

The only proper place for the practical joker is the "dangerous" ward of an insane asylum.

"The tuppenny tube" is the designation Londoners have given the new electric underground railroad, which up to the present has proved very popular indeed.

It is said that the average age of women at the international congress in Paris was below 30. The showing was made on the testimony of the women themselves.

"Death reduces all to a common level." The Galveston disaster verified the above saying. The millionaire and the pauper were seen working side by side in ministering to the necessities of the dead.

Why is it that every young woman who takes a higher degree at one of our universities cannot rest easy at night till she has written a thesis to demonstrate that woman is not the mental inferior of man? Men never waste any time arguing that they are superior to women. The women do it all.

The French court of cassation has now before it a libel suit arising out of the battle of Waterloo, certainly one of the most curious cases on record. A recently published history having said that Count de Bourmont deserted to the enemy in the famous battle, the nobleman's descendants have taken action against the author for his aspersion upon the count's memory.

The German laws regulating the sale of poisons are very strict. Until these laws were enacted it was quite easy to obtain mineral and vegetable preparations of all kinds at any drug store and the number of suicides from poison reached alarming proportions. Now chemists are not permitted to sell even the poisons required in the process of manufacturing certain legitimate products without a physician's prescription. This is a good thing for the doctors. Even a physician is inhibited from leaving around poisons in bottles or cases in his rooms. He must provide a locked cupboard or suffer fine and even imprisonment.

The refinement of cruelty is reached in the treatment of Gaetano Bresci, the assassin of King Humbert of Italy. He is confined to the Parto-Serrgis castle in a coffin-shaped cell that permits him neither to lie down nor sit down. In an absolutely dark cell, where the sun never penetrates he will stand with bound hands and stretched limbs where the vermin will always be crawling at him. To Americans "life imprisonment" means a steady, slow decay physically and mentally, but the Roman law translates it differently. A life sentence means "death with torture indescribable on the way to execution," and therein madness lies.

When a point is made of the corruption and depravity that flourish in the city, it should be recalled that good reforms, great philanthropic enterprises, and far-reaching movements for civil progress commonly start in the cities, observes the New York Observer. The city is really just what the people in the city make it to be. It is true that moral extremes are accentuated in metropolitan life, but the average city man is probably the peer of the average man of the country, and it is the average people everywhere who give color and tone to society. Methods may change, society may redistribute itself about new centers as time passes, but the enduring problem is how to make a better society by making better men.

Now that hazing is being dealt with as a species of elemental savagery rather than an ebullition of harmless boyish spirits, the time is ripe for the punishment and suppression of the practical jokers—women as well as men. Numerous instances have been printed of late of the discomfort and injury inflicted by these would-be funny persons, but in two items of news published on one day recently death was recorded as the direct result of practical jokes. A woman of Chicago substituted a big wax doll for her sister's infant. When the stiff body with closed eyes and waxed face was put into the young mother's arms she fell in a faint and died the next day as a direct result of fright. The other item related the death of a child in Rochester from convulsions caused by terror at a woman in a hideous mask, who shrieked, "Now I've got you! I will take you away!" It is about time to deal drastically with such jokes.

**LOVE.**  
Life comes, life goes, brief hours and days  
Consume its scanty breath;  
Love comes but once, and henceforth stays.  
He knows nor life nor death,  
Who deem they once have known love's shape,  
And seen the phantom go,  
Have seen a mime love's aspect ape,  
They never saw love—no!  
—Grace Ellery Channing.

## Wild West Story.

In the country of the great Apache nation, the savage lords of Northern Mexico, by the clear swift waters of the Gila river and within the shadows of the wooded sides of the bold-peaked, crooked White Mountain range, a small band of daring, white-skinned adventurers were encamped.

The camp was on a little island in the center of the stream.  
Few white men had set foot within that valley; fewer still had lived to tell of it; and yet the little band—six, all told—lounge as carelessly by the river, as if they were in civilization's center, instead of being intruders upon the domain of the bravest race of savages that tread the soil of North America.

Could it be possible that they knew not their danger? Were they not aware that the red Apache braves guarded their hunting grounds with all the jealousy of the Eastern monarch watching over his hundred wives?  
Had they not seen the thin columns of smoke stealing upward on the clear mountain air from hilltop after hilltop while they were penetrating farther and farther into the wilderness? Did they not know that the smoke columns told every redskin within sight that a foe was advancing and warned the savage braves to prepare for blood and slaughter?

Yes, the adventurers knew their danger only too well; cool and hardy mountain men were they, well used to the custom of the Indians, and not apt to run heedlessly into danger.

They knew the risk and boldly took the chances. A golden vision led them onward, and blindly they followed.

There were rough Ben Todd, little Montana Mike, swarthy Dick Peters, the Kentuckian; old, burly Mountain Ned, the trapper; huge-bearded John Ouderdonk from Frisco and slender, handsome Spanish Charley.

"How much farther?" asked Mountain Ned, thoughtfully glancing up at the mountain peak that frowned down upon the little camp.

"One more day's march and we will strike the mine," Spanish Charley replied.

"Are you quite sure there is no mistake about the location?" the old mountain man asked, his face grave and his whole manner giving proof of great anxiety.

"Not a doubt of it," the young man replied, gayly. "From two different parties I have received descriptions of the place, and I think you will own that I have exhibited a pretty knowledge of the country so far."

"Yes, but we're running an awful risk," the old trapper observed, soberly. "The Indians are hovering around us, thicker'n' skeeters in a blackberry patch. The first thing we know, they'll try to lift our ha'r."

"Did the Indians tell you of this mine?" demanded the Kentuckian, abruptly.

"Yes; perhaps you remember that I had a little Injun wife about a year back," Spanish Charley said, with a laugh. She was a pretty little thing. I picked her out of the Gila one day when her pony had upset her into the drink, and, to make a long story short, she took a notion to your humble servant and left her tribe to live with me. She came of good blood, too; her father was the old chief of the White Mountain Apaches. She told me about the rich placer by the bend of the Gila and how the warriors of her tribe dug out the red metal to make bullets for their guns. It must be rich stuff, and pretty pure, too, for she always said it was more red than yellow and that her people always termed the slugs red bullets."

"What ever became of her?" little Montana Mike asked suddenly.

Spanish Charley appeared confused and hesitated a moment.

"Well, to come to the rights of the matter," he said, slowly, "we had some hot words one night when I came home late from a fandango and I just gave her a couple of cracks so as to let her know who was boss of the shanty, and she got so mad about it that she went right off and drowned herself in the river."

Then an awkward silence fell upon the party for a few minutes.

"That was rough," the old mountain man observed at last.

"Yes; and the worst of it was that all her tribe accused me of murdering her," Spanish Charley said.

"And didn't none of 'em try to square the account?" the Frisco sharp, John Ouderdonk, asked.

"You bet!" responded the bereaved husband, tersely. "One copper-colored imp lay for me and plugged me with a slug—a regular red bullet, too; that she is," and Charley drew the rudely formed and now flattened slug from his pocket. "The wound didn't amount to much, though, but the will was good enough."

"And who else told you of this mine?" asked rough Ben Todd, an old and experienced miner.

"A drunken buck that I came across

at Maricopa Wells; he was wonderfully free-spoken, for an Injun."

"And did he describe the same mine as the girl?" asked the old trapper.

"To an iota," Charley replied.

"Hush! To cover!" the Kentuckian said. "There are Indians yonder!"

The whites at once took shelter in the little clump of timber that grew upon the island's center.

Then from the clump of timber at the foot of the mountain range a single Indian advanced, while the underbrush seemed alive with the dusky faces.

Straight to the bank of the river came the brave, his arms extended, showing that he was weaponless, except the broad-bladed knife that he held in his right hand.

"He wants a talk," the trapper exclaimed. "We're in a regular hornet's nest, and we must fool him if we can."

The Indian halted at the edge of the water. He was a tall, young brave, muscular and powerful.

"Will the white brave, Spanish Charley, step out and fight the brother of the Indian girl that he killed?" cried the chief speaking in excellent English.

Spanish Charley started and turned pale.

"The Apaches make a fair offer; they do not wish to shed the blood of their white brothers. They have nothing worth taking, and the Apache lodges are full of white scalps now. Let Spanish Charley step out, and if he kills the Apache chief in fair fight he is free to depart with his braves."

"If you're afeared, Charley, I'll tackle the Injun for you," the Kentuckian remarked.

The taunt stung the guilty man and he started to his feet.

"No living man ever saw Spanish Charley show the white feather yet!" he cried, boastfully. "I'll cut the heart out of this red dog inside of five minutes, and send him to join his proud-backed sister. Come on; I'm ready for you!" he cried, stepping down to the water's edge, knife in hand.

The Indian pointed to a sandy bar about 200 yards down the stream.

"Let the white chief meet the Apache brave there," the warrior said.

Spanish Charley nodded his head, and throwing off his outer garments, plunged at once into the water.

The Indian followed his example. The redskin was not encumbered with clothing, being naked to the waist.

The combatants reached the island, both at the same time, and as Spanish Charley emerged from the water at one side, the Indian's tall form came up on the other.

Knife in hand, the foemen glared upon each other. With the cautious movement of two angry tigers, they circled around, each striving to obtain the advantage.

Suddenly the Indian made a spring forward; the white assumed the defensive to parry the expected blow, but it was but a feint upon the part of the Apache; for as Charley raised his arm to parry, he uncovered his chest, and the Indian, improving the opportunity, launched his knife full at the heart of the white, throwing the weapon with all the skill of the Eastern juggler.

Through Spanish Charley's white flesh and keen blade cut its way until it split his heart in twain.

With a hollow groan the unfortunate man threw up his arms and sank down dead, all in a heap.

A shrill cry of triumph came from the throat of the Apache as he sprang forward and tore the warm and reeking scalp from the head of his fallen foe.

Again the note of triumph rang on the air, as the brave stood erect and dangled the curly locks, Spanish Charley's pride in the air; and from the cover of the hills a hundred throats echoed the cry of triumph.

And then, all in a moment, the shout of joy changed into a wail of horror.

The rifle of Montana Mike spoke, and its ball drilled a round, red hole in the temple of the victor.

"He was my pard, boys," cried the Irishman, in answer to his comrades' remonstrances.

The whites expected a terrible fight for life; but contrary to their expectation, the savages did not attack.

The Apaches thirsted for revenge, but feared the death-dealing rifles; besides, no booty could be got.

When nightfall came, the whites withdrew from the island and fled down the river, hotly pursued by the Apaches; but they made Fort Goodwin in safety. And to this day Montana Mike exhibits the red bullet, and tells the terrible story of the redskin's vengeance.—New York News.

**Baby's Head Was "Wobbly."**

She is a very little girl, only 5 years old, but in the short period of her few years she has enjoyed a large experience of life with dolls of all kinds and descriptions, who, in the course of their existence under her loving but not always kind ministrations, have undergone many vicissitudes. So the little 5-year-old, when there came a real live baby into the house, felt herself to be something of a connoisseur in children. When it was put into her arms, this real live baby, she regarded it with a critical air.

"Isn't that a nice baby?" cried the nurse with the joyous pride with which a nurse always regards a new baby, in which she feels that she has a proprietary interest.

"Yes," replied the little girl hesitatingly, "it's nice, but it's head's loose."

—New York Times.

There are said to be at least 5207 motor cycles in France, on which the annual tax has been paid.

## FARM TOPICS

**How Lime Should Be Used.**  
Lime should always be in the finest possible condition before broadcasted on land. Under no circumstances should it contain lumps. It is also better to haul the lime to the fields and scatter it from the wagon instead of making piles of lime in the fields.

**Cabbages as Food For Poultry.**  
The small and inferior cabbages are valuable as food for poultry, and will be highly relished in winter, when green food is scarce. They are easily handled, as the heads require no cutting, the fowls picking them to pieces and consuming them down to the stalks.

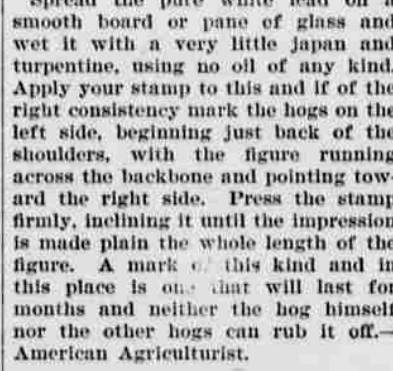
**Bees Need Pure Water.**  
Bees need pure water just as much as any stock on the farm needs it. It is very disgusting to see bees hovering over a pool of water, the very stench of which forbids approach to it. However, the bees must carry water to their young brood, and if their negligent keeper fails to provide better water, they are forced to bring in what they can find. Water can easily be supplied to the bees. All that is necessary is to put something in the trough of water to prevent the bees from being drowned. Of course a running stream is better than anything else, but this article is addressed to those who are not so situated.

**Duck House and Food.**  
The duck house, if properly built, will have two apartments, one for feeding and the other for roosting. It should be perfectly dry, and the roosting apartment well littered with dry straw. The fence to restrain ducks need not be over two feet high. In feeding it must be remembered that ducks do not have a crop, as chickens have; hence they should not be given much hard food. They commence to lay from January 1 to April 1, according to food and care, and a duck will average about 100 eggs a year. Some lay considerably more than that. During the fall and winter, corn meal, wheat bran and vegetables—the larger portion of the ration being vegetables—may be fed. Scald the meal and bran and mix them with mashed boiled potatoes. When nearing the laying season, let meat comprise about fifteen per cent. of the ration.

**Marking Sale Hogs.**  
Ear marks or tags are of very little value in marking hogs for public sales, as they cannot be readily seen. Paint is objectionable for many reasons. The best plan is to stamp the number with a stencil, using white lead for this purpose. A set of ten numbers may be made in this way: From a half-inch board cut ten blocks three by four inches in size and from broom handles cut ten pieces four inches longer. Nail a block to the end of each handle. The figures are cut from the leg of a felt-lined rubber boot, so that they will measure a little less than three inches wide and four inches high and so that the face of the letter will be one-half inch wide. Tack these on each block of wood with the felt side out using plenty of small tacks three or four ounces in size.

Spread the pure white lead on a smooth board or pane of glass and wet it with a very little Japan and turpentine, using no oil of any kind. Apply your stamp to this and if of the right consistency mark the hogs on the left side, beginning just back of the shoulders, with the figure running across the backbone and pointing toward the right side. Press the stamp firmly, inclining it until the impression is made plain the whole length of the figure. A mark of this kind and in this place is one that will last for months and neither the hog himself nor the other hogs can rub it off.—American Agriculturist.

**Hand-Operated Stump Puller.**  
A stump-puller which can be easily operated by one man and which will do its work without straining the user will always have a ready sale in the farming districts and new land of the country, and the device which we show in the picture seems to have these advantages to recommend it. It has been patented by Theodore H. McCann, of Washington State, and is light enough to be carried on the shoulder of the man who operates it. As will be seen the connection between the stump and a solid tree or more frequently set stump is made by means of ropes and pulley to the winding drum. This winding drum has external teeth over which the links of the chain fit to prevent slipping, affording a much firmer hold than if the ropes were wound directly on the drum. A long lever is used to rotate the drum and a ratchet device locks the drum against backward revolution while a new hold is being taken with the lever. By working the lever back and forth the chain is gradually drawn through the drums until the stump rofts give away.



STUMPS REMOVED WITH LITTLE EXERTION

## SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Dr. F. Larroque reports to the French Academy of Sciences that his studies of the action of sounds upon the human ears prove that the auditory apparatus of each ear operates independently of the other. This appears to have a bearing upon the question whether the loss of hearing by one ear exercises an injurious effect upon its mate.

The Superintendent of Yerkes Observatory, G. W. Ritchie, has recently perfected a device which renders it possible for astronomers to use the ordinary visual telescope for photographic astronomy. The device consists of a color screen that can be adjusted to the lens of a powerful telescope, thus adapting it for photographic use.

In the little furnace by which Goldschmidt obtains a temperature of over 2000 degrees Centigrade, the fuel is aluminum mixed with iron rust, and this is ignited by a shellacked bead of the aluminum (which is pulverized, of course) and peroxide of barium, into which a piece of magnesium wire is inserted. There is scarcely a metal known that cannot be reduced in this furnace. The containing vessel may be of wood lined with sand and the heat can be regulated by varying the quantity of the mixture.

According to an English expert diamonds are in process of formation in Hawaii. He spent much time and some money following up the first indications that attracted his attention. In many respects, he says, the formation here is like that of the diamond fields of Kimberley. But after researches extending over several months he came to the conclusion that, while the formation there is like that in which diamonds are found, the process has not yet gone far enough, but is still going on, and that in the course of 100,000 years or so Hawaii will be a great diamond field.

A new process for the production of nickel has been announced by the French Metallurgical Society. The object of the process is to obtain pure nickel in two operations only, starting from the nickel matte. In the first operation the nickel is treated in the Maubert converter, the iron being thus totally removed, and a crude sort of pig nickel obtained, which contains about three per cent. of sulphur. In the second operation the crude nickel is placed in an open hearth furnace, and by special desulphurizing agents the sulphur is removed and pure nickel obtained.

Materials and machinery to carry on the petroleum industry have recently been imported into Japan on quite an extensive scale as a result of the discovery of new oil fields in the province of Echigo. In Kashiwazaki, the city nearest to the new fields, seventy producing and thirty refining companies have been started and a number of drilling companies organized to put down wells by contract for owners. Japan consumes annually about 60,000,000 gallons of refined petroleum, of which amount about one-third is produced by local refiners. This shows a marked increase over the ratio of the native and foreign product a year ago, which was then one to ten. The present daily product of petroleum in Japan is stated as follows: The Nagamine and Kamada (new) fields, 2400 barrels; the Nagoaka and Mitsu Eastern) fields, 1000 barrels; minor fields in other provinces, 600 barrels; total, 4000 barrels.

**Australia Wants Domestic Help.**  
The British Women's Emigration Society offers free passage to Western Australia and profitable places when they have arrived there to good, strong domestic servants. But it advises servants who are seeking light places, with no scrubbing, a regular evening out, as well as all day Sundays, to bide by the mother country. Women who want Paris gowns, grand pianos and "at home" days are also cautioned against availing themselves of the advantages of travel offered. Strong, practical women, who are willing to work hard and take the rough with the smooth, are the ones wanted. Wages are high, but the work is apt to be hard. New Zealand is also calling for domestic help, and intelligent women who will become companion helps are at a premium in Canada.

**"He Was My All."**  
Baron Von Kettler was shot through the head. Word was sent at once to the Tsungli-Yamen and they only found the two chairs, badly crushed. The interpreter saw the Minister shot and saw him fall. It fell upon me to bear the word to his sweet young American wife. They had been married three years.

She said: "I have lost all, and in a strange land. He was my husband, my mother, my brother, my children, my all, and he is swept from me." I helped her pack some things and we went together to the British Legation. —From Mrs. Conger's story of the German Minister's murder, in a letter to a friend.

**Worthy of His Hire.**  
A stranger got off the car, and, accosting a newsboy asked him to direct him to the nearest bank.

"This way," said the newsie, and, turning the corner, pointed to a skyscraper just across the street.

"Thank you, and what do I owe you?" said the gentleman, pulling a penny out of his pocket.

"A quarter, please."

"A quarter! Isn't that pretty high for directing a man to the bank?"

"You'll find, sir," said the youngster, "that bank directors are paid high in Chicago."—Chicago Tribune.

## KEYSTONE STATE NEWS CONDENSED

### PENSIONS GRANTED.

Largest Chain Ever Made in Western Pennsylvania—Desorier Fagan Elected to be a Former Resident of Westmoreland Co.

The following persons were granted pensions last week: Samuel S. Wilson, Clarion, \$8; Jacob F. Masonheimer, New Castle, \$7; Samuel M. Fullerton, Clearfield, \$7; William M. Officer, New Castle, \$7; Alexander Glenn, Dayton, \$4; Margaret P. Depp, Punxsutawney, \$4; Robert A. Travis, Tarentum, \$5; James E. Reeder, Altoona, \$12; Frank H. Nold, Carnegie, \$8; David Kirkpatrick, Indiana, \$2; Amanda M. Ford, Greenville, \$8; William L. Messenheimer, New Kensington, \$17.

The Sharon Steel Company has leased over 3,000 acres of coal and limestone property near Volant and Leeburg, and has located a four-foot vein of fine coal. It is said that enough coal could be mined in this district to supply every industrial concern in the Shenango valley for the next century, and then not exhaust the supply. Work on the new road will be started soon and a force of 400 men will commence grading at once. The proposed line will be 30 miles long and will run from the steel plant of the Sharon Steel Company through Mercer and Lawrence counties to Brown's school house in Butler county. The railroad will be used exclusively for hauling coal and limestone.

The largest chain ever manufactured in Western Pennsylvania will be completed in a few days for the Red Star Steamship Company, of Philadelphia. The chain will be made of steel links 2 1/2 inches in diameter and will be 200 feet long, weighing over 10,000 pounds. The chain was constructed by the Chilcote-Evans Chain Company of Allegheny.

David Fagan, the American who deserted from the Twenty-fourth infantry and joined the Filipinos with the rank of general, is believed to be a former resident to Penn., in Westmoreland county. He is thought to be a brother of George Fagan, recently sentenced to the penitentiary for robbery.

A bitter fight is on between the Apollo Water Company and the citizens of that town. The claim is made that the water supply is furnished direct from the Kiskiminetas river without any attempt at filtration, and that the acids and refuse from the paper mills and other manufacturing plants along that river and its tributary streams are responsible for an epidemic of typhoid fever and kindred diseases.

The Pittsburg Plate Glass Company struck gas on the Gaston farm, near Punxsutawney, in the Bradford sand, at a depth of 2,500 feet. The pressure is 175 pounds. The same company has another well with about the same pressure on the Lettie farm, and if they get gas in paying quantities it will be piped to Kittanning, where that company is erecting a large gas plant.

Trouble at the Freeland silk mill at Hazleton by the refusal of the company to discharge a foreman whose father worked during the coal strike, has culminated in the arrest of the strikers. They were placed under \$200 bail each for court on complaint of three girls who remained at work, and who allege that while on their way to the mill they were assaulted.

The will of the late Frank Williams, of Johnstown, which covers an estate variously estimated at from \$300,000 to \$400,000, after mentioning a few minor bequests, leaves the residue to Lehigh university, at South Bethlehem, to create the Frank Williams fund, the income of which may be loaned to poor and deserving students.

Big Bald Knob, standing on the border line of Bradford and Somerset counties, 3,000 feet above sea level, has been ascertained by E. Mattley, a Pennsylvania railroad engineer, to be the highest point in Pennsylvania. Mr. Mattley has furnished his survey to the government engineers, having in charge the new geological map of the State.

The American Bridge Company has landed another good contract for one of its local plants. The contract calls for 800 tons of structural steel for the erection of a foundry and blacksmith shop for the North German Lloyd Steamship Company at Bremen, Germany. The work has been assigned to the Keystone bridge works, Pittsburg.

After the leasing of 10,000 acres of land in Blair county and the expending of thousands of dollars in fruitless boring for oil, the promoters of the undertaking have abandoned their operations. The capitalists back of the project were from Johnstown, Pittsburg and Clarion county.

The Shenango furnace at Sharon, which was idle on account of a strike, has resumed operations. Judge S. H. Miller, who granted a preliminary injunction, said: "If it costs every dollar in the county treasury and every man in Mercer county, we will protect the humblest man who wants to work."

Harry Lenwood, a prisoner at the Western penitentiary, died at 9:10 Monday morning from typhoid fever. He was sent to the penitentiary from Clinton county on September 27, 1898, for a term of eight years, having been convicted of burglary and larceny. He was 26 years old when received.

Work has been commenced on the erection of a new decorating glass plant in Uniontown. The main building will be a two-story frame structure 110x140 feet, and will cost about \$8,000. The company was recently organized there. It is expected to have the factory in operation in a few months.

O. J. Reed, an ex-councilman of Shamokin, who was recently convicted of conspiracy in connection with the paving contracts and admitted to bail pending a decision of the court for a new trial, disappeared.

The board of elders of the Presbyterian Church are indicted by a grand jury of hoodlums for non-payment of taxes from the church and placed in its stead.

The board has offered \$100 for the arrest and conviction of the vandals.

The mine workers firm of Crawford & Co. has about 50 men, quit work on Brook strippings and main out until they get to 100 per cent, which they grant.