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OFFICIAL SEMI-WEEKLY PAPER

Heppner Gazette.

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With printer's ink consistent,
One word must learn nor from it turn,
And that one word's persistent.

TWELFTH YEAR — HEPPNER, MORROW COUNTY, OREGON, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1894. — WEEKLY NO. 615. SEMI-WEEKLY NO. 294.

SEMIWEEKLY GAZETTE.

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—BY—

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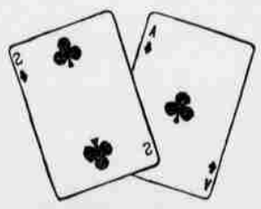

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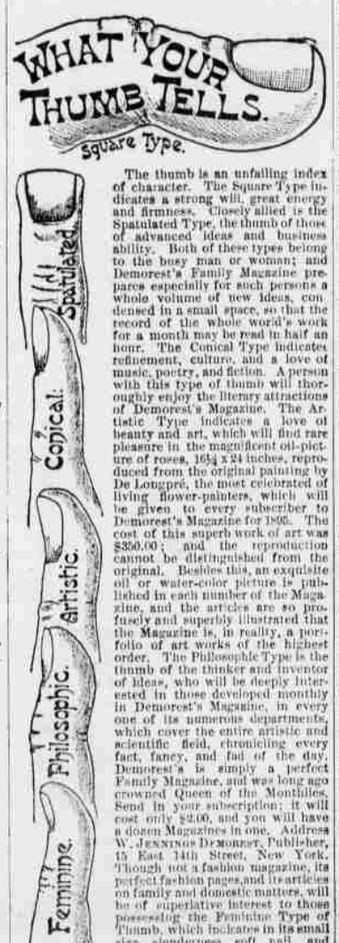

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FERRY'S SEEDS

Ask your dealer for them. Send for Ferry's Seed Annual for 1895. Invaluable to all planters and lovers of Fine Vegetables and Beautiful Flowers. Write for it—Free. D. M. FERRY & CO., Detroit, Mich.

INDIAN SINGERS.

Their Vocalization Is Crude, But Highly Appreciated by Their Fellows.

In an address delivered in Washington, D. C., upon "Indian Music," Miss Alice Fletcher stated that the music of the Indians is solely and simply vocal. Their songs are compositions which have in them nothing borrowed from instruments, nothing of artificial instigation.

An Indian melody never serves two sets of words; there is no instance where the people have a custom like our own of singing the different stanzas of a ballad to the same tune.

A large proportion of Indian songs are entirely without words, syllables being used to carry the tones. Perhaps the most striking peculiarity of Indian music is the lack of definite pitch, for there is no such thing as a standard pitch among the Indians.

The Indian starts his song where the natural quality of his voice and his present mood renders it easiest for him to sing it. A tenor will naturally sing upon a higher pitch than a bass; a soprano will differ from a contralto. The pitch of a song depends upon the individual.

With the Indian there has never been anything we should call vocal training—any drill as to pitch. Some Indians, like some white people, always sing flat; while some Indians, like some of us, have what we call natural musical ears, and they sing in tones surprisingly near to our standards.

Such Indians are recognized by their fellows as musical leaders. They are considered the best singers, men whose services are sought and paid for on occasions of festivity.

WANTED TO USE PLATINUM.

Interesting Experiment in Coinage Made by the Russian Government.

"Once upon a time," said Mr. C. O. Baker, Jr., of New York, who is connected with the only platinum refining plant in the United States, "Russia concluded to try the experiment of using platinum as a money metal, says the Washington Post. There is really little of that article found anywhere else on the globe except in the Ural mountains, in the czar's dominions, and having a monopoly of the precious stuff, the idea of using it as a coin seemed plausible. But it didn't prove a glittering success, and I have never seen any coin made of platinum by that government dated later than 1844.

"Here is one of the samples of the Russian experiment," said Mr. Baker, taking from his pocket a piece about the size of a silver quarter. It bore the date 1830 and had some Russian characters on it signifying it to be of the value of six rubles, or about $4.75 in American money.

"I gave $11 for it, however," said Mr. Baker, "and its intrinsic value is worth nearly that amount. Of course, no other nation would go in with Russia and take platinum for money, seeing that no other country produced any of it to speak of, which may be a tip to some of our silver friends. Platinum is lower than it was two years ago, being worth now $10.50 an ounce, though a while back it was worth $17 an ounce. At its present price it is just about half as valuable as gold. It is the heaviest of metals, its specific gravity exceeding that of gold about 5 per cent., and so ductile that it can be drawn into a thread 1-1000 of an inch in diameter."

HELPED THEM DIE EASY.

Farmer Leach's Indorsement of the Hog Cholera Cure.

"In Nemaha county, southeastern Nebraska," said Representative Mercer, of Omaha, "there lives an old farmer named Rufus Leach. The hog cholera was raging in the county and Leach's hogs were dying fast, when along came a smooth-tongued fakir with a patent cholera cure for hogs. He showed Leach his goods, read him the directions on the bottles, and sold him two or three bottles of the compound for five dollars.

"Three or four weeks later Farmer Leach was standing at his gate in the evening when a well-dressed stranger, who was driving by, hailed him. There was an air of desolation about the farm, a lull as of death, unrelieved by the musical bass grunts of a lot of contented hogs.

"'Good evening, Mr. Leach,' called out the stranger, pulling up at the gate.

"'Good evening,' said Leach.

"'You don't remember me, I see,' said the stranger.

"'No, not exactly,' said the farmer.

"'I sold you some cholera cure for your hogs a few weeks ago,' the stranger explained.

"'Oh, you're the man, are you?' said Leach, quietly.

"'Yes,' said the fakir, 'and, by the way, how did it work.'

"'Well,' said Leach, in his complacent style, 'I don't know that it done any good, except to make the hogs die a little easier.'"

Two Very Old Ladies.

It is well known that women attain an extraordinary age oftener than men. One of the most celebrated female centenarians was Countess Desmond, who lived one hundred and forty-five years, and died in the reign of James I. as the result of an accident. This extraordinary woman was, at the age of one hundred years, so active and lively that she used to take part in the dances with young people. At the age of one hundred and forty-five years she traveled from Bristol to London, no small undertaking in those days. Even this instance, however, is surpassed by the case of a French woman named Marie Prion, who died at St. Colombe at the age of one hundred and fifty years.

INDIAN RICE PICKERS.

How They Inaugurate the Season in the Wisconsin Fields.

The Exercises Include the Execution and Mock Eating of a Dog and the Welkin Is Made to Ring by the Redmen's Revels.

Up in Chippewa county, Wis., around the shores of Rice lake, weird fires break the darkness during the August nights, and the occasional lone white man, camped in the neighboring wilderness, hears, apparently emanating from the flames, unearthly kinds of noises, echoing over the waters. This is the season of the year the Chippewa Indians come down from their settlement on Sand lake to pick the wild rice which grows in profusion at Rice lake, about ten miles from the village of Cartwright.

Hundreds of braves and squaws and papooses assemble on the borders of the lake, and the night is sometimes made hideous with their historic dances and revelries, says the Chippewa Falls Herald. Last season the rice picking was inaugurated with the most solemn dance in the traditions of the tribe—the dog dance. It requires a milk white dog for the occasion, whose sacrifice is demanded before the dance can proceed, and while the animal's blood is flowing from the wound which causes its death, the dance is begun and continues with the greatest fervor until the dog has breathed its last. The carcass is afterward baked in a boiling pot of water and the Indians, after going through an imitation of feasting on the remains, bury it with exaggerated ceremonies.

The next day rice-picking is commenced, and to those who never witnessed the mode of gathering the seed the operations of the Indians are certainly interesting. Several of the tribe take a canoe, and while one paddles around through the rice fields, the others knock the seeds from the heads into the bottom of the boat. After a load is obtained it is rowed to shore, where others await it to take charge of the "curing" operations. It is thrown into a large kettle, which stands over a blazing fire, and is allowed to bake there until turned into a beautiful brown. Then another set of workers take charge of it, and it is subjected to the "stamping" operation. At this part of the proceedings the spectators are liable to become a little disgusted with the work. The rice is lowered in a deer skin into a pit in the earth, and a swarthy Indian, stripped to the waist, jumps into the hole and commences to stamp with all his might. If he sees a doubtful expression on the faces of those not familiar with this method of cleaning the rice he reassures them with the statement that his "feet are heap clean, wash 'em good before getting in," and goes on with the arduous exercise amid clouds of dust. After the foreign substances are thus removed it is set away in baskets, ready for the market.

The rice is sold to stores and private families for ten cents a pound. About six hundred bushels are gleaned yearly and the tribe is amply repaid for its trouble in gathering and preparing it. This year the yield has not been so large as it has been in former seasons. The plant is said to be gradually dying out, owing to the manner in which the Indians gather it, and it may require only a few seasons more to kill it effectually. The land on which it stands is owned by a Menominee company and is donated to the Chippewa tribe for the picking.

After the rice season is over cranberrying commences, and several weeks' employment is obtained on the marshes near Cartwright.

CRAZED ENGINEERS.

Instances in Which Unavoidable Accidents Have Unhinged Men's Reason.

The strange antics of a crazy engineer at Alton, Ill., recently suggest the fact that insanity is very frequent among railway employes. Two dramatic illustrations may be mentioned. There is living in New Jersey not far from Philadelphia, says the Philadelphia Times, a man who for many years was the foremost passenger engineer between New York and Philadelphia on the Pennsylvania railroad. He ran all the specials and best trains and in ten years never had an accident. One night in the gleam of the headlight he saw a woman. He had only time to see her hands raised and to hear her cry, and before he could put his hand upon the lever he felt a jerk under the wheels and knew that all was over. Since that night he has never been on an engine. For months he did not sleep and later became practically insane, but only on the one point of seeing and hearing the woman his engine killed. Now he goes about harmlessly and aimlessly, but he has to be kept away from railroads, and in his fretful sleep he awakes with cries and paroxysms of horror. The other case is that of a man who was conductor of a train on the Camden & Amboy, whose train had an accident. He came out all right himself, but it preyed so upon his mind that one night he left his home, and, going to the point where the accident occurred, threw himself in front of a passing train, receiving injuries from which he died.

MUSHROOM DRUNKARDS.

The Fungus Used in Asia and Scotland to Promote Intoxication.

The inhabitants of the northeastern part of Asia use a mushroom to promote intoxication. It is known, says the Chicago Tribune, as the fly-blown mushroom and is also very abundant in Scotland. The fungus is gathered in the hottest part of the year, and is then hung up by a string in the open air to dry. Some are dry before gathered, and these are dated to be far more powerful than those artificially preserved. Usually the fungus is rolled up like a bolus and taken without chewing; for, if masticated, it is said to disorder the stomach.

One large or two small fungi produce what is looked upon as a pleasant state of intoxication for one day. The effect is the same as that produced on taking a quantity of spirits or wine, except that it is delayed from one to two hours after the bolus is swallowed. At first it produces very cheerful emotions of the mind. It renders some persons exceedingly active, and it is a stimulant to muscular exertion; thus, if a person affected by it wishes to step over a straw or a small stick, it impels him to take a jump sufficient to clear a low hedge or the trunk of a tree; it keeps those fond of music perpetually singing, and under its influence a talkative person can neither keep secrets nor silence for any length of time.

Telegraphing 107 Years Ago.

At Dublin, Ireland, in 1788, was published a volume entitled "Arthur Young's Travels in France," which contains an extract from a letter written on October 16, 1787, and which is here transcribed: "M. Lomond is a most ingenious mechanic. He made a remarkable discovery in electricity. You write two or three words on paper; he takes it with him into a room, and turns a machine inclosed in a cylinder case, at the top of which is an electrometer, a small fine pith ball; a wire connects with a cylinder or electrometer in a distant apartment, and his wife, by remarking the corresponding motions of the ball, writes down the words they indicate, from which it appears that he has formed an alphabet of motions. As the form of the wires makes no difference in the effect, the correspondence may be carried on to any distance, within or without a fortified town, for instance, or for purposes much more worthy."

A DANGEROUS TREE.

The Manchineel of Africa—How It Is Used by the Natives.

Everywhere the manchineel has the unenviable reputation of being a most dangerous tree, in the shade of which it is never safe to rest. This evil reputation has its origin in the poisonous qualities of the sap and fruit of a tree of this kind found in Africa—the arborescent euphorbia. This tree has a magnificent but most peculiar appearance, and the thickness of its foliage, which wholly excludes the sun, seems to invite the traveler to rest beneath its branches.

The negroes have a way of taking advantage of the delightfully cool shade and at the same time avoiding the danger from the poisonous droppings of the tree. They erect a thatched roof below the lowest branches and then repose in security.

M. Tremaux, says the Chicago News, in a narrative of his excursion to the Soudan, has an interesting passage respecting these arborescent euphorbias.

"While taking a view of Cacane," he says, "I asked one of the negroes who stood near me to go and seat himself under a great euphorbia which stood in the foreground. At first he hesitated, then, after a little, he decided to yield, but not without raising his eyes many times in apprehension toward the branches of the tree.

"I was about to climb upon a rock to break off a branch—which I brought home with me to France—but the negro, seeing me approach, fled in terror from the shade of the deadly tree, gesticulating wildly and shouting words in a language which I could not comprehend. His signs, however, and a few Arab words uttered by one of the bystanders—'Do you mean to die?' made me understand that in touching the tree I was running a serious risk.

"But the thing was done and the broken branch in my hand. Immediately a milky liquid flowed forth, in much greater quantity than I could have imagined from what I knew of these plants in other countries, covering my clothes and penetrating even to my skin.

"The features and gestures of the negroes expressed their fear. They made me understand that if the white juice touched one of the numerous wounds which I at that time had on my body I should die, and that it was dangerous even to let it touch the skin.

"It is with this juice that they poison their weapons in order to make their wounds mortal. They first thicken it till it acquires the consistency of paste, then they dip in it the points or blades of the weapons which they wish to poison."

Trees of this kind are often twenty-four feet in diameter and seventy feet in circumference. The greatest height of trees of this size is twenty-four feet. The trunk and large branches are of hard wood; the smaller branches consist mostly of pith and parenchyma, sustained by a slender woody fiber.

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

Royal Baking Powder

ABSOLUTELY PURE

A ROYAL DEADBEAT.

How King Milan Filled His Depleted Purse by Shady Methods.

One hundred and sixty thousand dollars per annum is the income conceded to ex-King Milan of Servia, by his son and by the national treasury in consideration of his quitting the country and betaking himself once more to Paris or some other distant capital. It is now some months since he left the French metropolis to all intents and purposes penniless, numerous judgments out against him and a quantity of so-called debts of honor unpaid. His credit was exhausted and he was, financially speaking, on his beam ends. It may be remembered, says a writer in the Philadelphia Press, that when he first abdicated he stipulated for a large annuity, which was granted to him. On two occasions subsequently he obtained large lump sums from the Servian army to defray pressing debts. Then he commuted his annuity for a third lump sum of large dimensions, sold his office and dignities in Servia for a fourth sum, his Servian citizenship for a fifth and finally obtained from the czar a gift of two million rubles in return for a solemn understanding never under any circumstances to return to Servia. It was not very long before he had squandered all his money at the card table, upon the turf and in the demi-monde.

Finding himself without resources, he effected a reconciliation with his wife in the hope of inducing her to come to his assistance, she being very rich. Queen Natalie, however, knows her husband too well and declined to do anything whatever for him until he had eaten humble pie by himself demanding the annulment of that divorce which he had taken so much trouble to obtain, and even then she refused to give him any of her own money, but merely offered to use her influence with her son to grant him a new allowance. Seeing that young Alexander was somewhat slow about complying with the request, and his position at Paris without either money or credit being absolutely untenable, he, in defiance of all the promises which he had made alike to the czar, to the Austrian government and that of Servia, returned to Belgrade, where his presence brought about a couple of ministerial crises and led to no end of difficulty. And he has refused to budge from there until his financial exigencies are complied with.

I suppose that unless the tired Servians depute some one to put him out of the way by means of knife, pistol or poison, we shall in course of time see him once more going through the same process. That is to say, he will commute his present income for a lump sum, squander it and then return to Belgrade and upset one or two more ministries, disturbing things generally until again bought off.

A Rare Occurrence.

The rare instance of the coming of age of a whole trio of triplets was celebrated recently at Whitemast, near Leamington, England. Generally in case of triplets the children die soon after birth, but occasionally they survive and reach maturity. One case is on record of quadruplets, all of whom were reared.

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OUR SPECIALTY. Each month we tell you how to get a complete suit for from $10.00 to $15.00 equal to tailor made. Just how to do it. Where to get it. All the material, even to the minutest little article of trimming. Just how to make it, etc., etc. This alone will be worth fifty times the cost of the subscription to any woman.

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A PATTERN and any four of the following standard books, bound in white and gold, new large type, good paper, all sent free; or the pattern and six sheets of music, such as would cost you 40 cents each in a store, delivered free in any part of the United States or Canada, if you send at once twenty-five 2c. stamps for a new yearly subscription. We lose money by this, but once a subscriber always a subscriber. Can select the pattern any time. Mention the numbers of the books you want. Don't wait 'till its too late.

1. THE YELLOW MASK.—Wilkie Collins.
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