Old Sol Has a Strong Pull at the Capitol In Washington.

On a Hot Day His Torrid Rays Will Trick With Washington Monument.

Not many people have any idea as to ficially propped up. the enormous amount of heat that the sun sends off into space. The earth gets only a very small portion of it. The head of a pin placed twenty feet away from an electric light gets in proportion to the light on the surthe earth gets of the sun's light and to cause great structures to move.

are constantly changing their positions under the hot rays of the sun. The great dome of the capitol building at Washington is the largest surface of cast iron in the world, and the effect of the continuous beat of a hot summer day can best be appreciated, says Harthis mammath mass really sways back and forth under the scorching rays until the top feather in the cup of the to divert the intruder's attention. But poisoning. statue of Freedom describes an ellipse the diameter of which on a hot day varies from four to eight inches.

The giant plinth base of the dome. resting on the roof of the old sandstone building, measures 136 feet on a The greatest diameter of the round dome is 125 feet, while the whole iron structure is 218 feet high from the old capitol's roof to the base of Freedom on the apex. The cast iron covering this surface is made in thin sheets, offering a good conductor for the hent, which swells even the bolts and beams of the inside before the sun has made its circuit.

The southern side of the dome suffers most from the heat, being exposed longer to the sun, which passes south of the zenith while on its journey from the east to the west. If the metal were exposed to a constant heating the result of the continuation of such expansion as that received on very hot days might prove disastrons. but as it is little if any permanent injury is done, since the iron returns regularly to its normal position as the cool night comes on.

But what seems more remarkable is the fact that marble is also changed in volume so perceptibly by the sunlight that the mammoth shaft of the Wash ington monument sways back and forth in the sun on a hot day. The outer surface being of hard marble the expansion is much greater than it would be had granite instead of marble been used. On a hot summer day the sharp aluminium apex that crowns the obelisk points to a position at least four inches north of normal, but always returns to its proper position in the cool of the night.

From the extreme top of the monnment inside a long pipe line runs perperdicularly to the bottom, leading to a small closet behind the elevator. This contains a long pendulum, whose bob bangs in a vessel of mercury. which prevents its oscillation. Two stationary transits with highly magnifying lenses are focussed directly upon the suspended wire, and through these each quiver of the monument is detected, being magnified on a fine scale graduated to thousandths of an

Every morning at 10 o'clock a statement of this plummet line is taken and reported to the war department. and it was by this means that the effeet which the sun's rays have on the huge white shaft was discovered. This plumb bob, of course, was placed in the monument for the purpose of detecting any settling it might undergo, and, although the great weight of its mass has pressed the ground for many decades, it has settled only a slight

fraction of an inch in one corner. This seems extraordinary when it is realized that its weight of \$1,720 tons rests on a foundation only 126% feet square and 38 feet deep from a height almost fifteen times that of the depth. The whole rests on the sandy bank of the Potomac river, with the enormous pressure of five tons to the square foot. Not only does the sun's heat sway the big obelisk, but at times, when a stiff winter gale was blowing. it has been reported as much as two inches out of plumb.

Misery Ahead.

"More tough luck." whispered his

"Well, what now?" he muttered. "You know Miss Green never sings without her music?"

"Yest "Well, she's brought her music."-Detroit Free Press.

The Point of View.

"Say, pa, what is the difference between a visit and a visitation?" Fond Parent-A visit, my boy, is when you go to see your Grandmother Jones. and a visitation is when your Grandhielher Jones comes to see us - New York Times.

These Boys, Howard - Hasn't Bachelor waited fast as chickens. rather long before choosing a wife? Coward-Bless you, no! He's only had r marrying income since he was sixty.

A proper secrecy is the only mystery of able men. Mystery is the only servery of weak and cunning ones,

## BRAVE MOTHER STORK.

Her Nest Ablaze, She Will Stay by and Perish With Her Young.

So strong is the mother love developed in the stork and the lark that it amounts to a heroic passion. The stork, which spends the winter in Egypt and the summer in northern and SWAYS THE MAMMOTH DOME. Western Europe, likes to build its nest on the top of some steep gable roof. Such a nest is often a real nuisance to man. It is from three to five yards in Drag the Massive Iron Structure diameter. It swarms with lizards, frogs, Way Out of Plumb-Turns the Same tonds and other disagreeable creatures. It becomes in course of time so heavy that it will break the roof if not arti-

Nevertheless for various superstitious reasons the stork is not only welcome but even courted by the European peasants, and it cannot be denied that the respect with which the bird is regarded is to some extent deserved. rounding walls of a room about what If the house takes fire and the young storks happen to be of an age at which heat radiated into space. Yet that por- they cannot be saved by being taken tion the earth does get is great enough away from the nest the stork mother does not abandon them. Standing In fact, all stone or metal buildings erect in the nest, flapping her wings to waft away the smoke and the flames and crying out now and then, she remains with her young, perishing with

> The skylark, which builds its nest in the meadows, runs away from it when frightened. She proceeds for four or perpendicularly in the air, pouring forth her song in its wildest strains in order the peasant boy knows that so long as she remains hanging at the same point in the air he is still four or five yards from the nest, and he uses the direction of her movements and the ring of

> her song to ascertain the exact spot. If it chances that the young larks are just about to break through the shell of the eggs, at which time the mother instinct is at its height, it is said that at the very moment when the nest is touched the little bird will acually attack the intruder.-Harper's Weekly.

## AN EMPEROR'S TASTE.

It Was the Origin of a Once Common Saying In Austria.

anecdote which was current of Ferdinand I. of Austria at one time greatly delighted his subjects and gave rise to a common saying. One summer day he was hunting in the Syrian mountains and was overtaken by a violent thunderstorm. He sought refuge in a farmhouse whose occupants good one.' were just then at dinner, and his fancy was caught by some smoking dumplings made of coarse flour. He tasted ler or its tributaries, merely inquiring them, liked them and asked for more, and when he got to Vienna, to the horror of the royal cooks, he ordered the same dumplings to be served up daily. The courtiers were scandalized that such a coarse dish should figure on the menu, and even his physicians remonstrated against the use of such food.

The emperor had always been the most pliant of men, but he now showed that he had a will of his own and persisted in gratifying his new fancy. ripples on water. In five days the lion Finally the physicians pretended that it was sighted over half the world, and was dangerous to his health to be liv- an enthusiast at Southampton cabled ing on dumplings and insisted on his that he was heading toward the porth giving them up. The hitherto docile sea. Then a cruel correspondent up on sovereign stamped his foot and declar. Lake Superior killed him and wired ed that he would never sign another that he was sending the skin as proof. official document if his diet were de- I always suspected that the managing

"Emperor I am," he shouted, "and

dumplings I will have!" To prevent a stoppage of the government machinery opposition was with. black "partor" in partnership was brag

sure to say: "Emperor I am, and dumplings I will with this: have!

Profanity and Thought.

swearing he stops thinking. Didn't for about ten years. One night when you ever notice it? Well, just notice we was both a-sleepin'. 'long around and see. We don't endeavor to explain midnight. I wakes up and I shakes Marit, but it is so. There must be some "us and I says, 'Marcus, where are we?' psychological explanation for it-as, for And Marcus jest rolls over and sticks instance, just ut that moment the devil his hand out the window and be says, gets into the brain and scrambles it 'We're goin' through Oswego.' "-Evup so it cannot think. It is just like erybody's. him to do it, for his greatest hold in this world is murky and disheveled thinking .- Ohio State Journal.

Where a Trunk is a Box, can buy a ticket to your destination. Look for the "booking agent" and baggage car, hunt up the "luggage both rest on the pillow. van." and, having found it, remember that if your trunk is in it it is in it as sible to write legibly and with coma "box," not as a trunk.-New York fort in a train flying at full speed.-

His Excuse. "You seem like a spiritless creature. I don't believe you've got enough ambition to open your door when Oppor-

"Don't be too hard on me, ma'am.

The Indian Runner,

A certain variety of duck, called the Indian Runner, will produce more eggs than a Legiorn ben, according to a writer in the Country Gentleman, and the young ducklings grow four times as

Put Himself In Bad.

The Spinster-Your face is so familiar to me, professor, I'm sure we've met before. Distinguished Foreigner -Very likely. I vos in dis country ven I vos a young chap. - London

### THE GILA MONSTER.

Repulsive In Looks, It Is Really a Harmless Creature.

Probably there is no other living renture more feared by the ignorant than the Gila monster, about which all manner of weird tales have been told It has even been held that the mere cause death to the one upon whom it to have seen it to make the story interbreath of this animal is sufficient to fell. Scientific inquiry, however, fails exting to disclose a single instance wherein the breath or even the bite of this fact that dissection and microscopic fornia and went to Alaska, where he reature has resulted fatally. The examination do not reveal any trace of settled in the vicinity of Muir glacier. glands for the secretion of venom is In fact, it was Willoughby who pilotsufficient evidence to indicate that this ed Professor Muir when he ascended curious member of the lizard family as been slandered

Some years ago a civil engineer in for all the question whether "the monster" was deadly or not. A fine specimen was captured and confined in a wire inclosure. A chicken was obtained, and its feathers were removed in order that the lizard might have every opportunity to strike at the breast. The chicken was then held quite close to the Gila monster, which soon snapped viciousl and secured a firm hold on the fowl's breast, retaining this grip for more than ten minutes. When the victim was released it was found that the chicken's breastbone had been broper's Weekly, when it is known that five yards under the clover and rises ken. Nevertheless the fowl quickly recovered, the bone knitting and the wound healing with no symptoms of

It is very probable that the reputation for evil borne by the Gila monster is due simply and solely to its that as he gazed the outlines of a city most repulsive appearance -Harper's gradually assumed shape, and build-Weekly.

#### THE UBIQUITOUS SEA LION. He Strayed a Long Way From Home

Before He Was Killed. The following story is taken from the American Magazine:

"Sunday is a dull day, and the city editors had a habit of detailing men to go to the zoological gardens and get animal stories for Monday morning. The reporters got together one Sunday morning and persuaded the head animal keeper to let them publish a fake story. It was rather commonplace. concerning the alleged escape of a nonexistent sea ion from the pool to open water.

'Fake,' said the managing editor as he read the story. 'Let's make it a

"Thereupon he sent telegrams to every country correspondent on that waif anything had been seen of the escaped sea lion. The response was appalling. The correspondents needed only the hint. That day the sea lion was seen by at least twenty correspondents, and Berghand orinted all the reports one after another. Thus spurred, the correspondents went to it in earnest. The following day the sea lion was reported at every point within 200 miles. The story spread like editor did it himself."

A Fine Sense of Feeling.

One of two darkies who run a boot drawn, and his majesty clung tena. ging of his well developed sense of clously to his dumplings. Then the im. touch, particularly to the matter of perial phrase became proverbial, and money. He boasted that he could tell thereafter when any one insisted on the denomination of any United States gratifying a silly whim some one was roin merely by feeling it. His partner wearled of these boasts and came back

"Your sense o' feelin' ain't nothin' to my friend Marcus. Him and me used to work on the Pullman down through Just as soon as a man starts to Kansas. Marcus had been on this route

Writing on a Pillow.

Every one who has had occasion to write while riding in a railway train will be interested in the fact that the Don't look for the ticket agent at an disagreeable effects of the jarring of English railway station, so that you the carriage are greatly mitigated by writing on a pillow The pillow may be either held on the lap or placed on "book" to the point, and, keeping in table. The pad of paper and the arm mind that what you really want is the which guides the pen or pencil should

> In this manner it will be found posondon Answers.

The Dear Child-Oh, Mrs. Bloom, when did you get back? Mrs. Bloc Riess you, dear, I was not away any where. What made you think so? The Dear Child- I thought you were. I I ain't never had a door."-Cleveland beard my mamma say that you were at loggerheads with your busband for seer a week.

Original,

"Was there anything original in his speech at the banquet?" "Well, be admitted that he knew be was to be called on "- Detroit Free

Well Instructed.

Miss Fifth Avenue - Maudle claims to be an uninstructed delegate. Miss Bea ron Street-Impossible! She's from Bos ton. - Life.

Hehavior is a mirror to which every

## ALASKA'S "SILENT CITY."

Wonderful Mirage That Is Said to Have Been Photographed.

One of the liest stories regarding a mirage is that told in Alaska concerning the appearance of a city in the sky. This "slient city" is said to have actually been photographed, and, though there are skeptics, enough people claim

The first account of this "city of silence" was told by a prospector named Willoughby. He was a miner in Callthe immense ice field which now bears the scientist's name. Willoughby aiways told the story of this city which the southwest undertook to settle once appeared in the sky with much earbestness, and he carried a photograph which he said he took after several visits to the spot whence the vision could be seen.

When Willoughby first went to Alaska natives told him that at certain times of the year when the days were longest and the atmospheric conditions right they saw suspended in the beavens a town with streets, houses and many different kinds of buildings. So impressed was he that he engaged the Indians to take him to the place where the city could be seen, and in their canoes traveled to the spot.

After several attempts Willoughby at length saw this "silent city," as the natives called it. He said that the atmosphere was so clear that mountains many miles away seemed near and ing after building came to view. He distinctly saw tall office buildings, churches and spires, houses and every indication that the city was inhabited; but, though he saw it several times, he could never detect a human being. A halo of light seemed to cover all. As he gazed the vision faded and gradually receded. So convinced was he that he was looking at the mirage of an actual city that he made records to show that he had been on the exact spot whence the picture in the sky could be seen.

Willoughby's photograph was crude, but enough could be discerned to lead persons to assert that it was a view of Bristol, England, many thousand miles away. Willoughby told his story in 1888 or thereabouts. Since then several persons have said that they saw the mirage. In every instance the mirage was surrounded by a halo of light which poured a soft glow on root and walls.-New York Sun.

Jenny Lind Hated Us. Jenny Lind hated the Americans. She abhorred the very name of Barnum, who, she said. "exhibited me just as he did the big giant or any other of his monstrosities."

"But," said I, "you must not forget how you were idolized and appreciated in America. Even as a child I can remember how they worshiped Jenny Lind."

"Worshiped or not," she answered sharply, "I was nothing more than a w in a showman's hands. I can never forget that."-From "The Courts of Memory," by Mme. Lindenerone.

Wholesale Favors.

The young man entered the president's office and stood first on one foot and then on the other. He dropped his hat, handkerchief and umbrelle Altogether be was in a highly devel oped state of nervousness. "Well. well?" said the employer.

"Out with it!" "I have come, sir," said the young man, and then began to stammer. "Well, speak up! Have you come to

ask for the hand of my daughter or a raise in salary?" "If you please, sir," stammered the young man, "It's both."-Exchange.

Dead or Alive.

Two Irishmen were working on the roof of a building one day when one made a misstep and fell to the ground. The other leaned over and called, "Are yez dead or alive. Mike?"

"Of'm alive," said Mike feebly. "Sure you're such a liar Oi don't

know whether to belave yes or not." "Well, then, Oi must be dead," said Mike, "for yez would never dare to call me a liar if Oi wor aloive."-Pattadelphia Record.

Simply a Bad Actor.

The Lady-How did you come to thrown out of employment? The Thesplan-"Tis a sad but soon told tale, madam. An ape-like audience threw ancient eggs at mub; a mangy and mercenary manger threw muh down a dight of stairs; a dull witted doors threw muh out into the street, and a twice cursed taxicab threw muh twenty feet. Thus it was, lady.-Judge.

Evolution. "Of course you believe in evolu-

"Yes," replied Mr. Cumrox. own recollections of early days in west remind me that many a disty horsepower Ilmoustne can trace its dnancial ancestry back to a 'prairie schooner."-Washington Sta

The Main Difference "What is the real difference bets mushrooms and toadstools?" One is a feast and the oth funeral."-Raltimore Ame

Minerva - isn't it strange. moth that all the heroines in novele marry poor men? Mater-Yes, my dear, ber

that is action. - Judge. Every being that can live can do THE PRESIDENT'S MAIL

How the Great Mass of Correspondence is Handled Daily.

The president's mail is of such proportions that he cannot, like the bustness man, read all his letters as a part of the morning's routine. By a carefully developed system, however, the contents of the White House mail are in substance laid before him each day.

The work of doing this falls upon a corps of confidential clerks, who open the letters and give them a first reading. Then they are carefully sorted. Many of them, of course, need not go to the president at all, since they are simply recommendations for other. These, after courteous acknowledgment, are referred to the proper departments and placed on file until they may be taken up for consideration.

Many of the president's letters are purely formal or contain requests for something which cannot be granted. These the clerks answer and the president's secretary signs. The requests for charity are so many that a special "form" has been drawn up for answering them. Such communications as the presi-

dent ought to see are carefully briefthat is, a slip is pinned at the top of each letter, and on this is a typewritten synopsis of its contents, telling who the writer is and what he has to present. Frequently the president is sufficiently interested by the brief to cause him to read the whole letter. Sometimes the communication is referred to a cabinet officer, in which case the slip is retained at the White House and filed.

When a large number of persons write on the same subject the letters are bunched and the brief at the top gives the names of those who present one argument and in another list the percons who offer a different view .-New York Press.

VARIETY OF THE BIBLE.

Vivid Descriptions, History and Stories of Adventure.

One of the striking things about the Bible as a single piece of literature is the variety of its literary forms, sufficient, indeed, to appeal to the most widely different tastes. There are excellent examples of the short story all through the historical books, such as the absorbingly interesting account of Joseph sold into slavery and afterward elevated to a position next to Pharaoh himself and the intensely realistic story of Paul's shipwreck, which, were it not too well written, might be an extract'from some book of adventure.

The books of which many of these short stories form a part constitute a body of most intimate and fascinating tribal and national history. Wedged in between two of the historical books we find the story of Ruth, a "prose idyll," as delightful as any of which profane literature can boast. The Book of Esther, though not in form a drama, has a plot of dramatic power. in which Haman, who is raised to triumphant satisfaction at the thought of hanging Mordecai upon the gallows, becomes himself the victim of his own vengeance.

At the end stands that wonderful Apocalypse, which is at once an inspiration and a mystery, full of beauty and rich cadences. Interspersed among all the parratives are delightfully suggestive descriptions, sometimes presenting to us the simple life of the shepherd, again the luxurious surroundings of Ahasnerus' court. It is not strange, therefore, that the Bible makes a strong intellectual appeal to lovers of literature and to men of untrained tastes .- Edgar F. Shannon in Sewance Review.

Sea Gypsies. In the archipelago of Mergui, off the coast of lower Burma. live the "sea gypsies." Instead of carts they own covered boats, in which, with their families, dgs, cats, chickens and pets, they float about on the sea and wander from island to island. By day they oysters, and at night they seek the shelter of the land. Only in very bad weather do they seek employment on certain statement. shore. They seem to have solved the bousing problem in a manner per- most rasping voice, "go into the ". fectly satisfactory to themselves and ry and bring his lordship any pay no rent or rates to any man.-New mentary book on common taw?" York Press.

Nero and Big Noses.

Nero never liked a person with a large nose. He flippantly told the sorrowing relatives of Plantus-whom, it the earth. It would take ten pousse is alleged, he killed—that it was only it to reach to the moon and over and on inspecting the corpse that he discovered that l'inutus had so large a nose and if it had been pointed out before he would have certainly spared his life. "Life with such a nose," coolly added Nero, "would have been ample penance for any crime."

Her Opportunity.

Wife-I had better take that hat for 45 shillings. Husband-But I've only compel him to pay taxes. The hum got £2 with me now. I'll have to owe them the odd 5 shillings. Wife-Oh, tions, remarked, "George Washington, then, I'll take this one for 3 guineas. Five shillings is too insignificant a sum to owe.-London Telegraph.

The Settlement Worker. Hoax-1 thought you said he was a settlement worker? Jonx - He is. Hoax-Why, he tells me he's a bill collector. Jonx-Well? - Philadelphia

Must Be Elastic.

John-There is a stiff breeze coming round the corner. Sim-it can't be so very stiff if it can turn the corner. - 61 Louis Globe Democrat

Any time is the proper time for mying what is just, Greek Proverb.

# HUSHED NIAGARA FALLE

The Roar of Its Mighty Waters Com

Stilled For a Day. Only once in history has the rour of the mighty falls of Niagara been & lenced. This startling phenon curred on March 31, 1848. E that morning people living near the talls were surprised by a strange bal as startling in effect as would be unexpected and tremendous explore in an ordinarily quiet con Many persons thought they had bene afflicted with deafness, and all son oppressed by a sensation of dread

With the coming of light the came people comprehended the reason to the disquieting silence. Where the were used to seeing the great fails was a bare precipice down the face of which a few small and constantly dimin streams trickled. Above the falls, p. stead of a rushing river. was only a naked channel, with insignificant brooks splashing among the recta. All day long this astounding condition continued, and persons walked, drystel from the Canadian side, along the very edge of the precipice, as far as Quet island, on the American side.

Early in the morning of April 1 the familiar thunder of the great cataract was again heard and has never the been silent, though similar conditions. with like results, might prevail aty spring. The winter of 1847-8 was one of extreme severity, and ice of unprecedented thickness formed on Lake Bris. When the breakup came toward the end of March a strong southeast wind was blowing, and the ice was piled by

banks as large as icebergs. Toward the night of March 80 to wind suddenly changed to the opposite direction, increased to a terrific mie and drove the ice into the entrance of Niagara river with such force that a huge dam was formed, of such thickness and solidity as to be practically impenetrable and strong enough to hold back the great mass of water pressing against it. At last, in the early morning of April 1, the ice an gave way under the tremendous pressure of restrained water, and the falls were once again one of the scenic wesders of the world .- New York Thec.

YOUR SIXTH SENSE

The Faculty That Enables You to Pra-

serve Your Equilibrium. It is almost a 1,000 to 1 bet that you don't know you have a sixth was But you have, nevertheless. It b

known as the sense of equilibrium. The sixth sense is located in the semicircular canals of the inner sar. and whenever a person is in danger of falling or losing his equilibrium s warning message is communicated to the brain. For years physic have been puzzled to know the free tion of these canals, because it was proved definitely that they had nothing to do with the sense of bearing or the proper working of the auricular orpa. Thus they came to be considered semicircular tubes, almost at right asgles to one another and full of a char

liquid. Scientists have discovered that the canals enable a person to t sition he is in no matter whether be blind or paralyzed. By some pecuite process not well understood they warn us when we are about to fall and give us the consciousness of being in our

position assumed. Steeplejacks and other workers high baildings who finally lose that nerve and are afraid to go ver; bu above the ground have lost per their sense of equilibrium. nations by physicians in such instances have shown that their semicircular glands were diseased. It was sarget by this means that the existence of sixth sense was dicovered.-New Int World.

Crushing.

The English judge. Parry, in book "What the Judge Saw" tells the story of a very masterful counsel who was not afraid to put even the beach fish or harpoon turtles or dive for pearl in its place sometimes. On one occ sion he was arguing a case when the judge asked for bis authority for a

"Usher," counsel called out is

Spider's Thread

The thread spun by a spider is excessively fine that a possed of would be long enough to reach around pounds to stretch to the sun. Bot get a thread long enough to reach nearest star would require haif a

Didn't Like Taxes. Cases against George Washington pear here and there in old docume No less than three claims were against him during the year 1787

Esq., appeareth not to like tases. So Inquiertive. Mamma (after ber youngest's day at school)-Now, Fritz, what you do in school today? Frits-Well

such curious people! First the teach asks me what we did at bome, and now you come and ask what we ber done in school!-Fliegende Blatter.

Mrs. Hiram Offen-I'm afraid 900 won't do. As nearly as I can sed out you have worked in six or seren par during the past year. Miss Bre Well, ail how manny girls has yet had in the same toime? No, less, I's thinkin .- Poston Transcript