

OF GENERAL INTEREST

A vulture measuring nine feet from tip to tip was lately shot near Julien, San Diego County, Cal., as it was sailing away with a full-grown sheep in its claws.

Collars and cuffs for women are now made of steel lace, as fine as cobweb, and in any color. They withstand the warmest weather and are winning favor rapidly.

A pipe smoked by General Jackson while he was President, was recently presented to the New England Historical Society. It is still strong. Virginia plug was Old Hickory's favorite brand.

A citizen of Burlington, N. J., was bitten on the leg by a dog eight years ago, and every year since, on the anniversary of the bite, it is said, the injured member has swelled to twice its natural size.

There is a catwba tree in the front yard of a house in Canilla, Ga., which bears three crops of leaves every year, and, strange to say, each crop is destroyed by what is called the catwba worm.

Soft shell crabs are always cheaper after a day or two of thunder showers. They can not be kept alive in such weather. Electricity in the air is fatal to them. Dealers can not explain it, they only know it is so.

In Webster County, Ga., recently, twenty hogs belonging to a farmer took refuge from a storm under a clump of bushes that grew near a tall pine tree. The tree was struck by lightning and every hog instantly killed.

An Oregon City, Ore., clergyman got lost in the woods while en route to Arthur's Prairie, ten miles distant, to marry a couple, and not until after the lapse of forty-eight hours did he reach his destination. The bride and groom, together with the invited guests, waited all the while.

The defense scare in England has brought out the facts that the nation has 294 admirals and only fifty armored sea-going ships. Only thirteen admirals are employed, drawing £37,000, while 281 unemployed receive £161,000. At the same time there are 140 Generals, of whom 109 are employed.

A New York man missed \$45, including his luck-penny, and told his room-mate, who offered to take care of him while he had a cent left. The roommate in the generosity of his heart, bought the drinks, and, when he pulled out a handful of change, lo, the luck-penny! The good Samaritan went to jail.

Farmers at work in the fields near Long Fork, five miles from Mount Pleasant, Logan County, Ill., had their attention attracted by the tinkling of a bell attached to the neck of an American eagle flying overhead. By means of a glass the bell could be seen. No attempt was made to kill the bird, which disappeared to the northward.

An Iowa editor wrote to a Dakota postmaster inquiring about a delinquent subscriber. The letter came back indorsed, "The man is dead." Some time afterward, in overlooking a list of delinquents, an inquiry was inadvertently sent to the same postmaster about the same man. The reply came back: "Still dead."—Exchange.

An English physician, who has investigated the characteristics and surroundings of centenarians, says he finds that the average qualities were a good family history, a well-made frame, of average stature, spare rather than stout, robust, with good health, appetite and digestion, capable of exertion, good sleepers, of placid temperament and good intelligence, with little need for and little consumption of alcohol and animal food.

The following are said to be the sixteen American inventions of world-wide adoption: The cotton gin, planing machine, grass mower and reaper, rotary printing press, steam navigation, hot-air machine, sewing machine, the India-rubber industry, machine manufacture of horseshoes, the sand blast for graving, gauge lath, grain elevator, artificial ice-making on a large scale, the electro magnet in its practical application, and the telephone.

At a railroad station, a benevolent man found a school-boy crying because he had not quite enough to pay his fare, and he remembered suddenly how, years before, he had been in the same plight, but had been helped by an unknown friend, and had been enjoined that same day he should pass that kindness on. Now he saw that the long-expected moment had come. He took the weeping boy aside, told him his story, paid his fare, and asked him in his turn to pass the kindness on. And as the train moved from the station the lad cried cheerily: "I will pass it on, sir." So that act of thoughtful love is being passed on through our world, nor will it stay till its ripples have belted the globe and met again.—Christian Standard.

From early ages till now the race classification of mankind has been a subject of interest. For a long time only three types, comprising the white European, the brown Asiatic, and the black African, were recognized. These, after the discovery of this continent, the red American was added. But the number of alleged races of men has fluctuated all the way up to sixty-three; and theory after theory of classification has been from time to time developed and abandoned. And now the idea of classifying the human races according to their languages is taking precedence over other modes. This system of classification, it is said, will give our American Indians an ethnological prominence much greater than has hitherto been assigned to them.

PRINTING IN CHINA.

The Method That Has Been in Use for Six Hundred Years.

A correspondent of the North China Daily News of Shanghai describes a printing establishment which he found in a village in the interior, about 150 miles from Shanghai. The printing was being temporarily carried on in the village temple, and movable type only was used. In the large central hall of the temple were placed about twenty ordinary square tables, on which the cases of type were spread out, very much after the English method, only taking up much more room. At the time of the visit one man was engaged in setting up type, another was printing. The former stood before a table, on which was what may be called the Chinese "case." It was a solid block of hard wood, about twenty-two inches long by fifteen inches broad, and perhaps three inches deep. The inside was hollowed out to a depth of about a quarter of an inch, this depression being still further hollowed out into grooves, about three-quarters of an inch deep. The block had twenty-nine of these grooves, each filled to the depth of a quarter of an inch with ordinary stiff clay. With his copy before him, armed with a small pair of iron pinners the compositor began his work; character after character was transferred from the case and firmly pressed into the clay. When the "form" was complete a flat board was placed on the top and the characters pressed perfectly even and level with the surface of the wooden block, the edge of which was cut to form the border generally found round every Chinese page. The printer now received the form and carefully brushed his ink over the type. Taking a sheet of paper, he pressed it down all over the form so that it might be brought in contact with every character. He then removed the sheet, and examined each character, carefully adjusting those which were not quite straight with the pinners, and apparently never touching the type with his fingers. After sufficient copies had been struck off the type was distributed, each character being returned to its particular box. The type in the form was of three sizes, each character being kept in place entirely by the clay in which it stood. They were cut out of some hard wood and were perfectly square. The writer was told that the art of printing in this way had been handed down in the same family since the Sung dynasty, more than six hundred years ago. No strangers were ever taught, apprentices being always taken from the same clan. They were open to take any work at the rate of about twenty-five cents a day, which included the two men, type and ink, but not paper. They were then printing family registers. The custom in that part of the country is to hire the printers, who bring their type and set up their printing establishment on the spot. In this way the same business had been carried on in one family for six centuries, and during all this time movable type only had been used in the manner here described.

UNPROFITABLE REFORM.

A Peripatetic Sewing Machine Agent's Adventure in Georgia.

The path of the sewing-machine man is not the rosy road to fortune which the general public may assume it to be, and the agent has his up and downs the same as other people. My route for several years has been through the Southern States, and I have at times been reduced to shifts while on the road which I would rather not endure again. One of my favorite resorts when down absolutely to bedrock has been the country newspaper, and having had considerable experience in this line, I have frequently been able to tide over a dreary financial desert by working up a boom for the provincial editor, and so make my light shine that I could see my way to the next town. But I had an experience recently in Georgia which has sponged out my journalistic ambition, and made me content to follow, hereafter, my chosen calling in life. I was pushing my machine and my way across the old Southeastern State when death of business brought me up standing at Way Cross, and I turned my attention to the editor, as usual, and was soon whooping-up local enterprise, getting ads and writing up locals for all the town was worth. I may say that the locality is an exceedingly pious one, and the preacher was especially good man, but was at this time in dire distress. His wife was very ill and his coffers were empty. It struck me that the people were parsimonious with him, and, as the editor was temporarily in retirement on account of the poor enforcement of the prohibition law, I turned the fires of journalistic wrath loose on the town and tore it wide open. The consequence was that seven columns of ads were promptly withdrawn, the sheriff took possession, a committee waited on me and made sundry references to tar and feathers. This was more than any proud nature could, so I abandoned the field and moved on. Georgia is a poor field for the peripatetic reformer.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Just starting on a wedding trip; Young wife—"I am afraid, dear, that our trip to Paris will be very expensive." Young husband—"It may be a trifle expensive, but just think what a delightful time we shall have." Just ending the wedding trip; Young wife—"What a delightful time we have had, dear?" Young husband—"Yes, we have had a pleasant enough time, but just think what an awful expense it has been!"

RUSSIA IN ASIA.

The Trans-Caspian Railway and its Far-reaching Political Effects.

A report is in circulation that the Czar of Russia is about to be crowned Emperor of Central Asia, at Samarcand, that mysterious and ancient city of the "thousand and one nights." Russian rule, regarded among Western nations as the most despotic and semi-barbarous system of government in the world, is considered on the eastern side of the Ural range a blessing to the unenlightened people of the straggling series of oases and towns separated by wide expanses of desert. Free trade is the policy of Russia in Asia, although in Europe she clings to protection. The completion of the trans-Caspian railway to Samarcand will inaugurate a new era in Asia, and before the locomotive headlights the hyperbolic shades of ignorance and superstition of the dark ages will vanish. The building of this line makes us think of the favorite son of Peter the Great, which was to secure forever commercial intercourse between Russia and Central Asia, and thus open a wide market for Russian industries. Before the building of this railroad, the merchant caravans took about six months to go from Bokhara to Orenbourg, while now it takes only fifteen days to transport the chief products of Bokhara, silk goods and cotton, from Tschirchik at Amoo-Darya, to Moscow. The trans-Caspian railroad is of the greatest importance to cultivators of cotton in Asia, and not less so to Russian manufacturers, who now must get all their cotton from England and America, while from one colony alone in Central Asia, there is a yearly product of from two hundred and fifty to three hundred million pounds, at the least a value of some thirty-five or forty million dollars. The soil and climate of the oases at Marghab and Teldzen, as well as at the Khumb of Bokhara, are highly favorable to the cultivation of cotton. As for the rolling-stock of the railroad, it has of late been much exaggerated in various European journals. The carriages are naturally built as airy as possible for the climate of Central Asia, and each passenger train has a saloon car with kitchen and buffet, for there are very few stopping places crossing the desert. There are no special harem carriages for ladies, but they are hardly necessary, for the "true believers" will not permit their wives to travel on a railroad. The "ship of the desert," vulgarly, "camel," serves the Nomad families, and long journeys do not occur in the life of a noble Mohammedan lady, and Russian ladies will not care to travel so far to see so little; for Merv and Ashabad are little boundary cities, which owe their existence to the Russian troops garrisoned there. However, the inhabitants who until lately never went out of their plaster huts unless armed to the teeth, now devote themselves more and more to commerce and agriculture; the Turcoman children are taught by the Russian establishments in elementary schools; and order, work and prosperity have taken the place of rapine, slavery and recklessness. No wonder the "White Car" is revered by the Central Asiatics. If the Chinese markets can now be opened to Russian traders, Asian commerce and industry will be still more benefited.—Democrat's Monthly.

FASHIONABLE KINKS.

Fretty Articles for Personal Adornment and Table Decoration.

Ornaments for the hair are, if possible, more fashionable than ever. There is a wide diversity in the styles of bracelets. Belt buckles as well as silver belts continue in fashion; indeed, with the style of round bodies promised by modistes, it looks as if belts must be worn on indefinitely.

A novelty in the way of candelabra is one that has the lights shaded by translucent shell, on which landscape scenes are painted in rich translucent colors. Decided novelties in table ware are clear jugs of crystal in form of a bird with silver feet and beak. The association of glass and silver, by the by, is of frequent occurrence now in such articles as clear jugs, salad and punch bowls, olive jars, etc.

Silver baskets are having prominence. A fancy at the present moment prevails for these baskets in connection with silver weddings. Among the most attractive goods displayed for the table is the silver mounted china. This includes a choice variety of Douillon salad bowls, Worcester, Minton, and other choice porcelain jars and fanciful dishes, such as cracker jars and jam pots, fruit bowls and the like in silver mounts and beautifully decorated.

A favorite gift to the bridesmaids from the bridegroom appears to be either a brooch or a bangle. A gold brooch with a monogram in pearls or diamonds, is popular for the purpose. At one wedding each of the six bridesmaids wore a diamond "88" brooch; at another wedding the brooches were in form of diamond swallows.

A bracelet that has gained some popularity and employed as a gift from the bridegroom to the bridesmaids is a small loose curb bracelet, to which is attached a medal bearing the date of the wedding.—N. Y. World.

The American Geographical Society has issued a bulletin showing that if five acres of ground be allowed to each person the three Americas can accommodate at least two billion people. So that there is no immediate danger of overcrowding.

A GOLD-REGION STORY.

The Adventures and Romance of Mr. Ferdinand Van Zandt.

The presence at the Palace Hotel of Ferdinand Van Zandt, one of the richest mine owners in the country, recalled to the memory of local mining men his remarkable adventures. Fifteen years ago he was in Leadville without a cent; in the phrase of the times he "slung beer." Now he is worth millions, is sole proprietor of the Blue Bird Mine at Butte, and is son-in-law of Sir John Lubbock. Van Zandt was the son of a Knickerbocker family possessed of a great deal more pride than ready cash, or even collateral. When Leadville was the second Pike's Peak of the West the young man left his home and started for Colorado. He arrived at Leadville in a destitute condition; he did not possess enough to purchase sleeping room. There was a constant stream of men flowing to and from the gold mines; and, after working in a menial position for awhile, Van Zandt left with a party for the mountains. As partner in his poverty he took a young man no better equipped for the rough life of a miner than he was himself, but the two remained together through all privations, and the companion is now superintendent of the Blue Bird mine.

For two years they worked together, but luck was against them, and all they got from their hard labor was just enough to keep them alive. They were joined by a young man who possessed some money and a knowledge of the country. With his assistance Van Zandt was able to find a more favorable location, and the men began to save something. Six months after the arrival of the stranger he was chosen to go to New Mexico to gather mining statistics. He was not to be gone more than three months, and promised Van Zandt that he would return to the camp when his mission was accomplished. The stranger rode away, and the months multiplied to a year, but he never returned. Then Van Zandt determined to hunt him up, or at least learn his fate. All the money the partners had was gathered together and taken by the young man to aid in the search for the stranger. Van Zandt traveled into New Mexico and after some time was successful in discovering the trail of his friend. In a few weeks he came to the end of the trail and found his friend had been murdered. Van Zandt spent a month at the scene of the crime and succeeded in finding the slayers of the stranger. He had the men arrested, but time passed and there was no chance of the case coming to trial. Four Mexicans were in the prison and Van Zandt decided they were all guilty of the murder. He worked up a feeling against the men and headed a small party which broke open the jail and hanged the gang.

Van Zandt then returned to Leadville. There he was engaged by a syndicate to go to England to secure funds with which to stock a farm. Valuable letters were given to the young man, and he was well received in London. Among the prominent people he met was Sir John Lubbock, whose daughter he married. She had a great deal of money in her own right, and her young husband made good use of it. Sir John was very much opposed to the match, but after withdrawing objections, the Baronet proved a very venerable father-in-law. Van Zandt brought his wife to this country. He purchased the Blue Bird mine, which he got very cheap. It is now clearing \$100,000 a month.—San Francisco Call.

POISON IN LEMONADE.

Sickness and Death Following the Galvanized Lemon Squeezer.

"Wait a moment, doctor; let's have a glass of lemonade." A large crowd was pushing and elbowing its way toward the grand stand at a nearby resort recently when the above remark was made to a tall, fine-looking man who seemed to be suffering from the excessive heat. His shirt collar was unbuttoned at the throat, his cuffs were turned back over his wrists and his appearance was that of a man in his last stages of "ill." The invitation to partake of the lemonade seemed agreeable to him, but he no sooner got to the stand where the light beverages were dispensed, than he gave a glance and started back, saying: "None for me. I admit that I am thirsty and a glass of lemonade would be very refreshing, but look—that settles it." With the handle of his palm-leaf fan he pointed to the huge lemon squeezer made of galvanized iron.

"Why, doc, that's all right. They make the drink to order. That won't go off—it's only a lemon squeezer." "The law should prohibit its use. Rather than drink lemonade made by that machine I had rather drink the water from yonder horse trough. The lemon squeezer is made of galvanized iron or iron coated with zinc. Every time a lemon is squeezed by it the citric acid of the lemon coming in contact with the metal dissolves the zinc and forms an unwholesome and poisonous salt. Zinc is a metal which is readily attacked by the weakest acid, and no article of food or drink should ever be allowed to come in contact with it. Find me a place where they use the old-fashioned wooden squeezer or where the lemon is macerated in a porcelain or glass vessel and I'll gladly join you in a glass of lemonade; but here, where they use the death-dealing zinc machine—never!"—Troy Times.

ORDINANCE OF 1787.

The Important Document Which is a Constant Subject of Interest.

The most serious question brought before the Continental Congress after the close of the revolution—second to the ever insoluble one of how the public debt was to be paid—was that concerning the disposition of the vast extent of unoccupied lands at the West. The charters of the large States on the Atlantic coast extended their territory westward to the "South Sea," and over this they claimed to exercise full jurisdiction. In 1780 New York offered to cede part of its Western territory for the formation of new States and a few years later Virginia made a similar concession. In 1784 an ordinance for the temporary government of the Northwest Territory was passed by Congress. This ordinance was drawn up by a committee of which Thomas Jefferson was chairman, and is known to be mainly the work of the fruitful brain that devised the Declaration of Independence. It recommended that all the Western territory ceded or to be ceded be formed into nine States, each extending over two degrees of latitude, the said States to be named: Cherokees, Sylvania, Assasippia, Metropotamia, Polypotamia, Pellissipia, Saratoga, Washington, Michigan and Illinois. It further provided that after the year 1800, slavery should be prohibited in all these States. The anti-slavery clause was lost, and some other change was made in the act before it was finally adopted. It was not, however, wholly satisfactory, and further legislation was attempted. In 1787 Nathan Dane, as chairman of a second committee on the Territories, reported an ordinance, which was adopted. This provided for the organization of the Northwest territory, and concluded with six unalterable articles of perpetual compact. The first provided for entire religious freedom; the second secured to all the inhabitants trial by jury, the writ of habeas corpus, and the political rights and privileges enumerated in the "Bill of Rights"; the third provided for the encouragement of schools, and for good faith, justice and humanity towards Indians; and the sixth provided that "there shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in the said territory, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the party shall have been duly convicted." The opposition that had previously overthrown this anti-slavery provision was placated by the following stipulation: "Provided always that any person escaping into the same from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any one of the original States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service aforesaid." This was the original slave law, and its passage represents the concession made by the anti-slavery men to secure the consent of their opponents to the ordinance of 1787. Another important clause of the ordinance was one providing "that the navigable waters leading into the Mississippi and St. Lawrence, and the carrying places between the same, should be common highways free to the citizens of the United States." The authorship of this important ordinance has been usually ascribed to Mr. Dane, but it has been asserted, from the evidence of letters, that its principal author was a Massachusetts clergyman, Rev. Manasse Cutler, who had just purchased, as the agent of a colonization company of his own State and other parties, 1,900,000 acres in Ohio, and who was in New York at this meeting of the last Congress of the Confederation, endeavoring to aid legislation concerning the new territory which he wished to colonize and to shape the laws, as far as he could, to his liking.—Tulsa Blade.

THE USUAL GOOD TIME.

A Girl's Idea of Genuine, Unadulterated Picnic Fun.

"Did you have a good time at the picnic, Libbie?" "Oh, elegant!" "What'd you do?" "Oh every thing." "But what?" "Well, we swung in hammocks, and had a lovely time." "What else?" "Oh, we swung in swings, and Mr. Lillybud swung me ever so high. We had a lovely time!" "Do any thing else?" "Oh, yes; bits of things—waded in the brook in our bare feet. Just think! Oh, it was awfully awful jolly!" "What else?" "Oh, played tennis and had a splendid time." "That all?" "Oh, we got bushels of daisies. It was lovely! We strung them all around our hats and all the boys put them in their button holes. Oh, it was jolly fun!" "Do any thing else?" "Oh, we were flirted fearfully! I never had so much fun. You really ought to have gone!" "Do any thing else?" "Oh, yes—every thing you can think of to have a jolly good time. It was perfectly splendid!" "Glad I didn't go," said Miss Kittie, as she walked away, "some old thing over again."—Time.

Bishop Parry, of Iowa, has received the degree of "D. D. Oxon." from the University of Oxford, England. The only other living American who has received a like distinction is Rev. Phillips Brooks, of Boston.

While reaping machines have robbed the cradle they have contributed considerably to the grave.

TEETH WHILE YOU WAIT.

How the Dentist Fries to Defy Time as Well as Nature.

"Four and five dollars sets of teeth made while waiting." That is a portion of an advertisement that caught a reporter's eye and caused a visit to the office of the dentist who had inserted it.

Many men doubtless remember that certain of their relatives remained in solitary confinement for from two to three weeks while waiting the arrival of the final set of grinders. Is it possible that one can have one's own worthless teeth removed, an impression of the month taken, and new teeth fitted, and all within an hour or two's time?

The dentist, when asked that question, answered affirmatively. "You see," said he, "dentistry is progressing like every thing else, and it is an every-day occurrence for me to get up a five-dollar set of teeth in an hour and a half. Although it would be much better if, after having teeth extracted, the patient would wait a week until the month heals and the bone which surrounds the teeth be dissolved, still there are so many who come here and will endure the discomfort and pain which necessarily follows a quick operation rather than depart toothless.

How do I do it so quickly? Well, by a method of process I use in vulcanizing or 'cooking' the rubber used for the plate, which reduces that usually long process to an hour's time. "No, it is not so satisfactory, nor is it any less expensive, but it is quicker. The price of a false set of teeth depends almost entirely on the number and size of the platinum pins which the teeth contain, and the quality and texture of the porcelain used.

Then, too, the small manufacturer of cheap teeth are continually cutting one another's throats, and the people get the benefit. The dentist has very little to do in determining the price.

Countrymen and farmers buy more false teeth than do any other class of people. You see, Mrs. Jones, for instance, has the toothache, comes to town, and, after fruitless attempts to get rid of the pain, has all her teeth pulled, and with a beautiful new set, with perhaps a little gold filled in front, returns to her village or farm. Mrs. Smith sees Mrs. Jones' teeth, and content to be without any thing that Mrs. Jones has, she, too, comes to town and has porcelain substituted for bone.

Country people don't take proper or even decent care of their teeth; and, besides, they eat too much pie. And they, too, use the people who want their teeth served up in an hour's time. A countryman comes to the city expecting to do shopping for the folks at home, take in the town, and provide himself, and perhaps the family, with a set of teeth, and all in one day. Sometimes he is successful, too.

Negroes carry a good deal of porcelain and gold in their mouths, too, but they almost invariably want the most expensive sets, insisting upon gold plates and plenty of gold filling. I have made a number of sets for negroes which cost one hundred dollars. But in a year's time a negro will manage to break the best set that I can make, and then, of course, he receives a bill for repairs.

The gold plates are, of course, incomparably better than the rubber or the cell gold, and if a patient can afford them I always advise their use.—N. Y. Evening World.

NEED OF ARM-EXERCISE.

Its Beneficial Effect on the Organism Through the Nervous System.

Walking on an even surface, the variety of physical exercises which most business and professional men get in town, is well known to be a poor substitute for arm-exercition. The reason is partially plain, since walking is almost automatic and involuntary. The walking mechanism is set in motion as we would turn an hour-glass, and requires little attention, much less volition and separate discharges of force from the brain surface with each muscular contraction, as is the case with the great majority of arm-movements.

The arm-user is a higher animal than the leg-user. Arm-motions are more nearly associated with mental action than leg-movements. A man's lower limbs merely carry his higher centers to his food or work. The latter must be executed with his arms and hands.

A third way in which arm-exercise benefits the organism is through the nervous system. Whether this is due to an increased supply of richer, purer blood, or whether the continual discharge of motor impulses in some way stores up another variety of force, we do not know. One thing is certain, the victim of neurasthenia is very seldom an individual who daily uses his arms for muscular work; with this, the limit of hurtful mental work is seldom reached.—Walter B. Platt, M. D., in Popular Science Monthly.

A skilled Chinese woodworker, who arrived in New York some time ago to take charge of the fancy work on a Chinese town hall being built, but on a hire to the extent of saying that America cabinetmakers could not earn their tobacco money in China, as most of their work, while grand to the eye, was coarse in construction. Any skilled Chinese woodworker, he said, could make a bedstead that would be worth \$10,000 in China, but it wouldn't pay to make such a one here as it would take three years' time and go American would be willing to pay such a price for a bedstead except as a curiosity. In China, he said, bedsteads are valued as ornaments, so pianos are here.