

FOREIGN GOSSIP.

-Less than 200,000 of the 125,000,000 heathen women in India can read.

-Cardinal Manning has been promoted to the vice-presidency of the London Newspaper Fund.

-A profit of eight million florins was netted by the national library of Austria-Hungary last year.

-A line was laid down into an extinct crater at Molokai, Sandwich Islands, a distance of three thousand five hundred feet without reaching bottom.

-Quito, in South America, is the only city in the world on the Equator, and the sun rises and sets there at six o'clock the year round.

-Denmark is known as a remarkably level country. Surveys of last season find only two points in the kingdom that reach an elevation of five hundred and forty feet.

-A Glasgow yacht, destined for perch fishing in South Australian waters, has been fitted with electrical apparatus expected to light up the water to the great depth of seventeen fathoms.

-Cyprus is proving to Great Britain an expensive luxury, because, although the income from revenue rises some \$300,000 above expenses, something over \$450,000 has to be paid annually as a subvention to Turkey.

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-The project of connecting Italy with Sicily by a submarine tunnel is again discussed. The estimated cost of the work is over fourteen millions of dollars.

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WOOD PRESERVATION.

The Method Successfully Adopted at the Charleston Navy Yard.

For many years there were many complaints and dissatisfaction with modern ships in the navy, because of their early decay, resulting from a law of nature which has never been entirely overcome. Many unsuccessful efforts have been made to do this, but thus far practical tests have not demonstrated the thorough efficiency of any of them.

Timber of all dimensions is loaded on cars, which are run into a copper cylinder six feet in diameter and eighty feet in length. A pipe leads from the bottom of the copper boiler to a steam boiler; this pipe is pierced with numerous small holes to permit the free escape of the steam.

The destruction of all wooden structures in salt-water by the ship worm is only a question of time when the wood has not been impregnated. When the temperature of the ocean is high this ship worm will destroy wooden structures so thoroughly in two years that they become thereby unfit and unsafe for use, and have to be renewed.

The nature of the process here described is such that sticks of any length, even when cut the same day, can easily be impregnated thoroughly from one end to the other, and the crystals precipitated along the inside of the pores of the wood, as the result of the combination of the two chemicals, form a coating inside these pores, which neither can be removed by mechanical action nor the action of water, as sulphate of barytes is insoluble in water or acids.

TOOTH-SOME CHEESE.

Nutritious Delicacies Which Can Be Made by Every Intelligent Farmer.

There are several kinds of cheese that can be made where but two or three cows are kept, and several of them are delicacies as well as nutritious food. First may be mentioned the cream cheese, as rich as butter but with a pronounced cheese flavor that makes it quite acceptable as a dish for dessert.

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moved from the stove and set back on the shelves. After twelve hours it is ready to be skimmed, and the cream is taken off in a thick, semi-solid mass. This is called clouted cream, and is often eaten by itself as a delicacy, which it really is. If it is churned it makes a rather flat-flavored butter, but it will keep sweet a very long time—for months, or a year, or more.

Another small cheese is made from the curd of sour skimmed milk or buttermilk, and is a very pleasant relish for a supper or a lunch. The sour-milk is set upon the stove in the pans and warmed until the curd sets. This is dipped out into a thin muslin cloth and hung up to drain. When the whey is drained off the curd, slightly salted, is molded with the hands into small, round cakes, flattened somewhat, and these are packed into a stoneware jar and set in a warm closet for a few days to "ripen," when they acquire a pronounced cheese flavor.

An exquisite small cheese may be made in imitation of the Neufchatel, which is exceedingly popular in the large cities both in America and Europe. This is made of sweet fresh milk, to which is added the sweet cream of the previous milking. The fresh milk of a good butter-yielding Jersey cow would make these cheeses without the addition of cream. The mixture of milk and cream is warmed to eighty degrees, and sufficient rennet is added and stirred into it to make the curd in an hour and a half or two hours.

This same process is used for making small, flat, round cheeses and others square or formed in molds of various shapes as tarts are made. Cheeses of this kind are often flavored in various ways by the addition of powdered sage, anise seed, dried sweet herbs, powdered, etc., and for the production of a very rich cheese like the English Stilton, or the French Roquefort, some blue mold is sown upon the curd by adding small fragments of an old cheese. It is a curious fact in cheesemaking, that the growth of these peculiar fungi in the curd develops a remarkable change of character, producing a soft, rich, buttery texture, and a very pleasing, sharp flavor, without any of the strong ammoniacal odor acquired by some of those ripened in a warm temperature and without the mold. These blue-veined cheeses are highly esteemed and exceedingly popular in European countries and especially in England, where the very fine Stilton cheese sells for fifty cents a pound, and requires one or two years to ripen before it is thought fit to be eaten.

The coal beds of China are five times as large as those of all Europe, while gold, silver, lead, tin, copper, iron, marble and petroleum are all found in the greatest abundance. Owing to the prejudices of the people themselves have never been worked to any extent, it being the popular belief in China that if these mines are opened thousands of demons and spirits imprisoned in the earth would come forth and fill the country with war and suffering.

NATURAL MONUMENTS.

Wild and Impressive Scenes in the Mountains of West Virginia.

Up here among the highest altitudes of West Virginia, on top of the anticlinal ridges, 3,500 feet above the level of the sea, among the conglomerate series, stand a number of stupendous monuments or monoliths whose peculiar features, preserved by their siliceous character from the leveling power of atmospheric agencies, degradation by water and erosion of time, to all appearances sound and perfect as when in the carboniferous age the lands were cast up in lateral folds. These impressive monuments are in some cases 150 feet high by several hundred in width; their crowns are generally somewhat concave in shape, the outer rim of the bowl being in some instances several feet higher than its center. The most peculiar feature, and one which has been gazed upon by visitors with awe, and is regarded by the native with that degree of reverence only found among a rural Christian people, is the fact that in the center of each stone is a hole, varying in size, but perfectly smooth and regular in all. In one instance, which will describe all, the hole at the surface is two feet in diameter, descending into the hard stone several feet, with a regularity of size which could not be made more perfect with modern ingenuity and instruments.

Measurements were made by several visitors a short time ago and the shape of each cavity was exactly the same in form, only differing in size in proportion to the round dense stone lying at the bottom. In all instances the neck of the ovoid-shaped hole was the merest trifle larger in diameter than the round stone. Several efforts were made to get one of the round stones out of its resting place and to the surface, but the attempts always failed.

CANES AND CRUTCHES.

A Dealer Claims That They Are Supplanting Artificial Limbs.

"Yes, sir," said a maker of artificial limbs in San Francisco, "men are getting to be proud of plain wooden legs and empty sleeves. The time has not long gone by when I received numerous orders for legs, with feet attached, wondrously combined with cork, wood and steel, with springs that moved as finely as those in a watch; in fact, legs that, with their trousers coverings, were quite as presentable in good company as the lost limbs they replaced. If any attention was attracted by the somewhat stiff movements of their owners, the pitying observers would say: 'Poor fellow, he has a touch of the rheumatism. I can sympathize with him; I am troubled with it myself occasionally.'"

"Nobility then ever said to a friend who asked him to take a walk: 'You must pardon me, but I have only one leg.' He made some different excuse; illness in his family; indisposition; any thing but inability. But how is it now? Why, a fellow who, half a dozen years ago, poked his leg into a sewer when he was staggering to his home a little before dawn, and fractured it so badly that no repairs were possible, leans back in his chair and, resting a dirty stick upon the table, while he quietly smokes a big cigar, says to the company: 'There, gentlemen, is what Shiloh left me. I'm an old soldier and, hang me, I'm proud of it.'"

"I believe the manufacturers of canes are responsible for the decrease in the sale of artistically made crutches. You see a man with a strong stick in his hand can manage to hobble along tolerably well, even though he has only one better limb to support him, and if he has in addition a plain, old-fashioned wooden leg, not undermined by drink, as one of Dickens' characters says they sometimes become, he can walk about well enough to finish all the business that a one-legged man is ever likely to be called upon to do. Of course men know this long ago, but it is only lately that they have taken it into their stupid heads to imagine that one leg is better than two, if the lie with which they account for the loss of the missing one is only sufficiently skillfully constructed to be credited.

"It is for this reason that I have taken to selling walking sticks and canes. False legs won't support me any longer. Sir Walter Scott said: 'Literature is a good walking stick, but a bad crutch.' It was a very good

crutch for him, however, but apart from that little inconsistency he did not weigh his words. A walking-stick is a crutch, more's the pity and a cheap one, too.

"Then, there are a great number of men who carry their love for elegant canes into the regions of foppery, whereas the best false leg that was ever made was only intended to conceal its identity, and could not be worn more gracefully by a fop than by a pensioned miner. Canes with silver tops (with which the market has been glutted for the past two years, silver being cheap) sticks so light that if the fingers grasping them opened they would be apt to fly up instead of falling down; sticks so heavy that they seriously handicap their owners in a long walk, and would disappoint both hound and hunter by sinking if one of them were thrown into a pond for a water-dog to replay; canes with the head of the 'missing link' on the handles, and canes without any handles at all. They combine to knock the false leg from under the men who tell the same story, whether they left a limb on the battlefield of Gettysburg or in the vicinity of a Pennsylvania coal-mine."

"Ironwood and lignum vitae make the favorite canes for heavy men; bamboo and malacca sticks are more in vogue among light ones. The redwood of British Columbia has recently come into the market, and makes about as heavy a stick as any wood known. It has a rich port-wine color, and is very handsome. In the event of an argument, it would strike home when logic failed, for it is as convincingly weighty as a bar of iron, and has a great advantage over a sword or a pistol, inasmuch as it never misses fire, and its possessor can't cut or pierce himself by falling upon it in an unguarded moment.

"Another objection to the artificial leg is that a man walking with one through the snow feels the cold in his toes, although he has no toes to feel it in. It is very queer, but it is an absolute fact. The sensation of chill remains, even when three feet of iron, wood, cork or steel spans the space between the cold earth and the sensitive point. Whether a man wears a well-made artificial leg or an old-time wooden 'peg,' it is very necessary that the lower extremity of the false limb should be well shod. A cane used in conjunction with a common 'stick leg' eases the pressure on the ground, and may have some advantages over the scientifically made limb, but it decreases our profits enormously.

"I once sold to a sportsman a leg that was simply a gun-barrel, with a cork in the bore. He loaded it before he went out for a walk, and if he came across a flock of birds he just pulled out the stopper, leveled his limb and fired at them."—San Francisco Call.

CLIPPING AND FILING.

How the Forgers of the Past Defaced the Coin of the Realm.

"Milling" the edge of our gold and silver coins, termed also "graining" and "reaming," first employed in 1646, to prevent their being injured by wear, and more especially by being clipped by rogues, is a hint taken from the ancient Syrians and Romans, who treated their coins similarly and for like reasons, by cutting out regular notches round the border, so as to show the inside of the metal. But the old forgers were not to be so easily beaten, and made corresponding incisions in their copper imitations, plating them over with silver. * * * Clipping, filing and sweating coins—that is, immersing them in some strong acid that will eat away the surface, thus causing them to lose their weight, and consequently their value—are among the clumsiest dodges; while the plan of covering pieces of iron, lead, copper and other metal, cut to the size and shape of the coin to be imitated, with a thin plate of gold or silver neatly stamped and soldered at the edges, which can only be detected by weight and sound, calls for a greater degree of skill and manipulation. By a law of the Emperor Constantine false coiners were declared guilty of high treason and condemned to be burned alive; by the law of Athens, all counterfeiters, debasers and diminishers of the current coin were subjected to capital punishment, and in our own country these offenses are deemed high treason, and not only these, but the mere fact of buying, selling, concealing or knowingly having in possession any implements or tools for the coinage of money. A curious statute was framed in the reign of George II. to the effect that "any offender shall be pardoned in case (being out of prison), he discovers and convicts two other offenders of the same kind." It is also contrary to law to consign money to the melting pot, the punishment for which, in the reign of Charles II., was "(1) forfeiture of the same, and also the double value; (2) the offender, if a freeman of any town, to be disfranchised; if not, to suffer six months' imprisonment." By a statute of William III., "any person buying or selling, or knowingly having in his custody, any clippings or filings of the coin of the realm, shall forfeit the same and £500, one moiety to the King, and the other to the informer, and be branded on the cheek with the letter R." The counterfeiting of foreign coin is also considered a misdemeanor and branch of the peace, and liable to a punishment of one year's imprisonment for the first offense and seven years' penal servitude for the second.

"Naval academies and school-ships turn out some pretty good skippers, but old cheese can doubly discount them when it comes to quantity.