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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 one of the best 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.

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THE OREGON SCOUT, Union, Or.

Judge Sloan's Magnetic Pony.

Rather an interesting contest is in progress at the Santa Fe Land office, entitled the United States against O. F. Perry, and involving the latter's entry of 100 acres, which includes Monument rock, and is said to cover the Breenden mine, upon which J. M. Breeden has been at work for the past six years. It is the old conflict between agricultural and mineral lands. Judge Sloan on the witness stand said he originally located the Breeden mine in 1882, and afterward it was located by Breeden in 1885, who has since worked it almost continuously. Attorney Seward wanted to know if the judge rode his "old roan pony" when he first discovered the mine, and was answered in the affirmative.

The case will be on for several days yet and is being warmly contested on both sides. Reference to the "old roan pony" is of local interest because of the "magnetic influence" as frequently in times past claimed by Judge Sloan for this humble representative of the equine family, now supposed to be dead.

It is related that this pony was a veritable magnet for the discovery of gold, silver, lead or copper deposits; in fact, it is said that whenever, in going along any street, road or mountain path, he crossed ground beneath which was pay mineral, his hair would immediately stand erect, quite on end, "like the quills of the fretful porcupine," and that his rider, Judge Sloan, would receive a shock which warned him of the presence of mineral wealth beneath that ground, and this, it is said, is the secret of the judge's numerous mineral locations all over northern New Mexico.—Santa Fe (N. M.) Special.

Curious Instinct of the Horse.

It is not an uncommon thing in the Argentine pampas—I have on two occasions witnessed it myself—for a riding horse to come home or to the gate of its owner's house to die. I am speaking of riding horses that are never doctored nor treated mercifully, that look on their masters as an enemy rather than a friend; horses that live out in the open, and have to be hunted to the corral or inclosure, or roughly captured with a lasso as they run, when their services are required.

I retain a very vivid recollection of the first occasion of witnessing an action of this kind in a horse, although I was only a boy at the time. On going out one summer evening I saw one of the horses of the establishment standing unsaddled and unbridled, leaning his head over the gate. Going to the spot, I stroked his nose, and then, turning to an old native who happened to be near, asked him what could be the meaning of such a thing.

"I think he is going to die," he answered, "horses often come to the house to die." And next morning the poor beast was found lying dead not twenty yards from the gate, although he had not appeared ill when I stroked his nose on the previous evening, but when I saw him lying there dead and remembered the old native's words it seemed to me as marvelous and inexplicable that a horse should act in that way as if some wild creature—a rhea, a fawn or dilochotes—had come to exhale his last breath at the gates of his enemy and constant persecutor, man.—Longman's Magazine.

An Unhappy Family.

John Regan has among his collection of animals two most remarkable specimens, viz.—a cat and a dog. The latter is a small fox terrier, and some six months ago gave birth to a litter of pups which are now well grown. Puss some five days ago gave birth to three kittens. All went well the first day, but on the second Nellie, the dog, seemed to take an unaccountable fancy to the kittens and very calmly took possession of them, driving puss away.

Nellie watches over the kittens with jealous care, and snaps and snarls at their mother whenever she approaches. The dog is taken away from the kittens in the evening to give puss a chance to become acquainted with her offspring. Nellie keeps up a constant howling during the night, and when released in the morning is with the kittens in an instant, and puss is obliged to vacate the cherished post of wet nurse and betake herself to a chair, which she occupies all day with the air of a policeman off duty.—San Francisco Alta.

Over and Over with His Parachute.

The most thrilling balloon ascension ever given in southern Illinois was that given at Duquoin by Professor Ned Hathaway. Ten thousand people witnessed the start, which was made in the face of a strong wind. Fully 2,500 feet high did the balloon go before the nervy professor cut loose, and down he came at a mile a minute gait, the parachute not working at all. The lad turned over three times. Gaining a fresh hold, he straightened out 500 feet from the ground, which he struck with terrible force. Every one thought him dead. He was taken to the Tingley House with only a severe shaking up.—Cor. St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

It is reported that the observers at Mount Hamilton have lately kept a sharp eye turned upon the shadow of one of the moons of Jupiter. This shadow seemed double, indicating that the tiny moon which cast it is also double. Since the first hint of the discovery many observations have been made through the Lick glass, all tending to confirm the original impression, to wit: That this particular satellite of the greatest of planets is double—a dot of a moon revolving around the main moon.

During the six months from May to December last 13,000 foreign immigrants entered London with an intention to remain, and out of 4,000 arriving during the course of last year by the line plying between Hamburg and Tilbury 80 per cent. were entirely destitute.

The spats are now worn to match the waistcoat by the swaggerest men. A buff colored spats and waistcoat is just about the snappiest thing the season has yet divulged.

BARNUM'S BILL STICKERS.

They Surprise The Englishmen by the Rapidity of Their Work.

Opposite to this house is a boarding thirteen feet high by over one hundred feet long, and in a few minutes I was to see a feat in bill posting such as seems hardly credible, now that I sit calmly down to write of it. A wagon having driven up, five men got out of it; one I recognized as Mart Ready, Barnum's boss poster, two were Americans in their neat duck overalls, and two were English bill stickers whose appearance I would rather not describe. In two minutes after their arrival the duck overalled men had out their tin cans full of paste and their eight foot long poles with brushes at the end, and were hard at it covering the boarding with paste from top to bottom, from end to end. The Englishmen stood by with something like sneers on their faces, as who should say: "Well, there ain't much in that; we can cover a boarding with paste, too." Another minute passed and Ready began handing out some carefully folded posters. The Englishmen's faces relaxed a little, as who should say: "What are they goin' to do now?" and they began to whisper together.

The two Americans seized one of the folded posters, gave it a shake, ran the brush end of the long poles under it, raised it, gave a sweep and another sweep, and there on the boarding was a sixteen sheet poster, containing a facsimile of an open letter from P. T. Barnum, headed "My Greatest Venture." Then followed a twelve sheet poster portrait of Barnum, a forty-eight sheet depicting the show tents as they travel in America, a twenty-four sheet picture of Jumbo, a forty-eight sheet representation of the gallery of human freaks of nature, a thirty-six sheet portrait of the fair Indian snake charmer from the Bowery, New York, a forty-eight sheet picture of the menagerie, a thirty-six sheet portrait of the Mexican rider, a forty-eight sheet representation of the elephants performing, a twenty-four sheet picture of the clowns and a twenty-four sheet portrait of Miss Clara O'Brien, the Roman knife thrower.

All along the tops and the bottoms of the pictures "streamers" were pasted. The most remarkable fact, however, was that every one of these huge posters was slung up into position whole—they had been pasted together before starting. The 100 by 13 feet was covered in exactly fourteen minutes and thirty seconds! There! That is something like bill sticking. You ought to have seen the faces of those Englishmen. They were a study for Dickens. Of course a crowd gathered, and, as the omnibuses stop at the Cedars, you may guess there were some quaint remarks from the drivers and conductors.—Pall Mall Gazette.

Almost as Good a Man as Her Brothers.

There is living at a point on East bay, near Pensacola, a remarkable family of four boys and one young woman. The boys consider their sister to be one of themselves, she being in nearly every respect as handy as a boy should be, and sharing the labors of her brothers. They can draw the lines of a ship, hew the timbers, build and launch her, and then sail her around the world. The schooner Axel, a fine little vessel which they have built, is at present somewhere on the gulf under command of Capt. G., one of the brothers, who is a most expert navigator.

The other brothers and sister are now engaged in building another and a larger vessel, which is well under way, and which, when completed and launched, will be one of the stanchest crafts sailing the Mexic sea. The draughtsman who furnished the lines upon which she is being constructed is one of the brothers, the carpenters who are building her are the draughtsman and his brothers and sister, and the master who will sail her will be one of the boys, who will take the remainder of the family for the crew. For miles and miles in all directions from the home the boys have scoured the forests looking for natural crooks to be used as timbers, a great many of which they have found and used as such. The work has so far progressed that the stem will be put in in a few days, when planking will be in order. The vessel will be fashioned after the most approved pattern, and she will measure, when finished, 80 feet over all, have a beam of 24 feet, and has now a keel of 71 feet in length. She will be rigged as a schooner.—Savannah News.

Emperor Ego.

Emperor Ego is the nickname William II has won for himself here, writes a Paris correspondent, "I, me, my, mine," being pronouns that crop up constantly in his speech and letters. His telegrams to Prince Bismarck, published as soon as they arrive, are models of the egotistical style. There's nothing pleases him more than to find himself repeated in print. The first Emperor William had served up to him in his old age, along with his breakfast every morning, two papers, of which special editions were cooked up exclusively for him. He was not aware of this. No journal was ever a cause of sharper cabinent bickerings than this one. Each minister wanted the lion's share of space, thus to influence the august reader. Bismarck eventually managed this special issue himself. The copy which met with his approval was known as "pap for the emperor," who, long before his death, had fallen farther into second childhood than any one suspected.

Move to Save the Buffaloes.

The next legislature of Wyoming will pass a law making the killing of a buffalo a misdemeanor. An act to this effect is not required to protect the buffaloes as game, for the hunter would hunt the mountains and plains for wild buffaloes in vain. It is intended to imply to the men who lie in wait and shoot down the buffaloes that happen to stray off the reservation in the Yellowstone park, where a few relics of the bygone race are preserved. The dead buffalo brings its slayer $200 and the temptation to kill them is a strong one for the hunter.—Exchange.

A Plea for City Playgrounds.

City children are undoubtedly happy in their play, but I cannot watch them without sadness and a regret that the fuller pleasures of a country life will never be theirs at the time they are best fitted to enjoy them. The earnest pleading for a leaf or blossom from the flower laden tourists, returning from his outing, he passes up the street; the eager band of merry children in pursuit of a wandering butterfly—fairylike visitor from a strange land—tell of a formless longing for the unknown freedom of the woods and fields. What can we do to add to the joys of a youth which is all too brief? As you enter your high school, these boys and girls enter on the serious duties of life. Then follows the struggle for existence, and a severe one it usually is.

We cannot give all these children homes in the country, we cannot give them all even an outing there; but we can give them playgrounds in the city; a very little plot here and there will do. We have reserved great parks and squares which we permit them to look at and sometimes to venture on. But as playgrounds these are practically useless; they are accessible to comparatively few. A vacant building lot in the proper district is far more to the purpose. Happy is the boy who lives near one! Notice the evidences of constant use it shows, the small baseball "diamond" clearly outlined, every smooth place pitted with marble holes.

What better investment could our cities make than to purchase small plots like this at intervals throughout the city, tear down the buildings, fill up the cellars, and leave them, with no forbidding sign, open to the children. Their little feet would soon grade and harden the ground. In giving the nation's future workers such an opportunity to lay the foundation for stronger and healthier bodies and brighter wits the city would reap abundant interest on the capital invested.—Frank M. Chapman in St. Nicholas.

Honest New York Shop Girls.

A gentleman who lives in Cincinnati returned home a day or two ago after a fortnight's sojourn here deeply impressed with the honesty of the New York shop girl. On the day after his arrival in town he went into a large retail shop in Fourteenth street and made some trifling purchase. The next day he missed a pocketbook containing fifty dollars in currency. He thought that he had mislaid it in his room at the hotel, and a diligent search was made for it. He gave it up as lost, and would have dismissed the matter from his mind had not the clerk of the hotel suggested that he might possibly have left the pocketbook in some store.

The gentleman attached little importance to the suggestion, but about a week afterward he stepped into the Fourteenth street shop and laughingly asked one of the floor walkers if a pocketbook containing fifty dollars had been found there. Much to his surprise, an affirmative answer was given, and in a few seconds his property was restored to him. He learned that the saleswoman from whom he had made his purchase found the pocketbook on the counter after he had departed and promptly turned it in at the office.

"Are all your clerks as honest as that?" asked the Cincinnati man.

"Certainly," replied the superintendent of the store. "We have never yet failed to return property lost in this store to claimants who could prove their right to it."

"Well, that beats some towns," said the westerner. "Here's a 'V' for the saleswoman."—New York Times.

Those Wires on the Bridge.

Thousands of people cross the bridge every day, but comparatively few of them know much about the wires that are trained across the big structure. They are there in great numbers and of almost endless variety. Their resting place is on the girders. Through them countless messages—telephonic and telegraphic—are transmitted at all hours of the day and night.

Some of them resemble ropes, but they are not, for each contains 500 telephone wires. Of these there are five. Besides them are many other black, snakelike strands, which are other means of communication with Brooklyn and points beyond. Of course, nearly everybody is aware that the land ends of the Atlantic cables of the Commercial company also cross the bridge, but their location is generally misunderstood. They are securely fastened to the under side of the promenade flooring, in plain view of passengers on the trains.—New York Herald.

Magnificent Tobacco Crop.

Good news for smokers comes from Havana. It is expected by the best authorities on the subject there that the present tobacco crop will even surpass that of ten years ago in quality and quantity. It promises, moreover, to "cure" early enough to enable it to be sampled by July. The interior harvests of the last nine years—with the exception of 1888, which was a comparatively good one—had all been late in arriving. For instance, that of 1890, in spite of the most careful treatment, could not be got to "cure" fit for smoking until last January. The crop is roughly estimated at a quarter of a million bales, each of 100 pounds weight.—London Telegraph.

Flannel Shirt, No Waistcoat.

The washable waistcoats that come in many well chosen designs will be worn with the coats and trousers. They may be worn with the cheviot, but not the flannel shirts. If it is so warm that the flannel shirt must be donned for comfort it is too warm to add the weight of the dressy waistcoat.—Clothier and Furnisher.

No Bids for the House.

The ancient house at Jedburg, in which Mary Queen of Scots resided for several weeks during her visit to the border counties in the autumn of 1566, was offered for sale at Edinburgh last week, but there were no bids for the quaint and interesting dwelling, which was reserved at £2,300.—London Truth.

A MEAN MAN.

How He Exercised His Talent on a Chicago Cable Car.

"Do you know I believe I saw the meanest man alive last night on a south street grip," said a friend of mine. "You can bet your winter's coal that the man who croaked something about honesty being the best policy don't live in the same block with him. I was coming in from away out south when a man got on at Thirty-seventh street and took a seat near the front part of the grip. After he'd gone a block or two he seemed to get nervous and said to the gripman:

"'You'd better call out your conductor. I get off at Thirty-third street.'

"The gripman said, 'All right,' and jerked his rope. Well, Thirty-third street came, but no conductor, and the honest man got very much put out about not being able to put up his little nickel. Right here is where the prize mean man got to his work. When he caught sight of that nickel he held out his hand. The man with a conscience recognized the act, thanked him courteously, dropped the nimble nick in his paw and got off. The mean man rode on till he heard the conductor coming for the nickel, when he said:

"'Well, sorry I can't stay with you always, but this is my street. By-by.'

"Then with a graceful wave of his hand he slid off the car. The force of what the gripman said would be lost in the necessary translation. But I think if the grip coming from the opposite direction had scattered that man all along the block, everybody on the car would have been pleased. It wasn't that he had robbed the company that made every one mad. It was the small, low down way he took of doing it."—Chicago Mail.

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Croup. We have selected two or three lines from letters freshly received from parents who have given German Syrup to their children in the emergencies of Croup. You will credit these, because they come from good, substantial people, happy in finding what so many families lack—a medicine containing no evil drug, which mother can administer with confidence to the little ones in their most critical hours, safe and sure that it will carry them through.

ED. L. WILLITS, of Alma, Neb. I give it to my children when troubled with Croup and never saw any preparation act like it. It is simply miraculous.

Mrs. JAS. W. KNOX, Daughters' College, Harrodsburg, Ky. I have depended upon it in attacks of Croup with my little daughter, and find it an invaluable remedy.

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