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Glance at this Map

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MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

A silk-woven screen inscribed "This screen, the work of Queen Anne, was presented by her majesty to Rt. Hon. Richard Hill, ambassador to the court of Turin, 1703," came under the hammer in Shrewsbury at the sale of the effects of the bankrupt Viscount Hill, fetching \$430.

—What are said to be the two oldest vessels in the merchant service in the United States arrived at Calais, Me., together a few days ago. They are the Polly, a schooner of eighty-four tons, built in 1805, and the schooner Hiram, built in 1819. The Polly is the vessel that captured a British brig at Machias in the war of 1812.

—A six-year-old German boy arrived in Santa Cruz, Cal., recently, having made the entire trip from Bremen to that place alone. He wore a tag bearing the name and address of his California friends and had a ticket to San Francisco. He says he received great attention and the utmost kindness from everybody during the journey.

—The story of the phoenix is a common superstition in several countries. According to the ancient and best accepted legend the world has but one phoenix. This animal, at the end of 900 years, burns itself to death in a funeral pyre of its own creation, and as soon as it expires another phoenix with wings outstretched rises from the flames.

—A great many persons firmly believe that ants do not sleep. This superstition arises from the fact that in moonlight nights during the summer ants have often been seen at work about their nests. People of almost all nations have believed that ants lay up food for the winter. The alleged fact is mentioned many times in ancient and modern literature, and is directly stated in the Book of Proverbs. They do no such thing. During the winter they remain in a torpid or semi-torpid condition, reviving under the genial warmth of the spring sun.

—The bicycle has taken Holland, and the state railroads have had to determine what they shall do with it. Unpacked and accompanied by the rider they will take it as personal baggage for the sum of seventy cents—equal to twenty-eight of ours. This is for any distance, but you can't go far in Holland unless you go round and round. The owner must help take it on and off the baggage car, and transfer it from one train to another where such is necessary; and the railroad will not be responsible for damage to an unpacked wheel.

—At Alexandria the Serapeum, where the last of the great public libraries was preserved, was recently discovered by Dr. Bott, director of the Alexandrian museum. The columns that rose in the middle, visible from the sea as well as from the land, he identifies with Pompey's pillar. He has found the tank of the fountain that stood in the central court and the channels cut through the rock that led the water to it, inscriptions of the time of Hadrian and Severus dedicated to Serapis, a bull of fine workmanship, remains of gilded ornaments and a few tombs.

A REGULAR GOLD MINE.

How a Justice of the Peace Mined Millions.

"There's a justice of the peace in a country town not far from here," said a bicyclist to a Buffalo Express man recently, "who has a scheme that will make him a millionaire if he sticks to it for a year or two.

"You see the town has an ordinance forbidding bicycle riding on the sidewalks. A good many wheelmen go that way, so what does this justice do but scoop out a hole and make a great big mud puddle clear across the street right in front of his office. Of course, when a wheelman comes along, rather than ride through the mud, he turns upon the sidewalk. That's what the justice is waiting for. He has a constable on the watch, and the two rush out and nab the cyclist.

"I was caught in the snare one week. Though I protested I only intended to keep on the walk till I passed the mud, it was of no avail. I was fined five dollars and had to pay it. I got a chance to look at his book when he was recording my fine, and there was a record of some of the wheelmen who had been served the same way that day, and it was still early in the afternoon.

"It made me mad, and I began abusing the old fellow for having such a mud-puddle in the street.

"Why don't you fill it up?" I asked, if you want wheelmen to keep in the road?

"He grinned in a most exasperating manner, and answered without so much as a blush:

"'Spose we're goin' to destroy such a source of revenue as that mud-puddle is? I guess not, John, turning to the constable, 'you better take the hose and soften it up a little bit ready for the next sucker."

ALMOST LOST HIS MILLIONS.

Got Back His Fortunes Just Before the Secret Holder Died.

When up-country last year I heard that Chouringhee Lall, manager to Lalla Mitra Pershad, was in Gwalior on some temporary business, and I called on him, as an old friend, at a place in the Lushkar where he was residing.

We discussed the action of government in closing the mints, and I asked his opinion about the possibility of a gold standard for India, and mentioned the fact that certain members of the Currency association considered the fifty million pounds of gold would be sufficient to provide India with a gold currency.

The Lalla laughed the idea to scorn, and assured me that fifty million pounds would not suffice to replace the silver hoards of even one state.

"You know," he said, "how anxious the late Maharajah Scindia was to get back the fortress of Gwalior, but very few knew the real cause prompting him. That was a concealed hoard of sixty crores (sixty million pounds) of rupees in certain vaults within the fortress, over which British sentinels had been walking for about thirty years, never suspecting the wealth concealed beneath their feet.

"Long before the British government gave back the fortress, every one who knew the entrance into the concealed hoard was dead, except one man who was extremely old, and although in good health he might have died any day.

"If that had happened, the treasure might have been lost to the owner forever and to the world for ages, because there was only one entrance to the hoard, which was most cunningly concealed, and, except that entrance, every other part was surrounded by solid rock.

"The Maharajah was in such a fix that he must either get back his fortress or divulge the secret to the government and run the risk of losing the treasure forever.

"When the fortress was given back to the Maharajah, and before the British.

HOW TO PREVENT CROUP.

Some Details That Will Prove Interesting to Young Mothers—How to Guard Against the Disease.

Croup is a terror to young mothers and to post them concerning the cause, first symptoms and treatment is the object of this item. The origin of croup is a common cold. Children who are subject to it take cold very easily and croup is almost sure to follow. The first symptom is hoarseness; this is soon followed by a peculiar rough cough, which is easily recognized and will never be forgotten by one who has heard it. The time to act is when the child first becomes hoarse. If Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is freely given all tendency to croupy cough has developed it will prevent the attack. There is no danger in giving this remedy for it contains nothing injurious. For sale by Casser & Brock.

Cataract Cured.

Health and sweet breath secured by Miller's Cataract Remedy. Price 50 cents. Neuralgia driven free. For sale by Casser & Brock.

AMERICAN CONSERVATISM.

The Power and Influence of the Supreme Court of the United States.

The supreme court is not an elective body, and I suppose that might seem to the English radical a sufficient reason for sweeping it away, says the Nineteenth Century. The judges are appointed for life by the president and are responsible to no popular tribunal—not even to public opinion. They sit as a court of pure law, the final authority from which in all America there is no appeal. Their jurisdiction, strictly defined though it be, is co-extensive with the whole union. It is the one instance in history in which popular sovereignty, acknowledged as supreme in the long run for every other purpose and every other authority to which it has delegated power, submits to a master whom it did not appoint and cannot remove and cannot escape. Everybody submits; the states themselves, sovereign as they still are for certain purposes, submit to congress and the president, the army and navy, the people themselves, all submit.

In the hands of the supreme court democracy itself, if it seeks to pass an unconstitutional law, is powerless. A unanimous vote of the people, a unanimous vote of the house and senate and the approval of the president would not make a statute law if the tribunal says it is not a law. But do you ever hear of a proposal to abolish the supreme court? Why not? It is not only that the court has been a great court of great judges, its honesty and ability and wisdom alike recognized, but because the American democracy has the good sense to see that, under a written constitution like that of the United States, such a tribunal is essential to the working of all its parts, and that, check and all-powerful check though it be upon democracy, it is also a guaranty to the American people that, in the words of the preamble of their great charter, justice shall be established and the blessings of liberty preserved to themselves and their posterity.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS.

The hardest varieties of wood, such as mahogany, ebony and lignum-vitae, grow in tropical climates, but their wood does not season as well as that of trees in the temperate zones.

—The "Era of Julius Caesar" began with the reformation of the calendar in 46 B. C. It prevailed in England for civil purposes until 1752, then being superseded by the Gregorian.

—Several substances, whose odor is to western nostrils exceedingly repugnant, are highly esteemed in the east as perfumes. In Persia and Afghanistan, safoetida is considered a delicate perfume, and many luxurious persons carry a quantity of it in their pockets or in a bag suspended from the neck.

—The door nail in earlier times, says an antiquarian, was the plate of the door upon which the old-fashioned knocker struck to arouse the inmates of the house. As the plate or nail was struck many more times than any other nail it was deemed to be more dead than their nails. Hence the phrase; "Dead as a door nail."

—The skeleton of an Indian warrior at least six feet six inches tall was found in Muscongus, Me., a few days ago by two men who were digging a cellar. The body had been buried in a sitting posture, facing east, and about it were found iron implements and spear and arrow heads, while around the arm bones were copper bands covered with curious carvings.

—A new bicycle tire, which is said to be an improvement over those in general use, has been invented and patented by Miss E. S. Hutchins, of Big Rapids, Mich. In the middle of the rim of an ordinary style pneumatic rubber tire is a groove, into which is fitted a smaller tire of leather, which, it is claimed, is much more durable than the present style of all-rubber tires while equally elastic and light.

—Several towns and cities in Oregon and Washington have lately obtained an excellent and adequate water supply in an inexpensive manner by the use of wooden pipes. The pipes are made from common pine logs, ten inches in diameter, hollowed out with a six-inch bore. It is claimed that the wooden pipes last as long as iron pipes. One town has a line of pipes seven miles long that, with all connections, cost but \$2,000.

—Suits aggregating more than \$500,000 will soon be filed by the government against certain big lumber companies and turpentine distilleries in the lower part of Alabama. The evidence shows that from 2,300 acres of fine forest lands belonging to the government 13,654 trees, yielding over 5,000,000 feet of lumber, had been cut. The government authorities propose to stop the depredations by bringing to account the concerns that buy the moonshins lumber.

—Some patriotic citizen of Prescott, Ariz., in lauding his town and state, and desecrating the wonderful riches of the region, declared that even the buildings of Prescott were in part of gold. He was taken up on the assertion, and he resulted. A few days ago an assay was made of sandstone being used in the erection of some new buildings, and the stone showed four dollars per ton in gold and 20 cents per ton in silver. It wouldn't pay to mine the buildings of Prescott, but the boomer won his bet.

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY.

The tea plant is said by Chinese writers to have been cultivated in that country from at least 2000 B. C.

—As wood is largely wanting in Australia gold fields several steamships are now engaged in carrying timber from the Pacific coast for use in Australian mines. The steamships carry from 2,000,000 to 2,500,000 feet each. The wood is California pine or fir.

—Though Ireland has 3,000,000 acres of bog land, large quantities of peat litter are imported from Belgium and Holland. Mills are being fitted up to separate the peat litter from the turf, and it is hoped that peat litter may soon be an article of export.

—After two seasons of failure Oregon has an abundant crop of tomatoes. There are oceans of them, and fine ones, according to the Portland Oregonian. One factory alone is using four to five tons per day, which are bought for \$10 per ton, and are made into catsup.

—A correspondent of an English party says: "I sent you on September 20 a white turnip which I pulled from a large field near Burnmoor. About one-half of the field is white turnips and the other half swedes; the whole of the whites are swarming with green fly and rotting away, while the swedes are quite healthy."

—The hygienic value of soap is hardly realized by the general public. Recent experiments have shown that a solution of soap will kill typhoid or cholera microbes. A one per cent solution of soap in a few minutes, while a seven or ten per cent solution will do it in a few minutes. This is about the simplest and most reliable means of disinfecting that we have at our disposal.

—Geological conditions have changed a great deal since the Cambrian age. The continents then were much smaller and the ocean much larger, while being shallower. The greater part of North America was submerged in Cambrian times. Cambrian rocks, though covered by later deposits in most places, are exposed in a few others, chiefly on mountain peaks in America, Asia and Australia.

—In cultivating strawberries under glass of various colors Prof. Zachary W. Vanhook, France, has obtained the following results: Ordinary clear glass gave the best and earliest fruit; orange glass increased the vegetation, but injured the quality, size and earliness of the fruit; violet glass increased the yield, at the expense of the quality; red, blue and green glass were harmful to all kinds of vegetation.

THE SHE WAS STARTLED.

An Inquisitive Youth Tumbled Over a Parrot-Sitter Upon a Spinning Bed.

"When Mount Tabor, N. J., was first taken possession of by the Newark conference of the Methodist Episcopal church," said a clergyman of that denomination recently, "we had little money with which to clear up the grounds and erect the first buildings necessary. After putting up a sort of open air pavilion in which the preaching services would be held, we began to erect around it some buildings where transient guests might be accommodated.

"The structure resulting from this necessity was a long frame building, which was christened the 'Tabor house.' In constructing the house on an economical basis as possible, the partitions were not run all the way up to the rafters and the room was not sealed.

"I shall never forget," continued the minister, "one of my first nights in this rather crude hotel. After I had retired, I was suddenly aroused with a start by the most unearthly shriek.

"'Help! Help!' a woman was shouting at the top of her lungs.

"I hustled out into the narrow hall in my night robe and found others—running around in a distracted way. We all stopped before a door from within which the sounds proceeded.

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AN AWFUL PREDICAMENT.

A Startling Omission at a London State Luncheon.

All was in readiness for the luncheon which M. Hanotaux, the foreign secretary, was giving to the members of the Medical convention and Sir Joseph Penzance. About 12 o'clock the chief steward bestowed a last look of proud satisfaction at the harmonious set-out of the table. All at once he shuddered, as a poet might have done, in the final revision of his proofs, at the discovery of a printer's error that would have horribly disgraced his latest sonnet.

"The menu cards!" he exclaimed. "they have been forgotten; lay them out at once; there's not a minute to lose!"

Search was made for the bills of fare on the sideboards in the dining-room, in the butler's pantry, at the foreign office, even in the minister's private room. Not a trace of the menu cards and the lord mayor might arrive any moment! No such disaster had befallen since the days of poor Vatel.

The fact was communicated to M. Crozier with all the delicacy that the circumstances demanded. Various proposals were submitted. At length it was decided that all the functionaries, great and small, who happened to be present should be laid under requisition; even the son of the hall porter found himself pressed for the nonce into the service of the diplomatic corps. The ink of the last copy was hardly dry when the lord mayor entered the banquetting hall. Honor was saved.—Le Figaro.

—The time for seasoning wood varies very greatly, extending from weeks in the case of some timbers to many months or years in the case of hard dense wood.

WANTED TO GET LOST.

How an Aspiring Journalist Lost His Job.

The experiences of young men who are anxious to enter the newspaper business because they think they are born journalists on the strength of the fact that they used to write "good compositions" when they went to school have been an inexhaustible theme for the professional joke maker from time immemorial, and they are not all fake jokes that are written about them, either, as the following real happening will show:

A reporter on an afternoon paper was detailed the other day to go out and write up a fight that had occurred in the northwestern part of the city, and in the course of his hunt for facts he ran across a busy young man who proved a very mine of information.

"You ought to know me," said this young man to the reporter, after the latter had pumped him dry. "I used to be a reporter on your paper."

"I don't remember you," replied the chaser for news, figuring to himself whether to brace for an application for a loan or hint for a drink.

Whereupon the mine of information allowed that he was a green hand and had worked only four days, though he did not volunteer any information concerning the reasons why he failed to hold his job for a longer period.

When the reporter got back to the office he asked his city editor about the young man he had spoken of, mentioning the young man's name. The city editor thought awhile and then he remembered.

"Oh, yes, I know him," he remarked. "He's the stiff that used to come in every morning and shake hands with me. As soon as he would hit the office he would change up his name, but my lunch book and agitate it up and down, at the same time making ambitious inquiries about the health of myself and my wife. I stood his work for four mornings and then I fired him."

All of which goes to show that it is poor policy for a hired man to get too familiar with his boss.—St. Louis Republic.

Fits Cured

From *U.S. Journal of Medicine*
 Prof. W. E. Peck, who makes a specialty of Epilepsy, has without doubt treated and cured more cases than any living Physician, his success is astonishing. We have heard of cases of 20 years' standing cured by him. He publishes a valuable work on this disease, which he sends with a large bottle of his absolute cure, free to any sufferer who may send their P. O. and Express address. We advise any one wishing a cure to address Prof. W. E. PECK, F. D., 4 Cedar St., New York.

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