

A Safe Guess.
"A very healthy place, is it?" said the woman who was house hunting. "Have you any idea what the death rate is here?"
After careful reflection, says Punch, the caretaker replied, "Well, mum, I can't 'zactly say, but it's about one apiece all around."

Dodging the Digging.
"Plenty of gold in the land," says a philosopher, "but when it comes to digging for it many of us are content to jog along with poverty."—Atlanta Constitution.

Prayers For Two.
"If your husband were to die would you pray for him?"
"Of course, but at the same time I'd pray for another."—Town and Country.

Aye, people are generally calm at the misfortunes of others.—Goldsmith.

Dark Postals.
A pretty fancy, in vogue just now among the summer residents in the mountains, is to take a strip of birch bark and cut it up into the dimensions of postal cards, stamping and sending the same to town friends. The mails accept these little missives which, properly directed and bearing a friendly message on the reverse side, constitute an agreeable variation of the souvenir postal card.

Emperors Order Seasons.
The beginning of the winter or summer in China depends on the whim of the emperor, says Pearson's Weekly. On a certain day announced by him all his subjects have to put on their winter clothes, though, in some regions, summer heat may still prevail.

The Cut He Wanted.
Clothier—You say you want a coat? What cut, please?
Bargain-Seeking Customer—About 30 per cent. will do, I guess.—Baltimore

SHORT STORIES.

Sixty per cent of the cadets at West Point are in Y. M. C. A. Bible classes. It is stated by experts in life insurance that less than 10 per cent of the policies issued are after the age of forty.

A project is under consideration to build a twenty mile automobile speedway from 50 to 100 feet wide in Mercer county, N. J. It is reported that options on the necessary property have been obtained.

It is stated that by 1907 a channel 30 feet deep and 450 feet wide between Quebec and Montreal will be completed and that Montreal will then be in a position to compete on equal terms with the other great ports.

According to the figures compiled by the Publishers' Weekly, the number of new novels and volumes of stories published in the United States in 1904 was 1,007, nearly 200 more than were recorded in 1903. The number of new editions of fiction published in the same period was 814.

Canadian emigration agents in the United States expect a great increase in the number of American farmers who will migrate to the Canadian northwest this year. Fully 60,000 persons from the United States are expected to settle in the Dominion. Last year the number was 45,000.

PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

Fanny Rice will play in Europe this summer.

Clara Morris is playing an engagement in vaudeville.

George Ade has written a comedy, "A Second Time on Earth."

Amelia Bingham has been doing well with her new play on the road.

Kate Denin Wilson has joined the cast of "A School For Husbands."

The stock companies are growing in popularity, judging by their increase.

Giles Shine is playing Mr. Knox in a revival of Robertson's comedy, "School," in New York.

Colonel Savage will produce an operetta next season by John Kendrick Bungs and Manuel Klein.

Reginald De Koven and Frederic Ranken have entered a contract by which Mr. Ranken agrees to write only in collaboration with Mr. De Koven for the next five years.

The beloved old veteran of the stage, J. H. Stoddard, whose illness at Galt, Ont., compelled him to give up the remainder of his tour in "The Bonnie Brier Bush," continues to improve in health.

GERMAN GLEANINGS.

The Berlin police authorities intend to take severe measures to suppress the practice of playing poker in public places.

Plans have been accepted by the Berlin municipality for the building of two immense popular swimming baths for both sexes.

White women are scarce in the German colonies. There are only 524 in east Africa and 229 in the German islands in the Pacific ocean.

In Germany the number of servant girls who have savings bank accounts is nearly three times as large as that of shopgirls who have them.

Professor Haeckel of Jena, the great German Darwinian, declares that the best Germans have been driven to the United States and that they have left behind a race of weaker men and women.

FACTS FROM FRANCE.

The Paris Louvre is to be provided

with an elevator, which "for a small fee will take visitors to the galleries."

The liner La Provence will be the largest ship under the French flag. She has a displacement of 19,160 tons and will accommodate about 2,000 persons.

In France medical students have only one year of military service provided they complete their medical studies before attaining the age of twenty-five years.

A Paris bank clerk carrying \$400 in gold in a bag dropped a piece of money worth \$2. To search for it he set his bag down on the sidewalk. When he found the piece he had lost, his bag was gone.

POINTED PARAGRAPHS.

Don't put on every shoe that fits you.

Nothing wears out quite so completely as a welcome.

Kisses loose, their force if you make too many of them.

What a very precious thing it is that it never makes any one sick to laugh!

Didn't something very funny happen to you as a boy when all the family were on their knees engaged in family prayer?

All grades of excitement are afforded the father of a large family, from a dentist's bill contracted by the oldest child to the new teeth of the baby. —Atchison Globe.

IN PHILADELPHIA.

Straw hats are on sale in the mint arcade.

Mr. Cassatt still sidetracks Philadelphia on most of the limiteds.

Conductors on the local trolleys say "exchange" when they offer transfers.

A New York man can walk faster than a Chestnut street trolley car travels.

Folks complain that it hurts their necks looking up at John Wanamaker's new skyscraper. It will be about the biggest building in the world. —New York World.

SUNDAY MARKETS.

They Were Held in England Even Before the Conquest.

According to the Domesday book, a Sunday market was held at St. Germans, Cornwall, even before the conquest, though it was soon rendered of little value owing to the establishing of another on an adjacent piece of ground by the Conqueror's half brother.

From the conquest right on to the time of Henry VII. and in a few cases longer these Sunday markets were common. We find records of them at Bradford, Worcester, Battle, Launceston and parts of Durham, Lancashire and Lincolnshire.

Launceston in 1206 gave King John 5 marks for a license to change the day to Thursday. Battle did pretty much the same thing. Despite an act of parliament in 1440 abolishing them some disregarded the act and continued Sunday fairs until 1800.

In Wigton, Cumberland, the butchers on Sunday did a roaring trade close to the church doors. It was no uncommon thing for worshippers to bring their joints to church with them and hang them over the pew fronts. The priest, unable to stop the custom, posted to London and got the market day changed to Tuesday. —London Mail.

Silence Is Golden.

Mike—Phwat is a good openin' for a young man? Pat—His mouth when he keeps it shut.—Puck.

THE CAMEL IN ARABIA.

It Is Necessary to the Prosperity of the Country.

It would be hard for a person living in any other city in the world to conceive just what an indispensable animal the camel is to the prosperity and welfare of Aden and the adjacent part of Arabia. Even in the ordinary work done by a horse in any other place or country the camel is always used here—in fact, except for drawing a carriage, it completely takes the place of the horse. The camel is used for hauling produce in carts, for carrying freight and other articles and for drawing the sprinkling and water carts. It makes a comfortable riding animal, and at a feast its flesh, of all meats, is considered the best. But it is as a means of transportation and as a beast of burden in passing to and from the interior of Arabia to Aden that it becomes indispensable, and it is altogether probable that without it Aden would have never become the great distributing point it now is. Articles shipped from here to points across the gulf of Aden are also transported by camels into the interior of the African continent.

The amount of the burden varies according to the distance to be carried and to the size of the animal. In carrying goods to and from the wharfs to the different warehouses a few miles a camel will carry a load of from 600 to 900 pounds, but for a long journey from one-third to one-half of this amount is considered a camel load.—United States Consular Report.

MAGIC IN TIBET.

Feats of the Wonder Workers of the Land of Mystery.

India and neighboring countries are the home of mystery and the black arts. Even in the centers of civilization there are fortune tellers and wonder workers to whom supernatural powers are attributed by those who scorn superstitious belief. Says a writer: "Tibetan peddlers have affirmed over and over again that, living in the mountains near the city of Lassa, there are men possessing extraordinary powers, distinct from and far higher than the ordinary lamas."

"These men cure the sick by giving them rice to eat which they crush out of the paddy with their hands. They perform many other remarkable feats. We are told that a young Bengali in 1882 testified before a number of respectable witnesses that while traveling in Tibet, in the neighborhood of the lake of Manasarawara, he met one of these men accompanied by a number of chelas, or pupils. The master saluted him and, finding that he had nothing to eat, gave him some ground grain and tea.

"As the Bengali had no means of obtaining fire the master called for some fuel and kindled it by simply blowing on it with his mouth. He also cured a shepherd who was brought to him suffering from rheumatic fever, then and there, by giving him a few grains of rice crushed out of the paddy which he had in his hand."

How Sponges Are Prepared.

Sponges are prepared for export in the following manner: After being bought in the local market they are carted to the shipping yard of the purchaser, where they are cut and trimmed into proper shapes and sizes. They are then washed and thoroughly dried, being generally spread in the sun for that purpose upon canvas or old sails. Next they are assorted according to varieties and then packed by means of hand presses into bales weighing from 20 to 150 pounds. Sometimes the sponges are bleached by being passed through a solution of white lime and water so weak as not to injure the fiber of the sponge.

Better Luck Than He Thought.

A young man who had received the privilege of shooting over the land of a farmer got rather close once or twice to the home and the ground adjacent to it. Later in the day, the Country Gentleman says, he met the farmer.

"You've had pretty good luck," said the farmer.

"Well, no," said the young man hesitatingly. "I haven't had any luck at all."

"Yes, you have," repeated the farmer. "This morning you just missed my best Shorthorn."

Carefully Guarded Tea.

The tea used in the Chinese royal household is treated with the utmost care. It is raised in a garden surrounded by a wall, so that neither man nor beast can get anywhere near the plants. At the time of the harvest those collecting these leaves must abstain from eating fish that their breath may not spoil the aroma of the tea. They must bathe three times a day and in addition must wear gloves while picking the tea for the Chinese court.

The only two animals besides the wolf for which domesticated animals never seem able to conquer their aversion are the camel and the bear. The former is a case of pure natural aversion. It has been noticed that when the camels in a traveling menagerie have been tethered at any particular spot horses will shy and refuse to go near it, even after the camels have gone on their way with the rest of the show to another town.—Country Life.



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