

Fabulous Sums Paid for Vases.
Some rare old porcelains and furniture were recently sold at a London auction, bringing prices which attest to the demand among the wealthy for the fine art works of ancient days. The most conspicuous were old Chinese vases and beakers and Mandarin jars. A pair of vases, of what is known in China as the Hang-tse period, brought a fraction under \$20,000. The Chinese beakers sold for \$15,500. A pair of Mandarin jars brought \$8,250, and a pair of Ky-Lin jars \$2,950. Four Chipendale chairs, however, made a good showing against the curious art of the East, and sold for \$18,575, while a Louis XV clock-case brought \$1,800.

Samuel Was All In.
The minister of a negro church in Richmond gave out a funeral notice one Sunday as follows:

"I have to announce to you, brethren and sisters, dat de funeral of de only survivin' son of de late Thomas Pinkers an' his widow, Martha Jane Pinkers, both deceased, will take place an' come to occurrence on Tuesday next at 12 m., noon precisely.

"An' I have to say, brethren and sisters, dat contributions for carryin' out dat funeral will be in order an' acceptations, or else de funeral can't take place, exceptin' and save only as a plain burial; fo' Samuel Pinkers has got jes' money enough to bury himself without any obsequious ceremonies, such as he deserves."—Harper's Weekly.

Marriage Literally a Lottery.
That marriage is a lottery is not merely a figure of speech in the province of Smolensk, Russia; it is an actual fact. There four times every year a lottery is held, the capital prize being a young country girl, with sometimes a good dowry in sheep. The price of a ticket is about 85 cents. At a single drawing 5,000 tickets are sold. He who is fortunate enough to draw the lucky ticket has his alternative—he may marry the girl if she pleases him, also gaining thereby \$4,250, in addition to whatever the girl brings with her as dowry, or, if the "prize" in question does not please him, he can turn the ticket over to a friend.

Faith with Works.
Everywhere over the dwellings of the natives of the great central plateau of Bolivia is the grass cross. Charles M. Pepper, the author of "Panama to Patagonia," states that he rarely found a hut without this symbolism.

The cross, he was told, was blessed by the priest, and then it kept out the rain, which at times is very heavy. One old man, whose undoubted orthodoxy was, at least, without a crust of superstition, was asked if the crosses really did keep out the rain.

"Yes, if the roof is a good one," he gravely replied.

Female house servants command from \$5 to \$20 a month in South Africa.

DOES YOUR BACK ACHE?

Cure the Kidneys and the Pain Will Never Return.

Only one sure way to cure an aching back. Cure the cause, the kidneys.

Thousands tell of cures made by Doan's Kidney Pills. John C. Coleman, a prominent merchant of Swainsboro, Ga., says: "For several years my kidneys were affected, and my back ached day and night. I was languid, nervous and lame in the morning. Doan's Kidney Pills helped me right away, and the great relief that followed has been permanent."

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To Sunny Alberta
CANADA

March 25 and every two weeks thereafter; \$42 for round trip, which includes berth and meals. Trip costs you nothing if you buy land. Write and learn about our Special Pullman Car Excursion.

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CLOCK TO LIGHT THE GAS.

Automatic Controller Used for Street Lamps in Birmingham.

Consul Albert Halstead of Birmingham reports that an automatic gas controller has been patented and is now on sale in England which may materially lessen the cost of public lighting in the municipalities of the United States if in practical operation it fulfills the claims of its owners.

The controller is said to be adaptable to any type of incandescent burner, to fit any lamp and to be instantaneous in its lighting and extinguishing. The mechanism consists of a clock which can be so set as to light the gas each night and extinguish it each morning, so as to make an automatic variation of the time of lighting and extinguishing according to the calendar. In short, by means of a chart, the street lights are turned on and off, lighted and extinguished, at a different moment each day throughout the year, according to the season. This is an advantage, it is claimed, over any other controller now on the market, one adjustment a year being sufficient.

The gas can be turned on and off in the ordinary way quite independently of the gas controller. That is important, as it might be necessary to turn off the gas for the renewing of the incandescent mantels.

These controllers are now on trial at Bath and the engineer of the gas company there informs the municipal gas department in Birmingham that so far as their experience goes it gives satisfactory results. In the city of Birmingham proper there are 13,800 street lights and in the district outside, which is supplied by the municipal gas department of Birmingham, there are 7,108 street lights, their caretaking costing \$102,488 per annum. To equip these street lights with this gas controller would involve an expenditure of \$153,061. The cost of operating, it is claimed, would be just one-half.

ROCKEFELLER'S NEW PASTOR.

Rev. Charles F. Aked of Liverpool, England, has accepted the call of the Fifth Avenue Baptist Church of New



REV. CHARLES F. AKED.

York. Mr. Aked has been known in England as a "fighting Christian." He is exceedingly democratic, takes an active interest in political and economic questions, and preaches his sermons as frequently on civic topics as on purely religious subjects. Rev. Mr. Aked was born in Nottingham and is 42 years old.

Town Lives Off Flowers.

Almost the entire population of the city of Grasse, in Southern France, is devoted to the cultivation of flowers and the extraction of perfumes from them, with the result that the community controls the market for the most delicate essences. For ten months in the year the Grasseois are employed gathering, sorting and distilling blooms.

About the town are flower gardens which extend for many miles and from which are plucked in a single season more than 3,000,000 pounds of roses, half as many again of orange blossoms, 1,000,000 pounds of jasmine, nearly as much of violets and hundreds of thousands of pounds of other flowers, including lavender, tuberose, thyme, rosemary, myrtle and jonquills.

Rosemary, thyme, lavender, geraniums, roses and orange flowers they distill by steam in huge alembics which hold from 300 to 60,000 quarts. The oil is skimmed from the water after condensation. The water itself is preserved and used over and over again, for it is saturated with the perfume, and great quantities of it are sold as jasmine water, rose water and other flower waters.—Harper's Magazine.

Just the Opposite.

"How is your brother, Harker?" "Oh, he is in a business that will open your eyes."

"You don't say! What is it?" "Why, he sells alarm clocks." "That's funny. My brother is in a business that will close your eyes." "Really? What is it?" "Why, he markets onions."

A New York man wrote a book entitled "How to Succeed," but he didn't succeed in selling it.

THE VALUE OF PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE

Personal knowledge is the winning factor in the culminating contests of this competitive age and when of ample character it places its fortunate possessor in the front ranks of

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A Knowledge of Forms, Knowledge of Functions and Knowledge of Products are all of the utmost value and in questions of life and health when a true and wholesome remedy is desired it should be remembered that Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna, manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co., is an ethical product which has met with the approval of the most eminent physicians and gives universal satisfaction, because it is a remedy of

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Engine drivers working from Crewe to London and back have to notice no fewer than 570 signals.

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

There are four millionaires in Great Britain to one in France.

There is more Catarrh in this section of the country than all other diseases put together, and until the last few years was supposed to be incurable. For a great many years doctors pronounced it a local disease, and prescribed local remedies, and by constantly failing to cure with local treatment, pronounced it incurable. Science has proven Catarrh to be a constitutional disease, and therefore requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure, manufactured by F. J. Cheney & Co., Toledo, Ohio, is the only constitutional cure on the market. It is taken internally in doses from 10 drops to a teaspoonful. It acts directly on the blood and mucous surfaces of the system. They offer one hundred dollars for any case it fails to cure. Send for circulars and testimonials.

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"But to be really successful, you know, you'll have to make short work of it."—Philadelphia Press.

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Scribbles—Now that you have begun to write poetry I suppose you will wear your hair long.

Dribbles—I'll hear it as long as I can, but, of course, I expect to become bald sooner or later.

PAINLESS DENTISTRY

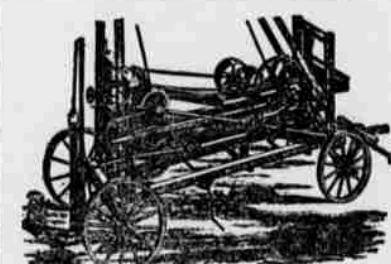
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