

The Daily Astorian.

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No. 61.

SLEEPING WITH SERPENTS.

Professor Bell, the Smithsonian Institution's agent, shipped his last collection of snakes to the north two weeks ago, and already has his museum full again. It is surprising how rapidly they become domesticated under his treatment. During the recent cold snap some of them that he turned loose in his room at night climbed up the bedposts and coiled themselves up in his blankets. He felt them hunting for cosy spots about his legs, and knew that he ought to get up and provide them with some loose straw, but a sleepy man in a warm bed on a cold night is not over-obliging, and the professor snored on musically, as is his custom. The reptiles crowded upon one another, quarrelled, fought a little, hissed, but the professor did not budge; only now and then he would wake slightly and cry softly: "Whist, boys; be easy, boys."

At last a big coachwhip snake found an opening near the edge of the blankets and slowly glided in. There was a gentle waving up and down of the bedclothes as the big claybank serpent moved about, getting himself comfortable, when suddenly he slapped about two thirds of his frigid length against the warm legs of the professor. The professor made a violent remark. He sat up in bed, gathered a handful of snakes in each hand, depositing them carefully on the floor, then throwing back the bedclothes he administered a kick that sent the coach whip flying through the dark to the other end of the room, encountering the lamp in its aerial flight and knocking from its bracket on the wall the fragile skull of an ancient Florida mound builder.

"Freeze and be hanged!" exclaimed the irate professor. "I'll share my bed with you, but you shan't drive me out." He drew the blankets over him. A few moments later several pairs of little red eyes moved up from the bedposts on either side, and soon snake herder and snakes, in one couch, were lost in peaceful sleep. *Jacksonville, Fla., Times.*

A French Republican journal draws attention to the fact that the Republic has lately entered on the thirteenth year of its existence—the number thirteen being, as every one knows, the most unlucky in the whole arithmetical series. The thirteenth year has been, in fact, a more or less fatal epoch in the career of every government which the present century has witnessed in France. It was just thirteen years after his elevation to power that Napoleon entered on the disastrous Russian campaign of 1812, which caused his downfall. Again in 1827, exactly thirteen years from the restoration, occurred the first reactionary coup d'etat which led the latter on to the formation of the Polignac Ministry and the revolution in July. The thirteenth year of Louis Philippe's reign, 1842, was marked by the tragic death of the Duke of Orleans, an event hardly less fatal to the dynasty. The thirteenth year of the reign of Napoleon III witnessed the unfortunate Mexican expedition, the "beginning of the end" of the second empire.

A log cut on the Skagit last week measured nine feet across at the stump. The first cut was over twenty-four feet in length, and measured eighty-four inches; the next log thirty-two feet, and seventy-six inches at the top; and the third log was thirty-six feet long and measured sixty-three inches. Ninety-two feet of saw-logs was cut from the tree, the average diameter being seventy-four inches. This tree would probably scale 12,000 feet.

An amateur dramatic company, at Mackaday, Ill., rehearsed a border play on Monday evening. John Perl took a rifle to send a bullet whistling past the head of his brother James, but placed it in his brain. The coroner's jury declared it accidental.

What is an Architect.

The Rev. J. Jessop tells the following anecdote: The late Mr. Alexander, the eminent architect, was under cross-examination at Maidstone, by Sergeant, afterward Baron, Garrow, who wished to detract from the weight of his testimony, and, after asking him what was his name, proceeded: "You are a builder, I believe?" "No, sir, I am not a builder; I am an architect." "They are much the same, I suppose?" "I beg your pardon, sir, I cannot admit that; I consider them to be totally different." "Oh, indeed, perhaps you will state wherein this difference exists?" "An architect, sir," replied Mr. Alexander, "conceives the design, prepares the plan, draws out the specifications—in short, supplies the mind, the builder is merely the bricklayer or the carpenter. The builder, in fact, is the machine, the architect the power that puts the machine together and sets it going." "Oh, very well, Mr. Architect, that will do. And now, after your very ingenious distinction without a difference, perhaps you can inform the court who was the architect of the Tower of Babel?" The reply for promptness and wit is not to be rivaled in the whole history of rejoinder. "There was no architect, sir, and hence the confusion."

Just at this time there is a commotion in Paris over the discovery that nearly every article of food that will admit of doctoring is adulterated. A series of analyses was made at the municipal laboratory, the results of which first drew attention to the matter. Of sixty-two samples of butter only eleven were found to be pure, twenty-five being described as "passable," and twenty-six as absolutely bad; of thirty-two samples of flour only eighteen were unadulterated; and pure ground coffee was the exception, not the rule. Pepper showed the vilest adulteration, "the sweepings of the large shops" being a frequent ingredient, and only one sample in three being what it pretended to be. This is bad enough on the Parisians, but it is well known that the system of adulterating food prevails in this country also. The article of powdered sugar is mixed with flour. To obtain the proof of this—which is familiar to housekeepers—it is only necessary to drop a spoonful of the so-called sugar into a glass of water, which it will soon whiten to the color of milk. But flour is a harmless ingredient. If nothing worse were put into our food we would at least escape the chances of being injured in health.

A revolution in industry as great as that when cast iron nails superseded wrought iron ones is impending, if the Bessemer steel works, about being established at Wheeling, prove a success. The project contemplates the manufacture of a low grade of steel for the manufacture of steel nails, which will not only be produced cheaper than iron nails, but will be far lighter, stronger, and more serviceable. The projectors declare that this is not the only article in which a low grade of steel will supersede iron. Barb-fence wire, horse shoes, rolled shafting, agricultural implements, and stamped and hollow ware will be made of steel. In less than five years, one enthusiast predicts, puddled iron will not be in the market.

An Indian territory special says: The Indian authorities and Indian agent Taft are trying to remove 2,000 intruders from the Creek and Seminole counties who have moved in, settled and lived there a long time, and occasionally intermarried. Secretary Teller has the matter under advisement. If removed they may make trouble.

We are neither surprised nor startled at such well attested facts as the following: Mr. C. S. Mayo, manager of the Merrimac Paper Co., Lawrence, Mass., suffered with rheumatism of the ankles. St. Jacobs Oil caused the pain to disappear in a few hours.

Proctor's Figures.

According to Mr. Proctor, if from a single pair for 5,000 years each husband and wife had married at 21 years of age and there had been no deaths, the population of the earth would be 2,199,915 followed by 141 ciphers. It would require to hold this population a number of worlds equal to 3,156,526 followed by 125 ciphers. A single globe sufficient to give standing room to this population, ten to the square yard, would have a diameter in proportion to that of the earth as seven followed by forty-three ciphers to one. Supposing the farthest star visible in the great Rosse telescope to be some thirteen or fourteen millions of miles further from us than the nearest, which lie about 70,000 times further than Neptune, the distance from that star, to travel from which light would require about 40,000,000 years, would be but the 100,000,000,000,000,000,000,000th part of the radius of such a globe as would be required to hold the population we are considering. A sphere having a radius equal to 100,000,000 of years of light journey would not suffice to hold so many human beings. At this rate the universe itself would begin to get crowded without even the service of a commission of immigration.

The president has approved the report of the government commissioners accepting the newly completed section of the Northern Pacific road, comprising 104 miles in Montana territory and including the bridge across the Missouri.

The bill for the admission of Dakota as a state, will not be pressed as hard as that for a division of the territory. The latter will be very much urged upon the attention of congress.

The Toronto Globe says that one of the questions put to the candidates at a recent examination for the civil service held in that city, was: "A man left \$20,000 by his will, the sum to be divided between his two sons, one of whom was to receive \$1,000 more than the other." The question was too "hard" for the applicants. Every one of them answered that the one son was to receive \$11,000 and the other \$9,000.

MOTHERS, READ.

GENES.—About nine years ago I had a child two years old and almost dead. The doctor I had attending her could not tell what ailed her. I asked him if he did not think it was worms. He said no. However, this did not satisfy me, as I felt convinced in my own mind that she had. I obtained a bottle of DR. C. McLANE'S CELEBRATED VERMIFUGE (gentle). I gave her a teaspoonful in the morning and another at night, after which she passed seventy-two worms and was a well child. Since then I have never been without it in my family. The health of my children remained so good that I had neglected watching their actions until about three weeks ago, when two of them presented the same sickly appearance that Fanny did nine years ago. So I thought it must be worms and went to work at once with a bottle of DR. C. McLANE'S VERMIFUGE between four of my children, their ages being as follows: Alice, 8 years; Charles, 4 years; Emma, 6 years; John, 9 years. Now comes the result: Alice and Emma came out all right, but Charles passed forty-five and Johnny about sixty worms. The result was so gratifying that I spent two days in showing the wonderful effect of your Vermifuge around Utica, and now have the worms on exhibition in my store. Yours truly, JOHN PIPER.

The genuine DR. C. McLANE'S VERMIFUGE is manufactured only by Fleming Bros., Pittsburgh, Pa., and bear the signatures of C. McLANE and Fleming Bros. It is never made in St. Louis or Wheeling. Be sure you get the genuine. Price, 25 cents a bottle. FLEMING BROS., Pittsburgh, Pa.

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Notice.

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Kate Field says the "journalist quietly accepts oblivion." We have known him to most enthusiastically seek for it when a citizen entered the sanctum with a club and announced his intention to pulverize the entire staff. Just at the time when the journalist would accept it most gladly and quietly oblivion is the hardest to find.—*Burlington Hawkeye.*

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