

\$4200 Reward!

The Short-story Publishing Company, Boston, Mass., will pay \$4200 cash prize, ranging from \$100 to \$400 each, to those who will tell in writing some unusual experience, thrilling adventure, or fascinating story of the imagination in a style that will interest the hundreds of thousands of readers of *The Black Cat*, the unique short-story magazine which has won the title of "the story-telling hit of the century." This prize competition is open to all, and each story will be judged solely upon its merits without regard to the name or reputation of its writer. But no story will be considered as eligible unless it is sent strictly in accordance with the printed conditions, which will be mailed free, postage paid, to any one, together with a complete specimen copy of the magazine, and a list of the names and addresses, as references, of all persons who have received awards. Also information of real value to all who are interested in earning money at home by writing. Send address at once, as the contest closes March 31st. The Short-story Publishing Co., 64 High Street, Boston, Mass.

MINOR NEWS ITEMS.

The number of marriages in Manhattan and Bronx this year will be greater than ever in their history.

The Ancient Mechanical Society of Baltimore celebrated its 16th anniversary recently.

An attack of melancholia caused Mrs. Samuel Miller, of Portchester, N. Y., to cut her tongue with a pair of scissors.

The oldest existing church in New Hampshire is the Congregational at Hampton, which was organized in August, 1638.

The state prison building at Sing Sing, N. Y., has been condemned by a committee of the New York State Prison Association.

The best maple syrup comes from the north side of the tree, but the flow is not so large as when the tree is tapped on the south side.

At a recent auction sale at Zurich more than 1000 gold and silver Swiss coins of the 15th to the 19th centuries were disposed of.

On the big steamer *Oceanic* there is no seat at the table marked 13, nor a cabin bearing that number. This is a concession to superstition.

In Connecticut the percentage of criminal population to the 1,000 inhabitants has fallen steadily from 2.48 in 1896 to 2.35 in the present year.

The Noah Webster Association, which has just been organized at Hartford, Conn., will procure funds for the erection of a library building in memory of the lexicographer.

The vegetable ivory of Ecuador is the nut of a native palm. The exports amount to 11,500 tons per annum, of which two-thirds go to Germany and one-sixth to the United States.

New York wants a museum of "Living History and Court of all Nations," to cost several millions, exhibiting contemporary art and manufacture from every country in the world.

Thunder storms are more frequent in Iowa than in any other part of the world. The average is one about every fourth day. Sumatra has 86 in a year, and Rio Janeiro 51.

That the spores of mildew are disturbed by snails and worms has been proven by Mr. F. L. Stevens, of the University of Chicago. The mildew appeared in the path these creatures had taken over fresh leaves.

Funds are being collected in Denmark for the purpose of bringing to their native land the remains of two famous Danes who were buried abroad, Tycho Brahe in Prague, and the poet Jens Jørgensen in Kiel.

The German firm of Krupp are said to be making trial of some light five-centimeter field pieces which are constructed of compressed paper. The good service of paper in car wheels suggested the experiment.

A Chicago workman has discovered a process by which plate glass can be made from slag, the waste material in iron and steel manufacture, and the Federal steel trust proposes to build a plant to turn out the new product.

The whole of the dry land on this planet scarcely exceeds 59,000,000 of square miles. Forty millions are under caucasic sway, leaving, as Professor Keane says, not more than 12,000,000 for the now reduced domain of the other divisions.

The life-sized bronze equestrian statue of Frederick the Great, by J. L. Gerome, the French sculptor, which he will exhibit at the Paris exposition, has been purchased by Peter Gibson, of Cincinnati, and immediately after the exposition it will be shipped to this country.

James S. Galloway, of Hillsdale, Mich., has just purchased the whole of Morgan county, Ontario, 39 1/2 square miles, for the white pine timber upon it. He could cut nearly if not quite 100,000,000 feet, but intends to hold most of it, awaiting developments.

Mrs. Marie Melms, widow of Charles Melms, the pioneer Milwaukee brewer, died in Germany recently and was cremated there. Her remains have just arrived at Milwaukee through the medium of the United States mails. This is said to be the first use of the mails for such a purpose.

Solon Borglum, a Parian sculptor, has been in South Dakota for the last three months making models in clay of Indians for the Pierre exposition. He found some fine specimens of the American aborigines among the Sioux at the Crow Creek agency, South Dakota, and succeeded in working up a half dozen models.

It is said that Admiral Dewey's son receives a sample every time an article named for Dewey is put on the market, whether it be a cravat, a collar, a hat, a cigar, a brand of whisky or anything else. He has adorned his room with these samples, and it is probably the most remarkably decorated room in America.

HAPPENINGS OF 1899.

SUMMARY OF A YEAR'S IMPORTANT EVENTS.

War in Philippine Islands and South Africa, the Dreyfus Trial, Political Difficulties in Samoa, Death and Destruction by Fire, Wind and Flood.

Many causes have combined to make the year 1899 a rather remarkable one. Its opening was signified by Spain's surrender of the last vestige of her sovereignty in the western hemisphere; its progress brought forth the declaration of war between England and the Transvaal Republic and its close leaves these nations still engaged in a bloody contest, that may result in important political changes in South Africa. During the year the fighting between the natives and United States troops in the Philippines has continued and the war is yet open. Other events, such as the Dreyfus trial, which have occupied public attention to a greater or less extent have been: Signing of the treaty of peace with Spain; settlement of difficulties in the Samoan Islands; trial, conviction and pardon of Captain Alfred Dreyfus in France; numerous large fires that have destroyed many lives and much property; tornadoes that caused disaster and death at Kirksville, Mo., in April, and at New Richmond, Wis., in June; several fatal shipwrecks; deaths of prominent men, among them President Felix Faure of France, Garret A. Hobart, Vice-President of the United States, and Robert C. La Follette, great street car strike at Cleveland and labor riots at Panama and Cartersville, Ill.

A brief chronological transcript of the year's events is given below:

January.

1-Spain resigns sovereignty over Cuba.
2-Train held up and robbed near Macomb, Me. Three travelers with Spain introduced in the Senate.
3-Fourteen persons killed and forty-eight injured in a collision near Danvers, N. J.
4-McCoy defeated by Sharkey in New York.
5-Severe storm in California.
6-Texas destroys wholesale dry goods house of J. S. Menkin & Co., and causes \$500,000 loss.
7-Death of John Russell Young, librarian of Congress.
8-Disturbances at Cleveland. German American at Apple Samoa, ejected from Supreme Court Building by American and British consuls.
9-Bank at Arthur, Ill., robbed of \$3,000.
10-Earthquake shakes Polynesian peninsula of Ureoe.
11-Massacre of Spaniards by secret police in Manila.
12-Over a hundred thousand dollars damage done by fire at Johnston, Pa.
13-Adeline Patti and Baron Cederstrom married at Brecon, Wales.
14-Ex-Governor General A. H. Garland dies suddenly in Washington.
15-Court martial finds Gen. Chas. P. Egan guilty under two charges.
16-Cold wave over the West; 13 degrees below zero at Chicago.
17-Over a thousand dollar lumber yard fire in Chicago.

February.

1-Serious persons perish in snowslide in Rogers Pass, B. C.
2-\$700,000 fire in Columbus, Ohio, in which many are injured.
3-Burning of the Buckingham Theater, Louisville, Ky.
4-\$400,000 fire at Philadelphia.
5-Battle between Filipinos and Americans at Manila.
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7-Last detachment of Spanish army leaves Cuba.
8-Death of Gen. Count von Capri, former German Emperor's aide.
9-Treaty ratified by United States Senate.
10-Manila Hotel at Wainipen burns; loss \$400,000.
11-Eleven business houses burn in Valparaiso, Chile.
12-Explosion in Baxter Store Works, Mansfield, Ohio, causes a \$100,000 fire.
13-Celly killed in Cleveland burns; loss \$150,000.
14-\$200,000 fire in Toronto, Ont.
15-American troops capture Calocan.
16-Troops under Gen. Miller take Iloilo.
17-Engagement outside Manila, in which Filipinos are driven back.
18-Twenty-four Italian miners and families perish in snowslide at Silver Peak, Colo.
19-McClurg's book store in Chicago burns; loss \$200,000.
20-Seventeen persons injured by explosion at Yankton, S. D.
21-Report of War Investigating Board made public in Washington.
22-Great fire in New York City and Albany, N. Y.
23-Libby, N. S., almost wiped out by fire.
24-\$500,000 fire in manufacturing district of Cincinnati.
25-Burning of manufacturers' warehouse in Chicago; loss \$1,000,000.
26-Machine shops in Brooklyn yard burned.
27-Death of M. Felix Faure, President of France.
28-Euclid Loober chosen President of France.
29-Fire causes \$500,000 loss at Port Washington, Wis.
30-Fire causes \$500,000 loss at Port Washington, Wis.
31-City of Manila fired by Filipinos.

March.

1-Death of Lord Herschell in Washington.
2-Sagaia ministry resigns at Madrid.
3-George Dewey made an Admiral by President McKinley.
4-Congress adjourns.
5-Storm destroys life and property in East Tennessee.
6-New military takes office at Madrid.
7-Terrific powder explosion at La Goubran, France, kills sixty persons.
8-Jeremy B. Smith resigns his Washington pastorate.
9-Battle between Americans and Canadians on Porcupine River, B.
10-Gen. Maximiano Gomez deposed from command by Cuban Assembly.
11-Paid capture of American affairs.
12-Understanding reached on Samoan affairs.
13-Herbert H. Lehman, of Boston, appointed Secretary of the Treasury.
14-Moab shoots nine negroes at Palmetto, Ga.
15-Death of Editor Joseph P. Kamp.
16-Killed in street riot at Hot Springs, Ark.
17-Election riot in St. Louis results in death of two men.
18-Fire in Geneva, Switzerland.
19-Peace treaty signed by the Queen Regent of Spain.
20-Wildfire burns in New York.
21-Fatal riot in Havana.
22-Mrs. Martha Place electrocuted at Sing Sing.
23-Battle in Little River County, Ark., where many negroes are injured.
24-Matthew Tamm crowned King of Samoa.
25-Opening of ship canal at Port Arthur.
26-Burning of Armour's feed works in Chicago.
27-American and British warships bombard native towns in Samoa.
28-Sinking of the steamer *Rosina* in the Mississippi below Cairo, Mo.
29-One hundred and twenty lives lost by shipwreck of passenger steamer *Stella* in the English channel.
30-Fall of Malolos. \$500,000 fire in San Francisco.

April.

1-Eleven lives lost in burning of Wallace Andrews' residence in New York.
2-Death of Justice S. J. Field, retired.
3-Sweden loses out by breaking of an iceberg on Yellowstone River at Glendive, Montana.
4-Seven persons killed in riot at Panama, Illinois.
5-Exchange of peace treaties with Spain ends the state of war.
6-Greek coasters Maria and Tripoli with loss of forty-five lives.
7-Twenty-three Crow Indians drowned in floods near Sheridan, Wyo.
8-Great fire in Cleveland; loss almost \$1,000,000.
9-Fishing schooner *Eliza* lost off Nantucket, with eleven of her crew.
10-Death of ex-Gov. R. P. Love of New York.
11-Thirty persons drowned in wreck of British ship *Loch Sloy* on Kangaroo Island.
12-In Dawson City, Alaska, almost wiped out by fire.
13-Tornado at Kirksville and Newton, Mo., and in Soldier River valley, Iowa. Scores killed and injured.
14-Earthquake shakes Southern Illinois and Indiana and Northern Kentucky.
15-Fatal mine riots at Warfield, Idaho.

May.

1-Destructive forest fires in South Dakota, Nebraska and Colorado.
2-Resignation of Italian cabinet.
3-Opening of Ice reservation in Colorado.
4-Death of ex-Gov. R. P. Love of New York.
5-Death of Francis B. Sargent, noted French critic.
6-Riot at Princeton between students and Pawnee Bill's Wild West.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS.

Commercial and Financial Happenings of Interest to the Growing Western States.

Since the first of July the people of Alaska have contributed to the federal treasury in license money the magnificent sum of \$158,276.40 for the privilege of doing business in Alaska and developing the territory, says the Skagway Alaskan. This is in addition to the tariff duties paid, internal revenues, taxes and all other taxes common to the country at large. It is a special tax levied upon business in Alaska alone, such as no other citizens of the United States are required to pay; in fact it is a tax that was never before in the history of the United States levied against any of its people.

Plenty of Supplies at Dawson.

D. W. Bullock, lately arrived from Dawson, said to an Alaskan reporter: "Dawson is supplied with everything needed there for the winter. The report as to a great shortage of oats is not true. There is plenty of oats along the river and in Dawson to supply the interior. When we got away from Dawson, November 7, oats were selling for 23 cents a pound and hay at 15 cents. Last winter oats went to 40 and 45 cents, and hay to 35 to 50 cents. Tobacco sells in Dawson today for \$1.25 a pound, less than it brings in Bennett. The Bennett price is \$1.50 a pound. Flour that sold for \$8 in Dawson a year ago is worth only \$4.75 today. There will be plenty of beef in Dawson throughout the winter. Dumbolton had four cows loaded with beef on the way in, one of which is at Selkirk and one at Stewart river. I do not know where the others are. Dumbolton will take the meat through to Dawson over the ice after the river freezes. McDougall & Burns have 80 tons below Selkirk and will take it in over the ice. The labor market of Dawson is glutted. There were 1,000 to 1,500 idle men in the town when I left, and more were rushing in from up the river."

Atlin Future Output.

Charles Christopher, who has negotiated more large Atlin mining deals than any other man in the country during the season recently closed, is authority for the statement that there will be no less than half a dozen large hydraulic plants put in operation in Atlin with the opening of spring. He says the output of gold in that country will exceed \$5,000,000. The gold commissioner collected royalty on about \$700,000 this summer, but he failed to collect on more than half the output. There was at least \$1,500,000 taken out of the Atlin gold fields this year, and next year the output will exceed \$5,000,000. Last summer the great majority of the miners did not get to work before August 1, and they all worked small claims and handled most of the dirt with shovels. Next year they will handle it by the hydraulic process.

Snowslide on White Pass.

News of a big snowslide on the White Pass & Yukon railroad was brought to Victoria by the steamer *Tessa*. A rotary and two engines were buried by the slide, and after they were shovelled out, the rotary ran into a rock, knocking out 13 of its 20 knives. The train which was behind the snow-bucking outfit was not injured.

Heathen Chinese Throw a Bomb.

At Victoria, B. C., a lastingly memorable was made to wreck a Chinese Methodist mission church. While the congregation, principally Chinese, was worshipping, a bomb made of lead pipe and filled with gunpowder was exploded. No one was injured. The deed is ascribed to heathen Chinese jealous of the introduction of Christianity among their countrymen.

To List All the Hops.

Directors of the Oregon Hopgrowers' Association met in Salem Tuesday afternoon, and were in secret session four hours. The chief business transacted was to require every local representative of the association to obtain a complete list of hopgrowers and the amount of hops now on hand in their respective districts. The board also announced that it is now ready for business.

Northwest Notes.

An opera house is one of Albany's needs for 1900. Mule-buyers from California are in Southern Oregon counties. A Burns paper reports a sale of 2,700 stock sheep at \$2.60 per head. It is estimated that the call for warrants recently made by the county treasurer of Whatcom county covers about \$170,000 of county indebtedness. Figures of real estate transfers recorded in King county (Seattle) since July 1 show a total of 495 transfers, of an aggregate value of \$5,989,625, not including, of course, the value of the transfers for nominal sums.

Grand Opera.

"Yes needn't be taken on such airs, Missus Mulvaney, jist beyuz yer man's bin made a jigger on 'th' perleous force. Me man went 't' th' gran' oppra 'n style." "Gran' oppra nuttin'. It 'ud be takin' a mouth's whages wurkin' loike yer man does, Missus O'Hoolihan, jist gettough eruff 't' jist 't' gran' oppra!" "But 'er wint, just th' same, yez desatful creathur. 'E tauld me lvy-th' consarnin' th' perphormance."

A Remarkable Shawl.

The Duchess of Northumberland possesses a shawl given her by Charles X. of France, which cost a fabulous sum. It is manufactured from the fur of a species of Persian cat, the hair of which is so fine that one strand is hardly visible to the naked eye. The spinning, weaving, and fashioning of the material required several years of labor and thousands of cat skins.

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THE WORST AND THE BEST.

Wall Street Suffered, But General Business Was Good.

R. G. Dunn & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: The worst day in Wall Street in many years was in part the legitimate result of the best year in business ever known. Because the country had prospered so greatly and so expanded its business that it could no longer afford to have many millions locked up in carrying stocks representing imaginary values, the question was not one of monetary supply. When the country found ample use for its capital in regular trade and productive industry, a contraction of loans became necessary, which would have been more painful if the volume of stocks had been larger.

The business of the country close to the holidays is necessarily smaller than it has been, and yet larger than at the same date in any other year. Exchanges through principal clearing-houses for the week have been 83.7 larger than last year, and 50.4 percent larger than in 1898, including 32.1 percent gain in payments outside New York. There was not even a suspicion of unsoundness in any considerable branch of industry or trade, the extraordinary expansion in some being well warranted as the material gain in others.

Cotton suffered in speculation for a day with stocks, but the great decrease in receipts from farms since September—over 1,800,000 bales—gives strong support to prices, as does the increase of 200,000 bales in takings by spinners. Wheat has fallen both in foreign demand and in prices, in spite of still larger loss in Western receipts, for the week only 3,306,286 bushels, against 7,340,170 bushels last year. Failures for the week have been 220 in the United States, against 258 last year, and 26 in Canada, against 31 last year.

PACIFIC COAST TRADE.

Seattle Markets.
Onions, new, \$1.00 to 1.25 per sack.
Potatoes, new, \$1.00 to 1.25 per sack.
Beets, new, 75¢ to 85¢.
Turnips, per sack, 60¢.
Carrots, per sack, 50¢.
Parsnips, per sack, 75¢ to 85¢.
Cauliflower, 75¢ to 85¢ per dozen.
Cabbage, native and California, 75¢ to 90¢ per 100 pounds.
Peaches, 65¢ to 85¢.
Apples, \$1.25 to 1.50 per box.
Pears, \$1.00 to 1.25 per box.
Fruit, 60¢ per box.
Watermelons, \$1.50.
Nutmegs, 50¢ to 75¢.
Butter—Creamery, 82¢ per pound; dairy, 17¢ to 22¢; ranch, 22¢ per pound.
Eggs—Firm, 30¢ to 31¢.
Cheese—Native, 18¢.
Poultry—90¢ to 100¢; dressed, 11¢ to 12¢.
Hay—Haystack Timothy, \$13.00; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$17.00 to 18.00.
Corn—Whole, \$23.00; cracked, \$23; feed meal, \$23.
Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$21; whole, \$22.
Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$3.35; blended straight, \$3.10; California, \$3.25; buckwheat flour, \$6.00; Graham, per barrel, \$3.80; whole wheat flour, \$3.10; rye flour, \$3.80 to 4.00.
Millet—Bran, per ton, \$16.00; shorts, per ton, \$17.00.
Feed—Chopped feed, \$20.00 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$22; oil cake meal, per ton, \$23.00.

Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 61¢ to 62¢; Valley, 52¢; Bluestem, 54¢ per bushel.
Flour—Best grades, \$3.00; Graham, \$2.50; superfine, \$2.15 per barrel.
Oats—Choice white, \$2.15 to 2.30; choice gray, 24¢ per bushel.
Barley—Feed barley, \$1.60 to 1.65; brewing, \$1.80 to 1.85 per ton.
Millet—Bran, \$1.50 per ton; middlings, \$22; shorts, \$18; chop, \$16 per ton.
Hay—Timothy, \$9 to \$10; clover, \$7 to \$8; Oregon wild hay, \$6 to \$7 per ton.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 60¢ to 65¢; seconds, 42¢ to 45¢; dairy, 37¢ to 40¢; store, 25¢ to 30¢.
Eggs—18¢ to 19¢ per dozen.
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 12¢; Young America, 14¢; new cheese 15¢ per pound.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$2.50; 3.50 per dozen; hens, \$4.00; springs, \$2.50 to 3.50; geese, \$7.00 to 9.00; ducks, \$4.50 to 6.50; for young; turkeys, live, 12¢ to 13¢ per pound.
Potatoes—55¢ to 70¢ per sack; sweets, 2¢ to 3¢ per pound.
Vegetables—Beets, 1¢; turnips, 90¢; per sack; garlic, 7¢ per pound; cauliflower, 75¢ per dozen; parsnips, 70¢; beans, 5¢ to 6¢ per pound; celery, 7¢ to 7.50 per dozen; cucumbers, 50¢ per box; peas, 3¢ to 4¢ per pound; tomatoes, 75¢ per box; green corn, 12¢ to 15¢ per dozen.
Hops—8¢ to 11¢; 1899 crop, 5¢ to 6¢.
Wool—Valley, 12¢ to 13¢ per pound; Eastern Oregon, 8¢ to 14¢; mohair, 27¢ to 30¢ per pound.
Mutton—Gross, best sheep, wethers and ewes, 8¢; dressed mutton, 6¢ to 7¢ per pound; lamb, 7¢ to 8¢ per pound.
Hogs—Gross, choice heavy, \$5.00; light and feeders, \$4.50; dressed, \$5.50 to 6.00 per 100 pounds.
Beef—Gross, top steers, \$3.50 to 4.00; cows, \$3 to \$3.50; dressed beef, 9¢ to 7 1/2¢ per pound.
Veal—Large, 6¢ to 7 1/2¢; small, 8¢ to 8 1/2¢ per pound.

San Francisco Market.

Wool—Spring—Nevada, 12¢ to 15¢ per pound; Eastern Oregon, 12¢ to 16¢; Valley, 20¢ to 22¢; Northern, 10¢ to 13¢.
Hops—1899 crop, 11¢ to 15¢ per pound.
Onions—Yellow, 75¢ to 85¢ per sack; Butternut, 22¢ to 25¢; fancy dairy, 20¢ to 22¢; do, seconds, 19¢ per pound.
Eggs—Store, 25¢ to 27 1/2¢; fancy ranch, 34¢.
Millet—Middlings, \$16.00 to 19.00; bran, \$18 to 14.00.
Hay—Wheat \$7.00 to 9.00; wheat and oat \$7.50 to 9.00; best barley \$5.00 to 7.00; alfalfa, \$5.00 to 7.50 per ton; straw, 35¢ to 45¢ per bale.
Potatoes—Early Rose, \$1.00; Oregon Burbanks, 65¢ to 1.10; river Burbanks, 45¢ to 75¢; Salinas Burbanks, \$1.00 to 1.25 per sack.
Citrus Fruit—Oranges, Valencia, \$2.75 to \$3.25; Mexican limes, \$4.00 to 5.00; California lemons 75¢ to \$1.50; do choice \$1.75 to 2.00 per box.
Tropical Fruits—Bananas, \$1.50 to 2.50 per bunch; pineapples, nominal; Persian dates, 6¢ to 6 1/2¢ per pound.

A Shrewd Negro.

A traveler came along to the gate of a humble cabin in a town in Alabama just as an old negro handed a couple of jugs to his son, who was about 10 years of age, and said: "Now, Julius, yo' gwan down to de grocery an' git a quart 'o' treacle in one ob dem jugs, an' hurry back." When the boy had gone the traveler said to the father: "You didn't tell him to get anything in the other jug; is he going to leave it at the grocery?" "No, sah—gwan to bring it right back home," he replied. "But why send two jugs to get a quart of treacle?" "It's jes dis way sah. If he has a jug in each hand he can't go dipping his finger in the treacle and eating it as he comes along."—Detroit Free Press.

Death Pleased Them.

Drammer—How was the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" show at the town hall last night? Landlord Pettyville Tavern—First rate! The audience was so pleased with little Eva's death that they encored her till she done it again.—San Francisco Examiner.

Mormonism.

Is a blot upon our land—a symptom of governmental ill-health. The right laws would set upon it as Hostetter's Stomach Bitters does upon constipation, or dyspepsia. They would quickly restore healthy purity; and this is just what the Bitters does for the human constitution. It makes the stomach strong by curing indigestion and biliousness.

Instruction in the English Language.

Is now obligatory in Russian commercial schools.

DEAFNESS CANNOT BE CURED.

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