OPPING IN JAPAN.

CUSTOMS IN THE MIKADO'S EMPIRE.

Is a Veritable Maze—You Ask for the Goods You Wish to Buy—It Costs More to Buy in Quantities.

are very fond of strolling their bazaars. You enter at door and leave by another. Goods are displayed on each side of that wind through the length of Passing up and down these they lead you to the second, and third, story of the building, then again through different aisles, you to travel the length of the times many times. Finally you doorway a few feet distant, but then you must travel this maze times its length to escape.

shopping is very restful in You sit around on the floor, and shops they bring you cups of tea and a "hibachi" from which your pipe.

is of no consequence to the Orientals, nor are they eager to sell. Their of trade are very peculiar. You compelled to ask them whether you articles after their stating that have them in the store. Ten pieces article sometimes cost twelve the cost of one. They will not at a loss rate, but insist on your extra because of the large quantity desired. They frankly tell you price to Japanese customers and that foreigners have to pay about 100 per cent. more and laugh.

largest dry goods store in Tokio clerks are seen kneeling upon the of the large building, but no merchandise is visible. It is kept in fireproof structures in the rear and carried to and fro for customers' inspection by numerous boys. It is very interesting to watch proceedings in such a

Nearly all Japanese stores are conducted in the same manner, though shops have on display samples of goods sold. If a foreign lady is shopping a crowd of Japanese usually block the store, anxious to see the strange sight. Preparatory to the new treaties going into effect the government issued an order for the natives to abandon this obstructive habit.

The Japanese are great imitators. Almost every staple article has its imitation here and its label counterfeited. Philadelphia shoe-blacking has half dozen imitations. One maker inserts name, leaving North Front street, Philadelphia, remaining, and the label unchanged, except "superior quality" "superior quarity." Another inserts name and Japanese town, but leaves "131 and 146 North Front street," and so on.

The Japanese make heroic efforts at English. While butchering it horribly they do remarkably well, considering everything. On the few English signs leading firms on Tokio's chief street are seen: "Drucelst," for druggist; "foreign gords," "caned goods, wholesale and detail," "The shop of the artifices of the finery," "The carriage and all of harness" and "A harness maker," "manufaktealary," "apothekaly," etc.—Tokio correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.

SHE KEPT AN ARMY WAITING.

A Chicago Girl Did This to Take a Photograph.

She was only a slip of a girl from Chicago, but with the aid of her camera she kept an army waiting while she took the picture of its commanding officer. It was the occasion of the greatest review since the civil war. The incident occurred Aug. 9, 1898, while 55,000 volunteers awaited along the base of Snodgrass hill in Chickamauga National Park the signal to march.

Back of the great flag, the emblem of a united nation planted on the side of the hill where the reviewing stand was located, there was a commotion. A colored driver of an old carry-all was endeavoring to force his way to a point where his passengers, a handsome couple of elderly people and a pretty young girl, might have a more favorable opportunity of viewing the marching thousands. The coveted position had hardly been secured when General Breckenridge, the commanding officer, and staff swept up from across the field, where they had been "riding the lines," inspecting the troops.

The trumpeter was about to sound the signal for the advance when the young girl in the carry-all leaped to the ground and ran across the field to where General Breckenridge sat on his handsome bay. She stopped when about twenty feet from the general and pointed her camera at him. An aid laughingly directed his superior's attention to the girl by the remark: "You are about to have your picture taken, general."

General Breckenridge turned and saw his fair admirer. His hand was raised and the trumpeter withheld the signal for the advance. The general rode forward a few paces and faced the girl, who now appeared confused and about to withdraw, the attention she had attracted disconcerted her. She was a brave little creature, however, and, summoning her courage, she waited for the general to halt. Her camera ceased swaying and was aimed full at the handsome Kentuckian. A click was heard by those nearest the scene and a sweet "Thank you" followed from the young girl.

"I hope it will be a good picture," was the kindly response of the general as he raised his hat and returned to his position.

The sharp notes of the "Forward!" pealed from the trumpet and the van of the troops began to move. The young girl returned to her seat in the carry-all, blushing but triumphant.

Bismarck's Enormous Appetite.

Among other amusing reminiscences of the late Prince Bismarck appearing in John Booth's "Memoirs of the Iron Chancellor" is one relating to the latter's Gargantuan capacity for eating and drinking. He told the author that the largest number of oysters he ever ate was 175. He first ordered twenty-five, then, as they were very good, fifty more; and, consuming these, determined to eat nothing else, and ordered another 100, to the great amusement of those present. Bismarck was then 26, and had just returned from England. His views on smoking are of interest, though most people will be surprised to learn that in late years his powers of cigar smoking failed him.

SCIENCE AND INVENTION

Lake Superior is the largest body of fresh water in the world, covering thirty-two thousand square miles; the Caspian sea, not generally called a lake, covers 169,381 square miles.

In tropical countries, quite a number of plants are luminous. The meadow lily, which grows in abundance in the marshes of Africa, is one of the most perfect types of vegetable phosphorescents. In Brazil a kind of grass, which the inhabitants call khus-khus-shines, gives forth a bright light, before which horses and other grazing animals stop in surprise and fear.

A life buoy, provided with automatic torches which are ignited by the contact of calcium phosphide with water, was invented a few years ago by Rear Admiral Hichborn, and is now in use on all of our naval vessels, as well as on many foreign ships. It is called the Franklin life buoy. On a stormy night in 1897 one of these buoys saved two sailors of the Maine, but one of the rescued men perished a year later at the explosion in Havana harbor.

Many persons believe that birds, returning to their summer quarters, are the same that were at the same spots the year previous; but exact proof is rare. John B. Crowson of Germantown, Pa., saw a robin struggle to get free from some string in which it got entangled, resulting in a broken leg. It was lame accordingly. The lame bird returned year after year to the same spot. How they can retire hundreds of miles, and yet return to the same spot, is truly wonderful.

The Manhattan Eye and Ear Hospital in New York possesses a novel surgical instrument intended to extract particles of iron and steel from the eye. It consists of a powerful electro-magnet mounted on a stand running on casters. When an operation is to be performed one end of the magnet is cautiously brought near the patient's eye. If a piece of steel or iron is embedded in the eyeball, the patient experiences a sharp pain as the metallic sliver forces its way through the tissues and flies to the magnet. The injury to the eye is said to be less than that caused by using a knife.

When we read of the men who inhabited the caves of Europe at a time when mammoths dwelt on that continent we seem to have gone back to a period so immeasurably remote that we can hardly picture in the mind's eye the appearance which the representatives of our race then presented. Yet, according to Prof. E. R. Tylor, the natives of Tasmania "remained within the present century representatives of the immensely ancient Paleolithic period." Recent studies of the relics of the Tasmanians, who became extinct when brought into touch with modern civilized man, show that the workmanship of their rude implements was below that exhibited by the "Drift and Cave men" of Paleolithic times.

American Bridges Abroad.

The American bridge is flinging its majestic spans and arches across the rivers of many lands—Egypt, Siberia, Japan, China, Peru, and others—and a group of twenty-six skilled American builders has departed for Rangoon, British India, where an American company has one of its constructions in progress.

German Pig Iron.

German production of pig iron in the first half of the current year was 4,000,000 tons, against 3,600,000 in the same time in 1898.

American Cows.

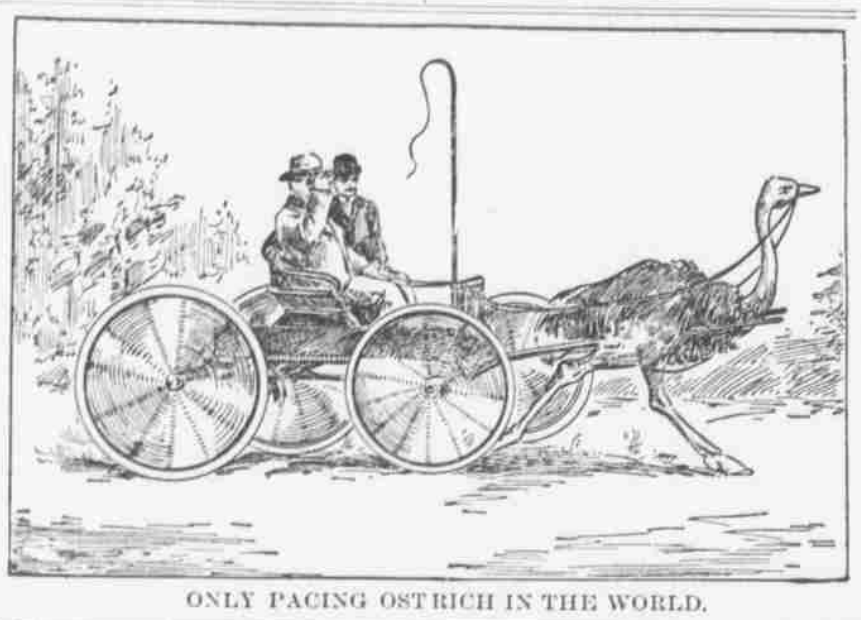
American farmers own cows to the value of $369,239,993, a sum equal to more than one half of the capital of all the national banks in the United States.

A PACING OSTRICH.

Jacksonville Boasts a Bird that Races in Harness.

The most unique steed ever attached to harness is Oliver W., of Florida, a 400-pound, full-blooded African ostrich. Not only has the distinction of being the first pacing ostrich ever known, but he can get up a speed that would trouble the fastest of horses.

Hitched to a light carriage, driven by his keeper and manager, the big pacing ostrich may be seen daily in the road near Jacksonville and it is doubtful if ever a more peculiar and interesting sight was seen. His speed is simply remarkable and nothing on the road can pass or even hold him. He has gone a mile in 2:02 several times and once it is said went below the two-minute mark. He has already won several big match races and also came out first in the most unique trial of speed ever performed in this part of the country, a race with a bicycle and a well-known trotter. Oliver W. beat both man and horse in a one-mile sprint in the remarkably fast time of 2:11.



ONLY PACING OSTRICH IN THE WORLD.

MRS. DEWEY.

Charming Personality of the Woman Who Is Now the Admiral's Wife.

Admiral Dewey has known the woman who recently became his wife since she was a chubby, rosy-cheeked girl, with two long brown braids of hair hanging down her back. Mildred McLean was beautiful and joyous. Life to her was roseate. She had never known a care. She was simply a merry, light-hearted girl, with infinite possibilities. About this time she met William Babcock Hazen, afterward brigadier general, who was known as a soldier and an author. He fell at once in love with the charming girl. She loved him in return. They were married soon after and went to his post to live.

Life in an army post is somewhat narrow. The years passed quietly for Mildred Hazen. Her marriage was very happy. A daughter was born to her and died. Then there was a son, and Mrs. Hazen lived in those early years for her husband and child. Her life flowed smoothly on until twelve years ago, when her husband died. She was left a widow, still young, beautiful and rich. She went to live with her mother, Mrs. Washington McLean.

Again Mrs. Hazen met Dewey. She was older and sorrow-chastened now, but to him she was a thousand times lovelier than the light-hearted girl he had formerly known.

Mrs. Hazen made a distinct place for herself in the gay life at the capital. She soon became known as the most brilliant in Washington society. Her extraordinary conversational powers, her aptness at repartee and her ready wit caused her to be sought by the most prominent men in political life.

MRS. GEORGE DEWEY.

Through it all she retained the gentle, unassuming manner that has made her so especially lovable. Admiral Dewey was a frequent visitor—but so were many other distinguished people, so no one thought very much about the frequency of his calls or speculated as to their meaning. He was not the hero then. He was a plain, quiet, unassuming commodore. He was ordered to the Philippines, and it is said that when he went away he carried with him Mrs. Hazen's half-way promise that when his ship came sailing home again he might claim her for his bride.

There were many weary but eventful months before that time came. Letters crossed the sea and told of his busy life, his hopes, of his longing to get back to his native land. But the secret was well kept. No one guessed that Dewey had left his heart behind. No one knew that a woman's prayers and love were cheering him in his heroic achievements. Not until the time came for Admiral Dewey to go to Washington to receive the jeweled sword presented to him by Congress did the gossips begin to whisper.

Mrs. Dewey confesses to 45 years, but they dwell lightly upon her. She is a woman of perfect manner. She has exquisite grace and a really aristocratic bearing. The years of experience she has had in Washington society have brought her unequaled tact and culture, together with rare conversational ability. There is in her talk the very slightest suggestion of the foreigner. She is as enthusiastic and talks as rapidly as a French woman. There are moments when her gesticulations are even more eloquent than her words. She is never at a loss to convey her meaning.

A HUMAN HIVE.

A Place Where Most of Our Jewelry Is Made.

Providence, R. I., has the largest silverware factory in the world, the largest screw factory, the largest manufactory for small tools and the largest file works. Perhaps it is especially unique in producing more jewelry than any other city in the United States, says the Nashville American, and nearly as much as all the rest of the country combined. There is no city which possesses so many separate and distinct shops for the manufacture of a single commodity as Providence does for the manufacture of jewelry. There are at least 250 separate factories devoted to the making of gold, silver, rolled-plated, electroplated and brass jewelry and novelties. In addition, the auxiliary industries for furnishing supplies of special labor to the jewelry factories number more than seventy-five. Many of the jewelry shops are small, employing only ter[illegible] a dozen hands, while some e[illegible]gh as 300, and in one case 1,[illegible] State census of 1895 the c[illegible] in this industry in Pr[illegible] 12,000,000; average numl[illegible]employed, 7,000; annual [illegible]500,0[illegible]; value of mate[illegible] value of annual [illegible] Had these figures [illegible] they would have [illegible] cent. more [illegible] shops h[illegible] wi[illegible]esult [illegible] su[illegible]sen a large class of [illegible] people, neither rich nor po[illegible] prosperous and contented.

Old Glory.

One may pay anything from a cent to one hundred and fifty dollars, for a flag of the United States. The cheapest flags are stamped on muslin with the colors red and blue, and are then tacked or pasted upon sticks; they are not guaranteed to wash. Of this kind is the little penny flag which the small boy wears on the lapel of his coat. Such flags are put through a printing press like calico skirts, and come out all colored at the rate of one hundred a minute. Anybody is at liberty to make United States flags. Thus it comes about that all sorts of patterns of the national ensign are on the market, and in use. But if any one desires to have the colors as they ought to be, reference must be made to the standard adopted by the army and navy. This standard, altered from time to time by the addition of fresh stars, is preserved, and will continue to be kept by the secretaries of war and navy. The proper design for the blue field of Old Glory is fixed and absolute; other arrangements of the stars, which commonly are distributed more or less higgledy-piggledy, are wrong.

A bridegroom can get a good deal of credit for helping his wife with the housework, by going out once or twice a week, and upsetting a few things in the kitchen.

The average married woman acts as if she found her husband easy to get, and expects to have another one.

Women have the most to wear, but men have the most to eat.

MALADIES OF TELEGRAPHERS.

Subject to Tuberculosis, Heart Trouble and Brain Congestion.

"Telegraph operators are kept in a constant state of cerebral tension," says Mr. Hull, President of the Railway and Telegraph Workers' Union. "They are exposed to a great number of maladies, and it can well be said that their work is dangerous. A telegraph operator reads better with his ears than with his eyes. He carries out an essentially mental operation by using the nerves of hearing. This faculty is consequently highly developed in his case. In the ordinary work of reading twenty words a minute the telegraph operator must distinguish 150 alternate strokes or intervals, and when there is a rush of work this figure can go as high as 450. There is also the transforming the sounds into visible symbols, or writing, which implies another mental process. And whereas the normal amount of varied sensatory impulses per minute is 120, the telegraph operator has to accomplish 150 to 450.

"Without taking extreme cases into consideration, it may be said that the sense of hearing in a telegraph operator is two and a half times more powerful than in an ordinary individual. Again, in telegraphy the continuity of the nervous stimulation, the monotony of sounds and the fixity of attention are further causes of exhaustion. It is found also that during forced work the telegraph operator's breathing is affected, his heart's action precipitated and his brain congested. As a result of these phenomena it is noticeable that a general decline of the organism follows, ending in tuberculosis."

According to Mr. Hull, the ordinary death rate for tuberculosis is 13.8; that of telegraph operators is 46.6. And what is true of tuberculosis applies to other affections of the respiratory organs. The general death rate for the latter is 3.5, but it rises to 18.4 among telegraph operators between 15 and 25 years of age, to 23.1 between 25 and 35 years of age, instead of 4.9, and to 12, instead of 5.3, between the ages of 35 and 45. From 45 years upward it declines, being 4.3, instead of 5.3, but this diminution is very delusive, seeing that it is due to the elimination of the weak members who have died off in the preceding years. It becomes more marked with increasing age. Between 55 and 60 it stands at 0.5, instead of 5.4, and above 65 at 0.4, instead of 8.2. But these are not the only affections to which telegraph operators are liable. The nervous tension which they endure often gives rise to a state requiring immediate withdrawal from their work.

Arab Weapons.

Here in Muscat I saw the pure bred Arab man, sinewy but not tall, a domineering, swaggering nobleness in his glance, and a brace of daggers in his waist. When I recognized a beautiful haft or noticed a slender inlaid native gun or singular shield, I offered to buy. But nothing could induce them to sell.

"Sahib," said one man, "I killed my deadlie[illegible] with this blade, right through[illegible]k heart! You see this dint in my shield? Ah! that dint was caused by [illegible]ear. The shield saved my life; [illegible], sell it for money? My [illegible]b! I am an Arab and [illegible] other self. Ho[illegible] co[illegible] I had no g[illegible] to my gr[illegible]mer[illegible] offered three times [illegible] The answer always was "N[illegible] sahib, I will not; I cannot."

Everybody, from the frolicsome boy of 8 to the tottering imbecile of 80, carried a weapon. The old men had rusty swords that reminded me of the unwieldly, double-bladed monsters that Richard Coeur de Lion and his knights swung in the face of the Saracens. These Muscat swords are four feet six inches long, the blades three inches wide, and the handles provide room for both fists to grasp. Law is an unknown quantity in eastern Arabia.

Up-to-Date Band Music.

Visitor: "Can your band play well, uncle?"

Band Leader: "Play well! I guess we does. We gits all our notes clar from Boston, we does."

Wisconsin Christmas Trees.

As early as September orders were placed in Wisconsin for 50,000 Christmas trees, to be shipped East.

The man who slowly climbs the ladder to success remains there longer than the one who reaches it via the balloon route.