

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

The mortality of the globe is said to be 67 every minute, 97,790 every day, or 83,980,835 every year. The births amount to 100,000 every day, 36,792,000 every year.

The recent order issued apparently by the Swiss government to expunge the story of William Tell from the school books was bogus. The myth is to be retained, even although it is only myth. Happening only in some fertile imagination, it is an exquisite protest of liberty against tyranny.

The rabbit pest in New Zealand is unabated. The efforts put forth for the extinction of the nuisance, which have cost a large sum, have completely failed and the rabbits are as numerous and destructive as ever. It is now proposed that the government should abolish the rabbit department and offer a uniform price for all rabbit skins.

ALTHOUGH the small fruit crop in the Eastern States was an almost complete failure this year, California is reported to have done very well with grapes (raisins) and prunes, and to have had generally a remarkably good year for fruit. The yield of prunes is estimated at 15,000,000 pounds, or more than a pound for each family in the country.

dering our coast defenses worthy the name is to be made at Fort Wadsworth, on Staten Island. Some 143 acres of land, valued at \$3,000 an acre, are to be added to it, and the residences, greenhouses, stables and improvements, the property will aggregate half as much more. Echelon batteries with an armor of forged-steel plate will be erected on the ridge along the water front and will comprise eighteen 10-inch 110-ton guns, from 850 to 960 pounds of powder and an 1,800-pound shot; two 14-inch 80-ton guns, using 600 pounds of powder and a 1,200-pound shot; forty 12-inch 50-ton guns, using 425 pounds of powder and a 850-pound shot; twenty 10-inch 30-ton guns, using 250 pounds of powder and a 500-pound shot, and fifteen 8-inch 20-ton guns, using 135 pounds of powder and a 250-pound shot. The 110-ton guns will be completely protected turrets, and the 50-ton in casemates, while the 30-ton and 20-ton will be on disappearing carriages in pits, insuring perfect protection to the guns. On a part of the newly-acquired land, which is heavily wooded, a battery of 12-inch rifled mortars will be concealed in an approved torpedo system, with bomb-proof operating rooms and tunnels for conveying electric cables to the water will complete the armament.

AQUATIC LOAFERS.

The Idlest Social Group in the World.

On one of the most charming of the many wonderfully picturesque little beaches on the Pacific coast, near Monterey, Cal., is the idlest if not the most disagreeable social group in the world. Just off the shore, further than a stone's throw, lies a mass of broken rocks. The surf comes leaping and laughing in, sending up, above the curving green breakers and crests of foam, jets and spirals of water which flash like silver fountains in the sunlight. These islets of rock are the home of the sea lion. This loafer of the coast congregates here by the thousand. Sometimes the rocks are quite covered, the smooth rounded surface of the larger one presenting the appearance at a distance of a knoll dotted with dirty sheep. There is generally a select knot of a dozen floating about in the still water under the lee of the rock, bobbing up their tails and flippers very much as black driftwood might bob up in the ocean. During certain parts of the day members of this community are off fishing in deep water; but what they like best to do is to crawl up on the rocks and grunt and below, or go to sleep in the sun. Some of them lie half in water, their tails floating and their ungainly heads wagging. These noisy ones are always wriggling out or plunging in. Some crawl to the tops of the rocks and lie like gummy fags stuffed with meal, or they repose on the broken shells and on the lee of the rock, and over each other, and lie like piles of undressed pork. In the water they are black, but when they are dry in the sun, the skin becomes a dirty light brown. Many of them are huge fellows, with a body as big as an ox. In the water they are repulsively graceful; on the rocks they are as ungainly as boneless cows, or hogs that have lost their shape in prosperity. Summer and winter (and it is almost always summer on this coast) these beasts, which are well fitted for neither land nor water, spend their time in absolute indolence, except when they are obliged to cruise around in deep water for food. They are of no use to anybody, either for their skin or for their flesh. Nothing could be more thoroughly disgusting and uncanny than they are, and yet nothing more fascinating. One can watch them—the irresponsible, formless lumps of intelligent flesh—for hours without tiring. I scarcely know what the fascination is. A small seal playing by himself near the shore, floating on and diving under breakers is not so very disagreeable, especially if the observer so near that he can see his pathetic eyes; but these fellows in this perpetual summer resort are disgustingly attractive. Nearly everything about them, including their voice, is repulsive. Perhaps it is the absolute idleness of the community that makes it so interesting. To fish, to swim, to snooze on the rocks, that is all, forever and ever. No past, no future, no society, no lives for the laziest sort of pleasure. If they were rich, what more could they have! Is not this the ideal of a watering-place life?—[Harper's Magazine.]

Metals Costlier Than Gold.

Compared with some of the metals gold is a cheap commodity. It is worth \$240 a pound, troy; platinum \$190, and silver about \$12. Nickel is quoted at about 60 cents and pure aluminum at \$8 to \$9 per troy pound. But certain alloys for steel, and calcium is worth \$1,800 a pound. Cerium is higher; its cost is \$160 an ounce, or \$1,920 a pound. Chromium brings \$200, cobalt falls to about half the price of silver, while didymium is the same price as cerium, and erbium \$10 cheaper by the ounce than calcium, or just \$1,040 per pound, the weight of the Vanderbilts amounts to nearly 2,000,000,000. With this sum they could purchase 328 tons of gold and have something left over, but they couldn't buy two tons of gallium, that rare metal being worth \$3,250 an ounce.

The Memory Hoop.

The "memory hoop" is the newest craze among society young ladies. Any hoop will do, for it is covered up by pieces of ribbon, presented by girl friends, upon which must be painted or embroidered the name of the giver and the date when given. The ribbon must have been worn, else it possesses no charm. From gentlemen friends a copper cent is obtained, highly polished and engraved with the initials of the donor. These are suspended by ribbons from the hoop, which in turn, is suspended in the owner's room. If a piece of ribbon fades or one of the coppers turns dark, it is a sign that the giver is ill, in trouble, or false, and the owner immediately sets to work to find out which. Of course, it is an infallible test.—[Mail and Express.]

The Heather.

Prince Bismarck's fondness for heather, is not a new fancy. With him the heather is, more truly than the primrose was to Lord Beaconsfield, "his favorite flower." Nearly thirty years ago, when minister to Paris, he made a trip to the south of France, visiting among other places Chambard. Writing to his wife from Bordeaux, under date July 27, 1862, Bismarck says: "From inclosed specimens of heather you will no longer be able to see how purple this plant I am so fond of blooms there, the only flower in the royal garden, and swallows almost the only living creature in the garden. For sparrows it is too lovely."—[Prairie Farmer.]

The Engagement Ring Romance.

The first one usually doesn't cost much; but it costs enough for all that. You are about twenty when you begin looking over the jeweler's advertisements and find yourself wondering if she will be pleased with what you save and pinch so to get. At length you have bought it. Then comes the eventful evening; you stroll down the street feeling your importance at every step; with thumping heart you pass into your lover's sweet presence; there she sits expectant; before you know anything about it her hand is yours. Over her taper fingers the jeweled band is slipped, and what follows you remember so well it need not be recalled.

How Many Churches in England Have Been Built.

The Rev. John Winslow, a distinguished English Methodist minister, is stopping with friends in Brooklyn. At a pleasant gathering the other evening he talked at length about the methods in vogue in the old country of raising money for the purpose of his church. "There are some people," he said, "who think that the great progress of Methodism in England is due solely to the energy and culture of its ministers. The fact is that its present high standing is due in no small degree to tea. You smile and listless. I was not long ago in a small country town in the midland counties, where resided several families who were followers of John Wesley. They held Sunday meetings in each other's spare rooms. After one of these gatherings, while the congregation was partaking of a hospitable meal, the local preacher asked the guests if they did not build a church. They gave the purpose of his church were anything but rich; but the preacher told them of instances where very poor people had built churches by starting with a tea party. I'll tell you what a tea party is. A number of women get together and pledge themselves to provide a tray for a dozen, a tray meaning the needed service of china and spoons, with all the adjuncts, such as bread and butter, tea, sugar and milk and plumcake. If in summer time, the party is held in a field, copse or wood; if in the winter, in some church or barn. The husbands or lovers of the women build and tend the fires, fetch the water, boil the kettle, and spread the bread and cake, and act as waiters. Perhaps as many as twenty, forty, or even more trays are supplied, and each visitor is charged a shilling for the tea. These shillings are placed in bank, to form the nucleus of the church building fund. After the tea things are cleared away a meeting is held, at which permanent ministers deliver addresses. This is known as 'starting the pot boiling,' and the tea are repeated three or four times a year. Some rich man is applied to, generally with success, for a piece of land, and as soon as \$50 is raised, no difficulty is experienced in getting a builder to run up a chapel. As soon as the roof is finished a series of special services is begun, and the talent of Methodists for getting money is brought into active play. I have read a great deal about the injurious effects of tea, but I am certain that it has done more to develop the social life of the English people than any one other product. Seventy-five out of every hundred of the churches in the Methodist churches of England are made of tea leaves."—[New York Star.]

The Origin of Corn a Mystery.

This wonderful product, which has conferred such substantial benefits on the world, strange to say, is of unknown origin; its genesis is wrapped in a mystery, or at least not definitely fixed. A writer says: "Like wheat and barley, its origin is lost in the twilight of antiquity." It was first cultivated in the United States, however, by the English, on James river, Virginia, in 1608, the seed being obtained from Indians, who claimed to be the first discoverers of the plant—receiving it direct from the hands of the Creator.

The Lovely and Stately Hollyhock.

Of all the summer flowers none can compare in stateliness with the hollyhock. If the rose is queen then this dignified and commanding plant is her chief marshal in the border. Rising each year from its green base, it attains in July a height of from six to eight feet and begins to open its wide, rosy petals. The beautiful flowers which add so much to the brightness of our gardens. Their colors are very pure, ranging all the way from white to the darkest crimson and including some fine shades of yellow. On the whole the single and half double ones are the most picturesque, as they are the most numerous. In the early days of the hollyhock the massed blossoms of the very double kind convey more fully the idea of masculine strength. When full grown, in strong soil, the plant will reach a height of eight or nine feet and is of royal appearance indeed.

Orange Culture.

Raising oranges is somewhat like raising a family of children—it requires constant care and attention. The speaker was Col. D. S. Troy, a wealthy orange grower of Lake County, Fla., who was at the Metropolitan last evening, says the Washington Post. "Some people," he went on, "imagine that all that is to be done is to buy a piece of land and set out trees, but they make a big mistake. There was a great rush to Florida some years ago by persons who were utterly ignorant of the business, and who dreamed of making large fortunes. Many failed, but there's good money to be made in oranges yet by judicious planters who understand the conditions of their production. It's exactly like cotton planting. One farmer may make dozens of his neighbors get only a bare living."

W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for Gentlemen.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 shoe for gentlemen is a shoe that has become a household name. It is a shoe that is comfortable, durable, and stylish. It is a shoe that is made of the best materials and is constructed with the most skillful workmanship. It is a shoe that is worn by millions of men all over the world. It is a shoe that is a true friend to the foot.

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W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for the Unknown.

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W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for the Neglected.

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W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for the Invisible.

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BRICKS MADE OF TEA LEAVES.

passing team releases it, and by the force recoil a horse's leg is fractured. A lumberman strays off into the woods by himself, and is found days afterward, half eaten by bears and foxes. A solitary chopper drops his axe and leans against a tree to rest or to dream of his sweet heart in the distant settlements, and a panther drops from the branches above and seriously wounds him.

Yet the forest's vengeance is seldom accomplished, and on the careless woodsman the great of it produces no permanent effect. His ax goes everywhere.—[St. Nicholas.]

LIFE ON A CRUISER.

Early Morning on the United States Vessel Chicago at Sea.

"Bos'n's mate there! call all hands! Call in the deck lookouts! Lay aloft the lookout to the masthead! No orders follow in rapid succession. "Turn off the spar-deck circuit!" and the great red and green lights on the port and starboard sides of the bridge, and the light at the mast-head are extinguished by the touch of a button in the "dynamo room" below, while a sailor goes "tripping up aloft" to the fore-top-sail yard, simultaneously with a long-drawn shrill whistle of the boatswain's pipe, echoed on the gun-deck by others, and the hoarse cry of the boatswain's mates calling: "A-a-l-h-a-a-nd-a! Up all hammocks!"

The great ship is waking up, and out of the hatches the men come tumbling one after the other—sailor-men, apprentice boys, firemen, marines, cooks, and "all hands"—each with hammock neatly rolled, ready to be placed in the nettings in the bulwarks. Brawny, bare-chested, bare footed fellows, most of them; regardless of the cold wind blowing and the wet decks, they run nimbly to their appointed stations, some turning up and opening the nettings, while the others pitch their hammocks in and stow them away and out of sight for the day. As we lean over the rail now, and look down, the scene is an animated one. The deck forward is swarming with men and "Jackie" is making his morning toilet and preparing for breakfast and the day's routine. Such gigantic young coxswain yonder as he souses his well-soaped neck and face into the cold water in the bucket before him, spluttering and blowing away like a grampus, then rubbing and polishing his muscular, sun-burned neck and broad white back and chest with his rough, part-colored towel. With his little circular mirror perched on a coil of rope another sailor-man is carefully parting his thick curly locks, while a shipmate looks over his shoulder and gives a final twist to his black silk neckerchief, and a marine brushes his coat and hums softly to himself meanwhile. The steam from the galley is rising out of the hatches, and with it—mingled, it must be confessed, with a small oil and grease from the engines—an odor of hot coffee and broiling bacon, and the boatswain's whistle is heard again piping to breakfast.—[Scribner.]

ONE ENJOYS

Both the method and results when Syrup of Figs is taken; it is pleasant and refreshing to the taste, and acts gently yet promptly on the Kidneys, Liver and Bowels, cleanses the system effectually, dispels colds, headaches and fevers and cures habitual constipation. Syrup of Figs is the only remedy of its kind ever produced, pleasing to the taste and acceptable to the stomach, prompt in its action and truly beneficial in its effects, prepared only from the most healthy and agreeable substances, its many excellent qualities commend it to all and have made it the most popular remedy known.

Syrup of Figs is for sale in 50c and \$1 bottles by all leading druggists. Any reliable druggist who may not have it on hand will procure it promptly for any one who wishes to try it. Do not accept any substitute.

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The most complete and authoritative work of the kind ever published. It contains the most valuable and interesting information on every subject that comes within the range of human knowledge. It is a work of art, and a masterpiece of scholarship. It is a work that is read by millions of people all over the world. It is a work that is a true friend to the mind.

Original Form of the Horse.

The wild horse of Drungaria is an animal the size of the hemione and more robust in its proportions, in which it resembles the pony. Its head is large, with ears smaller than those of the hemione, the shoulders thick, especially in the male, the limbs robust and sturdier than those of the hemione and the asses. The mane is short and straight, and is not compressed as in other species; and the lower parts of the legs are furnished with long hairs falling to the crown of the hoof, a feature which the hemione lacks. Likewise characteristic in the color of the pelage, a pale gray, almost white, passing into dun on the head and neck, and blending insensibly on the flanks with the pure white of the belly and limbs. The mane, the brush of the tail, and the long hairs of the lower legs and hoofs, are black. There is no trace of the dorsal stripe running from the mane to the tail which is characteristic of the hemione. The hairy covering is long and undulating, especially in the rigorous winter of that northern country.—[Popular Science Monthly.]

Don't Fool with Perspiration.

Considering all that has been written and published this year about sunstroke, and the danger that arises from a dry, non-perspiring skin, it is really amazing how many people call for preparations to prevent perspiration. There are several of these, and they are all effective, the main ingredient in each being the same. The effect is not only to stop perspiration wherever the preparation is applied, but also to increase the temperature several degrees and seriously injure the skin. Ladies, of course, use such complexion preservers more than men, but there are no wanting young men who, to keep up a spotless appearance, will subject themselves to annoyances and take dangerous chances. The only legitimate manner to check perspiration is to keep quiet and avoid excessive exercise.—[Globe-Democrat.]

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THE MIGHTY WATERS.

The sea occupies three-fourths of the surface of the earth. At the depth of about 3,500 feet waves are not felt. The temperature is the same, varying only a trifle from the ice of the pole to the burning sun of the equator. A mile down the water has a pressure of over a ton to the square inch. If a box six feet deep were filled with sea water and allowed to evaporate under the sun, there would be two inches of salt left on the bottom. Taking the average depth of the ocean to be three miles, there would be a layer of salt 200 feet thick on the bed of the Atlantic. The water is colder at the bottom than at the surface. In the many bays on the coast of Norway the water often freezes at the bottom before it does above. Waves are very deceptive. To look at them in a storm one would think the water traveled. The water stays in the same place, but the motion goes on. Sometimes in storms these waves are forty feet high and travel fifty miles an hour—more than a hundred times the speed of a steamship. The distance from valley to valley is generally fifteen times the height, hence a wave five feet high will extend over seventy-five feet of water. The force of the sea dashing on Bell Rock is said to be seventeen tons for each square yard. Evaporation is a wonderful power in drawing water from the sea. Every year a layer of the entire sea fourteen feet thick is taken up into the clouds. The winds bear their burden into the land, and the water comes down in rain upon the fields, to flow back at last through rivers.

The depth of the sea presents an interesting problem. If the Atlantic were lowered 554 feet, the distance from shore to shore would be half as great, or 1,500 miles. If lowered a little more than three miles, say 19,600 feet, there would be a road of dry land from New Foundland to Ireland. This is the plain on which the great Atlantic cables were laid. The Mediterranean is comparatively shallow. A drying up of 660 feet would leave three different seas, and Africa would be joined with Italy. The British channel is more like a pond, which accounts for its choppy waves. It has been found difficult to get the correct soundings of the Atlantic.

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W. L. Douglas's \$3 shoe for ladies is a shoe that has become a household name. It is a shoe that is comfortable, durable, and stylish. It is a shoe that is made of the best materials and is constructed with the most skillful workmanship. It is a shoe that is worn by millions of women all over the world. It is a shoe that is a true friend to the foot.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for Misses.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 shoe for misses is a shoe that has become a household name. It is a shoe that is comfortable, durable, and stylish. It is a shoe that is made of the best materials and is constructed with the most skillful workmanship. It is a shoe that is worn by millions of young women all over the world. It is a shoe that is a true friend to the foot.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for Children.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 shoe for children is a shoe that has become a household name. It is a shoe that is comfortable, durable, and stylish. It is a shoe that is made of the best materials and is constructed with the most skillful workmanship. It is a shoe that is worn by millions of children all over the world. It is a shoe that is a true friend to the foot.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for Infants.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 shoe for infants is a shoe that has become a household name. It is a shoe that is comfortable, durable, and stylish. It is a shoe that is made of the best materials and is constructed with the most skillful workmanship. It is a shoe that is worn by millions of infants all over the world. It is a shoe that is a true friend to the foot.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for the Elderly.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 shoe for the elderly is a shoe that has become a household name. It is a shoe that is comfortable, durable, and stylish. It is a shoe that is made of the best materials and is constructed with the most skillful workmanship. It is a shoe that is worn by millions of elderly people all over the world. It is a shoe that is a true friend to the foot.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for the Sick.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 shoe for the sick is a shoe that has become a household name. It is a shoe that is comfortable, durable, and stylish. It is a shoe that is made of the best materials and is constructed with the most skillful workmanship. It is a shoe that is worn by millions of sick people all over the world. It is a shoe that is a true friend to the foot.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for the Poor.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 shoe for the poor is a shoe that has become a household name. It is a shoe that is comfortable, durable, and stylish. It is a shoe that is made of the best materials and is constructed with the most skillful workmanship. It is a shoe that is worn by millions of poor people all over the world. It is a shoe that is a true friend to the foot.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for the Rich.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 shoe for the rich is a shoe that has become a household name. It is a shoe that is comfortable, durable, and stylish. It is a shoe that is made of the best materials and is constructed with the most skillful workmanship. It is a shoe that is worn by millions of rich people all over the world. It is a shoe that is a true friend to the foot.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for the Famous.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 shoe for the famous is a shoe that has become a household name. It is a shoe that is comfortable, durable, and stylish. It is a shoe that is made of the best materials and is constructed with the most skillful workmanship. It is a shoe that is worn by millions of famous people all over the world. It is a shoe that is a true friend to the foot.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for the Unknown.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 shoe for the unknown is a shoe that has become a household name. It is a shoe that is comfortable, durable, and stylish. It is a shoe that is made of the best materials and is constructed with the most skillful workmanship. It is a shoe that is worn by millions of unknown people all over the world. It is a shoe that is a true friend to the foot.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for the Forgotten.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 shoe for the forgotten is a shoe that has become a household name. It is a shoe that is comfortable, durable, and stylish. It is a shoe that is made of the best materials and is constructed with the most skillful workmanship. It is a shoe that is worn by millions of forgotten people all over the world. It is a shoe that is a true friend to the foot.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for the Neglected.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 shoe for the neglected is a shoe that has become a household name. It is a shoe that is comfortable, durable, and stylish. It is a shoe that is made of the best materials and is constructed with the most skillful workmanship. It is a shoe that is worn by millions of neglected people all over the world. It is a shoe that is a true friend to the foot.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for the Invisible.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 shoe for the invisible is a shoe that has become a household name. It is a shoe that is comfortable, durable, and stylish. It is a shoe that is made of the best materials and is constructed with the most skillful workmanship. It is a shoe that is worn by millions of invisible people all over the world. It is a shoe that is a true friend to the foot.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for the Unseen.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 shoe for the unseen is a shoe that has become a household name. It is a shoe that is comfortable, durable, and stylish. It is a shoe that is made of the best materials and is constructed with the most skillful workmanship. It is a shoe that is worn by millions of unseen people all over the world. It is a shoe that is a true friend to the foot.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for the Unheard.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 shoe for the unheard is a shoe that has become a household name. It is a shoe that is comfortable, durable, and stylish. It is a shoe that is made of the best materials and is constructed with the most skillful workmanship. It is a shoe that is worn by millions of unheard people all over the world. It is a shoe that is a true friend to the foot.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 Shoe for the Unfelt.

W. L. Douglas's \$3 shoe for the unfelt is a shoe that has become a household name. It is a shoe that is comfortable, durable, and stylish. It is a shoe that is made of the best materials and is constructed with the most skillful workmanship. It is a shoe that is worn by millions of unfelt people all over the world. It is a shoe that is a true friend