

# NATURE SMILES IN SANTO DOMINGO.

Has All the Charms of Both Tropic and Temperate Zones.

## GOLD AND OTHER MINERALS IN PROFUSION

Whatever the Island of Santo Domingo may lack, it is not for any reason on the part of Mother Nature, for it was originally richly endowed. Everything that grows within the tropics may find a home somewhere between coast line and mountain tops, and in the elevated regions may be produced almost every variety of fruit and vegetable peculiar to the temperate zones. As for minerals, the most precious of all, gold, in flakes, particles, sands and nuggets, has been found in abundance. It was the gold of Hispaniola, as Columbus called the island, that first attracted him thither, and from the native caciques on the north coast he obtained the precious metal first taken to Spain, some of which may yet be seen in Burgos and Granada.

As his sailors were filling their water casks at the mouth of the river Yagui they were delighted with the sight of golden sands, and from this circumstance Columbus called it Rio del Oro, or the river of gold. The founding of the present capital, Santo Domingo, was owing to the discovery of gold on a tributary of the river on which it is situated, from which resulted the rich mines of San Cristobal, first brought to light in a romantic manner in 1496. Here was dug up in 1502 that nugget said to be the largest ever found in the new world, of such dimensions that the lucky miners, in the first excess of their joy, had a pig roasted and served upon it as a table. They let it go to the King of Spain, some time afterward, but sent a message to the effect that they had done what no royal personage had ever done; dined off a table of solid gold. This great nugget was lost when the fleet that sailed with Bobadilla went down, and still



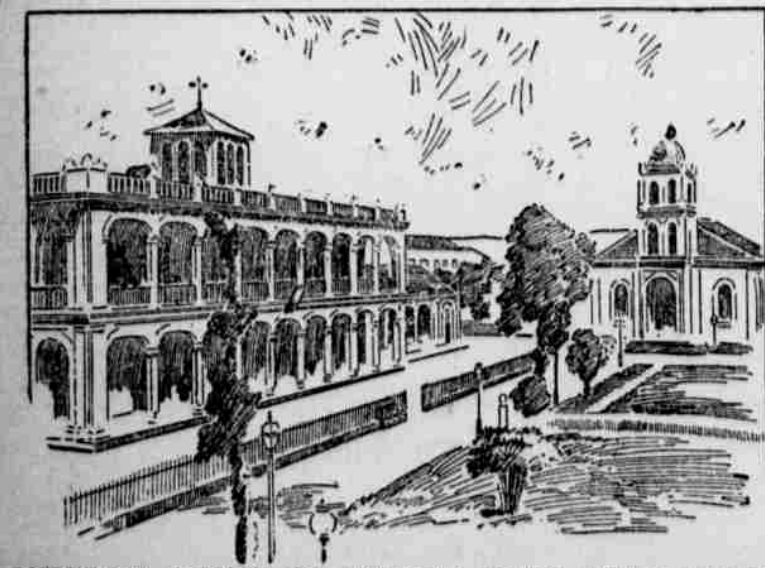
STREET SCENE IN SANTO DOMINGO.

lies at the bottom of the sea off the east end of the island.

It is not known that much has been done in recent times to exploit the mineral riches of the island; in fact, the interior mountains have never been satisfactorily examined. In their shelter yet exist nooks and caves, secluded valleys and dells, which have never been visited except by the Indians of early times and the "Cimaroons" or runaway negroes of slavery days. Humboldt declared that what the Spaniards obtained was merely the surface washings of the placers and the hilltops, and what they got from the beds of rivers. The golden secret has not been revealed, as yet, and will not be divulged until some more progressive Government than that at present ruling in Santo Domingo shall undertake the exploration of the great central range of mountains.

But it is not in mineral wealth alone that Santo Domingo offers temptations to the explorer. This island, which of late has been known to political adventurers as "Leelee's" Island ("Leelee" being a contraction of Ulysses, former President Heurieux's Christian name) is rich in every possibility. Within its area of some eighteen thousand square miles, Santo Domingo has every range of climate and soil, capable of producing everything necessary to the support of man. Nature, as has been observed, did everything needful for this beautiful island, but during the four centuries of man's domination its rich gifts and generous provisions have been perverted and even prostituted to the basest ends.

When Sir Francis Drake went to Santo Domingo intent upon seeking the city, he found it hardly worth the plucking. So it happens that while rich in historical associations, both



GOVERNMENT BUILDING AND CATHEDRAL IN THE CAPITAL OF SANTO DOMINGO.

island and city are poor even to the verge of poverty. In the interior of the island, where the bananas and sugar cane grow wild, and the ground is covered with rank growths of valuable plants and trees, it has been followed for miles by begging children supplicating a morsel of food.

And yet, any good sort of people might make a second Eden of this beautiful island. Notwithstanding its tropical situation, exposed to torrid heats and torrential rains, Santo Domingo is a very healthy island. A white man can live there, if he exercise due caution, with almost perfect immunity from diseases such as endemic and yellow fevers. Many ac-



SANTO DOMINGO AND ITS GEOGRAPHICAL RELATION TO CUBA AND PORTO RICO.

quaintances of mine resident there have informed me that they were never sick a day unless they exposed themselves unnecessarily.

Far more precious than gold are the historical memories of this island. Here, on its north coast, Columbus founded the first city in America, Isabella, erected the first church, built the first forts and initiated the movement by which the indigenous inhabitants were exterminated. In the capital city we may see the ruins of a chapel erected in his time, a fortress built by Don Diego, his son, and the remains of the first American university. In the cathedral lie his own remains (notwithstanding Havana's claim to the contrary) and those of his brother and grandson, while relics of such well-known adventurers as Fernando Cortez, Las Casas and Velazquez, the subjugator of Cuba, are on every hand.

There is yet another possession of the island which neither the rapacity of the Spaniards nor the misdoings of their degenerate successors can take away or spoil. This is its great natural basin and glorious harbor, Samana Bay. As a naval necessity Samana is no longer desirable, but as a factor in our commercial development it would be invaluable. However this may be, there it lies, one of the most magnificent bays and natural harbors in the world, almost unused, and at all events not sufficiently utilized. It is not quite so solitary as when Columbus discovered it, in 1493, and thence took his point of departure for Spain, on his return voyage; but it still exists in isolation, the deep channels



OLD CITY WALL, SANTO DOMINGO.

that would suffice for the largest steamships only giving passage to few craft beside small sailing vessels.

From the grand promontory of Balandra Head, which guards the entrance to Samana Bay, there sweeps a terraced shore line, with a constant succession of palm-bordered beaches, forest-crowned bluffs and crescent-shaped coves of white and glistening sand, back of which run fertile valleys, cultivated to the tops of the hills. The channel takes us close to the beautiful beaches and almost within hail of the fishers' cabins on the shore, giving glorious contrasts between the deep blue water, the silver sands and the varied vegetation of the hills.

A few natives cultivate the lands ad-

Argos lies five or six miles within the gulf, and together with the town adjacent, is known as Santa Barbara. A series of small bays lies opposite town and harbor, between the islets and the main, being a perfect cul-de-sac, with deep water close to shore. Steep, cultivated hills rise directly from the shore, with offshoots offering choice sites for dwellings; the lateral valleys are fertile and filled with every tropical product, the beaches are smooth and fringed with palms, the bay within the reefs delightful for bathing, boating and fishing.

The Samana peninsula is about forty miles in length, and consists of a range of hills thrust right out into the ocean to the north of the bay. These hills, swept by cool breezes, covered with tropical vegetation, and with their feet on either side plunged into the sea, offer desirable sites for farms and winter settlements.

**America's Youngest College President.**  
John Henry MacCracken, who has just been elected President of Westminster College at Fulton, Mo., is the youngest college President in the United States, and probably in the world.

Mr. MacCracken has not quite completed his twenty-fourth year. He first entered school in New York City in 1886, having been previously taught at home.



JOHN HENRY MACCRACKEN, (President of Westminster College in his twenty-fourth year.)

The years 1894 to 1896 he spent in graduate study, the first year in New York University and the second in the University of Halle, Germany. In this latter university he had exceptional advantages in being a member of the family of one of the professors of philosophy, with whom he spent part of the summer in the mountains on the border of Silesia. After completing two semesters in Germany he became instructor in philosophy in New York University College, and was advanced the present year to the position of assistant professor of philosophy.

**Wanted to Be Polite.**  
No one made any remark upon the comeliness of the ladies who invited Ambrose Bierce to deliver a lecture before the members of their club. Bierce was so taken aback by the unexpectedness of the request that, to his own surprise, he found himself weakly accepting the bid, and then humbly consulting his callers concerning the topic upon which they might desire him to speak.

The president, a dignified and very conservative lady, in reply to a novel suggestion of the lecturer-elect, remarked somewhat loftily that they were not a club of new women. "I am convinced of that," answered Mr. Bierce in a bland and deferential tone which almost, if not quite, concealed his cynicism. "Shall I say you are a club of old women?" News-Letter.

**Suited Him Exactly.**  
Bilkins looked up from his desk as he heard some one enter his office. Two ladies, members of his church, stood before him. "We are out on another begging expedition," they chorused.

Bilkins frowned. "What is it this time?" he inquired, snappishly. "I just paid out \$2 yesterday on foreign missions and a dollar the day before on repairs for the church. I suppose you are collecting on a new carpet now."

"No, no; we are trying to raise enough this time to send the minister away on a vacation."

The frown on Bilkins's countenance vanished, giving way to a broad smile of satisfaction. "Oh, well," he exclaimed in joyous tones, "put me down for \$10."—Ohio State Journal.

# FARM TOPICS

**Empty Brood Combs.**  
Empty brood combs should be examined every few days, to see if the wax worm is not at work. A cool, dry cellar is a good place to keep them, but if they become infested, give them to the bees at once. If you have no swarms to occupy them, place them under strong colonies so that the bees will be compelled to pass through them.

**Milk For Making Growth.**  
The milk of the Jersey and Guernsey breeds of cows averages higher in butter fats than that of the larger breeds. But this richest milk is by no means the best for babies, and those who, in mistaken kindness, order pure Jersey milk, find that it needs to be largely diluted with water or it will curdle in the stomach. The milk is too rich is the reason why so many babies sicken when fed on cow's milk. The milk from a mother's breast has less casein and fats than that from a cow. Even for the calf the milk from its dam is generally too rich. It will fatten the calf, but it will be at the expense of growth. One reason, perhaps, why the Jersey breed is undersized is because its calves are for a time allowed to suck undiluted milk from their dams until their digestion is injured.

**The Dairy Farm.**  
If it is regarded as advisable to purchase a farm for the future keeping of the herd, the land should be selected with an eye single to the purpose for which it is intended. A dairy farm should naturally consist of good land, but all good lands are not suitable for the establishment and maintenance of a dairy. The soil should be selected with a view to its superiority and fitness for grain and grasses. There should be purity and plentifulness of a constant supply of running water. If possible a fall of running water should be secured that would supply sufficient water on the premises, and could be conducted to a tank by means of a hydraulic ram. This would be more economical and satisfactory than a windmill or pump. An abundance of clean, pure water is absolutely essential in every department of a first-class dairying establishment. Quite a number of dairy herds are managed without any farm annex, and whether or not this feature is to be added is for the owner to determine in figuring on his best interests or wishes.—Atlanta Journal.

**Look Out For Potato Larva.**  
Notwithstanding the scarcity of the potato beetles early in spring there will be a good many potato hills stripped before farmers are aware. Each female beetle lays 1000 eggs before she dies, and as these are on the under side of the leaf to keep them dry, they are unnoticed despite their bright yellow color until the larva hatch out and begin their work on the leaves. The larva keep in the crevices between stalk and branch and in wet weather hide under the leaves. In a bright sunny day the progeny of one beetle will strip a good many hills, so that their product will not be worth much. There will be some fair sized potatoes grown under these stripped hills, but the tubers will be deficient in starch, and will be salty or watery when cooked instead of mealy as a cooked potato should be. It is the leaves which supply the starch to the potato, and wherever leaves are destroyed by any cause the potatoes will be poor, as the farmer did not gain anything by mowing down his potato tops as soon as he found potato larva working on them.

**Feeding Young Chickens.**  
During the first twenty-four or thirty-six hours after hatching young chickens require no feeding. During the instant in which the chick makes its final effort to push out of the shell it swallows a portion of the egg, which nature, in one of its wise ways, has placed there for the chicken, and the little fellow is fully supplied for his first day and a half's advent into his new life.

For the first few days there can be given no better food to the young chicks than stale bread steeped in milk. All food given for the first few weeks should be cooked. Granulated oats, with the hull removed, make one of the best feeds known for young chickens. Coarsely ground meal, mixed with a little bran, and cooked so as to crumble nicely, is also good and easily obtained. Young chickens also require meat and green food in some shape. A good plan is to boil a piece of fresh beef until well done and cut up a small quantity each day and mix with the bread. In the absence of beef fresh, soft bones can be ground with a bone cutter, or beat up finely with a hammer, and fed at intervals of every two or three days. Some dealers keep on hand supplies of ground bone for feeding young chicks. The green food can be prepared by cutting wheat, barley or oats and clipping it up fine. The chicks will eat it greedily. There should at all times be a constant supply of such food as chickens would likely obtain through the assistance of the old mother hen if allowed to run at large on well kept premises, where a variety of all these things could be had. Under such conditions the meat supply is furnished by the old hen constantly scratching for bugs and worms. It is from such a source that the muscle and bone is formed, without which no chicken can thrive and attain size.

The finely ground sand scattered over the runs will furnish all the grit needed as griuders in the craw for rendering the food in digestible shape.—Atlanta Journal.

**A Wooden Church 700 Years Old.**  
Here is the oldest wooden church in the world, erected at Borgund, Norway, more than 700 years ago, when Christianity was first introduced in that neighborhood. It is still as sound



OLDEST WOODEN RELIGIOUS EDIFICE.

as ever, but is used by the congregation only during the warm months of the year. As the ancient edifice is not supplied with heating apparatus or glass-protected windows, the people refuse to patronize it in winter. Seen from the outside, the church seems to be all roofs. Over the low colonnades, partly open, partly closed, that surround the church on all sides, rise two rows of roofs covering the side naves. Above them are the roofs of the centre naves, crowned by towering rafters and timber work. The roofs are covered with moss-grown shingles and dragon heads and other emblems of Norsemen lore protrude on all sides.

The interior construction shows even more plainly than the outside that the builders of this edifice were advanced architects, for they discarded the primitive blockhouse principle for that of posts set upright and joined by woodwork. The church proper is divided into a "high church" and a choir, which is smaller than the first, and terminates in an oval altar niche. Both "high church" and choir have a centre and two side naves, separated by rows of pillars. The middle naves are elevated after the manner of the Roman Basilica. There are three entrances under fine arches, masterpieces of wood carved with axes.

The church is always steeped in mystic gloom, for there are no windows, only a series of small, round holes cut into the upper side walls where they join the roof. There are no window frames nor shutters, and the holes in the walls are never closed, summer or winter. The altar and the pulpit are of the simplest description, unadorned by paint or picture. There is a bench at the side of the altar for the burgomaster and the alderman of Borgund; the rest of the congregation has to stand or kneel on the bare floor.

**A Moral Tribe.**  
In the whole world there is not a class of people to be found who inflict severer punishment upon themselves than the Caribs of Central America. Their religion, which is one of the most peculiar kind, demands self-punishment for sins intentionally or unintentionally committed. The punishment takes the form of starvation and close confinement.

If the sin be in the form of a lie, no matter whether it is calculated to injure another or not, the sinner goes without either food or drink for three days, at the end of which it is believed that the offender has paid the penalty for his or her sin.

Blaspheming and using bad language is punishable by absolute starvation for two days. Assault, drunkenness and other serious sins call for four days' starvation for one week, three days' starvation for the second week, two days' starvation for the third week and one day's starvation in the fourth week.

All sins are punished with starvation. For that reason crime is very low among the Caribs, who are among the best behaved and truthful people in the world.—Pearson's Weekly.

**The New Czarowitz.**  
In case of the death of the present Czar of Russia he will be succeeded



GRAND DUKE MICHAEL, (Brother to the Czar, and heir-presumptive to the Throne.)

by his brother, the Grand Duke Michael. He was born in 1878 and is the youngest son of the Dowager Empress.

# KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

## CIGAR OUTPUT.

The Total Number Manufactured in Pennsylvania Last Month Was 123,769,193—Lancaster District in the Lead.

A comparison of the output of cigars in the Lancaster district of Pennsylvania of July, 1899, and July, 1898, is interesting. Last month the number manufactured in this district was 52,882,263, as against 41,855,111 in July of 1898, a gain of 12,127,152. Last month's output in the third New York district, which is second to this district, was 42,811,969, as against 35,223,338 in July of 1898. The total number of cigars manufactured in Pennsylvania last month was 123,769,193.

The following persons were issued last week: George W. Kenny, Washington, \$3; Joseph M. Leach, Etna, \$5; Coleman Lewellen, Mount Morris, \$6 to \$11; John C. Garman, dead, Berling, \$14 to \$16; Daniel C. McGregor, Portico, \$6 to \$10; John P. Ferguson, Tracy, \$17 to \$24; William H. Van Tassel, Apollo, \$14 to \$21; Joseph M. Leach, Tippecanoe, \$9 to \$12; Anna Harrison, West Monroeville, \$8; Mrs. S. Bell, Allegheny, \$12; John A. Culbert, Jr., Shippensburg, \$14; Thomas H. Root, Crooked Creek, \$19 to \$15; Noah H. Lee, Pittsburg, \$6 to \$7; James B. Rankin, Plumville, \$8 to \$12; William L. McCullough, Blooming Valley, \$6; George Hahn, Soldiers and Sailors' home, Erie, \$6 to \$8; Thomas Sorrell, Ironsboro, \$10 to \$14; Mary E. Altman, Blairsville, \$8; Susan T. Foster, Pittsburg, \$8; Nancy J. Walker, Clarion, \$8; John M. Zundel, Stauffer, \$12; Benjamin Miller, Fortage, \$6 to \$12; Mary B. Gunn, West Findlay, \$8; Mary A. Bennett, Reynolds, \$8; W. H. McCann, Pittsburg, \$12; Ephraim L. Maynard, Clarion, \$8; James W. Malory, Allegheny, \$6; Henry K. Eicher, Fort Hill, \$8; Noah W. Hickey, Aleppo, \$6 to \$8; John W. Nickerson, Plants, \$8 to \$10; Andrew Stottler, Barbara, \$8 to \$12; Hugh A. Foreman, Blairsville, \$17; Susan Cartwright, Slippery Rock, \$8; Lewis Seely, father, Ellensburg, \$12; Nancy Miller, Indian Head, \$8; Alice Matthews, North East, \$8; Isabella Jones, Pittsburg, \$8.

Henry Laming, aged 22, son of Augustus Laming, a well-known farmer of near Wilkesbarre, met a horrible death Tuesday evening. He had been working in a field, and took his horses to the barn. He had just got inside and was unharmed when a lightning bolt struck the barn, setting it on fire and killing the horses. One of the horses fell over upon Laming, pinning him to the ground. His cries attracted the attention of the other farm hands, but by the time they reached the barn, it was completely enveloped in flames and they were powerless to render assistance. The structure was in ashes in a short time, and when Laming's body was found it was burned to a crisp.

The big wind storm Tuesday evening played a peculiar prank at the sawmill of Seano & Dewald, south of Irwin. A big tree was blown down and it struck the roof of the building, crushing it. The machinery and a wagon loaded were destroyed. W. E. Epley was standing on the end of a big plank at the time the tree fell. The other end of the timber was struck by the trunk of the tree and the saw was thrown 30 feet into the air. Fortunately he fell into a pile of sawdust and was not injured. Peter Holmes, an employe of the mill, was struck on the back by a flying piece of the tree and was seriously injured.

The heirs of the late John M. Carnahan of Sewickley township, near Greensburg, a bachelor who died recently leaving an estate valued at \$250,000, will make a fight in the courts for an effort to have the will set aside and to have the estate divided between the heirs equally. Among the heirs who are making the fight is Mrs. James M. Boyd, wife of Rev. J. C. Boyd of the Mt. Hope United Presbyterian church, Allegheny, who was a sister of Carnahan, and it is alleged that she was not given any portion of the estate.

At a hearing before Squire J. M. Cargle of Rochester, John Emrick and wife of Rochester township were found guilty last week of cruelty to the former's 11-year-old daughter and were sentenced to pay the costs of the prosecution, a fine of \$50 and have the child removed from their custody. Emrick and his wife were arrested by Constable Hughes on an information preferred by Humane Agent Frank M. Weidner, who, with the special agent at Pittsburg, investigated the case.

Charles D. Newhart, candidate for nomination for County Treasurer, died at his home near Saylorsburg on the evening of the election. The canvass has been exceedingly active, and it is supposed the excitement, together with financial trouble, caused his demise. The Sheriff sold the deceased's property while Newhart was in a dying state. Five suits are pending in the courts in which the dead man was defendant.

Jack Heenan, the oil well driver of Butler, whose escape from officers twice Thursday night resulted in a lively chase and considerable reckless shooting, as arrested at Gallery Junction by County Detective McMartin and jailed for a hearing. The girl hit by one of the bullets fired by the officers was Bell Purvis, but the wound which is in the ankle, is not dangerous.

Suit was entered at Butler a few days ago by Mary C. Brownfield to recover from Clearfield township \$10,000 damages. It is alleged that Mrs. Brownfield was permanently injured by driving over a 16-foot embankment on the road not properly protected by guard rails, fracturing her skull and laying unconscious in the snow until her feet were frozen.

The dry house of Samuel Dobbis's powder mill, near Shepperton, was completely wrecked by an explosion last week, and William T. Betzenberger, of Walnut Port, one of the proprietors, and Harry Jones, a powder-maker, were literally blown to atoms. There were several tons of powder in the building. The other buildings were wrecked.

It has been a question for some time what to do with a number of library books which belonged to the borough and which had been in charge of the Young Men's Christian association, recently disbanded. At a meeting of council the books were given to the Passavant Memorial Home for Epileptics.

Woodcutters are reported to have killed 350 to 400 large rattlesnakes at the Emery lumber camp, near Bellefonte, in the past six weeks.

William O. Boyle, an electric line man, while recarbing a lamp at Scranton, was shocked to death by touching a pole spike against which a live wire was in contact by reason of entanglement due to a storm.

Ignatz Slosser, a Slavish miner, in the employ of the Southwest Consolidated Coal Company, was killed by a fall of slate in the Red Top mine at Tarr station. He was married and leaves a family.

Grant Kelster, a freight brakeman on the Pennsylvania Railroad, was instantly killed by falling from his train at George Station hill, near Jeannette, the other night. He was aged 32 years and leaves a wife and five children.