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**The Great Evil of the Times.**  
A Taxpayers' Defense League has been formed in Chicago, and the Rev. Dr. Holbrook, one of the editors of the *Bibliotheca Sacra*, president of the League, has officially addressed an open letter to the palace-car magnate, George M. Pullman, who seems to be reckoned in that region as one of the worst offenders in the form of wrong-doing which it is the special work of the league to attack and overthrow. In the central parts of his model town, Mr. Pullman, on land which, by his own estimate in his annual report to the stockholders, is worth \$17,000 an acre, but is really worth nearly twice that, pays a tax on an assessment of only about \$741 an acre, so that, according to the rating of the league, the Pullman corporation has been paying a less amount of taxes by some \$200,000 each year into the city treasury than it would have done had it been assessed as ordinary property owners are assessed in Chicago.

Referring to the memorable strike of 1894, the damages on account of which to the amount of \$16,000,000, and in behalf of this same George M. Pullman, rest against the city of Chicago or against Cook county, the letter says:  
"All these events recall the unsympathetic attitude which you assumed toward your working people in their distress at that time, many of whom had been in your employ for years. You reduced their wages, but refused to reduce their rents; you permitted many to work just long enough to earn for you their undiminished rent, and then left them to provide their food and clothing as best they could until another mouth could come around and possibly bring them relief. These facts came before the grand jury, of which the writer was a member, and there was not a dry eye in that jury room when they were recited. In the midst of this trouble you left for your summer residence, and left the state and federal troops and the grand jury fight your battles."

Further, this league letter says, speaking more generally or in sweeping terms of the whole Pullman class of tax-shirkers:  
"The rights of property are now warring on the rights of man. Monopolies and trusts on the necessities of life threaten the destruction of the state. Capital and labor may each organize for all lawful purposes, but when capital corners the market on coal, iron, sugar, oil, coffee, salt, oatmeal, and is thus able to raise the price artificially to the consumer, it is a crime under the statutes of most of our states. But men of wealth are now doing this very thing. They keep the letter of the law; they violate its spirit. They take from the poor man a tithe of his daily food and in return make gifts to the public to satisfy the conscience or to thrust into the eyes of the people. Society is between two malefactors—the criminals above and the criminals below; the trust magnate in the palace and the anarchist in the slums; the plutocrat and the mobocrat. The so-called 'great newspapers' in the chief cities of the country, only too often, as many are coming to say, appear disposed, with mingled sneers and deprecation, to disparage efforts of the character here noted. It is observed that they have much to say in very dignified terms about intemperate language and all that, but the evil, as the candid of mind perceive, is an immeasurably serious one, that will certainly have to be cured, and that those who trifle with it, no less than those who commit it, are simply supremely dangerous enemies of society and of their country."

When the world's population exceeds 5,994,000,000, the earth will be unable to find nourishment for her people, and they will be forced either to cannibalism or starvation. This figure will be reached in about 280 years, says a scientist.

Persons who study a foreign language occasionally get mixed up in a word. In ordering a glass of soda water a German said: "Not much dust, if you please." It finally appeared that he meant froth.

Farther and farther woman penetrates into fields that were supposed to be reserved exclusively for men. A woman editor in Connecticut has just escaped being tarred and feathered.

**An Obliging Burglar.**  
A despondent citizen wrote the following letter to a persistent burglar who had visited his house on several occasions. He left the letter on the dresser, says the Atlanta Constitution, before retiring for the night: "To the Burglar—My Dear Sir: I trust you will give these few lines a moment's consideration. You have done me the honor to visit me three times. On these occasions you have taken away numerous souvenirs of your visits. I am now reduced to a Waterbury watch and one pair of trousers. I need not tell you that both are under my head. I want to ask you to let up on me! I know there is no law to prevent you from cleaning me out entirely, but I appeal to your generosity. I have a large family to support, and I infer from your industry that you must be a father yourself. Consider my case, if you please, and give me a show!" The burglar came that night and was evidently touched by the letter, for he wrote on the margin: "I am in receipt of yours of this date. All right; I'll let up. Do not be discouraged; your next-door neighbor has no trousers at all. I write in haste, for I understand they're going to send a policeman on his beat next year. P. S.—Your watch was 15 minutes slow, and I set it for you."

Two states are now in revolt against the federal power. The tax commissioners of Indiana defy an injunction issued by Judge Baker, of the United States district court, and proceed to assess the property of the Indiana Manufacturing company at the market value of its stock. Judge Baker had held that the patents of the company, composing most of its property, were not taxable, and had accordingly enjoined the assessment. Now the tax commissioners are threatened with arrest for contempt of court. The insurance commissioner of Kansas is also defying a federal injunction restraining him from forbidding a New York life insurance company, which has not complied with state laws, to do business in his state. Carry the news to South Carolina.

People who are looking for hidden treasure had better not go to Mexico. While digging up a tree on a ranch near Monterey, a man servant found three earthen jars, filled with gold and silver coin, and securing a sack proceeded to carry it to his cabin. When the ranchman heard of the find there was a great time. The amount was \$20,000, of which the government took one-third; the remaining two-thirds went to the ranchman, and the servant, for his share, was given two years in prison. This will be a warning to other treasure finders to hurry the find across the border without delay.

It is said that the people around Holly Springs, Miss., are so delighted with the abundant signs of returning prosperity that they had a barbecue a few days ago to give vent to their joy over the good times. Visitors were carried to the grove free, and the farmers and merchants were liberal in their gifts of lamb, veal, sheep, chickens, watermelons and the various other things that go to make up the typical southern feast.

In Com. v. Williams, 108 Mass., 62, a witness identifying a burglar by his voice, testified that "he had a very interesting manly, pleasant, smooth, gentle, handsome voice, like that of one born in this country of foreign parents, a 'York State voice.'" He heard this pleasing voice near midnight saying: "Keep still or you're a dead man. If you move, I'll take your heart's blood."

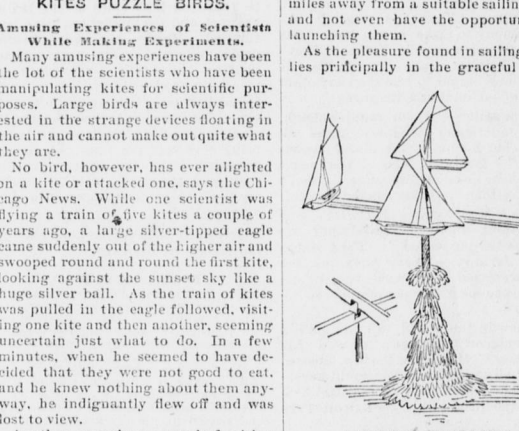
"Bird in the bush" is a new vian on American menus. A small hole is made in the end of a watermelon and the core scooped out. The interior is filled with breasts of chickens, leg meat of squabs, Chinese mushrooms and sprouts. Then the watermelon is sealed up and boiled two hours. All the juices are retained, and when served the melon is plugged in the top.



**BURIED THE SNAKE.**  
**WHEN MOTHER LOOKS.**

**How Prairie Dogs Disposed of an Evil-Disposed Reptile.**  
In conversation with a gentleman who has just made a trip through western Indian territory I picked up something new and interesting to me in regard to the habits of the prairie dog and rattlesnake. This party said that a few weeks ago, while resting under a small tree in the territory where there was a dog town, he noticed a commotion among some dogs near him; they would run up to a place and peep at something and then scamper off. Looking to see what was the matter, he saw that there were about 15 to 20 dogs around a rattlesnake, which at length went into one of the dog holes. As soon as he had disappeared the little fellows began to push in dirt, evidently to fill the hole up, but about the time they got enough dirt to cover the entrance the snake stuck his head up through the dirt and every dog scampered off to a safe distance, all the time keeping up an incessant barking. The snake slowly crawled to another hole about a rod distant and went in, and then up came the dogs again and went to work to push the dirt up before them to the hole. This time they succeeded in their enterprise and completely covered the entrance to the hole, and then went to work, using their noses to tamp with and pounding the dirt down hard, after which they went away. My friend went to the place and said he was surprised to find they had packed the dirt in solid with their noses, having sealed the snake well to the ground.—Forest and Stream.

**KITES PUZZLE BIRDS.**  
**Amusing Experiences of Scientists While Making Experiments.**  
Many amusing experiences have been the lot of the scientists who have been manipulating kites for scientific purposes. Large birds are always interested in the strange devices floating in the air and cannot make out quite what they are.  
No bird, however, has ever alighted on a kite or attacked one, says the *Chicago News*. While one scientist was flying a train of five kites a couple of years ago, a large silver-tipped eagle came suddenly out of the higher air and swooped round and round the first kite, looking against the sunset sky like a huge silver ball. As the train of kites was pulled in the eagle followed, visiting one kite and then another, seeming uncertain just what to do. In a few minutes, when he seemed to have decided that they were not good to eat, and he knew nothing about them anyway, he indignantly flew off and was lost to view.  
Another experience was had with a stork that came from the New Jersey side of the Hudson and flew straight for the queer object in the air. He apparently had made up his mind to go straight through it, but changed and dived underneath. He went around and above it, and through a glass it could be seen that he cocked his eye at the intruder in a most comical manner. He started away a few hundred feet, changed his mind and came swooping back. He finally reluctantly went away, mystified over this queer addition to the inhabitants of the air.



**SAILBOAT WHIRLIGIG.**  
The four sailboats form parts of a windmill. They need not be very elaborately made; they should be cut out from four pieces of exactly the same dimensions. Make the masts and bowsprits of tough wood and the sails of strong muslin, as they are likely to be exposed to strong wind.  
The gulls and booms can best be joined to the masts by means of screw eyes. The rigging must be very simple and yet strong, light cord, well waxed, being used, and the sails should be uniformly close-hauled.  
The two long cross pieces are joined together in the center at right angles, forming four arms of even length and at the end of each is fastened one of the boats; through the center of intersection bore a hole large enough for the axle, for which a long wire nail will answer.  
The crossarms with boats attached should be mounted on top of a pole (or small flagstaff) by means of the axle, which should be well lubricated. A small washer may be placed under the crosspieces to reduce friction.  
When completed, the upright may be set up in the center of a flower bed, vines being trained up the pole, or may be attached to the top of a shed or the fence, where it will be visible from the windows.—Boston Globe.

**ERIGHT CHICAGO EOYS.**  
**They Have Discovered a New Way to Fly Their Kites.**  
Several North side boys have discovered a great scheme for flying their kites. Instead of running with a string and getting all out of breath one of the boys starts the kite and then hands the string to a companion who is mounted on a bicycle. He pedals off at a good speed, and up goes the kite, twice as fast as it would ordinarily. Another boy has designed a simple little reel for the handle bar of his bicycle. On this he winds the kite string and pays it out over his shoulder while his wheel is in motion. He has been experimenting with this new device, and he thinks he has made a valuable discovery. Let some of our other boys try this method of kite flying and report how it works.—Chicago Record.

**A Neat Little Experiment.**  
If one wishes by means of a simple optical illusion to obtain an almost perfect imitation of the wonders of radiography he may take a small turkey feather, and, holding it close to the eye, look through the radiating ribs at the end of the feather at the ends of the fingers of his hand, held against the window. The flesh will appear to be transparent, with the opaque bone running down in the center, as shown by true radiography. If gas light is used, a piece of ground glass must be held before the flame, to diffuse the light.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

**THE HOME DOCTOR.**  
To remove liver spots and cure wind dyspepsia and constipation take the phosphate of sodium for three months, a teaspoonful in a teacupful of hot water two hours after meals.  
The large sweet onion is rich in those alkaline elements which counteract the poison of rheumatic gout. If slowly stewed in weak broth and eaten with a little cayenne pepper, it is said to be an admirable article of diet for people of studious and sedentary habits.  
Potatoes, rice, oatmeal, wheat bread, biscuits, pastry, barley, tapioca, cornstarch and corn meal are "starchy foods." The starches should be excluded from the dietary when one suffers from "torpidity of the liver or constipation." The starchy foods furnish potential energy and are fat producing.  
Dr. Burton Ward declares there is one infallible symptom indicating whether one is sane or not. Let a person speak ever so rationally and act ever so sedately, if his or her thumbs remain inactive there is no doubt of insanity. Lunatics seldom make use of their thumbs when writing, drawing or saluting.  
One of the best cosmetics for bicycle riders or persons upon the water is fresh cucumber juice. This will aid in keeping the skin of the face soft and smooth. To extract the juice from a cucumber, first peel it and then cut it into thick slices and press the juice out with a lemon squeezer. A simple and harmless remedy for sunburn is to bathe the face in buttermilk.

**HOUSEHOLD HINTS.**  
Medicine stains on silver may be removed by rubbing the article with a rag dipped in sulphuric acid. Finally wash in warm soapsuds.  
A simple but useful home remedy for burns and scalds can be made by mixing as much prepared chalk with pure lard as will make a thick ointment. Apply direct to the wound and cover with lint and a bandage.  
A process for toughening glasses that can be very simply followed at home is to immerse the glasses in a large vessel full of cold water; place this upon the fire; let the water reach boiling point and, having taken off the pan, let the glass remain in until the water has grown cold once more. This is a very effective method of annealing glass.  
Dissolve half an ounce of camphor in one pound of lard; take off the scum; then stir in as much black lead as will give the mixture a dark hue; rub iron and steel stoves and graters over with this preparation; let it remain on for a day, and finally dry off with a cloth. The metal will then keep clean and bright for a long time.  
It occasionally becomes necessary to remove the traces of writing from paper, and, to make the operation successful, prepare a solution of muric acid of tin, two drachms; and water, four drachms. Apply this with a soft paint brush, and, when the writing has faded away, hold the paper under running water for a few minutes, and then dry between fresh blotting paper.

**SEEN IN THE STORES.**  
Light-colored grenadines for evening wear.  
Irish point lace in straight and vine bands.  
New skirts that are but four yards in width.  
Fall satins having scrolls in Pompadour effects.  
Bright-colored denim dresses trimmed with black braid.  
Large velvet hats decorated with half-owl ostrich plumes.  
Midseason hats of wide Alpine shapes in felt trimmed with quills.  
Dainty needlework cases of leather, satin lined, and silver utensils.  
Pale-green, white and turquoise leather belts having a gilt buckle.  
China crepe for long shawls worn knotted on the left of the front of house toilettes.  
Golf clonkings of bright plaid on one side and brown, blue, black or green on the other.  
Subdued plaids of a rough texture and smooth and twilled fabrics of brighter colors in dress goods.—Dry Goods Economist.

**CYCLE CHAT.**  
The new high school building in Philadelphia, and also the one in Detroit, Mich., will have ample stall room for the bicycles ridden by pupils.  
Smoking lamps are generally caused by lack of draught. If the trouble cannot be otherwise remedied bore two or three holes around the base of the lamp.  
Moran, the famous French rider, is very sensitive. When he loses and is hissed by the crowd (which is a cheerful French custom) he cries like a child.  
However welcome a woman may be, she is certainly out of place in a century run. Even a continuous trip of 50 miles is much too long for a woman, unless she is exceptional.  
Nothing is more injurious to a boy than to ride on a wheel that is too large for him. He must almost stand on the pedals, and the exercise in that position is so violent that it is an easy matter for the little fellow to lay the foundation of hip complaint or spinal disease. A boy should ride a wheel fitted to his size or none at all.

**ODD FACTS.**  
Laboring men have 312 work days a year in Hungary, 308 in the United States, 278 in England, and 267 in Russia.  
During the war of the Spanish succession the English army in Spain was commanded by a Frenchman and the French army by an Englishman.  
The American consular agents at Kalamata, Greece and Dardanelles, Turkey, received as compensation from the United States treasury in 1895 the sum of one dollar each.


**AN OPEN LETTER**  
**To MOTHERS.**

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March 8, 1897. Samuel Pitcher, M.D.

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