, Waynesburg, who have been holding a million pounds of Greynoke wool, have just sold between 200,000 and 400,000 pounds to a Boston firm at a good figure. About 200,000 pounds of this was bought two years ago at 15 cents per pound.

James H. Smith, a cattle buyer, of Cochran, was electrocuted on a train on the Erie railroad the other evening at Buchanan junction, and was found drowned in a small stream nearby. He probably fell through the trestle.

The jury at Philadelphia acquitted Mrs. Anna Nigal, who placed two children, aged 2 years and 2 months, in a bathtub and asphyxiated them by turning on gas. She will be sent to Norristown asylum.

Mrs. Jennie Sherman, a negro, shot her sleeping husband, George, at Norristown the other day, and tried to brain him with an ax. She has not since been seen, and is believed to have thrown herself into the Schuylkill river.

Henry Cole, a Bessemer employee, was cutting off a bolt at Albion when the angle bar flew around, striking his nose and mutilating both eyes. It is doubtful if he will recover.

While Fred Belter, of Williamsport, aged 12 years, was leaning over a stove his clothes caught fire the other day, and he was so badly burned that death resulted four hours later.

Mrs. Edwina Obrosky, while crossing a trestle between Moyer and Conneville, was struck by a passenger train and had her skull fractured and her left foot crushed recently.

John McFadden, of Wilkesbarre, aged 3 years, was afflicted with an ulcerated tooth. A dentist pulled it, blood poisoning ensued and the boy died a few days ago.

Stacey Denny at Huntington, a few days ago, was taking a flash light picture, when the instrument exploded. John Black lost an eye and others were injured.

Michael Kohl, who died several days ago, near Kentonville, Bucks county, at the age of 84, enjoyed the distinction of never having ridden in a railroad car.

Because Mary E. Drumpeller, an heiress, of Pottsville, married A. Radigan, a laborer, her father tore up his will, and says he will cut her off without a penny.

At a shooting match in Blair county, Oliver Burkett, aged 28, of Rodman furnace, was accidentally shot in the arm by his friend, Alexander Welter.

Palmer Elliott, the Center county Daniel Boone, who in his lifetime has killed 25 bears and over 1,000 deer, has gone to Washington state.

A hemlock tree has been cut in Jefferson county measuring 116 feet in length, which cut seven 10-foot logs and three eight-foot logs.

Thomas McConnell, 65 years old, died recently from being kicked by a horse three years ago in Shenango township, Mercer county.

While tending a log slide at Jamison City, Joseph W. Southard was struck by a log the other day and died from his injuries.

The blast furnace of the Warwick Iron Company, at Pottsville, last week made the remarkable yield of 1419 tons of pig iron.

The capacity of the Lehman Machine Works, at Williamsport, has been more than doubled, giving employment to 19 hands.

While shooting a horse at Howard Benjamin Holter, aged 65 years, dropped dead from heart disease the other day.

While coasting, Charles Brown, an Altoona school boy, ran against a telephone pole and fractured his skull fatally.

The store of Thomas Rush at Farmington, in which was the postoffice, was destroyed by fire. Loss, \$8,000.

John Roach, a one-armed peddler, died at Scranton a few days ago of wounds inflicted by a highwayman.

Jacob Young, aged 18 years, committed suicide at Ring Gold. He was half-witted, homeless and friendless.

The Oil City Y. M. C. A. has purchased a \$10,000 site for a fine new building.

Mrs. James Finan, of Johnstown, was found frozen to death near Lilly, recently.

Robert Gilde, 55 years old, a miner at Courtney, was killed by a train a few days ago.

Henry Cribbett was crushed to death by a falling tree at Johnstown last week.

One of Harvard's athletes this season has won in prizes 3 medals, 3 watches, 31 diamonds, 3 silver tea sets, a silver water set, a rifle, and no end of clothing.



MR. HILLER, 108 YEARS OLD.

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a table drawer a lot of newspaper clippings, most of them yellow with age and creased with many foldings. One of them was Eugene Field's "Little Boy Blue," cut from a Chicago paper. The visitor read it through slowly, old Mrs. Hiller nodding to the rhythm of the words.

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with a dull axe. All Canadians know how to chop wood, but Mr. Hiller no longer has strength for that.

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