CELESTIAL CEREMONY AS DE-PICTED BY A CORRESPONDENT.

A Remarkable Wedding Procession Marriage at an Early Age—A Hard Feature for the Bride.

In a Hong Kong letter to the St. Louis Times-Democrat the writer says: I had not been to the hotel here in Hong Kong five minutes before my attention was dis tracted by a terrific noise. Rushing to the front balcony, I was just in time to see quite a remarkable wedding procession. At first, from the noise and general style of the affair, I thought it was a funeral, but I soon discovered the differ-A funeral procession is a more cheerful institution than a wedding procession-with the possible exception, perhaps, of the hired mourners. Beside this there is one other difference—the corpse at a wedding is a live one instead of a dead one. I think if I had my choice I would rather be the dead than the live

The inferiority of the female sex is one of the fundamental principles to which the Chinese hold. Even Confucius does not seem to have had a very broad and clevated sentiment in this regard, for he is quoted as having said, "Of all people, women are the most difficult to manage If you are familiar with them, they become forward, and if you keep them at a distance, they become discontented." Many women here are in the habit of praying that they may be born men in the next world.

But this wedding procession. First, came a dozen musicians, who were beating gongs and blowing fish-horns, each apparently without any reference to the rest. Then followed a company of men and boys bearing flags and lanterns, after which came a series of gilded tables with elaborately carved and painted cano ies over them. The display of fruits was quite tempting, and I longed for a slice of the roast pig and the roast sheep. But there were also native dishes which by experiment I had previously found to be far from appetizing. Thus far everything was arranged just as a funeral procession would be, and was composed of the same features.

But now there was a slight departure from the tuneral order of this society. There came a magnificent sedan chair, the windows of which were thoroughly curtained, but which I was told contained thr happy (?) bride. This gorgeous sedan chair was followed by others, and also by gayly decorated jinrikishas, in which were seated the relatives of both contracting parties. More so-called musicians followed, and the procession wound up with a load of boxes, which I inferred contained the marriage offerings, and per-haps the trousseau of the bride.

In the north of Mongolia it is customary for the native to capture his wife after a chase, and in any part of the empire the latter becomes his property when the twain bave formally been made one flesh. Marriage usually takes place at an immature age. In the great majority of cases the bridgroom never sees his in-tended wife until the wedding night, all negotiations being conducted by go-be-This intercessor lays the suit before the girl's father, who rejects or encourages it just as he pleases. In case of a favorable response presents are ex-changed, and after consulting the auguries, an engagement is entered into. case a piece of chinaware should be broken in either home, or an article be lost within three days of the engagement, this is considered good ground for the immediate dissolution of the en-

Astrologers determine the wedding day, which is entirely beyond the control of the pair. The ceremony takes place at the home of the bridegroom, to which the bride is escorted by the groom's "best man," being lifted from her sedan chair over a pot of burning charcoals at the threshold.

The bridegroom meanwhile is waiting for his unseen dulcinea in a reception room, being seated on a raised dias. Approaching this dias, the fair one prostrates herself humbly before her future lord. While she is in this attitude of humility he descends benignantly to her tevel, removes her veil and gazes for the first time upon her face. Then, without exchanging a word, they seat themselves side by side, and each try to sit on a part of the other's gown, in order to determine who is destined to hold sway in the household. There is no real occasion for this, since there is a tacit understanding that it will be the man.

The trial of skill over the pair proceeded to the ancestral hall, and there worship heaven, earth and their ancestors, after which dinner is served. The most singular feature of the wedding repast is enforced abstinence from all the

dainties on the part of the bride. Later in the evening the bride will answer conundrums as they are propounded to her by the guests. The wedding-day is the last occasion upon which the wife can enjoy the society of her husband in public—one of the hardest and most barbarous features of social life in China. After the labor of the day no citizen of the Flowery Kingdom can take his wife and family for a pleasant walk at dusk; neither can he accompany her to a pienic or public entertainment without violating the proprieties. Of course, these restrictions are measurably broken down at the

open ports. As if it were not enough for a woman to secure her husband by means of such a leap in the dark the laws are such that she may be divorced by her husband when he gets tired of her on any one of the following six grounds: Jealousy, leprosy, stealing, disobedience to father-in-law or mother-in-law, barrenness and garrulous-ness. But no offense which the husband may commit entitles the wife to elaim a divorce from him. Some women go into nunneries or commit suicide rather than

HOW THEY WED IN CHINA. ows can not remarry without committing gross breach of etiquette. In case extreme poverty forces them to such a disreputable measure the ceremony must be shorn of all the "style" that characterizes the first wedding.

History of the Alphabet.

How many of the millions that daily use the alphabet ever stop to think of its origin and long history? In the true spirit of a student, Isaac Taylor, a wellknown English writer on philosophical and philological subjects, has recently written and published, in London, two stout volumes under the title: Alphabet, an Account of the Origin and Development of Letters." It is only by help of recent discoveries of early inscriptions and the progress in the art of reading lost languages and deciphering hitherto unknown symbols, that such a well posted history has become possible. By careful study of the learned essays and scientific investigations of the latest philologists, Taylor has set forth in language of easy comprehension the origin of the alphabet, showing that our own "Ro-man" letters may be followed back to their very beginning, some twenty or more centuries ago, as he asserts. no more letters, according to this account, than those of the Italian printers of the fifteenth century. These were imitated from the beautiful manuscripts of the tenth and eleventh centuries, the lettering of these being derived from the Roman of the Augustan age. Roman letters, in their turn, are traced to those employed at Rome in the third century B. C., and these do not differ greatly from forms used in the earliest existing specimens of Latin writing, dating from the fifth century B. C. The primitive alphabet of Rome was derived from a local form of the Greek alphabet, in use about the sixth century B. C., and that was a variety of the earliest Greek alphabet belonging to the eighth, or even to the ninth century B. C. The Greeks got their letters from the Phonicians, and theirs are clearly traceable in the most ancient known form of the Semitic.

The most ancient of books, a papyrus found at Thebes, and now preserved in the French national library, supplies the earliest forms of the letters used in the Semitic alphabet. The stone tables of the law could have been possible to the Jews only because of their possession of an alphabet, and thus the Bible and modern philological science unite in ascribing a common origin to the alphabet which is in daily use throughout the world. The nineteenth century B. C. is held by Taylor to be the approximate date of the origin of the alphabetic writing, and from that time it grew by slow degrees, while from Egypt, the home of the Jews during their long captivity, the knowledge of their captivity was carried in all directions where alphabets are now found.

The Aryans are thought to have been the first to bring the primitive alphabet to perfection, and each letter and each sound may be traced, by Taylor's careful analysis, through all the changes that have marked the growth, progress, and, in some instances, the decay of different letters of various alphabets. It is an interesting fact that the oldest known "A B C" in existence is a child's alphabet, scratched on a little ink bottle of black ware, found in one of the oldest Greek settlements in Italy, attributed to the fifth century, B. C. The earliest letters and many later ones are known only by inscriptions, and it is the rapid increase, by recent discoveries, of these precious fragments that has inspired more diligent research and quickened the zeal of learned students in mastering the elements of knowledge of their origin and as 1876 there were found in Cyprus some bronze plates inscribed with Phænician characters, dating back to the tenth, even the eleventh century B. C.

Coins, engraved gems, inscribed stat-ues, and, last of all, the Siloam inscription, found in 1880 at Jerusalem, on the wall of an old tunnel, have supplied new material for the history. From the common mother of many alphabets, the Phœnician, are descended the Greek and other European systems on the one side, including that which we use and have the greatest interest in; and on the other, the alphabets of Asia, from which have sprung those of the East, Syriac, Arabic, and Hebrew.

The Wire Edge of the Times.

Future annalists may well describe this period of American history as the wire In no part of the economy of our daily life are we divorced from wire. It is our slave, and yet an ever present master. Sleeping, we repose on wire mattresses. Eating, we see foods which has passed through sieves, and which are sheltered from insect appetite by wire covers. Calling, we pull wires to ring curled wire gongs. Traveling, we are conveyed by cable or electric railways. hoisted by elevators hung on wires and hurried over wire bridges. We announce our coming by telegraph or telephone wires, and we thread our way by night through streets lighted by means of electric cables. Across our fields are strung many thousands of miles of barbed wire fences. Texan rangers draw the knife, and lawyers, juries, judges, and reporters whet their intellectual blades. Our clocks are set by wires, our watches run by wires, our books are stitched with wire, our pictures hung by wires, and our politics managed by wires .- Boston Ad-

Mennonites in Nebraska occupy three whole counties, are good farmers and hard workers, and are so economical that their prosperity is remarkable.

The Jersey cattle interest in this country is computed to represent from \$25,accept the burden of married life. Wid-1000,000 to \$30,000,000.

SUNLIGHT ALL THE WAY.

"Good-bye, Jennie, the road is long, And the moor is hard to cross; But well you know there is danger In the bogs and the marshy moss. So, keep in the foot-path, Jennie Let nothing tempt you to stray; Then you'll get safely over it, For there's sunlight all the way-

Sunlight all the way; So, never you fear, Keep a good heart, dear, For there is sunlight all the way."

The child went off with a blessing And a kiss of mother-love; The daisies were down at her feet, And the lark was singing above-On, on in the narrow foot-path-

Nothing could tempt her to stray; So the moor was passed at nightfall-There had been sunlight all the way; Sunlight all the way; And she, smiling, said, As her bed was spread, "I had sunlight all the way."

And I, who followed the maiden Kept thinking as I went, Over the perilous seas of life What unwary feet are bent. If they could only keep the foot-path, And not in the marshes stray,

Then they would reach the end of life 'Ere the night could shroud the day, They'd have sunshine all the way; But the marsh is wide, And they turn aside, And the night falls on the day,

Far better to keep the narrow path, Nor turn to the left or right; For if we loiter at the morning, What shall we do when the night Falls back on our lonely journey, And we mourn our vain delay?

Then steadily onward, friends, and we Shall have sunlight all the way-Sunlight all the way, Till the journey's o'er, And we reach the shore Of a never-ending day.

-Harper's Weekly.

HUMOR OF THE DAY.

A bad cold-Cold hash. Down trodden-Shoe leather. Cold and stiff-The ice crop. The crow is the great American corn mover. - Statesman. "How can a woman tell?" asked a romancer. She can't help telling .- Hoo-

Women will never be as well paid for lecturing as men, simply because they have done so much of it for nothing.

Leap-year parties are popular in some sections. At these gatherings the girls yell "mouse!" and the young men jump on chairs and shriek.—Detroit Free Press.

"No, Adela, book-agents have not what is known as second wind. Prizefighters have; but book agents have not. They do not need it. They never lose their first wind.—Puck.

"What is this big corner in pork I hear about?" asked Laura, across the cheery tea-table. "The big corner in pork," replied Tom, who is a big, rough, coarse man, "is the ham."-Hawkeye.

"Hello, Jones, what time is it?" asked a Fort Wayne man of another, yesterday. "It's just time that you paid the \$5 you owe me." "Is it, indeed; I didn't think it was so late as that."— "It's just time that you paid the

It is sad to contemplate the expression that settles half an inch deep over a man's face when he finds that his wife has been using his best and sharpest razor to whittle kindling and slice cold ham with, -Rose's Toothpick.

"Is your wife acquainted with the dead languages?" asked the professor of a Newman man. "May be she is," was the reply, "but the language she uses is entirely too warm to have been dead very long."—Newman Independent.

In the spring the summer poet
Dreams of birds and blossoms glad,
In the spring the diner's thorax
Scoops the bonelets of the shad. In the spring the pals arbutus
Makes the wood a fragrant mat;
In the spring the airy mailen
Dreams about her Easter nat.

According to Burdette, the fellow who comes home at 2 A. M., and can't tell the key-hole from the transom and can't pick his night-key out from his pocket full of toothpicks, is the man who complains about the vexatious and delaying "deadlock in the house." SHE REFERRED HIM TO HER PA.

Her fairy form, Her modest face, Her charming air. Her charming air.
And wining grace
Enchanted all
The lads in town.
And each one loved
Jemima Brown
She oft was called
The village pride,
And for her love
I long had sighed.
I said I'd know
No joy in life, till she'd
Consent to be my wife. She
Blushed quite red and said
"Oh, la," and then referred me to
Her pp. His manner was both rude
and rough, and when he spoke his to and rough and when he spoke his tones
Were gruif. I asked him in accents
Bland to give me his daughter's hand.

Representative Lame, of Indiana, is said to be the handsomest man in Wash-

For answer he gave me his foot encased Within this cowhide boot!

-Somerville Journal.

There are 34,000 deaf mutes in the United States, or one out of every 1,500 people.

Englishmen are making huge purchases of timber lands in South America and in the Southern and Western States.

A HUNTER'S STORY.

How He Was Overcome and the Way by
Which He was Finally Saved.
(Correspondence Sprit of the Times.)
An unusual adventure which recently occurred to your correspondent while hunting at Brookmere, in this State, is so timely and contains so much that can be made valuable to all readers, that I venture to reproduce is

contains so much that can be made valuable catire:

The day was a most inclement one and the snow quite deep. Rabbit tracks were plentiful, but they principally led in the direction of a large swamp, in which the rabbits could run without difficulty, but where the hunter constantly broke through the thin ice, sinking into the half-frozen mire to his knees. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the writer had persevered, although a very small bag of game was the result. While tramping about through a particularly malarial portion of the swamp, a middle-aged man suddenly came into view, carrying a muzzle-loading shotgun and completely loaded down with game of the finest description. Natural curiosity, aside from the involuntary envy that instinctively arose, prompted the writer to enter into conversation with the man, with the following result:

"You've had fine success where did you

ter into conversation with the man, with the following result:

"You've had fine success, where did you get all that game?

"Right here, in the swamp."

"It's pretty rough hunting in these parts, especially when a man goes up to his waist every other step."

"Yes, it's not very pleasant, but I am used to it and don't mind it."

"How long have you hunted hereabouts."

"How long have you hunted hereabouts."
"Why, bless you, I have lived here most of
my life and hunted up to ten years ago ever

year."
"How does it happen you omitted the last

"How does it happen you omitted the last ten years?"

"He cause I was scarcely able to move, much less hunt."

"I don't understand you?"

"Well, you see, about ten years ago, after I had been tramping around all day in the same swamp, I felt quite a pain in my ankle. I didn't mind it very much, but it kept troubling me for a day or two, and I could see that it kept increasing. The next thing I knew, I felt the same kind of a pain in my shoulder and I found it pained me to move my arm. This thing kept going on and increasing, and though I tried to skake off the feeling and make myself think it was only a little temporary trouble, I found that it did not go. Shortly after this my joints began to ache at the knees and I finally became so ead that I had to remain in the house most of the time."

on acase at the threes and I manly became so the time."

"And did you trace all this to the fact that you had hunted so much in this swamp?"

"No, I didn't knew what to lay it to, but I knew that I was in misery. My joints swelled until it seemed as though all the flesh i had left was bunched at the joints; my ingers crooked in every way, and some of them became double-jointed. In fact, every joint in my body seemed to vie with the others to see which could become the largest and cause me the greatest suffering. In this way several years passed on, during which time I was pretty nearly helpless. I became so nervous and sensitive that I would sit bolstered up in the chair and call to people that entered the room not to come near me, or even touch my chair. While all this was going on, I felt an awful barring heat and fever, with eccasional chills running all over my body, but especially along my back and fever, with cccasional chills running heat and fever, with cccasional chills running all over my body, but especially along my back and through my shoulders. Then again my blood seemed to be boiling and my brain to be on fire."

seemed to be boiling and my brain to be on fire."

"Didn't you try to prevent all this agony?"

"Try! I should think I did try. I tried every doctor that came within my reach and all the proprietory medicines I could hear of I used washes an i liniments enough to last me for all time, but the only relief I received was by injections of morphine."

"Well, you talk in a very strange manner for a man who has tramped around on a day like this and in a swamp like this. How in the world do you dare to do it?"

"Because I am completely well and as sound as a dollar. It may seem strange, but it is true, that I was entirely cured; the rheumatism all driven out of my blood; my joints reduced to their natural size, and my strength made as great as over before, by

strength made as great as over before, by means of that great and simple remedy, War-ner's Safe Rheumatic Cure, which I believe saved my life."

"And so you now have no fear of rheuma-"Why, no. Even if it should come on, I can easily get rid of it by using the same

remedy."

The writer turned to leave, as it was growing dark, but before I had reached the city precisely she same symptoms I had just heard described came upon ne with great violence. Impressed with the hunter's story, I tried the same remedy, and within twenty-four hours all pain and inflammation had disappeared. remedy. all pain and inflammation and disppeared.
If any reader is suffering from any manner
of rheumatic or neuralgic troubles and desires relief let him by all means try this same
great remedy. And if any readers doubt the
truth of the above incident or its statements, let them write to A. A. Coates, Brookmere,
N. Y., who was the man with whom the
writer conversed, and convince themselves of
its truth or faisity.

J. R. C.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL.

Doctor C. H. Yelvington asserts that the copperhead never bites when coiled up, but will throw the middle of his body into long, almost rectangular, curves, and with his head and an inch or so of the neck slightly elevated above the ground is ready to defend himself.

A notable invention is a self-registering ship's compass, so contrived as to keep a continuous record of the steered course of the vessel, the length of time during which she has remained on each course, and changes in the course, and the exact time of every change. The record is automatically traced on paper.

S. N. Rhoads has given evidence which proves that turkey-vultures are directed to their prey from great distances by their sense of smell, and not by sight alone. He partly uncovered a spot where a horse and a cow had been buried some years before, and in a few hours buzzards were attracted to the place in great numbers.

The brilliancy in the eyes of cats is caused by a carpet of glittering fibers called the topeum, which lies behind the retina, and is a powerful reflector. In perfect darkness no light is observed in their eyes, a fact which has been established by very careful experiments. Nevertheless, a very small amount of light is sufficient to produce the luminous appearance in them.

A remarkable feature of the two satellites of Mars, which were discovered about six years ago by Professor Asaph Hall, is the proximity of the inner one to the planet, its distance from the center of the latter body being about 6,000 miles, and from the surface less than 4,000. "If," says Professor Newcomb, "there are any astronomers on Mars with telescopes, and eyes like ours, they can find out whether this satellite is inhabitéd, the distance being less than one-sixtieth that of the moon from us."

The Bite of an Epileptic.

In England recently a young man was bitten in the hand by a woman who had fallen in an epileptic fit. Three days afterward he died, and the neighborhood became greatly excited over the occurrence. This case only tends to add aditional tes-timony to the fact that the public love sensations. This death may have been merely a coincidence, or then a bite from any person or any animal will occasionally, or we should rather say, might occasionally, set up a degree of inflamation in an already depraved or weakened constitution that might prove fatal. But to sup-pose that the bite of an epileptic, is any more serious, simply because it is inflicted by an epileptic, than would a similar wound received from any other person is certainly unreasonable, and not to be en-tertained in the pathological light of to-day.—Surgical and Medical Reporter.

The brotherhood of locomotive engineers now number over 13,000 mem-

My daughter was troubled with Heart Disany daugner was troubled with Heart Ins-ease for five years, given up by physicians, had sinking speals, constant pain, great swell-ing over her heart extending to left arm, and severe spells of neuralgia extending over en-tire body, doctors could not help her. Dr. Graves' Heart Regulator cured her within three months. James Tilton, Concord, N. H. \$1 ter bottle at druggists.

THE supply of oranges is short of the de-mand in Florida.

A Splendid Dairy
is one that yields its owner a good profit
through the whole season. But he must supply the cows with what they need in order for
them to be able to keep up their product.
When their butter gets light in color he must
make it "gilt edged" by using Wells, Richardson & Co's, Improved Butter Color. It gives
the golden color of June, and alds five cents
per pound to the value of the butter.

FOR DYSPETSIA, INDIGESTION, depression of spirits and general debility in their various forms, also as a preventive against fever and ague and other intermittent fevers, the "Ferro-Phosphorted Flight of Calissas" ated Elixir of Calisaya," made by Caswell, Hazard & Co., New York, and sold by all Drug-gists, is the best tonic; and for patients recover-ing from fever or other sickness it has no equal.

The Doctor's Indorsement.
Dr. W. D. Wright, Cincinnati, O., sends the subjoined professional indorsement: have prescribed Dr. Wm. Hall's Ba'sam for the Lungs in a great number of cases and always with success. One case in particular always with success. One care in particular was given up by several physicians who had been called in for consultation with myself. The patient had all the symptoms of confirmed consum tion—cold night sweats, hectic fever, harassing coughs, etc. He commenced immediately to get better, and was soon festored to his usual health. I also found Dr. Wm. Hall's Balsam for the Lungs the most valuable expectorant for breaking up distressing coughs and colds."

For twenty-five years I have been afflicted with Catairth so that I have been confined to my room for two months at a time. I have tried all the humburs in hopes of relief but with no success until I met with an old friend who had used Ely's Cream Balm and advised me to try it. 1 procured a bottle to please him, and from the first application I found relief. It is the best remedy I ever tried. W. C. MATHEWS, Justice of Peace, Shenandoah, In... The medical response are slow and right.

The medical profession are slow (and rightly so) to indorse every new medicine that is advertised and sold; but honest merit convinces the fair-minded after a reasonable time. Physicians in good standing often prescribe Mrs. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for the cure of female weaknesses.

Thousands Upon Thousands, The proprietors of the world-renowned Car-boline—the natural Hair Restorer—never put up less than 1,000 gallons at a time. This gives but an idea of its immense demand.

Virus of all diseases arises from the blood-Samaritan Nervine cures all blood disorders-Dr. J. A. Patmore, of Riley, Ind., truly re-marks: Samaritan Nervine cures epilepsy-Phoenix Pectoral cures cold and cough, 25. Camphor Milk cures aches and pains 25,

You would use St. Patrick's Salve if you knew the good it would do you. Piso's Cure for Consumption is not only pleasant to take, but it is sure to cure.

IN THE SPRING

Many of the human family are afflicted with a wea and debility which it is impossible to throw off w some reliable invigorant. It seems impossible hard work, and even repose is disagreeable fron terrible tired feeling which it is impossible to des To restore the blood to active motion, to clear of foul humors, to give new life to all the fun of the body, to make you work with life and er you must take Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Purify Your Blood

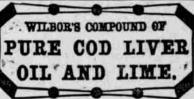
"I had been much troubled by general debility, caused in part by oatarrh and humors. Last spring a friend recommended that I try Hood's Saraparilla. I to k three hottine, and it proved just the king needed, to k three hottine, and it proved just the king needed, to k three hottine, and it proved just the king needed better."—If, First Miller, Beston.

I can say with great pleasure that I have used Hood's Saraparilla and think there is mone equal to it as a blood purifier. I cheerfully recommend it to all."—E. S. PIEELPS, Rochester, N. C.

Hood's Sarsaparilla

Sold by druggists. One dollar; six for \$5. Prepared only by C. I. HOOD & CO., Apothecaries, Lowell, Mass.

100 Doses One Dollar.



To Consumptives. Many have been happy to give their tentimony in favor of the use of "Wilder's Pure Cod-Liber Oil and Lime." Experience has proved it to he a valuable remedy for Consumption, Asthme, Diphtheria, and all discuss of the Throat and Lungs. Manufactured only by A. B. Willion, Chemist, Boston. Sold by all droggests.

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