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SEMI-WEERLY



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The paper of the people

TWELFTH YEAR

SEMI-WERKLY NO. 200. /

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PERMITSHATE Tuesdays and Fridays

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SUICIDE PARTIES.

Favor with American Girls. Mr. Medhurst, formany years British

consul at Shanghai, tells, in the London Million, of a singular "card of in-vitation" which he once received in Chien. It was from a lady, battimating her is tended to commit satisfies on a specified data ishe was very young and attractive, and belonged to a wealthy family, but the Chinese gen-tleman to whom she had been affianced from childhood having died just before the date fixed for their nuptials, she gave out that she deemed it her duty to render her widowhood irrevocable by dying with her betrothed. So she about abreast at this time but sepa-sent cards around to the local gentry rated by a wide patch of ocean. Three giving notice of her purpose. No attempt was made by her relatives or the angles of their courses down to the local authorities to frustrate her the apen, and when they were in sight design, though Mr. Medhurst appealed of each other it was pull devil pull to the mandarins, the general opinion below that she was short to perform a Down in their vessels' holds their enmeritorious act. Eventually, on the gives banged and rattled in countless when life was verily a burden, but I tay named, the woman did deliberate revolutions, twisting their screws as ly sacrifice her life in the presence of thousands of spectators. A stage was erected in the open fields, with a tenterected in the open fields, with a tent-ered frame over it, from which was sus-pended a slin of coulet areas of their shortestacks. Since the up and handed me a bill on a man I knew and said for me to take it around and colpended a slip of scarlet crepe. One can be const. and every man pended a slip of scarlet crepe. One pended a slip of scarlet crepe. One lead about in the parlame of the neck, and then, embracing a little boy presented by one of the bystanders, it can be const. and every man lead to take it around and collect it.

"It's one of our standbys, he said, and every collector Lever sent to him reported him absent or not findable or she mounted a chair and resolutely jumped off, "her little clasped hands saluting the assemblage as her body twirled round with the tightening The woman was not bounded on by a fanatic mob, as was the prac-tice at suttees in Indio, but immolation appeared to be an entirely voluntary act. Sacrifices of this kind, according to Mr. Medburst, are not uncommon in certain parts of China, and, strange to say, they are rewarded with monu-ments, sometimes erected by order of

REMARKABLE HELEN KELLAR. The Little Girl Whose Case Parallels That

of Laura Bridgman. Helen Kellar, the remarkable child who, although born blind and deaf and dumb in Alabama, has accomplished so much that is beautiful and inspiring, numbers among her friends many persons of royal station in European courts who never saw her. One of these, says the Boston Post, is the queen of Greece, who learned of Helen through Michael Anagnos, the director of the institution for the blind, when he visited Greece some time ago. The interest which the queen took in Helen was so intense that she exacted from Mr. Anagnos a promise that he would let her read every letter that Helen wrote to him while she was at the Greek capital, and when he was about to return to this country she indo all him to permit her to retain sor eral of the letters that she had read, which are treasured very highly at the court. The queen expressed on more than one occasion her surprise that Helen, who is not yet in her teens. should have so remarkable a command of the purest English, and hinted that the child might have had some assist-ance in the preparation of her wonderful letters. But Mr. Anagnos disposed of that thought by informing her majesty that there was no person connected with the institution who could write English so faultlessly sweet and pure as Helen wrote, since the little girl never had had an opportunity to form ac-quaintance with any but the loftiest models of the language. Helen has learned to articulate and can speak as freely and fully as any unafflicted person. When she wishes to hold a long sonversation with anybody dear to her she places one finger across the lips of the speaker and another on the throat at the laryux. In this way she understands every word that is uttered as rapidly as could be understood by a person with good eyesight and hearing.

INQUISITIVE FLOWERS. Sotanists Now Affirm the Darwinian Assertion That Some Plants Can Sec. Now it is the hotanists who bring us weird story calculated to send terror the hearts of Lucolic lovers, by afming the assertion of Darwin, that ne plants can see. Only to think of Pho be and Phyllis and Daphne ow your innocent confidences have been violated irreverently and heartlessly in all these bygone centuries! Think of the treachery of the three-leaved clover, and the cold, calculating ruelty of the innocent-looking liverwork the cunning and perfidy of the hyacinth, and even the knowingness of the demure primrose! Who after this will wear a boutonniere, knowing that every act, every innocent flirtation that may happen while it is being worn, may be indelibly recorded upon the foral retina? Science has shown us monsters in our drinking-water, and cated the undreamed terrors of the bacilli in our food; but now it comes o rob sylvan sweetness of its sanctity, and to destroy the sweet illusion that, when we left "the madding crowd" be hind, and turned from our Mayfairs and Murray Hills to the unfrequented ways of field and forest, we could shun the espionage which grows so wearime towards the season's end. Now where shall we turn? Deductions appal us with their suggestions. Plants can see! Can they not hear as well. buttercups said about us, what a shock it might be to our impervious vanity. The ruck, thumbscrew and other

nodes of torture were used by Euro-THE NEW YORK MUSICAL ECHO CO.

Broadway Theatre Bidg., New York City.
CANVASSERS WANTED. pean courts until 1550, not only as a punishment, but also as a means of ob-MME. Moddeska carries in "Henry VIII." a handkerchief which is said to

> rarest pieces of old Spanish lace in ex-Istence JANE HADING, the French actress, is said to be more beautiful off the stage than on. She almost always wears CHIEF.

A NOVEL OCEAN RACE. Entertainments That Would Not Find The Steamers Fire Co Till the Draft Alone

Lines in Yeas of Coal.

In these days of ocean racing the speeding is nearly always done against time, but there was a battle royal ended a few weeks ago between the American steamships Carib Prince and Muriel, says the Cardiff Mail, that would have started the gooseflesh of excitement on the most collected of seamen. The Carib Prince left Dem erara on November 17 and jogge leisurely away on her journey north sail for Europadoes and journeyed in the same direction. Both vessels were

cond-they just opened the furnice doors not the draft lielled in tens at a time. For seven days they were in sight of each other, and the Muriel. with a magnificent burst of speed. crawled an on her rival and then quickly ran out of sight.

DON'T KNOW HOW TO EAT. Too Many Americans Woofully Deficient

in That Branch of Education. "When my children get to the proper of town, and I never paid any attenage," said the man who was smoking a tion to a letter I got from the boss, but briar pipe, "I intend to have them taken in hand by some competent person and give them a thorough instruc-tion in the art of eating, and, further, weeks I called on my man again with

him. "I mean this: The average American eitizen is woefully deficient in knowlfalls down when it comes to ordering a dinner. The great majority of people in this country are brought up fragally at home and do not know anything but the commonest dishes. The consequence is that when a man goes into weeks' salary." sees many things of which he does not plode, but he didn't; he gulped it all know the component parts. He dares not order anything that he is not sure "Young man," he said, 'y on roast beef and mashed potatoes. fact is, he doesn't know anything but roast beef. Same way in a restaurant. When a waiter shoves a bill of twenty-five I was a partner. fare under a man's nose nine times out of ten he will look it over and then say: Gimme a steak and some fried potatoes.' Now, the man who does this Rich Oil. toes.' Now, the man who does this and I'll bet it's that way with most of of all these things. They're going to know what's what when it comes to 'No roast beef domination!' shall be my household slogan."

A CRUSHED INSURANCE AGENT. His Intended Victim Led Him to a Place Where a Human Voice Was Useless.

"The toughest experience I ever had in my life," said a solicitor of life in-surance to a New York Herald man, was with an iron manufacturer in Troy. I had been informed that he was a hard customer, but a wealthy man and one who had carelessly neg lected to provide himself with insurance, and so I resolved to tackle him Upon entering his office and explaining the nature of my business I was surprised at his greeting. It was friendly, even cordial. 'Life insurance.' said he. 'Well, now, that's a subject that interests me. Come with me to the shop; I've got to go there, and you can tell me all about the superiority of your company over all others. Then he took up his hat and bade me follow him. As we went out of the office I noticed a smile on the faces of all the clerks, and though I didn't understand it I smiled in return. for I thought possibly they knew my errand and were congratulating me on my success. The proprietor walked hurriedly and I after him, until at last he flung open a door. It was the ma- average weight of the brain in any chine shop. The din was terrible. A other race, thousand hammers, I think, were all at A BRITIS tarily I put my hands to my ears. to catch his words, shouted above the deafening racket: 'Now, tell me all of dry residue. about it? He smiled sardonically as he said this, and I could have mur-dered him. It was impossible to say a almost certainly prove that it is itself like other forms of created life? If word, and so I went right out. It was liable to the attack of another parasite, only we knew what our dogs and our a darn mean trick."

Better acquaintance with the relations A Busy Household.

Busy-handed must have been the women-folk of a century and a half sgo. It is recorded that one family in Newport, R. I., made in the space of eighteen months four hundred and eighty-seven yards of cloth-carding, spinning, dyeing and weaving every

inch of material used, and also accomhave been the property of Queen Isa-belle. The handlerchief is one of the plished the knitting of thirty-six pairs of stockings-not the thin, delicate and often filmsy hosiery seen nowasys, but such as would bear much eavy use and even be "handed down posterity." It is added that another wport family distinguished themes by making, in the space of four ears, plue hundred and eighty yards woolen class, two correlets, two hemistolise and all this standings quarted

Highest of all in Leavening Power .- Latest U.S. Gov't Report

Baking

OBEYED URDERS STRICTLY.

How a Collector Secured a Six Weeks

Hollday and a Partnership. "When I was a youngster of seventeen," said a successful business man to a Detroit Free Press reporter, "I got a job as collector with a man who was about as strict a martinet as I ever saw. He insisted on everything being done just as he said, and there were times when life was verily a burden, but I

something. Now you go and don't come back here till you see him.'

" 'Do you mean that?" I asked, as two or three clerks looked up.
"'You know me, was all he said in

reply and I went out after my man.
"He wasn't at home, the people said, and wouldn't be for six weeks. So I stuck the bill in my pocket and went off up the country on a visit. The old man sent after me half a dozen times, but my folks could only tell I was out of town, and I never paid any attenin the science of finding out what to the bill. I found him at home and told him what I had done, and he paralyzed

ent and ordering."

"What do you mean?" inquired s
Buffalo Express man who sat next to

"Whot do you mean?" inquired s
Two hours later I stepped into the boss' office. "'There,' I said, before he had time togather his wits, is the amount of edge of what he can get to eat. He your bill and interest. He was out of falls down when it comes to ordering town for six weeks and I couldn't see

good time and the house owes me six a restaurant for dinner or to a hotel he gazes helplessly at the bill of fare and I thought he was going to ex-

not order anything that he is not sure of for fear of ridicule, and he falls back to have been a soldier: I'm going to put you in charge of the collection de-partment and double your salary, and," concluded the merchant, 'when I was

THE TALLOW TREE.

them in dreary and dyspeptic succession, because he doesn't know any several points of view, are never seen better and he is too proud to confess his ignorance. It's that way with me, population, because the documents in population, because the documents in which they appear, being classed with you. I am going to relieve my children other "government publications," are seldom consulted.

In this way, says the Detroit Free Press, much that is interesting and valuable to the scientist and general reader is overlooked. For an instance the descriptions of the curious vegetation of China, especially the "tallow tree." This tree is the stillingia sebifera of the botanist, the root of which produces oil, the bark the famous "rice paper," and the berries tallow. The greasy berries are of a light searlet and resemble those of the coffee of ee, both in size and color. In preparing the tallow the beans or berries are first steamed and then pounded in order to separate the mesocarp from

the kernels. This pulp is then placed in a bamboo seine and the mealy portions separated from the hulls, the tallowy substance having the oil expressed from it in large, primitive wooden presses, while the chaff or hulls is converted into fuel. The oil thus obtained is used for oil stoves, lighting purposes, etc. whole tree from root to leaf is sur-charged with oleaginous matter, and broken limbs and abrasions in the bark ha ve been known to exude pure oil for

MEDICAL SCIENCE. THE average weight of the Chinese brain is said to be heavier than the

A BRITISH scientist recently stated work beating iron at once. Involun- that if a man weighing one hundred and forty pounds were placed under a search of work, where they help to hydraulic press and squeezed flat, the swell the ranks of the unemployed, Looking at my man I saw his lips move.
and lowering my hands I just managed result would be one hundred and five pounds of water and thirty-five pounds RECENT studies of cancer not only in

> of these parasites may possibly bring the long-sought method of arresting cancer. DR. FRANCIS DOWLING, of Cincinnati has published the result of his examination into the effect of tobacco chewing on the eyes. The experiments covered three thousand cases, and showed that ninety-five per cent, suffered with visual troubles, and nearly as many ex-

hibited muscular deterioration. SWAIN was formerly a man who kept hogs, and his descendants are Swaines, Swaynes, and perhaps also Swaims, Swinnerts and Hoggarts.

HILL comes from an old English verb meaning to cover, or put a roof on; hence the Hills, Hillyers, Helliers, Regions, and good Halman and Heel Bies.

IMPROVING THE EYES.

Country Life Is the Best Antidote for Nearsightedness. It is satisfactory to be told by Mr. Ellis that blindness in England is "slowly decreasing," says the Specta-tor, though Great Britain still stands in this respect behind two other European countries, and three more come before Ireland. Shortsightedness, however, appears to be increasing everywhere, Germany having a signal

and sinister preeminence in this respect A French doctor has noted the remarkable fact that wild beasts caught quite young or born in captivity become shortsighted, the conclusion being that the eye adapts itself to its habitual aphere of vision, and unless "educat-ed," to use Mr. Ellis' term, to see ob-jects at a distance, loses the capacity

of so doing. Even in after life the eye may be, to some extent, so educated though probably only when the myopia is not considerable. It is thus within the experience of the present writer that his sight greatly improved in days gone by, when he became a volunteer, by practice at the butts, so that while at first he could not see the target to shoot at without spectacles at the three-hundred-yard range, after a twelvemonth or so he only needed to put on spectacles at four hundred yards. But beyond that

range he was never able to dispense with them. Country excursions are therefore extremely valuable as means of strengthening the sight of town-bred children; and the conductors of such excursions should take pains to direct the eyes of the children to distant objects—to the furthest hill, church tower or other landmark, noting, if possible, any in-capacity to discern the selected object, and then selecting some nearer one for the weaker-sighted

FREE MAIL DELIVERY.

Curious Besuit of an Experiment by the The difference between city and country ways have been illustrated in a curious manner by an experiment of the post office department, says the New York Evening Post. Under the last administration about fifty villages and small towns, ranging in population from eight hundred to four thousand inhabitants, were picked out for a trial of the system of distributing mail matter by carrier, as in large cities. At first general satisfaction day after day doesn't want roast beef. He is sick unto death of steaks and fried potatoes. He loathes ham and eggs, and yet he keeps on ordering the state of the things which come under their observation while in line the convenience astimulated correspondence. but as the novelty wore off the resi dents very generally tired of the change and returned to the old practice of going to the office themselves for their mail. A majority of the peo ple would apparently rather have their letters lie in the office until they call for them and thus have an excuse for frequent visits to the center of local activity than have their mail delivered every day at their houses. The carrier in such places is really a foe to social activity, as "going to the post office" has always been a recognized means of mixing with men, and its occasional inconvenience is preferable to the loss of what is often only a pretext for making a break in the monotony of a retired life. In view of the evidence that there is not "a long-felt want" to be met by this system of free delivery in small communities, and of the fact that its general adoption would involve an annual expense of at least ten million dollars, the first assistant postmaster general wisely advises a suspension of the experiment.

The Moulik Crar.

Alexander III. seems determined to live up to his sobriquet of "the moujik ezar." He has just affixed his signature to a project of law now being elaborated by the council of the empire, which is destined to render inalienable the landed allotments of the peasants. The object of this measure of course, to prevent the seizure of the land for debt by the money lenders, whom he regards as the principal cause of the present distress and agricultural depression in his dominions. For the peasants, when once deprived of their lands, lose every interest in the wel-fare of their "mir," or community, and drift away to the towns and cities in who constitute a permanent source of embarrassment to the authorities.

RUDYARD KIPLING has applied for membership to the Society of American Authors. Kipling is democratic enough when it comes to pocketing all the royalties in sight.

The Only Tune Harrison Likes. During the darkest days of the war, when military tunes and ballads were sung everywhere till people were about sick of them, there was played in New York, says the Press of that town, a soldier's march which was immediately popular all over the country. It was the late Charles Gounod's "The Soldiers' Chorus," from "Faust," and after a year or so America got as tired of it as it recently did of "Annie Rooney." Ex-President Harrison first heard it played by one of the army bands in Sherman's army. It is the only air he ever liked. In the case of most tunes he did not know one tone from the other, and he is probably the only perean in the United spaces to day who posses the Sandues Charus" played and feels inspirited by it.