

**NEW AND CURIOUS.**

It is reported that experiments have been carried on at the United States mint in Philadelphia for nearly a year, with a view of ascertaining the fitness of aluminum for minor coins. Some 10,000 blanks of the size of the nickel 5-cent piece have been delivered at the mint for this purpose. Congress, some time ago, appointed a commission of experts to investigate and report upon this subject, and the experiments above referred to are being carried on under the direction of its members.

\*\*\*

A new method of making photographs which show the colors of nature has been invented by Prof. R. W. Wood, of the University of Wisconsin. The pictures are made on a transparent film deposited on glass and containing very fine lines, about 2000 to the inch, on the average, and so not visible to the naked eye. No colors are visible until the pictures are placed in a special viewing apparatus, consisting of a convex lens on a light frame. The lens and the lines on the plate, acting together, form overlapping spectra which affect the eye in such a manner that the natural hues appear in the picture in their proper places and intensities. The pictures can also be projected in color upon a screen.

\*\*\*

From the discoveries of a traveler in North Wales, it would seem that the origin of the "tombstone" was in "kneeling-stones," used to kneel upon in prayer for the departed soul. The author of "Through North Wales" says: "At Corwen many of the older graves have 'kneeling-stones,' where it is believed people used to come and pray for the departed. These are low headstones and footstones, shaped with niches for the knees. We found every gradation, from this shape to the more modern. It seems probable that the form has been kept, while the purpose which they served has been lost. Since in colonial times in America, Welsh slates were used for tombstones, and were brought here already shaped and dressed, it would not be strange to find modifications of the kneeling-stone, particularly at the foot of the grave."

\*\*\*

The mixing of plaster of paris in flour, says an exchange, is but one instance of the criminal disregard for the health or life of the purchaser of prepared foods. When tomato catsup is made out of ground pumpkin only it cannot do much harm, but when a certain acid is added to give it flavor, the health of the buyer may suffer; while paraffin as an adulterant of

butter renders that article indigestible. The foreman of an extensive drug mill confesses that no drug in the mill he has charge of is ever turned out in its pure state. All the drugs are tampered with, more or less, and in most cases to a considerable extent. The extent to which adulteration is carried on in some of the largest sugar refineries would startle the public if it were known. It is beyond question that much serious illness and many deaths are the direct result of eating food adulterated with injurious substances, and the perils arising from the consumption of adulterated drinks are not less widespread and alarming.

**REFLECTED RAYS.**

Most of the wrong that man does is done in the darkness of ignorance.—[Ex.]

Devotion is only good when it makes a man get off his knees and go to work.—[Investigator.]

There are millions of semi-free-thinkers, who see the truth and dare not proclaim it, fearing that "society" cannot exist except upon a basis of error. Convince these timid men that truth is a safe foundation for any structure, and the old systems will fall with a crash.—[Sel.]

**Catholicism in the Phillipines.**

The New York "Nation," after quoting from the "Catholic World," statistics of Catholic church membership in the Phillipines, remarks: "Here are some 6,000,000 out of 8,000,000 or 9,000,000 souls in the islands under nominally Christian instruction. We say nominally Christian, for we are not set for the defense of the friars in the Phillipines. There is no doubt that their political influence, there and in Spain, has been mischievous. There is no doubt that in too many cases the natives regard them as hated oppressors. Nor have we anything to say as to their religious tenets and teachings, as compared with those of the Protestant societies which intend to supplant them. That Catholicism in the Phillipines is not all that it should be even from the standpoint of an American Catholic, is admitted by a writer in the 'Catholic World'. But that is not the point. It is not primarily a religious but a political problem that confronts us in the Phillipines. We have to consider the religious element only as it complicates the political problem. And that it does complicate it terribly is beyond question. How are the Catholics in this country going to stomach the practical destruction of the Catholic church in the Phillipines? The pope has already shown that he will not sit idly by and see Phillipine Catholicism endangered. Thousands of voters in this country pay 'Peter's pence' as well as war taxes, and they will not be pleased to see one eat up the other. However we look at it, the religious problem in the Phillipines, if we take them,

will be most grave, and will affect the political problem there and at home mischievously."—[Current History.]

Which illustrates the disorganizing and disuniting quality of theological theories. M. M. T.

**"LIVE QUESTIONS"**

BY EX-GOV. JOHN P. ALTGELD.

**A BOOK FOR THE PEOPLE**

CONTAINS ALL THE FAMOUS SPEECHES, LETTERS, MESSAGES AND ESSAYS OF THE AUTHOR. EVERY ISSUE OF NATIONAL IMPORTANCE AND POPULAR INTEREST EARNESTLY CONSIDERED.

TRUSTS, MONOPOLIES, GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP, CIVIL SERVICE, TAXATION, MONEY QUESTION, TARIFF, EDUCATION, ELECTION FRAUDS, STRIKES, LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, IMPERIALISM AND A HUNDRED OTHER TOPICS DISCUSSED.

HANDSOME LIBRARY EDITION, 1,000 PAGES, SUBSTANTIAL CLOTH, POSTPAID, \$2.50

GEO. S. BOWEN & SON, Unity Bldg., CHICAGO.

Agents wanted everywhere. Write for terms.

. . . Forstners's . . .

**AUGER BIT**

IS INVALUABLE TO

Carpenters and Joiners, for mortising, such as letting in locks, as it takes the place of chisel and gouge; to

Cabinet Makers, for inlaid work, dowselling, patching, removing splits and knots. In fact, no

Wagon or Pattern Maker manufacturer of pianos, organs, sewing machines, agricultural implements, sash, blinds, furniture, nor

Any Other Woodworker, should be without it.

AS A MACHINE BIT IT IS UNEQUALED.

It is the only round bit in the world that will bore a SQUARE HOLE and do all that any other bit will do.

PRICES.

Set of five, different sizes, postpaid. \$2.60  
Single bit, postpaid. . . . . .60

Address, LIBERAL UNIVERSITY CO., SILVERTON, OREGON.

Remember

**Aguinaldo's Power is Broken,**

and that when you want First-class Goods at Popular Prices, a trial will be enough to convince you where to trade and get the biggest bargains for your money.

This week we open our spring line of Ladies' Skirts and Dresses. Ask to see our Scotch Lawns—16 yards for \$1.00. No trouble to show 'em. They are world beaters.

Mail Orders Promptly Attended To. Samples Sent Free on Application.

**DREYER & CRAIG**

SILVERTON, OREGON.

STRICTLY ONE PRICE.

PRODUCE TAKEN.

**Our Job Department**

ALWAYS GIVES

**.... Satisfaction**

BECAUSE IT GIVES

HONEST STOCK, FINEST INK AND EXCELLENT WORKMANSHIP

**Do you take the Torch of Reason?**

It is only One Dollar a Year, and contains reading matter that you can not get elsewhere for three times the money. It comes every week, too.

**Do you take the Weekly Oregonian?**

It is published at Portland, Ore., and contains more and better information in regard to the Pacific Northwest than any other paper, and is the best news paper in Oregon. You get sixteen pages of good reading matter each week, including all the news of the nation and the world, for only \$1.50 a year.

**Will you accept A Good Offer?**

You can get The Torch of Reason and The Weekly Oregonian both one year for only \$1.75, little more the price of the Oregonian alone.

Send all orders for subscriptions and for sample copies to

THE TORCH OF REASON, Silvertton, Oregon.

**KINNEY AND PORTER**

Main Street Silvertton, Ore

CARRY A COMPLETE STOCK OF

**School Supplies, Books and Stationery.**

Dealers in Fruits, Vegetables and Confectionery.