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The Way Home.
 Two little boys of under ten were skating on a thin frozen canal in Jersey City. The ice broke and they appeared in the water. That would have been the end of the story had it not been for a young man named Ira Stringham. He had left his office in Manhattan as usual and was on his everyday walk home after his day's work when he saw the accident. Without an instant's pause he raced out and dived into the black hole where the boys and vanished. And he got them. Then he tried to raise the boys safely on to the ice, though time after time the brittle ice at the edge of the hole broke and let them back to the water. But at last, with the aid of ropes thrown from the bank, the youngsters were hauled to shore and life. Ira Stringham did not follow them. He clutched feebly at the edge of the ice, but his strength had been exhausted and his hand could not keep its grip. They got his body an hour later. "There was nothing to distinguish this from countless other boys," you say; "hundreds of soldiers doing as much every day." So they were fired by the call which summons men to a glorious end and sustained the example of their comrades. But Stringham heard no such call. No one would have termed him a coward if he paused, weighed chances, reasoned, "If I go after them, we shall all be drowned," and let the great moment pass. He chose differently. He was something more than a mere hero to duty. His twenty-one years of life may not have been great. But suddenly came to real greatness at night as he went home.—Colliers.

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Why do you keep buying lottery tickets? You seldom or never win a prize.
 Why do you keep buying cantaloupes?—Louisville Courier-Journal.

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Long's Peak in Winter

D. W. ROPER of Chicago recently made an unusually dangerous ascent of Long's peak, the giant of the new Rocky Mountain national park, and has given details of the exploit in a letter to a friend.

Long's peak, which is 14,255 feet high, was considered unclimbable for many years. Its summit is reached by passing from Boulder field, which lies 12,000 feet up, through an opening in the rocky wall known as Keyhole out upon the side of a sharp-angled slope covered with perpetual ice and snow, which slants from near the summit far down the mountain side to end in a nearly precipitous drop of a good deal more than a thousand feet into Glacier gorge.

This is called the Trough and it is ascended by steps cut in the ice and snow, which are frequently obliterated by fresh snowfalls and must be renewed continually. So far, none of the hardy scalars of the summit, which include, by the way, an increasing number of women, has lost control on this dangerous slope, though stories are whispered of occasional slips caught just in time.

Mr. Roper, while ascending the lower levels, met four young men, two of them with frozen feet, who had been held overnight on the summit by a snow squall obliterating the steps too late in the day to enable them to cut new ones on their descent.

In the Face of a Gale.
 "As there was a heavy snow on the summit of Long's peak the night after



VIEW OF LONG'S PEAK

I arrived at the inn," writes Mr. Roper, "I was advised not to attempt the ascent for several days on account of the danger. I therefore waited until the fourth day after the snow. Starting about seven in the morning, I rode alone and without guide to Boulder field, where the horse was left. I had some description of the appearance of the Keyhole, and it had been suggested that perhaps I would find difficulty in getting by the snow in the Trough and might do better to climb the bowlders along the side. The geological survey map constituted the rest of my information about the ascent.

"Walking across Boulder field I was somewhat sheltered from the wind, which was blowing a gale from the southwest. On reaching the Keyhole I found the wind blowing against me so strong that I could hardly stand. I therefore retraced a few steps, sat down in the lee of a projecting rock and ate a portion of my lunch. It was so cold that there appeared to be no prospect of rain at higher altitudes, and I therefore left at this point my knapsack, containing my raincoat, the remainder of my lunch and a few other incidentals.

Cutting Steps in the Ice.
 "After leaving the Keyhole the general direction of the trail was indicated by a few cairns, but they were very scarce. The footprints in the snow of a party that had made the ascent the previous day were of considerable assistance and particularly so in the Trough, where I found their steps cut in the ice and crusty snow. I did not have to cut more than six or eight steps, and as I had nothing that could be used for the purpose except my hunting knife this was very fortunate.

"The ascent from the Keyhole to the summit required an hour and thirty minutes. In the Trough I was on all fours about half the time and did considerable climbing over and amongst the bowlders. I would characterize the ascent as dangerous rather than difficult. There was no snow of any consequence except in the Trough, although the notes in the register on the summit showed that the party had found two inches on the summit the previous day.

"I had taken opportunity to enjoy the many magnificent views on the way up the peak, and it was fortunate that I did so, as I there found a storm gathering, the clouds being about on the level with the summit of the peak and snow starting to fall. I made a slight tour of the summit and then located and examined the register of the Colorado Mountain club.

Fighting a Snow Storm.
 "The snowfall rapidly increased, so that in twenty minutes after reaching the summit I started the descent, as I feared difficulty due to the snow covering the steps in the ice through the Trough. My fears were well founded. More than half of the steps were not only filled but entirely covered and obliterated, so that it was impossible to locate them. There were several places from fifty to a hundred feet wide or more between the bowlders along the side of the Trough where there was no sign of any footing, and if one should start to slip it was hard to see just where one might expect to stop. The only certain place appeared to be down near Glacier lake, some 2,000 feet below.

"In these places I made steps by repeated kicks with my heel, at the same time making hand holds higher up with my hands in the crusty snow. "Fortunately, I was able to find the steps in that portion of the side of the Trough that was covered with ice. In one place I attempted to go down over a bowlder by lowering myself feet first, but after getting so far that I swung freely below the chest I found

it impossible to find safe footing and had to climb up again over the bowlder. As this bowlder was located in a position with a steep crusty snow slope below it, the climbing up was attended with some danger, and especially so as the first part of the climbing consisted of a series of kicks and wriggles in an attempt to lift my clothing clear of the rough bowlder and to move forward at the same time until I could bring my foot or knee into action.

"The trail was very dim after getting out of the Trough. Several times I found myself a considerable distance above the trail, and nearly descended through the transom, if there is one, instead of the Keyhole. The difficulties in the Trough and in losing the trail resulted in my making the descent to the Keyhole in an hour and thirty-five minutes, or five minutes longer than the time required for the ascent."

Steam Printing.
 On November 29, 1814, a newspaper for the first time was printed by steam. Although the application of steam power to printing machinery had been successfully experimented with some years previously, the hostility of the working printers rendered it inadvisable for the masters to introduce such a startling innovation into their printing houses. Towards the end of 1814, however, the growing circulation of the Times made a change of some kind necessary, and in the face of fierce opposition the second John Walters set up a steam printing press. So on the morning of November 29 the leading article of the Times announced to its readers that they held in their hands that day a copy of the first newspaper to be printed by steam.—London Chronicle.

Always Wrong.
 Manager—I'm disgusted with the mistakes that new man makes! He gets everything balled up.
 Assistant Manager—Oh, well, some of the best ones are that way at the beginning. He may bring home the bacon yet.
 Manager—He won't unless we send him for ham.—Judge.

NATIVE LIFE IN NEW GUINEA

Magic, Marrying and Murder Seem Closely Connected Practices Among the Innocent Aborigines.

The expedition led last year up the Fly river in British New Guinea by Sir Robert Clarke resulted in the discovery of some amusing customs, for the members of the party fell in with many who had never seen a white man before.

These natives practice magic which they call kurt-kurt—which kills men by suggestion. "No man among them," says Sir Robert, "is supposed to die naturally. The magic man tells him he is going to die, and he promptly does die. It may not be all hypnotism. Supposing a man is told that he is to die from a snake bite, it is not difficult to make certain of his death.

When a man is dead his relatives must get a head so that his spirit will rest in peace. They go out on a murdering expedition and get their head from the nearest tribe they can surprise. It doesn't matter to them whether the head is that of a man, woman or child.

"The girls will not marry a man unless he has a certain number of heads and has killed a man in personal combat. When a new house is built there must be more killing, because the posts of the house have to be sprinkled with human blood. The hideous warfare never ceases, for a tribe which has been attacked must seek revenge.

"The continual fear of surprise attacks is shown in the character of the houses. These were built in the trees. They were rested on scaffold poles fifty to sixty feet from the ground, were beautifully thatched and were chiefly constructed of palm leaves. They were looped in the sides for arrows and holes had been left in the floor through which stones could be dropped on the heads of an enemy.

"Large quantities of stones are kept in the houses. These tree dwellers also wear a kind of bamboo cuirass, which is arrow-proof and would be shot-proof. The arrows used are about five feet long and are projected from very powerful bows. I don't think a white man could draw their bows. I have known a man to be pierced through by an arrow from a distance of 200 yards."—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Ways of Petrograd Police.
 Count Benckendorff, the Russian ambassador, who is in mourning for the loss of his son, Count Peter, killed in action, had among his predecessors in the title one who told a curious story of the thoroughness of the Petrograd police in the early nineteenth century. He had lost his pocketbook containing a considerable sum, gave notice and had the money restored to him within a day or two, without the pocketbook. Shortly after he found that the pocketbook, still containing the original notes, was not lost, but had slipped into the lining of his fur coat. Naturally, he asked whence had come the restored money. He discovered that the police, rather than admit failure, had collected the money among themselves.—Dundee Advertiser.

Drawbacks of Medieval Meat.
 Much of the medieval meat—which Cobbett says was plentiful and cheap—must have been poor stuff. Until the introduction of root crops in the eighteenth century cattle and sheep did not become even moderately plump till the end of summer, while lack of fodder made it impossible to keep much live stock during the winter. On St. Martin's day (November 11) arrangements were usually made for slaughtering on a large scale, and for the next six months fresh meat worth eating was practically unobtainable. Until the spring grass was again ready there was a run on salted beef and salted mutton. Salted beef is excellent for a change. But have you ever tried salted mutton?—London Chronicle.

Regulating Electric Lamps.
 The demand for regulating the degree of light from an electric lamp has resulted in a lamp which has been recently exploited, containing two separate filaments of the lamp, which may be operated separately or together, giving the lamp a rating of 200 watts, with each filament taking 100 watts. A consumption of 0.6 watt per candlepower is claimed for this lamp, and it has a life of 2,000 hours if the filaments are burned separately, or 1,000 when they are burned together.

Forewarned.
 Mother—Young man, don't ever let me catch you kissing my daughter.
 Young man—No ma'am, I won't.—Michigan Gargoyle.

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Scattering Shots.
 That cracking noise you hear in the distance is somebody breaking a New Year's resolution.

Indications are that there are several pieces to the 4rd piece party.

A Michigan woman committed suicide by swallowing two twenty-dollar gold pieces. Why in the world didn't she swallow \$39.99 and call it a bargain day blow-off?

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Some Weather.
 Roland had been sent out on the porch to see what the thermometer registered.
 "Well, how cold is it?" asked his mother when he came in.
 "It's down to zero around the feet and just plain freezing around the hands," was Roland's report.

It Depended.
 Mrs. Hiram Offen—Are you very careful with the china and glassware?
 New Girl—Depends on whether or not I like the place, mum.—Boston Transcript.

His Specialty.
 "I hear they have a singing dog in vaudeville."
 "Then I guess he sings bark-rolles."—Baltimore American.

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