

To be sure the elevator combine is designed to lift the prices.

And then it came about that Spain lost everything but honor, and Spain had none of that to lose.

Lieut. Hobson is still gaining strength. He has succeeded in lifting a \$6,000 mortgage from his mother's home.

All sorts of party calculations are being made on 1900, but a close study of the figures shows one-half of them must end in naught.

Some of those Pacific possessions have had names as it is. Goodness knows what we may be calling them a little while from now.

In a recent duel in Budapest one of the parties was wounded. This will give everybody a chance to say that they manage matters better in France.

If twenty postoffice clerks in Manila can do the work of 200 Spaniards any good American tailor would be equal to holding down the director general's ship.

It's a subject for a moment's reflection if not longer looking into, that as much as eight million dollars were spent by this nation last year for looking glasses.

It seems only natural that the President, after seconding the Czar's demand for universal peace, should begin immediately to talk of increasing the army and navy.

In Havana they have changed the name of General Weyler street back to Obispo. The Cubans believe that a street by any other name than Weyler would smell sweeter.

General Kitchener wants \$500,000 for the erection of a Gordon memorial college at Khartum. Such of the native as have survived the Kitchener preparatory school are invited to attend.

It has come at last. A woman in New York has been driven insane by the telephone. She raves constantly: "Ring and ring, but all they do is to ask the number." She is the first, but by no means the last.

One phase of the Indian situation was happily left off the other day by a Western ranchman. He was asked if the Indians near his ranch were troublesome. "Naw," was his frank reply. "They ain't got nothin' to want."

A Paris paper has been confiscated for printing a caricature of Emperor William's visit to the Holy Land. And yet France is a republic—a government for and by the people. Imagine an American paper being confiscated for a similar offense.

A late appointment in Philadelphia is that of "Custodian of the Loft," to look after some old papers that are not needed more than three times a year. In the street cleaning department of New York three bosses to oversee five men has not been an infrequent occurrence. The padded pay-roll of politics needs no further illustration.

The literature of heraldry is running Eastern society wild. Half a dozen vendors of ready-made crests and shields and coats of mail are said to be doing Philadelphia. The rage for arms is at fever pitch. Even vehicles are taking on fine names and coaches have their lions rampant or tigers couchant on the doors. There is a general rush for insignia of rank.

We take it as a timely acknowledgment of the humanity behind the guns that the Spanish branch of the Red Cross Society has been asking for information as to the medical and humane devices used by the United States to alleviate the horrors of war. What a pity that the Spanish society had not made some effort to alleviate the horrors in Cuba that precipitated the war.

The sending of 1,800 tons of steel rails from Sparrows Point, Md., to Bombay, India, by the Maryland Steel Company is a further indication of the inroads which American manufacturers are making in markets heretofore monopolized by Great Britain. The same company has booked an order for 2,500 tons of eighty-three pound steel rails for a railroad in Ireland, thus actually bearding the British lion in his own den.

United States Pension Commissioner Evans has compiled from official sources the American casualties on account of the war with Spain, and places the total number of deaths at 2,908, of which 107 were officers. The lives lost in the destruction of the Maine are considered in the same light as mortality in battle. Of the total deaths, eighty officers and 2,520 privates died of disease in the various camps, and since the close of hostilities in Cuba sixty-one men died of wounds which they received in the service.

A curious feature of the recent crisis between England and France was the buying of British consols (government bonds) and other British securities in the London market by French investors. It was made perfectly plain that not a few Frenchmen believed that the country their own nation threatened to fight was so much more secure, at home and abroad, and better able to survive a great trial without international disturbance and danger to vested rights, that they smothered their French pride and let prudency direct their investments into British property.

There is really no sound argument against the restoration of the cat-o-nine-tails to its useful place among the weapons of justice. The main objection advanced is that it brutalizes the persons on whom it is used—that it extinguishes the last remaining spark of manhood. The answer to this is that only crimes the commission of which proves the culprit to be already without manhood or the sense of shame

should be punished at the whipping post. The crimes meant are those of which women and children are the victims.

There are materials now at hand in the American and Spanish records of the recent war out of which a historical novel could be made that would rank with "Ivanhoe" or "Hypatia" in dramatic interest. Where is the Scott or Kingsley to put these materials into undying form? The oppression of the Spanish officials in Cuba, their cruelty, and their brutality—these might form the dark background against which to depict the devotion of some high-minded Cuban patriot. Weyler and Fitzhugh Lee in opposing roles, the secret plotting at Havana and New York, the lobbying at Washington, the deception at Madrid, all offer good materials. Blanco might be cast in the role of arch-plotter, and the dastardly destruction of the Maine might be shown with all the secret workings of the demonic forces that led to the crime. The curse of that crime should be made to follow the Spanish cause throughout the war, to lead Blanco into ordering Cervera to his doom, to blight his own plottings for a dictatorship, and to cause the downfall of Spanish sovereignty in the new world forever—as it really did.

Such a novel, with the stamp of genius upon its pages, would be the book of the decade. Who will write it?

As an instance of the thoroughness with which the England of to-day is entering upon its gigantic colonial tasks the proposed college at Khartum is an excellent illustration. Another which appeals less to the imagination, but is far more practical, is the arrangements the Colonial Office is making for the study and treatment of tropical diseases. Hereafter medical applicants for appointment in the tropics will be required to have passed at least two months of special study upon this subject in institutions specified and to give evidence of their knowledge by passing a special examination. It is certainly an indication of better things that scientific inquiry is now to be made as to the nature, causes and treatment of diseases peculiar to tropical regions. Much has already been done in the study of yellow fever, the malarial plagues, etc. It is also now known that malaria is caused by a parasitic organism introduced into the corpuscles of the blood by the mosquito and perhaps by the common fly. The effects of the bites of the tsetse fly are probably due to some kind of parasite or bacterium. A knowledge of the causes of disease is of prime importance, whether in the tropics or elsewhere, but too little attention has heretofore been given to the proper regimen in health and disease in tropical regions, a subject in which America is now scarcely less interested than England.

THE DUPLICITY OF COL. DAINTREE.

"HEN," declared Miss Gale, "it's a splendid exercise." "Of course," said old Col. Daintree. "It's recommended by all the doctors," insisted Miss Gale, plucking the tire of the back wheel. "Naturally," said Col. Daintree. "It enables you to see the country," went on the young lady argumentatively; "it makes you hungry; it is the best thing for the temper that is ever invented."

"Fact matter is," said the old gentleman, as they went down the hill, "my nephew is a fool."

"In regard to this question of cycling," she agreed cautiously. "And although of course I like him, it is also now known that malaria is caused by a parasitic organism introduced into the corpuscles of the blood by the mosquito and perhaps by the common fly. The effects of the bites of the tsetse fly are probably due to some kind of parasite or bacterium. A knowledge of the causes of disease is of prime importance, whether in the tropics or elsewhere, but too little attention has heretofore been given to the proper regimen in health and disease in tropical regions, a subject in which America is now scarcely less interested than England."

The right to capture private property of the enemy on the sea in time of war and divide it up among the captors is a subject of exceedingly great interest to the commercial world, says the Chicago Times-Herald. At the breaking out of our recent war it attracted immediate attention from the numerous captures of Spanish trading vessels plying between the ports of Porto Rico and Cuba and other countries. The prize money that thus fell to our naval forces was justified by past precedents, but to the general observer this making a prey of inoffensive and defenseless merchantmen seemed more like piracy than civilized war. By reason of this experience there has been a general desire expressed that this remnant of barbaric warfare should now be abolished. Captain Mahan comes to the defense of the custom, and urges as his strongest argument that commerce is the life of a nation, on which it thrives, and that therefore anything that will cripple his commerce will cripple its fighting power. He further says that the great commercial interests throw their influence on the side of peace, for the very reason that they will be the greatest sufferers by war. "Assure nations," he adds, "that their financial interests will suffer no more than the additional tax for maintaining active hostilities, that the operations of maritime commerce, foreign and coastwise, will undergo no hindrance, and you will have removed one of the most effective preventives of war." We think this argument proves too much. If a nation may be crippled on the sea in this way, why may it not be crippled on land by like means? Why should not towns and cities be sacked and plundered by a victorious army and the booty divided among the officers and men? Why should not non-combatants be put to the sword so that they may not be forced into the enemy's army? Why should not the growing crops be destroyed so that there would not be food for the enemy? No. The capture of private property on the high seas is no more defensible than the capture of the same kind of property on land, and it is to be hoped that early steps will be taken among the nations to abolish this form of warfare. It would indeed be a good subject for discussion at the Czar's peace conference.

At What Age Is Man Strongest? The muscles, in common with all the organs of the body, have their stages of development and decline, says the Strand Magazine. Our physical strength increases up to a certain age and then decreases. Tests of the strength of several thousands of people have been made by means of a dynamometer (strength measurer), and the following are given as the average figures for the white race:

The "lifting power" of a youth of seventeen years is 280 pounds. In his twentieth year this increases to 320 pounds, and in the thirtieth and thirty-first years it reaches its height, 350 pounds. At the end of the thirty-first year the strength begins to decline, very slowly at first.

By the fortieth year it has decreased eight pounds, and this diminution continues at a slightly increasing rate until the fiftieth year is reached, when the figure is 320 pounds.

After this period the strength falls more and more rapidly, until the weakness of old age is reached. It is not possible to give accurate statistics of the decline of strength after the fiftieth year, as it varies to a large extent in different individuals.

Ella—Where does Bella get her good looks from—her father or her mother? Stella—From her father. He keeps a drug store.—Household Words.

AT THE TURN OF THE ROAD.

Where the rough road turns, and the valley sweet Smiles bright with its bloom and bloom, We'll forget the thorns that have pierced the feet.

And the nights with their grief and gloom, And the sky will smile, and the stars will beam, And we'll lay us down in the light to dream.

We shall lay us down in the bloom and light With a prayer and a tear for rest, As tired children who creep at night To the love of a mother's breast.

And for all the grief of the stormy past Rest shall be sweeter at last—at last!

Sweeter because of the weary way And the lonesome night and long, While the darkness drifts to the perfect day.

With its splendor of light and song, The light that shall bless us and kiss us and love us And sprinkle the roses of heaven above us!

—Sydney Advertiser.

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UNCLE SAM'S GROWTH

UNITED STATES HAS EXPANDED SEVEN TIMES.

Business of spreading out Not Entirely New—It Has Been Thirty-one Years, Though Since We Last Absorbed Foreign Territory.

This country since it became a nation has made seven strides in territorial expansion. At the close of the revolutionary war Connecticut, Virginia, Georgia and the Carolinas had "property out West," which was spoken of as "the Western reserve." It was not a part of these States, but territory owned by them, just as Porto Rico, the Hawaiian Islands and the Philippines are owned by the United States. After a while the several owners ceded this territory to the Federal government, and out of it have been formed various States.

That part of Alabama north of latitude 31 was ceded by Georgia and South Carolina. Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin were all ceded by Virginia; Tennessee was ceded by North Carolina, Ohio by Virginia and Connecticut, Mississippi, north of latitude 31, by Georgia and South Carolina, and Minnesota, east of the Mississippi River, by Virginia. In 1803 the United States acquired from France the "Louisiana Purchase." This purchased territory is now occupied by Arkansas, Colorado east of the Rocky Mountains, Iowa, Indian Territory, Kansas, except the southwest corner, Louisiana, except a part east of the Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, except a part west of the Rocky Mountains; Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma east of 100 degrees west, South Dakota and Wyoming, except the southwestern part. The United States then rested from expansion and improved its possessions.

From Foreign Nations. In 1819 the nation grew again in territory. Florida was bought from Spain, and by the same treaty which ceded Florida Spain gave the Oregon country. This Oregon country was debatable land at that time. England had some ill-defined claims to that part which Spain ceded to the United States, and a well-defined claim to the part which is now called British Co-

lumbia. Though the coast had long been known to Europeans, it was first really introduced to the civilized world by Capt. Gray, of Boston, who, in 1792, sailed into the Columbia River, which he named for his ship. In 1805 the United States sent an exploring expedition through the region, and in 1811 the original John Jacob Astor founded the town of Astoria there. Therefore, the United States set up a claim to the country based upon "discovery," exploration and settlement." But Spain had a prior claim by discovery and annexation which she held to tenaciously. Therefore, when we negotiated for the purchase of Florida, we got Spain to include in her cession the Oregon country.

It was not until 1846 that England gave up all her claims to the part of the Oregon country now owned by the United States. In that year she retired above the 49th parallel, and the boundary was established as it exists today. After acquiring Florida and the Oregon country from Spain it was twenty-six years before the United States again expanded territory. It then, in 1845, annexed the republic of Texas, which had revolted from Mexico and established an independent government for some time. The Texas of that time embraced not only the present State of Texas, but also the eastern part of New Mexico and a strip extending across the southwestern corner of Kansas up through Colorado into Wyoming. Then came the war with Mexico, which closed in 1848, Mexico ceding to the United States a tract of territory which is now occupied by Arizona north of the Gadsden purchase, California, Colorado, west of the Rocky Mountains; Nevada, New Mexico, west of the Rio Grande and north of the Gadsden purchase; Utah and the southwestern corner of Wyoming. A few years later the United States bought from Mexico a strip of land which now forms the southern part of Arizona and the southwestern corner of New Mexico.

So far, although the territorial expansion of the United States had been enormous, it had been effected by the acquisition of territory contiguous to territory already possessed. In 1867 a new departure was made by the purchase of the vast territory of Alaska from Russia. And now, after a period of thirty-one years, the United States again expands its territorial limits.

For the first time a correct map has been published showing the acquisition of territory on this continent by the United States. It appears in the report of the Secretary of the Interior. Heretofore the northwestern part of the Louisiana purchase has been shown as extending to the Pacific ocean. It

was so delineated on the Land Office maps, which were supposed to be correct. It has been found, upon investigation, that the Louisiana purchase stopped at the continental divide, and that the territory occupied by Oregon, Idaho, the State of Wyoming, the northwestern part of Washington, the Rocky Mountains, was acquired by the United States from Spain sixteen years after the purchase of Louisiana from the French. In view of the talk about "expansion" this map is of especial interest, as showing how this nation has been expanding since it was a narrow strip along the Atlantic seaboard.

WONDERS OF YUCATAN.

Pyramids and Interesting Ruins Built by Early Inhabitants.

"Yucatan is exceedingly interesting to the traveler, the historian and the archaeologist and I wonder why explorers have not visited the country oftener," said N. B. Dupont of New Orleans at the Planters'.

"The average man knows something about the topography of Egypt and even the school books have given him information about the Egyptian pyramids, the peculiar Nile and the customs of the people, but the average man knows little or nothing about Yucatan. But it is a fact that pyramids constructed as ingeniously as those of Egypt are found in Yucatan. It must be remembered that Yucatan is almost a desert. One can travel for days and days and see no running water. But beneath the sandy surface there is plenty of water, and the Indians obtain it by digging

immense wells, some being 250 feet in diameter, and from seventy-five to 100 feet in depth. It was this sandy condition of the country that led the ancient people of Yucatan to build immense pyramids as foundations for their buildings. These pyramids are carved in designs of sculpture and odd figures, showing that the ancient inhabitants of Yucatan, like the Aztecs of Mexico, possessed some artistic ability.

"Yucatan and the numerous islands off its coast are inhabited by a people whose blood is a mixture of old Indian tribes. They live in small huts and

OLD ILLINOIS QUARTET.

Four Hale and Hearty Siste's Whose Ages Aggregate 343 Years.

Among the hills of Johnson County, Illinois, there are four sisters who claim the palm for longevity. The aggregate ages of this remarkable quartet foot up 343 years, or an average of over 85 years, and they bid fair to remain for some time yet. Among their kindreds, who number half of Johnson County, are known as Aunt Peggy McFairidge, aged 93 years; Aunt Polly Gore, aged 86 years; Aunt Sally Thack-

NOVELTY MILLS OF MAINE.

Produce Spools, Saws, Toothpicks, Dice Boxes and Baby Sleighs.

The spool factories of Maine turn out annually about 250,000,000 spools, which will hold 50,000,000,000 yards of thread—200 yards to the spool. There are seventeen of these factories in the State, employing 550 hands, at average wages of \$1.50 a day each, or \$247,500 a year total. In the making of the spools 30,500 cords of white birch timber, or 15,250,000 feet, is used. This timber is worth \$4 a cord. A large part of the spool timber cut in Maine is not manufactured there, but shipped from Bangor to great factories in England and Scotland. Last year Bangor exported 4,978,038 feet of spool bars to the United Kingdom, the value being \$144,000, and more will be shipped next year. There is practically no limit to the supply of white birch available.

The so-called "novelty mills" of Maine are numerous all through the hard wood districts. In these mills are turned out all kinds of little wooden boxes, many of which are used by druggists; checker boxes, checkers, dice boxes, wooden stoppers, handles of a thousand kinds and shapes, toothpicks by the million, ladders, swings, sleds, school desks and chairs, toy carts and wheelbarrows, tables, desks, cycle stands, baby sleighs and other things too numerous to mention. The largest "novelty" factory in the world is at South Paris, Oxford County, where 290 hands are employed.

A Dixfield factory has just completed an order for \$400,000 checkers and 200,000 dice boxes and at another factory in the same town they have made this year 525,000,000 toothpicks. One firm has made 5,000,000 saws, such as are used by butchers. Wooden bicycle rims are also an important article of manufacture. The product of these factories goes to all parts of the world. The timber used was once considered practically worthless.

The man who is dissatisfied with his work is never happy.



WAS SO DELINEATED ON THE LAND OFFICE MAPS, WHICH WERE SUPPOSED TO BE CORRECT. IT HAS BEEN FOUND, UPON INVESTIGATION, THAT THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE STOPPED AT THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE, AND THAT THE TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY OREGON, IDAHO, THE STATE OF WYOMING, THE NORTHWESTERN PART OF WASHINGTON, THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS, WAS ACQUIRED BY THE UNITED STATES FROM SPAIN SIXTEEN YEARS AFTER THE PURCHASE OF LOUISIANA FROM THE FRENCH. IN VIEW OF THE TALK ABOUT "EXPANSION" THIS MAP IS OF ESPECIAL INTEREST, AS SHOWING HOW THIS NATION HAS BEEN EXPANDING SINCE IT WAS A NARROW STRIP ALONG THE ATLANTIC SEABOARD.

WEALTH AND NOBILITY.

Rich American Woman Joined in Marriage to a British Nobleman.

In Grace Church, New York, recently, the Earl of Strafford, a member of the English nobility and equerry to Queen Victoria, was joined in marriage to Mrs. Samuel J. Colgate, widow of the wealthy American manufacturer who died four years ago, leaving a fortune estimated at \$10,000,000. The pomp and ceremony usually manifested at a function of such social prominence was entirely absent, owing to the fact that the Earl is in mourning for his cousin, Princess Elwan, of Saxe-Weimar. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Dr. Huntington.

The Earl of Strafford is 67 years of age. He is tall, lithe, and dignified. His inheritance to the earldom came to him at his eldest brother's death, in the beginning of this year. He comes of a family that gave to England a hero and a martyr. One was Viscount Torrington, who fought bravely in the navy in the time of George I. The other was Admiral John Byng, whom popular clamor condemned unjustly. Admiral Byng was shot by decree of court-martial for having failed to prevent the descent of the French upon Minorca, and for having failed to relieve St. Phillips, George III. made amends for that execution, as well as he could, in favors to the Byng family.

The Countess of Strafford is already well known in the society of England's capital. After her husband's death she went to London and was presented at court and immediately became a great favorite.



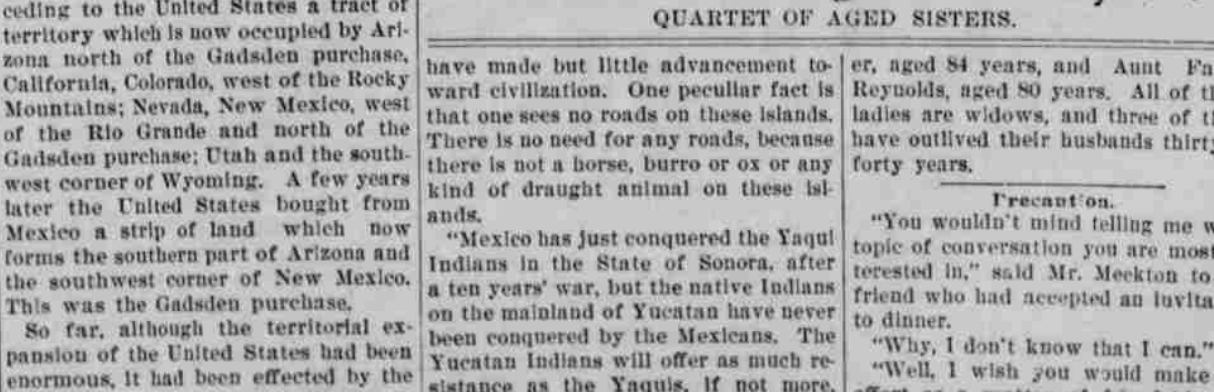
OFFICIAL MAP SHOWING TERRITORIAL GROWTH OF THE UNITED STATES.

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QUARTET OF AGED SISTERS.

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er, aged 84 years, and Aunt Fanny Reynolds, aged 80 years. All of these ladies are widows, and three of them have outlived their husbands thirty or forty years.

Every man thinks he writes a good "hand"