

A Peeress Whose Title Went Back to 1264.
By the death of the Dowager Lady Falmouth, succeeds to one of the most venerable titles in the English peerage. The barony of Le Despencer was created by writ of summons in 1264, and the name of Hugh Le Despencer was of historic note in the reigns of Edward I and Edward III. The barony being a barony by writ was transmissible, where male heirs failed, in the female line, and a succession of heiresses carried the title of Le Despencer in the families of Beauchamp, Nevill, Fans and Stapleton. After three centuries of abeyance it was revived in favor of Sir Thomas Stapleton, who became Lord Le Despencer in 1788.

The eldest son died in his father's lifetime, leaving a only daughter, Mary Frances Stapleton, who on her grandfather's death became Baroness Le Despencer in her own right. The little heiress was then only nine years old, and she was the only young lady who ever made her debut in society already a peeress in her own right. Lady Le Despencer soon bestowed her hand, her heart and her beautiful place, Mereworth, near Maidstone, on a young barrister, Mr. Evelyn Boscawen, who shortly after became Lord Falmouth and lived to be so well known in the racing world.

The venerable title of Le Despencer thus became merged in the superior though much more modern dignity of Viscount Falmouth, and there it must remain unless some future Lord Falmouth shall have daughters only. In that case the viscountcy of Falmouth being like the common run of modern peerages, transmissible only in the male line, will pass to the nearest male heir. If there are more daughters than one the barony of Le Despencer will fall into abeyance among them, and if there is only one she will blossom out as Baroness Le Despencer, and if she marries will carry away the title into her husband's family.—London Letter.

Improper Labels.
It used to be jestingly said that the name of Mohammed was invoked for all purposes, even down to the itinerant fruit seller, whose cry was, "In the name of the prophet—figs." But it appears to be the practice for enterprising and pushing British manufacturers to have recourse to the same alliance of piety with profits. British exporters to Morocco, it seems, have been accustomed to place Arabic inscriptions on their wares, such as calicoes, candles, matches, etc. According to the consul at Magador, the sultan has lately issued the following warning through the customs administration: "Having learned that certain goods imported, including calicoes, matches, etc., have been imported bearing in Arabic characters the names of Mohammed, of Hassan and Ali, and others held sacred by Moslems, and bearing other writing not suitable to be on such articles, I order you to give notice to the merchants to advise their correspondents in other countries to discontinue the sending of goods so marked. A reasonable time will be allowed for this notice to reach them. Any such goods imported after due notice has been given will be seized by the government and treated as contraband. Should the importer be a Moslem, he will be punished in addition to the forfeiture."—Leisure Hour.

Large Production of Anthracite.
The year 1891 was remarkable in the anthracite coal trade for its enormous production, which far exceeds that of any other year. Heretofore 1888 has borne the banner for production, or rather shipments, with a total of 33,145,718 tons, but the present outlook is that 1891 will surpass this by about 3,000,000 tons, or something over 40,000,000 in all, an unprecedented figure, and nearly 5,000,000 tons greater than the shipments of 1890.

The statistics of shipments of hard coal up to Dec. 5 show that so far in 1891 \$7,599,559 tons had been shipped, an increase of 4,089,593 over 1890 for the corresponding period. The shipments for December agreed upon by the companies are 3,250,000 tons, and if that full amount were carried the total is considerably over 40,000,000.—Philadelphia Record.

Grapes All Winter.
Fresh grapes can be had all through the winter at a trifling expenditure of care and attention. The grapes should be cut when just ripe, with several inches of stem on each bunch, and then be placed in paper boxes, with a layer of crumpled newspaper underneath and another above them. The bunches should not touch, and the grapes should not be piled in the box. Keep them in a cool, dry room—not in the cellar, the dampness there is sure to spoil them—and with care to prevent their freezing they will be as eatable in February as in October.—Interview in St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Sixty-five Million Dollars an Acre.
The other day the Southeastern Railway company was asked no less a sum than £1,250,000 for a small and practically useless piece of ground in Bermuda. The land is about sixteen feet in depth, and comprises an area of 4,124 superficial feet, so that the claim is at the rate of £13,000,000 an acre. The company, it is scarcely necessary to add, did not close at the sum stated.—London Tit-Bits.

Discovery of a Natural Cave.
A handsome natural cave was recently discovered in Lafayette county, Ga. It contains many rooms of most exquisite crystallized beauty and a yawning abyss into which large stones have been thrown with no reverberating sounds borne back to the ear by which the depths might be gauged.—Exchange.

"Smaller Fleas to Bite 'Em."
In view of the expected visitation of grasshoppers in some parts of the state next year, the state board of horticulture has arranged for a supply of parasites from New South Wales, to be ready for distribution in March.—San Francisco Call.

Mountain Lions Galore.
On the last trip of L. H. Gaskill into the region about San Francisco bay, on the gulf coast, he saw lions and lynxes and wildcats enough to stock a big menagerie. In one canyon, where his party was encamped, the burros wandered off and Mr. Gaskill started to find them. When about half a mile from the camp he heard them coming tearing down ahead of him as if the Old Nick himself was after them, and they dashed on down toward camp. He knew that some wild beast had frightened them, and although unarmed he went on in the hope of getting a glimpse.

When he had gone a hundred yards further and had climbed on to a large table rock he was astounded to see four full grown mountain lions not more than sixty feet ahead of him, and they seemed to have seen him first and were looking straight at him. Mr. Gaskill remembers distinctly that his hair stood on end, if ever a man's did, but he doesn't remember all the minute details of his return to camp—only that he got there very pronto. He and his partner took rifles and went after the lions, but they had gone. That night the burros were tied unusually secure, but their occasional snorts and efforts to break away indicated that the wild animals were after meat. A blazing fire kept them at a distance.

Mr. Gaskill states that the Mexicans and Indians living on that part of the peninsula are in mortal dread of meeting a lion, as the beasts are in a constantly famished condition, and have been known to follow men for hours, awaiting a favorable opportunity to pounce upon them.—Lower Californian.

Innocents Abroad.
Two small children—one a boy and the other a girl—were permitted to accompany their mother on a shopping tour in the week before Christmas. They espied a life size figure of Santa Claus in one of the large retail wares in Sixth avenue. Breaking away from parental guidance, they ran joyfully up to the figure, exclaiming, "Oh, Mr. Santa Claus!" "Mr. Santa Claus!" with such vehemence that the attention of at least a dozen persons was attracted to them. With all of the sincerity and enthusiasm that true faith imparts, those little ones stood before the grizzled and toy laden image and told what they wanted. "Dear Mr. Santa Claus" to bring them for Christmas. The little boy wanted a wagon with horses that could trot, and the girl wanted a dolly that could open and shut its eyes and talk. So firm was their belief in the actual presence of Santa Claus that the little folks imagined that they could see a twinkle in his eyes and a smile of assent to their petitions on his lips. It was an incident that touched the adult observers, one of whom, a white haired old gentleman, murmured, "Bless a pity that a child's belief in Santa Claus should ever be shaken."—New York Times.

Old Memories Recalled.
After the adjournment of the United States court at Danville, Va., recently, there was a little scene which was not on the docket. A one armed old Confederate had been found guilty of illegal distilling and was sentenced to one month's imprisonment and a fine of \$100. Judge John Paul, who was also an old Confederate, ordered the marshal to bring Garrett Morrison, the one armed veteran, into the courtroom. Presently the judge and prisoner stood face to face. As he touched the empty sleeve tears came into the eyes of the judge, who said: "Come back here tomorrow and I will consider your case. We old boys are getting scarce, and you cannot go to jail."—Cor. Richmond Times.

When Does the Nineteenth Century End?
I have been pretty thoroughly convinced for years that not one person in five knows when this century will close, but I was much surprised to find the statement that but about eight years of this century remain. This would make 1899 the last year of this decade and century. The matter is important enough to correct, and is very easily made clear. The first century closed with the last day of the year 100; the second with the last day of the year 200, and the nineteenth century will end with the last day of the year 1900, which is nine years from New Year Day, 1892.—J. Ogden Kern in New York Sun.

A Steam Sleigh.
A Truckee (Cal.) man has in the course of construction a steam sleigh which will, he claims, when perfected, traverse snow covered fields and mountains with a speed scarcely less than that of a railroad train. It is his intention to utilize the contrivance for the hauling of all classes of freight, sawlogs and anything else that requires cheap transportation.—Exchange.

While a workman was repairing an outbuilding in Winchester, Ind., a few days ago, he found under one of the sills an old tin can containing about \$1,000 in gold coin, mostly in \$2.50 and five dollar pieces. No one knows to whom the treasure belonged.

The Oakland board of education having decreed that married teachers must go, the question the women are asking each other is, since no distinction was made, what will be the effect of the resolution where the teachers happen to be men?

The great treasury vault at Washington covers more than a quarter of an acre and is twelve feet deep. Recently there was \$90,000,000 in silver stored there, an amount that weighed 4,000 tons and would load 175 freight cars.

The fishing industry at Portland, Or., and vicinity is rapidly increasing. The amount of mackerel packed in Portland alone last season was 17,000 barrels, or more than 10,000 barrels in excess of the season before.

One of the latest discoveries of the scientists is that the germs of yellow fever may be conveyed from tropical countries in the plumage of birds.

Making Fun of the Bear.
The following satirical production, purporting to show how the Russian court travels, appears in the German papers in the form of a letter from a Russian court functionary to his friend in Berlin: "Dear Friend—The following may serve you as an exact information. It is quite uncertain when we leave Copenhagen. In any case this afternoon at 7 o'clock—it may be also early the day after tomorrow; but quite certain tomorrow at noon. We shall, of course, choose the sea journey, for the land journey suits us much better. For this reason it is not yet decided which we shall prefer. I think we shall go by sea as well as by land. When we leave the steamer we get into the train—that is to say, on another steamer—I mean a steamship on rails, or rather an express train in the water. We are mainly afraid of seasickness, therefore we remain as long as possible on the ocean. For after all one travels best on terra firma; therefore the sea journey is as good as settled. We travel via Berlin, where you may await me at the station; but you can save yourself the trouble, as we shall not touch Berlin under any consideration. We shall travel via Stettin. When I say Stettin I mean Danzig. What's the good of us going to Danzig? Naturally we shall go direct from Copenhagen per ship to Konigsberg. Therefore au revoir the day after tomorrow in Berlin. We leave here in a week; where we shall go is quite still undecided."

A Much Delayed Wedding.
Miss Florence E. Howell, of Decatur, and George Vanduyke, of Louisville, married at midnight, had an eventful experience. Twice had the wedding day been fixed, but it was postponed. The third time they came near missing it again. George expected his wedding suit from Louisville by express. It did not come, although the couple waited until the last train was in before starting on their journey in the mud, five miles distant to the home of the bride, where the wedding guests had assembled to witness the marriage. At 7 o'clock Vanduyke procured his license, and as he was coming out of the office he fell headlong twelve feet into the cellar of the new court house. Later he started with the bride and four friends for the Howell place, when the single-tree broke, the horses kicked themselves loose and ran away, leaving the party in the mud. Another vehicle was secured and the journey resumed. The party arrived at 11 o'clock to find some of the guests getting ready to go home. The wedding feast was cold, but the wedding took place at midnight.—Decatur Cor. Chicago Tribune.

A Steel Chimney.
In order to economize space and weight, steel is being used for the construction at the Chicago exhibition, of a chimney which, when completed, will be 250 feet high. The steel varies in thickness from 5-32 inch at top to 3/4 inch at the bottom. The lower part of the chimney is lined with fire brick 8 inches deep, formed to fit the shell compactly all round. Above this hollow tile is used. The weight of a brick chimney of this size would be almost 700 tons, while in steel it will weigh, including the linings, a little less than 250 tons. The outside diameter of the chimney is 9 feet 5 inches, whereas had it been constructed of brick it would be 16 feet 6 inches, a great saving of space being thus effected.—Exchange.

Why He Gave Away Overshoes.
"We have a shoemaker in our town," says a Quebec man, "whose business in selling overshoes has been ruined by a hustling rubber shoe, and who, this winter, to get even, had a great opening sale, at which he gave to every purchaser of shoes a pair of rubber overshoes, upon the soles of which was his advertisement reversed so that at every step the wearers take through the snow they leave his advertisement neatly printed in their tracks. The effect is magical and powerful. You can scarcely look at the snow any place in Quebec without seeing footprints with this man's name glaring boldly from them."—New York Tribune.

A Three Legged Steer.
A monster three legged steer was recently discovered on the headwaters of the Cheyenne river, in Wyoming. It is 7 years old, and weighs close on 2,000 pounds, and has horns that will measure six feet from tip to tip. The hind legs are perfect, but in front there is only one leg, located in the centre of the body on the part of the body between where the front limbs are on an ordinary steer and is about the size of two ordinary legs. The steer is wild, and when discovered took the lead of a small herd of mavericks and skipped out for a hiding place.—Omaha Bee.

Singular Capture of a Swan.
John Jordan brought a large white swan to Pendleton the other day, and tells a queer story as to how he got it. While near his house, on East Birch creek, he saw some eagles chasing the swan in the air above him. The unfortunate bird, in its anxiety to escape, flew directly over the young man's head, and with a quick spring he managed to seize and bring it down, the disappointed eagles flying angrily away.—Portland Oregonian.

Looking for Birds and Found a Deer.
Two Oldtown hunters down in Maine had an odd experience. They were after partridge. Very suddenly, however, as they were walking in the woods, a startled deer sprang from the bushes and made a tremendous bound, going over one hunter's head. He had no time to take another leap before he fell a victim.—Springfield Republican.

Caught a Fish Also.
Mr. Samuel Hickman, of Leesburg, Va., while hunting on the banks of the Potomac shot a squirrel, which fell into the water, where it was seized by a black bass. Hickman waded in and lifted both squirrel and fish clear out of the water before the bass let go and made its escape.—New York Post.

A Story of Arsene Houssaye.
A curious adventure has happened to M. Arsene Houssaye, the author. Some years ago, while at his country seat in the department of the Aisne, he saved a little girl from being burned to death in a fire which occurred on her father's farm. He had forgotten all about the event till the other day, when a handsome young woman called at his chateau and informed him that the firemen of the village where the conflagration took place had voted him a medal.

"I am the child you rescued from the flames," she said, "and have come to thank you with all my heart for your noble and generous bravery." Her name is Mlle. Dupre, and she is on the point of getting married.

M. Houssaye, charmed with her simple bearing, and delighted with the medal she handed him, said to her: "So you are going to be married are you? Well, I am glad to hear it, and shall consider it an honor if you will allow me to provide your gown for the wedding and another gown made of flame colored gauze to recall to mind the first day I made your pleasant acquaintance." It is needless to say that she accepted the offer.—Paris Cor. St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The Craze for Horseshes in Berlin.
I heard yesterday that the French liking for horseshes is imitated to such a degree in Berlin as to have become a craze. Several invitations have been received by proprietors of Parisian restaurants to a grand banquet of this meat, announced to take place in one of the principal restaurants of Berlin. Dishes prepared only from horseshes will be served, and the menu comprises the following: Horse broth, with tapioca; horse tongue, glazed and ornamented; horse brains a la Toulouse; roast loin of horse, with cranberries; horse head en tortue, with salad.—Cor. Philadelphia Times.

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A Severe Law.
The English people look more closely to the genuineness of these staples than we do. In fact, they have a law under which they make seizures and destroy adulterated products that are not what they are represented to be. Under this statute thousands of pounds of tea have been burned because of their wholesale adulteration.

Tea, by the way, is one of the most notoriously adulterated articles of commerce. Not alone are the bright, shiny green teas artificially colored, but thousands of pounds of substitutes for tea leaves are used to swell the bulk of cheap teas; and, also, and without leaves being those most commonly used. Again, sweepings from tea warehouses are colored and sold as tea. Even exhausted tea leaves gathered from the tea-houses are kept, dried, and made over and find their way into the cheap teas.

The English government attempts to stamp this out by confining it; but so tea is too poor for it, and the result is that probably the poorest teas used by any nation are those consumed in America.

Beech's Tea is presented with the guaranty that it is uncolored and unadulterated; in fact, the sun-dried tea leaf pure and simple. Its purity insures superior strength, about one third less of it being required for an infusion than of the artificial teas, and its fragrances and exquisite flavor is at once apparent. It will be a revelation to you. In order that its purity and quality may be guaranteed, it is sold only in pound packages bearing this trade-mark.

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