

INFORMATION FOR ALL READERS.

Mrs Cramer, of Neenah, Wis., 82 years old, has read the bible through 258 times.

Fifty million silver dollars in the Philadelphia mint were counted and 769 were found missing.

Perfectly fire-proof celluloid is the latest English product from the spent fibers of paper mills.

The opal is the only gem which cannot be counterfeited. Its delicate tints cannot be reproduced.

A Baden wine seller supplies his customers with as much wine as they choose to drink for 24 cents an hour.

Berlin has no slums. Even in the poorest quarters the streets are paved with asphalt, and are kept faultlessly clean.

In ancient times in Greece it was customary to place a coin under the tongue of a dead person to pay his fare to Charon.

The total net debt of Canada up to Dec. 1st was \$246,000,000. That is something that the United States does not want to annex.

The queen of the Belgians is said to be a very clever conjuror, and the king is always on watch for the tricks which she plays upon him.

In China, which has long been known as "the land of opposites," the dials of clocks are made to turn around, while the hands stand still.

An immense meteor fell near Juarez in Lower California, the other day. The shock of its striking the earth was felt a distance of 45 miles.

Prof. Drummond thinks that "the great factor in the future evolution of society must be the ascent of woman." Nobody is trying to prevent it.

The Japs heat their rooms by means of a square hole in the middle of the floor, which is filled with coals, over which a blanket is hung horizontally.

Unfortunately no modern novel treats of divorce as a sin, or, at least, makes such a theme the burden of its plot. The balance is all the other way.

It is said to be of no use to whisper in the presence of Queen Victoria. Her ears are so sharp that she can almost hear a person wink in the next room.

Recently more than 100 employes of the Carnegie works at Homestead held a meeting to organize a labor body. The next day all of them were discharged.

Governor Peck signalized his retirement from the gubernatorial chair of Wisconsin by granting pardons to ten murderers, highway robbers and other criminals.

It is rather comforting to know that very aged people are generally from the ranks of the very poor, and that no millionaire has yet succeeded in living to a very great age.

Isaac Bassett, acting assistant doorkeeper of the senate, is the oldest official in public life at Washington. Daniel Webster appointed him a page sixty-three years ago.

George Washington was the richest man in the United States when he died. His property was worth about \$960,000. There were no millionaires in the country in those days.

In Italy a plant, *Agaricus olearius*, is found on the trunks of olive trees, that often emits a bright light of a blue tint that is so vivid that sometimes it can be seen in the daytime.

Kolb, the defeated Populist candidate for governor of Alabama, is thinking of becoming the head of a dual government at Montgomery. His supporters claim he was defrauded of the governorship in the last election. Oates, the present governor, declares that he will firmly and promptly meet any attempt of trouble on the part of Kolb and his followers.

The strike in the New York building trades caused by differences existing between the members of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the Electrical Contractors' association is assuming serious proportions. It is said that 85,000 members of the building trades are ready to stand by and support the 1,000 electrical workers who are out.

Frederick Douglass, the noted colored orator and diplomat, died at Washington the other day. His name will stand prominent in American history as that of a man who occupied a peculiarly conspicuous place in the affairs of the nation during the slavery strife, being associated with Garrison and Phillips, the great abolitionists, in their work. He was given permission in 1868 to assist in the enlistment of men to fill the colored regiments. After the war he devoted his time to lecturing and conducting a paper. Several of the presidents conferred important offices on him. His mother was a negro slave and his father a white man. Douglass' second wife, a white woman, survives him. Three children of the first wife are living.

NEWS OF THE WORLD.

THE GIST OF THE WEEK'S HAPPENINGS AS TOLD BY TELEGRAPH.

Interesting Items From Europe, Asia, Africa and North and South America. With Particular Attention to Important Home News.

A revolution has begun in Cuba. The movement seems to be general.

Mrs. Cleveland has become a member of the Women's Christian Temperance Union.

A. Phillips, a logger at Chehalis, Wash., killed his wife and himself recently. Jealousy.

The Ferris wheel of the World's Fair will remain in Chicago. It is to be erected on the north side.

Colonel Harry I. Thornton, a well-known San Francisco lawyer, died suddenly at Fresno a few days ago.

A valuable filly was foaled at Palo Alto stock farm the other day. It was dropped by Fairy Rose, sired by Ormonde.

News comes from Hongkong that a far-reaching plot has been discovered to overthrow the present Chinese dynasty.

The Russian squadron in the Mediterranean has been ordered to join the Pacific squadron to protect the czar's interests in case the Oriental war ends.

A bill has been introduced in the Nevada assembly making it a misdemeanor to prevent or attempt to prevent any person from securing employment. The bill is especially directed against the Southern Pacific railroad for taking such action against former employes who are on the company's blacklist.

Friends of Major W. T. Seward, who is under sentence of death at Honolulu, are making strong efforts to secure a commutation of the sentence. A petition signed by prominent Pennsylvanians has been sent to President Dole. Seward's war record is recited and his services to the United States are urged in extenuation. The treason charge against Seward is that he bought rifles in San Francisco for the royalists.

The directors of the Kentucky Trotting Horse Breeders' association have appointed two delegates to a convention to be held some time this spring for the purpose of organizing the Sporting League of America to prevent legislation adverse to the interests of legitimate racing and other sports. The delegates were also instructed to oppose winter racing and all associations that give over 30 days' racing each year and betting through foreign books.

George M. C. Whitney, a commercial traveler for a Boston shoe house, engaged a room in a boarding house at Providence, R. I., and during the day was introduced to Miss Grace Grant, daughter of William H. Grant of Indianapolis. Twenty minutes after the introduction he was engaged to marry her. She consented and they were married by Rev. Dr. G. J. Vose of the Congregational church the same afternoon. The young lady is 34 years old and very beautiful. Whitney is 28 years of age.

A special correspondent who was sent from London to Armenia to investigate as to the atrocities said to have been committed by Turks upon Armenians says that it is extraordinarily difficult to get at the real facts. The Turkish authorities, to hinder the work of investigating, have established quarantine regulations against cholera, when that disease does not exist. He says that the Turks removed traces of the massacre, and that the Armenians whom he questioned all had different ideas of the extent of the atrocities.

The English law has put the official stamp of its condemnation on palmistry as a guide to the future. It is a common thing to punish ordinary fortune tellers, card readers and astrologers in the police courts, for British courts take excellent care of the pockets of British citizens, and fortune telling has long been a punishable offense. The law winked at the fact or crime of hand-reading as long as it was a mere drawing room amusement, but when a palmist undertook to read the future for pay from the lines in the hands of superstitious women, the police promptly summoned the palmist before the lord mayor's court. The magistrate seemed to regard it as a peculiarly heinous offense, for he imposed a fine of \$125, equivalent to the combined penalties for half-murdering the scores of children in England.

Rev. Madison C. Peters in the Bloomingdale Reformed church, New York, in a recent Sunday sermon raised poor, foolish Howell Osborne from his grave and set him up as an awful example to young men. Mr. Peters told his hearers how Howell Osborne had spent nearly \$100,000 a year in loose living, "galloping through a course of infernal revelry in the vortex of sinful pleasure," and dying "unlamented" at the age of 36. "Mr. Osborne's was not an isolated case," said Mr. Peters. "The prevalence of that abominable notion that a young man has to sow his wild oats is the reason why this ruin is brought to the doors of so many, and a pastor or other who aids in dispelling this idea is performing an inestimable service to humanity."

Lawyer G. F. Wahle made a motion in the supreme court of New York recently in the suit of Carolines Gerty, the widow of George Gerty of Cleveland, O., to recover \$125,000 worth of property which she alleges she was forced to sign over to the Standard Oil company. Mrs. Gerty says she signed over to that company the property to keep her husband from going to prison, under the supposition that he had embezzled \$275,000 from it. Lawyer Wahle told the court that the corporation's ledger showed that Gerty was not an embezzler. Wahle said these facts were shown by private papers of Mr. Gerty and also that these bonds had been stolen by somebody and that the books of the company had been falsified so the directors could not learn of the transaction. A decision was reserved on the motion.

WASHINGTON NOTES.

Interesting Items Picked Out from the Daily Dispatches.

The senate has confirmed the president's nomination of Erskine M. Ross of California to be United States circuit judge for the ninth judicial circuit.

Senator Chandler of New Hampshire created a sensation by outlining some important steps to be taken by the next congress, including a rigid investigation of the recent gold bond matter.

By a vote of 152 to 114 the house non-concurred in the amendment to the consular and diplomatic appropriation bill appropriating \$500,000 for the construction of a cable to the Hawaiian islands. The bill was sent to further conference.

Senator Mills of Texas has given notice of the introduction of an amendment to the sundry civil appropriation bill repealing all laws which authorize the secretary of the treasury to sell bonds for any purpose.

The situation in the senate indicates very strongly that neither the railroad pooling bill or the bankruptcy bill will pass before March 4. The advocates of the pooling bill are ready to take advantage of any opportunity to get this measure before the senate.

Senator Perkins has presented an amendment to the naval appropriation bill providing an appropriation of \$700,000 as the total cost of construction of a dry dock at the Mare Island navy yard, of such size, design and material as may be determined by the secretary of the navy. Only \$150,000 of this money is to be available during the present year.

Senator Blackburn of Kentucky has introduced an amendment to the sundry civil bill to provide for the full payment of the bounty on sugar produced in 1893, and one-eighth of a cent per pound on the product of 1894, to compensate producers who complied with the provisions of the McKinley bill, which was repealed and payment of bounties refused.

Secretary Gresham has decided to make no further effort to induce congress to pass the bill appropriating \$425,000 to pay damages sustained by British sailing vessels seized by our naval ships and revenue cutters in the Bering Sea before the making of the modus vivendi. If the bill fails now he will proceed immediately to draw up a treaty for submission to the senate, creating an arbitration committee to adjust the claims.

Senator White has introduced a bill providing that in all entries of placer mines made under the provisions of the revised statutes by associations, or persons, or their assigns, proof of discovery of minerals on each 20 acres of land embraced by the entries shall not be required, but proof of discovery of minerals and development thereof on any part of the entire land shall be deemed sufficient. It is provided, however, that the full amount of \$500 must be expended for the development of each claim, as now required by law.

The house committee on Pacific railroads has decided to report a new bill, based on the Reilly bill. The amended bill will provide that the principal of the government debt shall be paid at once and that the first mortgage bonds and the interest paid upon bonds by the government and due to the government at the date the bill takes effect be extended and paid in installments through a period of 50 years. The extended first mortgage bonds will bear interest at 4 per cent. The extended interest will be secured by practically a third lien on the property subsidiary to the claims of the parties who advance the funds to pay the principal of the government bonds and who will be entitled under the bill to 3 per cent interest.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES.

Vicious Acts of Lawbreakers and Losses by Fire and Accidents.

P. O. Rice committed suicide at Red Bluff because of family trouble.

Eleven miners were killed by an explosion of gas in a coal mine at Ashland, Pa.

W. G. Hamner, for 20 years teller of the First National bank at Lynchburg, Va., has been arrested on a charge of embezzling \$23,000 of the bank's funds.

A fire at Hot Springs, Ark., totally destroyed four large blocks of buildings and six persons were burned to death. There will be great loss on account of little insurance.

Bishop Hale of Cairo, Ill., was robbed of a satchel containing his robes, jewels, etc., valued at \$300. He said to a policeman: "I will pray for the recovery of my property," and closed his eyes reverently. Shortly after another officer caught the thief with the articles.

James B. Gentry, the murderer of Actress Madge York, has become the especial lion of a number of women at Philadelphia. They send him armloads of flowers, with photographs and cologne. Friends are paying his expenses at the hospital where he is confined by injuries self-inflicted.

Harry C. Stillwell, a messenger of the Bank of California at San Francisco, committed suicide on board an ark anchored off Belvedere, Marin county. He borrowed money to hold his own with other men and then stole to pay his debts. He was detected taking money at the bank and discharged, and the thought of disgrace impelled him to take his life.

While performing the "human target" act on a recent night at Engle's pavilion, Chicago, William Haderle, aged 17, was fatally shot by "Professor Alfred Rieckhoff, champion rifle shot of the world." Haderle is Rieckhoff's assistant. Strapped across his breast was a steel plate 12 inches square, in the center of which was a bell. Rieckhoff, at a distance of 20 paces, was supposed to fire at the target 20 times in rapid succession, hitting the bell each time. All went well to the twentieth shot, when Haderle threw up his hands and fell to the floor crying, "My God! I am shot." The bullet struck Haderle in the stomach. Rieckhoff says the gun went off accidentally.

KISSING AMONG WOMEN.

The Tasteless Salute Being Abandoned by Fashionables in Eastern Cities.

Not a few society women of New York and other eastern centers of population have revolted against the practice of kissing each other when they meet. Kissing began to go out of fashion when physical culture came in. It was the athletic girls who helped to bring about the change in salutation, says the New York World. Dr. Sargent, Dr. Savage and other eminent but less prominent professors of physical development have unconsciously done more to solve the woman question than any other profession. Kissing, not being wholesome, is not good form, and that is why the fashionables have determined not to kiss. The last important case of kissing that society can remember occurred at the Marlborough-Hamersley wedding. It was a civil service for obvious reasons. Mayor Hewitt officiated. He was a personal friend of the late duke and an ardent admirer and intimate friend of the beautiful Mrs. Hamersley. It was the bridegroom's intention to present him with a purse for the purchase of a souvenir, but his honor wouldn't have it. His fee was a kiss from the bride, and she paid it. In describing it afterward the duchess of Marlborough said that she offered her cheek, but he chose her lips; and everybody accused his honor of having taken a mean advantage of his position.

The decline of the society kiss began some time ago. It dates from the rise of the college women's gymnasium. Trainers from Yale and Harvard were inveigled into lecture courses; Smith, Vassar, Wellesley, Farmington and Ognontz girls went to hear them, and out of these athletic matrons grew the physical culture fad which has eliminated kissing, headaches, nerves, fainting spells and hand shaking to a degree. The society girl is calm. She has repose. She has powder on her face—lots of it—to keep her cool, and even if she did not consider kissing bad form it would annoy her to have her complexion mottled.

Women in the World.

A French scientist figures that the number of women in the world is nearly equal to that of men. In France the numbers approach more nearly to equality than in any other country, there being 1,007 women for 1,000 men. For the same number of men in Sweden there are 1,004 women, and in Greece only 933 women. In the French colony at Reunion there are 457 creole women for 1,000 provincial Frenchmen, colored men included. In Hong Kong there are 1,000 men for 336 women.

An Old Spanish Tax Law.

To what extent Spain is still under the influence of medieval laws and restrictions which hamper its progress and development may be gathered from the fact that among other imposts which the taxpayer is called upon to pay is that entitled "The Crusado," which was originally instituted for the purpose of providing funds for the crusades, and which has remained in existence ever since. Its proceeds are now applied to the repair of churches, the payment of the stipend of the clergy and other ecclesiastical purposes.

A Modern Babel.

Switzerland, with its mixture of races and tongues, is a sort of modern Babel—a fact which causes much trouble, in particular to the military authorities. At Wallenstadt the other day, at the recruiting station, there was a guard composed of five men. The chief was a lieutenant who spoke German only, the second a sergeant, who spoke Italian only, the third a corporal, who could speak French and Spanish, the fourth, a private, who could speak French and German, and the fifth a private who could speak French and Italian. When the lieutenant had to transmit an order to the sergeant to interpret for him; when he wanted to communicate with the corporal he had to requisition the fourth man, and so on—great delay and confusion being thus occasioned.

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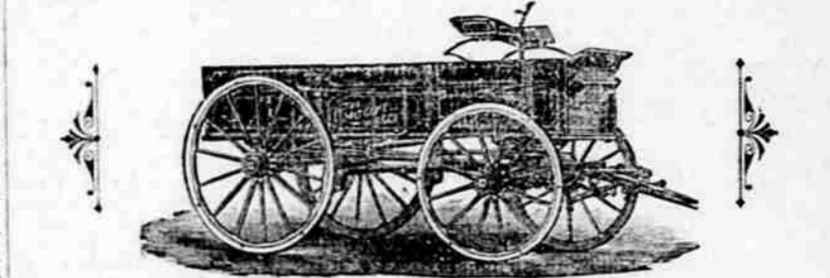
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