## STONE FIGHTS IN COREA.

An Oriental Pastime That Must Be Attended with Great Danger

Kite flying, which is universal in this country, ceases suddenly on the 15th of the first Corean month, and the next day stone fights take its place as the chief public amusement. In the eastern part of Seoul, the capital, there are large open spaces that have not been built upon, and here occur the most serious and interesting fights. One section of the city is pitted against another, but any one can take a hand on either side at pleasure. There are no recognized leaders, but the mass of fighters readily follows the lead of any one who shows himself to be a little more reckless than an instant later a wild eyed man was the rest.

Two mobs, consisting of fifty, seventy or a hundred men each, are drawn up against each other, with an interval of perhaps fifty yards between them. There is an incessant shower of stones, and each man's business is to hit as many men as he can, and especially to avoid all the stones directed at him. From ten to twenty men on each side are armed with stout clubs and wear thick wadded helmets. These form the skirmishing line. They sally out from their respective sides and, meeting in midcareer, strike out viciously at each other's heads, each man holding up his cloak with his left hand as a shield to ward off the blows of his adversary.

After the club fight has lasted about thirty seconds one or the other begins to give way, which is the signal for a rush of the others. Almost invariably the other side breaks and runs, and sometimes are chased into their houses, but generally some of the pursuing party press too closely on the fugitives. Then the latter suddenly turn and deal a few staggering blows, which check the pursuers, and in a few seconds the tables are turned, and those who a moment ago are flushed with victory are now in full flight with their enemies. Thus the battle goes back and forth across the fields, while the neighboring embankments are crowded with spectators. The effect of the thundering cheers of the spectators upon the combatants is marvelous.

They charge upon each other as if in actual battle, and show what would be bravery if exerted in some useful cause. Near the river are numerous villages numbering from 100 to 500 houses each. They are situated along the banks at intervals of about half a mile. These keep up a continual series of fights among themselves during the season, one village being arrayed against the other. The defeated party fly across the marshy field to their own village, followed by their enemies, who enter after them, seizing anything on which they can lay their hands-iron files, doors-to mark their victory. Then the whole village rises against the invaders, and they fly, glad if they can get back without broken

The first stone fight of the season was rather more disastrous than usual. It is reported that six men were killed; but this is probably an exaggeration. A company of soldiers were ordered out to stop it, which they found some difficulty in doing with fixed bayonets.—Japanese Paper.

Before Learning a Language.

Some students begin a language for the mere love of knowing foreign tongues; others acquire them either for professional purposes or with the aim of gaining access to foreign literatures. But whatever be the motive it is well to set out with some knowledge of the science of language-some insight into the relations of languages to each other the company. These articles are labeled -some grasp of the theories of modern and laid away in a building especially scholars abont the origin and develop-

No Pince for Him

Until ten years or more ago the Texas Pan Handle, through asveral months of each year, afforded pasturage for vast herds of bison, commonly known as the buffalo, an animal which, in its wild state, at least, has almost entirely vanished. On a certain occasion two gentlemen, prominent in Texas politics, were hunting in the buffalo region, and one of them, getting within range of a herd of the ruminants, brought down a large bull.

Knife in hand, the hunter was approaching his quarry, when all at once it rose, bellowing and ready for business. Since the gun was empty, flight was the sportsman's only recourse, and seen tearing away, with a furious brute closely following.

Hunter number two, meanwhile, was watching the scene from a hilltop, too far off to be of the slightest assistance to his companion.

A tragic termination of the chase seemed inevitable, for the fleeing gentle- It and the pimples immediately disappeared." man was a heavyweight, and already the space between pursuer and pursued began to diminish. Suddenly the fugitive was seen to strike off at an angle, and the breathless watcher heaved a sigh of relief when his friend's objective point was found to be a cave but a few rods away.

At the very entrance to this seeming place of safety, however, the fleeing man turned aside and dashed with such frantic speed across the plain that a marked gain was made upon his pursuer.

But this could not last long, and finally, the fugitive's strength utterly failing him, he fell completely exhausted, while the buffalo, faint from loss of blood, dropped at almost the same instant and within less than a rod of the prostrate man.

Hunter number two now came up, and his first question was:

"Why didn't you run into the cave, colonel? That would have shielded you from the buffalo."

"Buffalo!" came the panting but contemptuous response; "why, general, there's a bear in that cave as big as two buffalo!"-Youth's Companion.

## How a Coward Feels.

It is a humiliating confession to make, but, physically speaking, I am an arrant coward! And yet, so far as formation of body goes, I onght not to fear to cope with any ordinary being or danger.

I am young, tall, have a chest measure ment of about thirty-nine inches, and

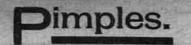
aut, I believe, thoroughly muscular. How I have tried to overcome this feeling of cowardice, but in vain! At the first sign of my being involved in danger I turn deathly pale, my heart beats wildly, and I am seized with such a fit of trembling that my legs almost give way beneath me. I am also rendered nearly speechless, for my voice quavers to such an extent that I can scarcely articulate words.

And my friends actually wanted me to join the army! "No," I said to myself, with a sickly

"'The pen is mightier than the smile. sword,' so I'll stick to the pen."

What a noble soldier I should have made! I am sure that, in the event of being "ordered to the front," I should have deserted at the first opportunity.-"A Coward" in London Tit-Bits.

Sleeping Car Flotsam and Jetsam There are a great many articles left in the cars of the Pullman company, but the number of toothbrushes left far outnumbers any other article. A Pullman porter said: "We are required to turn every article we find in the cars over to scholars about the origin and develop-ment of speech. To learn language I do not turn in at least two lost tooth-



The old idea of 40 years ago was that facial eruptions were due to a "blood humor," for which they gave potash. Thus all the old Saraaparillas contain potash, a most objectionable and drastic mineral, that unstead of decreasing, actually creates more eruptions. You have no-ticed this when taking other Sarsaparillas than Joy's. It is however now known that the stom-ach, the blood creating power, is the seat of all vitiating or cleansing operations. A stomach clogged by indigestion or constipation, vitiates the blood, result pimples. A clean stomach and healthful digestion purifies it and they disappear. Thus Joy's Vegetable Sarsaparilla is compound after the modern idea to regulate the bowels and stimulate the digestion. The effect is immediate and most satisfactory. A short testimonial to contrast the action of the potash Sarsaparillas and Joy's modern vegetable preparation. Mrs. C. D. Stuart, of 400 Hayes St., S. F., writes: "I have for years had indigestion, I tried a popular Sarsaparilla but it actually can-ed more pimples to break out on my face. Hearing that Joy's was a later preparation and acted differently, I tried

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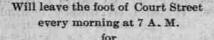
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without knowing anything of the science of language is like acquiring the art of putting up electric fixtures without any knowledge of the principles of electrical science.

To approach it, on the other hand, from the standpoint of universal principles is to make the study of it easier and progress in any particular tongue much more rapid. By knowing, for example, the laws of consonantal interchange, we may often discover the meaning of words without being obliged to refer for them to the dictionary. In this way every new language learned makes more easy the acquirement of other tongues of the same or of allied stocks.-Boston Herald.

## Unsafe Money to Carry.

My father was once with his ship at Rangoon. One day during a heavy thunderstorm he was driving in a cab to his agents, when he saw a "coolie" (porter) drop down in the street. He got out of the cab at once and went to the though without any sensation of pain. man, but he was dead. There was a burned patch in his waistcloth, on the right side, and some blackened copper 'pice" lay on the ground. The man had just received them for carrying a load, and, as the clothes of the poorer natives of India and Burmah have no pockets, he had twisted them into his waistcloth, and this money must have attracted the lightning. But the most curious part of it was that the queen's head on one of the coins was clearly impressed on his side, and even the words "Queen Victoria" were clearly defined.-London Tit-Bits.

ribbon. When it was untied the top was lifted up and the inside contained fine candy. The center of the cabbage had been hollowed out, then lined with tissue paper, filled with the sweets, the top put back and tied on. It created much merriment.—Ellye H. Glover in Good Housekeeping.

## Telling Fortunes.

In England a ring, a button and a coin are often placed in the wedding cake. She who secures the ring is to be the next bride; the button, the old maid; the coin secures a wealthy suitor. A ring put in posset "infuses magic power," and "will tell the fair if haply she will wed."-Cassell's Family Magazine.

SHINGLES.

brushes. I suppose all other porters find equally as many. There is a simple reason why toothbrushes are lost. "When a person uses his brush he does

not like to put it back in the satchel while it is wet, and therefore he lets it remain out awhile to dry. Then he forgets it, and it falls into our hands. I don't know what the company does with the immense number of toothbrushes, but I suppose they sell them to some person who cleanses them and in turn sells them to different drug stores."-Philadelphia Record.

## Light Without Sight.

We can "perceive" light without the smallest aid from the retina. If the optic nerve is sufficiently excited to reach the sensorium and create a disturbance at that center of the brain where the optic nerve terminates we shall then see light and sparks. If, moreover, the optic nerve is cut or mutilated in any way we should see a brilliant flash of light, And so it is with the other nerves; the auditory nerve has only to be excited, not necessarily by sound, so as to reach its center, the brain, and we shall hear a sound. How many ghosts might not be destroyed in this way?-Chambers' Journal.

## Swallowed the Button.

A Hannibal (Mo.) man bought two pills and put them in his vest pocket. He also bought a small pearl button and put it in the same pocket. When it came time to take a pill he opened his month, ahut his eyes and gulped one down. He was relieved of his headache and went A Booby Prize. A very cute "booby" prize given at a party was a cabbage, tied with a pink button.-Chicago Herald.

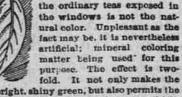
## How the Chinese Boil Rice.

An ordinary Chinese cook will boil rice extremely well. But he generally puts into too much water; and then, when the rice is cooked enough, he pours off the excess, and replacing the pot over the fire, shakes up the contents un-til sufficiently dried to allow the grains to separate freely .-- Temple Bar.

## Very Still.

"Is that man still at work in the cellar, Bridget?" "That's phat he is. Too still at it. In

fact, mim, he's aslape."-Harper's Bazar.

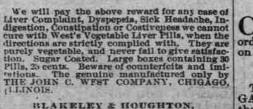


tea a bright, shiny green, but also permits the use of "off-color" and worthless teas, which, once under the green cloak, are readily worked off as a good quality of tea.

An eminent authority writes on this subject: "The manipulation of yoor teas, to give them a finer appearance, is carried on exten-sively. Green teas, being in this country especially popular, are produced to meet the demand by coloring chea or black kinds by glasing or facing with Prussian blue, tumeric, gypsum, and indigo. This method is so gen-eral that very little genuine uncolored green tea is offered for sale."

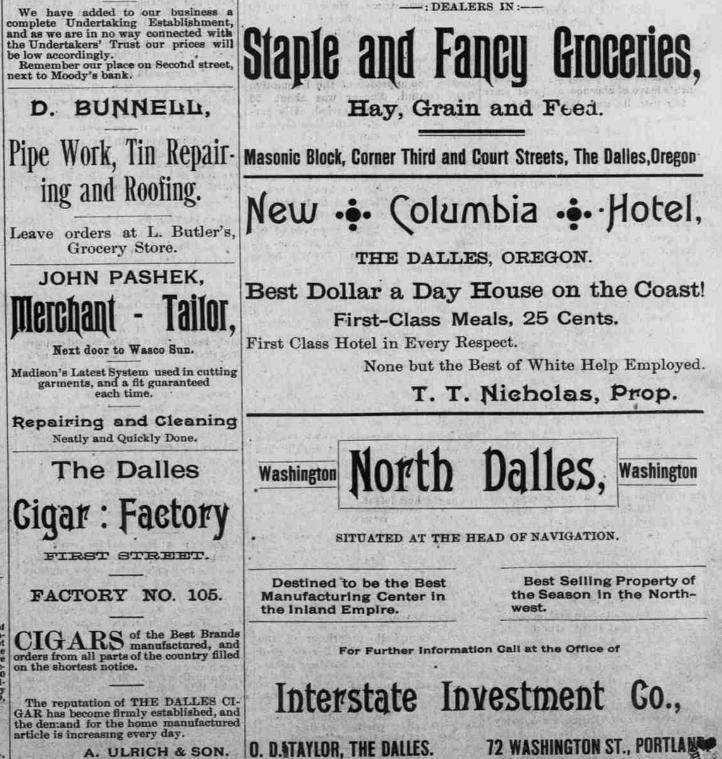
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