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THE ART OF THE BAKER.

An Improvement in the Methods of Making Cakes. Fine cake-making is not a secret, but it is manifestly an art. The regulation old-time pound-cake, and jumbles are still to be seen, but they no longer hold the palm.

Our sell on an average about \$600 worth of cake each month. A young lady behind the small counter of a place where genuine domestic compounds in the way of bread, cake, preserves, etc., are offered for sale.

But few ornamental cakes are used by Americans on some of the more important occasions like a wedding, and not always then. The Germans make the most use of ornamental cakes, but the cake is very light.

Pigeon Catching in the Soudan. Miss Sartorius, in her book on the Soudan and Egypt, says: "Every village has its pigeon houses, looking like great mud cones, and in the evening the owners go out and call them in."

A Remarkable Case. A writer says: "Talking the other day of General Grant, and the expectation some people had that he would die on the anniversary of Appomattox, Senator Palmer, of Michigan, said to me: I knew of a remarkable case of holding on to life in Michigan a year or two ago."

NOT A BLAMED WORD.

How the Tender Feelings of a Bright Young Man Were Sampled Upon by a Designing Young Woman. The Auditor of State, hearing someone enter the room, looked up and beheld a man who looked as though he and melancholy had long been companions.

"Good morning," said the Auditor. "Only tolerable." He sat down and had, during a half hour, maintained an unbroken silence, when the Auditor said: "Have you any business with me?"

The Turpitude of Church Choirs. In no sphere of human effort is greater progress shown than in the pulpit. But, as we bear witness to the fact, a dull pang of regret abates our joy in contemplating the peccant of humors of church choirs.

THE BIRD SPIDER.

History of a Remarkable Insect Native to Warm Countries. Few animals are more repulsive than this gigantic spider. The bird spider (Mygalis avicularia), for so the creature is called, excites horror in all the countries in which it is found.

Linné described this species under the name of Aranea avicularia, the specific name recalling the animal's habit of feeding at times upon birds and even upon adult humming birds, captured upon the nest. The celebrated entomologist Latreille in 1802 established the genus Mygale for Arachnids of the tribe Theraphosids.

Of the several hundreds of spiders that have been described, this is the largest. The largest specimen that I captured measured exactly, with legs stretched out, seven inches in diameter. The first one I saw was at Martinique, not far from Saint Pierre, in the trees skirting a road. Its nest was suspended from the branch of a Palisouera, an elegant shrub of the Rubiaceae, and its appearance strikingly recalled those large caterpillar nests that we so frequently find upon the Aleppo pine (Pinus halepensis) on the mountains in the vicinity of Cannes and Nice.

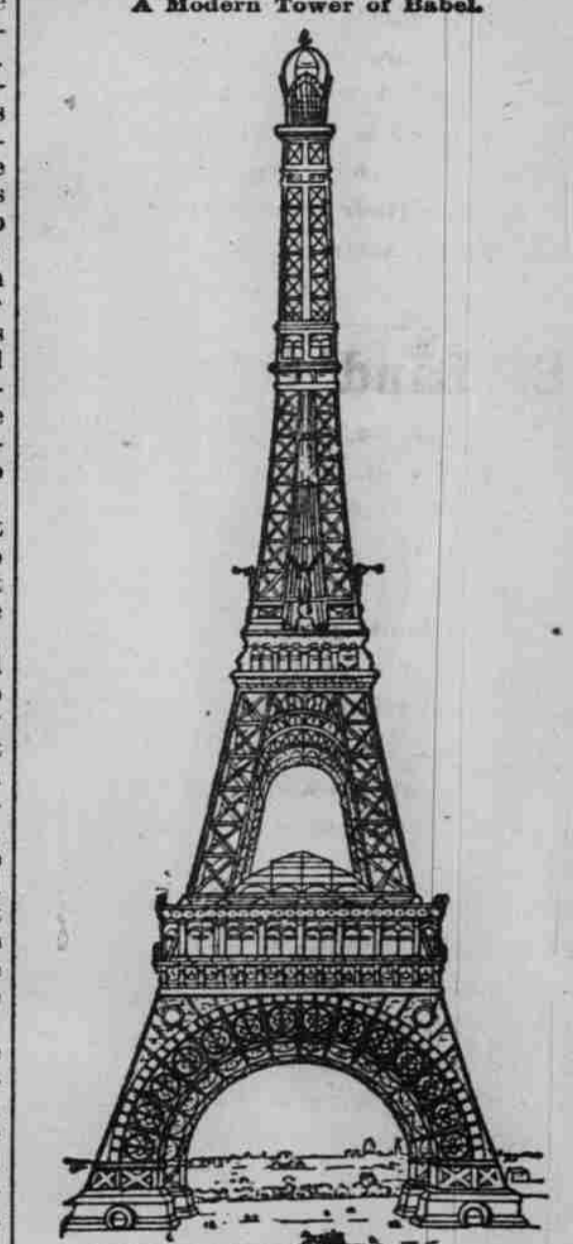
MUTTON AND MERINOS.

The Two Factors Which Render Sheep-Raising Profitable. Sheep husbandry would not be profitable if we saved the fleece only. Mutton and wool are the combined object we seek. But as we once before stated the larger the surface the larger the quantity of wool; and thus far certainly the argument is on the side of size.

It is fortunate that at but few thoughtful breeders will agree to convert into greater than its original value, what we particularly want is an animal that will consume all that it will give an account of. It is fortunate that at but few thoughtful breeders will agree to convert into greater than its original value, what we particularly want is an animal that will consume all that it will give an account of.

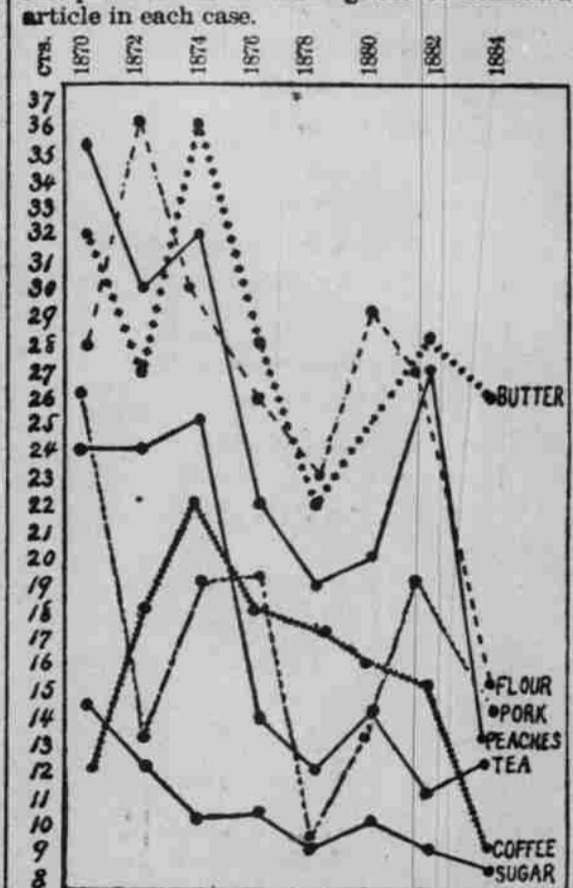
IN THE CONSERVATORY.

(Earl Marble.) "But we must return! What will they say! Yes, I know it's awful nice. In the window here, from the others away, With a taste now and then of the ice, And now and then of—Oh, you wretch! It wasn't at all required! You should illustrate this with a sketch The speech that of course you admired."



THE PROPOSED ONE THOUSAND FOOT TOWER. Among the plans proposed by the architects and engineers who are preparing the designs for the international exhibition of Paris in 1889 is that of a building of an immense tower.

The Decline in the Cost of Food. The following chart is tabulated from some interesting figures in The American Grocer, comparing the wholesale prices of food staples for 14 years.



Where Pegged Shoes Were Invented. (Bill Arr's North Carolina Letter.) Asheville is the town and place where they say pegged shoes were first invented, and it came about because the town shoemaker didn't have room enough to pull the waxed ends out to their full length without hitting his elbows against a mountain on one side or the other, and so he invented pegs that he could strike up and down perpendicularly and have plenty of room.

FASHION NOTES.

Some of the Eccentricities Which Distinguish Woman's Attire in the Blue-Glass Region. Small knots and bows of velvet will again be worn in the hair. New summer bonnets will be of drawn net, close at the sides, with trimmings very high in front.

A pretty dress for a little girl has a skirt of handsome brown and red-plaid material, made with broad side plaits and set on a waist of silesia. A long jacket of brown velvet, closed at the throat, falls open over a full vest of red silk, the back of the jacket fitting snugly. It has coat sleeves and a small sailor jacket collar.

A handsome dress is of moss green Sicilienne with front trimmed with wide, handsome passementerie of cut black jet, with small jet tassels depending from it. A long polonaise opens over the front, showing the passementerie, and is edged down each side with a rich trimming also of jet, arranged in Vandykes. The folds are caught up very high toward the back, and fall in graceful folds over the skirt of the dress.

NEWSPAPER CUTS.

How a Bright Boston Journalist Met an Emergency. About nine years ago James W. Clarke, who is now the managing editor of Boston Traveler, was conducting the Boston Sunday Times. Illustrated journalism had never, so far as I know, been heard of then, and the enterprising young man, who was always trying experiments and original inventions, bethought him of the attractions of outline portraits.

In Maryland, in early times, a box of forty pounds of tobacco was levied upon every taxable inhabitant for the payment of the Parish Clerk. By the laws of Virginia every clergyman received annually one thousand five hundred pounds of tobacco and sixteen barrels of flour.



WILLIAM, EMPEROR OF GERMANY and king of Prussia, son of Frederick William III, was born March 29, 1797, was educated as a soldier and took part in the war of 1813-15 against France. In 1840 he was appointed governor of Pomerania, till 1848, when the revolution drove him to England.

A World in Pawn.

The idea of the whole globe being hypothecated by countless millions of debtors to a calculable number of creditors is a very startling one, when it is abruptly and nakedly presented. And it is difficult to imagine so vast an estate in liquidation, or to conjecture to what bankruptcy court the creditors would prove their debts, or who would be the official assignees to collect and distribute the assets.

Of course, a calculation of this kind takes no account of the debts owing by municipalities, counties, cities, railway, canal, gas, water, insurance and other public corporations. But these would assume still vaster proportions, for the capital sunk in railways alone is 4,000,000,000, and this is of course a debt owing to bond and shareholders; while the local debts—state and city—in the United States amount to \$175,000,000. The mother country is the greatest pawnbroker in the world, and draws \$250,000,000 per annum from the nations and colonies indebted to her.



FREDERICK R. OPPLER. Mr. Oppler, whose grotesque illustrations in Puck, notably those accompanying Bill Nye's articles, have brought him well-earned praise, is but 27 years of age. Acquiring the trade of compositor in his native place, Madison, Ohio, he came to New York at the age of 18, and began work on Wild Oats as a draughtsman.

Philadelphia Call: People with delicate olfactory perceptions may be interested in knowing that as a rule out of 1,000,000 codfish eggs only 100 survive. Boston Courier: Sugar is selling at 8 cents a pound in many places in Cuba, and the question arises what do the grocers adulterate the sand with?