

India's area of wheat farms is now about two-thirds as large as that of the United States. The wheat is still thrashed by being trodden out by bullocks and buffaloes.

Two items in the budget of the bank at Monte Carlo, for the year ending October 31: "Payments to ruined gamblers, one hundred thousand francs; for the prevention of suicides, one hundred thousand francs." Here is a sermon, "writ large," on the question, Does gambling pay?

The Fremdenblatt, of Vienna, which is the organ of the Austrian Foreign Office, approves the occupation of the Kia-Chou Bay and Port Arthur, and says that one result of the opening up of China will be the stoppage of the emigration which is so disquieting to Australia and the United States.

The Japanese do not intend to rest supinely under the classification of the Colonial Government of New South Wales, which recently decided to include the Japanese in the Chinese Restriction act, denoting them "as other colored people." The Japanese Consul at Sydney has protested against the proposed legislation.

In South Germany finishing schools, to train young women in presiding over a home, have been recently developed. The girls admitted must have an ordinary grammar-school education. Not over twenty boarders are taken in each school. These girls are obliged to take care of their rooms, and every week four are selected who must manage the household for the week, buying supplies and attending to all the details of cooking and other work, including sewing and making of garments. Under proper supervision this ought to make girls good housekeepers, and it certainly ought to have a tendency to keep down the divorcees in Germany.

In the trial of a case at Newark, N. J., Vice Chancellor Pitney, one of the most erudite of New Jersey's judges, gave an interesting opinion on the effect of noises on human life. The case was a protest against the terrific hammering in a copper boiler shop. The complainants were property owners of the neighborhood. Said the Vice Chancellor: "Noises tend to shorten life. It is a well-settled fact that, all other things being equal, people living in crowded streets and subjected to incessant, often loud, noises, do not live as long as those whose surroundings are comparatively quiet. The rule is that which renders life uncomfortable should be stopped. In considering the effect of noise, we should apply it to ordinary, everyday people, such as the complainants in this case, not people brought up in a palace, unused to noise of any kind, or people who live in a pigsty, caring nothing for noise of any sort. The Court must be judge and jury in this case, and the Court has been in a boiler shop and knows what it is. One man holds a small hammer inside the boiler, while another man hammers on the outside." Although the case was continued, the Court intimated that people involuntarily subjected to such hurt-producing noises had redress at the hands of the law.

Says the Boston Journal: "It is calculated by military students that fully one-half of the 100,000 men who died in battle on the Union side from 1861 to 1865 were a bloody sacrifice to the North's fatuous neglect of the science of arms and of the most ordinary military precautions. If that is true, then one-half of the wounded and disabled veterans whose names are now borne on the pension lists owe their disability to the fact that their country, in its long peace, had forgotten the solemn admonition of Washington and had allowed the great mass of its youth to become absolutely ignorant of the use of weapons and of martial exercises. On this basis of reasoning the national folly of the years before the Civil War is now costing the National Government about \$70,000,000 a year, or more than twice the cost of its present military establishment. We shall never have a Civil War again. Our only possible conflict is with a foreign enemy, and in all probability we shall never have that if we maintain an adequate navy and complete our new and admirable system of coast defenses. Seventy million dollars would finish these defenses and arm them. It would build a fleet of fifteen first-class battleships and make our navy the second most powerful on the planet. The men who believe in a policy of reasonable military preparedness for the United States can justify their position not only by an appeal to the national honor, but by the broadest considerations of genuine economy."

WHY AND WHEREFORE.

I know not whence I came,
I know not whither I go,
But the fact stands clear
That I am here
In this world of pleasure and woe,
And out of the mist and murmur
Another truth shines plain—
It is in my power
Each day and hour
To add to its joy or its pain.
I know that the earth exists,
It is none of my business why,
I cannot find out
What it's all about—
I would not waste time to try
My life is a brief, brief thing,
I am here for a little space,
And while I stay
I would like, if I may,
To brighten and better the place

STRIKING A MATCH.

By JULIAN FRENCH.

ELL, Miss Hildeburn, I must say I'm real sorry you and Mr. Sangster have fallen out."

"Oh, Mrs. Collins, indeed you are mistaken. There has been no falling out" between Mr. Sangster and myself. Indeed, I am not on sufficiently sociable terms with any of your gentleman boarders to have a quarrel."

Saying which, Lucy Hildeburn, a slight, delicate-featured girl of eighteen, walked out of the room with even more than her wonted dignity of manner and carriage.

"Nevertheless, notwithstanding," pursued Mrs. Collins, resuming her ironing, which had been interrupted by the young lady's entrance. "I do believe there's been a misunderstanding" between those two, and a real pity it is, for he did admire her amazingly. He couldn't conceal it. And 'twould a been a good thing for her, poor child! Only they seldom know what is good for 'em, these young things, and she's a lettin' her pride stand in the way of her happiness now."

"Pride, indeed!" sneered Miss Jane Humphries, Mrs. Collins niece and assistant, a tall, red-haired, stylishly-dressed dame of five-and-thirty. "I'd like to know what right a girl who earns her livin' by givin' music lessons at fifty cents an hour has to be proud; and as for Mr. Sangster, I don't believe he ever had a serious thought about her. The idea of an intellectual young man like him fancyin' a girl simple enough to be afraid of ghosts. He was only amusin' himself, playin' on her vanity, and she's found that out and is just puttin' on airs now to try and 'pull the wool over her eyes,' as the sayin' is."

"La, Jane, I don't know where you eyes kin' be, if you didn't see how fairly wrapped up in her he was about two weeks ago; and as to her havin' no right to be proud, 'cause she's poor, I b'lieve it's for that very reason she is proud, poor little heart! He's in real good business, Mr. Sangster," Mrs. Collins presently added, in a musing tone, "and is a splendid young man, anyhow—just the best person to take care of that poor little strugglin' sensitive orphan girl. I'll see if I can't mend matters between 'em."

"You'd better be mindin' your own business, I think, Aunt Martha," said Miss Jane, with a spiteful laugh and a sidelong glance at her own highly-frizzed and powdered reflection in the little square of looking-glass that hung against the kitchen wall.

"Never you mind, Jane," persisted warm-hearted Mrs. Collins; "I'll manage it some way. You say she's afraid of ghosts, poor lamb!"

And all that night she lay awake revolving different schemes for the reconciliation of her two favorite boarders.

The following evening the kind-hearted landlady tapped at the door of the scantily-furnished fourth-story room occupied by Lucy Hildeburn, and from which now proceeded a melancholy strain.

"Studying your piano of nights, again?" queried Mrs. Collins, reproachfully, when the girl opened the door.

"Yes," replied Lucy, whose voice had a tearful inflection, despite her efforts to conceal it, and whose eyes were suspiciously red. "I am very busy just now, and must put all the time I can to study."

"Well, but you mustn't forget what the doctor told you about overworkin' your brain," said Mrs. Collins.

"However," she added, "I w'n't detain you longer'n I kin help. I'm come to ask a favor. I'm goin' to the theatre this evening. So is Jane. So's everybody in the house, I b'lieve; and the girl has gone to bed with a toothache. So I'm goin' to ask you to give an eye to the furnace. I've just put on fresh coal and opened the lower doors; but will you please go down at about eight o'clock and close the doors?"

"Certainly," assented Lucy, upon which Mrs. Collins produced a lantern, saying:

"Just take this down with you. The cellar's all dark you know."

Lucy took the lantern, closed the room door, and returned to her piano, while Mrs. Collins walked away, chuckling to herself:

"That lantern'll go out just five minutes after she sets it down, and she'll find herself all in the dark. And she's afraid of ghosts, poor lamb! But what if somebody who ain't a ghost should happen to be go-

Then Mr. Sangster knelt down beside her, and a confused interchange of explanations of various kinds ensued.

The result was, that at the expiration of a half-hour, Mr. Sangster took Lucy in his arms and kissing the tear-stained face, murmured:

"God bless you for this promise, my own darling! And, with His help, I trust these are the last tears I will cause you to shed."

When Mrs. Collins came home, two hours later, the house was very quiet, the furnace in good order, and neither Mr. Sangster nor Miss Hildeburn visible. But the following day Lucy confided to her a secret, and Mr. Sangster absented himself mysteriously for about three weeks. After that, Miss Hildeburn also disappeared.

"Gone to visit her aunt at Swathmore," Mrs. Collins explained to the other boarders.

But a fortnight later the mail carrier brought some wedding cards to the house.

"It was all brought about through the furnace," said Mrs. Collins, with a gleeful chuckle.

But Miss Jane was infinitely disgusted.—Saturday Night.

How Stanton Defied Lincoln.

The appointment of a man who wanted to be chaplain in the army during Mr. Lincoln's Administration was recently found. Attached to it are a number of endorsements which are not only interesting in themselves, but aid in disclosing the characters of the two men whose influence largely molded the policy of the Government in those turbulent times. The endorsements read as follows:

Dear Stanton—Appoint this man chaplain in the army. A. LINCOLN.

Dear Mr. Lincoln—He is not a preacher. E. M. STANTON.

The following endorsements are dated a few months later, but come just below:

Dear Stanton—He is now. A. LINCOLN.

Dear Mr. Lincoln—But there is no vacancy. E. M. STANTON.

Dear Mr. Stanton—Appoint him chaplain-at-large. A. LINCOLN.

Dear Mr. Lincoln—There is no warrant of law for that. E. M. STANTON.

Dear Mr. Stanton—Appoint him anyhow. A. LINCOLN.

Dear Mr. Lincoln—I will not. E. M. STANTON.

An Island of Volcanic Make.

The British North Borneo Herald describes the new island which was recently thrown up by volcanic action on the coast between Mempakoi and Lumbidan. The island, which is about forty-five feet high, 250 yards long and 150 yards broad, has a very peculiar appearance. It is chiefly an upheaval of the sea bottom, but at the highest point presents entirely different features. Here the surface of the sea bottom has been broken through from below and a mud crater formed, which had evidently been forcibly squeezed up through a circular hole in the bedrock further down.

The mud crater presents the form of a cone with the top and side in places fallen in; the portions remaining intact show plainly, by the smooth striated sides, the effects of squeezing the rock. The cone at its visible base is perhaps twenty yards in diameter, and is surrounded at about thirty yards distance by a circular terrace a few feet high, which suggests that a little pressure from below would have resulted in a far larger one being thrown up. There is a lot of bubbling going on in various cracks and holes, which flares up when a match is applied and continues to burn.

Tamping Done by Air.

A force of 200,000 men is required to keep the beds of the railroads in order, and the expense of the work is \$70,000,000 a year. But an inventor has come forward who proposes to do the work with compressed air, and promises greater expedition and a saving of more than \$10,000,000 annually. The machine consists of a Root blower driven at the rate of perhaps 800 revolutions a minute. It is set on top of one rail, and has two small wheels on which it can be trundled along the rail like a wheelbarrow. When it is to be used a lever clips it fast to the rail. Attached to it is a hose twelve feet long, ending in a metal feeder for the broken stone, which has a hopper at the top, where the stone or other suitable ballasting material is shoveled in, and a bent end at the bottom, which is put under the ties to direct the stream of filling. In using it none of the ballast between the ties need be removed. A shovelful is removed at one end of the raised tie until the bent end of the hopper tube can be poked under, and then the filling material is blown in and packed tight by the machine.

Roller Boats.

The curious spectacle of a marine craft propelled by enormous air-tight, disc-shaped hollow wheels suggests a radical departure in the methods of boat-building. That the experiment was a failure was the natural consequence of the principles on which the craft was constructed. All of the machinery and passenger accommodations rested on a platform supported by these air-tight wheels arranged in rows on either side. The general effect was that of a huge wagon, the box of which rested on the water. One of the causes of the failure of this venture was that the wheels took up sufficient water to handicap them seriously. An attempt was made to counteract this by increasing the power, but this added to the weight of the machinery and did not work successfully. A device to scrape the water from the wheels was equally futile, and as it stands now the roller boat has scored a most brilliant failure.



THINGS QUEER IN MEXICO.

According to law all books of corporations must be kept in the language of the country.

Mexican men and women carefully refold their handkerchiefs before returning them to their pockets.

Milk is delivered from house to house from large cans with a flat slide that are slung over a burro's back.

Women doctors are practically unknown and the first woman to be admitted to the bar recently took her examination.

Most doctors have signs as large as those of the dry goods stores, reaching clear across the front of their office buildings.

Judges take a more active part in trials than in the States, and, as a rule, question the prisoner and witnesses direct from the bench.

In addition to the omnipresent balcony every window in Mexican houses is fitted with iron rods on which to hang a canvas awning.

The City of Mexico owns a closed street car without windows that is used for transporting prisoners from one part of the city to another.

As a usual rule commercial houses have certain hours for paying just as a bank and many of them only make payment one day in the week.

It is sometimes necessary to hold court at least for a short time on Sunday as under the law jury trials can not be continued for a longer time than twenty-four hours.

Mexican butchers have no use for saws. They cut beefsteaks, chops and everything else with one big thick knife, weighing several pounds, that they use both as knife and cleaver.

To the lowest classes of Indians and peons knives and forks are unknown. They deftly convey their food to their mouths with a piece of tortilla, the corn cake that forms the staff of life of the common people.

No obstructions whatever can be placed in the streets without authority from the municipal authorities. A painter must even get permission to put up his scaffold from which to paint a sign on a building.—Modern Mexico.

Novel Wedding Ring.

A novel wedding ring has just come out. It is a revival of an ancient idea, and bids fair to be popular among this season's brides. The ring looks like an ordinary, rather narrow, plain gold ring. On the inside of it is a tiny hole. You have only to insert the point of a pin there to see the apparently solid gold ring spring apart into two linked circles. The date of the marriage and the initials of the bridegroom and bride are engraved on the upper surface of the ring and a motto—"Si vis amari ama"—on the lower surface of the other. When the links are fitted together the inscriptions are concealed and there is no hint of the ring's secret. The bridegroom wears a similar ring. The jeweler who is making them says many couples have bought them, and that many more had ordered them.

Shoe Don't's.

Don't put away shoes in a dirty condition; wipe them, dress them and store them in an airy closet.

Don't place shoes against a heater after coming in from the rain.

Don't wear one pair of shoes steadily. Two pairs worn alternately will do the work of three pairs worn consecutively.

Don't shut up an array of shoes in an air-tight closet.

Don't wear shoes that will not permit the great toe to lie in a straight line.

Don't wear a shoe that is tight anywhere.

Don't wear a shoe so large that it slips at the heel.

Don't wear a shoe with a sole narrower than the outline of the foot traced with a pencil drawn close under the rounding edge.

Don't wear the top of a boot tight, as it interferes with the action of the calf-muscles, makes one walk awkwardly and causes the ankles to swell.

Don't fail to wipe shoes with soft dressing at least once a week.

Don't wear a shoe that has commenced to run over. Have the heel straightened at once and finished on the worn edge with a row of tiny nails.

Don't economize on footwear; a good shoe is a cheap shoe.—Demorest's Magazine.

Hats of Many Styles.

Bonnets and toques are in the ascendant for dressy occasions, and French toques bordered and trimmed with fur are especially neat and appropriate with handsome street toilettes. People grow more and more independent each year, as regards headgear, however, and those who prefer hats, picture and other, will have the courage of their convictions. A hat is more convenient than a bonnet, fits better, and is often much more becoming; there being few faces that look their best in a bonnet. Even among hats, however, there are found this season some shapes far from becoming, especially among the round ones.

A woman should exercise much caution in the selection of her head covering; and not be hurried in her decision by milliners or impatient shopping companions. One lady, whose style of face required a small, neat toque, was persuaded to buy a large hat with fan-shaped stiff wings at each side, giving the wearer something of the look of a wind-mill.

Among bonnets one finds some very pronounced French styles—one imitating an old-fashioned calash just in front, under which the hair is to be arranged in the Merode fashion. This bonnet is round at the sides, very short above the ears and at the back, having strings of a corresponding shade of velvet to that composing the bonnet itself. These velvet strings are set on at the shortest part, and the bonnet is trimmed with a great profusion of feathers in various shades of red, brown, olive and gold.

Cream-gray felt bonnets look well trimmed with sable bands and tails, with green feathers and a colored bird spreading its wings.—The Housewife.

Gossip.

Buffalo (N. Y.) aldermen have refused to appropriate any money for the instruction of public school girls in cooking.

Miss Ada Negri, the young Italian poet who has been having a considerable vogue in London, is an ardent Socialist.

Mrs. Jessie Palmer Weber, of Springfield, Ill., a daughter of General John M. Palmer, has been chosen to succeed the late Miss Josephine Cleveland as librarian of the Illinois Historical Library.

Women in France have just secured a slight addition to their legal rights. They may henceforth be valid witnesses to registration of birth, marriages and deaths, and to the signature in legal documents.

Miss Melville B. Wilson, whose statue, "The Minute Man," President McKinley called "a good summer's work," has made a new departure in modeling small cabinet busts, which she reproduces in marble and bronze.

The first Southern woman to have her name inscribed on a monument as the designer is Miss Virginia Montgomery, who has had her design for a Confederate memorial, to be erected in San Antonio, Texas, accepted by the committee.

Alice M. Beckwith, who will soon

assume her duties as County Clerk in Weld County, Colorado, is being given considerable advertising in the State as one of the first women in a county office other than that of Superintendent of Schools.

Miss Alice Marie Clark, of Washington, has been elected professor of German in the Centenary Collegiate Institute at Hacketts town, N. J. She was graduated at the Woman's College in Baltimore in 1896, and went abroad for travel and study.

Dr. Marie Louise Benoit, of Lowell, Mass., has been appointed Medical Intern in the New York State Craig colony for Epileptics at Sonoma, Livingston County. She is the first woman appointed as a Medical Intern in the State hospital service of New York.

Miss M. J. Frodsham has been appointed lecturer at the Training College, Cambridge, England. She won the entrance scholarship at Holloway College and the First Founder's Scholarship for Mathematics, and a second-class Oxford honor moderation in mathematics.

Queen Nathalie has dismissed all her Serbian servants as an indication that she has severed all connections with her husband, ex-King Milan, who is again in Belgrade, and her son, King Alexander. The former Queen is a Russian by birth, very rich and was educated in a school in Florence attended by several American girls.

The Queen of Portugal, who has studied medicine, while walking recently in a wood near Lisbon with a lady with honor, was startled by the sound of a cry. Proceeding to the spot she found that a woodchopper had been injured by a falling branch. The Queen attended to the man's injuries, and then with her companion assisted him to reach his cabin.

There is a larger number of students at Bryn Mawr this term than ever before, and statistics recently made out show that the gymnastic training of girls who have been some years in the college is telling in the general average of lung capacity, muscular strength, height, weight, etc. There are forty-two graduates for '98, eighty-nine in the freshman class, and a total number of 322 students.

Franks and Fancies.

Pencil protectors are now made in sterling silver.

The enamel Walls-of-Troy belt, joined by small jewels, is a novelty.

The low, squat shape is the newest thing in large hall and banquet lamps.

Flannel petticoats are trimmed with flounces of white silk edged with lace.

Very long wrinkled sleeves are worn with the low or half low waists of full dress.

Fancy waists will increase, rather than diminish, in favor during the coming season.

The circular skirt still retains its vogue, although many of the models are greatly narrowed.

Anarath red is a new color added to the winter list. It is between a crimson and a cherry.

For dressy occasions, sashes of chiffon, with long ends edged with pleated frilling or lace, are much worn.

Cloth and corded silk and drap d'ete, or double-faced and moire, will be very fashionably combined next season.

Bridesmaids', debutantes' and dancing costumes are made in primrose and pale pink crepe de Chine, and trimmed with beautiful laces and pearl and opal passementeries.

Chatelaines in oxide and gilt, Russian enamel, cut steel, etc., and in open filigree work, have all kinds of convenient trifles attached, such as tablets, purses, glove buttons, pencils, etc.

Flower trimming is in favor for evening gowns, rows of shaded pink roses without foliage being much used; also maidenhair fern and sprays of lilac, laid on strands of ribbon an inch and a half wide.

Colored silk moreen is a good substitute for the taffeta silk petticoat and it comes in pretty stripes, plaids, and changeable effects. It is not cheap, however, but it is said to wear nearly three times as long as the taffeta.

A half-worn light silk waist may be very satisfactorily refurbished by stripping it crosswise with black velvet ribbon, putting velvet ribbon around the plain collar band and adding a new chemise neck of lace and a velvet belt.

A blouse which combined purple, black and white was made of cloth to match the skirt, plaided with broad white stripes. The high collar and the pointed revers and cuffs were of black sarakan, the material used for muff and toque.

Woven trimmings to imitate elaborate hand embroideries in shaded effects are increasingly popular. These garnishes, made of silk, jet, cut steel, beads, mock jewels, etc., produce a very Oriental effect when used on special parts of a costume.

Handsome little boxes, four inches deep and large enough to hold plate doilies, are lined with silver and provided with a sachet mat for perfuming purposes. The tops are covered with any material desired, a quilling of ribbon or a fringe of lace over silk finishing the sides. They are really useful receptacles for the dainty doilies that need careful protection.

A Fifteen-Year-Old Check.

Mr. Pleas Chaudoin, living on Russell Creek, in Green County, last week received the money on a check which had been given him nearly fifteen years ago. The check was given by Mr. Chaudoin by the Farmers' tobacco warehouse of Louisville, in payment for his crop of tobacco, and called for \$170. In some manner the check was misplaced, and "Uncle Pleas" forgot all about it. Besides, he was a long ways from a bank, and no one in his neighborhood had enough money to cash the check, and "Uncle Pleas" thought he would not worry about the loss of the check until he got ready to go to town, when he would have the missing paper supplied by the firm. Time went on, and the check was forgotten, until about six months ago, in looking over some papers he found the long-lost check and at once took it to the bank for collection. Some time was consumed in looking over the books of the Farmers' warehouse, and in checking up their bank account, but it was found that the check had never been paid, and last week another check was sent Mr. Chaudoin by the big combine of which the Farmers' house is now a member, and the old check taken up. It goes without saying that "Uncle Pleas" got the last check cashed immediately.—Glasgow (Ky.) News.

Dispute Altar Made by Indians.

A disputation at Sioux Falls, South Dakota, says: "Situated at the extreme limit of the eastern boundary of South Dakota is the famous red pipestone quarry, for whose existence scientists are at a loss for an explanation. This is the only quarry of the kind known to exist on the American continent, or, for that matter in the world. It is the stone from which the Indians make their pipes and ornaments, and for which the Indians make annual pilgrimages now, as they have done in ages past.

"In the neighborhood of this quarry a tribe of Indians located years ago and became zealous converts to the Episcopal faith. Bishop Haro visited their community recently, and among other things was called upon to consecrate an altar, perhaps the most unique that was ever erected in a chapel. The material used was almost wholly red pipestone, quarried by the Indians, and finished and polished by them. The substance used for polishing was honey, and the work was slow and laborious, covering a period of several months. The altar is beautiful, the symbols of the church being engraved upon the stone panels.—Chicago Chronicle.

Boorishness Explained.

A day or two ago I entered a Czech cafe, in a little frequent part of Prague, and chanced to forget to take off my hat immediately on entering, a custom which prevails almost everywhere in German speaking countries. This apparently was taken as an insult by the people in the cafe, and to my surprise I was greeted by a veritable storm of shouts and hisses. For a few moments, having no knowledge of the Czech language, I did not realize my offense, but seeing that they had mistaken me for a German, and fearing that they might really attack me as several Germans have been attacked and maltreated lately, I called out in German, "I am English." The effect of the announcement was instantaneous, and the tumult immediately subsided. But later on I questioned the waiter, who told me that "pig" and "dog" were among the polite epithets the Czechs had shouted at me when they mistook my nationality.—Westminster Gazette.