

England and her colonies and dependencies buy from us now 60 per cent. of all we sell abroad.

In a recent lecture Henry A. Clapp, a Boston critic, held that the present status of the drama and the theatre in the English-speaking nations is low, both intellectually and morally.

The fad for large showwear which has attacked the men will doubtless be confined strictly to their own side of the sex problem. Femininity will still paddle along with its heel under its instep, as usual.

The link between modern literature and the modern drama is often stretched nowadays to the breaking point. A good play generally makes a good book, but a mighty good book often makes a mighty poor play.

America forced open the doors of the ancient empire of Japan, and then left the Japanese to shape their own fortune. As a result, we have an Asiatic nation capable of maintaining itself, whether in war or diplomacy, against all other nations.

A distinguished authority was asked the other day, what was the proper number of a good working committee. The reply was: "Three—if one is sick and another cannot come." That must not be regarded as an example of one man power, because the author of the statement was Clara Barton, who has exemplified it more than once.

In the one item of cotton and cotton manufacturers alone the South will find a market as great as that which it now enjoys in Europe and America should proper advantage be taken of the vast possibilities which open up to view as the result of throwing open the flowery kingdom to the commerce and industries of the world, states the St. Paul's Globe. Already the South has shown that it will not be many generations before she shall have become not only the greatest cotton producing country of the world, but also the greatest cotton manufacturing section of the United States.

It will be a good day for the country when there grows up an assumption that the politician is naturally high-minded, though conditions may at times cause him to act questionably, and that, freed from those conditions, his natural moral resiliency will cause him to soar, observes the New York Commercial Advertiser. Under a high moral public sentiment it is easier for men to be good than to be bad. In private life many a man leaves certain things undone, while committing other greater sins because some are what a gentleman would not do, and the others the sin of the gentleman. Thus any advance in public or political standard is hailed as a benefit, no matter what its immediate motive.

The naming of postoffices after military heroes has been a fad since the outbreak of the Spanish war, and is now beginning to die out; but after Deweys, Roosevelts, Schleys and Shafter's had dotted the Union, a flippancy Texas town with an admiration for the Rough Riders turned up a short time ago with a request that its postoffice be named "Teddy," which, after due deliberation, was done. On the same day a postoffice in Georgia varied the usual procedure of securing the names of the great and good by naming itself Quilp. The flippancy with which some towns brand themselves with opprobrious names is illustrated by Twobit, S. D. The town is probably worth more than that. Some of the names, however, evince a lively and poetic fancy, as Blue Ash, Ohio; Bonny Doon, Cal.; and Gallant Green, Md.

Fortunately for the industrious, that portion of humanity is relatively small that goes to jail during the winter months on a charge of vagrancy because assured of comfortable lodging and plenty to eat. Small as is this element, the burden to the community at large of these laziest of drones amounts annually to thousands of dollars. The main trouble appears to be that jails have become so comfortable as actually to invite the shiftless and idle to become residents therein when the inclement season begins. A Western judge has adopted the plan of sending professional tramps and vagrants to jail for fifteen days with a rigid bread and water diet. It is said that within a week they beg to get out, promising never to return to the city again, and that the jail, instead of being filled to overflowing, has very few inmates. If this practice were followed with strict impartiality in each city, an army of able bodied and lazy men might feel that they had a call to do something else than live off the industrious.

**SUCCESS.**  
(An Old Man Speaks.)  
I stand, at last, upon the lone and high—  
The purple-tinted peak that was my goal.  
The prize I used to dream of in the night—  
The lofty end on which I set my soul—  
Is mine to-day, and all the toil  
And all the schemes are done;  
But ebbing voices echo round  
The height that I have won!

**A LITTLE AND A BIG HERO.**  
BY REV. STRAUBER.  
RECENTLY my two cousins and I had I had come from school to my uncle's estate, pale and overworked. Now, brown as berries, we felt strong and mischievous.

The day was hot and suffocating. The air seemed to be laden with something more than the scent of new-mown hay and pine—a flavor so common on a July day in Northern Russia. The grown people said: "The atmosphere is impregnated with electricity," and although we boys of twelve, and thirteen years did not know what that really meant, we were sure that, sooner or later, a storm would come, for the old shepherd had said so, and he always told the truth.

In the afternoon a black cloud rose over the horizon in the northeast. An hour later a dark bank covered half the sky, and we heard the far away rumbling of thunder. Rain began to fall in large drops and we, standing on the grass-covered porch, amused ourselves in watching the chickens run, the ducks dive in the pond, the workmen hurry home and the cattle rush for the stables.

An unexpected clap of thunder made us jump, and we quickly obeyed the call of my aunt to come into the house, as we had no desire to stay outside any longer.

It grew darker and darker. The fiery zigzags of the lightning threw a yellow tint upon the people and furniture in the room, and the thunder following quickly on the flashes made the old mansion quiver to its foundations.

A blinding flash, with a deafening crash almost at the same instant, seemed to make the old castle sway. "Surely that struck somewhere near," said my uncle, jumping to his feet and stepping to the window. "Yes, it is Michael Kubarkin's hat just across the river," he exclaimed. "I must go at once and see that the fire is put out." He turned to us, "Boys, you had better come along. I may need you."

No need to ask us twice. We felt overhonored to be allowed to be of use at such an important moment. In an instant we were in our high boots and rubber coats, and started for the fire.

About twenty peasants stood around the burning house, lamenting and praying, but not one offering to lend a helping hand.

"Quick," called my uncle, "Take some buckets; form a chain; try to put out the fire."

"Your Lordship," said one of the men, "lightning struck this house. Only milk will put out the flame."

"Obey me," thundered my uncle, "and get to work, or I'll put you on bread and water until you forget how milk tastes."

cross the open space or turn to the left and keep in the woods until I had got out of sight and reach of the enemy. It would have been just twenty miles more of muddy road. The dispatch was important and haste necessary, so I decided to move straight on.

We had hardly reached the open valley when a small cloud of smoke from the northern fort of Plevna told me that we had been seen and were now a target for the Turkish guns.

A short command from me brought my men into a line, so that the enemy had only one man to aim at. We were moving at full speed toward the protecting timber on the other side.

The first shell fell short; the second burst fully a thousand yards behind us; the third was "dead," and passed fifty feet in front of us.

We were almost in the shade of the tall pines when I heard a terrific crash and lost my senses. I awoke very soon, with a stinging pain in my head. A man lay right over me. He was unbuttoning my uniform. The thought of "war byena" flashed through my mind. Cautiously I opened one eye—just enough to see who my assailant was. To my astonishment I saw it was one of my own men.

He had noticed my movement, and whispered: "Keep still; we are the only survivors."

"But, man," said I, "take the dispatch and get into safety."

"No," he whispered, "I shall cover your body with mine till help comes. The Turks will fire again as soon as they see one of us move. You remember the time you saved me from the burning house of Michael Kubarkin? Now is my turn to show that I have not forgotten that I owe my life to you."

A few minutes later came a little troop from the timber, with the flag of the Red Cross. Eleven men were buried on the spot, and I was taken back on a stretcher, having lost one eye and suffering from a broken jaw.

While the dead were being buried and the first bandages being put on me my brave soldier had disappeared, and one of the horses of the Red Cross command was missing.

When I was discharged from the hospital I recognized in the sergeant of my regiment, who was the first to congratulate me on my recovery, the soldier who had covered me with his body in the hour of danger. It was the boy I had dragged from the burning hut on my uncle's estate.—New York Independent.

**WISE WORDS.**

Learning unapplied is like seed put away to decay slowly on the shelf of indolence.

All a man has to do to obtain so-called social success is to put a fair value on himself, and live up to it.

Suspicion is the attribute of a weak nature. Respect all you meet till you have cause to do otherwise, and then avoid; do not condemn.

Humor is the electric light in the hall of literature. Wit is the flashlight, and sarcasm a torch darkened by the smoke of prejudice.

A touch of humor makes one a keener critic even of his own work. He that hath the salt may flavor life's stew as he pleases, and humor is the salt of life.

Great natures gain the sympathy of the world because we know instinctively that they will follow a simple, brave, direct course. It is the small nature which is unreliable.

To a person of force and talent self-repression cannot be too strongly recommended. Do not expend yourself on human brawls and passions; put your force in your work.

Keep your fire under the pot of life or literature. Smoke and prejudice don't improve any diet except to a diseased taste, while your wisdom and wit are proved in the chafing-dish of public opinion.

Talking of ghosts, and there are really many, the ghost of an evil life is its own better self, haunting the human house from which he is driven till the "black camel" kneels at its door and men whisper "He has given up the ghost."

A wrong unrepented is always a weight on our self-respect, but one atoned for is a height in whose shadow we may view with broader, nobler charity, and more sympathetic tenderness, the faults of others, extending them a help untried goodness could never give.

When you make a human being the recipient of so-called charity, you destroy his self-respect by placing him in the position of a beggar; whereas if you give him work, and pay him well for doing it, you make him honor himself as a wage earner capable of helping others instead of placing him under humiliating obligations to yourself.

**Balloon Used For Drying Clothes.**  
A Paris laundry has started a novelty in the drying and purifying of linen, and has succeeded in convincing most of its customers that the notion is a good one. The air about one hundred feet above the house tops is particularly good for linen, say the proprietors, and they accordingly send your shirts and collars for a balloon trip. Bamboo frames are attached to a captive balloon, and the linen, "rough dry," is fixed to the frames and sails away in the air. The balloon makes six ascents daily, and an extra charge is made for each article that undergoes the treatment.

**Japanese Humor.**  
The establishment of a Buddhist mission in this city for the purpose of enlightening the benighted Christian is something of a horse on the enterprising American missionary. Who now will say that the Japanese have no sense of humor?—San Francisco News Letter.

## FARM TOPICS

**Cut Bones For Dogs.**  
Use of cut bones for dogs makes the cost of keeping dogs but very little, as it will not be necessary to purchase meat. Of course any variety of food as an addition will be an advantage, but the cut bone will so greatly reduce the expense as to render any additional cost only a trifle, and one owning a bone cutter would probably find it profitable to cut bones and sell such reduced food to owners of dogs.

**Nest Eggs For Hens.**  
We have found in our experience that hens have a favorite nest and they will return to it to lay, nest egg or no nest egg, and when they become broody they seem to want to sit on the hay or anything the nest contains, eggs or no eggs. And we do not lose sight of the fact that a nestful of eggs is always inviting to a hen. She will enjoy adding another to the store and will leave the nest with her congratulations expressed in an audible manner.

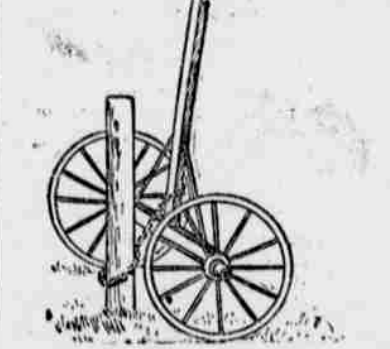
We would suggest that if nest eggs have to be employed that real eggs be not used for that purpose. All eggs that are to be sold should be gathered while fresh, and kept so until they are sold or used. If eggs were gathered frequently and not permitted to remain in the nests long, there would be fewer instances of hens eating eggs.—Iowa Homestead.

**The Limit in Dairying.**  
There are some who believe that the limit of the cow's productive capacity has been reached, and that the record-breaking animals can never hope to exceed what they have done already. As a rule, those who talk about the limit of the cow's capacity, and think that dairying cannot be further improved along this line, fail to consider often what is more important to them individually. Granted that the highest record for milk and cream has been scored, it would still be a fancy of the brain to imagine that the productive capacities of any number of cows have been reached. Where we find one cow that even begins to approach the limit of her capacity we see fifty that have not begun to climb upward. Dairying is thus far from its limit. It cannot approach such a limit until more than a majority of the cows on the dairy farms have been graded up to their highest standard, and the minority show some effects of the improvement.—American Cultivator.

**Pulling Up Fence Posts Easily.**  
Take the hind wheels and coupling-pole of a farm wagon and a chain with a ring, or better, a large hook at one end. Fasten the chain to the pole in

front of the axle in such a manner that when it is passed back over the axle and bolster the ring or hook will about touch the ground—a little longer or shorter, according to the size of the posts to be pulled up.

Now back the axle against the post, raise the coupling-pole toward the post, against which it may lean, place the chain like a noose around the post, slipping it down until tight. Next bring the pole forward to the ground. This will raise the post nearly a foot and generally fully loosen it. If the post is very deeply set or hard to pull out it may be necessary to repeat the process, slipping the noose further down. Back to the next post and repeat.—New England Homestead.



READY TO PULL THE POST.

**The Future of Agriculture.**  
The future of agriculture will be greatly influenced by the scientific study of matters pertaining to production. The coming farmer will have a better knowledge of atmospheric conditions as meteorology is better understood. He will understand the soil he cultivates, its derivations, its component parts, its relation to plants, and methods of cultivation, more accurately than ever before. He will comprehend where the zones of plant life lie and know definitely where each plant will do its best and produce its maximum. He will have more complete knowledge of what farmers throughout the world are doing, and this will enable him to determine the crops that promise best. He will know how to get the cheapest growth on his domestic animals by making more perfect pastures. He will have better roads, because he will understand how to use the road material with his reach. The growth of scientific research along bacteriological lines will enable him to eradicate the diseases that have infested his herds throughout the past history of the world. Extended and cheapened transportation will enable him to put the products of his skill in all foreign markets at the least cost and with the greatest expedition. He will have learned to observe more closely and experiment more extensively, each farm being a centre of research. Finally he will be educated as thoroughly as literary and professional men have been in the past, and he will be especially trained in the direction of his life work.—James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture.

## KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

**RELIGION CRAZED HIM.**

**Coal Lands in Armstrong County Are Soon to be Developed—Pensions Granted.**

Demented by a religious revival, Ebenezer Shelandine, living in South Shenango township, undertook to emulate Abraham's example by offering up his 12-year-old son on a rude altar. With a butcher knife the father inflicted two slight wounds, but the boy's screams attracted some hunters who reached the scene just in time to prevent a tragedy. Shelandine was seized and disarmed, and the boy was released, his clothes put on him, and he was carried to the house and a physician summoned. Shelandine expressed no regret for his action, and poured out his wrath on the hunters, saying they interfered with him in the discharge of a religious duty.

During the past week the following pensions have been granted: Philip Loudenslager, Chambersburg, \$8; Joseph Smith, Tiptonville, \$8; John Wolse, Pittsburg, \$6; Thomas McLanahan, Adamsville, \$8; Thomas M. Fleming, Shelocta, \$10 to \$17; Samuel B. Devere, Altoona, \$8 to \$10; Solomon Shumaker, Fairhope, \$10 to \$12; Jackson D. Stone, Meadville, \$6 to \$12; Robert B. Hunt, Eldred, \$8 to \$10; Samuel Clear, Shipping Port, \$6 to \$12; William E. Lutz, Braddock, \$6 to \$8; Nancy Miller, Top, \$8; Margaret E. Graham, East Brady, \$8; George Petty, Braddock, \$6; Charles F. Anderson, Webster, \$8 to \$10; Moses Trent, Somerset, \$6 to \$8; Philip F. Golden, Kittanning, \$6 to \$10; Charles H. Eldridge, Beaver Center, \$12 to \$17; John Ewing, Harmony, \$10 to \$17; C. P. Thomas, Pleasant Gap, \$16 to \$17; Edward B. Young, Monroeton, \$12 to \$17; William P. Fritchman, West Newton, \$6 to \$8; Levi McFadden, Sunville, \$16 to \$17; Sarah A. Kelly, Parkers Landing, \$8; minors of Ralph J. Young, Russell, \$18; William H. Walters, Allegheny, \$8; Andrew H. Ruffner, Purchase Line, \$8 to \$10; Henry Beitzel, Middlesex, \$6 to \$8; John Williams, Canton, \$17 to \$24; Benjamin Stover, East Hickory, \$8 to \$10; William Stevens, Tipton, \$8 to \$10; James K. Ward, California, \$8 to \$10; Nancy Chambers, Allegheny, \$8; Mary B. Hennessy, Dunbar, \$12; Oscar T. Chase, East Smithport, \$6; Henry Church, Waynesburg, \$6; George Runk, dead, Harrisburg, \$10; George Wineford, Pittsburg, \$10; Lewis F. Armbrust, Greensburg, \$14; Justus Gage Brockway, \$17; Joseph Moore, Point Marion, \$12; Levi Wattenbaugh, Top, \$12; Sarah C. Runk, Harrisburg, \$8; Elizabeth Switzer, Millintown, \$8; Caroline C. Bowers, Bennett, \$8; C. L. Campbell, Nelson, \$12; Armstrong Pross, Lewisburg, \$6; Henry Burk, Washington, \$8; Azariah H. Myers, Johnstown, \$8; John Quigg, Pittsburg, \$6; Alonza Powers, Chatham Run, \$6; Alexander Inger, Middletown, \$6; George M. Groff, Harrisburg, \$8; Thompson Piper, Blairsville, \$8; Abram F. Hawthorn, Brookville, \$8; Abram F. Smith, dead, Sherman, \$10; William H. Eberts, Shade Valley, \$17; Solomon Pogue, Mantalto, \$8; Charles Costill, Lewistown, \$12; William Walker, Upper St. Clair, \$8; Levi R. Brailier, Johnstown, \$10; Duane W. Sewell, Westleyville, \$8; Loretta B. Smith, Sherman, \$8; Mary M. Cook, Carlisle, \$8; William H. Payne, Nescopeck, \$8; Samuel Colson, Pittsburg, \$6; Emanuel Lhore, Advance, \$10; Jacob C. Arble, Ripple, \$10; John C. Hottenstein, Overton, \$8; Francis Bates, Tintsville, \$10; Harriet J. Stone, Edinboro, \$8; Mary Miller, Hornerstown, \$8; Margaret Schuster, Erie, \$8.

A crowd of the women students of Grove City College made a mild demonstration the other morning against the hour of commencing chapel. During this term the chapel begins at 7:20 a. m. which is before daylight, and the young people do not relish turning out of their beds before this time. This morning just before the last chapel bell rang a large number of the women students filed into the room, each one carrying a lighted lantern. They proceeded to their seats, holding the lanterns on their knees. The evident amusement of the other students embarrassed the members of the faculty, but President I. C. Ketter relieved them and turned the laugh upon the girls by aply choosing for the text of his morning discourse Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works." The lanterns will not likely appear again.

Options have been taken on about 1,000 acres of coal land on the farm of Mrs. M. J. Parker and surrounding territory at Cowansville, and it is said that within a fortnight work will begin on the mine openings. The property is on the line of the Buffalo, Rochester & Pittsburg railroad. The deal is said to be financed by Mr. Murray, of the Pine Creek Company, now operating at Mogro, on the Allegheny Valley railroad. Jacob Merwin and Oscar Bouch, of Adrian, have been the prime movers in the enterprise.

Jesse Spencer, formerly of Dubois, left Friday evening as the representative of a New Kensington company, having a gold claim on the American side of Prince of Wales island in the North Pacific ocean. The claim was located by James McSherry, who recently came home from a venture in prospecting tour in northern Alaska, being one of a party that founded Peavy, one of the outposts of civilization in that far country.

While D. S. Yoder and his wife and two children were driving to Johnstown their horses frightened at a cow and backed over a 75-foot embankment, the horses falling on one side of a sapling and the wagon on the other. While thus suspended help came and all were taken unhurt, although three of the occupants were pinned under the wagon. Their escape was considered miraculous.

Owing to the warm weather, farmers all over Fayette county have begun plowing for the spring.

At a meeting of the Pennsylvania State forestry commission, presided over by Gov. Stone, announcement was made that the State has purchased for forestry purposes 30,000 acres of land, of which 20,000 acres are on the headwaters of the Delaware river and the remainder on the Susquehanna watershed. The lowest price paid was 50 cents an acre, and the highest \$2 an acre. The State has an option on 40,000 acres more.

The Hallowe'en escapade by which the grand stand was burned and other damage done at Washington and Jefferson College, has been settled. It cost each student engaged in the prank \$4.75, the total being nearly \$500.

## FIFTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

**THIRTEENTH DAY.**

A spirited debate on the Philippine question occupied the attention of the Senate for nearly three hours. A bill creating three judicial districts for Alaska and for a revision of the laws of the United States applying to the territory. The financial bill was up for consideration.

Senator Penrose introduced a bill granting a pension per diem to all honorably discharged soldiers and sailors of the Civil War. A similar bill was introduced in the House by Representative Graham.

Senator Elkin, of West Virginia, introduced a bill appropriating \$25,000 for the establishment of fish ponds and fish hatcheries in West Virginia at such points as the United States fish commissioner may designate.

Senator Scott, of West Virginia, presented a petition from the West Virginia Women's Suffrage association asking that women be placed on the same political equality with the men in our new possessions.

**FOURTEENTH DAY.**  
Senator Cullom (Ill.) presented a petition signed by 3,200 colored persons asking for such legislation as will protect colored men of this country from the "barbarous practice of lynching and burning colored men." After two hours of debate the Samoan treaty was ratified without division. Mr. Gallinger, chairman of the committee on pensions, reported a bill repealing section 4116, revised statutes, so far as it may be applied.

**FIFTEENTH DAY.**  
House went into committee of the whole and resumed the consideration of the urgent deficiency here. A majority of the House Committee will report against seating Roberts.

The Senate agreed to take the final vote on the gold standard bill on February 15. After a recess of four days the Senate committee on privileges and elections resumed its investigation of the charges of bribery in the election of W. A. Clark, of Montana.

**SIXTEENTH DAY.**  
The pension appropriation bill, carrying \$145,245,250, was passed by the House. Representative Payne, of New York, introduced a bill to extend the customs and internal revenue laws of the United States over the island of Puerto Rico. The Nicaragua canal bill has been favorably reported in both Senate and House, and it is believed that it will be passed at this session. There is a disposition among members of Congress to change the law so that express companies and other corporations shall pay for the revenue stamps. A bill for the construction of a Philippine cable was presented.

**SEVENTEENTH DAY.**  
The conditions upon which trade relations between the United States and Puerto Rico are to be permanently established is receiving the attention of Congress and the administration. Majority and minority reports were made to the House from the committee on the case of B. H. Roberts, of Utah. The majority, consisting of Chairman R. W. Taylor and six other members, recommends that Roberts be excluded from taking his seat in the House. It represents that he is guilty of the plural marriages, that he defies the law and the decisions of the Supreme court and that he was elected as a Representative in offensive violation of the understanding by which Utah was admitted as a State.

The minority report, which is signed by Mr. Littlefield, Republican, Maine, and Mr. De Armond, Democrat, Missouri, argues that as Roberts was legally elected he must be sworn in, but that afterward he should be expelled, which would require a two-thirds vote.

**EIGHTEENTH DAY.**  
The Senate again resumed the Clark bribery case to-day. Acting on a resolution of Mr. Rawlins (Utah), the Senate proposes to discover means to prevent perjury.

Secretary Gage has sent to Congress an estimate of \$7,820,000 as the cost of collecting the customs during the next fiscal year.

Congressional committees have occupied much time hearing arguments regarding forms of government, customs, and revenue laws for Puerto Rico and the Hawaiian Islands.

In the executive session of the Senate to-day Senator Jones (Ark.) gave notice that at the next executive session he would call up his motion to reconsider the vote by which the Samoan treaty was ratified.

**House.**  
Gen. Albert D. Shaw, commander-in-chief of the G. A. R., and the pension committee of that organization, had a hearing before the House committee on invalid pensions on the bill to amend the act of June 27, 1890. Gen. Shaw spoke briefly, and the main arguments were made by Chairman R. E. Brown, of Zanesville, O., and Gen. Daniel E. Sickles, the old commander of the Third army corps. The principal feature of the arguments was that the law be made so clear as to be beyond the possibility of misconstruction. Some minor changes were proposed in the Gallinger bill and in the main its provisions were approved. Gen. Sickles added a vigorous plea for adequate attention by the government to the veterans.

**Christ a Constant Companion.**  
In setting out for the journey of the year, let us highly resolve to make it a better year than any of its predecessors, and let us adopt as our brief motto, Christ every day! Our loving Master emphasizes the adverb in that gracious assurance: "Lo! I am with you always." We think of Him as a Redeemer on communion Sundays; we think of Him as a Comforter when some terrible affliction befalls us, why not think of Him as a constant Companion? This is not a devout fancy, it is a delightful fact. And one reason to us from having the continual companionship of Jesus this year will be that every day will be a sabbath day. We need never miss the right road. We need never take a morally dangerous step. We never will be led astray. Our Divine Guide knows the whole pathway from the "City of Destruction" to the City of the Great King.—Theodore L. Carter, D. D.

Twenty years ago Edison gave the first public exhibition of his incandescent light in his laboratory at Menlo Park, which led to the establishment of the first system of electric lighting ever established.

The small, hard-shell known as the cowrie is still used in parts of India and Africa in place of coin. Whistles are used by the Finians, red feathers by some of the South Sea Islanders, and salt in parts of Abyssinia.