$4200 Reward!

For Those Who Tell

The Shortstory Publishing Company, Boston, Mass., will pay $4,200 in cash prizes, ranging from $100 to $500 each, to those who will tell in writing some unusual experience, thrilling adventure, or fascinating freak of the imagination in a style that will interest the hundreds of thousands of readers of THE BLACK CAT, the unique shortstory 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 at all unless it is sent strictly in accordance with the printed conditions*, which will be mailed free, postage paid, to any one, together with 5 complete specimen stories, and many of the names and addresses, as references, of the men and women in all parts of America who have received over $30,000 cash for BLACK CAT stories, also information of real value to all who are interested in earning money at home. Send address at once, as the contest closes March 31st. The Shortstory Publishing Co., 64 High-Hartford St., Boston, Mass.

Appreciated the Play.

The following is from an essay written by a schoolboy, aged ten, on a play he had been to see: "The villun curled his mustarsh and seezing the pure vurgin shreeks ha ha mine or deaths blud is on my head this dagger stabs thee to thy utermost sole ha ha vengunze. But the good hero comes and says O hevins stur won step and thy ded body lies at my door. Lay won parm on the vurgins korpse and it was better if you was drowned with a millstone. Avarnt avarnt from the sweet korpses presunz."

His Terms Were Accepted.

General Joubert, when he was in New York city a few years ago as the guest of Henry George, told with modesty of his negotiations with the British at Majuba hill and his eyes sparkled as he recited his reply to the British commander-in-chief. "It does not comport with these," said the British general, pointing to the decorations on his breast, "to accede to your terms." To which said Joubert, pointing to his riflemen: "And it does not comport with those to offer any others."

The Nome Gold Fields

The first map folder or circular respecting the Klondike gold strike of 1898 was issued by the Northern Pacific railway. It is more than a coincidence that the first map folder or phamphlet of the Nome mining district comes from the same source. The present folder not only contains a good map of the Nome district, but is embellished with several cuts of views at Nome City and the beach where the method of mining is clearly shown. All information obtainable regarding sailing dates from Seattle and Tacoma, through rates, etc., is given in this book and the public cautioned to go to the agents of the N. P. Ry., who are supplied with diagrams of the Alaska steamers, and arrange in advance for their accommodations rather than to put off this very important business until they reach Puget Sound. There is no doubt but what there will be a very considerable passenger business from the middle and eastern states and a very heavy business from the Pacific coast states to the Nome district next spring.

For folders, rates, etc., call on A. D. Charlton, Asst. Gen. Pass. Agt., Portland, Or., or send a two cent stamp to Chas. S. Fee, General Passenger Agent, St. Paul, Minn., and he will mail you the Nome folder.

Called for What He Didn't Want.

A New Jersey burglar who was caught and thrashed by his intended victim yelled "Police!" He probably wouldn't have done it, comments the Chicago Times-Herald, if he had thought there was any danger of bringing an officer upon the scene.

Truly Terrible.

"Yes," said the milliner, "the suicide of Mrs. Drestokil is a terrible affair. Why, she did it the very day I sent my bill in, and people will think the bill has something to do with it, and it will ruin me."—Tit-Bits.

The Daughters of the American Revolution in New York city are making a strong effort to save the famous Hamilton trees of St. Nicholas avenue, at 142d street. The trees are the ones left of the original 13 planted by Alexander Hamilton to commemorate the 13 original states. It is likely that the society will buy the lot and have it neatly fenced in. If they cannot raise enough money to buy the place the trees will be cut down and a block will be built thereon. We Americans do not pay enough attention to the reservation of such historical valuables.

James Eads Howe, of St. Louis, who has given his fortune of $1,000,000 to the poor, says he was influenced to do this by the incident of the rich young man related in the tenth chapter of St. Mark's gospel. Mr. Howe is a grandson of James B. Eads, the famous engineer who built the great Mississippi bridge at St. Louis.

The Sioux and Blackfeet Indians will at parting dig their spears in the earth as a sign of confidence and mutual esteem. This is the origin of the term "burying the tomahawk."

The governor of Oklahoma in his annual report, filed in Washington, says that the time is not ripe for the statehood of Oklahoma, and he recommends that it would be best to wait a while. He believes that the best plan is to join Oklahoma and the Indian territory and make one state of them. Such a state, he says, would be a pride and gratification to its people and to the people of the nation.

BEST FOR THE BOWELS

If you haven't a regular, healthy movement of the bowels every day, you're sick, or will be. Keep your bowels open, and be well. Force, in the shape of violent physic or pill poison, is dangerous. The smoothest, easiest, most perfect way of keeping the bowels clear and clean is to take

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25 CTS PISO'S CURE FOR CURES WHERE ALL ELSE FAILS. Best Cough Syrup. Tastes Good. Use in time. Sold by druggists. CONSUMPTION 25 CTS

HEROES OF TWO WARS

ROBERTS AND KITCHENER, WHO HEAD ENGLISH FORCES.

One Reaped Undying Fame in the Celebrated March to Kandahar, the Other Won Glory on the Bloody Sands of the Soudan.

The seriousness of the war situation in South Africa has stirred up England as she has not been stirred up before in three-quarters of a century and has led to her ordering to the scene of hostilities two of her ablest generals, Field Marshal Lord Roberts, and Maj. Gen. Lord Kitchener, the one the hero of Kandahar, in Asia, and the other the hero of Omdurman, in Africa.

Lord Roberts, who will assume chief command in South Africa, is the idol of the British army, and is popularly known as "Bobs." He is regarded by the military authorities of the leading countries of Europe as the foremost British commander of the Victorian era, his celebrated forced march to Kandahar constituting one of the finest feats of English arms in modern times.

Lord Frederick S. Roberts was born in 1832 and was educated at the Royal Military College at Sandhurst. He was only 19 years old when he went to India and entered the Bengal artillery as a lieutenant. Here he labored unknown to fame until the Indian mutiny, when he was attached to the column which was sent to attack Delhi, the forces of the rebellion. The position of the small British force before the capital of the insurrection was for months a perilous one. Fighting was of daily occurrence, the mutineers having an inexhaustible supply of ammunition. Roberts came under fire for the first time in a skirmish, when eight of his party were killed and thirty wounded. Soon afterward, in another of the engagements near the walls of the city, the young lieutenant was hit by a bullet near the spine as he was helping the drivers keep the horses quiet while limbering up the guns. A leather pouch had somehow slipped behind his back and prevented the bullet penetrating deeply.

At the Relief of Lucknow.

After the capture of Delhi Roberts joined the army of Sir Colin Campbell, which advanced to the relief of Lucknow. When the relieving army got close to the rebel lines outside Lucknow Sir Colin, wishing to let the British commander, Outram, know of his progress, wanted a flag raised on the mess house. Within plain view of the mutineers, Lieut. Roberts climbed to the top of the building, and, amid a rain of shot, raised the flag on the turret nearest to the foe. It was shot away, and he replaced it. Again it was shot away, and he raised it again. But it was not for this deed that Roberts won his Victorian Cross. That was done at Khodagunge, Jan. 2, 1858. He saw in the distance two sepoys going away with a standard. Putting spurs to his horse he overtook them. They turned and presented their muskets at him, and one of the men pulled the trigger. It snapped, missing fire, and the sepoy was cut down by Rob-

FIELD MARSHAL ROBERTS.

erts' sword. The other mutineer rode away, and the young lieutenant brought the standard back to camp. The same day he rescued a wounded comrade under almost similar circumstances.

In the years that followed the mutiny Roberts saw almost continual service. He was at Umebyla, in the frontier campaign, in 1863; in 1867 he had charge of the embarkation of the force for the Abyssinian campaign. In 1871 and 1872 he was the senior staff officer in the Lushai campaign, and from 1875 to 1878 he was quartermaster general. All his promotions were "for merit."

It was toward the end of 1878 that the great opportunity of Gen. Roberts' career came to him. The Ameer of Afghanistan rebelled against the authority of Great Britain, and Roberts was sent at the head of the army to subdue him. He carried the enemy's stronghold at Peiwar Kotal with a splendid rush at odds of almost 10 to 1. The next year the news of Sir Louis Cavagnari's murder in Kabul horrified all England, and Roberts was called upon to lead another avenging force. With 6,000 men he cut his way straight through the hostile land, and in thirty days placed the British flag above the citadel of Kabul, after routing the Afghan army, which outnumbered the British by twelve to one. Then after re-enforcements had been sent to him he began one of the most famous marches in history—over towering mountain ranges and through hostile territory, straight from Kabul to Kandahar—300 miles in twenty days. At the end of the march he crushed Ayoob Khan, and the whole empire rang with the praises of the man who a few months before had been almost unknown.

Since then Roberts has advanced through successive stages to the position of commander-in-chief of the forces in Ireland. Now in his sixty-seventh year he is called upon to face the hardest task of his military career.

Kitchener, Hero of the Soudan.

Lord Kitchener, chief of staff to Lord Roberts, is England's latest and most popular war hero. His successful conquest of the Egyptian Soudan won for him a fame in England to be compared with that of Admiral Dewey in this country. In return for the services Gen. Kitchener rendered his country in Egypt he was raised to the peerage and was voted a gift of $150,000 by the House of Commons.

He was born in Kerry County, Ireland in 1851, and at the age of twenty received his commission as lieutenant of engineers. For a long time he was in the civil service in Egypt, but in 1882 entered the regular service in Egypt under Sir Evelyn Wood, who was then engaged in the reorganization of the Egyptian army. He received an appointment on the intelligence staff when the troubles in the Soudan made necessary the dispatch of trustworthy English officers to Dongola in advance of Lord Wolseley's Nile expedition fifteen years ago. There Kitchener was always the one selected for any work that demanded great force of character, combined with tact and resourcefulness in dealing with intrigues of disloyal officials or winning over the chiefs who wavered between fear of Egyptian power and a hankering after the good things promised by Mahdism.

With the Nile expedition Kitchener's promotion was rapid. He became one of the two majors of cavalry in 1884, was made lieutenant colonel in 1885 and became colonel in 1888. He was in command of a brigade of the Egyptian army in the operations near Suakim in December, 1888, and was present in the engagements at Gemaizah and at Toski, in 1889.

At the beginning of the campaign of 1896 for the reconquest of the Soudan Kitchener was made commander-in-chief of the forces in Egypt. He led a successful expedition up the Nile against the Khalifa, safely conducting his troops up cataracts and through marauding tribes and burning deserts until Omdurman was reached. Here was fought a terrific battle between

MAJ. GEN. KITCHENER

the Anglo-Egyptian troops and the dervishes, the latter being cut down like grass before the scythe. In one charge the dervishes lost 4,000 men and when the battle was over 16,000 of their dead and dying strew the ground. The Khalifa and his chiefs were fugitives and have recently been killed. Kitchener, on returning home after this brilliant expedition, became the popular idol. He is the youngest major general in the British army.

WITH THE COINCIDENCE CLUB.

Stories that Suggest Telepathy or Something Akin.

There was no set program at the last meeting of the Coincidence club, but it turned out an interesting session for all that. Something or other started the conversation on the subject of telepathy. Everybody took pains to express his disbelief in any such thing and then came stories thick and fast to show that queer things do happen along that line.

One of the women told how the impulse seized her just before noon one day to go and take luncheon with a dear friend who lived only a few blocks away. She hurried to follow out her impulse, and half way to her friend's house met her friend. Explanations brought out the fact that the friend had been seized with the very same impulse. This story was voted interesting, but was ruled out of court as a case of telepathy. It was argued that the friend should have stayed at home and prepared an appetizing luncheon. The story-teller replied that in that case both would have stayed at home, whereat there was a laugh.

A member who is a mighty hunter said that going down town in the morning he had seen large flocks of ducks going south over Lake Michigan before a strong northeast wind. As soon as he reached his office he sat down and wrote a note to a friend, suggesting that they should start for the Illinois river marshes the next night. Within a few hours he received a note through the mail addressed in his friend's handwriting. He opened it, expecting to find it an answer to his note, but was surprised to read a suggestion almost exactly similar to his own. It was evident that the two notes had been written about the same time of day, and had crossed each other in the mail.

The newspaper man told a story about the burning of the first World's Fair building after the close of the exposition. He went home to dinner, and, on reaching his flat on the South Side, saw an immense volume of smoke. With a glass he made out that it was one of the World's Fair buildings, and immediately went to the telephone to notify his office. He got the busy signal and it was some time before he could get the office. When he did he was amazed to find that his office had been busy trying to get him to tell him of the fire.

Gold Leather Wall Hangings.

Two young American women, of Boston, have lately made new again the old-world and old-time art of gilding leather hanging for the walls of homes and buildings.

The revival of this old art is due entirely to the perseverance of two sisters, the Misses Mary and Clara Ware, who are graduates of the courses in decoration of the school connected with the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. While continuing their studies in Venice they were much impressed by the beauty of the gilded leather in some of the old palaces and gradually they were led to investigate the methods that had produced it. They found that in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries gilded leather was one of the chief industries of Spain, where it had been introduced at least 300 years before by the Moors. It is therefore undoubtedly of African origin. From Spain the art spread to France and Italy, while the making of "Cordovan leather," as it was called, is said to have been one of the chief sources of wealth in the Netherlands. This art, like other old arts, degenerated in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In it last days both materials and workmanship were often cheap and inferior. In the present century practically no leather of this kind has been produced and it has remained for these two young American women to show its possibilities in modern schemes of decoration.

A Famous Eagle.

The eagle which originally decorated the stern of the famous schooner yacht America—which first won what is now known as the America cup—is now the sign of the Royal Eagle Hotel at Ryde, Isle of Wight, overlooking the scene of the vessel's triumph over her English competitors in 1851.

When a man walks down the street with a woman wearing a rainy day skirt he looks as ashamed as if he had been caught stealing something.

All that an engagement gets for a girl is a good deal of wear and tear on her heart, and a copy of "Lucile."

WORLD'S RICH MEN.

MILLIONAIRES FOUND IN ALMOST EVERY LAND.

Germany and Austria Prominent in the Golden Book—Great Fortunes of Russia, China, Africa, India, America and Spanish South America.

Germany is not generally regarded as a land of rich men, and yet the golden book should have a very large section devoted to Germany and Austria-Hungary. It is true that most of the names would have Prince before them, but, being of royal blood does not alter the fact of wealth. Without counting the private properties of the sovereigns, who ought not to be included, there are a dozen or so Teutonic Highnesses whose wealth, not merely in lands, but in money, is enormous. For example, that of the father of the present Prince of Bulgaria was counted by many millions sterling. Many of the dethroned monarchs, again, are very rich, for roi en exil has ceased to be a synonym for poverty. No one, of course, knows the exact wealth of the Orleans family, but it is very great, and even the Bourbons are well off. Don Carlos, in spite of the money he has spent on Spanish and other adventures, is a millionaire.

The Russian Empire would also make a good show, for although the great landed proprietors have suffered of late years, many of the merchants and financiers have done exceedingly well. If rumor is to be trusted, some of the officials are also very rich. Fabulous sums are attributed to one in particular. The millionaires of Africa would, we suppose, be confined to Kimberley and the Rand; but possibly there are some large fortunes in Cairo among the Levantine colony. Asia will probably make a very respectable show in the golden book. It is true that in the Turkish and Persian empires millionaires are never long-lived, and this fact tends to their non-existence; but for all that, some of the Smyrna Greeks and Damascus Jews ought to be able to gain admission. India, on the other hand, if the native princes who do not possess sovereign rights are counted, as they must be, contains a great number of extremely rich men. Not only are there merchants in the great cities who are worth several millions in personal property, but there are also four or five great Zemindars who have incomes which represent the interest on two or three millions sterling. The reaction against thinking of India as a place of wealth has, in fact, been carried too far; and we are apt to forget that princely fortunes are still made and kept there.

The truth about the Chinese fortunes would be most curious if it could be discovered. Unfortunately, it is the land of the crypto-millionaires, of the men who live in little low houses and hoard gold ingots in the shape of Naples biscuits. It is known, however, that the Empress Dowager is among the richest, if not the richest, persons, alive; while Li Hung Chang, unless he has lately been plundered, which is unlikely, must also have vast wealth. Outside China the Chinese are often very rich, and dare to show their wealth. For example, it is always said, and as far as we know with truth, that several of the Chinese merchants of Singapore are men of enormous riches. With the American millionaire it is hardly necessary to deal. What place is not full of the report of his dollars? It should, however, be noted that, though one or two of the American fortunes are beyond the dreams of avarice, the number of "warm men" is, in proportion to population, not so great as it is here. There are, that is, not so many great, but far more small, millionaires in England. The man who reaches the $5,000,000 mark is apt either to lose it all again, or else to turn it into $50,000,000 or $100,000,000.

Spanish South America is not, as a rule, regarded as a place for rich men, yet, as a matter of fact, Chili, Mexico, Brazil and the Argentine have all within the last thirty years produced fortunes on the great scale, and not very long ago the greatest heiress in the world was said to be the only daughter of a South American millionaire.—London Spectator.

SHIPS CLAIMED BY THE WAVE.

Great Britain's Losses by Shipwreck the Smallest in the World.

Losses at sea sustained by the merchant service of the world in the last year are set forth in a report prepared by the British government, copies of which have been received here. Great Britain, with over 12,000,000 tons afloat, has the lowest percentage of losses.

Startling figures are presented as to the number of steamers and sailing craft reported "missing" and now regarded as lost by insurance underwriters. No less than twenty-four steamers sailed out of various ports last year and have never been heard from, and seventy-nine sailing vessels cleared and never reached their destination, both classes representing a total tonnage of 72,773. In addition ninety-six ships, representing eighty-five sailing craft and eleven steamers, had to be abandoned at sea.

As a result of all the losses the gross reduction in the mercantile merine of the world is shown to be 1,141 vessels of 820,725 tons, excluding vessels of less than 100 tons.

Great Britain's rate of loss is 2.23 per cent, the next on the list being Germany, with 2.33 per cent. Germany and the United States are now making a "neck-and-neck" race as regards the total number of vessels owned, the latter having 2,113,677 tons and the former 2,113,981 tons. Austria-Hungary is third in point of rate of loss, with 3.18 per cent, and then come Russia, with 3.63 per cent, and the United States, with 4.14 per cent. The other nations are in the following order: Italy, 4.34 per cent; France, 4.48; Holland, 4.62; Spain, 5.01; Norway, 5.55, and Sweden, 5.66.—New York Herald.

FASCINATING CAIRO.

The Most Picturesque and Interesting of Oriental Cities.

From its founding in 969 by the Fatimite califs, as an offshoot of the tented settlement of Fostat, to the present rule of Abbas Pasha, seventh Khedive, or viceroy, of the dynasty of Mehemit Ali, Cairo—capital of Egypt, metropolis of the African teaching—has had a romantic history. Scene of famous exploits of great personages, from Saladin to Napoleon, of sanguinary conflicts between Christianity and Islamism, and the memorable massacre of the Mamelukes; cradle of religon and cults; home of the "Arabian Nights" tales; the place where lasting principles of philosophy and science were conceived, and where Bible scenes were laid, Cairo has become the meeting-ground of winter idlers from every clime.

Cairo looks old, but comparatively is not; Alexandria has the appearance of newness, but was twelve hundred years old before the first stone of the present capital was laid. But the Cairo of to-day is only the development of Fostat, Old Cairo, New Babylon, and Heliopolis, probably. There has always been a great city there or thereabouts, changing in appellation with its locale.

The visit to Egypt has become almost as essential to Americans—and fully half of the eight thousand winter visitors are from the States—as the pilgrimage of good Mohammedans to Mecca. The Mohammedans' religion takes them but once to the sacred city of the prophet, but pleasure draws those favored by fortune to the Nile capital time after time. Cairo is more than interesting; it is fascinating. The antiquarian, the student, and the savant have always been at home there; and the invalid, real or imaginary, seeking a climate, finds in and about the khedival city the superlative of air and temperature.

Artists never weary of reproducing Cairo's picturesque scenes and vivid colorings. The blue of the skies, the splendor of the setting sun, the Turneresque afterglow, and the delicate browns of the desert, seem to be best suggested in water-colors. Like Venice, Egypt demands a master hand in oils.

The traveler of impressionable nature yields to the fascination of Cairo's quaint Eastern life, as perfect as if met far beyond the Orient's threshold, and doubly satisfying, because found within a half-hour of the creature comforts of hotels conspicuously modern. To walk the streets of an Oriental capital wherein history has been made, between meals, as it were, and delve by day in museums and mosques perpetuating a mysterious past, and dine de rigueur in the evening, with the best music in Europe at hand, explains a charm that Cairo has for mortals liking to witness Eastern life provided they are not compelled to become a part of it. If Egypt disappoints, the indecisive idler can in four or five days be back in Paris or the Riviera.—Century.

GOOD-LOOKING MEN WANTED.

Handsome, Vigorous Persons Desired for Positions of Importance.

"We hear a lot of talk of pretty women getting all the best positions as clerks, stenographers, and so on," remarked the undersized little man to his chum. "It never seems to occur to people that good-looking men get all the best jobs in men's work. But they do. A tall, portly, well-dressed man will make his way with half the brains of an insignificant-looking, carelessly dressed fellow. In ninety-nine cases out of a hundred a successful politician, professional man, or business man is handsome, or big and 'fine looking,' as they say.

"A few days ago a friend of mine lost a job that pays $10,000 a year simply because he is homely and weighs only 120 pounds. A manufacturer wanted a superintendent in one of his mills. He wrote to an editor, an old friend, in Chicago, and asked him to recommend somebody. The editor wrote back: 'James Gregory is the very man for you. He has had experience, he is clever, and I can recommend him from twenty years' acquaintance.' The manufacturer telegraphed immediately for Gregory to come and take the place. Gregory reported for duty at a manufacturing town 200 miles away. He wore his best clothes and was thoroughly well groomed. But Gregory is small and pale and looks like a school boy.

"'I am James Gregory,' he said when he arrived at the manufacturer's office.

"'Oh, are you? Well, ah! the fact is, ah! the fact is, Mr. Gregory, I didn't expect—' And the manufacturer shook his head in despair.

"'Expect what?'

"'Well, I thought you'd be a big, fine-looking fellow. The fact is, you won't do at all, Gregory. I'm sorry, but you won't do at all. Why, the men won't be bossed by a man who doesn't weigh more than two sacks of flour!'

"That ended it. Gregory lost the job, and he was an expert, too, as far as knowledge of the work in hand was concerned."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

Early Dictionaries.

The first dictionary recorded in literary history is the standard Chinese dictionary, compiled by Pa-out-she, who lived about 1100 B. C. It contained 40,000 characters, each of which stood for a word, mostly hieroglyphic or rude representations resembling our signs of the Zodiac. This was four centuries before writing was employed by Western people. Anticlides, a contemporary of Alexander the Great, published a Greek dictionary of the words in ancient writings 336 B. C. Another Chinese dictionary was produced about 150 B. C., and Varro's Latin compilation of an English dictionary were made by Bullokar in 1616, and by Cockerham in 1623, although a glossary of old English words was prepared in or about 975.

Reindeer as Racers.

The popularity of horse racing in Russia is seriously threatened by the introduction of the reindeer as the rival of the horse, says the Golden Penny. The reindeer is among the swiftest of quadrupeds and can outstrip the swiftest of horses. It is estimated that he could give the fleetest Derby winner a start of half a mile and beat him easily over the Derby race course, while for a short distance he reaches a speed of sixty miles an hour. A St. Petersburg merchant has constructed a special course for this new sport, and the novel excitement is looked forward to with great eagerness by sport-loving Russians. It is expected that before long reindeer will be harnessed to sleighs and that most exhilarating of pastimes made more exciting still.

Salt Water Breed of Toads.

J. Marsden, the agricultural commissioner of Hawaii, will develop a sea toad, for the use of certain island districts where standing fresh water is scarce. Mr. Marsden is a firm believer in evolution and will follow lines suggested by Darwin. Already toads have been produced in brackish waters. This tells the commissioner that he cannot fail. For the next culture he will make the water still more salty, and at about the fourth or fifth breeding will try pure sea water. He is confident that the plan will work out correctly. In the undertaking Mr. Marsden has received much encouragement from Prof. Koebele, the government entomologist, and from other friends.

Historic Relic of Quebec.

The cloak on which Wolfe breathed his last, at the capture of Quebec, is one of the curiosities in the British Museum.

If you must go to law, hire the best lawyer in town. The law is always on the side of the best lawyer.

Contrary to the general rule the street-car company finds its hangers on a source of revenue.

Too many people perform their work after the style of machines.

Science and Invention

Sir Robert Ball makes the statement that of 30,000,000 suns the existence can be proved scientifically. Around each sun its planets revolve. The electric flash which girdles the earth seven times in less than a second might travel straight ahead for eighteen hundred years and not reach the farthest of these known suns.

The earth's orbit, like those of such other celestial bodies as can be closely studied, is elliptical, but not to such an extent that the variation from a circle could be detected by the eye were the orbit reduced to proportions that the eye could grasp. Its long and short diameters differ only in the ratio of fifty-nine to sixty. The moon's greatest distance from the earth's center is 252,600 miles, its least distance 221,700 miles.

In the Batignolles tunnel, near Paris, incandescent electric lamps, arranged in rows along the tunnel walls, are to be automatically illuminated and extinguished by passing trains, the rims of the car wheels operating the electric switches. The lamps, being each of ten-candle power, and placed at the height of the car windows, will serve to illuminate the interior of the passing coaches, thus superseding the use of lights in the train.

A French scientific journal, L'Electricien, describes an electric substitute for the barber's scissors. It consists of a comb, carrying along one side of its row of teeth a platinum wire through which flows an electric current. As the comb passes through the locks to be shorn, the heated wire instantaneously severs the hairs, leaving them of even length, and sealing the cut ends as in the ordinary process of singeing with a taper. A similar device is a curling iron, kept at an even temperature by an electric wire in the interior.

Prof. E. C. Pickering of the Harvard Observatory suggested a few months ago the desirability of constructing an extremely long telescope for the purpose of photographing stars and planets. He now announces that the money needed has been given by anonymous friends of science, and that a telescope of the desired kind, having an aperture of twelve inches and a length of at least 100 feet, will probably be ready within a few weeks for trial at Cambridge. The instrument is to be placed in a horizontal position, and a movable mirror will reflect the light of the stars into the object glass.

Figures are sometimes impressive simply by being so stupendous that the human mind grasps them with difficulty. An English physicist in a recent lecture, in order to bring to the comprehension of his hearers the idea of ultimate particles of water, said that if he were to empty a tumbler containing half a pint of water, letting out each second a number equal to one thousand times the population of the earth, it would require somewhere between 7,000,000 and 47,000,000 years to empty the tumbler. Lord Kelvin says that if a drop of water were magnified to the size of the earth the particles would be between the size of cricket balls and that of footballs. If that statement is correct, the drops of water in all the oceans are not many times as numerous as the particles, or molecules, in a single drop.

GETS IDEAS WITHOUT MONEY.

How a Story Writer Secures Sequels and Does Not Pay for Them.

"There's a man who has twenty clever fellows working for him; they give him their best brain power, and yet none of them have ever secured a dollar for it!"

It was 2 o'clock in a down-town restaurant and the speaker nodded toward a small, dark man who sat at a table a few feet away. The little man is a writer of short stories of a thrilling and dramatic character. He is as prolific a writer as "Old Sleuth," and makes a big income yearly by his pen. He lives at a hotel down town, and while he has no regular connection with newspapers, his hours are those of a reporter on a morning journal. Twelve o'clock at night finds him in some of the newspaper offices or at the rooms of the Press Club in friendly chat with a bunch of "all-nighters."

He writes his melodramatic stories up to a crisis, lays down his pen and walks over to a city room, where a dozen reporters are throwing the last of a day's writing into the copy basket. Everybody soon begins to spin yarns.

"Curious thing came under my notice a few days ago," begins the writer of melodramatic tales. He sketches the plot of his unfinished story to the difficult point, which has stopped him. "Now, what do you suppose happened next?" he philosophizes, flicking the ashes from the end of his cigar.

"I'll bet so and so," shouts one of the boys.

"Pshaw, that's not likely," interposes a second. "People under such circumstances would have——" and he finishes the story.

In fifteen minutes the romancer has half a dozen plausible sequels suggested to him. He makes mental note of them, strolls out and over to his hotel with the rest of his materials ready made without effort on his part.

"Is that man a vampire or a genius?"

"Neither one; a clever, lazy man."

Can He Do These Things?

Your 18-year-old boy may have a good deal of Latin and cube root, says an exchange; but unless he can do the things enumerated below he is not even ordinarily well equipped as a business man or as a man of the world. Can he do them?

Write a good, legible hand.

Write a good, sensible letter.

Speak and write good English.

Draw an ordinary bank check.

Take it to the proper place in the bank to get it cashed.

Add a column of figures rapidly and accurately.

Make out an ordinary account.

Write an ordinary promissory note.

Measure a pile of lumber in your shed.

Spell all the words he knows how to use.

Write an advertisement for the local paper.

Make neat and correct entries in daybook and ledger.

Tell the number of bushels of wheat in your largest bin and their value at current rates.

Tell something about the great authors and statesmen of the present day.

German Bicycle Trains.

A new sign has been added to the German railway time tables—a picture of a bicycle indicating which express trains carry wheels.

It is a swift age: children think their parents are crazy, and parents think their children are crazy.

A Cat as a Fire-Alarm.

Had it not been for the mewing of a pet cat for two or more hours early the other morning the Kisthardt home would probably have been burned to the ground while members of the family were asleep, says the Philadelphia Public Ledger. Several pieces of hot coal fell from the kitchen stove on the floor and ignited the carpet. The flames spread slowly, but harassed the cat to the extent that it made itself heard. Members of the family were awakened, and coming downstairs they found the kitchen in smoke. Had the fire spread to the pantry, where some dynamite was stored, the house must have been blown up.

New Cable Lines.

France is dependent upon England for news of the Transvaal war, because the cables are under their control, and she is ready to spend a vast sum of money to free herself. This is like many people who have dyspepsia, spend a fortune seeking deliverance. They should try Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. It never fails to cure dyspepsia, constipation and biliousness.

The inhabitants of Winton, England, believe that with the close of the century the world will come to an end.

DEAFNESS CANNOT BE CURED

By local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional remedies. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube gets inflamed you have a rumbling sound or imperfect hearing, and when it is entirely closed deafness is the result, and unless the inflammation can be taken out and this tube restored to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous surfaces.

We will give One Hundred Dollars for any case of Deafness (caused by catarrh) that can not be cured by Hall's Catarrh Cure. Send for circulars, free.

F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.

Sold by Druggists, 75c

Hall's Family Pills are the best.

It is not generally known that Rudyard Kiplinng's full name is Joseph Rudyard Kipling.

TO CURE A COLD IN ONE DAY

Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. E. W. Grove's signature is on each box. 25c.

A novelty is the cold storage of hops. This is done in several places in England.

Only Safe Medicine for Children.

The tender little insides of children are ruined by violent purges, pills or liquids. Cascarets are pleasant, harmless, effective. Druggists, 10c, 25c, 50c.

Some naturalists believe that hares never drink, but get enough liquid for their needs in the dew on the grass they eat.

VITALITY low, debilitated or exhausted cured by Dr. Kline's Invigorating Tonic. FREE $1. Trial Bottle containing 2 Weeks' treatment. Dr. Kline's Institute, 931 Arch St., Philadelphia. Founded 1871.

Half a century ago nails were slowly wrought one at a time with hammer and anvil.

Mothers will find Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup the best remedy to use for their children during the teething period.

Henry James, the novelist, does most of his writing at night.

Two bottles of Piso's cure for consumption cured me of a bad lung trouble.—Mrs. J. Nichols, Princeton, Ind., Mar. 26, 1895.

The quickest wink on record is about one-sixth of a second.

Improved Train Equipment.

The O. R. & N. and Oregon Short Line have added a buffet, smoking and library car to their Portland-Chicago through train, and a dining car service has been inaugurated. The train is equipped with the latest chair cars, day coaches and luxurious first-class and ordinary sleepers. Direct connection made at Granger with Union Pacific, and at Ogden with Rio Grande line, from all points in Oregon, Washington and Idaho to all Eastern cities. For information, rates, etc., call on any O. R. & N. agent, or address W. H. Hurlburt, General Passenger Agent, Portland.

A Syndicate Baby.

At New Brunswick, N. J., a syndicate of foster mothers may adopt Gertrude Davison, of Carman street, and bring her up on the cooperative plan. The syndicate baby is 11 months old. Her mother, Mrs. John Davison, died recently, leaving five children, four of whom have been placed with relatives. Not knowing who would take Gertrude, the father advertised her for adoption. Several charitable women said that it was the first time in the century that a child had been so advertised in New Brunswick, and they began to organize the syndicate.

In Maine there are 17 spool factories, and the white birch trees of that state annually supply the material for 300,000,000 spools, on which are subsequently wound about 50,000,000,000 yards of thread.

Lovely Book Free.

Only a few copies left, send today. The volume is gorgeously illustrated with numerous engravings of mining scenes and the grandest scenery in the Rocky Mountains, the edition cost $1,000 to publish. It is not an adv. for anyone. Merely to introduce our big illustrated family weekly we will send a copy of the above fine book free to all sending us 9 two-cent stamps for a 13 weeks' trial subscription. Our paper publishes each week stories of adventure, all the latest mining news, and illustrations of scenery. Tenth year. Clubs of 3 for 50c, 7 for $1 bill. Mention this paper and address Western Weekly, Denver, Colo.

CORN WHEAT

Will out-yield corn; will make the same kind of meal; has superior fattening qualities; will solve the problem of fattening Hogs and Cattle in a wheat country; should be sown in the spring the same as wheat and will yield from 50 to 100 bushels per acre; the straw after it is thrashed has an oily substance and it is almost as good as hay.

Price of seed 10c per pound or $5 per hundred. Address M. J. SHIELDS & CO., Moscow, Idaho.

"A Thread Every Day Makes a Skein in a Year."

One small disease germ carried by the blood through the system will convert a healthy human body to a condition of invalidism. Do not wait until you are bedridden. Keep your blood pure and life-giving all the time. Hood's Sarsaparilla accomplishes this as nothing else can.

Hood's Sarsaparilla Never Disappoints

Fishing is the favorite pastime of a Rock Rapids (Ia.) dog. It swims out into the water and catches the fish in its mouth.

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Fence and Wire Works.

PORTLAND WIRE & IRON WORKS; WIRE and iron fencing; office railing, etc. 334 Alder.

Machinery and Supplies.

CAWSTON & CO.; ENGINES, BOILERS, MAchinery, supplies. 48-50 First St., Portland, Or.

JOHN POOLE, PORTLAND, OREGON, can give you the best bargains in general machinery, engines, boilers, tanks, pumps, plows, belts and windmills. The new steel I X L windmill, sold by him, is unequalled.

CARTER'S INK Scientifically made—Therefore THE BEST

INDIAN RELICS WANTED. Cash paid for Stone Arrows, Spears, Pipes, Axes, etc. Write and send outlines to H. P. Hamilton, Two Rivers, Wis.

A Man in OHIO who had barely made expenses with a cheap Well Drilling Outfit took our advice and bought one of our modern and first-class..... **Well Machines,** and did $7,000 worth of drilling with it last year. There are men who refuse to take good advice when it is offered them on a silver platter! Circulars free. LOOMIS & NYMAN, TIFFIN, OHIO.

BUY THE GENUINE SYRUP OF FIGS ... MANUFACTURED BY ... CALIFORNIA FIG SYRUP CO. ☞ NOTE THE NAME.

DR. GUNN'S IMPROVED LIVER PILLS ONE FOR A DOSE. Cure Sick Headache and Dyspepsia, Remove Pimples and Purify the Blood, Aid Digestion and Prevent Biliousness. Do not Gripe or Sicken. To convince you, we will mail sample free, or full box for 25c. DR. BOSANKO CO., Philada., Penna. Sold by Druggists.

CANCER Is Curable Without the Use of Knife. Address DR. NEWKIRK, Mountain Home, Ida.

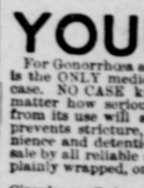
SOLE AGENCY **Worthington Steam Pumps and Water Meters.** Pumping Plants of Any Capacity. TATUM & BOWEN 29 to 35 First Street, Portland, Or. Machinery—All Kinds.

FERRY'S SEEDS Always cheaper in the end than any seeds that only cost half as much. Tested, true to name, fresh and reliable. Always the best. Ask for Ferry's—take no others. Write for 1900 Seed Annual. D. M. FERRY & CO., Detroit, Mich.

SURE CURE FOR PILES ITCHING Piles produce moisture and cause itching. This form, as well as Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles are cured by Dr. Bosanko's Pile Remedy. Stops itching and bleeding. Absorbs tumors. 50c a Jar at druggists or sent by mail. Treatise free. Write me about your case. DR. BOSANKO, Philada., Pa.

Weak and Worn-Out People Can secure health and strength—can do it quickly by using *Moore's Revealed Remedy* It contains no dangerous drugs—it has a pleasant taste. $1 a bottle at druggists.

DR. MARTEL'S BOOK. **"Relief for Women"**



Sent free, in plain, sealed envelope. Write to-day for this Book, containing Particulars and Testimonials of DR. MARTEL'S **French Female Pills.** Praised by thousands of satisfied ladies as safe, always reliable and without an equal. Sold by all druggists in metal box, French flag on top in Blue, White and Red. Take no other. French Drug Co., 381 & 383 Pearl St., New York City.

YOUNG MEN! For Gonorrhœa and Gleet get Pabst's Okay Specific. It is the ONLY medicine which will cure each and every case. NO CASE known it has ever failed to cure, no matter how serious or of how long standing. Results from its use will astonish you. It is absolutely safe, prevents stricture, and can be taken without inconvenience and detention from business. PRICE, $3.00. For sale by all reliable druggists, or sent prepaid by express, plainly wrapped, on receipt of price, by PABST CHEMICAL CO., Chicago, Ill. Circular mailed on request.

CURE YOURSELF! BIG G CURES in 1 to 5 days. Guaranteed not to stricture. Prevents Contagion. THE EVANS CHEMICAL CO. CINCINNATI, O. U. S. A. Use Big G for unnatural discharges, inflammations, irritations or ulcerations of mucous membranes. Painless, and not astringent or poisonous. Sold by Druggists, or sent in plain wrapper, by express, prepaid, for $1.00, or 3 bottles, $2.75. Circular sent on request.

N. P. N. U. No. 3—1900.

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AN APPEAL TO HUMANITY GENERALLY

We need your assistance in announcing to the world the GREATEST REMEDY that Science has ever produced, and you need our assistance to secure relief for yourself and friends through SWANSON'S "5 DROPS."

A REMEDY SUPREME As surely as the American Navy has conquered and will conquer all that opposes it, so will "5 DROPS" unfailingly conquer all diseases like Rheumatism, Sciatica, Neuralgia, Lumbago, Catarrh of all kinds, ASTHMA, Dyspepsia, Backache, Sleeplessness, Nervousness, Heart Weakness, Toothache, Earache, Creeping Numbness, Bronchitis, Liver and Kidney Troubles, etc., etc., or any disease for which we recommend it. "5 DROPS" is the name and the dose. "5 DROPS" is perfectly harmless. It does not contain Salicylate of Soda nor Opiates in any form. The Child can use it as well as the Adult.

5 DROPS [TRADE MARK]

Read carefully what Mr. L. R. Smith, of El Dorado Springs, Mo., writes us under date of Nov. 27, 1899, also Martan Bowers, of Caraghar, Ohio, under date of Dec. 16th, 1899:

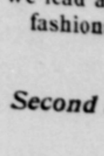
Neuralgia: RHEUMATISM

I do not know how to express how wonderful I think your "5 DROPS" medicine is. I was suffering intensely with NEURALGIA and thought for a month that I would have to die. One day a lady called to see me and brought me an advertisement of your "5 DROPS." I resolved to try it and sent for a sample bottle. Have been taking it for three weeks and have not had an attack of suffering since I took the first dose. I believe it has saved my life. This statement is positively true. I shall also take pleasure in recommending your "5 DROPS" for the cure of NEURALGIA. L. R. SMITH. El Dorado Springs, Mo., Nov. 27, 1899.

Your "5 DROPS" came to hand on the 11th of last month and was glad to receive it for I was suffering at the time with untold agonies. The first dose helped me out of my pain on short notice. Bless the name of God for it. It will do all you say it will, and more too. I had severe pains all over my body, when night came I could not sleep. The worst pain was in my left leg. I could not put my foot to the floor without suffering great pain. Have used four different kinds of medicine for RHEUMATISM and got no relief until I got your "5 DROPS," which gave me immediate relief as above stated. MARTAN BOWERS, Box 83, Caraghar, Ohio. Dec. 16, 1899.

30 DAYS to enable sufferers to give "5 DROPS" at least a trial, we will send a sample bottle, prepaid by mail for 25c. A sample bottle will convince you. Also, large bottles (300 doses) $1.00, 6 bottles for $5. Sold by us and agents. AGENTS WANTED in New Territory. Don't wait! Write now! SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., 160 to 164 Lake St., CHICAGO, ILL.

American Type Founders Company



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