

\$42,000 Reward!

The Short-story Publishing Company, Boston, Mass., will pay \$42,000 cash prize, ranging from \$100 to \$500 each, to those who will tell in writing some unusual experience, thrilling adventure, or fascinating story 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-teller's magazine" for the year 1910. This prize competition is open to all who are under the age of 21, and no story will be considered a winner if it is sent strictly in accordance with the printed conditions, which will be mailed free of charge, to any one, together with complete specimen stories, and addresses, as references, of the men and women who have received the \$42,000 cash prize in *The Black Cat*. Send address and name, and state in haste, a 1-cent coin or postage stamp, to the Short-story Publishing Co., 64 High-Harbor Street, Boston, Mass.

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 signalized by Spain's declaration of war against the United States 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 United States and the Philippine Islands have continued the war in the Pacific, and the United States troops in the Philippines have continued the war in the Pacific. Other events, aside from warfare, that 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 Samoa 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 Zola of France, Garrett A. Hobart, Vice-President of the United States, and Robert G. Ingersoll; great street car strike at Cleveland and labor riots at Tampa, Conn., and elsewhere.

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

January.

1-Spain's claims sovereignty over Cuba.
2-Fire in New York, 100 killed.
3-United States troops introduced into Manila.
4-Forty persons killed and forty-eight injured in a collision near Dunellen, N. J.
5-Death of Felix Zola, President of France.
6-Wholesale fire goods house of J. S. Denkin destroyed, causing \$300,000 loss.
7-Death of Garrett A. Hobart, Vice-President of the United States.
8-14-British battle ship at Tacoma with her crew.
9-Death of John Russell Young, librarian of Congress.
10-Disastrous flood at Cleveland, German consuls at Manila, ejected from Supreme court building at Manila.
11-Death of Robert G. Ingersoll, great street car strike at Cleveland.
12-Bank of Chicago, Ill., closed for \$2,000,000.
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MINOR NEWS ITEMS.

The number of marriages in Manhattan and Bronx this year will be greater than ever in its 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 100,000 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 infant population to the 1,000 inhabitants has fallen steadily from 2.48 in 1896 to 2.33 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 most of a native plant. The exports amount to 11,000 tons annually, 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 contemporaneous art and manufacture from every country in the world.

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

That the spores of mildew are distributed by snails and worms has been proven by Mr. F. L. Steiner, of the University of Chicago. The mildew that 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 Baggesen 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 32,000,000 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.

To permit the use of a photograph gallery at night, a photographic light stand has been patented, comprising a vertical distributing pipe, with branches to carry the burners, with adjustable reflectors to throw all the light in one direction.

Judge Scott, of the district court at Omaha, has denied a writ of habeas corpus of a saloon for the purpose of robbery is not burglary under the law, for the reason that the word "saloon" does not occur among the buildings mentioned in the statutes in the list of places subject to burglary.

The life-sized equestrian statue of Frederick the Great, by F. L. Gorme, 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 Hilledale, 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. The fact is said to be the first use of the mails for such a purpose.

Solon Borjorn, a Parisian sculptor, has been in South Dakota for the last three months making models in clay of Indians for the Paris exposition. He found some fine specimens of the American aboriginals 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.

A POPULAR BEVERAGE.

TEA IS DRUNK IN ALMOST ALL COUNTRIES.

Legend Concerning the Origin of the Tea Plant—In Some Places It is Prepared as Food—Peculiar Ways of Preparing It.

How long tea has been used as a beverage no one knows. It was a domestic essential in the kingdoms of the Orient long before it was introduced into Europe, and that was not a few decades ago. To-day it is used as a beverage in nearly all civilized lands, and even barbarians dream over its ennobling properties. A pious legend tells us that Daruma, an Indian saint, was the medium through which the beverage became known to the world. He had renounced all attachments of this life for the remainder of his days in meditation and prayer. Many long years he spent in supplication, when one fatal night the evil one possessed his soul and the saint fell asleep to dream water between women; who had enchanted him. When he awoke he was so humiliated and pained that he drew from his girdle a knife and severed his lazy eyelids from his eyes and cast them from him. What was his dream? He dreamed that he was being held by the lids had disappeared and in their place two wonderful shrubs were growing—shrubs with dainty leaflets, eyelid-shaped and snowy buds opening to the east! He called it tea.

"Don't you see," said the aborigine of the head of the class, "what is the aborigine of 'donum'?"

Miss Jones gave her version, and would sit down. The question in turn went down the entire length of the class. "Admiral Dewey," said last, a boy who has a reputation for base-ball and foot-ball, but none for scholarship.

"Well, Percy, the aborigine of 'donum' asked the teacher 'how the hell you got that name?' and he looked at his grinning classmate. 'Don't know,' he finally blurted out.

"Right," said the teacher, "go up head."

And then the class broke out into a loud laugh. There each member ten marks, but none reached the teacher's to this day cannot understand what there is so comical in the aborigine of "donum."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

FORTUNES IN TOYS.

WEALTH WAITING FOR THE MAN WHO CAN INVENT A POPULAR PASTIME.

The chief penny toy now most in demand is something of a mechanical kind, either in the shape of a w.o.k. model or puzzle. The old kind of toy, with no movement, but which simply was made to be looked at, is of no use to-day. Of the most popular penny toys, during the last half century, more than one dealer gave full particulars. About 1820 a penny watch with tremendous run on the wheels, with imitation gold chains! And the manager of a famous firm told me how curiously this came about. It was all due to a woman who stood near the mansion house, it seems. This hawk took a piece of thin board with black velvet, and cutting out holes for the penny watches, placed the latter in them, with the "gold" chains twisted attractively round. She called out loudly: "A lovely watch and chain for a penny!" People began to buy rapidly, and time after time that day she replenished her stock and sold out again. Other hawkers learned of it, and within three days this penny watch had become quite a rage all over England. The toy firms were simply "mashed" for it by the hawkers. One firm alone sold over 5,000 gross in three months; and the maker, a Frenchman in Paris, had to put down new machinery and keep his factory going night and day for four months to supply the demand.

There is a fortune now waiting for the man who can invent a puzzle that will take the place which the "fifteen puzzle" once had, or the famous "pigs in clover." I was informed, on the very highest authority, that more than one hundred million of toys could be pointed out to me, that were worth over \$20 a week; and that \$10 weekly was by no means unusual for many of them to make during a good run of a popular article.—English Illustrated.

"Do Not Burn the Candle At Both Ends."

Don't think you can go on drawing vitality from the blood for weeks, months, and years, without doing something to replace it. Hood's Sarsaparilla gives nerve, mental and digestive strength by enriching and vitalizing the blood. Thus it helps overworked and tired people.

Hood's Sarsaparilla Never Disappoints.

Talked Black Hawk. Julia Bloom, a colored woman was a prisoner charged with disturbing the peace. Julia admitted under Officer Sheehan's accusation that she talked a "trifle loud." Her exaggerated speech was caused by her husband's conversation with a neighbor in the tongue of the Black Hawks.

"That's a ma hoodlum," said Julia pointing at a stunted figure with an occasional trunk kink. "He's bin man's own fo' de las' 16 years, rain or shine, but he will talk in his sleep an' 'lize in de Injun tongue. Sumtimes he talks dat way wid Mr. Meyer a n'bur who he learned de langwe from him. Ah ges he war talkin' when Ah juristed in plain English."

Julia was left off on suspended sentence.—Detroit Free Press.

Medical Ornaments.

Hobbs—The following papers that your friend Rev. Dr. Bang has joined the artillery of the church.

Hobbs—What do you mean?

"Why he's been made a canon of the cathedral."

Hobbs—I didn't know that 'er was such a big gun."—N. Y. Commercial Advertiser.

BUY THE GENUINE SYRUP OF FIGS

MADE BY THE CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. IF NOTE THE NAME.

SOLE AGENCY
Worthington
Steam Pump
and Water
Machinery
Pumping
Machinery
Any Capacity
T. J. & M. W. R. N.
29 to 35 First Street, Portland, Or.
Machinery—All Kinds.

PHOTO
and Magic Lanterns, Stereographs, etc.
T. F. ANDREWS, 109 Montgomery St., San Francisco.

CARTER'S INK
Is food for thought.

PORTLAND DIRECTORY.
Fence and Wire Works.
PORTLAND WIRE & IRON WORKS: WIRE and iron fencing, office railing, etc., 234 Alder.

Machinery and Supplies.
CAWTON & CO., ENGINEERS, BOILERS, MACHINERY, SUPPLIES, 48-50 First St., Portland, Or.

JOHN POOLE, PORTLAND, OREGON, can give you the best bargains in general goods, hardware, crockery, glass, paints, oils, plows, belts and windmills. The pump, steel I. X. L. windmill, sold by him, is unequalled.

Science and Invention

Recent investigations prove that eighty-three per cent. of all the ocean fish further down than one thousand fathoms, or one mile below the surface, are composed of water. It is between two and three miles, and seven per cent. is known to be further down than three miles.

It is reported from Sierra Leone that those who are engaged in investigating the large forest in the center of the district found a great number of holes between two and three miles, and seven per cent. is known to be further down than three miles.

Phosphorescent organs appear sometimes to act as bull's-eye lanterns to enable the monsters possessing them to locate up food in their midnight wanderings, and at other times serve as a lure or a warning to other species.

Lake Chelan, in the State of Washington, just east of the Cascade range of mountains, was recently the scene of a strange discovery. Without warning the water in the center of the lake, which is some forty miles long and three or four broad, rose to a height of fifteen feet. Immense waves rolled upon the shores, and a large creek emptying into the lake ran dry for two hours after the incident.

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MADE STEAM WITH HIS MOUTH

How a Glass-Blower Won a Prize After Many Had Failed.

Peterburg, says the Youth's Companion, stands a magnificent column 150 feet in height, erected to commemorate the reign of the Czar Alexander I., the ally and afterward the rival of Napoleon.

On the occasion of a public celebration the present Czar wished to have the great shaft illuminated, and round lamps of an enormous size were ordered from a leading glass manufacturer.

After two or three experiments the work was discovered to their consternation that it seemed impossible to blow the bulbs so large by the force of human breath. The blowers blew till they were utterly exhausted, but the bulbs remained far below the required size.

A handsome prize was offered to the first successful blower, and the men renewed their efforts, but to no purpose. At last a big fellow, slumped like a barrel, stepped forward and quietly remarked that he was sure he could do the trick. The crowd laughing good-naturedly, but the man merely said: "I want to raise my mouth; it's dry."

They gave him a cup of water. He rinsed his mouth, taking plenty of time, and then applied his lips to the glass. The large bulb came out in a twinkling, and he steadily the ball of glass. So it reached the dimensions of its nearest rival. Then it became bigger, until it approached the required size. Then it attained it. Then it passed it.

"Stop, stop!" cried the crowd. "It's getting too big and the foreman said: 'How did you do it?'"

"Where is my money?" said the man, by way of reply.

When he felt the rubles in his palm an expression of genial satisfaction overcame his face. "The money is mine," he said, "and he explained how he had retained some of the water in his mouth, how he had gradually blown it into the molten ball, and how the expanding steam had instantly caused by his assistance.

TRAPOTKIN IN THE SOLITARY.

A Description of the Prison Room in which He Was Confined.

My first movement was to approach the window, which was placed so high that I could hardly reach it with my bare hand. There was a broad, low opening in the wall, through which a little barley meal and flour were poured for two or three minutes; then it is poured into earthen or metal trays, and the Dutch drink tea in the evening with the boiling kettle is brought to the drawing-room and placed beside the mistress of the house, and the tea tray with every appliance on it is set before her. It is served with small cakes, like those of the Russians, and the Nicaraguan ladies call their high teas trappotkin.

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