$4200 Reward!

Can You Tell ?

The Shortstory Publishing Company, Boston, Mass., will pay $4,200 in cash prizes, ranging from $100 to $500 each, to those who will tell in writing some unusual experience, thrilling adventure, or fascinating freak of the imagination in a style that will interest the hundreds of thousands of readers of THE BLACK CAT, the unique shortstory magazine which has won the title of "The story-telling hit of the century." This prize competition is open to all, and each story will be judged solely upon its merits without regard to the name or reputation of its writer; *but no story will be considered at all unless it is sent strictly in accordance with the printed conditions*, which will be mailed free, postage paid, to any one, together with 5 complete specimen stories, and many of the names and addresses, as references, of the men and women in all parts of America who have received over $30,000 cash, for BLACK CAT stories, also information of real value to all who are interested in earning money at home. Send address at once, as the contest closes March 31st. The Shortstory Publishing Co., 64 High-Hartford Street, Boston, Mass.

MINOR NEWS ITEMS.

The number of marriages in Manhattan and Bronx this year will be greater than ever in their history.

The Ancient Mechanical Society of Baltimore celebrated its 16th anniversary recently.

An attack of melancholia caused Mrs. Samuel Miller, of Portchester, N. Y., to cut her tongue with a pair of scissors.

The oldest existing church in New Hampshire is the Congregational at Hampton, which was organized in August, 1638.

The state prison building at Sing Sing, N. Y., has been condemned by a committee of the New York State Prison Association.

The best maple syrup comes from the north side of the tree, but the flow is not so large as when the tree is tapped on the south side.

At a recent auction sale at Zurich more than 1000 gold and silver Swiss coins of the 15th to the 19th centuries were disposed of.

On the big steamer Oceanic there is no seat at the table marked 13, nor a cabin bearing that number. This is a concession to superstition.

In Connecticut the percentage of criminal population to the 1,000 inhabitants has fallen steadily from 2.48 in 1896 to 2.33 in the present year.

The Noah Webster Association, which has just been organized at Hartford, Conn., will procure funds for the erection of a library building in memory of the lexicographer.

Thunder storms are more frequent in Iowa than in any other part of the world. The average is one about every fourth day. Sumatra has 86 in a year, and Rio Janiero 51.

The vegetable ivory of Ecuador is the nut of a native palm. The exports amount to 11,500 tons per annum, of which two-thirds go to Germany an one-sixth to the United States.

A Chicago workingman has discovered a process by which plate glass can be made from slag, the waste material in iron and steel manufacture, and the Federal steel trust proposes to build a plant to turn out the new product.

The whole of the dry land on this planet scarcely exceeds 52,000,000 of square miles. Forty millions are under caucasic sway, leaving, as Professor Keane says, not more than 12,000,000 for the now reduced domain of the other divisions.

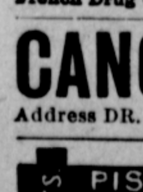
James S. Galloway, of Hillsdale, Mich., has just pur hased the whole of Morgan county, Ontario, 39¼ square miles, for the white pine timber upon it. He could cut nearly if not quite 100,000,000 feet, but intends to hold most of it, awaiting developments.

Judge Scott, of the district court at Omaha, has decided that the forcible entry of a saloon for the purpose of robbery is not burglary under the law, for the reason that the word "saloon" does not occur among the buildings mentioned in the statutes in the list of places subject to burglary.

The life-sized bronze equestrian statue of Frederick the Great, by J. L. Gerome, the French sculptor, which he will exhibit at the Paris exposition, has been purchased by Peter Gibson, of Cincinnati, and immediately after the exposition it will be shipped to this country.

DR. MARTEL'S BOOK,

"Relief for Women"



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A POPULAR BEVERAGE

TEA IS DRUNK IN ALMOST ALL COUNTRIES.

Legend Concerning the Origin of the Tea Plant—In Some Places It Is Regarded as Food—Peculiar Ways of Preparing It.

How long tea has been used as a beverage no one knows. It was a domestic essential in the kingdoms of the Orient long before it was introduced into Europe, and that was not a few decades ago. To-day it is used as a beverage in nearly all civilized lands, and even barbarians dream over its care-beguiling properties. A pious legend tells us that Daruma, an Indian saint, was the medium through which the beverage became known to the world. He had renounced all allurements of this life to pass the remainder of his days in meditation and prayer. Many long years he spent in supplication, when one fatal night the evil one possessed his soul and the saint fell asleep to dream of a beautiful woman who had enchanted him. When he awoke he was so humiliated and pained that he drew from his girdle a knife and severed his lazy eyelids from his eyes and cast them from him. What was his amazement to discover the next morning that the lids had disappeared, and in their place two wonderful shrubs were growing—shrubs with dainty leaflets, eyelid-shaped and snowy buds opening to the east! He called it te, and vowed that with its help he would pass the remainder of his days and nights in unbroken meditation.

Tea became known in England about the middle of the seventeenth century, during the latter half of which we find occasional reference to it, but it did not come into general use until the beginning of the eighteenth century. It was first sold in public houses as beer is now, and tapped.

Tea is the national drink in Russia. It is as indispensable in the food of the people as bread and meat, and is taken at all hours of the day. In all the scrows of the Russians, tea and vodka seem to be the universal consolation. The first thing in the morning, after luncheon, after dinner, in the evening, the last thing before going to bed, are regular times when everybody takes tea, but there are many who take it at odd intervals between times.

In Morocco the teamaker puts a handful of tea into a teapot, pours on some hot water and pours it off directly. Then as many lumps of sugar as desired are added and the teapot is filled with boiling water. The same tea is brewed two or three times, leaves of wild thyme and fragrant verbena being added. Milk and cream are never used. The host always pours out a cup for himself first and drinks it off before his guests have time to touch theirs. This is to show them that he has no designs against their lives, and that the tea is not poisoned.

Tea is not simply a beverage with Tibetans, but the principal article of food. It is invariably mixed with butter and parched barley, and the leaves are not infrequently eaten. The brick tea is reduced to powder and put into the kettle just before the water boils, and after cooking five minutes salt and soda are added. Sometimes it is partaken of in this stage of the preparation, but usually it is put, through a bamboo strainer, into a tea churn, with a little barley meal, and churned vigorously for two or three minutes; then it is poured into earthen or metal teapots and is ready to be drunk.

The Dutch drink tea in the evening two hours after dinner. The brazier with the boiling kettle is brought into the drawing-room and placed beside the mistress of the house, and the tea tray with every appliance on it is set before her. It is served with small cakes, like our afternoon tea.

The Russians and Germans sometimes use claret in their tea. The Nicaraguan ladies call their high teas tertulias.

KRAPOTKIN IN THE SOLITARY.

A Description of the Prison Room in Which He Was Confined.

My first movement was to approach the window, which was placed so high that I could hardly reach it with my lifted hand. It was a broad, low opening, cut in a wall five feet thick and protected by an iron grating and a double iron window frame, relates Prince Krapotkin. At a distance of a dozen yards from this window I saw the outer wall of the fortress, a piece of masonry of immense thickness, on the roof of which I could make out a gray sentry box. Only by looking upward could I perceive a bit of the sky, which was now faintly illuminated by the last rays of the sun.

I made a minute inspection of the room, where I had now to spend no one could say how many years. From the position of the high chimney of the mint I guessed that I was in the southwest corner of the fortress, in a bastion overlooking the Neva. This room of mine was a casement destined for a big gun and the window was an embrasure. Sun rays might never penetrate it; even in summer they must be lost by the thickness of the wall. It was eleven steps from one corner to the other of the room, which held an iron bed, a little oak table and an oak stool. The floor was covered with painted felt and the walls with yellow paper. However, in order to deaden the sounds, the paper was not put on the wall itself; it was painted over canvas and behind the canvas I discovered a wire grating, behind which was a layer of felt. Only beyond the felt could I reach the stone wall.

At the inner side of the room there was a washstand and a thick door, in which I made out a locked opening to pass the food through and a little slit, protected by glass and a shutter from the outside. This was the "Judas" through which the prisoner could be spied upon at every moment. The sentry who stood in the passage frequently lifted the little shutter and looked inside, his boots squeaking as he crept toward the door. I tried to speak to him. Then the eye which I could see through the slit assumed an expression of terror and the shutter was immediately let down, only to be opened furtively a minute or two later. But I could get no word of reply from the sentry.

Absolute silence reigned all round, no sounds came from anywhere. I dragged my stool to the window and looked upon the bit of sky I could see. I tried to catch any sound from the Neva or from the town on the opposite side of the river, but I could catch none.—Atlantic Monthly.

Science and Invention

Recent investigations prove that eighty-three per cent. of all the ocean floor lies further down than one thousand fathoms, or one mile below the surface; twenty-one per cent. lies between one and two miles; fifty per cent. lies between two and three miles, and seven per cent. is known to lie further down than three miles.

It is reported from Sierra Leone that those who are engaged in investigating the mosquito theory of malaria in that district poured a dram of kerosene oil, as an experiment, upon a puddle about a square yard in area, floating on which were numbers of Anopheles larvae, with the result that after six hours all the larvae were found to be dead.

Glimmering phosphorescent lights play an important part in the activities and strategies going on in the deep sea. Phosphorescent organs appear sometimes to act as bull's-eye lanterns to enable the monsters possessing them to pick up food in their midnight underworld, and at other times serve as a lure or a warning to other species.

Lake Chelan, in the State of Washington, just east of the Cascade range of mountains, was recently the scene of a strange disturbance. Without warning, the water in the center of the lake, which is some forty miles long and three or four broad, rose to a height of fifteen feet. Immense waves rolled upon the shores, and a large creek emptying into the lake ran dry for three hours. There is an Indian tradition of a volcanic crater having once existed in the neighborhood of the lake.

There is already talk in England of developing the natural resources of the Sudan through scientific exploration. Immense forests line the banks of the Blue Nile along its upper reaches, extending to the Abyssinian frontier. The ebony-tree is met with along that river and also near the Sobat. On the White Nile the india-rubber creeper, a valuable source of rubber, abounds. There are large forests in the Bahr-el-Ghazal province. Gold was once mined in some of the mountains of the Sudan. Search will be made for coal.

Dr. R. Hauthal, an Argentine savant, has put forward a startling theory concerning the remains of gigantic sloths, related to the great megatherium and the mylodon, recently found in Patagonia. In his opinion, these animals, whose race is now extinct, were kept in a domesticated state by the prehistoric inhabitants of Patagonia. A cave at Ultima Esperanza, where many indications of the former presence of the huge sloths have been found, is regarded by Doctor Hauthal as having been used by the ancient Patagonians as a stable for the beasts.

The marvellous effects that are sometimes produced by music may eventually receive a scientific explanation. In a recent lecture at Oxford University, Professor McKendrick said that, while the intricate connections of the auditory nerves are only just being unravelled, it is probable that the roots of those nerves are more widely distributed and have more extensive connections than those of any other nerves in the human body. Researches on the auditory nerves indicate that there is scarcely a function of the body which may not be affected by the pulsations and harmonic combinations of musical tones.

The first thing the members of a women's club do, after electing a new member, is to appoint a club meeting at the new member's house, in the hope of getting something elaborate in the way of refreshments.

When a child says a particularly bright thing, its mother looks at its father as much as to say, "See how much you owe my family!"

Death Pleased Them.

Drummer—How was the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" show at the town hall last night?

Landlord Pettyville Tavern—First rate! The audience was so pleased with little Eva's death that they encored her till she done it again.—San Francisco Examiner.

Funds are being collected in Denmark for the purpose of bringing to their native land the remains of two famous Danes who were buried abroad, Tycho Brahe in Prague, and the poet Jens Baggensen in Kiel.

Mormonism

is a blot upon our land—a symptom of governmental ill-health. The right laws would act upon it as Hostetter's Stomach Bitters does upon constipation, or dyspepsia. They would quickly restore healthy purity; and this is just what the Bitters does for the human constitution. It makes the stomach strong by curing indigestion and biliousness.

Instruction in the English language is now obligatory in Russian commercial schools.

DEAFNESS CANNOT BE CURED

By local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube gets inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that can not be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

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Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25c.

New York may furnish its fire department with seachlights to aid in taking care of night fires.

5 DROPS TRADE MARK

The Pleasantest, Most Powerful and Effective Neverfailing Remedy for *La Grippe, Catarrh, Rheumatism.* Will cure any ache or pain known in the human body. Send for trial bottle, 25c. This offer lasts 30 days only. Large bottle (300 doses of 5 DROPS each) $1.00 or 3 for $2.50. SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO 167 and 169 Dearborn St., Chicago.

Manchester, England, has opened lodging houses under the control of the city to accommodate 60 men.

Throw Physic to the Dogs!

Constipation is treated by an intestinal tonic and liver stimulant, palatable, gentle, yet potent—Cascarets Candy Cathartic. All druggists. 10c, 25c, 50c.

The Wisconsin College of Music has been opened with an imposing building as its home in Milwaukee.

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

Detroit Democrats are making plans for a new party organ in that city.

I believe my prompt use of Piso's Cure prevented quick consumption.—Mrs. Lucy Wallace, Marquette, Kansas, Dec. 12, 1895.

Baltimore claims the largest negro population in the world.

VITALITY low, debilitated or exhausted cured by Dr. Kline's Invigorating Tonic. FREE $1. Trial Bottle containing 2 Weeks' treatment. Dr. Kline's Institute, 931 Arch St., Philadelphia. Founded 1871.

New York wants a museum of "Living History and Court of all Nations," to cost several millions, exhibiting contemporaneous art and manufacture from every country in the world.

The hard, white layer inside the shell of the cocoanut is not there in the freshly plucked fruit, except as a creamy film about a 16th of an inch thick, which has to be scraped off with a spoon. Sparkling liquid, in place of the acrid "milk" known to English consumers, comprise the whole nut.

BEST FOR THE BOWELS

If you haven't a regular, healthy movement of the bowels every day, you're sick, or will be. Keep your bowels open, and be well. Force, in the shape of violent physic or pill poison, is dangerous. The smoothest, easiest, most perfect way of keeping the bowels clear and clean is to take

CANDY CATHARTIC Cascarets TRADE MARK REGISTERED REGULATE THE LIVER

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KEEP YOUR BLOOD CLEAN

"Do Not Burn the Candle At Both Ends."

Don't think you can go on drawing vitality from the blood for nerves, stomach, brain and muscles, without doing something to replace it. Hood's Sarsaparilla gives nerve, mental and digestive strength by enriching and vitalizing the blood. Thus it helps overworked and tired people.

Hood's Sarsaparilla Never Disappoints

Clerical Ordnance.

Hobbs—I see by the papers that your friend Rev. Dr. Bang has joined the artillery of the church.

Hobbs—What do you mean?

"Why he's been made a canon of the cathedral."

"H'm; I didn't know that he was such a big gun."—N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

That the spores of mildew are disturbed by snails and worms has been proven by Mr. F. L. Stevens, of the University of Chicago. The mildew appeared in the path these creatures had taken over fresh leaves.

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Can secure health and strength—can do it quickly by using

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It contains no dangerous drugs—it has a pleasant taste. $1 a bottle at druggists.

DR. GUNN'S IMPROVED LIVER PILLS

ONE FOR A DOSE. Cure Sick Headache and Dyspepsia, Remove Pimples and Purify the Blood, Aid Digestion and Prevent Biliousness. Do not Gripe or Sicken. To convince you, we will mail sample free, or full box for 25c. DR. BOSANKO CO., Philada., Penna. Sold by Druggists.

SURE CURE FOR PILES

ITCHING Piles produce moisture and cause itching. This form, as well as Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles are cured by Dr. Bosanko's Pile Remedy. Stops itching and bleeding. Absorbs tumors. 50c a Jar at druggists or sent by mail. Treatise free. Write me about your case. DR. BOSANKO, Philada., Pa.

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For Gonorrhœa and Gleet get Pabst's Okay Specific. It is the ONLY medicine which will cure each and every case. NO CASE known it has ever failed to cure, no matter how serious or of how long standing. Results from its use will astonish you. It is absolutely safe, prevents stricture, and can be taken without inconvenience and detention from business. PRICE, $3.00. For sale by all reliable druggists, or sent prepaid by express, plainly wrapped, on receipt of price, by PABST CHEMICAL CO., Chicago, Ill. Circular mailed on request.

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CURE YOURSELF! Use Big G for unnatural discharges, inflammations, irritations or ulcerations of mucous membranes. Painless, and not astringent or poisonous. Sold by Druggists, or sent in plain wrapper, by express, prepaid, for $1.00, or 3 bottles, $2.75. Circular sent on request.

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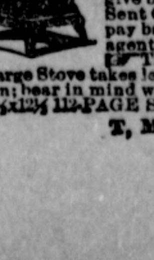

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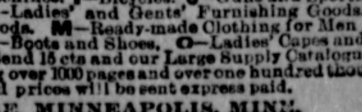

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