

Spain is in a position to fit out a magnificent navy if she will utilize her hardships.

The French built the Suez Canal and the British are getting the largest part of the benefit from it.

There is no national feeling in China. The different sections of the country hate each other more cordially than they hate foreigners.

Bulgaria is going to take effective means to increase its population. For every son born beyond a minimum number \$5 will be paid not only to the father, but to the mother also.

It was Shelley who discovered Cerbera in Santiago Harbor. It was Shelley who discovered Cerbera as he started on his dash to destruction.

Several object lessons have been presented for the consideration of nations in the war. One is that America can strike swiftly and strike hard.

A member of the Volksraad of the Orange Free State, South Africa, recommends Sunday observance as an effectual cure for the rinderpest.

Oh the Fourth of July a young man of Stockton, Kan., took his best girl to a picnic. There she accepted so many attentions from another young man that the first young man became enraged and went home, leaving the girl to get back to her own house as best she might.

History notes the fact that Bahia Nipe, the third large harbor of Cuba occupied by the United States, was the scene of the first landing of Columbus on the shores of the greatest of the Antilles.

Consul Smith at Moscow has made a report to the State Department in regard to the education of children in Finland. "About thirty-eight per cent. of the population of Finland," he says, "can read and write."



AN OLD FAMILY PORTRAIT. If you could think, if you could speak, I wonder how your voice would sound And what opinion you would hold Of those who idly crowd around!

THE CONVICT WHO ESCAPED

HE line that divides Texas from a presumably yet more furnace-like region was on this day less evident than usual.

Granite Mountain glistened in the glare with its thousand ruddy points sparkling like fireflies. Around the base of the mountain the long canvas-covered sheds gave the appearance of a huge yellow snake coiled up and at rest.

There were many among these convicts, indeed, to whom this work of cutting granite at Granite Mountain was in the nature of an immense relief from a far greater evil—the Swamps.

When, therefore, the hot stillness of that place was broken on this day by the quick crackling of several Winchester's, the granite-cutters merely listened a moment, sighed, and bent down again to the veined blocks of stone before them.

"He may live an hour," he said. The wounded man opened two weary eyes; his right hand fumbled down against the rough sail-cloth upon which he lay, striving to grasp

it, to clench it so that he could steady himself. "Bring the sergeant," he gasped; then his head dropped, and he seemed to sink into restfulness.

"I suppose you wonder why I tried to escape. Well, it was a madness, I think. I can't explain it myself. But I was out there with the blasting outfit to-day, when suddenly I looked up and saw the figure of a woman against the sky-line, on the slope of the granite mountain.

"He noticed the anguish on the guard's face, and went on, looking up smilingly at him— "Oh, you did your duty, you know. How were you to know the madness that was in me? For it must have been a madness. Yes, surely, it must have been."

Over in the guard-station they listened to the shots and looked up. "What's that?" asked a lately arrived guard. "A convict has escaped!" was the answer.

WISE WORDS.

Out of debt out of danger. Slander is the revenge of a coward, and dissimulation his defense. Life is too short to be wasted in petty worries, hatred and vexation. Chance opportunities make us known to others, and still more to ourselves. He is young enough who has health, and he is rich enough who has no debts. The only failure a man ought to fear is failure in cleaving to the purpose he sees to be best. Self-knowledge is that acquaintance with ourselves which shows us what we are, and what we ought to be. A false report does not last long, and the life one leads is always the best apology of that which one has led. Great efforts come of industry and perseverance; for audacity doth almost bind and mate the weaker sort of minds. The moral courage that will face obloquy in a good cause is much a rarer gift than the bodily valor that will confront death in a bad one. Passing of the Oldest Coins. One of the oldest coins of Europe will shortly disappear. The Austrian "kruze" was withdrawn from commercial circulation on June 30, in accordance with the convention establishing a copper currency of equal value for all parts of the empire. It will be received at public banks in payment or in exchange for new money until December 31, 1899, but from the first day of the coming century it will no longer be legal tender. The "kruze" has been in existence since the fifteenth century, taking its name, of course, from the cross which it bore in common with many other coins. It circulated freely in North America, but for some twenty-five years has not been current beyond the Austrian frontier.—London Chronicle. Signs For Bicyclenines. To pick the seed ball of a dandelion and blow away every tiny piece of fluff at the first effort means that you must turn back at once, as you are badly wanted at home. It is supposed to be lucky to see a black cat in your path, provided you don't frighten it or send it away. To ride over or injure a black cat is declared to be attended with serious consequences. To pass a novice in distress and not offer to help her means that you will be in similar need of assistance before the day is out. On the other hand, if you curtail your ride and dismount to offer your help you will meet the friend you most like before your ride is over.—London Cycle. With Camels in Arizona. It is believed that some of the camels imported in 1853 to run wild in Arizona are still in existence. Indians occasionally report having seen some, and lately the International Boundary Commission saw two with their spy-glasses on the Mexican border. Centenarians in Russia. Servia, one of the smallest countries of Europe, has more centenarians than any other country. Of a population of 1,300,000 there are 575 persons whose age exceeds one hundred years.

FIELDS OF ADVENTURE.

THRILLING INCIDENTS AND DARING DEEDS ON LAND AND SEA.

Fighting With Whales.—The Experience of Captain Rose Of Hatteras—Severely of a Missionary's Welcome—Unharmful by a Batter—The Cadet's Rescue.

Captain Antone Rose, of the whaling schooner Joseph A. Manta, has arrived at Provincetown, Mass., his home, having been obliged to leave his vessel on account of sickness, the result of exposure while fighting a whale.

When rescued some of the men were nearly dead. One poor fellow was unconscious, and it required an hour of hard work and quantities of hot coffee to bring him back to life.

Towed Six Miles by a Swordfish.

The steam yacht Chetolah, N. Y. Y. C., owner A. J. Wise, put in at Sea Cliff, L. I., recently with a swordfish on board measuring thirteen feet ten inches long and weighing 625 pounds.

Unharmful by a Serpent.

The incident of St. Paul and the viper and the stories of Zinzendorf and Brainerd and their serpent visitors are read by every one with the thrill of interest always felt where a human life is at stake. We can imagine the effect upon those who were eyewitnesses of the fact, and saw these men escape without a wound.

A Quick-Witted Swede.

An Ordnance Sergeant stationed at one of the Pacific coast artillery posts went suddenly insane a few years ago. His mind had been disturbed for some time by the hard-heartedness of a young woman who declined to marry him. On the day that his wits went completely awry he made for the magazines with the intention, as he quietly announced to a young Swedish recruit whom he met on the way, of blowing them up.

HOUSEHOLD AFFAIRS.

Paste to Mend China.

China and porcelain may be neatly and easily mended with a paste composed of oxide of zinc and chloride of zinc. The paste is pure white, and hardens quickly, but until it is quite set it is better to fasten the parts together by binding round with twine.

Preserving Ribbons and Silks.

To preserve ribbons and silks put them away in brown paper, for white paper contains chloride of lime, and frequently produces discoloration. A white satin dress should be pinned in blue paper, with brown paper on the outside, sewed together on the edges.

Door Drapery.

An effective door drapery for a doorway leading to a room or hall furnished in dark tones is composed of a series of wrought-iron chains of graduated lengths, those at the sides reaching half way to the floor and shortening toward the centre to form an arch overhead. The chains are slender and the effect is far richer than that of the now so common bead portieres.

How to Clean a Straw Hat.

Scrub the rim of the hat first with the juice of one lemon. Cut out an oval piece of cardboard the size of the crown. Scrub the straw and rinse in cold water. Put the piece of cardboard inside the crown and lay the hat upside down and press the cardboard firmly into the crown.

Keeping Meals Warm.

When it is necessary to keep a meal hot for a belated dinner, do not set the plate holding the food in a hot oven, thus discoloring the china as well as drying the food; instead, place the plate upon the fire over a pan of boiling water, covering the plate with a pan that will just fit over the edge of the plate. The food will keep hot, and there will be enough steam from the boiling water in the lower pan to keep the plate moist and prevent the contents becoming dried.

Washing Quilts.

During the warm months the thin quilt takes the place of heavier bed covering. They require frequent washing to keep them clean, but this is not a difficult task when one has a good washing machine and wringer. Put one or two quilts (owing to the size) in the machine, heat enough soft water to cover them until it is almost boiling hot, and when you have made good suds, pour the water over the quilts and wash them. Pass them through the wringer, empty the water out of the machine, and replace it with a clean suds prepared like the first. Wash through this and rinse through two waters, adding a little bluing to the second. Hang them on a strong line, folding one edge over just enough to hold it, and put a clothes pin every ten or twelve inches. A bright day should be chosen for this work, and if a gentle breeze is blowing, they will look nicer when they are dry.

Table Decorations.

Table centres are no longer the newest things certainly, but they are still much used and are made of all kinds of material. The soft cream silk, stuffed into billows, edged and covered with trails of smilax, with sprays of roses, either all of one color (though varying in shade) or harmonizing in tint, laid out, it would look exquisite with the silver lamps, especially if you had a rather high basket filled with roses loosely arranged as if falling, out of it, a trail being wreathed around the handle and kept in place with a deftly tied bow of satin ribbon for the centre piece.

Pineapple Jelly Sauce—Pick into flakes one ripe pineapple and strew with sugar. Cover tablespoon of gelatine with two of cold water. Add a gill of boiling water, and the juice of four oranges. Pour over the pineapple and set in refrigerator. It should be used in an hour, or the sauce will lose the jelly quality.

Mock Crab Sandwiches—Cream two tablespoons butter, add quarter cup grated cheese, season with one-quarter teaspoon each of salt, paprika and mustard—a little anchovy paste is an addition—add one teaspoon vinegar; beat well; spread between thin slices of good bread. Cut short slices across lengthwise, after the sandwich is made.

Oliver Sandwiches—Cut thin slices of whole wheat bread and butter. Trim them neatly. Boil two eggs twenty minutes, lay in cold water a moment, then mash with silver fork and mix them with one dozen large olives, finely chopped, add the juice of half a lemon and season to taste. Spread the mixture on the bread and butter and roll, or cover with another slice and cut in any desired shape. This sandwich is one of the daintiest for afternoon teas.

The Diameter of an Atlantic Fog.

The captain of an Atlantic liner, after many calculations, has come to the conclusion that the general size of a fog in the Atlantic is about thirty miles in diameter.