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SCIENTIFIC MISCELLANY.

Berlin rejoices in the possession of a scientific cooking association formed by ladies of the city. It has a school of instruction in cookery, and a qualified chemist gives members of the society lectures in practical chemistry. A laboratory has been established, in charge of the chemist, for the examination of articles of food, and also of utensils employed in cooking.

Although the near approach to the earth of several comets has been known, the least distances of only two have ever been determined with any degree of accuracy. On July 1, 1770, a comet was within 1,390,000 miles of the earth—the closest approach of one of those bodies of which astronomers have any certain knowledge. Its apparent diameter was two and one-half degrees, or nearly five times the apparent diameter of the moon. It is not surprising that the apparition of such a monster should cause a panic of terror among unenlightened and superstitious inhabitants of the earth.

After some 18,000 examinations, Dr. Jeffries affirms that about one male in twenty-five is color-blind to a greater or less degree. He finds the defect to be largely hereditary, although sometimes caused by disease or injury. In the former case it is incurable, but in the latter it may be only a temporary difficulty.

The electric light has been found a useful signal in surveying. In late work on triangulation in Algeria, it is stated that the light was seen at a distance of one hundred and sixty-four miles.

From a study of the action of tea, Mr. W. J. Morton has arrived at these conclusions: As with any other drug there is a proper and improper use of it. In moderation it is a mild and harmless stimulant. Its immoderate use leads to serious symptoms, such as headache, vertigo, ringing in the ears, tremulousness, nervousness, exhaustion, irregular action of the heart, and dyspepsia. Many of the symptoms of excessive tea-drinking are such as may occur without a suspicion of the real cause.

Recent comparative measurements of the crania of eminent men and of criminals show that, while a capacious intellect requires a large skull, a large cranium is not always attended by a high order of intelligence. The crania of a considerable number of criminals were found to have a capacity much above the average.

A recently discovered fossil animal, Amphioxus fragilisimus, is described as a monster considerably more than one hundred feet in length, with spinal vertebra six feet across, hind legs four feet long, and a large and powerful tail. Imagine the monster in life, standing on its hind legs in the water and catching its prey with its fore paws, and a picture is presented to the mind from the ages long ago.

A recent estimate of the date of the neolithic period by Mr. Sidney B. J. Skerthby, an English scientist, furnishes a good illustration of one of the processes by which the ages of the different epochs in the history of mankind are hypothetically determined. It is known that during a long period prior to historic times the implements of the human race were made solely of stone. These relics, with the bones of prehistoric man and contemporary animals, are now found covered by the earthy deposits of ages. The earlier forms of stone implements were very roughly fashioned, while at a much later date they were well formed and polished. From these facts the stone age is considered in two distinct periods—the palolithic (old stone) and the neolithic (new stone). The latter period, although of much shorter duration than the former, is regarded with greater interest on account of its nearer approach to historic times. It is the probable date of this period which Mr. Skerthby discusses. The European district of the Fenland occupies an area of thirteen hundred square miles bordering the great bay of the Wash. The inland portion consists of peat, buried in which are found neolithic implements. Between the peat and the sea a wide stretch of silt had been gradually deposited

by the waves. As this land has been built up, from the time of the Roman occupation at least, banks have been erected to reclaim the newly-formed ground. The dates of these banks are known, and thus very accurate estimates can be made of the rate at which the deposition is going on in different parts. The maximum rate is 59 feet per annum. The geological evidence shows that, as the silt went on and the area became converted into land, peat grew and gradually spread over the land. In the course of time, however, the climate became unfitted for the growth of peat, which ceased to form. Hence a wide stretch borders the Wash, on which no peat ever existed. From the Roman banks to the sea is a distance of four miles, for the accumulation of which 1700 years have been required. Between these banks and the peat lie twelve miles of silt land, which at the same rate of formation would be accumulated in 5100 years. Adding these numbers together gives 6800 years as the least possible age of the newest peat, by which the neolithic implements are covered. Two Swiss estimates have been made from different data, each confirming this result. Further evidence leads Mr. Skerthby to conclude that the commencement of the neolithic era in England must date back 10,000 years and perhaps 20,000.

One ounce of peach kernels is found to contain a grain of prussic acid—a fatal quantity.

A prominent feature of the reunion of the army of the Cumberland, last week, has been the numerous and emphatic expressions in vindication of Gen. Robert Anderson, the defender of Fort Sumter. These declarations coming from soldiers of the late war in defense of the dead comrade, are honorable to their authors in the highest degree, and will effectually put to rest all questions as to Gen. Anderson's fidelity to the union recently started by a magazine's writer.

Official returns from Wisconsin show a majority of 24,494 for Smith, republican, for governor, and 28,061 for Guenther for secretary of state, a republican gain of 16,000, and the largest majority ever given any candidate in the state.

Brooklyn, New York, the "city of churches" is about to get a reputation also as the "city of the big debt." She now owes forty-two million dollars and sees no way to pay any considerable portion.

"Jennie, darling," he said, as they sat cozily side by side in the big old-fashioned arm chair, whose generous arms had often encompassed a similar pair, "my sweet girl,"—and the fire blazed and crackled, and snapped its lively glances of light out in the darkening room; "my dearest one,"—and the fitful shadows came and went into the apartment, making grotesque figures upon its handsome walls; "light of my life,"—and her pretty head nestled confidently against his manly vest, through whose folds the beating of his tender heart was plainly audible; "my beacon light,"—and he pressed in his honest palm her little hand—oh, so little! and he said: "my little pet,"—and outside the wind blew fierce, while the dashing rain smote hard against the pane, brightening the peaceful influence of the glowing grate; "my own dear girl," and the tremor in his voice was born of purest love; "my guiding star,"—he said—he said—well, blest it we know what else he did say; but that was enough. With a woman's intuition she knew his meaning, and she scooped him in.

According to Worcester—the gazelle is a small, beautiful antelope—the antelope is "an animal hunted for venison." It was hunted for fun it would be all the same, showing how dictionaries beat about the bush without saying much. The animals are so much mixed that the poet was undoubtedly right when singing and saying that he never "loved a deer gazelle."

It is so in politics, business and everywhere else in life. The man whom you boost up the tree not only forgets to toss you down some of the fruit, but is as likely as not to pelt you with the chawings. Hereafter when we "boost" well take the fruit in advance. You hear us.

The subject for conversation at an evening entertainment was the intelligence of animals, particularly dogs. Says Smith—"There are dogs that have more sense than their masters." "Just so," responded Fitznozzle, "I've got that kind of a dog myself."

An exchange informs a correspondent that the Hoosac Tunnel is under the Hoosac Mountain in Western Massachusetts. This shows that the mountain has not been moved, and that the tunnel is not over the mountain.

The thoughtful girl who tells her gentlemen callers what her other gentlemen friends are going to give her Christmas is taking time right by the top-knot. Ask Clark.

Families are now laying in their Winter's fuel. It is regulated by the number of big girls in the family.

The wife who utilizes her husband's shoe brush on the cooking stove opens the door to the divorce court.

Effect of Labor-saving Machinery.

The most valuable work that is now being done, in an intellectual point of view, is what may be called the popularization of science in those branches which have a direct bearing on the struggle for life. For a long time science, in a sense, declined to make itself plain to the average man. It was set forth in ponderous and heavy books, only accessible to the learned minority. But now the great effort is to simplify. Begebot, Sumner, Wells, Jevons, Cermusch, and nearly all the economists of the modern school, write and lecture in a style which can not be comprehended by the masses. There are also cheap publications and monographs upon various economical subjects intended to convey instruction in a popular form. Whenever error begins to exercise any influence on the course of events, all these appliances are at once brought into operation for its extirpation.

One of the most venerable fallacies with which we have to deal is that labor-saving machinery reduces the area of employment. There are traces of it as far back as the time of Louis XIV, and Queen Elizabeth. It seems at the first glance, to be an obvious truth that if a machine be invented to do the work of ten men, nine will be deprived of a job. But if the matter be searched further it will be found that human wants are insatiable, and that they increase with the means of gratifying them. It is, in fact, in this respect that civilization differs from barbarism. Science had long been satisfied as to the soundness of the economic axiom. But it takes a long time for abstract truth to win its way in the world. When political parties are beginning to be organized on the notion that machinery is taking away the bread of the people, it is time to resort to the inductive method by which alone old opinions can be revolutionized.

This is partially done in a monograph recently published. The author is Fred Perry Powers of New York. Some of the illustrations presented are quite strong and convincing. A writer holding the opposite view having asserted that eighty compositors and proof-readers, four pressmen and two presses do work in the Tribune office of New York which in the processes in use by our fathers would require 267 presses, 534 pressmen and 5,000 compositors and proof readers, the author upsets the whole calculation by merely inquiring: Did the Tribune as a matter of fact employ 6,000 men? If it did not, how can the 5,500 men be said to have been thrown out of employment? He holds that if the steam press had not been invented, the Tribune would not be issuing its vast number of sheets at four cents a copy. He adds: "When one thinks of type making and press making and paper making, it is apparent that the application of steam to printing has vastly increased the number of persons employed in the trade."

Some of the other illustrations which he gives are more clearly worked out. He takes the case of the corn sheller, as follows: To shell the crop of 1877 by hand, at the rate of 5 bushels per man per day, would have required the labor of one year of over 860,000 men. Just think of the degree to which it would enhance the price of corn unless the men employed in shelling lived like the fallahen of Egypt. The best shelling machine with two men, will shell 1500 bushels per day. Less than 6000 men shell the whole crop. Have 854,000 been thrown out of employment by the corn sheller? Such a question needs no answer.

If labor saving machinery should have a marked effect anywhere in reducing employment, it should be in the ordinary vehicles of transportation superseded by the railway, but statistics show that such is not the fact. Mr. Powers on this head says: "The census returns indicate that in 1850 the manufacture of carriages and wagons employed 15,590 men, while in 1870 it employed 54,928. During the same period the number of the horses in the country increased not so rapidly but yet largely from 4,336,719 to 7,145,379. The number of carriage and wagon makers increased over 200 per cent." During the same period the number of persons engaged in carriage building went up from 1,554 to 15,931, which must be regarded as an additional employment.

Colonel Carroll D. Wright, of Boston, contributes the following facts in a paper read before the Local Science Congress: "To produce the goods now manufactured annually by Massachusetts, and to carry on the work of her railroads without the employment of labor saving machinery and steam power, would require a population of 9,000,000, in place of 1,650,000 as at present, and thus by a low grade of labor." "This vast estimated population of 9,000,000 in Massachusetts would be required to produce what is now produced, and to be sup-

ported on present means. I leave the man who cries out against labor saving machinery to contemplate the result." Another and very convincing illustration is drawn from the knitting of socks and Cardigan jackets. A Congressional committee on the Marshall knitting machine reported that about 3,600,000 pairs of these socks were made per annum. It then proceeds as follows: "By hand a woman could knit four pairs a day for which she received 35 cents. By the machine she could make twenty pairs and earn \$1.33 per day. On a hand frame a man could make five jackets a day at a cost of 58 cents; with a machine a girl can make forty-eight in a day, for which she receives nearly \$1.50. Of these jackets 2,400,000 are made annually." These illustrations are culled from the monograph from the mass of facts there presented. That they are convincing as well as interesting will be apparent even on the most careless reading.

A Curious Case.

The Olean Times records a most singular case—something entirely new in all our reading. It is, in short, the turning of a child's hair from a beautiful auburn color to white, as the result of fright. The girl is a daughter of Craudell of Baden Brook, and is nine years of age. Several weeks ago two or three drunken men came along, and by their hideous actions and dreadful appearance frightened the little girl terribly. She broke into a paroxysm of grief, and cried three hours without cessation, though her parents and friends used every means in their power to quiet her. Shortly after this terrible fright the girl's pretty golden locks began to turn gray, the change continuing until now a large portion is as white as that of old age. She is in good health, and has no physical ailments which might cause this wonderful change, and beyond doubt it can be attributed only to the serious fright described above.

Jay Gould.

Mr. Gould's millions now crowd close to those of Vanderbilt. He is a man of finer texture than the old Commodore's son. He doesn't run to fine houses, costly stables, and blooded steeds. At night when he dismisses his operators from the telegraph offices in his own house in Fifth Avenue, and enters up in a little book the telegraphic reports of the receipts of the various railroads which he owns, he does not go to a club to carouse, to a banquet to steam up with champagne, or to a theater; he retires to the recesses of a peaceful library, and with his young sons about him, reads the Latin classics, the world forgetting, but not by the world forgot—by a large majority. The next morning early he has the telegraph doing lightning service, and he is sending an electric shock through Wall street as soon as the bulls and the bears come into that field for pasture. Mr. Gould is a liberal man, although when he makes a bequest he does not have the information written in manifesto and sent to all the newspapers. The first news New York had of his gift to the Memphis sufferers of \$5,000 came from Memphis, as did the news of the second gift of \$5,000.

Mr. Gould, being a small man of little physical prowess, is naturally not disposed to put himself recklessly in the way of the horns of the bulls and the claws of the bears. There are some men in Wall street, as Mr. Gould has reason to know, who wish to resent their losses with their fists, and are disposed to follow Major Selover's example and despatch him bodily down into a convenient area. Accordingly, Mr. Gould keeps his office guarded by a stout Irishman, who prevents the intrusion of visitors, and he has usually a private way to get out into the street. He has, too, it is said, a big Italian book-keeper who accompanies him on many of his business trips about town, and stands ready to protect his millionaire employer.—St. Louis Republican.

A Night's Mistake.

A careless telegrapher caused a panic in a domestic circle in this city on Monday evening. A young woman telegraphed from Philadelphia to her mother in this wise: "Have received no letter. Am worried." The message received by her mother was this: "I have received no letter. Am married." The mother was surprised at this sudden announcement, and she gave the daughter a large piece of her mind. The operator had mistaken "worried" for "married," no doubt thinking the meaning was the same, and had wired the mother the surprising intelligence.—New York Tribune.

It was Sidney Smith who retorted upon some one who called him an every-day man: "Well, if I'm an every-day man you're a weak one."

Our Pedestrians Abroad.

Naughty Belt. And this is what the San Francisco Chronicle has to say under the above heading. "The pedal triumphs of the feminine artists who walked rapidly into popular favor here, and then departed for Oregon, seem to be combined in the webfoot country with amatory achievements as well. The Rev. Dr. Plummer of that city has been called upon to tie together Miss Denman and Emmett Fitzgerald, whose industrious and valuable services as an assistant trainer in the Pavilion contest were generally admired. The young bloods of Portland, notably Messrs. Levison, Baltimore and Holman, focused their affections on Alice Donley. Mr. Levison, through having known her in Indiana and a superior mustache resembling fine-cut tobacco, had the inside track, and scored numberless laps, until a cigar-drummer spurred and cut him out, amid a chorus of exultant yells from his rivals. The parting between Sadie Donley and seven rapturous admirers was exultant, and verged on the suicidal."

A Painted Stable.

Baron Rothschild of Vienna has a favorite horse, for whose accommodation he has had a special loose box built at the cost of \$12,000. This elegant room forms part of a new stable which cost \$80,000, and which has marble floors, elegant tiles painted by distinguished artists, rings, chains and draintraps of silver, and walls frescoed with splendid hunting scenes from the pencils of eminent animal-painters. The Baron's annual income is fortunately \$1,600,000.

Secretary McCrary expresses the opinion that our Government has no need of Ministers in foreign countries. The public will very generally endorse the opinion. Expensive diplomatic establishments should have gone out of date when telegraphic communications were invented. Consular agents and an occasional Envoy Extraordinary could thoroughly attend to all the diplomatic business our Government has in Europe.

Beware of cards. Many a young man has fallen into the hands of a knave, and come within an ace of going to the device.

Junction is going to have a bakery. Roseburg Star: Last Saturday evening, Adams Day died very suddenly at the residence of his son, G. W. Day of this city. Father Day was an old pioneer, having settled in Canas valley, this county, over twenty-six years ago. He was a native of New York State, and was almost eighty-four years of age. Mr. Day served in the war of 1812. Peace to his ashes.

Advertisement for SANFORD'S LIVER INVIGORATOR. Text includes: "OLD AND RELIABLE. DR. SANFORD'S LIVER INVIGORATOR is a Standard Family Remedy for Diseases of the Liver, Stomach and Bowels. It is Purely Vegetable. It never Debilitates. It is Constitutional. Tonic. It is a Healthy Action Causes Bilious Attacks, Jaundice, Constipation, Dropsy, Headache, Bowel Complaints, Sickness and other Disorders." Includes a small illustration of a liver.

Advertisement for King of the Blood SCROFULA. Text includes: "Wonderful Cure of Blindness. D. Rowan, Row & Co.: For the benefit of all troubled with Scrofula or Impure Blood in their systems, I hereby recommend King of the Blood. I have been troubled with Scrofula for the past ten years, which so affected my eyes that I was completely blind for six months. I was recommended to try King of the Blood, which has proved a great blessing to me, as it has completely cured me, and I cheerfully recommend it to all troubled as I have been." Price \$1.00 per bottle.

Advertisement for WEEKLY REGISTER. Text includes: "NOW IS THE TIME TO Subscribe for the WEEKLY REGISTER. EVERY MERCHANT, LAWYER, FARMER & MECHANIC In Linn county ought to have the WEEKLY REGISTER. The most enterprising and in fact THE 'BOSS' JOURNAL IN LINN COUNTY. The WEEKLY REGISTER is the first paper in the county in ability, and the freshness and reliability of its news. TRENCHANT EDITORIALS, SPICY LOCALS, EARLY REMINISCENCES, RELIABLE MARKET REPORTS, And shortly to be commenced a series of valuable articles on Agricultural Chemistry. ONLY \$2.50 PER YEAR. A steadily Increasing Circulation. THE BEST ADVERTISING MEDIUM IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY. The WEEKLY REGISTER supplies the wants of all. Address all communications to COLL. VAN CLEVE, Albany, Oregon."