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THE INDEPENDENT

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The war department is just now puzzled how to dismiss Major Nickerson from the military. Charges have been preferred against him as a deserter, but he complies with the law by reporting his address to the department at the regular intervals prescribed. When the department looks for him at his known address, it finds that he has flown and left no trace behind. The case will be reported to congress.

A London dispatch of Aug. 11th says: Dr. Robert Moffatt, father-in-law of the late Dr. Livingstone, the celebrated African traveler, and who was himself for many years a missionary in South Africa, is dead.

THE DOUGLAS INDEPENDENT.

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THE INDEPENDENT

HAS THE

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LATEST NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH TO DATE.

A special Chinese envoy has arrived at Berlin.

General Naunoski, Russian minister of war, is seriously ill.

Maurice Adolphe Lenant de Bellefonds, of Lenant bay, is dead.

Bank bills to the amount of $200,000 were burned in the Spanish bank the 31st ult.

Recently nine persons were drowned in Lincolnshire, England, by the upsetting of a boat.

The photographers of the United States assembled in convention at Chicago Aug. 8th. A large number of delegates were in attendance.

The American rifle team arrived from Europe August 8th. They are enthusiastic over the treatment received from riflemen on the other side.

Robert Franklin, of Washington Territory, was robbed on an Erie railroad train near New York city recently, of $2700 in $20 gold pieces.

A dispatch from Dover says that two Norwegian barks collided off there Aug. 8th. One was so badly injured that she sunk, carrying down thirteen of the crew.

The British agent at Pactermaritzburg believes that Cetewayo is still alive, and that the report of his death was put in circulation for the purpose of continuing agitation in Zululand.

A Salt Lake dispatch of August 8th says: This morning a miner named Samuel Prithers fell down the shaft of the Emma mine at Alta and was instantly killed. He fell a distance of 130 feet.

W. W. Monair, nominated for governor by the late Minnesota democratic convention, declines to accept the nomination, and his successor will be chosen by the state central committee.

At Lawrence, Mass., recently, the building of the Wright Manufacturing company burned. Loss, $150,000; insurance, $66,000. One hundred and sixty-five operators are out of employment.

The Alaskan, an iron side-wheel steamboat built for the Oregon Steamship Company, for Puget Sound, was launched at Roach's shipyard, Chester, Pa., August 7th. The vessel is 260 feet long, 30 feet beam and 14 feet hold.

Plans are being prepared at the treasury department for silver vaults to accommodate the excessive accumulation of silver dollars. It is proposed to locate one at the New Orleans mint and another in the basement of the treasury department.

A Baltimore dispatch of Aug. 11th says: The steamer Wm. Lawrence from Havana, when off Point Lookout early yesterday morning, was in collision with the schooner Sarah Lavinia. The schooner immediately sunk, carrying down the wife and two children of Capt. Anderson, and Joseph Lovell, cook.

Representative press clubs of New York, Rochester, Providence and Cleveland met at the rooms of the Chicago Press club August 8th, and took steps toward the formation of a national league of journalism, whose object is the general affiliation among the press organizations of the country. Another meeting will be held at the call of the executive committee. The Chicago Press club declined representation.

Three and a half per cent bonds to the amount of $100,000 have been presented at the treasury department for redemption under the 121st call. This call will not mature until November 1st, but provision is made for the redemption of any bonds embraced in the call prior to their maturity, on presentation. The call is for over $32,000,000. Holders are not generally taking advantage of the privilege the circular offered, to redeem before maturity.

The latest dispatches from Rich Hill Mo., report the oil excitement as intense. Land is being sold at fabulous prices. Thousands of acres are being leased and options are taken for thousands more. Many large and small tracts have been purchased at from $50 to $100 per acre. Gas wells are being found, and also more oil wells. Oil rock abounds over considerable territory. Numbers of wells are under contract. Machinery is being shipped from Chicago and Pennsylvania.

The Northern Pacific railroad will be connected about sixty miles west of Helena, Montana, on the 25th instant, but the formal opening will not take place before September 8th. On and after the 25th instant the company will be ready to receive freight to and from all points on the Pacific northwest. Rates between St. Paul, Duluth and Portland will be the same as between Council Bluffs and San Francisco. Through traffic rates to Portland and other Pacific points are now being prepared and will be ready for distribution in a short time.

A Detroit, Mich., dispatch of August 8th, says: At Grand Rapids a conductor on the Grand Rapids and Indiana railroad, having received a visit by burglars at his house on Monday night, last night was prepared for a second visit, and awaited them in the kitchen. His wife was awakened by a street noise, and arose and passed through the house. Her husband, mistaking her for a burglar, fired, the ball taking effect in the forehead and coming out near the right ear. She is alive, but unconscious, and there are slight hopes of her recovery.

A special from Reistertown, Md., August 7th, gives the following particulars of a tragedy at Bloomfield, Worthington valley, two miles from that place: One of the most frightful tragedies was enacted that ever shocked the community. The invalid wife of Louis Lawrence Conrad, a well-known Baltimore lawyer, in a fit of insanity caused by disease, shot her husband sleeping by her side through the head, killing him instantly. The affair in all its details is sad and shocking. Mrs. Conrad is a cousin of Samuel Hosen, who recently killed Charles Ruegley while in Howard county. She is also cousin of John Jolly and John and Richard Johns, brothers, who committed suicide. All were suffering from insanity at the time of the tragedies.

A special to the Pittsburg press says that another murder occurred in Westmoreland county recently, Sam McCauley, aged 35, shooting and idstantly killing his father.

The treasury department had made a ruling that Canadian tugs cannot tow American vessels from Canadian waters into American waters, beyond the first American port at which they make entry.

Gov. Crittendon of Missouri, disregarded a strong petition for remission of fine in the first conviction under the new liquor law, declaring that he should not break down the work of the courts.

A Paris dispatch of Aug 7th says: Etienne, member of the chamber of deputies for Oran, fought a duel to-day with a journalist named Mirabeau. The latter accused the former of corruption. Mirabeau was wounded.

A piece of almost pure copper, weighing sixty-nine pounds, has been found on a farm near Berlan Springs, Michigan, and ore containing 40 per cent. of silver was picked up four miles distant.

The abduction of little children in San Francisco is on the increase. Another attempt was made recently by a Chinaman to steal a baby sixteen months old out of its baby carriage, where it had been left for a few minutes by its mother.

A Philadelphia dispatch of Au ust 8th says: Five civil suits, brough by Chauncy H. Fuller, general agent in this city of the Chicago Meat company, against the Western Union Telegraph company, have been decided by Magistrate Lest in favor of the company.

A Matamoras, Mexican, dispatch of August 8th says: News was received here to-day of a terrible riot that occurred at Las Palmas yesterday. Trouble occurred between American and Mexican laborers employed at the terminus of the San Luis and Tampico railroad, at that place. Seven men were killed and three others fatally, and ten seriously injured.

The beet sugar business in Delaware is a disastrous failure, and the company with $120,000 capital organized to carry it on has gone the way of all earthly things. The managers say that the trouble was in the beets, that they did not have sugar enough in them, but some think that the mischief was done by inexperience and bad management.

Property owners in Pottsville, Pa., are disgusted to find that they must pay off an old blanket mortgage amounting to $17,000, which everybody had forgotten. It covers 78 acres in the heart of the town, was given in 1840, and ever since has been in litigation of one sort and another, neglected and forgotten by the land owners.

A Louisville dispatch of Aug 7th says: Returns from the state election come in very slowly. Those received indicate that a light vote has been polled, with no falling off in the comparative democratic majority throughout the state. So far as heard from counties usually electing democratic legislators have done so to-day, while republicans have held their own in counties generally carried by them. The majority for Knott for governor will be about 40,000.

W. J. Footner, general superintendent of the Northern Pacific Express company, arrived in San Francisco August 8th. Mr. Footner has come to this coast for the purpose of setting the express company in operation on the line of the Northern Pacific railroad west of the Rocky mountains, and to establish agencies at various points on the coast, with central offices in San Francisco and Portland. When all the details are completed, it will form one of the largest express companies on the continent, covering more territory than is controlled by any express company at present existing.

A Chicago dispatch, August 8th, says: C. Bristol, superintendent of construction for the Western Union company, reports increased activity in tying up wires. All the Mutual Union wires were tied up with small copper cord at Englewood last night, and only released this afternoon. There were also sixteen of Western Union tied on the Fort Wayne to-night. It is found that ten wires on the Fort Wayne, four on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, and all of the Wabash wires, eighty miles this side of Council Bluffs, were tied together, and it will probably require the entire night to release them.

At a recent meeting of the San Francisco board of health to take steps to prevent infection of the port by cholera, all Asiatic and African ports were declared infected. Dr. Pantry moved that the rules of the board of exemption of vessels from examination by quarantine officers be amended so as to exclude none but vessels from California ports from examination. He said that as the Northern Pacific railway was about completed, which would remove Oregon from its isolated position and connect it directly with eastern cities and ports, thus rendering it subject to cholera and other contagious diseases that might be brought into it from the east, therefore all vessels from there should be examined.

The New York Public of August 8th says: "Exchanges last week do not show any improvement in the condition of business. The decrease of 33 per cent. in payments outside of New York, compared with those of the corresponding week of last year, though not very large, is enough to indicate the tendency of affairs, especially as the decrease appears large at Boston, St. Louis and Baltimore, while there is a small decrease at Chicago and New Orleans sufficient to cancel the gain at Philadelphia and Cincinnati. There is some appearance of improvement at San Francisco, which we are glad to be able to attribute to industrial rather than speculative causes, and there is a gain at Pittsburg which clearly reflects speculation in oil rather than any improvement in manufacture or legitimate trade; but the general tendency of the exchanges is unfavorable. The losses of Boston, St. Louis and Baltimore not only exceed in amounts the gain at Philadelphia, Chicago and San Francisco, but actually mean more; they indicate, as the returns generally do, a shrinkage in the movement of goods and products."

A Russian Convent.

In the next church I entered, that of the convent in the Kremlin known as the Vosnesensky Monastir, there was great crowding to kiss the body of Exodia, wife of the Grand Duke Dimitry Donskoy, who commenced the building in 1393, and whose remains lie here in a golden sarcophagus, the lid of which is raised in order to show the jeweled robes worn by the reposing corpse, of which the forehead alone is uncovered. But from head to feet the relic comes in for osculatory worship. Generals, colonels, countesses, milkmaids and peasants passed in an unbroken stream, while on each side a nun was selling chaplets, book-markers and medals to such as could afford to buy. As I passed out I was much struck by the black head-piece and robes of the nuns. Though I begged some of them to stay a moment on their way from church to convent they were too shy. They were in groups of twos and threes, standing or sauntering, and wearing their curious fifteenth century headdress. Their black veils and their long sleeves stood out well against a wall on which a brilliant sunlight threw up the early monastic decoration of impossible flowers and grotesque detail, till the whole looked like a page of some old missal or the pictures in that magic Persian book which were gifted with life and motion. As I very much wanted to make a sketch of the nuns' costume and as no encouragement was given me here, probably because the service had only just terminated, I went to another convent at some distance from the Kremlin, the Rajestvesky monastery, hoping at least there to get a glimpse of some benevolent sister who would fulfill my wish. After passing under a gateway at the head of a flight of steps on which picturesque but nasty beggars were sitting or lying, a dvornik or porter carried my wishes to a sister, who came to the door of a winding staircase and took in the situation with merry eyes and a comic grin on her very Russian face. She wore the complete costume of a nun who had not taken vows, the tall, casque-like head-piece made of black velvet and trimmed with black fur, coming low on the forehead, descending over the ears and rising again over the nape of the neck. To this is attached a bavolet or curtain of black silk, falling and winding over a dress of black silk, relieved by white linen round the neck above a broad, flat collar of velvet. The long, full sleeves and the folds taken in at the back of the waist completed what is really a most graceful costume. On asking permission to sketch her, my merry young religieuse disappeared up the carpeted stairs with my card, which she had requested; and presently I heard myself addressed in excellent French by a sweet voice belonging to the lady Abbess herself. This lady, whose distinguished appearance and perfect manners evidently showed that she had known a court before she ever entered a cell, begged me to come into the convent. The nuns some eighty or one hundred in number, were just going into the refectory, and if I would wait until the dinner bell rang and they had taken their places, the holy mother would give me every opportunity in her power to notice her flock. I was received in her drawing-room, filled with palm trees, India rubber plants and photographs of the emperor and empress and of the Metropolitan of Moscow, with views of the convent and church. In this room I was given the best coffee and the thickest cream ever dreamt of, with a basketful of sweet cakes and wafers. While talking to the abbess, just as in any London or Paris salon at five o'clock tea, the bell rang and I was ushered into the dining hall, on either side of which was a long table, and two rows of ladies of all ages, whose profound bows to the lady superior did not prevent them from taking stock of your correspondent. The youngest novices wore on their heads a tall pointed cap like that we give to a wizard in a fairy tale. The four rows of long black robes and caps bowing continually during the few minutes we remained made the meeting look like the stern picture of the Inquisition. As they were hungry, I retired as soon as I could, bowing my thanks. The abbess sent for a novice to sit to me. The novice was a little girl, ten years old, rather tall for her age, but with a round baby face and blue eyes. With the full sleeves of her dress and her little fairy cap on her head, she looked as if she had stepped out of a picture by Holbein on to the parquet before me.—London News.

Changes in the Tea Trade.

The opening of the Suez canal has quite revolutionized the tea-carrying business by greatly shortening the passage to China and thus enabling the merchants to calculate on the date when they may offer their customers the cargoes afloat. The lumbering old junks lorchas, and square-rigged vessels are disappearing upon the coast before the finely equipped steamers which ply regularly to the ports between Hong Kong and New Chang. Nor is life any longer so easy in the far east as it used to be. Once on a time the lad who was willing to enter the service of one of the great firms whose "Hongs" monopolized the commerce of China might safely calculate—if he abstained from drink and escaped yellow fever and cholera—to return with a fortune as some compensation for his parchment-colored and long exile. In this expectation he may no longer indulge. Profits are cut so closely that it is only with economy that the smaller firms can make ends meet; and even the great houses are forced, however humiliating may be this necessity, to compete with the thrifty Germans who have invaded the territory once left almost entirely to the English and Portuguese. The assistants in the old houses still live well, and are more hospitable than they can afford. But the times will not admit of the old luxury; and are new men, unweighted by old habits, then reconciling themselves to the ways of life forced on them by the "interlopers," who, of late years have been compelled every one to arrange his menage on a less lavish scale. In what seems now far away times, before the steam and telegraph were known, the merchant and his clerks led a placid existence. They were many leagues from home, but they made themselves all the more comfortable on that account, and looked forward to the coming years in the cheerful confidence that fortune would favor them. Between the dispatch of one mail and the arrival of another there is a lull in work and plenty of play. But this no longer the case. The telegram which may arrive at any moment, disturbs their sleep, and instead of the competence on which the tea trader could reckon in former years, the chances are that unless he works nearly as hard as in London, his successor may make an uncomfortable acquaintance with the consular court or the Hongkong Gazette. There are, however, fine incomes and most respectable fortunes still to be made in the tea trade if a man knows his business and is not more unfortunate than the average of his species.—London Standard.

Unwritten History.

Deputy commissioner of costums Clayson, of Canton, China, was at the Palmer home. In the course of conversation with a reportor for the Times about Chinese commercial and political relations, among other things, Mr. Clayson let out a bit of inner workings of certain diplomatic negotiations to which the American government was a party. It appears that Commodore Shufeldt, who was sent to China over a year ago to bring about a treaty with Corea, was so imprudent during negotiations as to write a letter to Senator Sargeant, of California, wherein among other things, concerning the Chinese people, this now retired officer of the navy described the empress of China as being "a most notoriously licentious woman." The letter got into print in California, but before the publication reached China the head officials there, according to Mr. Clayson, received notice of this accusation against the name of their distinguished ruler, and it was quietly decided to sit down on the American Commodore and send him back to his native land treatyless and covered with royal rebukes. Mr. Clayson says the remark was made in Chinese official circles, and made in a spirit of indignation: "What can this American know about our Empress when we, her noble subjects, are not able to learn anything about her in her life of calm seclusion. The idea that this newcomer has had opportunities of learning anything about our Empress—perish the thought." The Commodore was called up to the vice-royal's palace, and that dignitary propounded to him, with all the solemnity and sternness that become a monarch, the escutcheon of whose house had been tarnished by one not even to the manor born, this interrogatory: "Did you write a letter to a friend in America declaring that the Empress of China was notoriously licentious?"

"Emphatically, I did not, sir; most decidedly, I did not," was the reply of the blunt old tar who had "sailed the high seas over."

This was enough, said Mr. Clayson. The little unpleasantness was kept a secret. It appears that the American commodore grew restless, however. All of a sudden he insisted that the Corean treaty must be signed right away, or he would at once steam off for Yankeeland, treaty or no treaty. In short, it must be signed that day. Therefore it was that Ma-Chien-Chung-Taoti, superintendent of circuit, the vice-royal, and Mr. Clayson arranged the matter with the Coreans, and after the representatives of the contracting parties had completed their duties Commodore Shufeldt remarked: "This will probrbly be the last official act of my life with foreign powers, unless I come back to get the treaty ratified." Mr. Clayson said that the very next day the printed copy of the commodore's letter, containing the offensive allusion to the empress, was placed in possession of the Chinese government. What was its horror to find that the treaty had been negotiated with a foreigner who had slandered the empress. Such a thing, said Mr. Clayson, would have been an impossibility if the signing of that treaty had been delayed twenty-four hours. It has never, until now, been divulged that the American government only escaped by a hair's-breadth from having no treaty with Corea.

Mr. Clayson is an Englishman, but has been fourteen years in the Chinese service, and although he would be entitled to two years' leave of absence after serving seven years, he has not availed himself of the privilege until now. Being an Englishman, and intelligent withal, he discusses the problems that at present vex the Chinese nation in an enlightened manner. Speaking of the Tonquin affair, growing out of the effort of France to extend the line of its commercial and political influence in Tonquin, he declares that France is only keeping up these threatened disruptions with foreign powers for the purpose of diverting attention from its own internal dissensions and communistic agitations. France, he believes, does not expect to secure any permanent lodgment at Tonquin beyond what it now has. The French, he thinks, would not be apt to secure much of a victory if they engaged in warlike demonstrations, and a disaster to their people in an engagement would be a great one. Both nations, he believes, will settle the question entirely by the aid of diplomacy. Since the American law restricting Chinese immigration went into effect the people there, he says, are satisfied, but are demanding that the American government keep Americans out of China, and they will keep the Chinese at home. Mr. Clayson left last evening for Niagara Falls.—Chicago Times.

Alfonso's Affinity.

"Do you understand," was asked of an old army correspondent by a former officer of Gen. Rosecrans' staff, "that the Duchess of Ossuna, who is mentioned in the Tribune's Paris letter as the cause of the breach between the King and Queen of Spain, is the Princess Salm-Salm, who figured for a time so prominently in Nashville while General Rousseau was in command there?" "Yes; I understand that it is the same woman," was the answer. "She was about 25 years of age then and one of the most beautiful women I ever saw. She was very tall, graceful, and a daring rider on horseback. She was as reckless of reputation as of life in those days. Salm-Salm was a poor-spirited sort of husband, but a very good soldier. The princess followed Maximilian—to whom her husband, as the son of the Prince of Salm-Braunfels, was distantly related—to Mexico, and was with him as nurse confident and cher amie during the siege of Queretaro, where the bogus emperor was captured, and remained at his bedside during his captivity and illness until he was shot. She and her husband, I believe, accompanied his remains to Austria, and it was immediately after this the prince died and the gay widow married the late Duke of Ossuna." "She must be quite matured now." "Forty-five is not old for such a woman, for her charms of conversation were as great as those of her person. Age could not have withered her much, and her infinite variety of arts has evidently increased with her years. Max was about her own age, and Alfonso, her latest conquest, is about twenty years her junior." The latest previous publications devoted to the Princess Salm-Salm, who figured here as this army correspondent states, represented her as being in Canada, but that was several years ago. Henry C. Clark, lately private secretary to General Green B. Raum, and now clerk to some commission in Washington, was also in Queretaro at the time Maximilian and Salm-Salm and his wife were captured; and some years ago published an account of their behavior at that trying time.—New York Tribune.

Every Farmer His Own Agent.

We have been informed by the Portland branch house of G. Westinghouse & Co., Schenectady, N. Y., manufacturers of threshing machines, engines, etc., that they contemplate doing business in a new manner, providing the farmers give them proper encouragement in so doing. Their method is for the farmers to order goods direct from the Portland house, and in that manner save the large commission paid local agents. We should think the farmers should take the opportunity of showing the above firm that they appreciate this new move. We would advise farmers with old worn-out machinery to lay it aside and purchase a new Westinghouse machine. Always bear in mind that an old worn-out machine of any kind is a detriment. They fully warrant all machines sold by them, and they guarantee their engines to run with one-third less fuel and water than any engine in the market. Their thresher is a fine-appearing machine, and is making friends wherever known. Write to them at Portland for prices and terms.

POISON IN POTATOES.—No person should buy their potatoes of grocery men who let them stand in front of their stores in the sun. Potatoes belong to the "Solanum" family, of which the deadly night shade is one of its full brothers. All branches of the family contain more or less of that poisonous narcotic called "solanine." The bulb, or potato, contains the least of this, unless they are exposed to the sun, which rapidly develops this element. Long exposure to the light, without the direct sun, will develop the solanine in the potato and make an article unfit for food. But exposure to the sun is so injurious to the potato, making it not only unpalatable, but actually injurious to health, that any grocer for the offense of selling potatoes which have been exposed two or three days to the sun ought to be indicted for selling unhealthy and dangerous human food.—Albany Journal.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS.

Small beets cut in rings form a pretty garnish for salads.

String beans cut in small pieces may be served with roast veal or lamb in place of peas and mushrooms with good effect; in fact, many people who do not like them in any other way find that they give a good relish when cooked with the meat.

Stewed cucumber will be a new dish to some cooks; peel and cut in lengthwise strips, either halves or quarters of the cucumbers. Let them boil in water with salt and pepper in it; when tender serve on toast with a little butter. This will sometimes tempt the appetite of a convalescent.

A handsome little lambrequin for a bracket is of black satin cut in points. Trim the edge around the points with short and fine silk or chenille fringe. Across the top paint a vine with green leaves and red berries, and on each point put a rosebud or a tiny spray of forgetmenots or of heliotrope.

If it is possible so to arrange the order of dinner getting, do not shell the peas until a few minutes before they are to be cooked. They lose much of their fine, distinctive flavor if shelled some time before cooking; and do not wash them. What water is so clean as the lining of the pod?

To expedite the making of a lemon pie use hot water in place of cold, stir the cut-up lemon, the sugar and corn starch or flour, and eggs together, as if you were making pudding sauce; then pour in hot water; if the pail or basin containing this is then placed in a vessel of boiling water it will cook in five minutes.

If you are an amateur, and wish to paint on satin at home with oil, and are troubled by the oil spreading, try this method of preventing it: Dissolve some shellac with alcohol, and rub it over the wrong side of the satin; then if the precaution is taken to take any of the oily paints out on blotting paper, you need not fear to proceed.

A delicious pound cake that is made without using soda is highly recommended: One pound of sugar (either granulated or pulverized), half a pound of butter, eight eggs (the whites and yolks beaten separately), ten ounces of flour; for flavoring, one whole nutmeg, grated. This cake should be baked for an hour and a quarter in a moderately hot oven.

Young carrots are an appetizing addition to a dinner of boiled beef. Do not scrape the tender skin from the carrots, but wash them in two or three waters, and after they are cooked rub the skin off with a coarse towel. These, if quite small, may be arranged around the beef on the platter; if not, serve in a vegetable dish, with a little butter, cream, and pepper and salt.

Mark Twain's Historical Game.

The recent newspaper reports of Mr. Clemens' illness at Elmira, where he is spending the summer with his family, are entirely without foundation. Writing to a friend in this city, under date of July 20, he says: "For the time that has elapsed since I came here I've a day's work to show for every single working day. I'm not suffering in any way that I know of, except the old difficulty, only twenty-four hours in the day and not enough days in the week." In the interval of his work Mr. Clemens has invented a new game, of which he gives the following account: "Day before yesterday, feeling not in condition for writing, I left the study; but I couldn't hold in—had to do something, so I spent eight hours in the sun with a yard stick measuring off the reigns of the English kings on the roads in these grounds, from William the Conqueror to 1883, calculating to invent an open-air game which shall fill the children's heads with dates without study. I give each king's reign one foot of space to the year, and drive one stake in the ground to mark the beginning of each reign, and I make the children call the stake by the king's name. You can stand in the door and take a bird's-eye view of English monarchy from the conqueror to Edward IV.; then you can turn and follow the road up the hill to the study and beyond, with an opera-glass, and bird's-eye view the rest of it to 1883. You can mark the sharp difference in the length of reigns by the varying distances of the stakes apart. You can see Richard II., 2 feet; Oliver Cromwell, 2 feet; James II., 3 feet, and so on—and then big skips; pegs standing 45, 46, 50, 56 and 60 feet apart, (Elizabeth, Victoria, Edward III., Henry III. and George III.—by the way, Third's a lucky number for length of days, isn't it?) Yes, sir; by my scheme you get a realizing notion of the time occupied by reigns. The reason it took me eight hours was because, with little J.'s interrupting assistance, I had to measure from the conquest to the end of Henry VI., three times over, and besides I had to whittle out all those pegs. I did a full day's work and a third over yesterday, but was full of my game after I went to bed, trying to fit it for indoors. So I didn't get to sleep till pretty late; but when I did go off I had contrived a way to play my history game with cards and a cribbage-board."—Hartford Courant, July 24th.

The Greatest Beer Drinkers.

An up-town man, who was a great observer, told a reporter of the Kingston Freeman that the greatest lager beer drinkers were the common house fly; that as long as they could get at a beer tap, a glass of beer, or even an empty keg, they would stick to it as long as there was a drop left. "Don't they get drunk?" inquired the reporter. "No," the other said, "they don't appear to. They don't appear to get filled; up a man undoubtedly would in a short time. Why," said he, "those flies sit and drink beer all day long, and seem to grow fat on it." This explodes the basis of one of Dr. Franklin's rules against drinking stimulants. The doctor claimed that animals would not drink stimulants. The doctor claimed that animals would not drink liquor, and gave that as a reason why man should not drink it. No doubt there are people to-day who read in the old spelling book Dr. Franklin's story about a man who filled a trough with liquor and drove his cattle, horses and hogs to it to see if they would drink it; also trying to get his cats and dogs to take a sip of it, and neither beasts nor insects would touch it. From this the doctor argues that as animals would not drink the stuff man should not. But here, flies drink lager beer in a most vicious manner, and now if the doctor was alive some one might ask him if the animals had degenerated or the beer become better.

Moths in Carpets.

Numerous are the preparations recommended for the preservation of carpets from moths. Some are altogether ineffectual; others of an odor so overpowering that the remedy is worse than the disease; others are as destructive to the carpets as to the moths. A better and simpler method is after thoroughly cleaning and airing to scatter powdered camphor plentifully between the lining and the carpet, particularly about the outer edges and the dark corners, where the destructive little insects love best to nest. When a house is to be closed for the summer, several folds of newspapers laid over the edges, will add greatly to the protection of the carpets, as the odor of printing ink employed is particularly offensive to moths. Many persons take no other precaution in the case of woolens then to beat them thoroughly, wrap them in newspapers and lay away.—Decorator and Furnisher.

Another authority says: Moths may be partially kept out of carpets by washing the floor, before the carpet is laid, with spirits of turpentine or benzine.

A DEAF WIFE.—Mrs. Bell, wife of Professor Graham Bell, the electrician, was one of the deaf pupils of Dr. Gallaudet in Washington. Professor Bell met her at a reception given at the college, and so expert was she in reading speech by the motion of the lips that they conversed together for some time without his discovering her infirmity. At last, walking through the conservatory, where some of the Chinese lanterns had gone out, he made some remark requiring an answer. But none was forthcoming, it being not light enough for her to see the movements of his lips. He repeated the remark and again got only silence for reply. Mystified, he soon escorted her back to the parlor, and then, in the brilliant light, asked her why she had not answered him; but his amazement was redoubled tenfold at her ready reply, "I have never heard a sound in all my life."—N. Y. Tribune.

A Chinaman bet $5 that he could swim across the Sacramento river with his clothes on. When he failed and went under, his opponent clapped his hands in great glee, but suddenly turned pale and staggered. The drowning man had the stakes in his pocket.—Burlington Free Press.