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The extension of American shipping is of the first importance to the South, says the Atlanta Constitution.

The Duke d'Abuzzi started upon his journey of arctic exploration with a commendable tone of modesty.

When the billboard question was taken up by the City Council committee it was brought out that one of the billboard companies is paying out between \$200,000 and \$300,000 a year to the owners of vacant lots.

Message of the Heart. A most remarkable case is communicated by M. Tuffler to the Surgical Society of Paris.

Corrected Himself. In his earnestness the great popular orator forgot himself. "Let us not wash our party linen in public!" he cried passionately.

The Main Thing to Learn. "To make a success at this business," said the experienced traveling salesman.

Major Marchand was the son of a widow, and as such exempt from military duty.



Fiction. LOVE'S GEOGRAPHY.

My kingdom is my sweetheart's face, And these the boundaries I trace: Northward—a forehead fair;

MR. PHINEAS MARVELL. A Boarding House Romance.

Her husband had died and left her unprotected for Mrs. Hyde kept boarders.

She had a little, dried-up widow, with a constitutional toothache and a mild, meek way of taking the world as it came to her.

"But there's one blessing that I have to be thankful for," she would say. "Mr. Marvell has kept true to me through it all as the needle to the pole."

"Mr. Marvell," she gasped. "Now, ma'am, it isn't at all worth while to go through any scenes," said the bachelor, callously.

"And this morning, on making inquiries," relentlessly went on the bachelor, "I learned that you had actually taken in your widowed niece and her twin babies? Twins, ma'am!

Some New Palindromes. "Somebody," says The Star of Hope, the prison paper of Sing Sing, "has been amusing himself and his 'pals' in the prison with the following 'backward readings' or rather readings that backward or forward are precisely the same—that is, the entire words:

A Quick-Witted Boy. "Want a situation as errand boy, do you? Well, can you tell me how far the moon is from the earth, eh?"

AMERICAN SIGNAL GUNS.

NOW HEARD EVERY NIGHT ALL OVER THE EARTH.

If a Person in Porto Rico Could Hear, the Evening Gun in Manila Would Awaken Him Just Before His Own Signal Gun Boomed.

Webster's allusion to Great Britain as "a power which has dotted over the whole globe with her possessions and military posts, whose morning drum-beat, following the sun and keeping company with the hours, circles the earth with one continuous and unbroken strain of the martial airs of England" may not have been an original idea with him.

The custom of firing these guns is observed in camps in the field as well as at posts and garrisons, because it is one of the institutions of the army commanded by the army regulations.

"I'll tell you what," said the doctor, on the day that he made his last professional visit, "if it hadn't been for Mrs. Smith, you would have been snugly stowed away between four mahogany boards by this time, my friend."

The first shot fired at sunrise comes from the garrison on the island of Vieques, east of Porto Rico. In its westward journey the sun is saluted almost in constant succession until the shot at Aguadilla, on the extreme west coast of Porto Rico, is fired.

The disappearance sixty years ago of three-year-old John Johnson, of Lower Biddford, Me., has been recalled by the Portland Press. The little fellow was playing with his brothers and sisters one afternoon when suddenly they missed him.

Queer Business Combinations. Some Chicago men carry on at the same time two or more different lines of business. Sometimes these combinations are laughable.

There are nearly 2000 more miles of trolleys than there were in 1897. The total mileage of this country is 15,672.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

A French experimenter suggests that the X-ray furnishes a ready means to detect stony impurities in coal.

An artificial cork known as phello-sene has recently been introduced in France, and is said to answer all the purposes for which this substance is generally employed.

The Ermak, built on the Tyne to break the ice and keep the harbor of Constantinople open in winter, encountered floes ten feet thick near the Island of Lesoon, in the Baltic, and forced her way through them at a speed of two and a half miles an hour.

A valuable product, especially for the color industry, is produced from the soot of the acetylene flames. When acetylene gas is burned with a smoking flame it produces three or four times as great a quantity of soot as do mineral oils.

The San Jose scale was first discovered by Professor J. H. Comstock, near San Jose, Cal., in 1879. It has been found in various parts of the world, and while the place of its origin has not yet been ascertained, it is conjectured to be Japan.

There is probably no place where the results of scientific medical treatment are more marked than in India, as the health officials of that country are constantly making use of the most recent products of bacteriological research in their efforts to combat the various epidemics.

The kidnapping of Johnny Johnson. The disappearance sixty years ago of three-year-old John Johnson, of Lower Biddford, Me., has been recalled by the Portland Press.

There were 249,145 marriages in England and Wales last year, more than in any year since 1876.

OUR BUDGET OF HUMOR.

LAUGHTER-PROVOKING STORIES FOR LOVERS OF FUN.

Banishing the Bore—Cheapest His Value—Hard to Please—Some Satisfaction, Anyhow—A Cheerful Soul—A Sure Cure—A Natural Inference, Etc.

He used to bore me half to death, For, every single day, He'd come round to my office, And just stay, and stay, and stay.

"There is a man who is always looking for trouble." "Well, it's easy enough to cure him of that habit."

"Mrs. Perkins said if we made her president she would resign from the club." "Well?"

"Our Henry has been to school for two years," said his anxious mother, "and I don't see that he has learned anything of value."

School Visitor—"What a sad, serious and contemplative countenance that young genius has who stands at the head of the class!"

Mistress (to cook)—"Your name, Mary, and my daughter's being the same, makes matters somewhat confusing. Now, how do you like, say, the name of Bridget?"

"Then I reckon he ain't at home. I heard him tell mamma any bill came he wasn't at home."

FARM TOPICS.

Washing Milk Pails. It is always important to wash milk pails as soon as possible after their contents are emptied.

Keep Young Hogs Growing. There is an impression among farmers that hogs in summer at pasture can get enough with the swill from the house and what they can get in the fields.

Artichokes For Pigs. Occasionally some one writes enthusiastically in favor of artichokes for swine, but the great majority of swine breeders and feeders do not seem to be fascinated with this valuable tuber.

Sheep Like Wild Pasture. From my experience in sheep raising, I have come to the conclusion that the more access flocks have to the woodlands the better they will thrive.

Veal is very firm. It Mattered Not. Mistress (to cook)—"Your name, Mary, and my daughter's being the same, makes matters somewhat confusing.

Not Home to Bills. "Is your father at home?" asked the caller. "What is your name, please?" inquired the little girl.

A Feast For His Pet. Willie was running around the house with a flannel shirt in his hands, peering into closets and looking under beds and opening bureau drawers.

The Joke That Failed. "Haw, haw, haw," laughed the Englishman. "Funnier joke I ever heard."

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