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FREELAND, PA., FEBRUARY 24, 1898.

The Capture of Government by Commercialism, from the pen of John Jay Chapman, is the title of the leading article published in the current issue of the Atlantic Monthly. Every friend of good government should procure a copy of this article, diligently read it, and meditate upon it. It is, to our mind, one of the ablest, bravest, and most searching analyses of the causes of corruption in American politics that we have read—we are inclined to think it the ablest—certainly, on the whole, the most lucid and satisfactory. While it paints an appalling picture of the extent and depth of the evil forces with which we contend, it presents by no means a despairing view of the situation. The writer believes that we are steadily moving through and out of an epoch, beginning with the close of the war and already past its climax, during which the commercial forces of the country have systematically, perhaps necessarily, dominated and corrupted our politics, and our politics have, in turn, still further corrupted them. Just how this has been accomplished, both in great cities and in great states, Mr. Chapman tells in a most interesting way.

Isaac B. Brown, deputy secretary of internal affairs, has prepared an interesting report on taxation in this state. It shows the relative amount, by counties, collected last year for the several purposes to which taxes are applied. That portion of the report bearing on education should be of especial interest to the people of this county. Major Brown's figures demonstrate that of the total amount of taxes collected in the state 23 per cent was devoted to the schools, but when the figures by counties are examined it is found that Luzerne stands easily at the head of the sixty-seven counties, with 46 per cent of its collected taxes spent for educational purposes. In Allegheny county but 12 per cent was expended on the schools. As a representative coal region county, Luzerne has just cause to feel proud of its showing in assisting to enlighten the youth of the state. An examination of individual tax receipts will verify the figures given in Secretary Brown's report.

Just now there is no end of criticism in the "granny" newspapers of the country against what they term "yellow journalism." The New York World and Journal are the acknowledged leaders of this new system of newspaper work, which gives the news regardless of expense and risks to reporters, and it is against these the shafts of jealousy are aimed. The nobby-pamby editors of the old school deny and pretend to disbelieve every great feat performed by their so-called "yellow" contemporaries, but the news editors of these same old-fashioned sheets give the lie direct to these criticisms by stealing the fruit of the labor and enterprise of the "yellows" and republishing it under more conservative headings twenty-four hours after this news appears in the progressive papers.

As there are at least two dozen coal operators in Luzerne county, the chances of a workingman getting nominated for congress on the Republican ticket are decidedly slim. It is announced that John Markie, of Jeddo, is booked by the party to succeed Congressman Williams, and from this it may be inferred that none but coal operators need apply until all of this class have served at least one term.

The latest in a Stove Trust, whose chief aim, it is needless to add, is "to raise prices on all kinds of cast stoves, ranges, and heaters." Its purpose is, therefore, to reduce the purchasing power of the dollar in relation to stoves; in short, to degrade the currency. But the trust managers will shout honest money with the loudest.

Conscience in woman has begun to work in Michigan to the benefit of the cash box. It is reported from Owosso that a woman who worked as a clerk for Osburn & Sons 20 years ago has just returned five cents which she took while in their employ.

A New Hampshire railway company is struggling with the largest block of stone ever quarried in Concord. Its dimensions are six, 16 and 20 feet, and it is estimated to weigh 150 tons. It is to be used in a monument now in preparation for a Washington order.

CASTORIA. The fac-simile signature of Chas. H. Fletcher is on every wrapper.



A BIRD'S STOREHOUSE.

The California Woodpecker Packs Its Food Away Safely. Fred. A. Ober, who has been a great traveler, recounts some of the strange scenes he has witnessed for the benefit of readers of St. Nicholas. He contributes a paper to the number called "A Bird's Storehouse; or, the Carpenter Bird." Mr. Ober says:

He is a handsome bird, and if there were not so many of his species he would attract a great deal of attention. He has a bright red head, black-and-white body, and a needle-pointed tail. The tail supports him in a perpendicular position on the side of a tree, while he is hammering, or rather chiseling, a hole in its bark.

Now, all woodpeckers, having sharp-pointed beaks and very strong muscles in their necks and heads, can drive a deep hole into the side of a tree or stump; but this California woodpecker is said to surpass them all as a hole-digger; and he not only digs the hole, but he fills it up with a nut or an acorn.

This is the strangest part of his performance; for while a great many other birds have the hole-digging instinct, there are very few of them that possess the hole-filling instinct. The blue jays and the squirrels have a habit of accumulating supplies in the shape of nuts and acorns, and you may see them, almost any day in autumn, snatching the acorns from twigs and



branches. The same instinct prompts this woodpecker to lay in his stores of acorns. Some people say, however, that he never resorts to these supplies again, but just lays them up without a thought as to the future at all. But this is not the way with nature. She does not work blindly, but always with some wise purpose in view.

At any rate, this bird can drill a hole in the very hardest wood, and at this business he is employed almost all the time. The holes are usually made in rows, at regular distances apart, each about the size of an acorn. He is never discouraged, and never gives up a task, even though it may seem most formidable. He has been known to surround a giant redwood tree, over 20 feet in circumference, with rings of holes one above another, from the root to the topmost limb, for over 200 feet. I say "he" did it, but I mean, of course, generation after generation of them, for many, many years.

After he has got the hole or holes to his liking, he flies off to the nearest oak tree and secures an acorn, which he brings to the storehouse tree and places in the little "safety-deposit" he has made for it. It fits exactly, and so, inserting it sharp end first, he hits it repeatedly with his beak, and drives it in to stay till needed.

So long as the woodpecker confines his harvesting to the acorns, no one except the Indians, who frequently store them up for winter food, will have anything to say. But this he does not do. It is said that he likes nuts as well, and a story is told of a family of woodpeckers that completely stripped a small grove of almond trees. The owner of the grove thought he must have a good crop, and when the time came to gather it he went to do so, and lo! there was not a nut on any tree!

But one of his boys, in foraging about, found an immense oak which was partly decayed, and riddled with holes from top to bottom. And in each hole was an almond! So the tree was cut down, and the man secured several bushels of almonds, after all; but the woodpeckers scolded him loudly.

Whiskers for a Pillow.

That history repeats itself has just received another proof. Some years ago the men of a Bavarian regiment of which Prince Maximilian was chief, in order that they might show their devotion to him, cut off their mustaches and sent them to the princess, who had just become a mother, that she might use them as a pillow. Something very like a repetition of this has just taken place at Rappoltsweiler, in Alsace. The chief of the fire brigade was a few days ago presented with his first child, a boy. The firemen thereupon called a meeting at which it was decided to make the baby boy an honorary member of the corps, and the men subsequently cut off their mustaches and beards to form a pillow for the baby's use.

Evidently a Bicycle Boy. A little boy, seeing a long-haired fellow, cried out: "Oh, see dat tow; her 'ot handle-bars on her head."

NEAT PARLOR GAMES.

How to Play at Mind Reading and Make the Sport Interesting.

First I'll tell you how to play at mind reading in a way that will probably puzzle your friends for a good while.

Let Mary be the mind reader; she must then select a confederate, a person quite as important to success as herself. Tom would answer better, perhaps, than a girl, as he is more likely, perhaps, to have a watch of some sort, and the watch is a sort of second confederate.

All the company except Mary now troop into a room selected for the experiment; they decide on some object which Mary is to discover as the subject selected for them all to think about—it must be understood that this subject is some definite, material article in the room. The gas is now turned out, and all go out again; Mary meets them and begs that they will all for a few moments fasten their thoughts on the thing selected; this being done in an impressive silence.

Mary goes in the room in the dark, and in a moment returns and tells what it is they have been thinking about. Tom, you see, has left the dark room last, and has left his watch on the selected object; he, perhaps, has taken part in the discussion as to what it should be, because he wants conclusively that his watch be indicated. Mary, bright, and she picks up the watch and the information at the same time and conceals the one and displays the other. A luminous match box will answer for a guide as well as a watch.

When a quieter turn is wanted, just seat every one with a pencil and paper and ask them to set down from memory the figures on the clock in the next room or on the watches in their pockets—using the characters just as they are written on the faces of timepieces. All will probably start out with great confidence, but ten to one no one will remember that the four in such cases is not written thus, IV., but thus IIII.

If you will arrange to have one part of the company recognize individuals in the other part simply by seeing one eye, you will give another surprise. We think we know the eyes of our friends, but when it comes to seeing an eye alone it is more than most people can do to tell a brown one from a blue one; a good way to arrange for this trial is to screen a door with newspapers in which a hole the size and shape of a large human eye is cut; or more holes than one can be cut in it and several eyes shown at once. The exhibited in this way are in one room and the scrutinizers in the other.—Chicago Inter Ocean.

BOBBING FOR CARAMELS.

One of the Funniest Games for Children Ever Invented.

Making taffy or any candy is, to be sure, great fun, but eating it is always far better. In this game the difficulty is to get the candy.

Buy some fresh caramels. They must be quite soft. Thread a stout needle with some fine sewing silk, tying a large knot in one end. Draw the needle through the center of the caramel until the knot catches on the other side. Unthread the needle, leaving the caramel attached to at least a yard of silk. Then tie a good knot in the free end.

Enough caramels should be prepared beforehand. When you wish to play



CARAMEL BOBBING.

the game gather the players in a circle, giving to each a caramel hung to the silk. The one who, after placing the knotted end between his teeth, with his hands folded behind him, first succeeds in drawing the caramel into his mouth wins the game.

Of course, there is a trick about it, but a very simple one. Just work it out. One little hint. Everything depends upon having that knot firmly fastened in the beginning between your teeth.

It is really worth while to stop and watch the monkey-like workings and twisting of the other faces, if you do get the "booby" prize.—Chicago Daily News.

Gave Conclusive Proof.

A little Irish boy of five years, during his first term at the district school, was trying bravely to master the alphabet. He had reached the letter Q, and, to aid his memory, the teacher drew his attention to the fact that the letter had a tail. He gazed at it intently for a moment, and then "brought down the house" by exclaiming: "Faith, it has a tail! I can see it wag."

POLICEMEN'S HELMETS.

In London They Are to Be Equipped with Electric Lights.

A plan is under consideration by the police authorities of London to equip the policemen's helmets with small electric lights to help illuminate the streets on foggy days. The device consists of a small incandescent bulb, mounted on the helmet without shade or globe. The current required to operate the light is furnished by a small pocket battery, which the policeman carries about with him. It is estimated that sufficient current to run the little helmet-lamp for sev-



AN ENGLISH IDEA. (London Police to Wear Electric Lights on Foggy Days.)

eral hours can be carried in the pocket, and be replenished from time to time with very little trouble.

One who has never had to contend with a London fog can hardly appreciate just how important a part these helmet lamps may play. The fog settles down in a thick yellow haze, often rendering it impossible for a person to see his hand before him. Policemen obliged to stand on the crossings on busy thoroughfares are often in a very dangerous position. Several policemen standing at their posts of duty have been run down and killed. The helmet lamp would be a sort of guiding star to cabmen.

It is proposed to make the bulb of the lamp of reddish glass, because this color is visible at a much greater distance than ordinary white light. The fogs of London have a peculiar yellow color which renders them almost impenetrable to the ordinary yellowish white light of the street lamps. An ordinary gas flame, such as burns at the street corners, may sometimes be seen only within a radius of a few feet. The electric helmet lamps are in reality a curious sort of reminder of the so-called "link-boys" who were to be found in the streets of London in the last century.

LORD EVELYN CROMER.

He May Succeed Salisbury in the British Foreign Office.

Sir Evelyn Baring, Lord Cromer, who seems to be in favor as the successor of Lord Salisbury in the foreign office, is the man who has won such distinction as an agent of Great Britain in Egypt. Those who think that a strong foreign policy is needed now more than ever before for British supremacy in the east believe Lord Cromer to be just the man for the place.

Sir Evelyn is just 56 years old and has seen much public service since he en-



LORD CROMER. (Salisbury's Probable Successor in the British Foreign Office.)

tered the royal artillery in 1858. For four years he acted as secretary of Lord Northbrook, his cousin, while the latter was viceroy in India. In 1877 he was appointed a commissioner of the Egyptian public debt and in 1879, when the Khedive Ismail was deposed, he represented England and France as one of the controllers general. In 1880 Lord Cromer's services in Egypt received public recognition in his appointment to the office of finance minister on the vice royal council of India, under the Marquis of Ripon. In 1883 he succeeded Sir Edward Malet as British agent, consul general and minister plenipotentiary in Egypt.

Lord Cromer is a man of quick decision and great determination. He would, so his friends believe, conduct the foreign office with such heartiness as to leave no doubt in the mind of the world as to what England proposes to do in the snarl in China. In Egypt he ruled with an iron hand and his titles and decorations bear witness to the esteem he is held in as an uncompromising servant of British supremacy.

Indians Practiced Dentistry.

Charles Noel, who has been examining a number of Indian mounds near Portsmouth, O., while recently excavating a mound on the Feurt farm, five miles from Portsmouth and on the banks of the Scioto river, found a skeleton which partially crumbled away when brought to the surface. Enough was saved, however, to show that the aborigines practiced a form of dentistry. All the teeth in the skull were found save two, and these were filled by pearls.

HEARING THE DEFENSE.

Continued from First Page.

pursued by the strikers, who shouted: "We will shoot you!" and finally they fired two shots at them.

John Ripple testified that he was followed on the night before the shooting by four men with clubs, who threatened to kill him if he did not stay away from work the next day.

Mrs. John Bonner said the strikers were armed with sticks and pieces of iron. Michael Dogostino testified that the strikers stoned the building in which he sought refuge and pulled him out. He told them he was sick and they allowed him to go.

Margaret Rogouse, the next witness, said she feared the strikers because they stoned her father. When they came along her husband hid under the bed.

Thomas McNeil had charge of six men working on the public road when the strikers came along. The strikers were threatening, and the men at work on the road, seeing they were outnumbered, agreed to go along.

Mrs. Ann O'Donnell and Mrs. Elizabeth Mumie testified that the strikers were armed. The latter said they fired several shots.

Mrs. Christina Stacy, of Cranberry, saw her husband driven away from work at the breaker by the strikers.

Mrs. Joseph Caramonza, of Cranberry, saw the strikers go into the coal strippings armed with heavy sticks. They drove out the men at work.

Jacob Berger, a carpenter, and August Stacy testified that they fled for safety when the strikers approached.

Yesterday's testimony was a repetition of the previous day. Fifty or more witnesses said they were frightened at the work of the strikers. The cross-examinations were short, merely bringing out the fact that the alleged depredations were committed by the McAdoo men before the Harwood men struck. It was shown that the witnesses or their near relatives all hold good jobs under the coal companies or they are related to one or more of the deputies.

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RECENT INVENTIONS.

In a recently patented lubricant soap, tallow, plumbago, white lead, gum camphor, resin and table salt are used.

Bicycle tires are to be kept free from punctures by a new armor which is formed of flat links of sheet metal woven into a broad chain and set in the thread of the tire.

Hats are retained in their original shape by two metal strips crossed at the center of the crown and bent to the shape of the rim, to which they are attached and covered with cloth or plaited into the straw.

Fish can be caught through the ice by a new device, consisting of a board having a reel pivoted to it to hold the line and a spring signal arm, which is released by a fish pulling on the line.

A new toy for the children consists of a hollow finger ring, with an outlet in the setting through which water is forced by a flexible ball attached to the under side of the ring and held in the hand.

Cigars and cigarettes can be lighted without the aid of a match by a composition cap formed of combustibles and designed to be attached to each cigar and ignited by a friction head similar to a match.

To assist a photographer in taking flashlight pictures a sheet of cardboard is formed of highly-inflammable materials and flash-light powder, the advantage being that the flash covers a larger area and gives a brighter light than the loose powder.

In a recently patented animal-cleaning device a circular brush is mounted on a revolving shaft geared to two friction wheels, mounted on a yoke frame. The brush being gradually revolved by drawing the friction wheels slightly over the body of the animal.

To aid in teaching music in schools a western woman has patented a movable ladder, which may be suspended on a blackboard on which the staff is drawn, the ladder being fitted with balls set on movable arms, to indicate notes.

THE DOINGS OF WOMEN.

Mrs. Oliphant, after her long life of literary work, left property amounting to less than \$25,000. She bequeathed it to her adopted daughter.

Baroness Hirsch has lately established a maternity hospital at Munich, given a large donation to a Warsaw hospital and founded 25 annuities for "indigent gentlemen."

Miss Emma Whittington has been commissioned by Gov. Jones, of Arkansas, an honorary colonel of the reserve militia, the first appointment of the kind ever made in that state.

Princess Theresa of Bavaria, daughter of the prince regent, has been made an honorary doctor of philosophy by the University of Munich. She is also a member of the Royal Academy of Sciences.

Mrs. Eliza Day, of Buffalo, Wyo., is widely known in her state as the woman who won the first prize for potatoes at the Columbian exposition. Mrs. T. J. Foster, of the same town, is a successful apiarist, and Mrs. Emma Dowlin and Miss Emma Taylor are ranchers and stock growers.

Mrs. Jessie Mulligan, whose husband, a railroad conductor, was killed on the Yellowstone division of the Northern Pacific railroad six months ago, is now working for the company as a freight train brakeman. She is reported as setting brakes, coupling cars, turning switches and performing the other duties as well as the ordinary brakeman.

AN OPEN LETTER TO MOTHERS.

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

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