

AFTER THE BATTLE.

[After one of the late entries in Natal, an old Boer was found badly wounded, propped up among some rough boulders upon a kopje side; his rifle was laid idly by him, and the old man appeared to be waiting for death, and was quietly reading his Bible.]

Besieged by Panthers On a Canyon's Ledge.

EXPERIENCE OF A DISABLED HUNTER.

WE WERE hunting for big game among the Black Hills, and one day, when there were signs in the air of a coming snowstorm, I left camp on my own hook and wandered away for three or four miles. After an hour or two, as I stood resting beside a tree, a deer broke cover in front of me and only a pistol shot away. It was a fine buck, and he walked into the open as cool and unconcerned as if he had never thirsted for his life. I ought to have dropped him dead at that distance, but he fell at my fire, to get up and limp away, and, believing him to be wounded mortally, I followed at my best pace. The ground was rough and covered with young cedars, and, being a bit excited, I paid little heed to what was under foot.

Of a sudden I found myself falling, and, as I went down, I dropped my gun to clutch at the nearest branches. I went down 12 or 15 feet over the edge of a ravine, struck on my feet, and then plunged forward and brought up on a ledge or shelf about four feet wide by ten feet long. This shelf overhung a depth so black and dismal that I dared not wonder how far down it was to the tiny stream flowing over the rocks at the bottom. The ravine was about 15 feet wide, and directly opposite me, in a mass of rocks, was an opening which I knew at first glance to be the den of some wild animal.

presence must have been in the air, even though so faint they could not locate me. They snarled in anger and sniffed at the air, and it seemed to me as if both looked directly at me for several seconds. If they did so I was so buried under the snow that they failed to make out what sort of an object I was. They finally turned and disappeared in the cave, but were out of sight only a moment. When they reappeared the blind panther was with them, and the three scrambled up the rocks and disappeared in the forest. There had been a killing somewhere, and they had come to conduct him to the feast. Perhaps they brought to him food now and then, but he must have had to go with them for water.

KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

RURAL MAIL DELIVERY.

Washington County Will be the First in the United States to be Completely Covered by the Free System.

QUAINT AND CURIOUS.

Poisoning from overcoats is an unperceived danger, but no less than 60 cases have been reported among the street cleaners of Birmingham, England. On being wet the cloth, in the dyeing of which chloride of zinc had been used, gave off poisonous vapor, producing painful swelling of hands and arms.

A novel way of illuminating a railway tunnel has been devised in Paris. Reflectors throw the light from many electric lamps 16 feet above the rails to the sides of the tunnel, where it is again reflected by burnished tin, a soft and agreeable light. The trains automatically turn the current on and off in entering and leaving the tunnel.

One of the most remarkable lakes on the earth's surface is situated at Tar Point, on the Island of Trinidad, and bears the suggestive name of Pitch lake. At first view the surface of the "lake, which is not a lake," gives one the impression that it is a large body of placid water, but a closer examination proves it to be a vast plain covered with hard and hardening pitch.

Some years ago the dwellers of Cape Cod saw a remarkable sight—a party of men going fishing on horseback. A large school of black fish had run in shore, and to catch them the men mounted their horses, rode out into the shallow water and drove the demoralized fish up higher and higher until the beach was strewn with them. The fishermen made big profits on this catch.

Professor Hutchinson, F. R. S., reports the case of a lady who could not take tea because it made her feet cold and wet with perspiration. She thought that the soles were chiefly affected, and that the hands were also made cold, but not so markedly as the feet. Mr. Hutchinson had long been familiar with the fact that tea made the feet of some persons cold, but did not know that cold perspiration attended it. He believed the coldness to be caused by contraction of the arteries, inasmuch as the feet shrank.

In China the natives train certain birds to catch fish for them. The birds are taught to sit on the edge of a boat, each bird having a ring about its neck, and when a school of fish are seen they are released and immediately begin to fish. The speed with which these birds move under water is remarkable, and they destroy large numbers of fish. One of the most remarkable methods of fishing is seen in the Hawaiian Islands, where men go under water, net in hand, and, clinging to the rocks, scoop up the fish. This requires much endurance. Some of these fishermen, it is said, remain under water a minute and a half at a time.

FIFTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

Senate.

THIRTY-FIFTH DAY.

The financial debate in the Senate has reached its climax. Two speeches, one in favor of the pending Senate substitute measure and the other in opposition to it, were delivered. The first was delivered by Mr. Allison, of Iowa, the ranking member of the finance committee. Mr. Jones, of Nevada, made the reply.

THIRTY-SIXTH DAY.

The Senate substitute for the House currency bill passed the House by the decisive majority of 45 to 29. Prior to the final passage of the bill amendments were considered under the ten-minute rule. Only two of these amendments were adopted.

THIRTY-SEVENTH DAY.

The House session opened an announcement of the receipt of the currency bill from the Senate was made, and by unanimous consent the Senate amendments were disagreed to. The speaker appointed Messrs. Overstreet (Pop. Ind.), Brosius (Rep. Pa.) and Cox (Dem., Tenn.) conferees.

The House indulged in its annual joke of striking from the legislative appropriation bill the provision for the civil service commission.

The House Committee on Commerce decided, by a vote of eight to one, to report a Pacific cable bill along the lines of the Sherman bill, defeating the Corliss proposition for government ownership.

The House Committee on Military Affairs completed the army appropriation bill. It carries \$11,730,364, against \$80,680,104 in the bill for the current year.

In the Clark case McDermott testified that he spent \$22,000 on the legislature and senatorial elections, for legitimate expenses, most of the money being received from Clark's son, and after the election Clark gave him \$5,000 for his services.

In no department of human thought and endeavor has the temperance cause made more notable progress in recent years than in that of medical science. Alcohol is no longer regarded as a panacea for all human ills, as they were years ago, but is fast being excluded from medical practice generally.

Life's Uncertainty an Incentive.

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures. That sentence sums up the whole Bible. The four gospels teach us that Christ died, and the rest of the New Testament that he died for our sins. And the Scriptures—i. e., the Old Testament—were in some mysterious fashion, by type, by allegory, by ethical and spiritual teaching, destined to prepare the human race for the truth that the New Testament was revealed, that Christ died for our sins.

FARM TOPICS

Mutton and Wool.

The shepherd who feeds to produce good mutton and good lambs will not only get good wool in addition thereto, but will increase his production. It is the well-fed sheep that grows a good fleece. Careless feeding or irregular feeding produce wool uneven in fibre, or with weak places in it, so that we have heard an old wool buyer say that by looking at the wool he could tell about at what stage of its growth the sheep had been poorly fed or had been sick. This then is a better way to increase the wool crop than to change the breed to something that will not have as good lambs or make as good mutton.—Boston Cultivator.

Preventing Freezing in Cellars.

There are times when it seems almost impossible to prevent vegetables from freezing in the cellar. Of course, having doors and windows tight and a banking around the walls on the cold sides does much to prevent this, but when that "coldest day since we can remember" comes unexpectedly, as it does so many times, the chances are that many are not well prepared for it. A small oil stove, or even one or two lanterns, lighted and burning, will do much to give a warmer temperature, and one or two tubs of water put down there will do nearly as much. The first throw off an active heat and the water a latent heat. Not until the water is frozen will anything else freeze there. Set the stove or lanterns on the bottom of the cellar, as heat rises, and see that they cannot set fire to anything.

Food For Young Pigs.

While there can be no better food than skim milk with shorts or middlings mixed in it for young pigs which do not get enough milk from the sow, if the milk is scarce water may be used instead, and if it is given about blood warm, they will grow all the faster in cold weather. At first the slop should be quite thin, that they may suck it down as if it were clear milk, but as they grow older it may be made thicker. We would not add cornmeal to it unless we wanted them to stop growing and begin to fatten. This extra feed not only helps the growth of the pigs, but makes it much better for the sow, and she will be in fair breeding condition when she weans them. Never allow the slop to get sour or even stale, and feed no more than they will eat up clean.

Getting the Load Over the Wheel.

To make a wheelbarrow's load by and large have a somewhat smaller, wide-tired iron wheel and put up in position beneath the barrow, as shown in the cut. The body can be raised a trifle higher than usual, thus giving more room below, and therefore a larger wheel. Here the load can all be placed on the wheel, making the

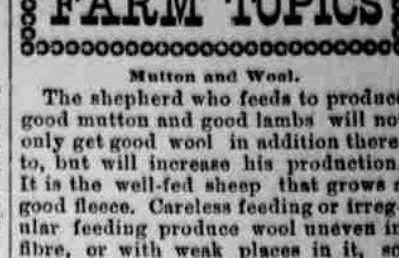
work much easier for the user, for in the ordinary barrow the load is all between the two points of support—the wheel and the man's hands. If a large load is taken in the ordinary barrow the man will have to lift about half of the load. In the case of the implement shown herewith almost the whole of even a larger load, when the handles are raised, will be balanced above the wheel.—New York Tribune.

Simple Ways to Success.

Successful management does not consist in the kind of feed nor in the particular method of feeding, but the main point is to keep the hen busy and comfortable. The exercise of scratching will keep them in the best condition to produce eggs. In winter the floor of the poultry house should be kept covered deep with litter, and oats or wheat scattered. This litter, of course, must not be allowed to remain too long in the house, but should be renewed, as cleanliness is the best medicine.

The roosts should be made as near the floor as possible, say one and a half feet, and be removable, so as to be easily cleaned and washed with some good insect preventive, such as oil of tar, or even lime whitewash. Keeping hens in small flocks pays best, say sixteen to twenty-four in each house; good, warm houses are, of course, necessary. Most farmers lose more than they gain by being too economical with their fowls, especially in winter. Oats fed to laying hens, managed right, will bring the farmer in eggs sixty cents to seventy cents, and wheat ninety cents to \$1 per bushel, but clover, scalded, fed to hens will save bushels of grain and make more eggs. In cold weather parch or boil corn or wheat when feeding to the poultry. Milk, lean meat and cut green bone are egg producers. Have regular hours to feed, and in winter give them water. Peach trees should be planted within the poultry enclosure, and running water furnished whenever possible.—J. G. Allhouse, in American Agriculturist.

VERY CONVENIENT WHEELBARROW.



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