AT A TEA AUCTION.

HOW THE EXPERTS VALUE THE STOCK BEFORE IT IS SOLD.

Scene in a Salesroom—A Visit from Professional Tea Tasters—A Preliminary Test—The Aroma—Getting the Flavor. Quiet Purchasers.

A dozen or a score of tea importers may be represented in the stock of tea which a firm of auctioneers offer for sale on a given day. Two hundred or more different grades of tea may be in the consignment. A sample chest, half chest, or package of each grade is sent to the auction room for inspection and sampling by prospective purchasers. These are ranged in tiers about the auction room so that their distinctive names and marks may be seen. All these marks, and a queer lot of hieroglyphics they are, are reproduced in the catalogue, always large leaved, and with plenty of room for notes alongside the description of each lot of a particular grade of tea. The lots vary from a single package or half chest up to perhaps a hundred packages of the fragrant Oriental leaves. The small lots are usually particularly choice brands of tea, the large ones the cheaper and "standard" grades.

The distinctive marks on these chests aside from the Chinese figures are either figures or letters, sometimes standing alone, but oftener inclosed in a circle, a square, a triangle, an ellipse, or some other geometrical figure, and occasionally accompanied by an anchor or some similar figure that is a symbol of no one knows what exactly. Once in their places in the auction room, the sample chests are made ready for customers who wish to try the teas. And here is where tea auction sales differ from other auction sales. A purchaser may try before he buys. To enable him to try, big holes, an inch and a half or so in diameter, are cut through the chest and its wicker cover, so that the tea can easily be reached. The sample packages thus prepared, everything is ready for the sale.

PROFESSIONAL TEA TASTERS.

For two days before the sale young men with the big quarto catalogues and accompanied by a boy with small tin boxes visit the auction rooms and take samples for testing. These young men are usually professional tea tasters, and to the casual visitor to an auction room their methods are peculiar, to say the least. A wisp of the split bamboo, such as the network of matting that covers the packages is made of, is the sampler's weapon for attack on the tea chests about him. His catalogue is held in his left hand. With the right he thrusts his wisp of bamboo, doubled so as to make a sort of hoe, into the round hole in the tea chest, and from the chest hauls a handful of the tea on to the catalogue pages. The eye serves to tell him if the tea has been colored or bleached. That point settled, the necessary note is made in his catalogue. Then comes the preliminary test. The tea is dumped from the sampler's catalogue into his hand. Then, with the hand partially closed, the sampler blows vigorously into the mass of leaves, and at once applies the leaves to his nose. Thus he gets a fair idea of the aroma. As he has no further use for that particular sample, he throws it into a trough which stands at the foot of the rows of chests, and which is put there for the express purpose of holding these discarded samples and the particles that do not fall on the catalogue pages when the wisp of bamboo pulls the sample from the chest. And so the sampler goes the round of the long row of tea chests, eyeing and smelling, and once in a great while tasting a bit of the tea, and always throwing away two or three pounds during the course of his afternoon inspection.

All the observations of this expert as to color, aroma and quality are noted in his catalogue. Some samples are quickly disposed of, and the sampler marks in his catalogue the value of the particular brand of tea he has inspected. But there are some brands, usually of the finer grades, that puzzle him. He is in doubt as to the actual value of the leaves he has looked at and smelled of a half dozen times perhaps. So he instructs a youth who accompanies him to "take a sample." This youngster, using the same means as his companion has before him, hauls a liberal sample from the chest into a tin box, which is duly marked and labeled with the same hieroglyphics that are inscribed on the chest and in the catalogue. A dozen samples may be taken in this way for the expert's use outside of the auction room. These collected, his work among the sample chests is ended.

GETTING THE FULL FLAVOR.

Accompanied by the boy and his small tin boxes, the expert leaves the auction room and goes to his office to finish his valuation of the samples his boy carries. Seated at a round table, which turns on its standard at the slightest touch, he finishes his work with a speed which is little less than marvelous. A dozen French china cups and a samovar, or urn, of hot water help him to do this. Leaves from the sample tin boxes are put in the china cups and treated to a bath of the boiling water from the urn in the center of the table. There is a preliminary sniff at the aroma arising from each particular cup, and then a taste—just a sip—to get the flavor fully. This test settles the valuation of the tea in a moment, and the expert marks in his catalogue what he deems the samples thus treated to be worth. No one ever disputes that valuation, for the tea taster is in his line an autocrat, a despot whose decision no one dares question. The catalogue now marked is sent to the buyer of the house the expert represents, and with the latter there remains only the purely mechanical work of attending the sale and buying, if he can, at or below the figures fixed by the expert at the maximum value of the teas.

The auction sale itself is very like any other trade sale. A hundred men sit about the auction room in front of the glib tongued crier. Catalogue and pencil in hand, the crowd of buyers are a very quiet party, and let the auctioneer make all the noise. A pencil or catalogue raised in the air for an instant goes for a bid. Sometimes a nod of the head suffices to settle the ownership of a consignment of tea. It is very rarely that a word is spoken, except when the starting bid is made. When other spoken bids follow they are usually made by some out of town buyer. The auctioneer knows everybody in the room except these same out of town merchants, who are looking for bargains. So he quietly tells his clerks the name of the purchaser, and a stranger visiting the sale is left in mystery most of the time, not only as to who the buyer is, but also as to which one of the men in that very quiet but very business like crowd made the bid. Five thousand or 6,000 packages of tea may be disposed of in an hour or an hour and a half, and then the crowd of buyers melt away just as quickly as it had assembled itself for the sale.—New York Times.

To be Borne in Mind.

Minister's Wife (to husband)—Will you put up the parlor stove today, dear?

Minister (vexatiously)—I suppose I will have to.

Wife—And don't forget, John, that you are a minister of the gospel.—Harper's Bazar.

THE ORIGIN OF BLACKMAIL.

Boldness and Sang Froid of Chinese Thieves—Philosophy of Endurance.

Among the archaisms which Chinese civilization has brought into the light of modern times is the blackmail system of modern Europe, which might merit the attention of the Peking Oriental society. The city is like a large reservoir filled with varied fish, all feeding on each other. The transportation of bullion affords fine pickings for many hungry mouths. Among the army of parasites which live on this land may be mentioned the porters or carriers in the capital, who derive very heavy emoluments from their judicious handling of the silver which passes through their hands. No doubt their gains are equitably distributed among their official patrons, who could not touch the unclean thing with their own hand. But the wealth of the porters excites the cupidity of others, who prey on them. When a porter is known to be going on duty the banditti waylay him, his guard make resistance, but if captured he is held for ransom, and may have to part with half a year's profits to one successful raider. After the manner of the traders in the middle ages, these wealthy porters seek the protection of powerful barons, here called wang web, or princes. One of these lends the silver carriers his cart and mule, which the robbers do not care to meddle with, and for this service the prince receives his share of the profits which would otherwise pass, not without violence, into the hands of the bandits. The vulnerable porters further protect themselves by hiring prize fighters to sit on the shafts as they pass through the streets of the open city. These men also have to be extravagantly paid.

Another tribe of parasites pervades the city—the pickpockets—whose harvest is in the wet season, when the roads are nearly impassable. The other day a man boasted of never having had his pocket picked, when within ten minutes his pipe and case were snatched from his hands. Another was carrying a rich feather fan in his hand, his finger through the looped string in the handle for precaution—a hard tug from a thief cut his finger and forced him to release his hold.

Ladies are often the victims, even when riding in carts, and the thieves are so daring as to spring on the top of the cart while in motion and snatch the valuable head ornaments of the Manchu ladies inside, the cart driver taking no notice for fear of his own skin. The thieves are so well organized as to have regular depots where stolen property is stowed, and persons of influence can generally recover what they have lost if they are persistent enough. Near one of the gates is a market where stolen goods are regularly sold during one hour at daybreak. Spurious articles are often offered at this place. For example, a man thought he was getting a good bargain in a roast duck, but on reaching home he was surprised to find only a clever imitation in mud. There are also excellent counterfeits, in paper, of the Chinese boats, which dissolve at mere sight of water.

In the social arrangements of the Chinese the philosophy of grin and bear has been cultivated to an extreme perfection, and is also, no doubt, archaic. Bystanders will never interfere with the commission of a crime in the open street in open day, and the whole system of predatory crime is tolerated, as vermin is, as the ordinary lot of humanity. In fact, foulness, impassable roads, defective laws, and all other forms of suffering, are borne with, for want of the energy to resist and overcome them, and not, as is sometimes supposed, because the people really love these things.—Chinese Times.

California's Raisin Grape.

The raisin industry of California promises to become very important and fairly remunerative. The climate of the central and southern part of the state is most favorable for drying the fruit, and there is the center of this enterprise. The two important factors in raisin making are a suitable variety of grape and a dry climate—one not subject to dews, fogs or rains for weeks while the fruit is drying. Though the region of California mentioned is not exempt from fogs and rains, yet they are infrequent, and the necessity of protection to the drying fruit is not experienced often enough to make that feature of the work very burdensome.

The variety of grape from which the raisins are made is the Muscat of Alexandria, which is better known to most of our readers as the Malaga grape of the shops, which comes to us from Spain, packed in cork dust, in small casks. A white grape makes a raisin of better color than a red or dark one, though in Europe both red and black varieties are used to some extent. In Santa Clara county, Cal., where the temperature at the drying season is not so high nor the air so dry as more southern counties, the grape growers have resorted to the use of dryers or evaporators and with success, and the practice is extending; many tons of raisins were made there in that manner last year. The method is to expose to the sun for a few days and then remove to the evaporator and finish up with a slow heat.—Vick's Magazine.

Shallow Society Conversation.

The flimsy foundation upon which so called "society" conversation and wit rest nowadays received a good illustration yesterday in a parlor of a hotel in this city. The group was composed of several elderly ladies of dowager like rotundity, whose fresh cheeks and bright eyes showed that the goddess of health and they were on more than speaking terms, and one young woman whose charms of face and form indicated slight need of acquaintance with cosmetics or with medicine. Two gentlemen joined the ladies.

"Oh, come here," cried out the youngest, pointing to her smiling elders, "I want to show you two people who have never taken quinine."

Everybody immediately laughed aloud, and when the mirth had subsided enough so that speech was again possible one of the gentlemen cried out:

"How inconsiderate!"

Then they all laughed loudly again. What at?—Minneapolis Journal.

The Lecturer's Home.

Husband—Mary, I'll never be able to prepare my lecture while you're doing so much talking and all the kids are yelling.

"When do you deliver your lecture?"

"To-night."

"What is it about?"

"The ideal Christian home."—Nebraska State Journal.

Punishment Enough.

He had just married a rich wife and was bowling along the road in a new equipage when he met a chum.

"Hello!" cried the chum. "What's that thing you are riding in? It looks like a hearse."

"It is her's," was the gloomy rejoinder of the newly wedded man.—Detroit Free Press.

FARM AND GARDEN

Hints for the Good Wife of the Farmer.

RICE GOOD FOR INVALIDS.

How to Make Delightful Muffins—Ice Absorbs the Flavor of Meat, Cucumbers, Etc.

When potatoes are freshly gathered the skin is best rubbed off with salt in a coarse cloth. Wash very clean, and let them remain for about half an hour in salt and water.

There are many simple and effective disinfectants, among which are coffee pounded and burned on an iron plate, sugar burned on hot coals, vinegar boiled with myrrh and sprinkled on the floor of the sick room.

Rice is the least nitrogenous of all grains. It is a good addition to bread, and is especially serviceable to combine with highly nitrogenous foods, such as peas, beans and lentils. It is particularly adapted to invalids, as it is one of most easily digested substances known.

To cool your face and prevent an oily appearance put a few drops of aromatic ammonia in your morning bath. When the face becomes overheated and "shiny" during the day, wet a corner of a towel with alcohol and mop it softly, letting it dry by evaporation or with little rubbing.

The most delightful muffins are made from the fine flour ground from the whole wheat. This is a dark flour. It differs from Graham in that the bran mixed through the Graham gives a coarse texture to any bread made from it. The fine part of Graham flour is coarse like a meal. Entire wheat flour, on the contrary, is as fine as any bolted flour, all parts of the kernel being powdered. The brown bread and muffins made from it have the sweet, nutty flavor of the kernel.

Do not lay meat, fish, cucumbers or anything else directly on the ice, as it absorbs flavors readily and will impart them to the drinking water. The compartment for ice should be so constructed that no food will come in contact with it. The refrigerators should be kept entirely for milk, butter and water, though sealed and air-tight cans even of salmon, lobster, ham, etc., may be kept in the upper part without spoiling the butter or milk, and of course without affecting the water, unless one should be stupid enough to put them in the water tank.

Flowers should be gathered early in the morning while wet with dew or late in the evening after sundown. It is better for the plant and for the flowers cut that they be removed by scissors or a sharp knife than wrenched off with the hand. It is far better if they are kept for some time to change the water daily and clip the ends of the stems each time. Rare roses and valuable flowers should be covered with paper and set in the ice box at night. A few drops of ammonia or a little salt in the water is said to materially assist in keeping flowers fresh.

It is not everybody who can make a bed well. Beds should be stripped of all belongings and left to air thoroughly. Don't, however, leave a window open directly upon the bed and linen, with a fog or rain prevailing outside. It is not uncommon to see sheets and bedding hanging out of a window with perhaps rain not actually falling, but with 90 per cent. of humidity in the atmosphere, and the person sleeping in that bed at night wonders the next day where he got his cold. A room may be aired in moist weather, but the bedding and bed must not absorb any dampness.

Ashes as a Fertilizer.

The value of ashes depends, of course, largely on the composition of the burned substance that produces them. They may contain more or less of potash or phosphate of lime, according to the kind of wood that is burned. Wood ashes are generally valued according to the amount of potash they contain, but some kinds of wood contain appreciable amounts of phosphate of lime, and are therefore more valuable. Pear-tree wood and trimmings of grape vines are said to contain more phosphates than woods of other fruits, and all fruit-tree woods have more phosphates than woods from forest trees. Burned bones have their chief value in the phosphate they contain, but burned bone, unless it is dissolved by sulphuric or carbonic acid, is not available as plant food. Caustic potash has, however, some power to make other mineral plant food available, probably by its effect in making it ferment and liberating carbonic-acid gas. Leached ashes after long exposure to the air absorb ammonia, and thus make them often a better fertilizer than before their potash was leached out of them.

Wool-Growing and Climate.

Wool is emphatically a product of Northern climates, as cotton is of the tropics. There is especial adaptation of product to the need of the people inhabiting these respective regions in this provision of nature for the products respectively produced by each. It is impossible to grow cotton in Northern localities, because the season is not long enough. There is equal disability in Southern localities to produce the best qualities of wool. This is shown by the demand from Australia, a semi-tropical country, for the American Merino rams bred by Vermont and Western New York breeders. Years ago Australian woolgrowers thought by crossing with American-bred sheep they could make their flocks all that was needed to produce good wool. For a time they succeeded; out of late years a renewed demand has come for the American-bred Merinos to improve still further the native stock, which under the influence of climate shows a constant tendency toward deterioration.

Plant Strawberries Early.

There is no need to allow the new plant on strawberry runners to attain large growth before transplanting it. In fact, the smaller the set the surer it is to live, and the quicker it will begin to develop fruit buds for another year. The early-set strawberries require a good deal more work to keep them free from runners, but they well repay extra trouble.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Gypsies Kidnap Two Boys in Washington County, N. Y.

A new railroad between Chicago and St. Louis is talked of.

Week before last 5,500 Italians sailed from Genoa to the United States.

Business has been resumed on the old Chesapeake and Ohio canal in West Virginia.

It is said the Alliance circulars sent from St. Paul are having some effect on the market.

A New York inventor makes serious charges against the management of the patent office.

The postoffice in Chicago does a larger registered-letter business than any other in the country.

Each of the members of the famous Economite community in Pennsylvania is worth $1,000,000.

Great preparations are being made for the holding of "The German Day" in New York on October 4.

A man has been stealing hogs near Havana, Ill., by first chloroforming them, so they would not squeal.

Hon. Bayliss Hanna, Minister to the Argentine Republic during the Cleveland administration, is dead.

The Treasury Department has shipped recently to the West for use in moving the crops $2,800,000 in small notes.

A treasure of $60,000,000 in gold is supposed to be buried near Warrensburg, Mo., and parties are searching for it.

The Indiana Farmers' Alliance has declared a boycott on a farmer who will not join the order, and his wheat stands unthreshed.

The historic and romantic Fort Laramie in Wyoming is now nothing more substantial than a mass of ruins half hidden by ivy.

Mississippi Valley lumbermen have obtained 1,000,000 acres of land granted to the Central Military Land Company by the State of Oregon.

The total receipts from customs during the month of July were $23,953,386, or $8,485,232 less than the receipts during the same month of last year.

Careful New York financiers are said to be taking gold loans at a much lower figure than they will accept currency loans on account of the free-silver agitation.

A new scheme has been put in operation, by which it is expected that agricultural specimens from every county in the country will be shown at the World's Fair.

The Chicago Drainage Commission has fixed upon a route for the canal between Chicago and the Summit, and has decided to issue $5,000,000 of 5 per cent. bonds.

It is reported from Boston that a kindling-wood trust has been formed there, and the product of all the factories in Boston and vicinity will be handled by one firm.

The redemption of 4½ per cent. bonds will not begin until September 2, the date of their maturity. Up to date about $11,600,000 of these bonds have been continued at 2 per cent.

John M. Samuels of Kentucky is prominently spoken of for chief of the Horticultural Department of the World's Fair, but the *Inter-Ocean* says Mr. Shorb of California still has a good chance.

Gypsies kidnaped two boys in Washington county, N. Y., the other day, but were overtaken by a mob of citizens and compelled to release the lads. The offenders narrowly escaped lynching.

The emigration from Germany to America during the first five months of the present year amounted to 55,567, or nearly 10,000 more than the largest total during any five months of the last five years.

The Sugar Trading and Finance Company of Central America—capital, $25,000,000—has been organized. The company will buy and sell sugar and other products, and will establish agencies in the West Indies for that purpose.

The cattle baron has passed away in Texas, and his immense pastures are being cut up into farms. A 20,000-acre pasture was cut up into farms a few weeks ago, and it realized at auction an average of between $7 and $8 an acre.

Land Commissioner Carter thinks the only relief the Kaweah colonists have is through Congress. He thinks they should be compensated for improvements made; but there is but one course to pursue now, and that is to enforce the law.

The drought in Connecticut is startling, and the heat is intense. The rivers, ponds and mill streams are lower than for years. Many mills have been compelled to stop. The loss to crops and wages, if rain does not fall soon, will be great.

SPORTING NOTES.

An Epitome of What is Occurring in the Sporting World.

Jim Corbett has deposited $1,000 with the New York *World* to fight any man above ground, Queensbury rules, either to finish or limited number of rounds. He prefers Slavin or Mitchell.

The California Athletic Club has received a cablegram from Ted Pitchford, the English pugilist, offering to meet Bob Fitzsimmons for any purse the club might offer. The Board of Directors will consider the matter at its next meeting.

Jimmy Carroll, who is acting as manager for Aleck Gregains, met Young Mitchell and tried to open negotiations for a match with Mitchell after the latter's battle with Reddy Gallagher. Mitchell's reply was that, win or lose, he would retire after the match with Gallagher.

Hanlan and O'Connor have issued a double-scull challenge to the world. They will row three miles against any other double for from $500 to $5,000 a side. If any two Australians will come to this country they will guarantee them two single sculling races for $2,500 a side, and will allow $2,000 for expenses if a double-scull match is made for $5,000 or more a side.

C. W. Williams having been asked to enter Allerton in a free-for-all for $10,000 with Stamboul and Palo Alto, the race to take place in San Francisco and Allerton have $5,000 expenses, telegraphed as follows: "I decline, as Allerton will not leave Independence this season." Williams says he will give Nelson, Stamboul or Palo Alto, each or all of them, $5,000 for expenses to come to the October meeting at Independence, Ia., and trot against Allerton, and that he will give $10,000 to the winner.

Our Latest and Greatest Premium Offer!

THE MAMMOTH CYCLOPÆDIA,

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

A Great and Wonderful Work,

CONTAINING

2,176 Pages

AND

620 Beautiful Illustrations!

THE MAMMOTH CYCLOPÆDIA has been published to meet the wants of the masses for a universal compendium of knowledge, practical, useful, scientific and general. The work is published complete in four large and handsome volumes, comprising a total of 2,176 pages, and is profusely illustrated with 620 beautiful engravings. Thousands of dollars have been expended to make this the most complete, valuable and useful work for the masses ever published. It is a work for everybody—man, woman and child, in every occupation or walk in life. The substance and practical utility of twenty ordinary volumes are comprised in these four, and so replete is the work with knowledge of every kind, so filled is it with useful hints and helpful suggestions, that we fully believe that in every home to which it shall find its way it will soon come to be regarded as worth its weight in gold. For want of space we can only briefly summarize a small portion of the contents of this great work, as follows:

HISTORY. THE MAMMOTH CYCLOPÆDIA contains a complete and authentic history of the great American Civil War, profusely illustrated, with numerous anecdotes of the Rebellion; a complete History of America, from its discovery by Columbus to the present time; graphic descriptions of famous battles and important events in the history of all nations, chronological history, etc., etc.

BIOGRAPHY. This great work contains the Lives of all the Presidents of the United States, from Washington to Harrison, with portraits and other illustrations, also lives and portraits of Napoleon Bonaparte, Shakespeare, Byron, William Penn, Benjamin Franklin, Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and famous statesmen, authors, poets, generals, clergymen, etc., down to the present day.

AGRICULTURE. Valuable hints and useful suggestions to farmers, treating of field crops, gates and fences, fertilizers, farm implements; livestock raising, including the treatment of diseases of domestic animals; poultry keeping, and how made successful and profitable; bee keeping, dairy farming, etc. The treatment of these subjects is complete and exhaustive, and renders the work of great practical use to farmers and stockmen.

HORTICULTURE. Herein is given the most useful hints to growers of all kinds of vegetables and fruits, as gathered from the experience of the most successful horticulturists.

ARCHITECTURE. Designs and plans for houses, cottages, barns and other outbuildings, with valuable suggestions to those intending to build.

HOUSEHOLD. This work contains tried and tested recipes for almost every imaginable dish for breakfast, dinner and tea; this department alone being worth more than nine tenths of the cook books sold; almost innumerable hints, helps and suggestions to housekeepers; designs and suggestions for making many beautiful things for the adornment of home, in needlework, embroidery, etc.; hints on floriculture, telling how to be successful with all the various plants; toilet hints, telling how to preserve and beautify the complexion, hands, teeth, hair, etc., etc.

MEDICAL. Many dollars in doctors' bills will be saved annually to every possessor of this book through the valuable information herein contained. It tells how to cure, by simple yet reliable home remedies, available in every household, every disease and ailment that is curable, this department forming a complete medical book, the value of which to any home can hardly be computed in dollars and cents.

INVENTION AND DISCOVERY. Remarkably interesting descriptions of great inventions, including the Steam Engine, the Telegraph, the Printing Press, the Electric Light, the Sewing Machine, the Telephone, the Type Writer, the Type Setting Machine, the Cotton Gin, etc.

THE WORLD'S WONDERS. Graphic descriptions, beautifully illustrated, of the Yellowstone Park, Yosemite Valley, Niagara Falls, the Alps, Paris, Vesuvius, Venice, Vienna, the Canons of Colorado, Mammoth Cave, Natural Bridge, Watkins Glen, the White Mountains, etc., etc.

TRAVELS. Descriptions, profusely illustrated, of the life, manners, customs, peculiar forms, rites and ceremonies of the Chinese, Japanese, the people of India, Africa, Madagascar, Palestine, Iceland, Borneo, Burmah, the Sandwich Islands, Russia, Kaffaria, Tartary, Cashmere and Tunis, the Arabs, Turks, Mexicans, South Americans, American Indians, Egyptians, Siamese, Abyssinians, Norwegians, Spaniards, Swiss, Italians, Greeks, Russians, Siberians, Afghans, Persians, Moslems, Australians, Bulgarians, Sicilians, etc., etc.

MANUFACTURES. In this great work is also described and illustrated the arts and processes of printing, stereotyping, bookbinding, wood engraving, lithography, photography, calico printing, piano making, watch making, paper making, the manufacture of silk, iron, steel, glass, china, perfumery, soap, starch, wall paper, linoleum, postal cards, postage stamps, envelopes, pens, pencils, needles, and many other things, all of which will be found peculiarly interesting and instructive.

FOREIGN PRODUCTS. Interesting descriptions, illustrated, of the culture and preparation for market of tea, coffee, chocolate, cotton, flax, hemp, sugar, rice, nutmegs, cloves, ginger, cinnamon, allspice, pepper, cocoanuts, pineapples, bananas, prunes, dates, raisins, figs, olives, india-rubber, gutta percha, cork, camphor, castor oil, tapioca, etc., etc.

NATURAL HISTORY. Interesting and instructive descriptions, accompanied by illustrations, of numerous beasts, birds, fishes and insects, with much curious information regarding their life and habits.

LAW. THE MAMMOTH CYCLOPÆDIA is also a complete law book, telling every man how he may be his own lawyer, and containing full and concise explanations of the general laws and the laws of the several States upon all matters which are subject to litigation, with numerous forms of legal documents.

MINING. Descriptions and illustrations of the mining of gold, silver, diamonds, coal, salt, copper, lead, zinc, tin and quicksilver.

WONDERS OF THE SEA. Herein are described and illustrated the many wonderful and beautiful things found at the bottom of the ocean, the plants, flowers, shells, fishes, etc., likewise pearl diving, coral fishing, etc., etc.

STATISTICAL AND MISCELLANEOUS. Herein is given a vast amount of useful and interesting information, some of which is the population of American cities, area and population of the continents, of the States and Territories, and of the principal countries of the world, length of the principal rivers, cyclonic vote for sixty years, Presidential statistics, area and depth of seas, lakes and oceans, height of mountains, locomotion of animals and velocity of motion, height of monuments, towers and structures, distances from Washington, also from New York, to important points, chronological history of discovery and progress, popular subriquets of American States, cities, etc., common grammatical errors, rules for spelling, pronunciation and use of capitals, Wall Street phrases, commerce of the world, curious facts in natural history, longevity of animals, origin of the names of States, and of countries, of great works, popular fables, familiar quotations, of genius and of plants, dying words of famous persons, fate of the Apostles, statistics of the globe, leading governments of the world, etc., etc.

From the above brief summary of its contents some idea of what a remarkably interesting, instructive and valuable work the MAMMOTH CYCLOPÆDIA is may be gained, yet but a fractional part of the topics treated in this great work have been named. It is a vast storehouse of useful and entertaining knowledge—unquestionably the most valuable and most valuable works ever published in any land or language. No home should be without it. It is a work to be consulted every day with regard to the various perplexing questions that constantly arise in writing and conversation, by the farmer and housewife in their daily duties and pursuits, and for continuous reading no work is more entertaining or instructive.

Grand Premium Offer to Subscribers to the Scout.

By special arrangement with the publisher of the MAMMOTH CYCLOPÆDIA we are enabled to make our subscribers and readers the following extraordinary offer: *We will send the* MAMMOTH CYCLOPÆDIA, *complete in four volumes, as above described all postage prepaid, also* THE OREGON SCOUT *for* ONE YEAR, *upon receipt of only* $2.25, *which is but 75 cents more than our regular subscription price, so that you practically get this large and valuable work for the trifling sum of 75 cents.* This is a great offer, a wonderful bargain, and it is a pleasure to us to be enabled to afford our readers so remarkable an opportunity. Through this extraordinary offer we hope to largely increase our circulation. Please tell all your friends that they can get the MAMMOTH CYCLOPÆDIA in four volumes, with a year's subscription to our paper, for only $2.25. Perfect satisfaction is guaranteed to all who take advantage of this great premium offer. Those whose subscriptions have not yet expired who renew now will receive the MAMMOTH CYCLOPÆDIA at once, and their subscriptions will be extended one year from date of expiration. The MAMMOTH CYCLOPÆDIA will also be given free to any one sending us a club of three yearly subscribers to our paper, accompanied with $4.50 in cash. Address all letters:

The Oregon Scout, Union, Or.

GRAND PREMIUM OFFER!

A SET OF THE

WORKS OF CHARLES DICKENS,

In Twelve Large Volumes,

Which we Offer with a Year's Subscription to this Paper for a Trifle More than Our Regular Subscription Price.

CHARLES DICKENS.

Wishing to largely increase the circulation of this paper during the next six months, we have made arrangements with a New York publishing house whereby we are enabled to offer as a premium to our subscribers a **Set of the Works of Charles Dickens**, in **Twelve Large and Handsome Volumes**, with a year's subscription to this paper, for a trifle more than our regular subscription price. Our great offer to subscribers eclipses any ever heretofore made. Charles Dickens was the greatest novelist who ever lived. No author before or since his time has won the fame that he achieved, and his works are even more popular to-day than during his lifetime. They abound in wit, humor, pathos, masterly delineation of character, vivid descriptions of places and incidents, thrilling and skillfully wrought plots. Each book is intensely interesting. No home should be without a set of these great and remarkable works. Not to have read them is to be far behind the age in which we live. The set of Dickens' works which we offer as a premium to our subscribers is handsomely printed from entirely new plates, with new type. The twelve volumes contain the following world-famous works, each one of which is published *complete, unchanged, and absolutely unabridged:*

DAVID COPPERFIELD,
MARTIN CHUZZLEWIT,
NICHOLAS NICKELBY,
DOMBEY AND SON,
BLEAK HOUSE,
LITTLE DORRIT,
OUR MUTUAL FRIEND,
PICKWICK PAPERS,
BARNABY RUDGE AND CHRISTMAS STORIES,
OLIVER TWIST AND GREAT EXPECTATIONS,
THE OLD CURIOSITY SHOP AND THE UNCOMMERCIAL TRAVELER,
A TALE OF TWO CITIES, HARD TIMES AND THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD.

The above are without question the most famous novels that were ever written. For a quarter of a century they have been celebrated in every nook and corner of the civilized world. Yet there are thousands of homes in America not yet supplied with a set of Dickens, the usual high cost of the books preventing people in moderate circumstances from enjoying this luxury. But now, owing to the use of modern improved printing, folding and stitching machinery, the extremely low price of white paper, and the great competition in the book trade, we are enabled to offer to our subscribers and readers a set of Dickens' works at a price which all can afford to pay. Every home in the land may now be supplied with a set of the great author's works.

Our Great Offer to Subscribers to the SCOUT.

We will send the ENTIRE SET OF DICKENS' WORKS, *in* TWELVE VOLUMES, *as above described, all postage prepaid by ourselves, also* THE OREGON SCOUT *for* ONE YEAR, *upon receipt of* $2.00, *which is only 50 cents more than the regular subscription price of this paper.* Our readers, therefore, practically get a set of Dickens' works in twelve volumes for only 50 cents. This is the grandest premium ever offered. Up to this time a set of Dickens' works has usually been $10 or more. Tell all your friends that they can get a set of Dickens' works in twelve volumes, with a year's subscription to THE OREGON SCOUT for only $2.00. Subscribe now and get this great premium. If your subscription has not yet expired, it will make no difference, for it will be extended one year from date of expiration. We will also give a set of Dickens, as above, free and postpaid, to any one sending us a club of two yearly subscribers, accompanied with $3.00 in cash. Address

THE OREGON SCOUT, Union, Or.