

The "New South" now means Porto Rico.

Spain found that war is hell, and she is more than half inclined to think that peace is purgatory.

Spain was wise in removing the bones of Columbus while that country had land enough left to bury them in.

The Spaniards say they do not want the prayers of the Americans. They certainly need the prayers of some one.

At the rate soldiers are beginning to write for the monthlies, arming the troops with magazine guns will be quite in keeping.

Perhaps the game of war didn't turn out much for the dons other ways, but that \$20,000,000 shows they made a big score in one respect.

At a recent launching of a rich man's yacht \$300,000,000 was present on the christening platform. In fact, the vessel itself was built on stocks.

Salt is 20 cents a pound in Dawson City, which explains why the tales that come from there have to be taken with more than the traditional grain.

It has been discovered that Sir Julian Pauncefote is a composer of music. He would confer a favor on the world if he would fix up a new tune for the European concert.

Forty-five million dollars is said to be this country's toy bill. This is a great sum, and the joy bill it represents can only be understood by the little figures that proclaim it in the household.

If the great men of this world knew what funny things their biographers would fetch out they would be justified in doing as Shakespeare did—retire behind the scenes without telling the call boy what to do next.

Louisville Courier-Journal: Spain is indignant because one of our preachers prayed for her the other day. Spain does not understand the first principles of religious freedom. In this blessed country we pray for whom we daresummed please, whether the beneficiary is worth it or not.

It is now announced that capitalists propose to turn Havana into a health resort. This will be done easily by building a large hotel at the place. All that is needed to make a health resort is a large hotel, an orchestra and mosquitoes. Havana already has the orchestra and the mosquitoes.

Now that a Belgian chemist has discovered how to produce artificial meat extracts superior to the natural article and at less cost, the cowboy may have to resume his vocation of a "Rough Rider" in the service of Uncle Sam, while the packer monopolist will have to look elsewhere than to the slaughter pen for his profits.

Japan's new government is pledged to an active and vigorous foreign policy, which is a polite way of serving notice on Russia that Japan will not remain an idle spectator of affairs on the continent. She will be China's friend if China will permit, but in any event she will not forgive Russia the treachery that followed the treaty of Shimoda. This is in accord with the traditions of the clans that brought about the revolution of 1868 to abolish feudalism and have since been the brains and brawn of new Japan.

An attack is being made by a number of learned ladies on the old-fashioned nursery stories. Mother Goose is to be banished, Santa Claus barred out and all the dear old legends of our childhood stamped as silly falsehoods. Of course this attack will be unsuccessful. To paraphrase a certain writer who was himself a good deal of an iconoclast, if there had been no Mother Goose it would have been necessary to invent one. The mental limitations of the people who deery the nursery stories prevent them from seeing how much good these dear old legends contain.

France seems to be quieting down in view of the fait accompli of English occupation of the Sudan. As a matter of fact the country is in no condition to go to war, unless for the gravest reasons. The war minister of Louis XI. was correct when he declared three things were necessary to the prosecution of a war—money, money, money. Just now the finances of France are in a bad way. The country ranks as one of the two or three richest countries of the world, but with a debt of nearly \$4,500,000,000, or more than a third for debt service of the total revenue, the people are not in a condition to find ready the money necessary to the prosecution of a great war. In Great Britain the debt service is less than one-fourth, and in Germany only one-twentieth. In case of war France undoubtedly would make heroic sacrifices, but a wise government would hesitate long before calling for such an exhibition of patriotism.

Russia is such a vast country and so little known beyond its borders that it is somewhat surprising to learn that the tramp evil is perhaps greater in the czar's dominions than anywhere else in the world. The Russian tramps are called gortians, and in number probably exceed their species in any other country. They abound in every village, stand on the steps of almost every church greeting the worshippers on every tiering or leaving with the usual application—"radi Krista" (for Christ's sake). One reason, perhaps, for the increase of the tramp species is the fact that the peasantry always share the hospitality of their cabins with them, giving them a place by the stove and a portion of their simple fare. In the cities the gortians have regular lodging houses and also what might almost be deemed a regular calling, that of paid mourners at funerals. The agencies which manage the latter furnish the gortian clothes for the occasion and a torch, thus enabling him to make a respectable figure, and pay him 40

kopecks for his services, which, of course, promptly goes for vodka, as the Russian tramp, like his congener in all other countries, is addicted to strong drink, a fact which also is perhaps the chief explanation of why he is a tramp.

It appears that some of the growth of the foreign trade of the United States is due to the superior character of American to foreign commercial travelers. It is complained in England that the commercial agents sent abroad to represent firms in their country are generally young men who have worked in the office until they are run down in health and who go abroad for a change, with no knowledge of the business except that gained behind a desk. A French consul writes in the same line that French merchants are willing to accept as representatives abroad men who have failed in their own country. An English writer, who is himself a commercial traveler, adds: "United States merchants and manufacturers send out a high class of representatives—astute men, who have large and varied experience in their respective lines; men educated in the details of the business they represent; men of the age that brings wisdom and accuracy; men that earn and command the largest salaries, and men of push, energy and vigor." The American "drummer" abroad as well as at home is a resourceful individual, which is to say he is an American.

It is a characteristic example of the ideas which prevail in Great Britain of the way to look after the interests and advancement of its dependencies, so soon after a conquest like that recently achieved by Kitchener in the Sudan, that one of the first schemes proposed is to establish a great university among the conquered people, as a means of cementing and making permanent the conquest. That is what is being done. The possession of a contributory interest in the Khartoum university seems just now to be one of the necessities to the preservation of political or social standing among Englishmen, and the endowment fund has reached large dimensions. The university will of course be of a kind adapted to the industrial and economic needs of the Sudan, seeking the development of its people along practical lines. The example is one which Americans may well emulate. It comes just at a time when such a practical "point" is likely to awaken American enthusiasm for laying in our new colonies equally up-to-date foundations for the establishing of American influence among the new races now brought under our flag. Those races must be of poor material indeed if they can see such results following the ascendancy of the Stars and Stripes without being stirred to enthusiasm in a new-born loyalty. It may, however, take time for them to comprehend the full meaning of such offerings for their advancement.

Besides the ordinary scattered shooting stars there are others, presumably of the same sort, but moving in great swarms, and in regular orbits around the sun like comets. Indeed in several cases such a swarm follows in the wake of a comet, and is almost certainly related to it in some way not yet quite clear. Some of the meteoric orbits intersect our own; and if earth and meteors happen to reach the crossing together, we have a meteor-shower. The little bodies rush into our atmosphere and burn. Although the meteors in such a shower are all really moving in parallel lines, perspective makes them appear to diverge from a single point in the heavens called its "radiant." The most remarkable of these meteor-showers is one that makes its circuit around the sun in a little more than thirty-three years, in a long, oval orbit which the earth crosses on Nov. 14. It is called the "Leonid" swarm, because its radiant is in the constellation Leo. Magnificent displays from it occurred in 1799, 1833, and last in 1899 and 1901; for the flock is so extensive that it takes more than a year to pass the junction, and scattered outlaws precede and follow the main body for several years. It was this advance guard which in 1898 gave us the feeble showers that attracted so much attention. In 1899, or perhaps in 1900, we shall encounter the swarm itself, and the sky will be filled with flying meteors for hours. Whether the spectacle will be visible in this part of the world, or not, cannot be certainly foretold. The radiant is above the horizon only after midnight, and the shower is visible only where it occurs between midnight and dawn of local time.

BICYCLE IDEAS.

A Valveless Gear and a Gear that May Be Quickly Changed.

Here is shown the Protean gear, which by an expanding action in the large sprocket wheel enables the gear to be changed by back-pedal action at the will of the rider. The new French tire is easy to put on and take off; the initial pump, or seal, is made without the help of any air-pressure, and in case of puncture it can be ridden any distance without the least fear of coming off or injuring the rims. The lips which make the air-joint are, as will be seen from the illustration, vertical in the rim, and, to inflate, the nose of the pump is just forced through a hole in

His Will vs. Her Will. Aged Husband (after a domestic storm)—"Well, you can do as you please about going to this ball, but if you go I shall call on my lawyer in the morning and alter my will. Young Wife—Oh, no, you won't. You seem to forget that when I married you I absorbed all the power in the firm. Distance is often responsible for lasting friendships.

FLAMES IN FORESTS.

SWEEPING FIRES THAT LEAVE WILD WASTES BEHIND.

Extraordinary Pecuniary Losses Incurred by the Unfettered Element that Rolls Onward in a Mad Torrent of Rapacious Billows and Defies Man.

A forest denuded by fire presents a woeful sight. The trees are not entirely consumed. The burned trunks of all larger ones stand straight and tall, dead, but not destroyed. Sometimes forest fires rage over such vast areas that their smoke is visible from any point in a State. Dr. J. T. Deobrock, Commissioner of Forestry for Pennsylvania, shows that the potential loss of



A BURNED FOREST.

the commonwealth from each fire or each series of fires that devastate the timber-producing areas in Pennsylvania is \$30,000,000. The fires occur chiefly from two causes. Railroad companies burn their old ties along the right of way, without taking any precaution to prevent the fire spreading to the woods, and the small farmers in clearing wood-lots for farming purposes burn the brush and fallen timber, without caring whether the fire spreads or not.

The illustrations are significant as showing the desert condition which a fire, or series of fires, produces. In many parts of the United States one may see such tracts, over which fires have swept almost every year, destroying the young forest growth and rendering the soil, after each succeeding



STREET IN PHILLIPS BEFORE AND AFTER THE FIRE.

conflagration more and more barren. The deterioration in the picturesqueness of the country, or the loss in money to the person or persons who may own these districts for lumbering purposes, may more easily be imagined than told. What could be more dreary than the country shown in the two photographs?

The year 1894 will long be remembered in Wisconsin and Minnesota for the terrible calamities which occurred in July and August of that year. Intense heat and little rain had made the forests almost like a kiln. All through the summer fire had been feared and looked for, and by the end of July it was said that not less than \$5,000 worth of pine had been destroyed. The fire extended over a stretch of nearly fifty miles wide, and all that experience gained by woodsmen and lumbermen in dealing with forest fires availed nothing against the sweeping flames, which were driven like an overwhelming flood by a strong wind, leaving death and destruction in their path. In the photographs presented herewith, which show a Wisconsin town named Phillips before and after the fire, one may see how completely the forest fire had done his work. Phillips was burned July 27, and the loss of life would have been severe had not the inhabitants escaped by taking trains to places of safety.

In October, 1871, one of the most terrible fires in America on record broke out at Peshtigo, Wis., and more than 700 persons were burned to death. But probably the saddest fire was that which occurred in 1894—one glimpse of which at Phillips, has already been had. The unfortunate place was Hinckley, Minn., and the calamity oc-



BURNED FOREST AFTER TWENTY YEARS.

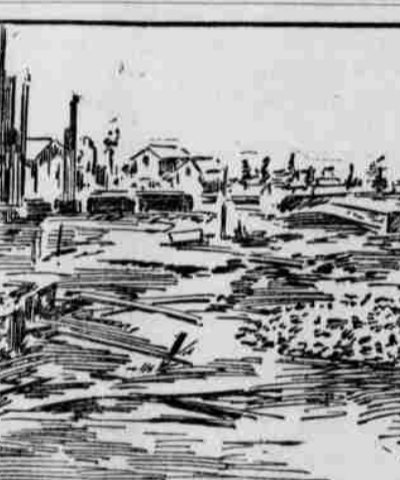
curred on Sept. 1 of that year. Owing to the long-protracted drought, as is pointed out in the report of the State commission for the relief of the forest fire sufferers, the fires had prevailed in different localities for several weeks, but on that day the wind became a tornado, and a small fire then burning spread with frightful rapidity, and was carried on the wings of the tornado over a district covering nearly 400 square miles. A furnace blast swept over the fated district, and left behind

It complete devastation. Every building in Hinckley was destroyed. So sudden was the onset of the flames that the people could only run from their houses and seek a place of refuge, without even an effort to save their household effects. Four hundred and eighteen persons, about one-sixth of the population of the district, are known to have perished by a most frightful death in the flames.

TAMED A WAR-HORSE.

Feat of Alexander the Great in the Days of His Boyhood.

One of the stories told by Alexander the Great is that of how, when a boy of 12, he tamed the war-horse Bucephalus. The following is the account given by Plutarch in his life of Alexander: "Philonides of Thessaly had offered to sell Philip his horse Bucephalus for thirteen talents. So they all went down into the plain to try the animal. He proved, however, to be balky and utterly useless. He would let no one mount him, and none of the attendants of Philip could make him hear to him, but he violently resisted them all. Philip, in his disgust, ordered the horse led away as being utterly wild and untrained. Whereat, Alexander, who was present, said: 'That is too good a horse for those men to spoil that way, simply because they haven't the skill or the grit to handle him right.' At first Philip paid no attention to him, but as he kept insisting on being heard and seemed greatly disturbed about the matter, his father said to him: 'What do you mean by criticizing your elders, as if you were wiser than they, or knew so much more about handling a horse than they do?' 'Well, this horse, anyway, I would handle better than any one else, if they would give me a chance.' 'In case you don't succeed,' rejoined his father, 'what penalty are you willing to pay for your freshness?' 'I'll pay, by Jove, the price of the horse!' Laughter greeted this answer, but after some bantering with his father about the money arrange-



THE TAMING OF BUCEPHALUS.

habit. This is the more curious, as most of his contemporaries, Ben Jonson, Decker and others discuss the then new fashion at length, and the humorist and satirist of the time lost no opportunity of deriding and making a game of the votaries of the weed. The tobacco merchant was an important personage in the time of James I. The Elizabethan pipes were so small that when they are dug up in Ireland the poor call them "fairy pipes." King James himself was one of the most virulent opponents of the habit, and in his ludicrous "Counterblasts" calls it a vile and stinking custom, "borrowed from the beastly, slavish Indians—poor, wild, barbarous men—brought over from America, and not introduced by any worthy or virtuous or great personage."

He argues that tobacco is not dry and hot; that its smoke is humid, like all other smoke, and is therefore bad for the brain, which is naturally wet and cold. He denies that smoking purges the head or stomach, and declares that many have smoked themselves to death.—Medical Record.

Dealing with Lumbermen.

There is an old retired merchant in Detroit who delights in recalling his experiences when an active man running a general store in one of the northern cities of the lower peninsula, says the Detroit Free Press.

"I used to reap a harvest when the men were coming out of the woods," he relates. "They were not up in styles, and about any old thing would suit them provided the color was right and the fit even passable. But there were tricksters among them, and I had to keep my wits about me in order to keep even with them. 'How much is that hat?' asked a strapping six-footer, who arrived from camp one day with a pocket of money. 'Two-fifty,' I replied. 'Then he informed me that he always had the crowns of his hats punched full of holes in order to keep his head cool, and his hair from coming out. I soon had this attended to, and then he asked what the hat was worth. 'Two fifty,' I responded in surprise, but he laughed at me for asking such a price for damaged goods. He had me and got his hat for a dollar, while the jolly crowd with him had a laugh at my expense. He wanted to look at some 'fiddles,' and after pricing one at \$10, concluded to take it. 'Where's the bow?' he asked as I was doing up the package. 'You only bought the fiddle,' I laughed. 'The others saw the point and laughed, too. The giant tried to bluff me, but I kept good-humored, and got even on the hat by charging him \$1.50 for the bow. I not only got even, but the others were so pleased with my 'Yankee trick' that they spent plenty of money with me.'"

Was Adroit with Napoleon. Two men living in St. Helena who were born respectively in 1798 and 1802 are not the only persons now living who have seen Napoleon the Great. Thomas De Moleyns, who was for many years county court judge of Kilkenny, and appointed a Queen's counsel in 1856, served in his early boyhood in the royal navy. Mr. De Moleyns was a midshipman on board the Belleophon when Napoleon on July 15, 1815, after "the hundred days," placed himself under the flag of his country and was received on board the Belleophon.

"Maud says she is madly in love with her new wheel." "Hub! Another case where man is displaced by machinery."—Indianapolis Journal.

How easy it is to let the other fellow do the work by reflecting that the exercise is good for him.

for the unspoken grief in the faces of the unfortunate rich who were at such pains to enjoy themselves. I never saw such handsome men as I saw in London. I never see such beautiful women as I see in Paris. French men are insignificant as a rule, and English women are beefy and dress like rag-bags."—Philadelphia Inquirer.

CAPTURED CAT DEAD.

Famous Feline Rescued from the Spanish Battleship Cristobal Colon.

The famous Spanish cat, Cristobal Colon, captured from the Spanish battleship on July 3, died at the United



SEÑOR CRISTOBAL COLON.

States government station at Benton Harbor, Mich. This cat was in the cat show in Chicago and was awarded a special medal. Señor Cristobal Colon was a mascot on the Spanish man-of-war of that name.

Early Writings on Smoking.

The fact has been discovered that Shakespeare never mentioned smoking or makes the slightest allusion to the

gun metal handles for umbrellas and canes, interlined with gold or silver, which metals are shown by engraving initials, monograms, floral or other selected designs, are the latest novelties in their line.

On January 1, 1898, there were 28,838 miles of railroad in the Russian empire, of which the government owned 16,773 miles. The reports of these roads show a decrease in the transportation of cereals and an increase in salt, petroleum and coal.

At the Paris Academy for Medicine Dr. Doyau recently gave his experience in regard to the result of 146 cases of surgical operations on the stomach. There were only twenty-one deaths in all and twenty of these were in cases of cancer.

A bank in New York has largely increased its business, particularly among fashionable women, by issuing to its depositors gilded check books with monograms thereon. The blank checks are printed in gold from exquisitely engraved plates.

North Carolina, which pays a pension to Confederate army veterans that are in need, finds that but one in fifteen of the known survivors in the state are on the pension list. Applicants for aid are few each year instead of increasing, as is the case with Federal pensioners.

A year ago a German schoolmaster, Mr. Engler, was convicted by a criminal court of some act of immorality. Not long ago he died insane and an autopsy showed that he was doubtless morally irresponsible at the time the offense was committed. With German thoroughness a new trial was ordered and the dead man has recently been acquitted in due form.

The great Armstrong shipbuilding yards of England have just turned out the most remarkable vessel afloat. It is a giant ice crusher to be used in keeping open the trade routes of the Baltic sea in winter. Ice-crushing boats are used in several of the harbors on the great lakes in this country, but they are insignificant when compared in size and power to this giant.

A fashionable London doctor, whose mornings are fully occupied in paying visits to his many patients, has succeeded in effecting a decided economy. He may be seen driving through West End Square, eating his breakfast in his brougham. His morning meal is nicely packed in a hamper. A woden flap is in front of his carriage. This is propped up and the table spread. The doctor thus eats comfortably and at leisure.

With a very few exceptions, all the great lakes and branches of commerce in Germany shows a phenomenal expansion during the last decade. For example, the tonnage of steamships belonging to Hamburg, which in 1875 was 88,173, was in 1879 481,000. Those belonging to Bremen increased in the same time from 65,070 to 220,000, while the tonnage of sailing vessels belong to these two ports has since risen over 60 per cent.

A London magician, Maskelyne, who has given entertainments many years

KEEPING WHISKY FROM REDS.

Almost Impossible to Smuggle Liquor Into Indian Territory.

The United States Government has a wonderful antipathy toward the introduction of whisky into the Indian territory, and necessarily, afterward into the Indian. It is an old story of the love of an Indian for whisky—it surpasses all other love. An Indian with a pint of firewater is an element that disturbs the natural serenity of the beautiful Indian territory scenery; he longs for scalps, which passion the Government has long endeavored to stamp out.

But whisky occasionally gets into the Indian territory. There are too many railroads running through it to keep whisky away altogether. The man who takes the seductive fluid into that country, even most innocently to cure his own snake bites, runs a risk that is not to be disregarded. The country is full of United States marshals and their deputies and possemen. A United States marshal's posseman has a nose for whisky longer than that of Cyrano de Bergerac. There are fees and things connected with finding whisky in the Indian territory. And yet there can be no doubt that the abolishment of whisky from the Indian territory is a good thing and has saved many a white man's black hair.

Passengers going through Indian territory on the railroads have had their valises opened and their whisky taken from them and their bodies thrown into jail before now. The only safe way to import whisky into that country is in one's own comfortable and impenetrable insides. Otherwise it may be found and then there is trouble. A respectable American citizen recently had his valise ransacked by a United States deputy marshal in the Creek nation and a half pint of whisky cost him nearly \$200 before he was safe and free.

On the Choctaw railroad recently an assignment of whisky was discovered by a shrewd deputy marshal. The express company landed a truck load of cases marked "cod liver oil" from the express car one day. One of the cases came down heavily and broke. A small brown stream issued from its cracks. Everyone smelled it. The deputy marshal's nose was no keener than the others. A half-dozen boxes on the truck were so alike that the marshal broke all open and five jugs of whisky fell to his lot. Each of these he broke with a crack of his heel and the hungry sand drank the brown fluid up. Surrounding the sacrifice were grouped lean white men, whose jaws drooled for the liquor that the sand licked up, and blanket Indians, who would have given a moccasin colored pony for a sip.

When you go to Indian territory leave your flask behind, because otherwise you are likely to go to jail. Red men and red liquor cannot mix without trouble.—Kansas City Star.

Biggest Wedding Ever Known.

On the day that Alexander the Great was married no fewer than 20,202 persons in one ceremony were made husbands and wives. This seems impossible, but the event really took place, as historical records tell us. This monstrous wedding occurred upon the conquest by Alexander the Great of Persia, which was then ruled over by King Darius.

Alexander married Statira, the daughter of the conquered king, and decreed that 100 of his chief soldiers should be united to 100 ladies from the noblest Persian and Median families. In addition to this, he stipulated that 10,000 of his Greek soldiers should marry 10,000 Asiatic women.

When everything was settled, a vast pavilion was erected, the pillars of which were sixty feet high. One hundred gorgeous chambers adjoined this for the 100 noble bridegrooms, while for the remaining 10,000 an outer court was inclosed, outside of which tables were spread for the multitude. Each pair had seats, and ranged themselves in a semi-circle round the royal throne. Of course, the priests could not marry this vast number of couples, so Alexander the Great devised a very simple ceremony. He gave his hand to Statira and kissed her—an example that all the bridegrooms followed.

Thus ended the ceremony, and that vast number were married. Then followed the festival, which lasted five days, the grandeur of which has never been equaled since.

Expensive Sparks.

Our own firework manufacturers are, of course, prepared to produce as brilliant displays as any in the world, but unfortunately they do not have the opportunities afforded by royal pageants in monarchial countries.

According to one British firm, who are famed all over the world for their manufacture of fireworks, the amount spent on the display of fireworks in connection with her majesty's jubilee was \$1,250,000. The display at the close of the Crimean war cost \$500,000. The largest individual exhibitions by the firm were given on the Tagus for the Portuguese Government; the second in 1888 costing \$50,000, while the first, which was made on the occasion of the marriage in 1886 of the King (then crown prince) of Portugal, cost half that amount. The display at Delhi, when the Queen was proclaimed Empress of India, cost \$17,500. Some of the most costly fireworks ever produced at the Crystal Palace. Thus, at a benefit recently, the exhibition lasted from 30 to 35 minutes, but it cost \$7,500, or about \$250 per minute.

Victim of Many Train Wrecks.

John Becker has died in a Pennsylvania town with the remarkable record of having been injured twenty-five times in railroad accidents, some of his injuries having been very serious, yet he lived to a good old age and died from natural causes. There is a drummer in Philadelphia who claims to have been in a number of railway disasters, and yet never received a serious injury. He says he was in the wreck at Ashabola, Ohio, when so many perished, including Bliss, the evangelist; in that at Greenfield, Mass., when thirty or more were killed; at White River Junction, Vt., when an equal number of lives were lost, and at Dedham, Mass., and Garrison, N. Y., in both of which accidents scores were killed and maimed. He always buys accident insurance tickets, he says, but regards the expenditure in his own case as sheer waste.—Kansas City Journal.

Incompatibility of temper always means that both parties have the same kind of temper and plenty of it.

It's unlucky to have your affairs at sixes and sevens—they make thirteens.