STRAY BITS.

Kerosene oil is responsible for nine-tenths of the fires that take place in China.

The fresh fruit crop of California this season has an estimated value of $10,000,000.

Pullman says he can build sleeping cars containing six nice bedrooms, but passengers would have to pay $6 instead of $2 per night.

From $35,000,000 to $40,000,000 of old jewelry lies idle in England, and various firms have begun to melt it down to make new patterns.

A New York civil engineer has applied for a patent for a locomotive and tender, by which he claims he can make ninety-five miles an hour with ten coaches.

Stumm Bros., of Neunkirchen, Germany, have offered a prize of $2,500 for the best means of preventing the inhalation of dust by the workmen engaged in grinding slag.

The fastest armored cruiser in the world is said to be the German vessel Greif, of 2,000 tons and 5,400 horse power. From Kiel to Wilhelmshaven she attained a speed of twenty-three knots an hour.

Twenty of the leading restaurants and cafes in Paris are being united into a company. Its capital will be 7,500,000 francs, in 500 franc shares, 13,500 of which are to be offered to the public at par.

Two fishermen in the Dee, in England, have caught a sturgeon weighing 200 pounds, over five feet long and as thick as a man's body. The best previous record was a 156-pound sturgeon two years ago.

The Yale sophomores have declared against hazing. They are entitled to commendation. Although the practice of hazing has disappeared from most American colleges, its modern prototype, "rushing," still lingers.

A new device has been introduced for the German army. It is a cloak cut and finished in such a way that two of the garments together may be converted into a tent, the supports for which accompany the cloaks.

A few years ago the Argentine Republic did not raise wheat enough for home consumption. Last year it exported 7,000,000 bushels. Immense tracts of pasture land are being converted into farm land, and the country is becoming a great grain growing region.

A new submarine torpedo boat has been tried by both France and Russia and is said to be successful. It is driven by an Edison dynamo, provided with compressed oxygen for use under water, and a large pair of scissors projecting from the prow, in order to cut torpedo wires.

Frank Crabtree and Henry Cyrus killed an old bear and two cubs out in Oregon. They went after the game with a team, when one of their mares became infuriated at the smell of blood. She attacked Frank, knocked him down and stamped on him, and struck old Mr. Crabtree in the face, nearly killing him.

The greatest national debt among the nations of the globe is borne by France. It is about $6,250,000,000. Russia comes next, with $3,000,000,000; then England, with $3,500,000,000; Austro-Hungary, with $2,485,000,000; Italy, with $2,225,000,000; Spain, with $1,207,500,000; and Prussia, with $1,050,000,000.

The etymology of the word honeymoon is thus given by a good authority: "Among the northern nations of Europe there was an ancient practice of newly married couples to drink mehegin or mead, a kind of wine made from honey and water for thirty days after marriage. Hence the term honeymonth or honeymoon. Attila, the Hun, drank so much mead at his wedding feast that he died."

A young girl in London has turned the photographic art to profit by going about and taking incidents in the public thoroughfares and parks. She has an eye for situations, and catches them full of natural spirit and action. She is out from 10 o'clock until 3, and under her camera characteristic scenes of city life are being turned into hard money. Her pictures are used a great deal in studies, and they are full of suggestion.

A citizen of Estouton, Ga., smokes about twelve pounds of tobacco yearly in a pipe that he declares is over two hundred years old. This leads a mathematical person to calculate that if that were the average amount used in the pipe since its first day 2,100 pounds of the weed have been burned in its bowl, and if the first $12 had been put out at compound interest at the rate of 6 per cent, it would now have grown to the sum of $1,755,413,209. Just how this would have benefited the first owner of the pipe does not appear.

THE LATEST IN JEWELS.

A large oval box of chased silver for holding cigars or tobacco has come in for the holidays.

A gold watch in the form of a heart, with the dial in the center, is a favorite with sentimental feminality.

A fancy clock is set in the face of a standard banner, held aloft by a kneeling cupid. The base is of onyx enameled in gilt.

A new clock is of bronze in the shape of an umbrella, with the numbers inlaid in enamel, while the hands revolve from the end of the stick.

Some recent ladies' watches have a rugged finished case with an enamel dial in blue and yellow. The hour figures being in white, the effect is rather striking at first sight.

One of the latest foreign feminine fashions consists in turning the ends of the sleeves so as to form cuffs and inserting a pair of gold link buttons. The effect is unique.

Rather a formidable paper weight is designed in the form of a silver Corinthian helmet representing Ascoyne Cup. They rest on a heavy slab of Mt. Pentelic.

Something new for a lady's watch is a plain, dead finished case surrounded by three carcats of diamonds. The pendant fob is of plain gold, with diamond fleur-de-lis in the center.

Trade dollar baskets have become fashionable for young ladies' school. They are now made with miniatures copied from photographs and burned into the metal similar to painting on china.

There is a growing demand for antique watches. Some in the shops of fashionable jewelers are larger than the fancy clocks now made for library tables. They are not worn, however, but are kept as curiosities.

With the approach of cold weather the richest kind of hip flasks have come into fashion. They are made of gold or silver, the latter being decorated with etchings of buffalo hunts, Mexicans lassoing steers and scenes from field pastimes.

A pretty novelty for a lady's secretary is a miniature writing desk of the folding pattern. It is made of gilt on brass and is finely enameled. When the cover is rolled back a perfectly appointed interior is discovered, with two tiny ink bottles in their places. The ornamentations are of the scroll order.—Jewelers' Weekly.

A little city boy who had just returned from his first visit on a farm gave this description of butter making: "You ought to just see how auntie makes butter with a barrel and a broomstick!"

AGED PROFESSIONAL MEN.

Leo XIII, the pope, is 78.
John Gilbert, the actor, is 78.
Von Moltke, the soldier, is 88.
O. W. Holmes, the poet, is 79.
J. G. Whittier, the poet, is 84.
Neal Dow, the reformer, is 84.
R. W. Weir, the painter, is 85.
J. S. Blackie, the scholar, is 79.
T. J. Conant, the scholar, is 86.
J. D. Dana, the geologist, is 75.
Alfred Tennyson, the poet, is 79.
Robert Browning, the poet, is 76.
Octave Feuillet, the author, is 76.
David D. Field, the lawyer, is 83.
Jules Grevy, the statesman, is 81.
Sidney Bartlett, the lawyer, is 89.
John Bright, the statesman, is 77.
John Ericsson, the engineer, is 85.
J. H. Newman, the cardinal, is 87.
T. D. Woolsey, the publicist, is 87.
H. E. Manning, the cardinal, is 80.
M. E. Chevreul, the chemist, is 102.
Earl Granville, the statesman, is 73.
Guiseppe Verdi, the composer, is 74.
Sir G. B. Airy, the astronomer, is 87.
George Bancroft, the historian, is 88.
P. T. Barnum, the philosopher, is 78.
Jefferson Davis, the statesman, is 80.
Baron Hubner, the diplomatist, is 77.
A. G. Thurman, the statesman, is 75.
Simon Cameron, the statesman, is 89.
Prince Bismarck, the statesman, is 73.
Pasha Musurus, the diplomatist, is 81.
Hannibal Hamlin, the statesman, is 79.
Ambroise Thomas, the composer, is 77.
Sir Richard Owen, the anatomist, is 84.
Peter F. Kenrick, the archbishop, is 82.
James McCosh, the metaphysician, is 77.
Ignatius Dollinger, the theologian, is 89.
George Ticknor Curtis, the lawyer, is 76.
Ferdinand de Lesseps, the engineer, is 81.
Jean Louis Meissonier, the painter, is 73.
Robert Eberhard Bunsen, the chemist, is 77.
F. A. P. Barnard, the college president, is 79.
William E. Gladstone, the statesman, is 79.
Sir William R. Grove, the physicist, is 77.
Alexander W. Kinglake, the historian, is 77.
Andrew P. Peabody, the clergyman, is 77.
J. L. A. Quatrefages, the naturalist, is 78.
Thomas E. Vermilye, the clergyman, is 85.
Ernest Wilfred Lagonve, the dramatist, is 81.

—Colonel A. L. Rives, the father of the young Virginia authoress, is a civil engineer now employed on the Panama Ship canal.

—Editor Charles A. Dana receives a royalty of twelve and one-half per cent. on each volume sold of the American Cyclopedia, and thus far he has realized over $100,000 from this source.

—One of the most valuable books in the remarkably valuable collection of Columbia College, New York, is a copy of the first folio of Shakespeare, printed in 1623, of which there are few duplicates. Its price is estimated at $2,500 to $3,500.

—It has finally come out that the passages from a play called "Irus," attributed to Shakespeare by the librarian of Stratford-upon-Avon, were really from a comedy by Shakespeare's contemporary, Chapman, entitled "The Blind Beggar of Alexandria."

The annual consumption of feathers in this country is 8,000,000 pounds.

A DREAM OF FAIR WOMEN.

Tennyson in his exquisite poem, dreams of a long procession of lovely women of ages past. This is all very well, but the laureate would have done the world a greater service if he had only told the women of the present how they could improve their health and enhance their charms. This he might easily have done by recommending the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. Health is the best friend of beauty, and the innumerable ills to which women are peculiarly subject, its worst enemies. Long experience has proven that the health of womankind and the "Favorite Prescription" walk hand in hand, and are inseparable. It is the only medicine for women, sold by druggists, under a positive guarantee from the manufacturers, that it will give satisfaction in every case, or money will be refunded. This guarantee has been printed on the bottle wrapper, and faithfully carried out for many years.

The coal that is now utilized for cleaning the dingy stone walls of buildings.

Each year finds "Brown's Bronchial Troches" in new localities, in various parts of the world. For relieving Coughs, Colds, and Throat troubles, they have been proved reliable. Sold only in boxes.

A Philadelphian has patented an ice escape for horses.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using, sent by mail by addressing with stamps, naming this paper, W. W. Sherar, 149 Power's Block, Rochester, N. Y.

If afflicted with sore Eyes, use Dr. Isaac Thompson's Eye-Water. Druggists sell it. 25c.

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One of the most sensational events recently occurring in Washington was the purchase of a new straw hat by Attorney-General Garland. The fact that Mr. Garland has worn his discarded hat for twelve years, as he himself testifies, makes his late purchase an event of considerable interest. But men do reckless things in a Presidential year.

A French electrician claims that he will soon be able to produce a thunder storm wherever and whenever it is desired.

Leave hope behind,
All ye who enter here!

So ran the dire warning which Dante read on the portals of the Inferno. So runs the cruel verdict of your friends if you are overtaken by the first symptoms of that terrible disease, consumption. "Leave hope behind! Your days are numbered!" And the struggle against death is given up in despair. But while there is life there is hope! Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery has cured hundreds of cases worse than yours; and it will cure you, if taken in time. But delay is dangerous. No power can restore a wasted lung; the "Golden Medical Discovery," however, can and will arrest the disease.

A Franklin county (Neb.) grocer has an exhibition a cucumber at his place of business that is six feet in length.

WHICH WAS IT? BACON OR SHAKESPEARE.

The authorship of the dramatic productions attributed to the last of the above named is agitating literary circles to the very centre, but affects the practical masses far less than the momentous question, how to regain or preserve health, that essential of bodily and mental activity, business success and the "pursuit of happiness." We can throw far more light on this latter subject than the most profound Shakespearian can on the question first propounded. If the system is depleted, the nerves shaky; if indigestion or constipation bothers one at times, or constantly; if the skin is yellow, and the tongue furred as in biliousness; if there are premonitory twinges of oncoming rheumatism or neuralgia; if the kidneys are inactive—use Hostetter's Stomach Bitters, the finest recuperant of an age prolific in beneficial and successful remedies. Remember, if malaria threatens or afflicts, that it neutralizes the poison and fortifies the system.

When an Italian says: "I love," he means that he loves. That is, he loves to love.

White Elephant of Siam, Lion of England, Dragon of China, Cross of Switzerland, Banner of Persia, Crescent of Egypt, Double Eagle of Russia, Star of Chili, The Circle of Japan, Harp of Erin.

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FLEMING BROS., PITTSBURG, PA.

A Seymour (Ind.) man of sixty-one broke a thigh in pulling off a boot.

CRAMPS OF THE MUSCLES CURED.

John I. Wood, of Stratford, Ont., was cured of cramps in the legs by wearing ALLCOCK'S POROUS PLASTERS. Mr. Wood says:

Some three months ago I was taken very sick with severe pain in the small of my back over the kidneys. The pain was excruciating. I applied an ALLCOCK'S POROUS PLASTER over the affected region and had relief almost within an hour. At the same time, in conjunction with this trouble, I had very great nervous disturbance, affecting my legs with cramps so I could scarcely sleep. Meeting with such success with my back I applied a plaster under the knee on each leg, and in three days was completely cured, and have never been troubled in either way since.

A thoughtful man in Columbus, Ga., has an ax beneath his pillow for burglars.

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11 Years. Columbus, Ohio, June 23, 1888. Taken with rheumatism 12 years ago; suffered till one year ago; cured by St. Jacobs Oil. No return since. E. K. BRYAN.

Crippled Feet. Washburne, Ill., May 22, '83. Five years ago had rheumatism in my feet; suffered 3 years; used cane. St. Jacobs Oil cured me. JOSEPH FELZ.

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