

## THE UMBRELLA.

A Handy and Convenient Article to Have Along.

"An umbrella is one of the most useful articles that a man can carry with him," said a Mississippi man. "One can be used in a dozen different ways. When the sun is shining hot, or when it is raining, a man without an umbrella must either remain indoors or suffer. As a weapon of defense there is nothing better. You can keep a man at his distance with one better than you could with a stick. Next to a shotgun or a pistol there is no more dangerous weapon.

"I remember one time I was in a hotel that caught afire early in the morning. The guests were awakened by the stifling smoke and noise. My room was on the second floor and by the time I had slipped on my pants the fire had gained such headway that all avenues of escape were closed. But there was my umbrella and a window and the rest was easy.

"Another time I was walking through a pasture, when a bull, with his eyes ablaze with fire, made for me. I kept my senses and when he got within about fifty yards of me I ran toward him, opening and closing the umbrella as fast as I could. The bull wheeled around and ran from me faster than he ever ran before in his life.

"And for frightening dogs I had rather have an umbrella than an arsenal."—St. Louis Republic.

### Into the Blue Emperyean.

Algernon was whispering low to the girl in the gaudy glimmer of lace and tulle. She had bent her lovely swan-like neck to catch his words. Murmuringly they floated outward and fell upon the pearly pink-white ear, as crystal drops touch silver chords and waken sweetest music sleeping there. "You are so much to me," he said. "In all the dozen years since my heart responsive grew to woman's sweet solicitude, there has been none whose fingers spanned the octave of my soul and wrought the manly harmonies dominant there into a living theme. No face but yours has brought to me the face of angels, fair and pure, beyond the skies that bend above the earth, far far removed from all its sordid thoughts, its groveling cares, its motiveless materialism. In you concentrated, all my dreams are realized, my hopes to full fruition come, my dearest wishes made my own." Slowly she lifted that fair, sweet face until her soft, blue eyes looked into his. Then she laid her little hand upon his arm. "Algernon," she murmured, "won't you please come off the roof." And as Algernon clambered down he recalled the fact that he had tackled a Chicago girl.—Detroit Free Press.

### Slave Trade on the East Coast of Africa.

Intelligence from Aden says the slave trade on the east coast of Africa is again increasing, owing to the high prices now offered for slaves, and caravans from the interior are arriving daily. These caravans, it is declared, have experienced no difficulty in passing through Vitu, and slaves have also been embarked at points in the neighborhood of Zeilah, Djibouti, Massowah and Suakim. The Arabs are much incensed, however, at the great number of their captures who are lost before reaching the market, the proportion being under present conditions about 70 per cent. of the number with which the caravans start from the interior. The traders will now accept in exchange nothing but firearms of the best manufacture and ammunition. Raids on a large scale by numerous and well-armed bands of traders are expected as soon as winter sets in towards the countries further to the south—that is, into the territories of the Congo Free State and British and German East Africa.—Leeds Mercury.

### FLASH LIGHTS.

As it is an actor's business to hold the mirror up to nature, he must expect all sorts of reflections.—Boston Transcript.

ONE of the biggest fools in the world is the man who thinks he can make something by only putting seven quarts in a peck.—Ram's Horn.

"WHAT'S this man arrested for?" "Impersonating an officer, yer honor. I saw him take two handfuls of peanuts

and a banana off a corner fruit stand."—Washington Star.

AT THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S.—"One more question, sir, before you begin!" "Well, madam?" "Is it possible to distinguish real stones from false ones on the photo?"—Lustige Blatter.

### LINES OF HISTORY.

THERE have been fourteen popes since the year 1700.

BOSTON'S stock exchange dates its organization in 1834.

IN America, as in France, the average size of families has been steadily decreasing for the last half century. The average is now 4.94, where in 1850 it was 5.50.

Spoons were used by the Egyptians in the seventeenth century before Christ, and have also been found at Pompeii, but this utensil was not generally used in France until the close of the fourteenth century.

THE first steamboat in Great Britain was the "Comet," forty feet long, built in 1812, for the navigation of the Clyde, but before this time Fulton and Livingston had begun to build steamers at Pittsburgh, Pa.

### SHORT MISCELLANY.

It is a remarkable fact that soda water contains no soda.

AN unreflecting Bostonian advertises: "Human hair at less than manufacturers' prices."

A TURKEY gobbler belonging to Edwin Caldwell, of Harrisburg, N.C., is engaged upon what must prove an unsatisfactory job. Five weeks ago he scratched up five potatoes, and has been patiently striving to hatch them ever since.

HERE is a suggestion worth noting. In many cases, instead of announcing a woman's good deed with the text: "She hath done what she could," quite a fitting text would be: "She hath done what she thought she couldn't."

### PEOPLE OF ROYAL BIRTH.

PRINCE BISMARCK has seen statues raised in his honor, which is a recognition few men live to see.

THE marquis of Lorne sympathizes with strikes that are reasonable, and has often been known to contribute his mite to a socialistic fund.

LEOPOLD, the king of the Belgians, is one of the most inveterate gamblers in Europe, and what he doesn't know about a hand at cards is hardly worth mentioning.

FOR several years to come the emperor of Germany will reside at Potsdam both winter and summer. The reason for this change is said to be the emperor's intention to have extensive alterations made in the royal castle in Berlin.

### PALETTE AND BRUSH.

THE keynote of the popular conception of Dore is struck in the assertion that Frau Angelico could never paint a sinner and that Dore could never portray a saint.

"THE Dickens of Vienna," as he was sometimes called—Herr Friedrich Schloegl—died a short time ago at the age of seventy-one. The truth and humor of his character gave him an immense popularity.

MR. HENRY MOSLER, the artist, formerly of Cincinnati, O., and now permanently settled in Paris, lately received a long complimentary notice in the Journal des Arts, of Paris. Mr. Mosler obtained an honorable mention in 1879, a medal of the third class in 1888, a silver medal of the exposition of 1889 and was represented in this year's Salon.

### PITH AND POINT.

THERE is no habit of more fungus-like growth than that of melancholy.—Marion Harland.

NO FACULTY of man has made such blunders in its development as the religious. No wonder; it is the greatest of all.—Theodore Parker.

EVIL, once manfully fronted, ceases to be evil; there is generous battle-hope in place of dead, passive misery; the evil itself has become a kind of good.—Carlyle.

I WAS educated to regard liberty as an evil; I have learned to regard it as a good. That is a formula which sufficiently explains all the changes of my political convictions.—Gladstone.

### SCIENCE TEACHINGS.

THE average man has 2,304,000 pores in his skin.

THE common snail sets forth to ravage our gardens equipped with 150 rows of stout serrated teeth. The whole palate contains about 21,000 teeth, while a full-grown slug has over 26,000 of these silicious spikes.

A RECENT scientific expedition shows the existence of terraces in Palestine, showing that at one time the Dead sea had risen to the level of the Mediterranean, the Jordan in the glacial period forming a lake two hundred miles long.

WE are familiar with the rush of the express train as it flashes past us at the rate of sixty miles an hour, but light actually travels 11,179,460 times as fast! The initial velocity of the shot from the 12-pound bronze service gun is only 1,769 feet a second.

THE size and shape of rain drops has been the subject of special investigation by E. J. Lowe. The size of the drop ranges, he finds, from an almost invisible point to at least two inches in diameter. Occasionally large drops fall that must be more or less hollow, as they fail to wet the whole surface enclosed within the drop.

### PEOPLE OFTEN SPOKEN OF.

WHITELAW REID is an Episcopalian and Mrs. Reid a Presbyterian, and they go together alternately to their respective churches.

MR. JOHN JACOB ASTOR is not only a director of the Rider and Driver Publishing Company of New York, but a regular contributor to its editorial and news columns.

It is claimed that two of the most successful merchants in the United States, John Wanamaker, of Philadelphia, and Marshall Field, of Chicago, have never advertised in the Sunday newspapers.

MRS. J. ELLEN FOSTER, well known to all W. C. T. U. workers and to many others, is a woman of large and rather imposing person. She speaks with wonderful fluency and decision, and seems to be absolutely self-possessed.

AT the time of election to his present position as grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, Mr. Peter M. Arthur was an engineer on the New York Central railroad, having a home in Utica. His present residence is on Euclid avenue, Cleveland, and he is said to be worth \$300,000.

### FUNNY MISTAKES IN PRINT.

A NEW England paper told about "a drove of hogs" floating down the Connecticut river instead of "a drive of logs."

AN editor discussed the political situation in a comprehensive editorial and headed it: "Let Us Explore." He neglected to read the proof, and it appeared under the caption: "Let Us Explode."

IN a lecture at Boston Rev. Joseph Cook asked his audience: "Was Saint Paul a dupe?" In the report of the lecture, Mr. Cook was made to propound the startling conundrum: "Was Saint Paul a dude?"

### IN FAR-AWAY LANDS.

THE public executioner of Paris, M. Diebler, has guillotined 220 persons.

LE VOLEUR (the thief) is the name of a new popular weekly paper started in Paris.

HORSES are so plentiful in Buenos Ayres that everybody owns at least one. It is said that even the beggars beg on horseback.

PARIS has 87,655 trees in its streets, and each tree represents a cost to the city of thirty-five dollars. This makes, in round numbers, three million dollars worth of trees in the streets.

THERE is a curious snake (Hydraceti) in South Africa that lives wholly upon birds' eggs. It has no teeth or signs of teeth in its mouth, the whole dentary array being located in the stomach.

THE first ice cream vendors in England were Neapolitan peasantry of the poorest type, but the vendors now come from all parts of Italy, many being natives of the most remote country districts.

THE native Australians have a weapon which is called a "wumnera." It is a straight stick, hollow at the end, in which is placed the handle of a dart.

The dart is thrown, but the stick remains in the thrower's hand.

IN some of the ancient temples of Egypt, known to be more than four thousand years old, the stones were doveled together with hour glass shaped ties of the Tamarish or Shittim wood, the dowel sinks being only about one inch deep.

### LONDON NOTES.

CIGAR stabs bring about a shilling a pound in London.

THE streets of London are cleaned between eight in the evening and nine in the morning. Many of the carriage-ways are washed daily by means of a hose, and the courts and alleys inhabited by the poorer classes are cleaned once a day.

A LIGHT breakfast in London means, to an Englishman, a cup of coffee, a boiled egg and three slices of toast. The breakfast substantial is a small chop, one egg, a penny-loaf of bread, a buttered muffin and a cup of coffee.

THE London Daily Telegraph is the most valuable newspaper property in London, and is said to net its proprietors a profit of over half a million dollars a year. And yet when it was first started every other paper said it would be a dismal failure.

IN the British patent office, where of all places in the world one would expect to find things ordinarily well "up to date," the steel pen is unknown, and the antedeluvian goose-quill absolute and supreme. Verily, the ways of government officials are not as other men's!

A LONDON woman well known in society opened a curiosity shop. One day a friend came in and left an umbrella which had cost fifty shillings. He returned to find the handle of it in the window labeled: "Antique Venetian silver umbrella mounting, 10 guineas."

### COMMERCIAL ITEMS.

AS NEARLY as can be ascertained, the irrigated lands of California comprise 3,500,000 acres. Irrigation has cost \$20,000,000, but it has increased the value of the land \$500,000,000.

A NEW company has been formed in Paris whose object is to complete the Panama canal. The capital of the new company is to be \$30,000,000, and it is said that work will be begun again at once.

JAPAN is rapidly increasing her manufactures. There is a steady decline in the importation of matches, printing paper, toilet soap, lead pencils, bricks, tires, umbrellas, boots, leather, and particularly beer, cotton yarn, Portland cement, gunpowder and saddlery.

WALLIS BROOKE, a writer in the London Times, is of the opinion that "we shall soon see milk imported from Australia in frozen blocks and retailed in London streets. It can be done as easily as importing butter and apples."

### MEN WITH WAR RECORDS.

THE late Gen. John Pope left an estate of about \$25,000 or \$30,000 to his children.

GEN. BEAUREGARD is now 75 years of age, but is quite spry and active and still maintains his old-time military bearing.

JOHN BAIRD, of Richmond, Me., is a veteran of Waterloo. He enlisted in the British army when 14 years of age, and is now hale and vigorous at 92.

IT is recorded that Gens. Longstreet and Wade Hampton are the only confederate generals who loaded, trained and fired cannon during the war of the rebellion.

BOATSWAIN JOHN C. THOMPSON, U. S. N., who has been attached to the Brooklyn navy yard for the last fifteen years, has been placed on the retired list. Boatswain Thompson is a veteran of the Mexican war, and has seen fifty-two years of active service.

PLUSH is again coming into use for millinery, especially for children. The tiny plush bonnets, with plaited fronts or in poke shape, are extremely becoming.

DRESSY frocks for girls are composed of fine white woolen or light-colored silk, draped low over a chemisette of embroidery, and with undersleeves of the same, the full upper sleeves being of the dress stuff. Such dresses are always made with broad ribbon sashes knotted at the back.